

BCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the end of 2024 fast approaches, I wish to start by saying a huge thankyou to the Brooklyn community and BCA Committee for granting me the privilege of serving as the President of the BCA during the past four years.

This President's report is tinged with a lot of relief and a touch of sadness as it will be my last.

Like so many in our wonderful community, making a positive difference has always resonated with me. Along with the BCA's dedicated past Presidents and Co-Presidents, Committee and members, we have largely focussed on lobbying for local projects that improve liveability and/or safety together with facilitating social events that enhance community connection - both big and small. To the BCA Committee, I raise a glass and thankyou on behalf of our members and myself – your different talents bring so much experience to the team and has made my job so much easier.

BCA meetings are an opportunity for members, residents and at times our Ward A Councillors to meet together, hear about current events and activities and have your say about what shapes the community in which we live in.

Nothing great is achieved in isolation. Included in this Gateway are some examples of great outcomes that have been or are in the process of being achieved by persistence, lobbying, nagging and in collaboration or in a support role with other community associations, sporting groups and Council.

Living and socialising in Brooklyn is enriched through the efforts of volunteers. As in past years, I encourage you, if you have not yet connected with a particular group, please consider helping to build our community into a stronger and better place by volunteering. Local groups looking for volunteers and include the Cottage, RFS, sporting groups, the school, preschool, Marine Rescue and the BCA just to mention a few.

In 2024, through generous local sponsorship of Caelia Collins; Riverfront Real Estate and "advertising" enabled printed copies of the Gateway to be delivered to Brooklyn homes in addition to a digital version to your email box. We thank all those who have contributed articles and the many who have provided positive feedback.

A huge thankyou to Council's Place Planners, David Johnson and Julia Morton; Steven Head, General Manager (who has from time to time endured my rants) and the team he leads; past A Ward Councillors Nathan Tilbury, Warren Waddell and Tania Salitra; Federal Member Julian Lesser MP and past State Member Matt Kean MP (retired). Their commitment, with an often-impossible wish list, has delivered to the Brooklyn community huge project outcomes and an invaluable service – we thank you as we acknowledge that we certainly have punched above our weight.

Looking to the future, the BCA Committee feel very positive about working with the recently elected Mayor, Warren Waddell (formally an A Ward Councillor) and each of the three A Ward Councillors Nathan Tilbury, returning as an independent, and we welcome newcomers local Brooklyn resident Olivia Simons (Greens), and Jane Seaglove (Liberal). We are confident that our A Ward Councillors will continue to advocate and deliver for the Brooklyn Community.

Finally, the BCA Committee joins me in wishing all our members and community a safe, happy and fun filled Christmas and holiday season.

Best wishes and thank you! Cindy Corkery President Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) (for the last time)

TIME TO RENEW	RENEW YOUR BCA MEMBERSHIP 2024/2025 Financial YearJoin the BCA and contribute to another successful year by renewing your membership today.Membership Fees are just \$10 per family per year.The easiest way to renew membership is by Cash payment of \$10 at the BCA AGM 7 December 2024 or 	
2024 IN REVIEW During 2024, the BCA continued to actively lobby for and/or support progress for the following local projects.		
	SPECTACULAR BOARDWALK & SHARED PATHWAY Seymours Creek opposite Tom Richmond Oval to Kangaroo Point is Well Underway After 14 years of lobbying for funding by successive BCA Committees and members, substantial work has commenced on a spectacular boardwalk through the mangroves that will, when completed, link Seymours Creek (opposite Tom Richmond	

	 Dolphin Marina is expected to be completed early 2025. The BCA understands that the shared pathway from Dolphin Marina to Kangaroo Point is scheduled to be completed by the mid-2025. It's exciting that at last there will be a safe pedestrian and cycle way linking Brooklyn all the way to Kangaroo Point. It is heartening that ongoing work that successive BCA committee and members has done to support Hornsby Council in seeking and obtaining Grant Funding since the early 2010s has seen substantial albeit gradual improvement to the safety, amenity and usage of Brooklyn Road for pedestrians and
	cyclists.
	NEW TOILETS & PICNIC SHELTER AT TOM RICHMOND OVAL
	After 8 years, the Blue Loo is officially redundant!
	From shovel ready to a brand-new toilet facility in less than a
	year Congratulations to the local cricket and football clubs
	and associations, Brooklyn residents, Tom Richmond's family,
	and our local Councillors (special mention Nathan Tilbury) who through fund raising and lobbying efforts can finally wave
	goodbye to the infamous Blue Portaloo which has which has
	stood sentry at the oval since 2016.
	A pathway and shaded picnic tables complete the new look
	facilities available to sports people, locals and visitors, who in time may also use the boardwalk currently being constructed. It
	is hoped that as funding permits, construction of change rooms
and the second second second second	would also be achieved sometime in the future (for additional
	background information see Gateway November 2023 issue)
	BROOKLYN RESIDENTS SEEK A SAFE SHARED PATHWAY
	linking Government Road to Brooklyn Village
	(Lobbying since 2010) The BCA will continue to support Council in seeking Grant
\mathbf{x}	Funding for the yet unfunded future Shared Pathway linking Government Road to Brooklyn Village via a possible cantilever bridge attached to the Railway Bridge.
	It is well known that "Stairs linking Brooklyn Road shops to
	railway bridge are not accessible for all users and existing
	street levels on Brooklyn Road will not permit a ramp. Review
	option by Sydney Trains to relocate footpath to opposite side of
\checkmark	bridge to facilitate continuous, accessible path into the town centre from Government Road to Dangar Road.
k	Pedestrians using prams, motorised scooters and
	wheelchairs forced to use road carriageway to gain
	entry into town centre".
	Hornsby Shire Council Discussion Paper – Brooklyn Place
	Planning - Extract 3.







THE SYSTEM WORKS MAKING A SERVICE REQUEST TO COUNCIL

From time to time the BCA is approached by a resident to request assistance in raising an issue or problem that needs Council's attention or action.

The BCA is encouraging residents, in the first instance, to lodge a service request directly with Council. Feedback relating to recent requests indicates that the system is working.

How to lodge a service request or question...it's simple - go to https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/online-services

- ✓ Online Services Portal
- Service request (Fill in the online form and upload 1 to 3 photos if this assists your request). This is where you submit a question, request or report a problem regarding Council property, roads, public health, drainage, garbage etc.

If you are more comfortable, you may still lodge an email request or question. If you have previously forwarded an email to Council about the same question, requests or report a problem, please do not duplicate your request by submitting a Service Request through the online portal.

A recent example that the system works.

Summary of the request

Remove the buildup of leaf litter, vegetation and rubbish along Brooklyn Road gutters and roadside to improve vehicle and cyclist safety and avoid it being washed into the mangroves.

What Happened Next

An impressive and thorough job undertaken by Council's team to clear the longstanding build-up of leaf litter and dirt along the first 300m of Brooklyn Road from the Old Pacific Highway, past the Dolphin Marina and the newly installed gutters along Brooklyn Road.

Witnessed by many leaving and returning from Brooklyn Road was the extent of the huge piles of debris pushed up by a Bobcat and hand sweeping to tidy up the edges. This work resulted in the removal of truckloads of material from Brooklyn Roads roadside (both sides).

I'm sure we all agree that Council's work has substantially improved the safety for road users, particularly for cyclists by clearly exposing the extent of the roadside. The river environment has also greatly benefited with less debris likely to be washed in during the next rain event.

WELL DONE Council for responding to a resident request so promptly and with thorough professionalism!!

	WE HEAR YOU! What about a Pedestrian Pathway Linking the Existing Pathway in Parsley Bay to George Street? (Lobbying since 2023) The BCA continues to discuss with Council construction of a safe and continuous pathway through Parsley Bay. Three options have been explored for this missing link. Council's Place Planners also confirm it has been raised with the designers for consideration in place planning of Parsley Bay. Any grant opportunities which may come up in the interim would support the "red" path – Option 3 pathway. Hornsby Shire Council Discussion Paper – Brooklyn Place Planning extract – Item 22. Improve pedestrian connection through Parsley Bay from foreshore area to George Street.
	PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN LOWER MCKELL PARK ARE NOW
	BEING ENFORCED
4 P	 What you need to know. 4P parking (6am to 6pm) along the northern/riverside of Lower McKell Park - P30 and accessible spaces unchanged. The southern/hillside side of Lower McKell Park remains unrestricted. Car parking spaces within the Wharf/Triangle (Village Centre car park opposite the station) are all now unrestricted.
	 Following community consultation, Council's Traffic Committee is considering the following changes for the Brooklyn Village. Installation of two (2) new P15 minute parking spaces in Bridge Street forward of Australia Post's mailbox. Install a 4P timing restriction to the accessible space outside the Community Health Centre, to replace the unrestricted space.
	STILL FIGHTING TO TAKE BACK THE OLD HIGHWAY An Old Road Safety Review was commissioned by Transport NSW following intensive lobbying from the Committee for changes to the road to improve safety. The review has now been completed and the conclusions will be presented to TNSW in the near future. The review was conducted by GHD Engineering https://www.ghd.com/en-au It is hoped that this review will lead to major improvements to improve safety, however, this is a long-term proposition and will need significant funding. Other proposed safety initiatives: TNSW are planning to install additional "no pedestrian signs" at strategic locations along old road to discourage photographers. It is illegal for observers or photographers to be on the edge of the road between these signs. It is noteworthy, some existing signs have been vandalised and will need replacing.

Trials in other areas include the EPA testing noise activated cameras in two locations around Wollongong. These cameras record registration details of noisy vehicles and will result in "call up" notices to bring in vehicles for inspection. Related legislation needs to be put in place. TNSW has announced the trial of point-to-point speed cameras on two regional roads in NSW. Legislation has been passed to widen the use of these cameras to include all vehicles – previously, only heavy vehicles have been monitored. The test will run through 2026. Despite lobbying, neither trial is planned for the Old Road.
The Take Back the Old Road Committee last met with representatives of TNSW, the police, EPA and Hornsby Council in September 2024. Discussions highlighted that the reduction in speed limit had not deterred those who use the old road as a racetrack. The road remains dangerous. To avoid police surveillance, many are observed racing more frequently in the late afternoon/evenings and early mornings with greater noise impacts on some residents. An updated list of serious accidents from 1/1/2024 was presented. These accidents occur on average once per week. Police reported that the rate of infringement notices issued had increased since the change in speed limit to 70km however speeding vehicles presented a particular enforcement challenge as its exceedingly dangerous to make a u-turn to chase down a vehicle with other speeding vehicles on the road.
It is fair to say that the community is expressing frustration at the time it is taking to introduce effective safety measures, including noise activated cameras, average speed cameras, and other necessary measure to deter speeding motorists was strongly expressed. We now await the recommendations from the safety review with interest.
 Take Back the Old Road Committee (BCA is a member).

LOCAL GROUP & BUSINESS NEWS



BROOKLYN POST SHOP IS ALSO A GORGEOUS GIFT SHOP Following more than 500 days of no local post office services, Brooklyn residents Cath and Steve Angier opened the doors to the Brooklyn Post Shop to the cheers of dozens of locals and best wishes from Julian Lesser MP.

Stepping inside the historic 1914 Brooklyn Post Shop building is a wonderful experience for all the senses. Alongside a range of postal services is a beautiful, creative and colourful array of handmade gifts, homewares and art pieces by local artists and artisans captures your attention and leaves you in awe of the talent. Such is the atmosphere many express the desire to linger, and enjoy the simplicity of design, natural elements and originality – some pieces are useful as well as decorative.

If you need a special gift or a treat for yourself, a suggestion is to make your first stop the Brooklyn Post Shop.

The new MEDICAL CENTRE is OPEN!!!!



BROOKLYN FAMILY MEDICAL CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS @ 214 BROOKLYN ROAD

Open Monday to Friday 8.00am – 5.00pm Online bookings can be made via HotDoc <u>Find a Doctor, GP,</u> <u>Dentist or Healthcare Specialist near you - HotDoc</u>, you will need to create an account then search "Brooklyn Family Medical" to view the available appointments. Alternatively, please call into the practice and we can register you and make a booking.

The site is also home to **4Cyte Pathology** which is open from Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.00pm all referrals welcome. Or Phone 8530 7222

Have You Considered Volunteering? THINK THE COTTAGE

Located at 10 Dangar Road, Brooklyn (opposite Railway Station) and **Opens** on Saturday and Sunday, 10am-3pm

Volunteers at the Cottage welcome visitors and/or assist in maintaining the Cottage Garden. Volunteering at the Cottage is a wonderful way to meet people and support local artists and the community.

How does it work? Each weekend, volunteer's welcome locals and visitors to the Cottage to enjoy a wide variety of fabulous art exhibitions. If you have 2 ½ hours free, the Cottage have 2 shifts each Saturday and Sunday: 10:00am-12:30pm and 12:30-3:00pm. Volunteer commitment can be casual, or some prefer to nominate a regular day/time i.e. the first Sunday of the month between 10am and 12:30pm. Training is offered and it is up to the volunteer when and how they wish to help. If you are interested in volunteering at The Cottage, Kelli and the committee would love to hear from you via email: thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Regular Activities at The Cottage

Regular activities at The Cottage include Book Club, Craft Group, Meditation Group and Sustainability Group. The Cottage welcomes other activities to be held on the premises. If you would like to attend an existing group, arrange an event or hold a meeting at The Cottage, please send us an email. Email: thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au https://www.facebook.com/CottageBrooklyn

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BROOKLYN SPRING FAIR – HRCC FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

The rain (mostly) stayed away to ensure that Spring Fair, one of the highlights of the Brooklyn social calendar, could still welcome the crowds. The proceeds support the Hawkesbury River Child Care centre (which is run by a voluntary Parent Management Committee) to continue nurturing our river children. A huge **thankyou** to all store holders, visitors and sponsors for putting on a great show, and helping to raise approx. \$13,000 (after costs) for the centre!



GOODSAM RESPONDERS NEEDED IN BROOKLYN

NSW Ambulance has partnered with GoodSAM to save the lives of those who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

GoodSAM is an app that alerts community members who have registered as a volunteer if they are nearby to someone experiencing a cardiac arrest to provide life-saving cardiac chest compressions.

Registered GoodSAM responders within a 1km radius of a person experiencing a cardiac arrest would be alerted via the app after a triple zero (000) call is made. If they are able to help, they will receive the address of the person in need and can collect an automated external defibrillator (AED) if one is located on the way. The priority for the GoodSAM responder is to give chest compressions to the person until paramedics arrive.

Anyone over the age of 18 years who is willing and able to provide chest compressions can register as a GoodSAM responder. There are no formal first aid requirements required. The more GoodSAM responders we have in Brooklyn, the more chance there will be someone nearby to help, drastically increasing the chances of survival from a cardiac arrest.

Frequently asked questions about GoodSAM:

- An emergency medical call-taker will be on the phone with the caller when the GoodSAM responder arrives and can coach them through how to provide chest compressions.
- All responders are fully indemnified as a Good Samaritan under the Civil Liability Act NSW 2002.
- Chest compressions are simple and safe to do, and any attempt is better than none.
- GoodSAM responders are not sent to dangerous situations, or situations where chest compressions are not appropriate.
- Volunteers are not obliged to accept an alert paramedics will always be on the way.

Please - Brooklyn needs GoodSAM responders!

For those interested, please visit the GoodSAM web:<u>http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/goodsam</u>

NEW WHOLE-ISTIC WELLNESS CENTRE OPENING in 2025

Offering a mix or 1:1 sessions, group workshops & retreats... Whether you are looking to ditch a habit that no longer serves you (smoking / overeating / sleepless nights etc), clear past traumas and emotional blocks, remove limiting beliefs as well as stress / anxiety, or simply to expand yourself to create more freedom, choice and possibility – allowing you to achieve your goals and feel generally GREAT each day – Soul River can help!

For more information say hi at <u>bookings@soulriver.au</u> or head to: <u>www.soulriver.au</u>









MARINE RESCUE HAWKESBURY (MARINE RESCUE, NSW)

As the days get warmer, more boats will be out on the river. Marine Rescue NSW's 3,400 volunteers will be there to assist, if needed. In August this year, 263 search and rescue missions were performed, the second busiest since 2022. Our Greater Sydney region handled 104 of these, including 18 emergency responses, safely returning 217 people to shore.

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury are looking for fundraising members, so if fundraising is your talent and you have the time, email membership.hawkesbury@mrnsw.com.au Fundraising is crucial to keep the two rescue vessels that are permanently stationed locally.

A big thank you to Luxury Afloat Houseboat, Jet Ski Safaris, The Angler's Rest, and Riverboat Postman for supporting the Berowra Woodchop Festival, and to all who attended our recent Bunnings BBQ at West Gosford.

Before heading out this holiday season, remember to check your boat and equipment. Ensure you have enough life jackets and fuel and check the tides and weather. Logging on with Marine Rescue NSW is quick and gives peace of mind, knowing our volunteers are watching out for your safe return.

You can log on via the free Marine Rescue NSW app, VHF Channel 16 or by calling (02) 9985 2100.

And remember: a lifejacket can't help you if you're not wearing it!

BROOKLYN FLAG DESIGN CONTEST - THE RESULTS ARE IN!

The judging team included our resident vexillologist with deep knowledge and understanding of flags. Their notes on the short-listing process are included below:

"We carefully examined the flags, and here are the reasons why we chose the ones we did. Firstly, in over half of the entries which came from Brooklyn PS and many river communities, the central image that resonated was the bridge itself. We believed it was important that we picked a symbol that reflected the river community. It is also important that the symbolic imagery of the bridge spans and brings people together" Brooklyn is a service hub for all river communities, it stands that the bridge represents all communities with Brooklyn as its centre.

"It's also worth noting that some colours don't work particularly well with flags; for example, yellow is often less than ideal, as yellow flags fade very quickly and rapidly look white/dirty. That's why so few countries have fully yellow flag background configurations. We also want to consider a design that is simple to produce, rather than a complicated one which leads to high production costs and also it can look a bit indistinct from any source of distances. We went for a simple vertical stripe arrangement, as this way is impossible for someone to put the flag upside down. We like the colours because of the following reasons: green symbolises the environment and our beautiful bushland, blue symbolises the sky and also technically the river (although of course it can look pretty brown), and what was yellow in the flag we suggest being more of an ochre, to bring together both the unique river sandstones and to also reflect on the indigenous culture of the area. We also note that the design we picked, received a large number of people's choice votes as well. It's been fun, and I look forward to buying some when they're made"

A consensus amongst BCA and the flag design sub-committee was that any concept sketch entries short-listed would be reworked to create a flag worthy of our village. The winning design is pictured below:



Michaela Leone V. Guinita's from Brooklyn Public School submitted a bridge and tri-colour design of horizontal stripes. This was reimagined to include the judge's preference for Brooklyn bridge with vertical stripes. A local artist refined the final design more fully to ensure it is reproducible as a flag. Congratulations Michaela!

Peter Davis, Flag Design Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 November to 22 December 10am-3pm (Sat & Sun only) @ The Cottage



ART EXHIBITION

Our current free exhibition **SustainaART** runs from 9 November to 22 December.

With abundant waste, many artists turn to more environmentally conscious ways of being creative.

See art by:

- Earth Sacred Arts
- Hadijah Munting
- Karina Vallins.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Friday 6th December 3pm-5pm @ Hawkesbury River Marina



All great events start somewhere... as you may have seen in your letterbox, this year we will be doing a 'soft-launch' of what we expect will expand into a whole weekend and pivotal community event in future.

We invite you to join us at King Tide Café / Hawkesbury River Marina for the inaugural event **on Friday 6th December between 3pm & 5pm** and can now confirm that in addition to the fleet Blessing we will have a variety of local music – including the school jazz band, the Dangar Island choir and rumour has it... even an acoustic set from our favourite moonlighting postie!

A Blessing of the Fleet Festival will help us celebrate not only our river and vessel operators, but also the community spirit that defines us. It's an opportunity to build connections, cherish our roots, and set an annual tradition that can grow and evolve with our community.

<section-header></section-header>	THE COTTAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET Our popular Artisan <u>Christmas Market</u> will be held on Sunday December, 10am-3pm Sure to be another great event, and the perfect place to do a spot of shopping for those on your nice list! Artisan Products and Produce including baked goods, jams/chutneys, beer tasting, dog biscuits, soaps, candles, natural cleaning products, cards, framed art, rope work, hobby horses, woodwork, ceramics, jewellery, bags, natural tie dye items, stationery, plants/pots, artisan Christmas decorations and more.
DEC – Saturday 7 th	BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM & CHRISTMAS
3pm AGM	CHEER
4pm Christmas Cheer	Come for business, stay for the party! Weather permitting, the
@ The Cottage (Meeting Room if weather is inclement)	 Annual General Meeting will take place in the Cottage Garden. Once the meeting is 'wrapped up', we will wind down together in good company. Bring some nibbles, the children, dog and a drink of choice if you're feeling festive!

Gateways, and don't already receive one. Contact details Gateway Editor: gateway@brooklyncommunity.org.au BCA: info@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Keeping our community safe!



Cut this map out, and keep a copy of it in your wallet... *just in case!*