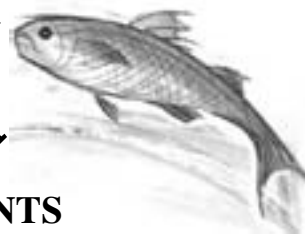




Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #46

www.dangarisland.net

EASTER 2015

When the turtle came to town

Nerina Knight



It was a windy Sunday afternoon when our heroine (let's call her Ang) noticed a green turtle with some obvious buoyancy issues. Quick thinking Ang identified who to call. Bugger! What's his number? Fear not - capable Kyls knows the way and the tall bloke (TTB) from The Shack is up for the challenge.

Borrowing oyster proof shoes that he can wedge his ski-like feet into, TTB clambers across the submerged oyster-laden rocks and lunges to capture the flailing creature. Another lurch and the turtle is snuggled into TTB's chest slapping his face all the while.

With tracking device on his back and a sticker saying "I found call Taronga Zoo" the future was clear. All we had

to do was get him back to the zoo (after an overnight stay on the island) and the turtle was bound to be okay. Right?

Unfortunately not.

You see, the turtle had been involved in a boating accident over a year ago and about one third of his shell has been repaired by the zoo with trusty fibreglass. He had also lost a hind flipper but this wasn't the problem. These injuries had made him susceptible to other ailments. This 30+kg turtle had taken on excessive fluid into its body cavities and tissue (edematose) and was not going to be able to survive long term in the wild. Re-release was not viable.

On the positive side of things the autopsy conducted by the

zoo showed that his belly was full of sea grass. See where this is going? Turtle's are hanging out and feeding on our sea grass beds (like the one off Bradley's). This is the second turtle in under 2 years that TTB has pulled out of the river.

Whether you see them or not, we share this river with beautiful creatures. Turtles are susceptible to collision and propeller injuries especially in shallow waters where they don't have somewhere to run (dive) and hide. Whilst there is nothing to say that he was hit by a boat here, this serves as a reminder for those of us who drive motor boats that **where** and **how** we drive can have unintended consequences.

Book Sale

Peter Wolfe

We had to postpone our December book sale due to illness but its on again for **Sunday 19th April** in the Community Hall.

A great clearance of several book collections, and all proceeds to the Historical Society.

We will be setting up from the Saturday afternoon and all volunteers welcome to help set up and man the sale on the day. Volunteers get first choice in the sale too.

Contact: Peter 9985 7800

Dangar Island Playgroup

Vanessa Payne

Fridays 10-12

Dangar Island Hall
\$4 child / \$1 second child
Morning tea and craft activities provided

Call Vanessa for more details
0414 317 260



MULLET MAIL BACK ISSUES Archived online

A selection of back issues of the Mullet Mail are available on our Community website. You can access the site at either dangarislandleague.net or dangarisland.net.

Immersion in country - Attention travellers to Alice Springs !

Jude Pritchard

Ankerre Ankerre Wooded Wetland Landcare Group would like to invite you to assist us in our bush regeneration activities on a sacred site about 500 metres from the centre of town. Recently featured (November 2014) by Costa in a *Gardening Australia* program with a water theme, this remarkable site is the ceremonial ground for the ancestral caterpillars that figure prominently in the creation stories for Alice Springs. Our Landcare activities consist of managing buffel grass, couch grass and the manual removal of saltbush which was introduced in the 1970’s and is now a monoculture. Ankerre Ankerre is also locally referred to as the Coolibah Swamp – but tragically urban development now prevents water from ponding at the site.

If you are curious about Central Australia and would like to visit and base yourself from a house near the Centre of town, the Landcare group can offer camping accommodation, private bathroom, and shared kitchen in return for a couple of days work a week.

Local events that you might want to base a visit around are; Music – Wide Open Spaces at Ross River, the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, Yuendumu Sports weekend, Harts Range races, Aileron Races, the Alice Springs Festival, the Finke desert Race for redheads, or any number of other events to be found on the Tourism NT website.

After the extensive summer rains all the gorges are full and waiting for your visit!

Email Judeprichard@yahoo.com, or ring 08 8952 9348 if you are interested.

Buggy News

Judy Nikola

With many new faces on the island, I would like to remind everyone of the Hornsby Shire Council (HSC) regulations for vehicle use on Dangar Island.

We have a unique pedestrian precinct here - which means that pedestrians have right of way and there is a strict vehicle speed limit of 10KPH or a fast walking pace. This must be adhered to by all motorised vehicles on the island to ensure the safety of residents, visitors and pets. Private buggies must be registered and are historically only used when the owner is disabled. Vehicles are supposed to stay on the roads and not take detours e.g. through the park.

The Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee is responsible for ensuring vehicle permits are given to builder’s and delivery vehicles that come onto the island. The Committee organises the volunteer driver roster for the blue buggy and arranges for speedy repairs when it breaks down. The volunteer committee is comprised of **Chairperson - Charles Hill, Secretary - Judy Nikola, Treasurer - Manfred Merl, Vehicle Administrator - Margaret Kepert, Permit Officer - Cybele Shorter, HSC Officer - Adam Wilson, Committee members - Ross Higgins and Kim Wilson.**

Any correspondence can be emailed to buggy1@live.com.au – we welcome feedback on vehicles on the island. When using the buggy, please allow the driver time to supervise the placing of bags as the seats have already been damaged by sharp objects. To all the fabulous volunteers that keep the ‘blue peril’ running in rain, hail or shine - you do a great job of juggling tired islanders home after a hard day’s work with all their shopping. Please try not to overload the buggy - a second trip is usually possible.

Here endeth the lecture.....

Down the garden path . . .

Tony Partridge

Seen down the garden path of Phil and Wilma at the Riverview-Riverview-Riverview junction a few days ago, a 2m snake enjoying the sunshine. It initially caused some consternation until recognised as a beautiful diamond python. In case others see it, be not alarmed – the Australian Museum website advises that these pythons are non-venomous though they can inflict a painful bite. Teeth can break off and remain embedded in the victim! (<http://australianmuseum.net.au/diamond-python>)

The museum site gives further information: Size range: 2 m - 3 m / Distribution: coastal areas of New South Wales in large bushland areas and national parks of Sydney, but often goes undetected because of its nocturnal, slow-moving habits / Feeding and Diet: the Diamond Python kills its prey by wrapping itself around its victim (small mammals and lizards) and suffocating it. / During the day, the Diamond Python may be seen basking in trees and occasionally it is found in roofs and rafters / The female lays eggs and coils around them to protect them and keep them warm. This maternal care, which is uncommon in snakes, ceases once the offspring hatch. The museum also notes that “a diamond python in your roof will not cause any damage but will help control rats and possums.”

On this occasion Alec Pratt (currently living at the top of the island until his new house is built) passed by with impressive camera in hand and took a number of photographs, of which this is one.



Photograph by Alec Pratt

An Open letter to the island

from Martin Lloyd

I’m going to die.

And when I do I’ll (probably) be a (reasonably) free man, who has had control of his life. SADLY the people that I met at the Villawood Detention Centre in December 2014 won’t have that privilege. They will die, having spent a significant and currently an unending amount of their bleak lives locked away, probably illegally and definitely immorally in an industrial park in the south of Sydney for little more reason than petty local political gain. Most (about 85%) of these people have been accepted by the Australian Government as legitimate refugees, however their release into Australian society is being held up by their failure to receive an ASIO security clearance. This failure is not due to their criminality or threat to local security in any way but due to ASIO’s EXCESSIVE delays to process clearance applications. This delay appears to be at the request of our Federal Government in order to provide an excuse to keep these people in detention.

I could personalise this account with tales of the people that I met in Villawood however this leaves me with a dilemma: I have met people held for over 5 years in detention, children spending their entire summer holidays in the centre, (they go to a local school, theoretically to interact with local kids, in practice they are dropped off in the detention centre

mini van and vilified by their school mates - kids can be brutal). So that’s eight holiday weeks with a snooker table, TV, basket ball and hoop and NO friends.Try chatting with them to understand desolation, depression and bewilderment.

Or the gorgeous 18 month old Tamil girl who had just realised the joy of clambering over chairs and being caught just before she could really hurt herself. Or we could talk of the LOW security family area, surrounded by 7 ft high Colourbond fencing and why no one goes over the wall, as anyone easily could, of why this BLEAK place is preferable to any other detention centre or any other obscene alternative solution or any other of the lands which these forgotten people have fled through, or, god forbid, the horrors that caused them to leave the lands of their birth, their parents and families. And here’s the dilemma, be too specific and these people are put into double jeopardy: if they demand their rights according to the conventions initiated and signed by Australia, volunteer to act as test cases or in anyway stand out as trouble makers they face the possibility of receiving an even less friendly hearing within the system and an increased likelihood of being returned to what ever they have left or at least shunted off to an out of sight, out of mind detention centre in the desert or on some lonely, obscure island.

I have no simple answers to complex issues, but I can see an EVIL when it is in front of me. None of the major political parties have any moral high ground, however they continue to perpetuate an immoral and illegal (google David Marr’s ‘Illegals’ October 2013 article) refugee policy IN YOUR NAME purely for their short term political gain. All that I can do is to WITNESS to what I have seen and to try to open a conversation, please ask

me questions, ask yourselves questions, and think, how will you answer your grand children’s questions, when the inevitable APOLOGY TO REFUGEES or what ever it is called is made over the next decades.

JUST READ THIS BIT

I visited the HIGH SECURITY section of Villawood Detention Centre. High security equates to single men’s quarters, but it means what it says. I am aware of a man there in detention for over 5 years. When he hit 5 years the authorities CLOSED his file, RENAMED him (yes, arbitrarily gave him a new name) and opened a NEW file on him. WHY??? The only apparent reason is that they can now claim that they have NO ONE on file in detention for over 5 years. Again I REITERATE, this is being done IN YOUR NAME.

How can people still imagine that refugees get into rubbish boats for terrifying, obviously life threatening journeys for anything other than really terrifying, life threatening reasons. In what world view can anyone believe that one group of people don’t love and desperately care for their children, parents, family and land of their birth as much as we do? Who could believe all those years ago, that the Captain of the Tampa was doing anything other than that that which is right and moral when he picked up a boat load of people in distress at sea?

This bipartisan policy WILL fall, if only for the purely pragmatic reason of the vast and unsustainable expense. Literally billions of of our tax dollars are being spent because neither of the two major parties have the moral

strength to blink and tear down a policy whose only rational is to prop up their voter base. A ground swell of discontent is needed, and is happening, that will wash away this blight and international embarrassment BUT it needs our support.

Please think about these people, what brought them here and what is happening to them now and why. These acts are being done in your name, accept responsibility. Think of the Good Samaritan if you have to, or at least “Do to others as you would like done to you”. Consider how lucky you were to win the arbitrary lottery of life. Don’t fall for dog whistle arguments. If you consider yourself a “good”, generous, moral, intelligent person then don’t fall for simplistic xenophobic arguments. Chat to your friends, think it through and please take a stand.

If anything here has got you thinking and you wish to take it further, or wish to constructively challenge me, please, **please approach me**. If you want to meet these people that I have spoken about or the many like them, YOU CAN. It is inconvenient, time consuming and requires dealing with some limited bureaucracy but I can put you in contact with the many people that have taken on this burden.

To quote Edmund Burke: “The only thing needed for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”.

So do something.

With my thanks Martin Lloyd For more information google David Marr and the Refugee Council Of Australia.

Dangar Island League

We are pleased to give a summary update of League activities since the last Mullet Mail.

Brooklyn Master Plan In late 2014, HSC commissioned a survey of Brooklyn and river residents as well as visitors. The survey was not about ‘solutions’, but rather about identifying ‘issues’ and views. The results are now available on the HSC website (<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/major-projects/brooklyns-future-a-community-survey>). Not surprisingly parking, maintenance of environmental values and cultural heritage, and station access came out on the top of the issues list.

Council has endorsed the preparation of a ‘project brief for a planning strategy’ for its consideration at it’s August 12 meeting. This will outline the scope, process and associated costing for the development of a ‘Master Plan’ for Brooklyn. The brief will be online and circulated about 10 days prior to the meeting to those community members who participated in the survey, as well as key community groups, including DIL.

Community members can make representations to Councilors on the project brief prior to the meeting. If Council endorses the brief at this meeting and schedules funding, the planning process will commence.

The **wildlife signage** project is nearing completion. Signs are currently in fabrication stage. Thanks to Harry Recher and Cybele Shorter for their support, input and persistence with this project.

There’s will be free paddle pop (or alternative shop item of a value not exceeding that of a paddle pop) for those who put their **jetty signs** up within 2 weeks (see Vanessa). No retrospective paddle pops – sorry to those who complied early.

In all seriousness, these individual house numbers are designed to assist ambulance and police services to locate waterfront properties in an emergency. If you need assistance to erect please contact a League Committee member.

Are **you** wondering what the **blue cat’s eyes** on the roads are? We can confirm the Island RFS have installed them to indicate the location of the all-important fire hydrants. These are particularly important for locating the hydrants at night. The truck has only 3 minutes of water on board, so timing is critical. Residents are encouraged to let the RFS know of any issues with the cat’s eyes, either on the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade Facebook page, or by contacting Jonathon Sykes, Senior Deputy Captain DIRFB directly(jonathan.sykes.globe5@gmail.com)

Wired internet access continues to be a problem, and is likely to remain so in the absence of a new cable from the mainland or the NBN rollout (not scheduled). The mobile signal blackspot in the middle of the island means the wireless alternative is not available in this area. The League will continue to follow up with authorities and politicians to stress the importance of reliable phone and internet access not only for residential customers, but also critically for RFS and CFR inter-officer communication during emergencies.

Much discussion continues around **public wharf disability upgrade** proposal, which remains a challenging project for the Community. The League continues to support a ‘triple benefit

solution’, with disability access, casual berthing and small boat mooring objectives in mind. For a more detailed update on activities and progress to date, go to the League website and view the minutes of the general meeting of March 7, 2015.

In brief, towards the end of last year HSC sought to meet with a small number of DI community members to iron out issues and identify possible design solutions, prior to Council holding a public meeting with all interested islanders to discuss their upgrade proposal. The group, including Terry Dorrough (representing residents, in particular the disabled and frail ferry passengers), Rick Stockley (ferry owner/operator), Cybele Shorter (RFS Captain), League committee members, and DIMC committee members has met twice with HSC and the designer from SMEC, and corresponded more formally.

Council has revised the ‘concept’ design to shorten by 18m the projection of the structure out into the river, and assure us that its finishes and features will be high quality and suitable for use by all, including those with mobility issues. Community members have a number of outstanding concerns that were discussed at the League meeting of March 7, and have been conveyed to Council. These include:

- The safety and operability of the design in the absence of the DIMC element. The DIMC approval process is likely to take 18-24 months, and requires determination of both rezoning of the river at that point, and a development application
- Some technical aspects of the (updated) SMEC wave climate report, the implications of this report and wave and climate action for reliability of ferry operations, and for ferry operator liability
- The need for unimpeded RFS boat access
- The need to ensure the views of other authorities and interests (Maritime, Transport, Riverboat Postman, etc) have been taken into account
- The requirement for direct consultation between HSC and the broader DI community

At the League’s meeting of March 7 the following motion from the floor was supported – “That as a matter of principle, the DIL seek to maintain the current reliability of the ferry service and to improve accessibility”.

If you have constructive comment then please do contact any of the group who are working with Council to ensure their decision is the best possible for the community.

Vanessa O’Keefe (0439 405 999) Peter Wolfe (0420 303 414) Dangar Island League

Terry Dorrough – Ferry Users with disability mobility concerns (9985 7729)

Ant Schinckle /Sue Merricks/ David Pakes – DIMC email info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net

We would also like to remind everyone that the League Committee has several vacancies and we would invite volunteers to join us, even as observers prior to the next elections in September.The League follows a full agenda and “many hands make light work”.

Dangar Island Cafe

Fiona Mullen

We have had a wonderful response to the exhibition of the local photographers. The work showcases some of the unique aspects of our island life. The exhibitors have printed and framed the images at their own expense, as well as providing essential supplies for the opening! They are generously donating *all* of the profits to the Island First Responders. Prints can still be ordered from any of the framed works. They remain on display for another few weeks. We have the fabulous Angela join us on staff, a very welcome addition. As many of you know Angela is mother to Elliot and also a First Responder.



DIMC

Antony Schinckel

As many of you may know, there has been a series of “stakeholders meetings” to discuss aspects of the DI wharf with a number of people:

- Hornsby Shire Council
- SMEC (consulting engineers on the design)
- Rural Fire Service
- DI Ferry Service
- Dangar Island Mooring Coop (us)
- some Dangar Island residents

This has lead to significant uncertainty around the final design – moving the RFS boat, exact layout of the ramp etc. Until these issues are resolved, the design is too uncertain for DIMC to be able to cost it accurately and present a final design to the

potential members. Therefore, the DIMC Executive feels we cannot ask for a deposit until we have a design for all the combined components that is closer to a final design and therefore we have firmer estimate of the actual costs. Instead, we have requested “letters of intent” to participate in the DIMC and have been very pleased with the response. If you are still interested, and have not submitted a letter of intent please contact us.

We are working with the Council and the other stakeholders to move forward with the overall design – we note that the community voted in support of the integrated facility to address all

requirements in 2013 and that’s what we are still pursuing. We are happy to address changes that make it more suitable for everyone – for example, better location for the RFS fire boat, ensuring the pontoon is well lit (without causing light pollution), the surface and weather shelter issues are addressed, service issues, etc.

We believe all these are addressable, and we will end up with a safe facility which makes access to the island easier and better for everyone, and which is significantly easier than with the stairs. It isn’t a quick process, but if all the stakeholders work together to clearly address their issues with the Council, it will

produce a good outcome for the island.

Thanks – and please don’t hesitate to email us with any questions.

***Cheers
Ant Schinckel, Sue Merricks,
David Pakes, Stuart Allen,
Tom Weddin******DIMC Executive***

*info@
[dangarislandmooringcoop.net](mailto:info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net)*



Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

Kathy Merrick and Cybele Shorter

Dangar Firie’s Western Australia Deployment

Martin Lloyd DIRFB

I recently had the privilege of representing Dangar Is Brigade as part of the NSWRFs deployment to the fires burning in SW Western Australia. Although under-represented in the NSW news, these fires were the worst in WA for 4 decades, covering an area roughly the size of the ACT, with a perimeter of 230km. After handshakes from the Commissioner, flights, bus, orientation, sleep, coach, camp and more coach trips, the Hornsby contingent arrived in the town of Northcliffe, via Manjimup at the O’Sullivan Fire.

The local firies had done a great job over the past 10 days but were now exhausted. We were tasked to night shift in crews of 2 per truck to provide a mopping up action. This involves continually stopping along a sector of the perimeter of the fire, running out hoses and putting out any signs of fire from the previous days back-burning efforts; a fairly tedious job, but essential in avoiding the fire escaping the perimeter.

Although we were working at night we were able to gain some appreciation of the magnificent Karri and Jarrah tall timber forest. These trees reach up to 80m. The truck lights on the stunning shear trunks weren’t able to illuminate even the lowest branch or leaf. I look forward to returning and really enjoying these fantastic forests some time.

The photocopied note from the local primary school kids, slipped into my lunch bag summed it up: *“Thank you. Keep wercing do a grat job. I am cowting on you. good job. PS gat job.”*

Our pleasure WA, glad to be of some assistance!



Alec Guinness as the incurably seasick sea captain in Ealing Studios’ hilarious Barnacle Bill.

Film Fundraiser BBQ 4th April @ Hall

By popular request, we present the classic non-seafaring comedy

Barnacle Bill (G)

Join us on Easter Saturday, BBQ from 6pm, cakes and drinks in the hall - fun for all the family and raising funds for your hard-working volunteer firies, so please treat yourselves lavishly.

Alec Guinness plays a British Naval Captain, who retires from service and buys a decrepit amusement pier in a small coastal town. After discovering the local commissioners seek to condemn and seize his pier he registers it under a foreign flag as a cruise ship at anchor.

Be in the draw to win our bumper Winter Fire Safety Kit: smoke alarm, extinguisher, fire blanket, valued at over \$120.



Autumn Fire Safety Message

Kathy Merrick Community Engagement Officer

Now that the days are getting shorter and there is the hint of autumn crispness in the air, it is time to think about winter fire safety. There are a few precautions you can take around your home to reduce your risk over winter:

- Do you have smoke alarms? Every home should have smoke alarms fitted. Change the batteries and test them.
- Have a small fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the home – a good place to keep them is near to the kitchen in case of a cooking fire.
- Make sure your chimney is clean and place a screen in front of open fires.
- Keep bedding and curtains away from heaters.
- Don’t place wet clothes too close or on the heater.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Extinguish open flames, including candles, before going to sleep.
- In the event of a fire dial 000

You and your family need a home escape plan, and it is a good idea to practise your plan.

- Identify two escape routes out of each room.
- Agree on a meeting point outside the home.
- If there is smoke in a room, the air at floor level will still be quite fresh and cool. Keep low when escaping a smoky house.

And of course – the cooler months are a great time to prepare your home for next bush fire season. Talk to your brigade members about what you can do around the home – or visit our facebook page for a link to the **MyFirePlan**.

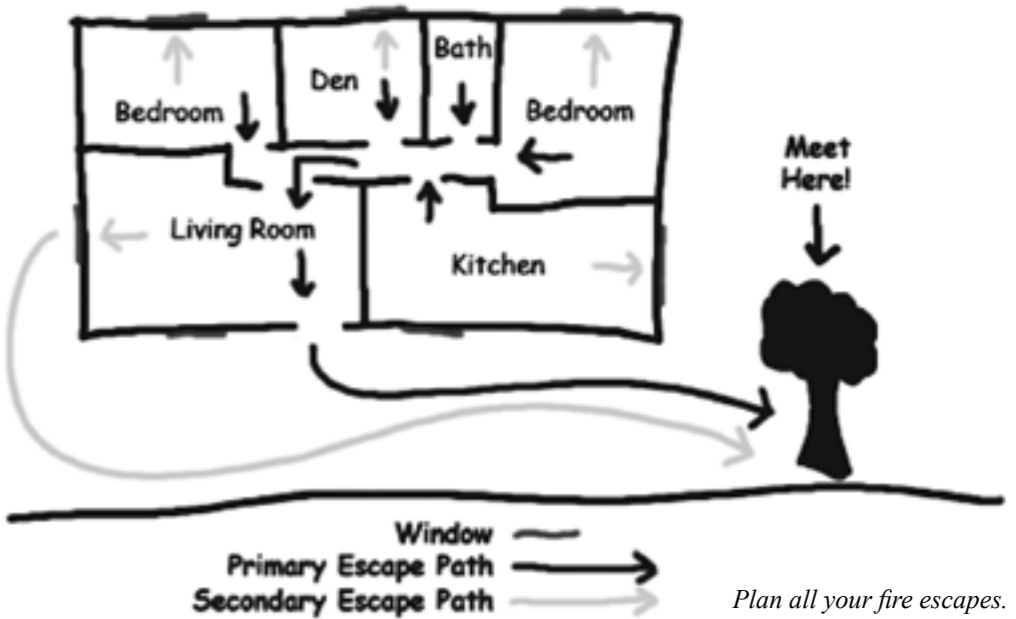


Mitigation Planning

Jonathan Sykes, Mitigation Officer, 0404 719 997

We’ve been working with Council and our District Office to review last year’s hazard reduction work in Kiparra Reserve, and to plan for the coming season.

Trimming and pile burning on the ridge top has dramatically reduced the elevated fuels, and we intend to continue this work in the winter to reduce near-ground fuels without impacting residents’ privacy or destroying the bush character. **Don’t forget to clear fuels on your own block** in the immediate vicinity of your buildings, as this the strongest defence against bushfire attack.



Last spring’s burn in the northern sector is regenerating beautifully with fuel load well within our target of 5 t/ha, and if you look carefully through the emergent species here, you can see the sensitive rock ferns, tongue orchids and *Monotocas* we reserved from the burn.

In autumn we will burn a section on the western slope, where a fire could potentially make a run on a bad day. The casuarinas here can be home to glossy black cockatoos, who just hate us to burn them down, so we will work with Hornsby Shire Council’s Fire and Bushcare Officers to preserve this valuable habitat.



VRA

Alan Cinis

Living here on the River is spectacular, exciting and yet peaceful. At times it can also have moments of frustration and even terror. If you really live on the River, you know. I moved here just over two years ago. And it was the best decision I ever made to live a good life.

The need for boats to commute is something of an adventure. I like that adventure, but I also wanted to have a bit of insurance for my Wife and Son and also myself.

A boat can leak or get swamped and an engine can stop working or responding. When this happens I want to know that a phone call can have me rescued in a few minutes. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And the only operation that provides that is the Hawkesbury River Rescue, VRA.

I joined up because it made good sense. As I also joined the CFU in case of fire. I want to live here. To do that I have to make sure as best as possible that I can.

The VRA have been fantastic. I was happy to help my fellow River Dwellers directly. By volunteering some of my time to actually rescue folks. Good way to meet my neighbours.

The VRA are not funded by the Government. We pay for our fuel for the Rescue Vessel. We run by donation, but if you join the HRR VRA it only costs \$40 a year for a family.

I’m suggesting that if you join the HRR VRA you know that rescue is only a few minutes away. Day or night. Cheaper than roadside assistance, and lets face it. On the River it’s a lot more comforting being assisted in a boat than a car.

The big yellow ‘Spirit of Brooklyn’ is just waiting to respond from Little Wobby Beach.

Dangar Island hall – Hiring procedure

Vanessa Payne

To hire Dangar island Community Hall for your next meeting, kids party or workshop please phone Vanessa 0414 317 260 or email nesslerpublic@gmail.com.

I will get back to you as quickly as I can.You will be issued an invoice and a hire agreement via your preferred method. The invoice must be paid via one of the methods outlined on the invoice as we no longer accept cash on the island for bookings.Please return your completed hire agreement to Vanessa at 59G, Dangar Island.

Thank you to our regular hirers for your patience during this long transition period.



Dangar Island Photography Group

Joanne Karcz

Eighteen months ago, an article in the Mullet Mail invited Islanders to form a photography group. Since that time Bill Lynn-Robinson, Judith Doyle, Joanne Karcz and Yvonne Terkildson have met on a regular basis. The group set itself monthly challenges and then shared results and critique. Thoughts, styles, knowledge and ideas were exchanged. It’s been both interesting and fun.

On Saturday 28th February, the group held the opening to a month long exhibition of their work at the Dangar Island Shop to share a few images of Island Life. Proceeds from the Exhibition will go to the Community First Responders. The exhibition opening far exceeded expectations with many framed

photos being sold as well as a number of prints. The generosity of Islanders is greatly appreciated.

Bill has had some success with his work. Last year he was a finalist in the Buildings Challenge run by the SMH Clique program. This month we learned that he was again a finalist, this time in the Portrait challenge. In the accompanying photo, Colin Putt (well-known on Dangar Island) stands by a commemorative portrait of his expedition to Heard Island with the original ice pick and backpack made by him and used during the expedition.

Congratulations Bill.



Dark Days in Toytown

Bruce Lambert

Anthony Avago was confused, just how could everything go so wrong? All the toys in the toybox now subdued, ever since Anthony gave away that gong.

Not since the pocket-money was withheld, have the toys felt so abused. Instead of promises fairly kept, the toys now found themselves accused.

For broken dolls and tatty toys, forget about refurbishment. That is unless the money comes, then we shall see to this extent.

A promise given is a promise owed, no matter that the times have changed. Alas poor Anthony, I knew him well, cruel fate has thus his time estranged.

Anthony Avago was confused, the lid of the toybox now shut tight. No matter the toys were deaf to entreaty, Anthony Avago would continue the fight.

Your club wants YOU!

The Bowlo is looking for several casual staff to fill approx 4 to 8 shifts per month on either a Thursday, Friday, Saturday night and for Saturday and Sunday lunches and events.

Successful candidates will be well presented, tolerant and well mannered and will become valued staff members of the club assisting us to provide a wonderful experience to all members and patrons of the Club. This position reports to our Bar Manager and a valid RSA is mandatory. If you don’t have your RSA, there is an online course available, doable over 4-5 hours – we can provide the details and the club will pay half of the cost.

Contact Leigh Johnson on 0407728955 or email leigh@catapultdesign.net.au to apply.

Congratulations

Leigh Johnson, Deputy Director & Director Kitchen and Bar

Congratulations to Kym Thornton on her recent promotion to Bar Manager at the Bowlo, her tireless efforts and outstanding tolerance for one and all has seen the club grow from strength to strength. We look forward to many more years ahead with Kym at the helm.

Win Win?

Joanne Karcz

Perhaps you’d like a special photo taken, but don’t want to approach a professional photographer. Perhaps I can help. To improve my photography skills I need to practice. If you give me your time and a usb to upload the photos, I should get at least a few photos to suit your need. Give me a call if you like this idea and want to talk about it. *Joanne 0410 613 149*

Island Princesses

Tanya Rojas Fort



Just off the beaten track
Surrounded by water
Live a Magical Twosome
One the colour of Salt
The other the colour of Pepper
They look like Innocent Angels
But beware....
Their heart song is “Mischief”
So if you should meet them
Hand them a flower
A shiny rock
Or any child-like treasure
And they will bless your day
With the most Beautiful smile.

A Letter about Parcels

from Kim and Lars

When our family first bought the shop, both letters and parcels were available from over the counter, which meant collection was restricted to shop hours only. The Dangar Island Community Postal Agency (CPA) collection times, as set by Australia Post for the Island are:

- Monday 10am – 3pm
- Closed Tuesdays
- Wednesday 10am – 3pm
- Thursday 10am – 3pm
- Friday 10am – 3pm
- (Officially these times have not changed)

Since then we have introduced the mail boxes for letters and small parcels, allowing for collection 24/7. We always extended this service by handing out mail and parcels during all of the shop hours, which included weekends. When the Co-Op began operating they continued with this parcel delivery - as did Fiona when she bought the business - during café hours and even Public Holidays. How lucky were we!

With letters now on the decrease, and parcels on the increase, it is taking up valuable café time to be handing out parcels during peak café business times, especially on the weekends. So, as of Monday

the 30th March, parcels will not be available for collection on the weekends or Public Holidays. But, don’t despair, people everywhere on the mainland – and even on other Islands and water access-only communities – have to manage this too. Only a few Post Offices are open on Saturday mornings, let alone Sundays and Public Holidays.

This does put a pressure on collection during weekdays and we ask that you please respect that the café is a business and that takes priority. If you cannot collect your parcels on weekdays please organise someone to collect them for you with the signed notification slip that gets written up and put in your box when your parcel arrives.

Your patience and understanding is appreciated in advance so mail service can continue as calmly and smoothly as possible. Obviously there will be some teething problems but for any queries regarding the Dangar Island CPA, please do not call the café, please call:

- Kim or Lars – 9985 7300
- Kim Mobile – 0412 106 855
- Lars Mobile – 0402 280 377

Thank you and wishing you all a Happy Easter.



Inaugural Jazz Hall

Joanne Karcz

On the fourteenth of February, islanders with liquid refreshment in one hand and delicious food in the other arrived at the hall for a night of jazz. Fairy lights and lanterns transformed the hall into a great music venue, while chocolate hearts recognised Valentines Day. Trumpeter Warwick Alder with his companions, Brooklyn resident Ray Alldridge on keyboard, Dave Goodman on drums and Max on double bass entertained us with quality jazz. People from all over Dangar attended. Some even crossed the river from Brooklyn. With the ticket price kept low, it made for a fun and affordable night. Thanks to Michael for turning an idea into reality.

Dangar Island Bowling Club

Andy Payne, President



From the President

Matt Johnson, Tom Garvey and Henry Innis sadly left the island early in the New Year for exciting work opportunities. These are the lengths to which people have to go, to get off the Board of your Club ...

The Board had been running on four directors for some time so this meant there were effectively five vacancies requiring others in the community to step up to keep an island institution in business. We were very lucky that a diverse group of people put their hands up to help out and join the remaining Directors Chris Innis and Steve Crane.

Evan Walsh, Leigh Johnson, Cameron Cooke and I were elected to the Board at the December Extraordinary General Meeting. Cam later made way for Vanessa Payne to join the Board as treasurer as he was spending more time away from the island. Matt also agreed to stay on the Board as a Director at Large, and offers frequent wise counsel from north of the border. As you all know Matt has made an enormous contribution to the Board and Club over a number of years and we’re looking forward to him being back on the island in a couple of years. (Must be less than a thousand nights now Matt???)

Thank you to Tom Garvey for a number of years of successful bean counting and general financial management, as well as to Henry Innis for his marketing efforts.

She won’t appreciate this, but we’d also like to thank Corrynth White for her significant ongoing contribution in the background as bookkeeper for the Club, one of the unsung heroes that give freely of their time to keep the place going. And kudos to Cam Ley, Associate Director Greens, for keeping the green up to the usual ‘standard’.

If you are interested in helping the Club out in any capacity please let me or one of the other directors know.

Your Board

- Andy Payne, President
- Leigh Johnson, Vice President & Director Bar & Kitchen
- Evan Walsh, Secretary and Licensee
- Steve Crane, Director Events and Entertainment
- Vanessa Payne, Treasurer
- Matt Johnson, Director at large
- Chris Innis, Director at large

On the green ...

We are always looking for more bowlers to join us for a social bowl on Sunday afternoons. We usually start around 1pm, but if Sunday’s are no good for you then you’re free to bowl any other time (and the club doesn’t need to be open – we want as many people playing and enjoying bowls as possible).

All the equipment is provided and there is no charge for members to bowl.

Any of the regular bowlers are happy to set you up and provide basic instruction. Start now so you’re ready for the Club’s single’s competition which is scheduled for the Labor Day long weekend in October. There are also spots up for grabs to represent Dangar in the Mullet Cup (vs Mooney Mooney) and the Shire Cup.

While we don’t currently have enough bowlers to field a pennants team in our own right, bowlers from our little club had a great year in 2014. We now provide 3-4 regular bowlers to Mooney Mooney’s pennants team and have achieved disproportionate success in the Mooney Mooney club competitions. Matt Johnson made it back to back Dangar wins by taking out Mooney Mooney’s 2014 minor Singles competition following Andy Payne’s win the previous year. Last year Andy made the finals of Mooney’s major Singles and major Pairs competitions but was runner up on both occasions.

Hope to see you on the green soon.

Art to Volunteers

Cybele Shorter, Captain,
Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

The current photography exhibition at the Dangar Café is dedicated to raise funds for our new emergency service colleagues, the Ambulance Community First Responders. A photo taken by our own Bill Lynn-Robinson was a fabulous shot of brigade members preparing the boat for a fire call. Jenny Ball, a generous houseguest of Judyth Doyle bought the framed print and gifted it on to us to hang in our brand new fire station. Thanks Jenny.

Photograph: Bill Lynn-Robinson



Stranded on an island

Leigh Johnson, Vice President & Director Bar & Kitchen

It was a bitter winter in 1955. The view from Bradley's beach out over the river was breathtaking. The tide had just turned; white caps filled the river in turmoil as the current fought the wind. The sun was just about to set over Brooklyn, lighting the cliffs of Wobby Beach, glowing magnificently as the last rays of the day hit the exposed sandstone.

Bill stood in awe, not yet noticing the cold chill creeping closer to the island from the shadow of the cliffs. Then the sun fell quickly, the lightshow on the sandstone ended, and darkness enveloped the beach. "I'll never tire of that view" Bill thought as the chill nipped him.

He pulled up his fisherman's collar, wrapped his arms around his chest, and headed back up the beach toward home. As he trudged through the cold sand he thought of his wife Francis, who had to leave suddenly this morning to be in Sydney to be with her brother, and the fact that he was going to have a weekend alone, eating sardines, stale bread and tea. Bill pondered as he walked, his stomach growling, the thought of Francis taking the boat, leaving no food in the cupboards, the thought of eating alone.

He hated eating alone, especially on a Friday night. Bill remembered last Friday night, breaking bread with his friends from Wobby, how much fun, laughter and good food they had consumed. If only there was a place to go to on the island, somewhere that had a bar, some good food and entertainment, Bill thought to himself. He continued on his way home, unsatisfied at the thought of sardines and tea when what he really yearned for was a nice hot bowl of homemade soup, some crusty bread, and a glass of red wine, better still if there were some people to share the experience with.

Fast forward to 2015. We still have the breathtaking view, but we now have the addition of the Dangar Island Bowling Club! Our club is here for you, to make your island life a more pleasurable experience and to enhance your lifestyle in one of the most beautiful and unique suburbs of Sydney. All members are encouraged to enjoy our bowling facilities free of charge (see 'On the green').

Recently we have introduced a Sunday Sessions, live music in the park on the third Sunday of the month. We encourage you all to come along, bring the kids, set up a blanket and enjoy some food, some drinks and the company of your neighbours whilst listening to top-notch talent.

Our events calendar highlights some of the main attractions over the next three months, and in addition to these we are now looking at a Trivia Night every few months. We would also like to open the club more often to community-oriented evenings — so please let us know what you want to use your local for!

We welcome your feedback on any and all aspects of the club and the restaurant — keep in mind that this is not the Ritz Carlton, but a small, volunteer led establishment, stranded on an island. With your continued support and patronage, we'll continue to further improve our facilities including the bowling green, and ensure the club remains the cornerstone of our community.

The Directors have great aspirations to make the DIBC more welcoming, more entertaining, more comfortable, have easier access and generally to just be the best that we can be! If you haven't been to the club in a while, we invite you to come back, experience it again and show your support.

I look forward to seeing you here soon and please feel free to contact us with your thoughts and suggestions: dibc@live.com

Bowling Club Events

April

April 3rd Good Friday Open Mic

– bring your instrument, friends and voice!

April 5th Easter Sunday

– Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday

for the kids, special menu for the adults, please book dibc@live.com

April 6th Easter Monday

– open for lunch. Please book dibc@live.com

April 19th Sunday Sessions

– in the Park: Peter Power combo.

May

May 1st is Open Mic

– bring your friends, family and talent!

Sunday 10th Mothers Day

– live music, special menu to make mum feel special, kids under 5 eat free - please book dibc@live.com

May 17th Sunday Sessions

– in the Park : Stoned Beagles

June

June 5th Queens Birthday themed Open Mic

– (long weekend). Anything to do with Queen or The Queen!

June 7th Sunday Sessions

– in the Park: Peter Power combo

June 8th Open Monday

– for long weekend lunch - please book dibc@live.com

Sunday June 21st

– Winter Solstice special menu, live music - please book dibc@live.com

July

25th July Christmas in July – This year we are also going all out for Christmas in July on the 25th. It will be a special ticket only. More details will be provided closer to the time.

TRIVIA - WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING A TRIVIA NIGHT SOON!

Mullet Mail Deadlines 2015

June/Winter Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 25th May

IN BOXES: Friday 12th June

September/Spring Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 31st August

IN BOXES: Friday 14th September

Christmas Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 23rd November

IN BOXES: Friday 11th December