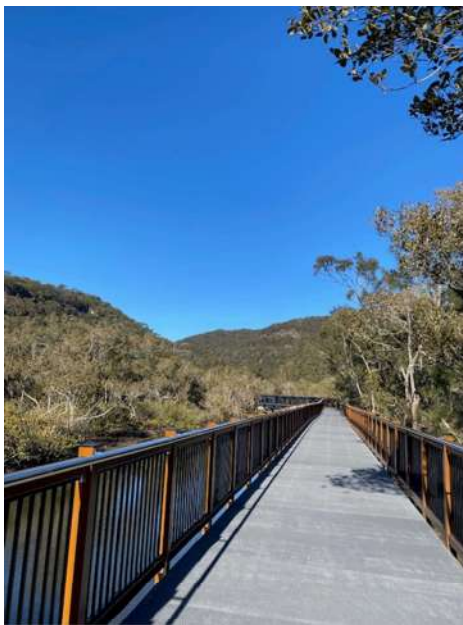


Gateway

September 2025



BROOKLYN'S STUNNING NEW BOARDWALK OPENS!

Brooklyn has a brand-new gem to explore! On Wednesday 30 July 2025, the spectacular boardwalk through the mangroves and bushland linking Seymours Creek (opposite Tom Richmond Oval) to Kangaroo Point officially opened.

This one-kilometre stretch is more than just a beautiful walk – it's a major step forward in improving active transport connectivity and giving locals and visitors safe, scenic access to our incredible natural environment. The project was proudly funded by Transport for NSW through the Get NSW Active Program and the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and is part of Council's Master Plan to link Kangaroo Point with the Brooklyn township.

The boardwalk has been carefully designed to preserve the surrounding mangrove and bushland habitat while providing a smooth, accessible path for pedestrians and cyclists. It also connects to the newly completed shared path along Brooklyn Road, creating an unbroken link into Brooklyn.

At the official opening, the Brooklyn Community Association – represented by Caelia Collins, Di Bowles and Cindy Corkery joined the Mayor, Hornsby Shire Councillors, and representatives from Transport for NSW and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Its true to say we were disappointed that the entire Brooklyn community wasn't formally invited, however that didn't stop our resilient locals from braving the rain to try out the new boardwalk for themselves!

If you haven't yet wandered or cycled the new route, we encourage you to come and experience it for yourself – it's a beautiful new way to enjoy our waterways, bushland, and wildlife.

DOLPHIN BOATSHED HISTORY FROM THE FILES OF TOM RICHMOND OAM

With the new Brooklyn boardwalk open for use, between Kangaroo Point and Tom Richmond Oval, many people have been asking about the Dolphin Marina facility located at its halfway point. I have pulled together this brief history piece from information found amongst Tom Richmond's files.

Dolphin Boatshed was established by Richard "Dick" Frith, with the support of his wife Val, in 1949. The site was no more than a mudflat and it was developed and expanded through Dick's determination, hard work and vision.

The name "Dolphin" came about from a pod of dolphins that used to regularly swim in the area up until the 1960s.

The original location, which now lies under Brooklyn Road, was reclaimed by Frith in the 1950's. During that time the business consisted of the hiring out of a fleet of row boats, small motorboats, as well as swing moorings and a small slipway, that included the repairs and maintenance of boats. It later expanded with a small shop offering marine paints, soft drinks, bait, ice and chandlery. The late 1950's saw an increase in small boat fleet available for hire as well as swing moorings.

In the early 1960's the first launching ramp at the lower end of the Hawkesbury River was introduced to accommodate the growing trailer boat market. In the late 1960s extensive road works were undertaken in the area with the construction of the Freeway between Kangaroo Point and Berowra. At this time Brooklyn Road was relocated, from the southern end of Brooklyn Cemetery, through to its existing route and this interrupted the operation of Dolphin Boatshed.

Consultation with the Crown Lands Department resulted in new boundaries being established for the business and the reclamation of the now existing site was implemented. To do this sandstone rock fill, sourced from the Freeway construction, was purchased by Dick Frith from the DMR. It was positioned on site and with the use of heavy machinery the area was filled. A new launching ramp and slipway were also constructed.

By the 1980's there was a massive reduction in the demand for small hire boats, and this offering was dropped by Dolphin Boatshed. Floating marina berths were introduced to facilitate that demand of the boating public. Around this time the name was changed to Dolphin Marina.

Around 1989 upgrade work undertaken by State Rail Authority on the Cowan Bank caused extensive erosion from their earthworks with some 25,000 cubic meters of fill deposited in the area of Dolphin Marina. This caused major hardships and economic loss for the marina business up until 1996, when dredging was finally undertaken by the State Rail Authority to partly restore the original depth of the marina area. As the business started to return to normal operation Dick Frith became very ill and eventually passed away in 1997.

His sons Richard and Robert, worked alongside their mother Valerie to continue to operate the business for the next two decades. This made it one of Brooklyn's longest continuous operating family businesses. Val Frith and her two sons held a special 60-year celebration in 2009.

Recently Dolphin Marina was sold, and it remains to be seen what the future holds for the site and its operation.

History Article provided by Nathan Tilbury



COWAN CREEK WEEDING COMMUNITY EFFORT IN ACTION

Brooklyn and district residents continue to support the Chase Alive team of NPWS volunteers in their ongoing efforts to reduce and manage weed populations in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, particularly around Cowan Creek.

During a recent full-day trip on 16 June 2025, Brett Hogbin and Olivia Simons joined the team to successfully remove infestations of crofton weed, seeding hybrid balloon plants, buffalo grass, and other invasive species from four locations in the vicinity of Little Shark Rock Point. While working, the group was delighted to spot three emerging orchids at the weeding sites—proof that their hard work is making a difference.

The program, coordinated by Rob Corkery, has been highly successful in reducing a range of weed populations along the waterways from Jerusalem Bay to Gunyah Beach.

Joining the weeding team is not only a great way to help protect our local environment—it's also a wonderful opportunity to get out in the fresh air, enjoy our beautiful waterways, and make new friends.

🌿 Join the Cowan Creek Weeding Crew! 🌿
Help protect Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and keep our waterways beautiful.

When: Next Weeding Day 23 September

Where: Cowan Creek & Jerusalem Bay

Why: Fresh air, beautiful views, and great company while making a difference!

✉️ Contact robert.corkery@yahoo.com.au to get involved.

PEATS FERRY (OLD) HAWKESBURY BRIDGE!

On 5 May 1945, the Peats Ferry (Old) Hawkesbury Bridge welcomed road traffic for the very first time – connecting communities and becoming an enduring part of our Hawkesbury history.

Fast-forward 80 years, and this grand old bridge is still standing strong, with restoration work now in its final stages. She's looking better than ever and ready to be the star of her own birthday party!

Plans are underway for a shared community celebration between Brooklyn residents and our Mooney Mooney neighbours to mark this remarkable milestone. While the full program is still being shaped, you can expect a day that honours the bridge's past, celebrates its present, and brings our river communities together.

Stay tuned for more details – and get ready to wish this local legend a very happy 80th!



INTRODUCING ONE OF OUR NEWEST COUNCILLORS

Hi there! I'm Olivia Simons, one of 10 Councillors for the Shire of Hornsby, elected last September. Together with long term Councillor Nathan Tilbury and fellow newbie Jane Seaglove, I represent A Ward, which stretches from Brooklyn to Wisemans Ferry!

I've lived in Brooklyn for 14 years and absolutely love our village, the river and the broader Shire: We have magnificent forests, clean air, bushland fringed suburbs, picturesque and productive rural lands that need care and protection.

Being a new Councillor means lots of reading to understand context and prepare for debating and making the decisions required, but luckily, I really enjoy learning.

I'm loving learning about catchment management, the community shed movement, technology and advances in resource recovery, green infrastructure, plans for a revitalised and upgraded Hornsby town centre, and the list goes on.

My background in information technology, corporate governance and running a small business inform my perspective on good planning, due process and evidence-based decision making for the Shire.

I'm also really enjoying meeting residents, community groups and businesses to learn of their experiences, aspirations and concerns. The most difficult thing is knowing how long any substantial initiative will take to get into the planning process and funding cycles, seeing the disappointment in a proponent's eyes when their concern can't be progressed any more quickly.

Many locals will be aware of a concept called the Brooklyn Place Plan, which would set out a long-term vision for the village layout and community facilities, that all can enjoy and benefit from. Re-starting this process is budgeted this financial year, and it would be great if together with Brooklyn's residents and businesses, the plan gets finalised, to guide funding and projects over the next decade.


But enough from me, I would love to hear your thoughts and priorities by phone on 0490 349860 or email osimons@hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

ALERT:

SYDNEY TRAINS PLANNED MAINTENANCE

Sydney Trains Customer Service has advised the BCA that the next full weekend maintenance period will take place on: 25/26 October 2025.

Please note that dates are subject to change.

 Buses replace trains all weekend

Telstra: Back-up battery & generator in place to maintain phone and internet services.

Optus & Vodafone Customers should contact providers to request similar support.

Plan your travel and phone/internet use in advance to avoid disruption.



UPPER MCKELL PARK: COME FOR THE FACILITIES... STAY FOR THE SCENERY

Brooklyn can now boast one of the best toilet views in the Shire – maybe even the state! The toilet block at Upper McKell Park has had a fresh makeover, and while the facilities are now looking spick and span, it's the backdrop that really steals the show.

Perched high above the Hawkesbury, this “loo with a view” offers a panorama so good you might forget why you went in the first place. Perfect for park visitors, picnickers, and those just passing through – it's proof that even the humblest buildings can shine when they've got a million-dollar outlook.

So next time you're in Upper McKell Park, take a moment to... enjoy the scenery.



♥ A HAPPY ENDING FOR A LIFESAVING PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ♥

The Brooklyn community has worked tirelessly – with the generous support of local businesses and sporting groups – to raise funds for **eight lifesaving defibrillators** across our area. These devices are there for all of us, ready to make the difference in a critical moment.

That's why it was such a blow in June when the defibrillator at **Lower McKell swimming baths** was stolen and its storage box vandalised. But this story has a happy twist...

We believe some children, while playing in the reserve bushland, came across the missing defib – and returned it. Thanks to this act of honesty and care, the device is now safely back where it belongs, ready to save lives if needed.

To whoever was responsible for returning it – **thank you**. Your kindness means a great deal to our community.

BIKES, BOOKS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Public School Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) is pleased to share that we've secured a \$28,000 grant to fund upgrades featuring a renewed bike parking area complete with a weather shelter at the school, with completion scheduled for September 2026. This project will make it easier and safer for students to ride to school, complementing the new bike and footpaths now completed in Brooklyn.

Our school is growing and thriving under the leadership of our new principal, Ms Leanne King, with student numbers increasing year on year - a sign of real momentum and pride in the school community at the moment. We're also grateful for the wonderful support of local community members who volunteer their time, including those who come in to help younger students with class reading. These connections really show how the school is part of the fabric of Brooklyn life.

The P&C also recently held a "Hollywood Movie" Trivia Night fundraiser at the Anglers Rest Hotel. It was a fantastic evening, with strong support not only from current families but also from alumni parents and community friends of the school. Local businesses once again donated generous vouchers and prizes for the auction and raffle, and we're very thankful for their ongoing support.

The P&C is proud of what's being achieved and thankful for the support of families, local businesses, and the wider Brooklyn community that makes it possible.



HRCC SPRING FAIR-

Did you know the Spring Fair has been running for decades! It helps fund our local community run childcare centre. Its like a big family daycare centre, nestled in the bush. What a great place for our kids!



Spelling Bee Champions at BPS!

Students from Brooklyn Public School competed in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee for the second time this year. Marcus Sahlman in Year 3 won the Junior round (years 3 and 4) with Harry Rix as runner up and Robin Godbolt won the Senior Round (years 5 and 6) with Juno Schinabeck as runner up. In August Marcus and Juno competed in the regional finals against students from 26 other schools. Marcus won the junior round and is now preparing for the State Finals which are live at Penrith's Q Theatre on 7th November. Well done to all the participants and all the best to Marcus for the state finals!

 **CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL LEGENDS** 

Lyne Kelleher

Our retiring BCA Treasurer Extraordinaire
We're not quite sure when Lynne didn't have her hands on the BCA's finances – it feels like she's always been there, quietly and capably keeping both the Cottage and BCA accounts in perfect order. Being treasurer is no small job, but Lyne has taken it on with tireless dedication, precision, and good humour. Lyne, you truly deserve a gold star for your years of service and commitment to our community – thank you!

John Andrews – A True Community Champion

Although John has recently moved from Mooney Mooney, his presence has been a vibrant thread in the fabric of our community. Through his volunteering, participation, and genuine care for those around him, John has embodied what's best about living in a small community. While we wish him much happiness in his new home and retirement, we know he will be deeply missed here in Brooklyn and along the Hawkesbury.

From all of us – thank you, Lyne and John, for making our community richer, warmer, and stronger.

 **GOT A QUESTION FOR COUNCIL? MAKE A SERVICE REQUEST – IT'S EASY!**  


Need to report a pothole? Spotted a wobbly footpath or something worse? Have a burning question about bins, drainage, or public spaces?


Good news – you can get it sorted in just a few clicks!

 Go to: hornsby.nsw.gov.au – [Online Services Portal](#)


Here's how:



1  Click Service Request

2  Fill in the online form

3  Upload 1–3 photos if it helps explain your request (pictures really do say 1,000 words!)

This is the spot for all things Council-related – property, roads, drainage, garbage, public health... you name it.

 Prefer email? That's fine too! Just remember: if you've already emailed about the same issue, don't send it again through the portal – it just creates double work and slows things down.

 Give it a go – the system really does work!  Stair Safety Update following Reporting to HSC 

A quick thanks to Council for their swift response to recent safety concerns about the stairs outside the pharmacy and motel. After a few accidents, Council moved quickly to work to find some way to address the issue, helping keep our community (and visitors!) safe.

 **Plan Your Day on the Water with TideKing** 

Whether you're a keen fisher, a boating enthusiast, or just planning a relaxing day by the river

, TideKing has you covered. TideKing provides up-to-date local weather forecasts, tide charts, and fishing times tailored for Brooklyn and the surrounding waterways.

Perfect for both residents and visitors, TideKing makes it easy to stay safe, enjoy the best fishing conditions, and make the most of our beautiful river and bay.

 **Check it out here:** <https://tideking.com/Australia/New-South-Wales/Hornsby-Shire/Brooklyn/>

🎯 GAME, SET, MATCH – FOR FREE! ⌚

Did you know Brooklyn's local tennis courts are free for everyone to enjoy? They're available on a first-come, first-served basis – no booking needed. You'll find them at the sports oval, right next to the children's playground. So grab your racquet, rally some friends, and serve up some fun!

SAVE THE DATES

THEATRE IN THE PARK November 8th 2025

Don't forget to put it in your calendar. All to be revealed later.....

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

December 6 from 2:30– 5:00 meeting first and then a Christmas gathering....

If would be great to bring a plate to share!

At the Brooklyn Meeting Room

See you there!

The Gateway is published by the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA). While every attempt is made to ensure correctness and publish content as submitted, some editing of material may occur. Please email secretary@brooklyncommunity.org.au if you would like to receive an electronic copy of future Gateways, and don't already receive one.

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

Please note: The September edition of The Gateway will be distributed by email only and will not be delivered as a printed copy to mailboxes.

We appreciate your understanding and encourage everyone to share the newsletter with neighbours who may not be on our email list.