

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association

May 2022 Issue

Next Issue: August 2022

Co-Presidents' Report

It's been a slow start for the BCA for the year, with our first meeting in March cancelled due to the floods and general disruption, and our special guest, Matt Kean Member for Hornsby unavailable. We hope we are now on a more even keel, as gradually the pandemic situation (and the weather) improves. Matt is busy with the State's budget this month, and we anticipate he will be able to attend the BCA General Meeting on 3 September.

Somewhat behind the scenes, the Brooklyn Community Association continues to operate. The BCA Committee has analysed the recommendations of the Hornsby Council Car Parking Management Study for Brooklyn, and made a written submission to Council. We have kept connection with Hornsby Council Officers as the new Councillors have had their second briefing on the Car Parking Management Study and its implementation. We understand that a report on the implementation of the Study recommendations in Brooklyn will go to Council for approval likely in July. In addition, the BCA held a car parking workshop with residents last week, and developed a set of draft parking principles to be submitted to Council. However, we still are unaware of the planned extent of consultation and participation of the Brooklyn and River communities in the implementation.

We had good news on the Peat Island development proposal. Central Coast Council have advised that the current proposal has been withdrawn, they will no longer be proceeding with a determination, and the development will no longer proceed. We congratulate everybody who made a submission. Further information will be provided at the General Meeting.

Celebrate Deerubbin - A festival of the Hawkesbury River. 18 June 2022 at The Cottage. Look out for notices of events and details.

We have invited our Ward A Councillors: Cr Nathan Tilbury; Cr Warren Waddell and: Cr Tania Salitra to our June General Meeting, and we hope that they will attend and brief the community on Council initiatives and actions.

Both Co-President Cindy Corkery and I will be apologies for the June General Meeting as we visit family overseas. Vice-President Ingrid Segovia and the BCA Committee look forward to meeting you all at the General Meeting at 10am on 4 June 2022 in the Community Meeting Room.

Robert Arnold Co-President

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Brooklyn Community Association

General Meeting

10am-12pm Saturday, 4 June 2022

Brooklyn Meeting Room

Followed by Refreshments

BCA Members, guests & friends welcome.

www.brooklyncommunity.org.au

www.facebook.com/BrooklynNSW

Meeting Dates

Saturday

4-Jun-2022

3-Sep-2022

3-Dec-2022

The Gateway is published by the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA). Contact the BCA at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au or the Gateway Editor at gateway@brooklyncommunity.org.au. While every attempt is made to publish content as submitted, some editing of material may occur during publication.

We would like to acknowledge RW Corkery & Co who generously print the Gateway newsletter and Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postie & musician, who kindly delivers the Gateway to the community.

The full colour edition of the Gateway Newsletter can be found at

<http://brooklyncommunity.org.au/about-bca/gatewaynewsletter/>

Peat Island Update

On 23 May, we received a notice from the Department of Planning and Environment stating that the NSW Government has carefully considered all submissions and feedback and, at this time, has decided to withdraw the current Proposal from Central Coast Council in relation to Peat Island. However, the Government remains committed to the revitalisation of this much-loved area and to delivering long-term economic, social and community benefits.

This withdrawal is a win for almost 400 people and organisations that sent in a submission. While some community members will be frustrated that another 11 years have gone by without any decisions, the latest 2016 Peat Island Proposal was flawed. Numerous requests were made to include Brooklyn and the Hornsby Shire in the scope, as most of the services for a minimum of 750 additional people would be provided by the Hornsby Shire. These requests were denied each time.

This iconic land is situated on one of Australia's most important and ancient rivers, listed on the National Trust Landscape listing, containing multiple places of Aboriginal cultural significance. A significant carving for the GuriNgai is the Gurungatch, the creator of the Dyarubbin river, is situated on the shorelines. They all need our guardianship and protection.

Additionally, the business plan didn't add up. It would appear that the State Government would need to pay for additional infrastructure services, along with the residents, and there was no clear explanation of the profit made for the State Government. The green space did not comply with the new draft Greener Space Design Guide, and the Proposal did not comply with its Planning Laws.

So what's next? The community will be planning a few meetings to come together to create a new proposal. We will be asking everyone what they Dream about for this great space, not having to react and comment on a plan.

Over the last few years, the community has put forward many ideas. Many of us believe that the west side should remain in public hands. Ideas include a River Discovery Centre, an Aboriginal Cultural Centre that includes all traditional owners along the Lower Deerubbin that can be a fantastic tourist destination similar to the First Nations Museum in the States. Other ideas are a historical centre, recognition of the past residents, art studios, music, and vocational education such as maritime, shipwright education and aquaculture. Additionally, community services for Mooney, Cheero residents are included. These are some of the ideas. We hope that you have a dream for this space and will be seeking to collect as many as possible.

This is a big win for the community and a huge thank you to all who made submissions, came to the BCA workshops, stopped at the market stall at the Cottage markets, and attended the Save Peat Island picnic. Let us create an appropriate space for this unique land for generations to come.



By Di Bowles, dibowles26gmail.com

Tom Richmond Oval

In April, the BCA provided its submission to Council (Council's website section: Have your Say) supporting the renaming of the cricket oval at the old Dairy Site to Tom Richmond Oval. Many will have known Tom Richmond, OAM, a long term resident, local historian and fierce advocate on all matters pertaining to Brooklyn, who passed suddenly in September 2021.

In 2019, prior to the outbreak of COVID, Tom was the guest speaker at our very own Talking History events which covered the European settlement of Brooklyn through to its post war history. More than 100 people attended his engaging and colourful presentations, recorded for posterity.

A Mayoral Minute No. MM4/22 shared as part of Council's consultation provided a strong case to rename the Old Dairy sports field to Tom Richmond Oval. This included Tom's:

- Strong ancestral ties (Seymour family) to the Old Dairy site and the origins of Seymours Creek; and
- Involvement in education and through sport including cricket administration, coaching and school, Club and District sports.

Tom's subsequent receipt of an Order of the Australia medal provide a direct rationale for the renaming of this sports field to commemorate him.

The name Old Dairy Site, refers to the general area on which the Oval has been constructed, and beyond the oval. There is no barrier to Council considering a heritage plaque at the entrance to the old dairy site which identifies this site in Brooklyn's history. The BCA provided this view in its submission and hopes Council officers consider this. Relevant information could make for a great plaque on the Dairy Site, perhaps with an image of the cows grazing peacefully after their journey back to Brooklyn from the Crater in what is now part of Muogamarra Nature Reserve*.

Council will be considering this proposal at the 8 June 2022, ordinary Council meeting. A copy of the Council report will be available for viewing on 30 May 2022.

*If anyone has photos of the old Dairy site farmhouse that was still there in the late 1980s, or cows grazing, please contact the author.

By Miriam Moloney, miriamrmoloney@gmail.com

Lower McKell Park, Brooklyn. Stage 2 – Foreshore Access Improvements

Two submissions, including one from the BCA, were received by Hornsby Council in relation to proposed foreshore access improvements. Stage 1 occurred last year and earlier this year, resulting in an improved amenity for the community, BBQs and shelters relocated nearer the hillside to free up space around the pool, with landscaping and bathing decks, providing an uninterrupted view of the river. The BCA was consulted in the improvements.

There has been a positive response from residents to the works undertaken. The proposal for Stage 2 from Council relates to three areas for improvement:

- Provision of a sealed all weather access path connection to Parsley Bay – the BCA asked that any improvements to the path remain low-key in line with a bushland foreshore. However, Council also identified that the upgrade is for access and mobility complying with Australian standards and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Council advises that the proposed path will be sympathetic to the surroundings and natural finishes and colours are proposed for the path for blending into the natural setting. The upgrade will provide opportunities for users of all abilities to experience the natural foreshore and views of the river. Small pockets of natural surfacing can be trialled near seating areas where adequate space is available. However, the material selection for the path is based on longevity and consideration for robust properties in a coastal environment. The proposed path is 2m wide where possible and is designed as a pedestrian path, not a shared path (with cyclists). The BCA requested bollards be introduced at the eastern end of the path from Parsley Bay to prevent vehicles travelling around Flat Rock Point to set up camp either at the point to fish or at the tidal pool to camp. Council have agreed these will be installed.
- Universal access change room and toilets in existing amenities building – the BCA supported the upgrade of the existing amenities building to accommodate disability access. Council will also review the water pressure in the plumbing provided to the facilities and is upgraded to meet demand.
- Universal access to Brooklyn baths with widened steps and accessible ramp – Council proposes an accessible ramp to the beach area which will encroach both on the grassed area to the west and also into the pool area. Council sought to minimise this encroachment to maintain the sandy beach area as much as possible. There will also be some sandstone block steps to the eastern side for families and children to sit, replacing the existing steps. Altogether, modernising Brooklyn baths for a broader range of residents and visitors.

There remains concern around the timing for all these works and how it affects residents and visitors, especially if it interfered with holidays periods or Spring and Summer when the baths are more popular. Council suggests work will be staged at various periods and that restriction of access will be localised to specific areas while construction is underway and other areas will be open where possible. Timeline for each stage will be advised prior to work.

By Miriam Moloney, miriamrmoloney@gmail.com

Sharpen your focus and keep an eye out for the Swift Parrot this winter

In 2019 Hornsby Council and National Parks received grant funding from Greater Sydney Local Land Services to rehabilitate habitat for the migratory Swift Parrot in Cowan and Brooklyn. The Swift Parrot breeds during spring and summer in south-east Tasmania. It migrates to south-eastern mainland Australia during autumn and early winter and returns to Tasmania in Spring. Sounds like a nice lifestyle except..... like its name, this species is disappearing swiftly. It is listed as critically endangered with an estimated 1,000 individuals left.

Since 2019 there has been 17 sightings in Cowan and one in Brooklyn. They have been recorded foraging on flowering Red Bloodwoods (*Corymbia gummifera*), Scribbly Gums (*Eucalyptus haemostoma*) and Swamp Mahoganys (*Eucalyptus robusta*) and *Eucalyptus* species infected with lerps are also on the menu from May to September.



The Swift Parrot is easily confused with local lorikeets such as the Rainbow, Little, Scaly-Breasted and Musk Lorikeets. All feeding on nectar and lerps and seeking similar hollows.

But the Swift Parrot has a distinguishing feature that sets it apart. It's tail. It is thin, red and around 12cm long. The Swift Parrot is about 25cm long and full of colour. It is bright green with red around the bill, throat and forehead. The red on its throat is edged with yellow and the crown is blue-purple. When flying overhead it has bright red patches under its wings. It can also be recognised by its flute-like chirruping or metallic "kik-kik-kik" call. Learn more and hear the call of the Swift Parrot by visiting www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/swift-parrot

While undertaking on-ground works to rehabilitate Swift Parrot habitat, we are also seeking help from residents, to keep an eye out for our flighty, foraging friends. Sightings recorded by birdwatchers and locals is critical for the management and conservation of the Swift Parrots.

From June to August we are planning some community activities such as Swift Parrot search surveys, guided bushwalks and tree planting. To register your interest in joining activities please email NaturalResources@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

In the meantime please keep an eye out for Swift Parrots, take a photo, record date, time, location, number, behaviour and what they are feeding on. Register your sighting with woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au or call 03 9347 0757.

By Donna Fitton, Natural Resources, Hornsby Council



CELEBRATE DEERUBBIN – A Festival of the Hawkesbury River

In conjunction with the Brooklyn Community Association, join us to learn about the Hawkesbury and its people.

- WELCOME TO COUNTRY ■ ABORIGINAL WEAVING ■ GUIDED BUSHWALKS
- HAWKESBURY PHOTO EXHIBITION ■ SAUSAGE SIZZLE ■ KIDS' ACTIVITIES ■ RAFFLES

Saturday 18 June, 10am – 3pm. 10 Dangar Road, Brooklyn.

For more information hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson

Map of Brooklyn



Lower Hawkesbury Library of Things

Are you looking at becoming more sustainable? Would you be interested in helping to set up a Lower Hawkesbury Library of Things.

Just like a normal library but with things instead of books. By encouraging people to borrow instead of buying then throwing away their unwanted items we can all be more sustainable

A Library of Things is a not-for-profit service that provides the local community with access to a collection of extremely useful but only occasionally used items that can be loaned out for a short period of time.

We are also interested in where the library is located interested, please email james.donnely@ffw.com.au

An update from the Mooney Mooney & Cheero Point Progress Association (MCPA)

A group of local volunteers have revitalised the Cheero Point Park and surrounding area with new landscaping that focuses on native and indigenous plant species. The group received funding through the Central Coast Council Community Support Grant Program supported by the MCPA. The park is looking great and worth a visit.

The MMCP Defib team have secured enough funds for to install 4 new defibrillator units to be installed in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point at the following locations.

- At the entry to the Mooney Mooney public wharf on Point Rd
- 1 Point Rd, next to the grounds of the old school
- Cheero Point Park in Cheero Point
- 22 Pacific Hwy, Mooney Mooney

The Mooney Mooney Club have also agreed to move their internal defib unit outside near the entrance to the club.

Training sessions on how to use the defib units will be held in the coming months with more details to come.

Brooklyn Playgroup – Outdoor based games and activities, suitable for babies to pre-schoolers, free for all families. 10am-12pm at Baden Powell Hall on the last Friday of each month.

Storytime & Bookmobile – a facilitator from Central Coast Libraries comes to read books, sings songs and run a craft activity with the kids. The bookmobile is open to residents of both the Central Coast and Hornsby Councils, Storytime activities are suitable for babies right up to pre-schoolers. Mooney School Library 10am – 11:30am on Wednesday 15 June, 13 July and 10 August.



River Hub – come for a chat and cuppa. 2pm - 5pm every Thursday, Mooney School Library

MCPA meeting – 7pm to 8pm on the first Tuesday of each month, Mooney School Library

River Fellowship – meets every Monday night at 7pm (during school term) in the old Mooney Mooney school. If you know God or want to learn who he is, then come along. All welcome. Phone 0413 779 979 or 0408 659 575 for more information.

By Vidette Moore, missvidettemoore@gmail.com

News from Wobby

On Friday, 13 May the roadway from Little Wobby to Little Patonga (Sport & Rec) was permanently closed with the erection of a spiked metal fence.

The roadway is suffering from subsidence and the possibility of slip is evidenced by deep cracking in the bitumen.

This is a very poor situation. This road is a stunningly beautiful bushland walk that is suitable for the full range from the very young to the very old. Not only popular for Wobby people and guests enjoying the walk and maybe a swim at Little Patonga but also for serious walkers using the road as the start to other tracks such as the Great North Walk.

Taking this walk away is a great loss for Wobby and those people who live or rent on Wobby and enjoy walking.

The rain has no doubt had an effect on the stability of the road. There is also the possible contribution of many heavily laden trucks transporting large numbers of sandstone logs for the recent construction of an amphitheatre and firepit on Little Patonga beach for Sport & Rec.

Whatever the cause, the roadway or in the short term a pedestrian pathway should be reinstated for the benefit of the people of NSW.

Further details from Sport and Rec.

Groove Cruise Sunday #14 – Blues Collective 7th Birthday Blues Cruise!

At 3-6pm on Sunday, 19 June 2022, Hawkesbury River Groove Cruise on The Riverboat Postman from Dangar Road, Brooklyn. This will be Blues Cruise XVII (2015-2022) on the Hawkesbury for Blues Collective, and we know it will be enormous fun, helped along by our many wonderful cruisers! (Blues Collective Blues Cruises always sell out very fast, so please buy your tickets as soon as you can.) Blues Collective has performed Swamp and Chicago Blues live since launching on 19 June 2015, so this will be their 7th Birthday Blues Bash, and will

feature Angela McCloy on vocals, Chris Martin Murphy on vocals, guitar and harmonica, Marty Davison on saxophone, Chris Davis on lead guitar, Ian Chisholm on bass guitar, and Bruce Stephens on drums. Blues Collective performs its own versions of Swamp and Chicago Blues songs written by Tony Joe White, JJ Cale, Taj Mahal, Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, BB King, Etta James, Jimmy Reed, Robert Johnson, Elmore James, Freddie King and others.



**GROOVE CRUISE
SUNDAY #14
3-6PM 19 JUNE
BROOKLYN 2083**
**Blues
Collective
7th Birthday
Blues Cruise!**
(70 Tickets @ \$40)

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/Q6ZRT>

Tickets: <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/Q6ZRT>
Only 70 tickets @ \$40 incl. booking fee.

Bloomsday in Brooklyn

With the success of last year's inaugural Bloomsday in Brooklyn, we've moved the venue to Baden Powell Community Hall which comfortable seats and audience of 60.

If you too are passionate about this novel and would like to contribute a ready on the night, please call Peter on 0423 254 681.

The event will go from 6pm until approximately 9pm, with each passage around 10-15min as well as intermission.

For those looking for a copy of the book, an audio version is available at the below link:

https://www.openculture.com/2012/04/james_joyces_ulysses_a_free_audio_book.html

Hope to see you at Bloomsday in Brooklyn...on either side of the mic.

By Peter Davis, 0423 254 681

Bloomsday in Brooklyn

Join us in celebrating the work of **James Joyce** and his seminal novel **Ulysses** published in its final form **100 years ago**.

Where: 3 Baden Powell Avenue, Brooklyn

When: 6pm, Thursday, 16 June 2022

Meet at the Anglers Rest from 4:30pm (stroll to venue)

Gold coin entry

Who: Local identities and friends will be reading passages from the book.

Dress: Edwardian in hat, coat OR Irish green to celebrate life and love.





Birthday Party Invite!

Ok, ok, so we know the agency has been operating for a combined total of 80 + years...

BUT it's our 4th birthday since our current director Caelia Collins took the helm and we plan to celebrate that milestone in style!!

To help us celebrate pop by our office
between **2pm-5pm on Friday, 1 July**
for a chat, slice of cake or perhaps even a cheeky glass 😊

From the Riverfront Real Estate Team
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Brooklyn, Dangar Island, Mooney
Mooney, Cheero Point, Little Wobby


Hawkesbury River Home Builders

☎ **9985 1525**



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 **We're Building**
in Your Area 

- ✓ Ground floor Extensions
- ✓ First floor Additions
- ✓ Knock-down & Rebuild
- ✓ Beautiful Decks
- ✓ Design & Construct
- ✓ We build to your budget

HIA Award Winner 2017 & 2018



You're Invited to Join Us

If you thought lawns bowls was just for old people, think again! Mooney Pearls welcome everyone for some fun, friendship, great tuition and tips along the way. Why not bask in the sun and enjoy a few hours on the green every second Sunday from 9.30. Upcoming dates are 29/5; 12/6; 26/6; 10/7 & 24/7. For further details call Liz on 0414 733714