

Gateway

gateway@brooklyncommunity.org.au

May 2023 Issue

Newsletter

Co-Presidents' Report

In our last newsletter we introduced the new Committee, mentioned Council's progress regarding parking management and the results of Council's survey. The BCA generally promoted its quarterly meetings as a way for our community and business residents to be informed, have their views heard and generally keep in touch with various activities around town. We still need a Treasurer for the BCA, which warrants about 1-2 hours a month. Please consider if you have capacity for this and reach out to our team.

February's meeting hosted an important presentation on Sustainability and tips and tricks on how to save money on energy costs. We reported on this in the [February newsletter](#) and savings are presented again in this issue.

Rumours of a \$5 million car park were quashed at the February meeting with clarification that the \$5 million was only relevant if the Liberal Coalition party was returned to power at the State Election in March, and that Matt Kean was returned as NSW Treasurer. Neither eventuated. It was also clarified that these monies, if realised, would go to Hornsby Council for general investment in public parking in Brooklyn, not a dedicated car park. Read the Minutes on the BCA website for further information.

Council voted at its April meeting to adopt a Brooklyn Car Parking Management Plan. An article in this issue helps clarify what is proposed with trailer management in public reserve areas as the first cab off the rank.

The most pressing issue for many in Brooklyn and the river communities is the loss of our Australia Post postal and financial services. Post office box holders were given one week's notice. Over 60 people turned up on 31 March to signal the day the music died and to provide a rallying call for us all to be involved. Please write to Julian Leaser MP at julian.leaser.mp@aph.gov.au and Gordon Reid MP at Gordon.reid.mp@aph.gov.au and copy in secretary@brooklyncommunity.org.au. Ask for their continued help to restore our services. Let them know what the loss has meant to you personally and/or your business.

The article inside this Gateway provides more updates and information. It is important to say that whatever people have heard through the grapevine, our fight to have our full service resumed is not over yet.

The recent survey that many completed (complete it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X3SZSDM> - all contact details are kept confidential) is a clear indication of the need and the use of a licensed post office. 95% of 200 survey respondents to date said they would use this facility if it was re-instated.

More than ever we need Brooklyn, river community residents and business owners to make their case known in raising awareness and writing letters. Special thanks to all those who are helping in one way or another to restore our postal services.

Please attend our next meeting on Saturday, 3 June 2023 from 10am-12noon, which is an opportunity to hear the latest, connect with other residents on common issues and friendships. Also look out inside for our celebratory Welcome to Brooklyn series of events – for newcomers and oldstayers alike, parents and children welcome, an opportunity for connection – all welcome.

Cindy Corkery & Miriam Moloney, Co-Presidents
president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

BCA General Meeting
10am-12pm | Saturday, 3 June 2023

Brooklyn Meeting Room

Followed by Refreshments
BCA Members, guests & friends welcome

www.brooklyncommunity.org.au
www.facebook.com/BrooklynNSW

2023 Meeting Dates: 9 Sept | 18 Nov

Come down to the Village and support our cafes, businesses and the pharmacy

While the post office is missing, committed locals and the BCA are working hard to get our postal and financial services back. Let us know if you can help as well. There is a lot to do and even a letter or an email helps – it takes a village.

With one week's notice, Australia Post officially accepted the license being handed back by a representative of the former licensee.

This occurred on 31 March. Typically Australia Post requires 3 months' notice as a contractual requirement to provide for transition. From the day this occurred, the BCA and others sought options to maintain even a reduced presence for a transitional period to support our communities. There was little thought to the impact on our river communities – just under 2000 people many of whom are boat access only and isolated. While the river is blessed to have the Hawkesbury River Postman (which delivers mail under contract to some settlements) and Dangar Island (who have a community postal agency, which sorts and holds onto mail), Australia Post has not established anything for other communities that would have benefited from their postal box at Brooklyn or who are unable to travel to Berowra, Kariong or Gosford, 40-50km round trips by car or 3-5 hours by public transport. We are not identified as Regional or Remote yet it certainly feels that way. Financial Services are key!

Thank you to all those who are supporting the need.

60 residents attended our meeting and rallying call on 31 March.

Around 30 residents came on 21 April to meet with

Julian Leeser MP and talk about their personal and business needs, postal and financial, that Australia Post has walked away from.



All communities circulated a survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X3SZSDM>) in the days that followed. Around 20 residents, delegates from each river settlement attended a meeting with Australia Post executives Sarah, Micah and Caroline on 4 May to discuss the impact and learn from Australia Post their plan for restoration of our service. Australia Post wanted to hear from the community but would not be drawn into any solutions or plan. At the meeting, Australia Post committed to sending through financial and process information related to a licensed post office to ensure an application for an LPO met their needs. No information forthcoming. Finally some six weeks later Australia Post has offered a community postal agency. However, there is no analysis or data provided that supports this and it does not acknowledge our circumstances. A postal agency is limited and has no financial services available a key service requested by community members.

Australia Post is a Government Business Enterprise, one of two under the federal government legislation and responsibility of the Minister for Communications. It may operate as a commercial business but where are its community obligations.

We are negotiating with Australia Post who have suggested that a licensed post office is not financially sustainable. Sustainability has many dimensions and once upon a time in fairy dell, Australia Post was a success story guaranteeing every town both postal services and financial services. Without a banking service we are hard hit to support our community and existing businesses and services to ensure their economic viability. The resident or business that buys their stamps, sends a postal article, using PostBillPay or banks their cash with their preferred bank through Australia Post, also pops next door for a coffee or gets a script filled from the Pharmacy. So impact on one is impact on all.

The Australia Post rep previously said to Julian Leeser's Office on 30 March they would work through any interested applicants to take on the licensed post office. "We have advised expressions of interest are open and though the LPO will close tomorrow (31 March), a new LPO or CPO can be opened". We should hold Australia Post to this.

Some key stats from the survey so far: Of 200 responses, 96% consider Aust Post is an essential service and 95% would support the business if re-opened. 49% used Express Post, 53% used Parcel Collect, 54% JP service, 48% postal boxes, 48% passport ID. Banking 38%, PostPay 30%. The BCA considers this makes for a viable business that could be well supported with 35% of responses identifying they would use the service once a week and 8% once a day.

Julian Leeser MP is advocating strongly with the Minister for Communications and CEO of Australia Post to enable the return of our licensed post office.

The owner of the current premises is dedicated to standing by currently hoping that the post office will return to Brooklyn. A community postal agency is not good enough and does not provide the financial services we need. The BCA continues to negotiate with Australia Post to be upfront and transparent with the community about the financials to support a licensed post office. A petition is coming soon.

How can you help?

- Complete the survey
- Support our cafes, the businesses & pharmacy
- Write to julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au, or Gordon.reid.mp@aph.gov.au seeking their help for the re-instatement of this service and what the impact has been for you
- Write to the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland at michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au
- Contact the president@brooklyncommunity.org.au & discuss ideas you have to assist getting our post office back
- Come to our BCA meeting on 3 June at 10am

*By Miriam Moloney, Co-President
president@brooklyncommunity.org.au*



A reminder, we have gone digital...!

To ensure you get the Gateway delivered to your virtual mailbox, please email us at secretary@brooklyncommunity.org.au to ensure you are on our distribution list.

Hornsby Council Parking Recommendations

Hornsby Council have now moved to an implementation stage of their Brooklyn parking review project after consultation in 2022, and the General Manager's recommendations to Councillors in early 2023.

Many in the community contributed to the BCA workshop consultations of residents and businesses that were held in 2022, which resulted in the BCA's submission to Council. Many more in the community, including river communities and associations, contributed to the broader consultation on parking, made submissions and completed Hornsby Council's Have your Say survey later in 2022. Many consultations, data analysis and reports over the years informed the position now put forward by Council.

On 12 April 2023, Councillors voted to support changes in Brooklyn Car Parking Management, recommended in the General Manager's report and attachments, shown on the BCA website at <https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/car-parking-in-brooklyn/> or go to Council pages direct and you can see links to the report, attachments and minutes (<https://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/>).

Attachment 2 of the Council's report provides more on what is planned (see table in this article for quick reference).

Stage 1

From discussion with Council officers the BCA has learned that trailers will be the focus for the first tranche of changes. This will begin in June or July over a 3-6 month period. Council will contact trailer owners via a letter with fact sheet attachments detailing the requirements and overall timeframe. Council clarified that a key focus is to unattached trailers – that is, trailers with or without a boat on land associated with public reserves. Upper McKell Park reserve is likely the first focus of activity for Council with Parsley Bay and Lower McKell to follow. Note, Council is intending to sign post all car parks associated with public reserves outside of the village area but within Brooklyn – as car only parking. This includes Saltpan Reserve and Tom Richmond Oval.

This also signals changes to State Government legislation and the Unattended Properties Act. What does it mean for the community? You can learn more here:

- [Unattended Properties Act](#)
- New rules for vehicles [infographic](#) and [factsheet](#) (includes trailers)

- New rules for small and medium sized personal items [infographic](#) and [factsheet](#) (includes kayaks and bicycles)

Timed parking will commence in **lower McKell Park** (cars parked on the foreshore side, not hillside) and in the **wharf carpark** that Council hopes to complete before summer.

Previous parking arrangements in **Parsley Bay** will be replaced by more flexible parking allowing cars with trailers or without to park. This follows more detailed feedback from the broader community and recognising that previous changes were not working.

Stage 2 and beyond

The BCA has only included some of the highlights of Stage 1 above. The table has a lot more detail. It includes a number of place planning initiatives as part of Stages 2 and 3 in the table some of which is subject to further planning and consultation by Council or budgetary constraints = No time soon!

Approved Recommendations Council Meeting GM 1/23 12 April 2023

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the efforts and contribution of community and stakeholders to this process, particularly in trying to seek a common understanding and way forward on a long-standing issue for the Brooklyn and River community.
2. Adopt the proposed car parking management staged, roll out schedule attached to General Manager's Report No. GM1/23 implementing the roll out as part of future Delivery Programs and an Informal Councillor Briefing be held following the trailer removal process to further consider timed parking restrictions.
3. Not proceed with the proposed leased car park in Upper McKell Park overflow area but continue to operate the car park as a free to use parking area in the short to medium term.
4. Note the proposed alternate leased parking locations nominated by the community and further address this matter in the place planning process.
5. Undertake further consultation with the community to determine the extent of need for residents who are not eligible for a Disability Parking Permit but may still require special parking arrangements.
6. Undertake further consultation on the introduction of paid parking in McKell Park and Parsley Bay to respond to community demand for flexible parking.

Table of approved Brooklyn Car Parking Management Changes

Stage 1 - Car parking management	
Trailer management	Council exclude trailer parking from McKell Park using the appropriate signage—including within the overflow parking area.
	Council work with trailer owners over a 3-6 month period to facilitate this change and to allow trailer owners the opportunity to make long term storage arrangements elsewhere.
	Council sign post all car parks associated with public reserves outside of Brooklyn village (but within the suburb of Brooklyn) as "car only" parking to prioritise access for visitors to these reserves.
	Offshore residents be encouraged to progress a trailer share scheme—as per their written submissions.
	In the event that trailer parking continues to be an issue for on and off street parking locations within the village centre or elsewhere in Brooklyn, further consideration should be given to restricting parking in these areas— potentially by nominating them as car only parking locations. This matter should be assessed on a site by site basis with the community, using consistent criteria that considers safety, proximity to destinations, impacts on local residents and visitors, alternatives such as timed parking and impacts on surrounding streets of trailer relocation.
	<p>Lower McKell Park Introduce timed parking in Lower McKell Park along the northern (river side) of the carpark: 6am — 6pm 4 hour (4P) and 3 x hour (30 minutes) spaces. Retain southern side (headland side) of carpark as unrestricted parking. Retain all accessible car parking spaces.</p> <p>Upper McKell Park Introduce timed parking in Upper McKell Park along the northern side of the road leading to the picnic area: 8:30am — 6pm 4 hour (4P) and 1 x accessible parking space. Retain remainder of carpark, including the overflow area to the west as unrestricted.</p> <p>Dangar Road Car Park (wharf car park) Introduce timed parking in the Dangar Road Car Park: 6am — 6pm 4 hour (4P) and 3 x hour (30 minutes) spaces. Retain all accessible car parking spaces.</p>
Timed parking	<p>Introduce flexible parking — car with attached trailer or car only within the parking bays to the south, either side of the amenities building (13 spaces) and within the central portion of the main parking area (36 spaces). The northern portion of the car park should remain car with attached trailer parking only.</p> <p>Retain all accessible car parking spaces. Retain all car only parking spaces. Retain current parking conditions on breakwall.</p>

	Expand car only spaces to the west, on street, along George Street between Parsley Bay and No.22 George Street.
Parsley Bay — no time restrictions	Subject to market interest, introduce up to two car share spaces within the village centre precinct.
Car share	Subject to market interest, introduce up to two car share spaces within the village centre precinct.
Stage 2 - A clear place vision for Brooklyn	
Place planning	Brooklyn Urban Design Footprint — Incorporating amongst others, the place planning actions below - design and draw a plan of the consolidated vision for the Brooklyn village centre considering all adopted strategic elements.
	Design and consult on long term plan for the Wharf/Dangar Road Car Park (Brooklyn Cove).
	Design and consult on long term plan for Lower McKell Park —a riverfront park and a place for people.
	Design and consult on Upper McKell Park — potential angled car parking (east) to maximise efficiency and formalise overflow car parking area.
	Resolve approach to a leased resident car park — if progressed by the community.
	Progress “Activate Dangar Road” project - consider opportunities to activate Council’s property holdings on Dangar Road within the context of the Brooklyn Urban Design Footprint.
Car parking	Review efficacy of car parking interventions in Stage 1 and make amendments as required.
Paid parking	Consult on paid parking throughout McKell Park and Parsley Bay.
Plans of Management	Update the relevant plans of management, incorporating the Brooklyn Urban Design Footprint components for McKell Park and Parsley Bay.
Stage 3 – Delivery of place vision (subject to available funding)	
Place planning	Construct/deliver Wharf / Dangar Road Car Park – Plaza / Brooklyn Cove.
	Construct / deliver Lower McKell Park – a riverfront park and a place for people
	Construct / delivery Upper McKell Park – angled car parking (east) and formalise overflow car parking.
Leased resident car park	Support development of leased resident car park if progressed by community.
Paid parking	Implement paid parking throughout McKell Park and Parsley Bay if deemed appropriate.
Car parking	Review efficacy of car parking interventions in Stage 1 and make amendments as required.

For more enquiries, please contact hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Mr John William Stavert OAM

John Stavert, long standing Brooklyn resident, was presented with his Order of Australia Medal by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC at an Investiture in March. John Stavert OAM has led an impressive life devoted to service to the community.

After first volunteering at the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade in 1981, John served in a range of roles including Station Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, Deputy Captain and Senior Deputy Captain. He also served in a number of other roles in the Brigade. In 2007 he was honoured as a Life Member. In the mid 1990’s he was secretary and Deputy Captain of Cowan Rural Fire brigade. In Scouts NSW John served as a Rover Advisor for the 1st Berowra Scout Group and was awarded a Certificate of Good service, a Long Service Decoration and the Highest Level of Training award. John has been a member of the Hornsby Diabetes Support Group since 1993, serving as president and coordinator for 20 years. He was a volunteer at both the Brooklyn Community Health Centre and the Hawkesbury River Sailing Club. He was a volunteer Piano Tutor at the Wesley Mission, Pitt Street, Sydney.

John is clearly a man of many talents and well deserves his OAM Award.



Photo: L-R Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley with John Stavert OAM and his wife Carmen.

We would like to acknowledge The Bush Tele www.thebushtele.com.au and Rae Rosten who supplied the news and photo.

Help make your neighbourhood a better place to live, work and play

Administered by Place Score on behalf of the [Greater Cities Commission](http://www.greatercitiescommission.gov.au), the 2023 Australian Liveability Census provides a unique opportunity for our community to have their say on the issues that matter most to us in our local neighbourhoods.

Whether it's more shops, parking, access to green spaces, or improving public safety, your voice will help guide decision making and contribute to national research regarding liveability.

In 2021 over 32,000 responses were collected from people just like you, all across the country. This year the target is 50,000. So please join in and share with your family, friends and colleagues. In just 15 minutes you can have positive impact on National, State and local planning and investment strategies.

Complete the survey to have the chance to win one of 50 x \$100 vouchers!

The survey is open from Monday, 27 March to Friday, 30 June 2023. [Complete the survey here.](#)

Lower McKell Park, Brooklyn Stage 2 – Construction notification – Plumbing works

Council will commence construction works on Monday, 22 May 2023. The aim of this stage of works is to upgrade the water supply to Lower McKell Park. The upgrade will improve water pressure to the amenities block, bubbler and proposed outdoor shower. These works are partly funded by NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program - Bushland to the Waterways.

This work will be programmed to reduce disruption to the carpark and pedestrians. The landscaped area to the north of the carpark will be fenced off in stages and we urge motorists to be careful when parking perpendicular to the construction fencing along this northern edge of the carpark. New pipe work will be installed that crosses the vehicle carriageway. This work will be undertaken in a manner that maintains access beyond this point to the rest of the carpark.

Access will be maintained along the foreshore pathway and to the baths, picnic areas and amenities block for the duration of works. Localised areas will be bunted off during excavation works in areas that are beyond the carpark. The plumbing works will be completed in June. Construction will take place between 7am-5pm Monday to Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturday.



Did you know that May is Brain Cancer Awareness Month?

Many of you know my husband, Ross Bowles; he is an outlier and has survived brain cancer for 10 years. We are one of the 'lucky' families, as only a few remain to be able to advocate and build awareness for more brain cancer research.

Brain cancer affects approximately 2000 Australians per year, small numbers BUT the statistics are disproportionately big:

- Half of those diagnosed with Brain Cancer are dead within 15 months.
- The survival rate 5 years after diagnosis is 22% (95% for prostate and 91% for breast cancer).
- Brain Cancer is the number one killer of adults under 40 of all cancers.
- Brain Cancer kills more children than any other disease.
- There have been no significant changes to treatment in over 40 years.
- Brain Cancer is one of the most underfunded and under-researched cancers, and there aren't many people left to raise awareness.
- Brain Cancer has the highest cost per patient compared to all other cancers.

This year is special to our family, so to celebrate surviving for 10 years, Ross decided to challenge his mind and endurance by setting some goals of his own. Starting on his late father's 100th birthday and finishing with last weekend's 2-day Bike Ride for Brain Cancer, Ross has completed an amazing challenge:

1 - BRAIN CANCER SURVIVOR
10 - DAYS RIDING
100 - KILOMETRES RIDDEN EACH DAY
1,000 – VERTICAL
METRES CLIMBED EACH DAY
10,000 - SOCIAL SHARES - Let's Go Viral
\$100,000 - FUNDRAISING GOAL

To build awareness, we received some great coverage:

Ross and Professor Michael Besser were on Channel 9 Today Extra

<https://www.9now.com.au/live/channel-9>

On the radio at 2GB

<https://www.2gb.com/10-years-10-days-the-inspirational-story-of-a-sydney-mans-fight-for-survival/?fbclid=IwAR1gveJOnLS9nGtjSvqwySPSe2H2hfzPBDXLrdNZncpw66JftcW3VRicYU>

The launch was covered by Channel 9 news:

<https://www.ridingforbraincancer.com.au/daily-challenge-updates>

My story of being a carer and family impact was published in Mamamia.

https://www.mamamia.com.au/brain-cancer-impact-on-the-caregiver/?fbclid=IwAR3RlinJd3ty_zDnLBkxlqivcFc_pE8z2RleYfjBFH11sjWzKewaBAk4w2w

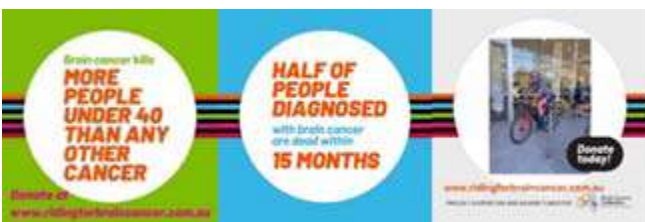
Brain Cancer treatments haven't changed in over 40 years. Ross underwent surgery, then 6 weeks of radiation treatments, and finally 6 months of chemotherapy which resulted in an acquired brain injury. So even being lucky to survive, the treatments were brutal, not just for the patient but for the family and community. But he changed, and some of you who know Ross will be nodding your heads, yes. He used to be one of the most active volunteers at the RFS and would always put up his hand to help the community.

He could not continue to run his business of nearly 20 years, so I gave up my job to ensure we had an income for us and our employees. But we are doing okay now, he still has cognitive deficits, but we have learned and adapted, and figured out how to make the best of our lives. We continue to try and give hope of a cure, to patients and families who have lost their loved ones to this insidious disease.

So, if you want to learn more about the challenge, go www.ridingwithbraincancer.com.au

If you can donate, that would be wonderful; if you can't, we hope that you can share this information so we can change these stats.

“Brain cancer destroys the very fabric of what makes us human - our mind and ability to think, feel and love.” - Professor Michael Besser



By Di Bowles, dibowles26@gmail.com

Lower Hawkesbury Aquatic Recreation Association (LHARA) update – Hawkesbury Cup!

Hornsby Ku-Rin-Gai Sailing Club (HKSC) and Hawkesbury River Yacht Club (HRYC) jointly hosted sailing events on the weekend of 4 & 5 March. The Hawkesbury River Dragons (HRD) were away for a regatta but a motley crew of paddlers kept the faith. A gentle breeze kicked off proceedings under clear skies on Saturday with yachts sailing a race on

Broken Bay while skiffs and dinghies raced in shifty conditions between Eagle Rock and Juno Point. Both sailing fleets - featuring local and visiting crews from Brisbane Water and Lake Macquarie - gathered at Dead Horse Beach as the sun set over the river and the HKSC catering team delivered a feast to be remembered for an audience aged 5-85. Sensational!

Bright and early on Sunday a modest group set out from Parsley Bay in calm conditions for the inaugural Mullet Run. A fun event for paddle craft, the Mulletts travelled 5 or 15km tracking the train line toward Wondabyne and return. It was a blissful start to the day.

By the 1pm warning signal for skiffs and dinghies, the breeze was in and one of the best sailing days of the decade ensued with 10 – 20 knot sea breeze consistent across Broken Bay where a rolling sea-swell dialled up the fun-factor for one and all.

Our protected waters among gumtrees and sandstone escarpments are an amazing place to play. Want to get involved next season?

Hornsby Ku-Rin-gai Sailing Club -

www.revolutionise.com.au/hksc/

Hawkesbury River Yacht Club - www.hryc.asn.au/

Hawkesbury River Dragons -

www.hawkesburyriverdragons.com/

Proudly supported by LHARA - lhara.com.au/

By Alan Barrett, noabarratt@gmail.com

A promotional poster for 'The River Hub MOONEY STORYTIME & BOOKMOBILE'. The text describes the service: 'The lovely librarians from Central Coast Council visit us once a month bringing fun with Storytime activities and the Bookmobile. The librarians read books and sing songs with the kids. It's a great morning for babies and young children. The Bookmobile comes stocked with lots of great books and borrowing is open to residents of both the Central Coast and Hornsby Councils.' A schedule box lists: '10:00AM - 11:30am Wed 17 May, Wed 28 June, Wed 26 July'. At the bottom, it says: 'The River Hub is on the grounds of the old Mooney Mooney primary school, next to the RFS shed, Cnr Point Rd & Pacific Hwy, Mooney Mooney. Contact theriverhub@gmail.com'. The poster features an illustration of three diverse children sitting on the floor and reading books.

Brooklyn Community Health Centre

The "Brooklyn Community Health Centre" is an important service to all the people of the river. (a bit like the post office!)

The GP practice at the Brooklyn Health Centre is a branch of the GP Unit at Hornsby Hospital. These highly qualified GP's also train new GP's. So very convenient for those less able to travel and well worth your support.

There will be a Jazz High Tea fundraiser to raise money for the Health Centre at the Cottage on Sunday, 9 July from 3-5pm. Raffle tickets are available from the Centre.



By John Andrews, Andrews.johnb@outlook.com

Marine Rescue Update

Over the past 12 months Marine Rescue Hawkesbury has successfully conducted a pilot program to explore the effective



utilisation of rescue watercraft, commonly known as Jetskis, on the Hawkesbury River.

The Rescue Water Craft offer distinct advantages over larger rescue vessels typically employed on the Hawkesbury. Their smaller size and enhanced manoeuvrability make them well-suited for swift emergency response in shallow waters and near-shore areas. They have also been notably effective



in scenarios such as medical emergencies and patient transfers, as well as

providing vital support during large events such as surf carnivals and boat races. The program has yielded positive results and



prompted Marine Rescue NSW to consider the expansion of Jetskis and similar vessels in their operations across the State.

As we head into the cooler months it is a good idea to take the time and update any safety equipment. This includes checking your radios and saving your local base number (02 9985 2100) into your phone. You can also download the latest version of the Marine Rescue NSW App which has recently been upgraded with several new features including interactive maps, weather, and safety checklists.

If you would like to contribute to the safety of our local community by supporting Marine Rescue Hawkesbury please contact hawkesbury@marinerescuensw.com.au or alternatively visit our website at www.marinerescuensw.com.au and select 'Hawkesbury'. We thank you for your generous support and hope to see you out on the water.

By Cassie O'Callaghan, Marine Rescue Hawkesbury

Welcome to Brooklyn

The Cottage is a fabulous asset to our community and the broader lower Hawkesbury communities in what it has to offer.

With so many new families and residents in town, the BCA has planned some get to know you events in our small but large part of the world.

Welcome to Brooklyn is for anyone in town, all ages, those who recently moved here or moved here some time ago, to get together and meet others.

New parents with young children are welcome to attend.

Venue: The Cottage, 10 Dangar Road, Brooklyn (opposite Hawkesbury River Railway Station).

Bring a plate (not essential) and BYO drinks (although we will have some refreshments on offer as needed).

Dates planned: 3-5pm on 25 June, 27 August & 29 October (the last Sunday of every second month).

For more details, please email info@brooklyncommunity.org.au or message on 0414464375

By Co-Presidents Cindy Corkery and Miriam Moloney
president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

The Cottage update

There are many things happening at The Cottage! Pastel workshops, art exhibitions, book clubs, markets, book club, knitting groups, Sunday meditations and even more events are being planned.



We are going to start our learning series soon. The idea is to have it on an early Friday evening, BYO bottle and curiosity!

Would you like to run a workshop at The Cottage?

Contact us at the email below.

Make sure to put the dates below in your calendar.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Creatives Connect from 27 May to 2 July

Angus Fisher from 8 July to 13 August

Irina Kozyrevich from 19 August to 24 September

Wendy Prince from 30 September to 5 November

Ann Lemon from 11 November to 17 December

Upcoming Markets

Winter Markets on Sunday, 6 August

Christmas Markets on Sunday, 26 November

Upcoming Event

Jazz High Tea on Sunday 9 July from 3-5pm

Interest Wanted

The Cottage is considering having locally produced handmade goods for sale. They must fit into our locked glass cabinet, so jewellery, candles, cards, beanies, etc would be ideal. If you are interested, please

email

thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Media/Communications person Wanted.

The Cottage is looking for a volunteer to help with our social media and communications, including updates to the website, advertising our events, and increasing participation at the Cottage. If it's you or someone you know that might be interested, let us know. We assume this will only be a few hours a month.

We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers that put in their time to help keep The Cottage running. It's a great way to catch up with all your community friends passing by and with the rest of the amazing volunteers. Please contact us if you have any ideas or want to volunteer at the details below.

The Cottage can be found at <https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/whats-on/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CottageBrooklyn>

By The Cottage, thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

What/who is the BCA?

The Brooklyn Community Association (**BCA**) is an organisation of Brooklyn residents and business owners whose purpose is to improve the facilities, environment, culture and well being of the community.

We achieve our purpose by:

- Creating opportunities for individual and community participation through meetings, newsletters, guest speakers, events and surveys
- Informing the community about current issues, canvassing views and establishing community positions
- Promoting our local businesses, services and community organisations
- Advocating the interests of the community to local and state government bodies
- Collaborating with other lower Hawkesbury communities

Check out the BCA website for more information at www.brooklyncommunity.org.au.

There is an annual \$10 household membership fee to join the BCA, which is due 1 July at the beginning of each financial year.

All Brooklyn residents on our mailing list will receive a reminder to pay their membership fees in late June or early July this year.

Question: *Where does my annual membership fee of \$10 go?*

Answer: *It goes towards paying for insurance, meeting room hire, stationery, printing for workshops, involvement in our local fair & markets days and generally covering any costs associated with the work of the BCA.*

The BCA committee work as volunteers to progress the amenity of our community and promote engagement and opportunity whether through current issues, Cottage activities, workshops, submissions or our quarterly general meetings and producing our quarterly newsletter, the Gateway.

If you are a new resident or business in Brooklyn or not a member and are interesting in joining, please consider a household / business membership of \$10. More information can be found here <https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/about-bca/membership/>.

We would also love to have you along at our next quarterly meeting at 10am on Saturday, 3 June 2023 at the Brooklyn Community Meeting Room to learn more.

Any queries, please contact one of our Co-Presidents, Cindy Corkery on 0417 635 975 or Miriam Moloney on 0414 464 375.

Good with Excel & managing \$\$?

The BCA is seeking an energetic person to take over the Co-Treasurer position on the BCA Committee, which is still available. This is a great opportunity to take on this valued role, working side-by-side with Lyne Kelleher, The Cottage Co-Treasurer.

If you'd like to join the BCA Committee as Co-Treasurer, you have some Excel skills and can manage money transactions, please contact our Co-Presidents, Cindy Corkery and Miriam Moloney, at president@brooklyncommunity.org.au. We'd love to hear from you.

Sustainability

A focus on bees

As I mourn the loss of the European bees that have cohabitated and shared our block for the last 12 years, I acknowledge the broader community of beekeepers that are mourning with me. I will miss the buzz of the hive and the bee highway that was a constant hum of activity to and from the hives.

For those not in the know, the varroa mite has devastated European bee populations around the globe and it arrived at our doorstep. Our bees have had to be eradicated to avoid possible spread. The culling of over 600 hives has already occurred across NSW and more are certain to follow as the red zones continue to grow.

In the cloud of gloom, I realised that I needed to focus on something to help me overcome the misery. It is with this that I decided that I could focus my energy on supporting the population of native bees in my backyard. Native bees are not affected by varroa mite, and by building habitat for native bees and hover flies, we not only help support their populations, but support pollination.

Australian native bees are small and can be hard to see. There are 200 native bee species in Sydney. Some of our more recognisable native bees include the teddy bear bees, which are fluffy and orange, and the blue-banded bees.

How can you help?

Things you can do help our native bees:

- Make your garden native bee-friendly by planting natives. Bees prefer yellow and blue flowers but other flowering plants will also provide the food they need. Native plants include daisies, coastal rosemary, tea trees and nectar-rich trees like gums, lilly pilli and bottle brush.

- Provide nest sites for native bees to lay eggs by not clearing all the dead wood from your trees. Leave old hollows and bare ground in your garden. Native bees use shallow burrows in the ground or can make nests in soft mortar between bricks.
- Let some herbs and vegetable plants go to flower.
- Avoid using poisons or pesticides.
- Install a bee hotel.
- Add a drinking area for bees. Bees can drown in deep water, so fill a bowl with marbles, stones or corks to make it easy for bees to get in and out. If you have a pond they can land on a lily pad.

Local Bushcare group

A reminder that we have a local Bushcare group and we meet at Brooklyn Park between 8:30 – 11:30. Next date is Thursday 25th May. [Click here to join today.](#)

We meet every 4th Thursday of the month.

Community Garden – The River Hub

This is great opportunity to come together place our hands in the soil. Getting your hands dirty lifts your mood and strengthens immunity. Come to help out or just have a chat, kids are welcome. In the spirit of connected communities, we hope you will all participate and support this great initiative.

The next community garden day will be on Saturday, 3rd June at 10am.

They are held the first Saturday of the month ongoing, weather dependant

Where: 1 Point Rd, Mooney Mooney NSW 2083

What to bring: Wear enclosed shoes and a sun hat, sunscreen and bring a drink.

Other activities: We'll have a crop n swap table set up for anyone with excess garden produce they'd like to share.

Hornsby Council Events

We had our friendly sustainability officer come and present at our last BCA meeting. Susie Smith spoke about the Brooklyn community had a good track record in energy consumption and a strong uptake of solar installation compared to other Hornsby Council communities.

Susie also talked about things everyone can do to improve the way we use energy in our homes and save money too. There are opportunities for subsidies to help install more efficient equipment and appliances. See savings and rebates below.

- Lack of insulation and inadequate windows in your home can increase electricity usage and in turn, electricity bills. Join us online for a free

workshop to hear how you can improve the comfort of your home.

- Upcoming education events this quarter look really great, with a focus on growing, pickling, mending and repurposing - [Workshops and Education | Hornsby Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

[Comfortable Homes in Summer and Winter:](#)

Tuesday, 23 May from 7-8pm

[Repair Café - Electronics/Furniture:](#)

Saturday, 27 May from 10am-3pm

[Bicycle Repair Workshop:](#)

Saturday, 17 June from 9am-2pm

Savings and Rebates For Homes:

Household Energy Savings Upgrades - [Household energy saving upgrades | NSW Climate and Energy Action](#)

Energy Offers for Seniors - [Energy offers for seniors | energy.gov.au](#)

Light bulb energy efficiency app - [Light bulb energy efficiency app | energy.gov.au](#)

Family Energy Rebate - [Find an energy rebate | NSW Climate and Energy Action](#)

Rebate Swap for Solar - [Rebate swap for solar and energy efficient upgrades | NSW Climate and Energy Action](#) (For those receiving the Low Income Household Rebate)

Seniors energy rebate - [Apply for the Seniors Energy Rebate | Service NSW](#)

By Ingrid Segovia, Ingrid.segovia@outlook.com

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

The past few months has seen an expansion of the services provided by the Mooney Cheero Progress Association. Since the establishment of the licence agreement with Property NSW, this has enabled us to move forward with many activities at the River Hub. We also held our first "Music at the Chapel" at the Mooney Chapel. This was an amazing night. Tickets were only \$20 and featured wonderful entertainment. Supper was even provided. It is hoped to provide more of these events in the future. At the River Hub, thanks to funding from the Central Coast Council and some awesome members from our local community we've been running new workshops in painting, ceramics, floristry and songwriting. We've also got a new community garden going and more regular community activities happening. The River Hub is growing and we want

more people from the local community to get involved. If you have an idea for a workshop or activity, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch by emailing, theriverhub@gmail.com or send us a message on Facebook at [The River Hub | Mooney Mooney NSW | Facebook](#) before the end of July. The River Hub is on the grounds of the old Mooney Mooney primary school, next to the RFS shed.

We are delighted to have so many upcoming free events!

NEW - Art Club at The River Hub! Come along to the new art group running weekly on Saturdays 3-5pm. Bring your own art project and supplies or get started by using our paint, brushes and other resources supplied free of charge. People of all skill levels are welcome, from beginners to experts. BYO drinks and nibbles, Art Club is a social event. It's free to join but bookings are essential at theriverhub@gmail.com

Storytime & Bookmobile on Wednesday, 28 June, 10-11:30am. The lovely librarians from Central Coast Council visit us once a month bringing fun with Storytime activities and the Bookmobile. The librarians read books and sing songs with the kids. It's a great morning for babies and young children. Borrowing from the bookmobile is open to residents of both the Central Coast and Hornsby Councils.

Playgroup on Fridays on 2, 16 & 30 June at 10am-12pm. Join us for games and activities, suitable for babies to pre-schoolers. Playgroup is free for all families thanks to ongoing support from The Anglers Rest.

Thursday Craft Group at 2-5pm. Come along for craft, tea & coffee and a chat. The Thursday craft group work together to make beautiful crafts for a good cause. Projects include making teddy bears for kids and hospital palliative care pack bags.

Community Garden Meet Up on the first Saturday of each month from 10am -12pm. Come along to help out in the vegie patch or just to have a chat. Grow your gardening knowledge by talking with one of our regular horticulturalists. Bring your excess garden produce to add to the crop n swap table. Kids are welcome to come along and play in the new cubby, toy library and kids craft corner.

River Fellowship on the first Tuesday of each month, 7-8pm.

You can see that there is a lot going on at the Chapel and River Hub and we hope to continue to grow with the support of our wonderful local community volunteers

By Jim Lloyd, jim@jimlloyd.com.au

Project 'Reclaim the Void'

Invitation to learn or revisit your weaving skills to create and make a weaving, to contribute to Project 'Reclaim the Void'.

Free work shop to kick start woven mats to contribute to the project.

At Homers Café in Brooklyn on Saturday, 3 June from 10am-1pm.

Reclaim the Void is a bold cross-cultural project. It seeks to raise awareness of the story of country and its importance in Aboriginal culture in both its physical and spiritual dimensions. We invite you to join us.

You can find out more about the project by following these links:

<https://www.reclaimthevoid.com.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/reclaimthevoid>

<https://www.instagram.com/reclaimthevoid/>

If you are interested and would like to know more or like to come to this workshop, please enquire with a return email to Elizabeth at jockandliz@aol.com.



Jenny Wadham Celebrates 40 years of Caring for Kids

In our last Gateway we promoted an event at The Cottage to celebrate the 40 odd years of care of Brooklyn and river kids provided by Jenny Wadham.

Jenny operated a family day care and child minding service from the late 80s to 2022. Recently Jenny



and Les Wadham, retired, sold their home in Brooklyn and moved to Woy Woy. Many residents will remember Jenny and Les sitting on their verandah on Bridge Street sipping a morning cup of tea or catching the afternoon sun. Always a bevy of children.



The BCA had a great celebration of Jenny and her involvement in the community on Saturday, 29 April.

Residents who knew Jenny through yoga, mums and dads and children who were minded in recent years, big children, now adults returned to say hello and thank you. Lots of messages in a farewell card. Thank you Jennifer Wadham. Enjoy retirement!

Images: Jenny with two of her great grandchildren and Jenny and Katie Lane.

*By Miriam Moloney,
president@brooklyncommunity.org.au*

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Please email secretary@brooklyncommunityassociation.org.au if you would like to receive an electronic copy of future Gateways, and don't already receive one.

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Brooklyn Community Defib Project - AED Location Map



RIVER FELLOWSHIP

If you know God or want to learn who he is, then come along. All welcome. Phone Bruce on 0413 779 979 or Annette on 0408 659 575 for more information.

The River Fellowship meets at the Mooney Mooney Library, 1 Point Road Mooney Mooney every Monday night at 7:00pm (during school terms)

What's On



send your event details to emails@brooklyncommunity.org.au



Brooklyn, Dangar Island, Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point, Little Wobby

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