

Gateway

gateway@brooklyncommunity.org.au

November 2023 Issue

Newsletter

Co-Presidents' Report

As we write this final Co-Presidents' report for 2023, we are again reminded how much is happening in and around Brooklyn.

Our aim at the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) is to provide all Brooklyn residents and business owners relevant, accurate and timely information. Please know that there is no pressure to be a member to be included on our email list. If you are not on our email list and would like to be, please fill out the online form or email secretary@brooklyncommunity.org.au.

Recently membership fees, donations and raised money have been allocated to funding community projects including the Brooklyn Community Socials, purchases such as co-sponsoring a defibrillation, a lifesaving device, insurances to cover volunteers and additional printing costs of hard-copy Gateways and other important flyers to ensure that everyone who wants to have access to information can have access – just to name a few.

We encourage you to join the Brooklyn Community Association to support our efforts — \$10 per year per family.

AGM and Brooklyn Community Social

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 2 December 2023 at The Cottage commencing at 3:30pm to be followed by the end of year celebration Brooklyn Social event commencing 4pm. All welcome.

At the AGM, all committee positions will be declared vacant. The BCA is seeking residents and local business owners to play a role in the 2024 committee. Roles range from simply providing views to helping organise an event, writing an update on an issue for the Gateway or special interest flyers or updating social media, engagement in local history or sustainability activities, or advocating to Council on issues of concern to our community. Please contact Cindy or Miriam by emailing president@brooklyncommunity.org.au to learn more. If you provide your phone number, we would love to have a chat. You can obtain a nomination form either from us or from our website.

Come and lend some festive cheer to our Brooklyn Community Social commencing 4pm on Saturday, 2 December 2023. All residents, including singles, families, children and our river neighbours are welcome. Catch up with the outgoing committee and meet the incoming new committee members. A great time for local connection in our busy worlds. Remember to let your neighbours know, especially those newly arrived. We will have some drinks

and finger food; a plate to share or other refreshment always received gratefully but not mandatory.

What has been keeping the BCA Committee and its members busy over the last couple of months – lots and we have quite a few news items to share with you.

Parking Update

Council is rolling-out a range of parking changes through the length of Brooklyn. Please keep your eye out for new signs as Council has indicated that a strong enforcement program will be undertaken by Council Rangers. By the time this Gateway lands in your email inboxes almost all the scheduled changes will be signposted and enforceable. Please read the detailed parking update contained in this Gateway.

“Take Back our Highway”

The BCA supports the “Take Back our Highway” lobbying and protest. We acknowledge that some residents do not support a reduction in speed limits – we are assured changes to speed limits will result in only 2 minutes being added to your trip. The “Take Back our Highway” group is made up of committed and passionate individuals from Mooney Mooney, Brooklyn, Cowan and as far south as Berowra. As there has been a lot of information, we will limit our update to what's new and hasn't to date been published. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads has responded to the BCA correspondence. Transport NSW advises that it recently completed a comprehensive review of the Old Pacific Highway between Berowra and Kangaroo Point. Speed limits, delineation, and curve advisory signage along this section of the Pacific Highway were reviewed. While Transport for NSW is yet to decide about changes to the road, should any changes be proposed, we are informed the community will be notified.

Brooklyn residents have been invited to nominate locations for speed cameras on the safer roads website at <https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcameras.aspx>. All nominations are assessed to prioritise future locations for speed cameras in NSW. Transport for NSW has liaised with the NSW Police and requested ongoing enforcement and noise monitoring along this section of the highway. Transport for NSW advises that the noise camera trial request falls under the responsibilities of the Minister for Environment and have referred the BCA's correspondence for consideration.

Six Part Television Series being Filmed for Binge

A rumour may have reached your ears that in early 2024 some filming as part of a six-part television series will be occurring in Brooklyn and around the lower Hawkesbury.

If you want to hear more about this exciting television series and meet the Location Manager, Jeremy, please come along to the Brooklyn Social on 2 December where Jeremy has offered to share the latest info.

Theatre in the Park

The BCA congratulates all involved in the production of this year's Theatre in the Park held 4 November. It was a night where the saying "the show must go on" was front and centre...neither wind nor rain deterred the actors or audience of around 200 from an evening of fun and laughter.

Boardwalk linking Kangaroo Point to Seymour's Creek opposite Tom Richmond Oval

Contracts are signed for the long wait for a boardwalk and shared pathway linking Kangaroo Point to Seymour's Creek opposite Tom Richmond Oval. For all the details please read the detailed update contained in this Gateway.

Shared Pathway from the RFS to Baden Powell Ave

The BCA since 2010 have continued to lobby for rebuilding of the pathway in the area from Brooklyn Central to the Public School – it is a published priority of the BCA and it's happening now. For all the details please read the detailed update contained in this Gateway. The BCA Committee sincerely thank Council and our Place Planners, David and Julia, for their efforts to provide safer access to the recreational opportunities in and around Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Post Office Update

Brooklyn residents and the broader river community numbering 2000 have put up a valiant fight for the reinstatement of the Brooklyn Post Office. Federal Member for Berowra, Julian Leeser, MP has been steadfast in his efforts to secure its return which many know Australia Post declined to consider advising that a licensed post office was not sustainable. However, the model put forward by the applicant is considered sustainable and is similar to other successful post offices that have revamped their business, offering newsagencies and other services to attract visitors and offset the downturn in postal business. As a service hub to this region, we have no bank and financial services are vital. Hornsby Mayor, the Hon Philip Ruddock AOM is also asking Australia Post to reconsider.

Australia Post executives have agreed to meet with Julian Leeser and this meeting is expected by end of November. The key argument for return of the post office and questions posed to Australia Post to help this negotiation are available on our website <https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/>. We are hoping to share a further update of the outcome of this important meeting at the AGM.

Council Tackles Garbage Bin Management in Public Areas

Residents will have noticed that several areas in Brooklyn – opposite Hawkesbury River Marina, and lower McKell Park where Council has responded to BCA calls to improve the amenity of garbage waste disposal areas and improving accessibility for pedestrian traffic. The bush turkeys wrote a strong letter of disappointment to the BCA advising that their

canteen service has been disrupted and calling for its immediate re-instatement.

Of particular note, Council have removed the really large bins that have dotted the landscape opposite the Marina of lower McKell and Parsley Bay and advise that these will not be replaced. Residents seeking to dispose of unwanted furniture, fridges and other large items are referred to other waste disposal avenues, available at this link. <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/waste-and-recycling>

Provision of Dog Poo Bags by Council

This is a request made by the BCA and several individual residents following an increasing number of irresponsible owners walking their dogs in and around the waterfront of Parsley Bay to Lower McKell Park and not picking up after them. We have all received the same response from Council: "Owners and dog carers are required to provide their own dog bags when out walking their dogs and Council only provides dog bags at all off leash dog parks with signage advising park users of their responsibilities". The BCA will continue to raise this issue with Council as we believe that our residents are largely not responsible for this irresponsible behaviour and that it is visitors to the area who seem somewhat bemused that no dog poo bags are provided and get caught short.

RFS SIGN

Our sincere thanks to Adrian for his willingness to create signs for the BCA promoting the many and varied activities.

The BCA would love to invite you to nominate for the 2024 Committee and look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM and Brooklyn Social on Saturday, 2 December. Attending will enable us to thank you in person and wish you a very Merry Christmas and the best for 2024!

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

BCA Annual General Meeting
3:30-4pm | Saturday, 2 December 2023

Brooklyn Meeting Room

Followed by Refreshments
BCA Members, guests & friends welcome

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



Brooklyn Road Shared Path & Roadwork

Many residents in Brooklyn are very excited at the prospect of walking or allowing their children to walk or bike ride safely along the length of Brooklyn Road as far as Tom Richmond Oval on a safe shared footpath. The current stage of the Brooklyn Road Shared Path project commenced in August 2023, and extends the existing shared path, enhanced road surface, and improved drainage from 83 Brooklyn Rd to Baden Powell Avenue. The cost of this stage is approximately \$3.8 million and is scheduled to reach "practical" completion by March 2024. Many of us will have a few more months of patiently waiting for traffic signals to turn green.

The works from the RFS Station to Cole Street including concreting the pathway and kerb and guttering has been completed. Traffic management from Cole Street to Baden Powell Ave will continue to be controlled by one set of traffic signals and these works are expected to be completed near to Christmas.

Council and their contractors continue to work closely with the school implementing several practical measures to manage safety of children and parents in and around the school and the school crossing. Barricades have been progressively moved further east along Brooklyn Road creating a safe zone for pedestrians to walk safely without interacting with vehicles.

Infrastructure & Major Projects at Council have said that parking adjacent to the Brooklyn Sports Oval will be parallel and no angle parking will be possible or permitted. However, the original plans for the pathway included angle parking at the Oval and construction seems to be following the original plan. So, we wait to see the outcome and the facilities provided.

It is anticipated that new roadworks will be undertaken during the first 3 months of 2024. We understand that there is some contingency in the budget, and there may be funding for kerb and gutter on the southside of Brooklyn Rd, not currently funded. We also understand that deferred from the original plan will be widening of the pedestrian bridge over Saltpan Creek, and a formed carpark outside Saltpan Reserve, excluded when tenders exceeded the funding availability.

The BCA acknowledges and thanks the Department of Infrastructure & Major Projects at Hornsby Shire Council for providing updates.

By Cindy Corkery and Robert Arnold

Brooklyn Defib Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training, hosted at The Anglers Rest Hotel

With six Community AED's now installed and available within Brooklyn Village, a Community Training and information Night was held recently to show interested community members how they could "Save a Life"!

Facilitated by the Team from the Community Defib Project and training presented by local paramedic Shelby Formosa. Attendees were shown how modern AED devices can be deployed in a Cardiac Arrest Emergency. With 'time of the essence', easy access to an AED has proven to be an invaluable lifesaving procedure, especially in isolated communities such as Brooklyn, prior to the arrival of Emergency Services.

The six units are currently located at: Brooklyn Baths (Donated by the Bendigo Community Bank, Berowra), Hawkesbury River Marina, The Anglers Rest Hotel, Brooklyn Central Service Station, Fenwick's Marina and at 6 Bridge Street Brooklyn. Discussions with Hornsby Shire Council are ongoing regarding a further two units proposed for the Parsley Bay Amenities Block and another at Brooklyn Oval.

At "no cost" to ratepayers or Council, all of these units are paid for and made available for Community Access by local businesses and the Community monitored by the Brooklyn Community Defib Team, in conjunction with the Community Defib Project, which manages and maintains similar programs in a number of locations both within NSW and interstate.

When all eight Defibs are installed within Brooklyn Village, the team from the Community Defib Project will join with the local Defib Team to launch Brooklyn's entire Defib Network, acknowledge all sponsors and provide an information kit to all Brooklyn residents to inform them of Defib locations and directions for their use.

For more information about Community Defib Project - www.communitydefibproject.org.au



*By Anthony Broome,
Brooklyn Community Defib Team Leader 0410 589919*

Parking Changes are Here and Enforceable by Hornsby Shire Council Rangers

The changes to the restrictions relating to parking in and around the Brooklyn Village and as far west as Rest Park have now been largely rolled out. Less than a week has passed, and these changes are largely meeting the desired outcome to provide more equitable and responsive parking opportunities for all in the community, businesses, river residents and visitors.

Over the past few days' we have received some fabulous feedback and observed immediate positive consequences of the changes from residents and visitors alike. The BCA Submission presented to Council and Ward A Councilors in October 2022 represented the feedback received at BCA hosted community consultation sessions, focus groups, and one on one survey results. The BCA remains committed to monitoring and reporting unintended, adverse consequences and will be seeking change to parking restrictions from Council, where necessary. Some tweaking has already been identified.

Recent updates received from Council:

Trailer parking: Council has advised that signage that prohibits trailer parking in recreational areas has been installed in Brooklyn; week commencing 9 October. No trailer parking in these areas applies to both trailers attached and not attached to a vehicle.

These areas include but are not limited to Upper McKell Park, Baden Powell Ave adjacent to the tennis courts, Tom Richmond Oval carpark including the surround road, the Cemetery Road and Rest Park.



Parsley Bay: Council has installed “no timed parking and flexible parking” signs clearly defining parking opportunities in Parsley Bay. Council has defined Areas 1 to 4. Area 1 on the northern side is for vehicles with attached trailers; cars or vehicles with trailers attached is permitted in Area 2, 3 and 4. Current trailer restrictions will remain in place. Signage installation is now installed and enforceable from 16 November 2023. Check all signs before parking to avoid fines.

No timed parking means more equitable allocation of car and car and trailer parking through zoning – for Areas 2 to 4 it means first in best parked whether you are a car or vehicle with trailer but be sure to read the signs as there are some minor exceptions.

Last Saturday and Sunday Parsley Bay was buzzing and the feedback received was extremely positive. Increasing the number of car spaces shared with car and trailer has allowed for peak responsive parking for water related activities such as the dragon boating and junior sailors. A group of kayakers and a couple of sailors accessing their moored craft also commented on the positive nature of the changes.



Dangar Road Triangle and Lower McKell Park: Untimed, 30 minute and 4P Parking (4-hourly) parking signage.

Delight at being able to access parking to enjoy walking the waterfront, picnic at Lower McKell Park, safely park close to the playground and baths area, share a meal at the cafes and jump on the Postman Ferry has been the feedback received from locals and tourists alike.

Changes in this area have provided greater access and turnover of these “premium” parking spaces through restricting a greater number of spaces to 4P while still allowing or 30 minutes spaces for loading and unloading near the boat co-op and picnic areas. River residents and locals can park overnight (and they do) in these 4P spaces from 2pm and vacate the space before 10am the next day.

The Brooklyn Community Association acknowledge that these changes will require some of river residents to reconsider how long, when and where they park their vehicles. Most residents embraced the changes over the weekend and parked in areas that suited their travel plans.

It has been important that these changes looked after those within our communities that are less mobile and therefore able to obtain a Disability Permit. One river resident with such a Permit reported that it was with a sense of freedom that they could now drive out of Brooklyn on a weekend to visit family or a friend in hospital and return knowing that they were able to return to find a suitable parking space – this wasn't possible under the previous parking arrangements. While these changes don't suit everyone they do suit our Brooklyn and river community's most in need and less mobile.

The Local Traffic Committee also approved a "no stopping" zone that will be introduced at the lower end of the Slip Road to facilitate safe access when making a left turn up the Slip Road from Dangar Road (west bound).

Permits: Councillors have been briefed on a potential approach to permits and further paid parking in McKell Park. Given the complexities of the issue, these matters will be considered on a Shire wide basis – probably early in the new year. Council acknowledges and thanks the BCA and residents for sharing our ideas and feedback on a potential permit system and we understand that these have been discussed with Councillors.

Leased built parking area for River residents: The BCA have expressed our concern that progressing a leased built parking area for river residents in this way breaks the trust that the community has in a fair and open process. Councillors have been briefed on how to best progress the leased parking arrangements referred to in the April General Meeting report (GM1/23). It is noteworthy that the Brooklyn Community were specifically requested not to consider nor consult the community on a built leased parking area as part of the parking consultation period and have been blindsided by these decisions.

Councillors have agreed that it should progress a "market testing process" (what has previously been referred to as a potential EOI) to determine if there are community proponents wishing to progress construction of a leased car park in Parsley Bay or the hillside opposite Hawkesbury River Marina accessed via the Slip Road (the two areas short listed in the April Report to Council but not consulted on with the Community by Council). The BCA understand that several principles have been discussed with Councillors as being important in

progressing a potential leased car park. The BCA are not yet aware of the principles but understand that these principles will be published in the documentation associated with the market testing (EOI) process.

We understand that Council has had a further discussion with Crown Lands about the matter of a built, exclusive use leased car park. Crown Lands are seeking advice on how to proceed. The question, Council advised the BCA, relates to whether Council is permitted to proceed with a direct negotiation or whether an open process is required. The BCA is informed that Council can only move as fast as Crown Lands allows and the BCA and Brooklyn Community will only get future updates when Council has heard back from Crown Lands.

Review by Council: A review of parking will be undertaken after 12 months of the installation of the new signage.

The BCA believe that the overall benefits outweigh the negatives and applaud Councillors for taking these hard decisions and finally delivering parking spaces that are more fairly available to all.

The BCA acknowledges and thank the Ward A Councillors and the Strategy & Place Team for providing informative updates relating to parking.

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

Hornsby General Practice Unit Celebrates 50 Years of Service

November 1973 saw the launch of the Hornsby General Practice Unit (the GP Unit) initially servicing clients in the Hornsby area. In 1990, the Hornsby GP Unit commenced a service at the Brooklyn Community Health Centre for Brooklyn and River residents five days a week, a service now appreciated by many residents.

The Brooklyn Community Health Centre was in fact opened in 1981 by the first private doctor who used the rooms in the Centre, Dr Rizkalla, who provided his services until 1987. The Centre was built on land ceded to Hornsby Hospital by Hornsby Shire Council and the building was paid for equally by Hornsby Hospital and the Brooklyn and River communities.

During the 33 years of service in Brooklyn, the Hornsby GP Unit has operated with both senior and more recently with supporting resident or trainee doctors. Amongst the early doctors to attend the Centre in Brooklyn were Professor Simon Willcock and Drs Penny Browne and Liz Marles who both still attend the Brooklyn practice. – thankyou Penny and Liz!

The GP Unit continues to provide supervision / training for resident doctors (over a period of 6 months) and conducts the award-winning Bungee Bidel program involving health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clients.

At present, a doctor from the GP Unit attends the Brooklyn Community Health Centre for half a day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and all day Thursday. Bookings are essential (Telephone: 9485 7500). Bulk Billing is available for Pensioners, students and children under the age of 16.

Congratulations to the GP Unit for their 50 years of service and many thanks for your 33 years of Service to the Brooklyn and River Communities!

By Rob Corkery, robert.corkery@yahoo.com.au

Is it Time to Retire the Single Blue “portaloo” – Council says Yes!

Many members of the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) consider that the development of Sports Grounds should inherently provide an amenity facility that serves the people that use that sports ground. Recently, the BCA added our voice to local cricket and football clubs and associations and Tom Richmond’s family to encourage Council to support allocation of funding to a current proposal to build a public amenities facility at Tom Richmond Oval in Brooklyn.

Nathan Tilbury, Ward A Councillor has supported this proposal. As an indication as to the importance of this project to sports men and women, Councillor Tilbury was able to inform Council of committed co-funding totalling \$35,000 received from local cricket and football clubs and association and the Estate of Tom Richmond. The Berowra Combined Sporting Association, consisting of 70 teams, have nominated this project as their number 1 priority.

The sports ground was opened on 16 January 2016 and celebrated with a cricket match between Berowra and Kenthurst Cricket Clubs. For almost eight years, the temporary facility at Tom Richmond Oval has remained unchanged and completely inadequate. A single small blue “portaloo” has been described as putrid and totally inadequate for the growing number of both male and female who enjoy the sports and recreation activities at sports ground.

Social interaction through sport and fitness is increasing in popularity, highlighted by both men and women cricket teams, passive recreation, and other fitness related activities on and around Tom Richmond Oval. Other sports such as football clubs have also expressed interest in utilising the oval when amenities facilities are updated.

With the pending construction of the Kangaroo Point boardwalk (see separate update) it is anticipated that many more people, including walkers, citizen environmentalists and those visiting the Brooklyn Cemetery will also seek out amenities. Currently, other than a blue “portaloo” the closest alternative amenity facility is located at Kangaroo Point, limited opening hours from 7am to 2pm Wednesday to Sunday. Alternatively, a drive for approximately 2kms further east to use the Brooklyn Oval amenities.

In good news, Council has recognised that the current situation is not acceptable or sustainable. Designs and costings for an amenity facility including change rooms will be prepared to ensure that this project can be included in upcoming funding opportunities by being presented as “shovel ready”. Council Officers will also investigate alternatives for a single small blue “portaloo”.

It seems that we all agree that almost 8 years is too long to wait for a purpose-built amenity facility to replace the temporary blue “portaloo” at Tom Richmond Oval. The Brooklyn Community Association will continue, through the support of Councillor Tilbury, keep the community updated on Council’s progress to obtain funding for a purpose-built amenity facility to replace the single small blue “portaloo”.



Say Goodbye to the Blue Portaloo

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

Contracts Signed for the Construction of a Boardwalk Connecting Seymours Creek to Kangaroo Point

November is the month that will see contracts finally signed for the construction of the long-awaited construction of the boardwalk and shared pathway connecting Seymours Creek (Tom Richmond Oval) and Kangaroo Point.

The project is being funded by the NSW State Government under its Active Transport Program and Metropolitan Greenspace Program and will involve the construction of an elevated boardwalk and a concrete pathway extending for approximately one kilometre.

Infrastructure & Major Projects at Hornsby Shire Council has advised the BCA that additional time was taken to finalise the contracts to adequately address concerns relating to the fragile mangrove environment. The community has been assured the boardwalk has been sensitively designed to minimise the impact to the intertidal zone, saltmarsh and mangrove areas while providing an opportunity to walk along the foreshore, to sit and enjoy the views and to engage with this unique natural setting. Time related contingencies have also been factored in for poor weather. Council remains confident that the Contractor will be able to progress the project through to a practical completion by November 2024.

Many will celebrate the construction of the boardwalk which over the years has been advocated for to extend the shared pathway from Kangaroo Point, all the way to Brooklyn township. Council has cautioned that it will be towards the second half of 2024 before the Brooklyn community will notice construction is underway and has provided the key dates for the community's information.

Further information and concept plans can be found on Hornsby Shire Council's website.

The BCA acknowledges and thanks the Department of Infrastructure & Major Projects at Council for providing updates.

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

Council Tackles Garbage Bin Management in Public Area

There are several areas in Brooklyn – opposite Hawkesbury River Marina, and the lower McKell Park tidal pool area where Council has responded to BCA calls to improve the amenity of garbage waste disposal areas and improving accessibility for pedestrian traffic. The bush turkeys wrote a strong

letter of disappointment to the BCA advising that their canteen service has been disrupted and called for its immediate re-instatement.

The BCA learned that Council have removed the large bins that have dotted the landscape in Parsley Bay. They have also installed CCTV cameras to monitor any illegal dumping activity in this area.

Residents seeking to dispose of unwanted furniture, fridges and other large items are referred to other waste disposal avenues, available at this link. <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/waste-and-recycling>.

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

Remembrance Day 11 November 2023

Brooklyn sub-Branch RSL NSW conducted two Remembrance Day Service(s) where the community could participate Remembrance Day commemoration in Brooklyn. On Friday a commemoration was run by the school children. The pupils each laid a poppy into a memorial cross and conducted the service themselves.



On Saturday, 11 November both young and not so young joined the Brooklyn sub-Branch for a more formal Remembrance Day ceremony at the Memorial to pay respect and pause for one minute to remember the service and sacrifice of our veterans and current serving personnel. The BCA attended and joined others in a wreath laying ceremony.

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

Theatre in the Park

After a four-year hiatus, Brooklyn Community Theatre was finally able to return with a performance at Rest Park on the evening of 4 November 2023. Director Peter Hughes reprised Elizabeth Coleman's "It's My Party (and I'll Die If I Want To)," a comedy about a dysfunctional family coming together for the father's imminent death that was previously performed by the company in 2001. Starring were Gary Robertson, as the patriarchal and emotionally distant Ron, Christine Rule, as the tipsy grieving mother Dawn, Michelle Raison, as the alienated elder daughter Debbie, Greg Upfold, as the reluctantly coming out Michael, Greer Gamble, as the ditzy 'favourite' child Karen, and long-time Theatre benefactor and supporter Scott Hanson, as the undertaker Ted.

Director Pedro always likes to cast a mix of "old reliables" and stage debutants (in this case Greer and Scott) to embark together on an eight-week journey of stagecraft, line learning, team building and character development, culminating in a single shot at getting the performance right on the night. Then there's the added uncertainty of the weather, always a hurdle with an outdoor performance: this year's show was preceded by frequent downpours, and thunderstorms were forecast for around the time lights were due up, causing nervous jitters in the crew.

Happily the show went on, with only a brief shower in the second act. The actors hit their marks from the outset and their performances were excellent, aptly accentuating the comic elements of the admittedly dark theme of the play. The crowd, who'd taken the gamble and braved the less than ideal weather, was rewarded for their persistence and provided the cast with enthusiastic responses that further spurred them on. All in all, it was a wonderful evening. And those who were a-bed shall think themselves

accurs'd they were not there (with apologies to The Bard.)

The producers and director wish to thank the following for their invaluable assistance: Dave Broome for sound and stage lighting, a herculean task that he

somehow manages every time; Dave Mitchell for sound design and ably assisting Broomey; Scott Hanson for electrical work; Lara Mitchell, Kaz Hughes, Russ Anderson



and Tami Potts at the gates; Jeff Potts – photography; Liam Upfold-McCallum – filming; Kris Vipavetz – shuttle bus chauffeur; Matt Raison – first aid station; Ian Allan and Lucy Allan – set design; Lily Hanson - graphic design and marketing; and Austin Potts, Ozzie Hughes, Dah Hareema, Greg Upfold and Sean Upfold-McCallum for set and stage construction. Also our supporters The Anglers Rest Hotel and Mooney Mooney Workers Club, and our wonderful caterers The Shoppe at Cowan.

And, of course, a huge thank you to the audience. We look forward to seeing all of you, and more, next year!



*By Paul Burcher and Trischelle Roberts, Producers
Brooklyn Community Theatre
brooklyntheatreinthepark@gmail.com*

Brooklyn Christmas Social

Join us at the Cottage on Saturday, 2 December at 4pm for all the family fun.

All are welcome.

Look out for the flyer with all final fun details that will be emailed separately.

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



What's on at The Cottage

Exhibitions

The "Spectrum Textura" exhibition by Wendy Prince has been very successful and it has been extended until 3 December 2023.

From 9 December and throughout the summer we will be exhibiting local handmade crafts. If you wish to participate, please email The Cottage now.

We are still organising art exhibitions for next year but are certain they will be must sees.

Groups - all are free

Craft Group – each Tuesday from 2-4pm. Email The Cottage to check for dates over summer.

Meditation Group – each Sunday from 9-10am. Email The Cottage to check for dates over summer.

Sustainability Group – every 4th Saturday in the month from 9-10am. Final meeting for the year will be on 25 November 2023. The group will return on 25 February 2024.

Upcoming Markets – the lovely Christmas market at is on Sunday, 26 of November. We have over 20 stalls with Artisan produce and wares, lots of wonderful Christmas gifts and staples. Shop local!



Are You Interested In A Verandah Stall?

The Cottage is offering locals to sell their wares as a Verandah Stall Holder on open days (Sat/Sun). Flat fee of \$25. All profits from sales to the Verandah Stall Holder. Are you interested? If so, please email The Cottage for full details.

Summer Craft Expo



Thank You

We would not have The Cottage without our volunteers so a big thanks to them all. We are always seeking more volunteers so please email us. It is a great way to catch up with all your community friends passing by and with the rest of the amazing volunteers.

If you need a place to hold a meeting, run a workshop, exhibit your art, sell your local handmade items, become a volunteer or have an idea, please contact us by emailing thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

The Cottage is open Saturday and Sundays from 10am-3pm at 10 Dangar Road, Brooklyn and can be found at <https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/whats-on/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CottageBrooklyn>.

The Cottage is an initiative between the Brooklyn Community Association and Hornsby Council.



By The Cottage, thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Vale John Stavert OAM

John Stavert, dearly loved husband of Carmen and family passed away early last week. Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade members whom he had served for many decades provided a standing salute and neighbours and residents paid tribute as the hearse bearing John's coffin passed en route to Palmdale on Friday, 10 November 2023.

The May issue of the newsletter covered much of the volunteer work that John provided across the decades which earned him his Service of Australia Medal in March 2023 for services to the community before succumbing to a long illness in more recent years. (https://brooklyncommunity.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Gateway-Newsletter-May-2023-Edition_compressed-2.pdf)

John gave tirelessly and on behalf of the community, the BCA salutes John for his contribution, making our community a better place. Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade, Cowan Rural Fire Brigade, Scouts NSW, Hornsby Diabetes Support Group, Brooklyn Community Health Centre, Hawkesbury River Sailing Club and Wesley Mission demonstrate the breadth of his giving and talent. A loving family man, he was a good friend and neighbour to many with Carmen at his side modestly providing strong support and encouragement. Vale, John.



By Miriam Moloney & Cindy Corkery, Co-Presidents
president@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 wellbeing 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, state and federal 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.

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/>.

New Committee Members

The Brooklyn Community Association needs new Committee Members for 2024.

The BCA is a community association run on a voluntary basis. If we don't have volunteers there will be **no** BCA to liaise with Council, **no** Gateway Newsletter to inform the community and **no** Brooklyn Social for new residents. **The BCA needs YOU to step up and join the committee.**

We are looking for a Minutes Secretary, a Gateway Editor and 3 x Committee Members.

We also need Hosting for our website as the current hosting will cease in January 2024.

Please email your interested to emails@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Next Meeting - AGM

We would also love to have you along at our Annual General Meeting at 3:30pm on Saturday, 2 December 2023 at the Brooklyn Community Meeting Room to learn more.

Questions, please contact us by email. president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

A reminder, The Gateway has 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.

Sustainability

Bushcare Group

A reminder that we have a local Bushcare group that meets at Brooklyn Park between 8:30 - 11:30am every 4th Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining, send Ingrid an email at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au.

Community Garden – The River Hub

Held on the 1st Saturday of the month (weather permitting), this is great opportunity to come together to place your 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.

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 one of our earlier BCA meetings this year.

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 –

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainability/workshops-and-education>

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

New Year's Eve on the Green



New Year's Eve on the Green

What a fab way to see in the New Year! Grab the family and head to the Club for an afternoon of BAREFOOT TWILIGHT BOWLS. We'll supply the music, action, fun and equipment and even a kiddies rink. All we need is you!

Come along - we guarantee you'll have a great time. Follow us on Facebook - Mooney Mooney Pearls for more info or call Anastasia on 0400 213 326 by 29/12/23. Bookings Essential.

31 December 2023
5 - 9 pm

@Mooney Mooney Club

The image shows a woman in a yellow top and pink pants jumping joyfully on a green lawn. In the background, there are bowling balls and other people. The text on the left provides details about the event, including the date, time, and contact information for Mooney Mooney Club.

Bush Fire Ready Seminar - Is your Fire Plan Ready

Tim O'Mahony, Captain of the local Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade provided an important information session to residents on Tuesday 10 October 2023 providing summary information to assist residents to get prepared for the fire season ahead. What to consider, what to have nearby, contacts and

communication numbers. Understanding the risk factors and fire ratings was especially important. The information is set out in www.myfireplan.com.au

which walks you through the key aspects. It is readily available for you to consider and develop your own plan in the event of bushfire in and around Brooklyn this season.

With the changes to the Fire Rating Signs, it's also recommended you take note of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. Each level comes with its own warning and advice. Knowing the Fire Danger Ratings could save your life – www.afdrs.com.au

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



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

It continues to be a very busy time for the Mooney Cheero Progress Association. Our last meeting was well attended as we plan activities for 2024. We recently held a raffle and cake stall at the referendum day and thanks to the fantastic support from local businesses and residents we raised over \$2000. This will ensure that the community River Hub can continue to offer activities and facilities to local residents and groups at no cost.

Our Music in the Chapel program continues to be very successful and is well supported. We are looking at a full program of entertainment at the

Chapel throughout 2024. The Chapel continues to be used regularly for weddings and funerals as well.

Our progress association joined with Brooklyn residents in raising our concerns about the racing activities happening on the old Pacific highway between Brooklyn and Cowan. The situation is totally unacceptable and as a result of these protests there have been increased police patrols. It is hoped that other measures will be implemented to make this road safer for resident to use.

Our Annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 December and we are looking for new members to join our management team.

Our community enjoyed the Halloween activities with over 50 families participating in “trick or treat” in Mooney.

We have seen such a change in the demographics in Mooney and Cheero with so many young families now calling our beautiful villages home, and this only makes it more important that the River Hub continues to provide services such as the community garden, local library services, Storytime for the young children, movie nights for some of our older kids and many other activities.

By Jim Lloyd, jim@jimlloyd.com.au

No more Carparks in Brooklyn Opinion Piece....Uncle Tom's Lament By Peter Davis

Tom Richmond OAM was a resident of Brooklyn and a descendant of one of the pioneer families.

He was a well-known local historian, former Principal of Ku-ring-gai High School and long-time activist for Brooklyn to be recognised as a destination and not just a doormat

Mr Richmond was dead set against the offshore, long term car storage at lower McKell Park as not appropriate (legitimate) use of Crown land which is designated for recreation for the people of NSW.

He was a ferocious advocate for its return to a site of recreation servicing the people (residents and visitors) to Brooklyn baths and their children to its playground.

Tom (like anyone with a modicum of historic, cultural, or environmental sensitivity) realised this site as potentially one of the most precious in Hornsby shire, if not in all of New South Wales.

Yet its spectacular views, water frontage and a north aspect has been reduced to a site for long-term car storage.

Not just a tragic waste this is one of Hornsby Councils disastrously worst examples of urban planning and myopic short sightedness.

Recent changes have provided more access for the public and for locals to stop for short term periods.

However, Councillors need to consider what they want longer term for this area as a precious regional asset

Is it that Council have now walked away from any prospect of this becoming a dedicated foreshore greenspace and instead, plan to convert another remnant of greenspace at Upper McKell park into yet another car park?

Readers do not need to be familiar with the lyrics of Joni Mitchell's Big Yellow Taxi to understand the logic and common sense adhered to by progressive urban planners when they state that:

Building bigger roads to fight traffic congestion is like buying a bigger belt to fight obesity.

At a time when climate change is flooding and burning our country, when insurance premiums for riverside properties are rising with the tide and petrol bowser costs are at \$2.25 per litre it takes a particularly regressive council to discourage the use of public transport into a village (which has a state-of-the-art railway lift installed) and instead encourage the construction of more car parks to increase the car traffic volume into a village already crushed by a preference for car dependency and vehicles over pedestrian use.

Some of Joni Mitchell's generation would "Think globally and act locally"

Council could and should lead in encouraging both Brooklyn village and off shore folk to do the same.

How?

Councillors may be familiar with the social theory known as "the broken window effect" where acceptance of certain behaviours (breaking windows) establishes community norms and enables continuation until all windows are broken.

Brooklyn's "broken window effect" is demonstrated best by the private use of public space.

"He has three boats and two cars parked in the street...I can do the same".

Growing up in this shire I'd always naively believed that if you only had one carport you only had one car. If you didn't have space for a boat, you didn't have a boat.

Nowadays the footpaths, kerbs and gutters are littered with infrequently used trailers, cars and boats from owners both offshore and on.

Instead of building more car parks to dump even more of these infrequently used vehicles Council should initiate meaningful community discussions to have those difficult conversations on:

- What constitutes public and private space?

- What are rate payers prepared to forego or sacrifice to make for a more liveable place for all?

What's my footprint and what does it matter?
Without some consensus or protocols around the use of public space Councils community consultations on "placemaking" are window dressing and lip service at best.

They do not address the underlying problems and only make matters worse.

An evidenced based and effective Council in 2023 should take the lead on promoting: train-based tourism, walkable villages, public transport, ride sharing, carpooling, car, boat and trailer share and renting out privately owned and unused car port spaces.

Council desperately need to begin applying contemporary systems thinking approaches to solve these wicked problems that have been proven to be unsolvable by the simplistic hard dumb engineering solutions that promise bigger and more.

By Peter Davis, peterdavis21karoola@gmail.com



Yoga with Jo
FREE CLASSES

Falls Prevention, Exercise & Chair Yoga

University Qualified "Falls Prevention Instructor"

Thursday morning: 10.15am-12.15am
Includes Share Morning Tea

Brooklyn Meeting Room, Brooklyn

Ring Jo to Book- Mobile:0414240342

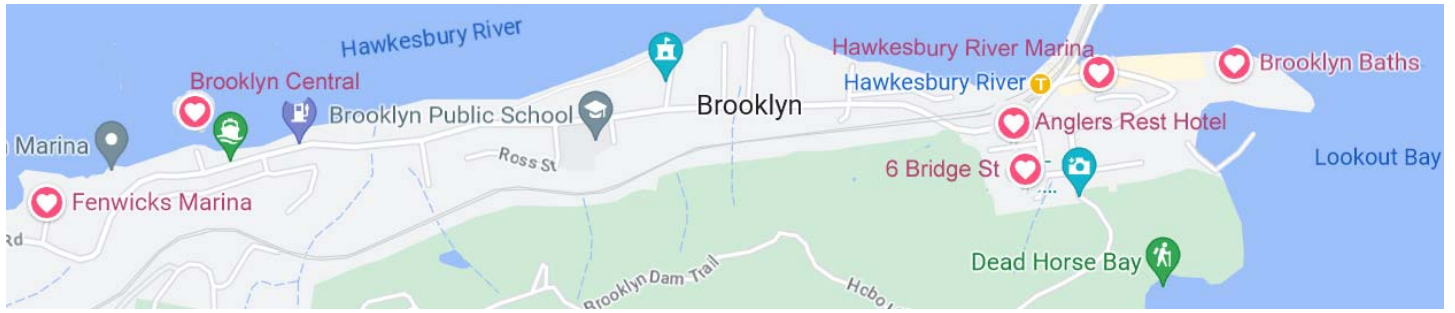
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Please email secretary@brooklyncommunityassociation.org.au if you would like to receive an electronic copy of future Gateways, and don't already receive one.

Contact details
Gateway Editor:
gateway@brooklyncommunity.org.au
BCA: info@brooklyncommunity.org.au

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)



Hatha Yoga Classes

All levels of Experience

Wednesday Evening : 6.30 pm-8pm

Term 4. 5 Classes \$90 or \$25 Casual

Brooklyn Meeting Room, Brooklyn

Ring Jo to Book- Mobile:0414240342

What's On



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



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

Hawkesbury River Home Builders

☎ **9985 1525**



✉ ryan@HRHB.com.au

HawkesburyRiverHomeBuilders.com.au
Lic. No. 285045C

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