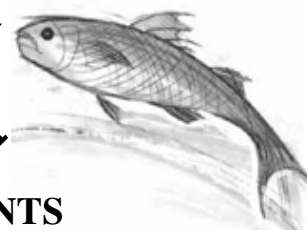




Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. # 56

www.dangarisland.net

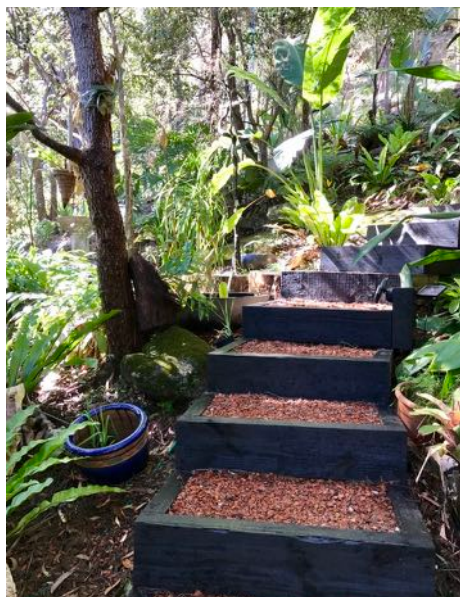
Spring 2017

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‘Give Me A Garden Among The Gumtrees...’

What does a hard-working principal, managing a complex and challenging learning environment, in a special needs school, do

in her precious free time?



If you are Diane Robinson and live on Dangar Island you create a garden oasis to lose yourself in.

Dangar Island is a haven for passionate gardeners who have created eclectic sanctuaries, both large and small, native and exotic. Diane’s garden is one such example and if you

happen to be meandering around Riverview Avenue you’ll undoubtedly be struck by the verdant tranquillity of her garden as you pass by. She views it as a ‘place of retreat’ from the demands of work and ‘like yoga or meditation’ her garden gives her time to think and reflect. In her words ‘a garden doesn’t talk back, it simply offers serenity, connection and beauty’.

With the help of her partner Matthew Johnstone, Diane has largely built her garden from scratch. Hard work and a clear creative vision have resulted in an established garden in a surprisingly short period of time.



Following a design plan prepared by Valentina Glusko, several months were initially spent clearing away Lantana, Jasmine, Asparagus and Fishbone fern. Matthew built the wooden steps that sweep curvaceously down from the road and form a central structural

spine shaping the garden. Either side of these steps, Diane has cultivated smaller and more intimate spaces defined by existing trees, selective new planting and through a variety of large water bowls containing water

lilies and irises. Where ever possible, exposed rock has been used as a sculptural focal point.



bromeliads form a striking backdrop to a fire pit. The overall effect is a garden that invites you in and enlivens the spirit.

Like most gardeners Diane regards mulch as a vital ingredient for the health of her garden, helping to control weeds, facilitate with moisture retention and cut down on maintenance. Currently, she is establishing a kitchen garden in planter boxes created by Matthew from wood offcuts

and is beginning to explore the other worldliness of succulents. In Diane's words a garden is something that is ‘always evolving, it is a physical, emotional and creative outlet, a thing of joy’.



A number of stunning Gyneria lilies and giant Strelitzia palms provide structure and height, while lush stands of bangalow and golden cane palms, ginger plants together with a variety of stag horns and tree ferns add a dappled and cool canopy under which birds nest ferns abound. Closer to the water’s edge, large Agaves and giant



‘If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need.’

Cicero

Marina Garvey

Dangar Island League Presidents Report

Dear Residents,

Welcome to Spring! Time to pack away the ugg boots and pull out the thongs.

The League has not been hibernating through winter, but rather focussed on moving a number of key island outcomes forward:

Wharf Upgrade

Work on the Dangar Island wharf upgrade is due to commence in October.

You should have already received the one page letter sent by Council to residents outlining their proposed start date, and arrangements for vessel access during construction. You can view any updated information from Council at <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/major-projects/dangar-island-wharf-upgrade?a=89538> We will continue to urge Council to keep residents in the picture.

Water Tank Removal

Hopefully you also received the letter we asked Sydney Water to distribute to residents about their plans to remove the water tank at the top of the island. Overall, we have very good relations with Sydney water on this, and they've been very responsive to our concerns about rehabilitation of the site, disruption during the process, and any fire hazard their activities may pose. Work will kick off any

day now, and the Sydney Water project team will be on site often during the work. Sydney Water have asked us to encourage residents to contact them at propertyprojects@sydneywater.com.au or by calling on 8849 5932 if you would like further information.

Recent Brooklyn Thefts

In response to reports from residents, the League approach Hornsby Police about security in Brooklyn. A police liaison person has been assigned to the League, so if you have any security concerns please email the details to president@dangarislandleague.net

Garbage Services

We continue to lobby Council to address garbage service concerns of residents. We understand that the consultant has reported back to Council, and now we await their action in response to the recommendations.

Peat Island

The Peat Island proposal was granted Gateway Determination by the Department of Planning in August, and the application is available on the Department website. The Property NSW website advises that formal public exhibition will open shortly, and over the coming months, stakeholder consultation will be undertaken. You can access the latest information at

www.property.nsw.gov.au/peat-island-0

League Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is being held on Saturday 23rd of September at 2pm.

If you are interested in contributing to our wonderful community, I encourage you to nominate for a position on the League Committee.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the League website and must be returned to the Secretary (Ross Spence at secretary@dangarislandleague.net, or in the League's box), by 5pm on Friday 15 September.

For those who can attend, I look forward to providing an update on our activities at the AGM.

Have a wonderful springtime!

Sophia Walsh,
President, Dangar Island League



Welcome to Dangar Island

To all our new residents, permanents AND weekenders,


Welcome to our River community where we try to work together to retain the spirit that we currently enjoy. A great way to meet fellow Islanders is to become involved in one or more of the many activities offered on the Island.

Most Islanders acknowledge one another as they pass, children included. A smile, hello, a good morning or afternoon goes a long way.

You don't have to be a bowler to join the **DANGAR ISLAND Bowling club**, the Island meeting place. It's a great spot for a meal and a drink.

- **Thursday night is Pizza night**, 6 till 9 pm, children welcome.
- **Every month on the third Thursday** we have "what's your story night" - story telling, poetry

reading and lots of other interesting subjects.

- **EVERY Friday night** 6 pm enjoy the dinner menu.
- **First Friday of each month** is Open Mic night, be entertained by some of the very talented people that live on the River. (YOU NEVER KNOW NEXT MONTH MIGHT BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR TALENT)
- **Lunch is available Saturday and Sunday** from 12.00.
- **Saturday dinner** from 6 pm.
- The licensing laws allow you to visit twice in a year because you live within 5 km of the club, much easier to join its only \$20 pa. enquire at the bar 
- Dangar Island Bowling Club 9985 7083.

(cont. p.3)

The Dangar Island League is a resident group that maintains liaison with Council and other entities as required to keep our Island running as smoothly as possible. If you wish to know more, visit the website www.dangarislandleague.net or email the president@dangarislandleague.net (Sophia Walsh) or secretary@dangarislandleague.net (Ross Spence). The committee meet monthly and in addition to publishing the Mullet Mail the League also hold three Public Meetings a year. Why not ATTEND THE UP AND COMING AGM ON SAT 23RD SEPTEMBER 2PM IN THE HALL.

The Dangar Island Historical Society is a small group that keeps the historical aspects of the island recorded for posterity. The Secretary is Brenda Hall and you can reach her on 0411 447555 or check the historical society link on the website. www.dangarislandhistoricalsociety.org.

Our wonderful group of First Responders are providing excellent service to the sick and injured. If you need them for a medical emergency, dial 000. Should you wish to become involved, call Christine Sanderson for details.

If you have a driving licence and have a spare few hours we are always looking for volunteers to drive the **Island Buggy**. It's also a great way to meet other Islanders. If you can help, our coordinator is Judy Nikola and you can call her on 04154 88606.

If you need to use the buggy, it operates 7 DAYS A WEEK Monday to Friday 8.30 am till 7.30 pm, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 9-5. If you have a handy number to keep in your phone 0438 923363.

We have a **Bush Regeneration Group** that works hard to retain the bush as free as possible. Cybele Shorter can be contacted on 0405 30066.

Our Dangar Island Rural Fire Service is a dedicated band of Islanders who are there to protect us if the need arises. They train regularly to maintain their skills. Contact Captain Cybelle Shorter on 045410166.

We are very fire aware on the Island, please check with Bill Lynn-Robinson our fire permit officer 0488049511, to ensure it is ok for you to light a fire in the open and that you are equipped to control the fire.

The Community Hall is available for hire, birthday celebrations etc. To arrange, just call Vanessa Payne 04143 17260. Vanessa also organises a playground for pre schoolers on a weekly basis at the hall or in the Park.

For the athletically inclined the **Dangar Dash** is held on the first Sunday of the month at the Fire Station at 8.30 am. It starts around the flat, then twice around Riverview and finishes at the wharf.

Our groups still use Telegraph poles to spread the word or notice of meetings. It's far more personal than email, but we do use that too.

The island cafe (depot) is a great source of opportunities for our teenagers to gain some work experience. If you have a son or daughter looking for casual work talk to Beth or Natasha owners of the shop.

For the older folk the Bowling Club often needs staff for the bar OR kitchen. This can be a great experience and not far from home.

If you have a bird or animal that needs help Manfred Merle is our local WIRES contact.

To move heavy items, you can **hire the ute** through Lars Dahl on 0402 280377.

If you need to ring the ferry call 0448101016.

Water Taxi is 0438 00100.

Council cleanup for all the large rubbish items like goods, furniture etc happens March and September. The notice arrives about 3 weeks prior. ANY E-WASTE OR CHEMICAL WASTE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO DISPOSE OF AT THE COUNCIL DEPOTS - not to be left at the Wharf.

Again, welcome to all the newbies, enjoy your new Island home and become part of it.

ROSS (PAV) HIGGINS



CHANGES TO HIRING THE HALL

From now on all Hall enquiries and bookings are to be directed to the Venue Management Team at Hornsby Shire Council. Vanessa will manage the keys until further notice.

The Venue Management Team can be contacted on 02 9847 6050 or vmt@hornsby.nsw.gov.au for enquiries and bookings.

General information such as fees and charges and conditions of hire can be found at <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/community/local-facilities/community-centres>

The process will be;

1. Call or email for availability and to make your booking,
2. Hire agreement and conditions of hire, and invoice where applicable, will be emailed or posted to you,
3. Payment of invoice to Hornsby Shire Council via one of the methods outlined on the invoice (no cash can be accepted by the Dangar Island Hall Committee),
4. Arrange to pick keys up to access the hall with Vanessa Payne 0414 317 260.



Dangar Island Bowling Club Update

Following our recent AGM your new Club Board comprises Leigh Johnson (President), Brenton Yates (Deputy), Michael Hutak (Treasurer), Andy Payne (Secretary), Angela Brinn (Bar & Kitchen), Steve Griffiths (Events & Entertainment) and Alec Pratt (Memberships). In a new first for the Club, Leigh becomes the first Tasmanian to hold the office of President.

At the AGM, the members in attendance unanimously endorsed the Life Membership nominations for Corrynth White and Jenny Rowe. Congratulations and thank you for all that you've done for our club over many years.

Your new board has a number of challenges to address and we will be holding a number of fundraisers to help keep the ship afloat and pay for the seemingly never ending repairs and maintenance bills.

While your support of these fundraisers is important and appreciated the Club is only viable if we create an environment and events that make islanders and visitors want to attend the Club on a regular basis.

Steve has already been busy putting together the following calendar of events which we are really excited about.

For Spring, we are reintroducing a regular series of Sunday sessions called 'Island Live'. Featuring great acts from Sydney and sometimes further afield, these sessions will generally happen on the third Sunday of the month, kicking off around 1pm.

Sunday September 17th we have *The Blues Preachers* coming to perform for us from 1pm as the first 'Island Live' session. This amazing duo will make you want to get up and dance with their joyful country and ragtime blues, send a shiver down your spine with their atmospheric feels, and perform a fusion of good old blues, rags, gospel and hillbilly folk - both traditional and their own compositions. Having performed at Bluesfest, Woodford, Blue Mountains and countless other festivals around the nation, these guys are among the best in the land and a must see for fans of quality music.

For Sunday October 22nd Island Live we will be visited by the almost legendary Sydney rock band *Crème Brûlée*. This band features Pete Kelly formerly of The Gadflys - older readers may remember them as the house band for ABC TV's Good News Week. The band play a great selection of rock classics with a huge dose of humour added.

November Island Live falls on **Sunday 19th November** and features *Dusty Ravens*. This six piece band from the Inner West create an evocative horn laden sound heavily influenced by the sounds of the Mexican/American border regions. Dusty Ravens are influenced by storytelling in songs, including folkloric traditions that are particularly prevalent in Mexico - love, tragedy, redemption, adversity, revolutionaries and outlaws all make an appearance in songs.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Club and if you have any suggestions or are able to offer any assistance to the Club please feel

free to speak to one of the Board members.

DIBC Board



DIFS PRESENTS

SPRING 2017

01 Admirable
OCT Crichton (PG)

04 The
NOV Passenger (PG)

VOTE NOW
FOR XMAS MOVIES

<https://tinyurl.com/ybrcnck6>
or
www.difs.net

Parcel Delivery

Linda and Gil in River Dreams, located in the Brooklyn marina, have been kind enough to accept couriered parcels on our behalf. Please let them know if you are expecting a parcel and then follow up promptly so they do not have to chase you. The telephone number for River Dreams is: 0432848498.

Jenny Rowe

Dangar Island Bush Regeneration

Cybele Shorter

BUSH REGENERATION INFORMATION SHEET

Control of Weeds with Underground Reproductive Structures

- Examples: Weeds with
- Tap roots - catsear, dandelion
 - Rhizomes - asparagus fern, ginger plant
 - Bulbs and corms - oxalis, onion weed, watsonia, freesias, montbretia
 - Tubers - madiara vine, arrow head vine

METHODS OF REMOVAL

① HAND REMOVAL OF PLANTS WITH A TAPROOT

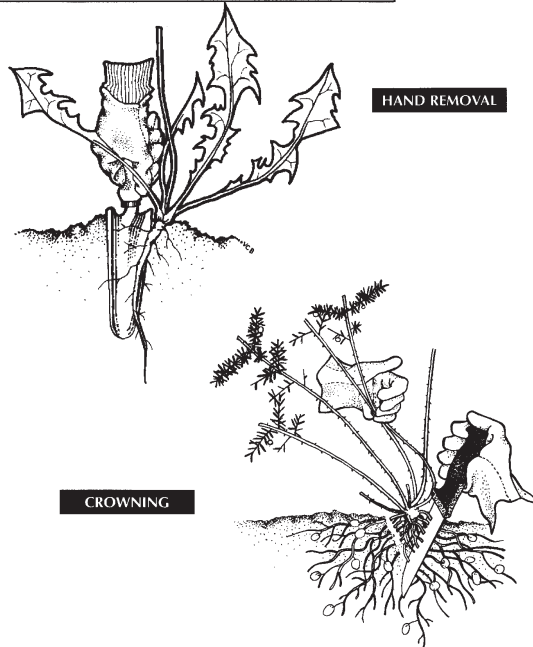
Examples: Paddy's lucerne, dandelion

- STEP 1** Gently remove and bag seeds or fruit.
- STEP 2** Push a narrow trowel or knife into the ground next to the taproot. Carefully loosen soil. Repeat this step around the taproot.
- STEP 3** Grasp stem at ground level, rock plant back wards and forwards and pull gently.
- STEP 4** Gently tap the roots to dislodge soil. Replace disturbed soil and lightly pat down.

② CROWNING (Many grasses can be crowned)

Example: asparagus fern

- STEP 1** Gently remove and bag stems with seed or fruit.
- STEP 2** Grasp the leaves or stems together so that the base of the plant is visible.
- STEP 3** Insert, at an angle, a knife or lever, close to the "crown".
- STEP 4** Cut through all the roots around the crown.
- STEP 5** Remove and bag the crown.



METHODS OF REMOVAL

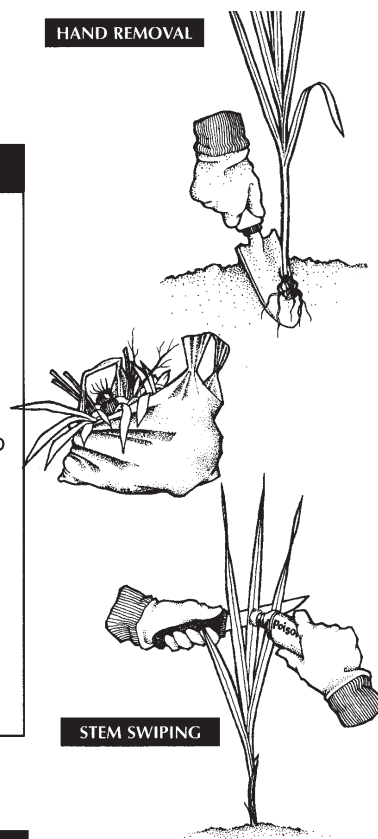
③ REMOVAL OF PLANTS WITH BULBS, CORMS OR TUBERS

Examples: onion weed, watsonia, arrowhead vine, montbretia

- STEP 1** Move leaf litter away from base of plant.
- STEP 2** Dig down next to the stem until the bulb or tuber is reached.
- STEP 3** Remove plant and carefully bag the bulb or tuber.

④ HERBICIDE TREATMENT - STEM SWIPING

- STEP 1** Gently remove any seed or fruit and carefully place into a bag.
- STEP 2** Using a herbicide applicator, swipe the stems/leaves.



considerations

- Further digging may be required for plants with more than one tuber (e.g. arrow head vine).
- Some bulbs (e.g. oxalis, onion weed) may have small bulbils attached or present in the soil around it. These need to be removed.
- It may be quicker and more effective to dig out the weed.
- Make sure native plants and seedlings will not be affected.
- Learn and understand how the herbicide works - for bulb and corm species the most effective time is after flowering and before fruit is set.
- Have you addressed all safety issues ?

Dangar Island Rural fire Brigade

Want to burn off during the bush fire danger period?

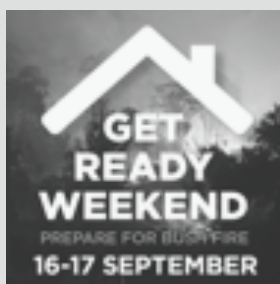
You need to know the following:



- * The Bush Fire Danger Period runs from 1 October to 31 March.
- * A Fire Permit is required for ALL burning activities during this Period.
- * The only exception is recreational (cooking) fires.
- * A cooking fire is less than 1m in diameter, in a cleared area or purpose built BBQ and must be supervised at all times.
- * Pile burns should be under 1m tall, and require a permit.
- * Bonfires are not permitted!!!
- * Burning below the high tide mark is not permitted!!

If you have a permit you still need to remember the following:

- * Check expected weather conditions before lighting up.
- * Make sure the fire is well contained and can be controlled.
- * Have your hoses in place and ready to go, in case the fire gets too big.
- * Do not burn toxic materials eg rubber, plastic, paint.
- * No burning is allowed on a **TOTAL FIRE BAN** day



YES!!!! SUMMER IS ON ITS WAY - AND SO IS BUSHFIRE SEASON

SO NOW IS THE TIME TO GET READY, AND WE WILL HELP YOU!!!!

If you are asking yourself:

"How do I get ready for bushfire season?",

"What do I need to do to keep myself and my family safe?",

"How can I prepare my home in case of bushfire in the area?"

Then come along to the Get Ready Information morning Where members of the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade will talk you through the 4 simple steps for preparing your 'Bush Fire Survival Plan'.

We will also give you a helpful kit to take home and discuss with other household members.

**GET READY INFORMATION MORNING
SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017 9AM TO 1PM
OUTSIDE THE DANGAR ISLAND SHOP**
And remember in case of a fire sighting or fire dial
TRIPLE ZERO (000)

PREPARE YOUR HOME AND BE READY FOR THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD

A well prepared property is more likely to survive a bush fire, even if you are not there.

THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER:

There are some simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire. You need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

1. **TRIM** overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.
2. **MOW** grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.
3. **REMOVE** material that can burn around your home (e.g. Door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture).
4. **CLEAR** and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home. Burning embers can set your home on fire.
5. **PREPARE** a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Make sure you've got a reliable source of water.





Orchid Notes.....I know the warmer seasons are on their way when I see the orchids pushing up their flower stalks ready for the warmer months.

Walking around the Island I see orchard faces and tongues peeking out from the forks of Blackbutts above our heads, rocks, fallen logs and straight up from the mulch littered ground. Dangar Island has many nooks and crannies where you

can see native (dendrobiums) growing if you look.

Then there are the fantastic displays of all kinds of orchards in the gardens of your neighbours. If you're lucky sometimes you get invited to look at someone's prized plant.



A few of us old Dangar Island "girls" up at the St Ives Show Grow the annual "orchid show". There are always fantastic displays and range of different species to see.



At the moment, I have purple, yellow and pale pink orchards in flower dotted around the garden. The larger cambodians are now in full bloom as well.

I am always happy to exchange

"cuttings" when flowering is finished.

We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place.

Pauline Foote

Dangar Island gets a cameo role in a newly published novel.....

Dangar ... was the perfect solution, a bushy haven with a sub-tropical microclimate, marvellous vegetation, an abundance of birds, river beaches, endless photo opportunities and no cars. Liz had fallen in love with the tiny island. It was, she had said, the one place she could 'bear to live' if she had to move to Sydney. Since then, whenever they came back to visit his parents, George's family stayed on Dangar, and Liz had been much more willing to make the trip.

That's how Dangar is introduced, and there are a few other fond glimpses of the island, the river and Brooklyn. But don't worry; I've not parted with any secrets. Not even any allusions to the many colourful characters that populate our geographic dot. I might one day, but this is not *that* story. The Hawkesbury is but one of a number of waterscapes that decorate the novel; the bulk of the action takes place on the island of Milos in Greece. I don't think we'll suffer a tourist

explosion here ... but if you want to check out the story I've written you can find it on Amazon, and wherever else good digitally published books are sold. You can even order a Print on Demand copy if you like to dog-ear the pages of a real book.

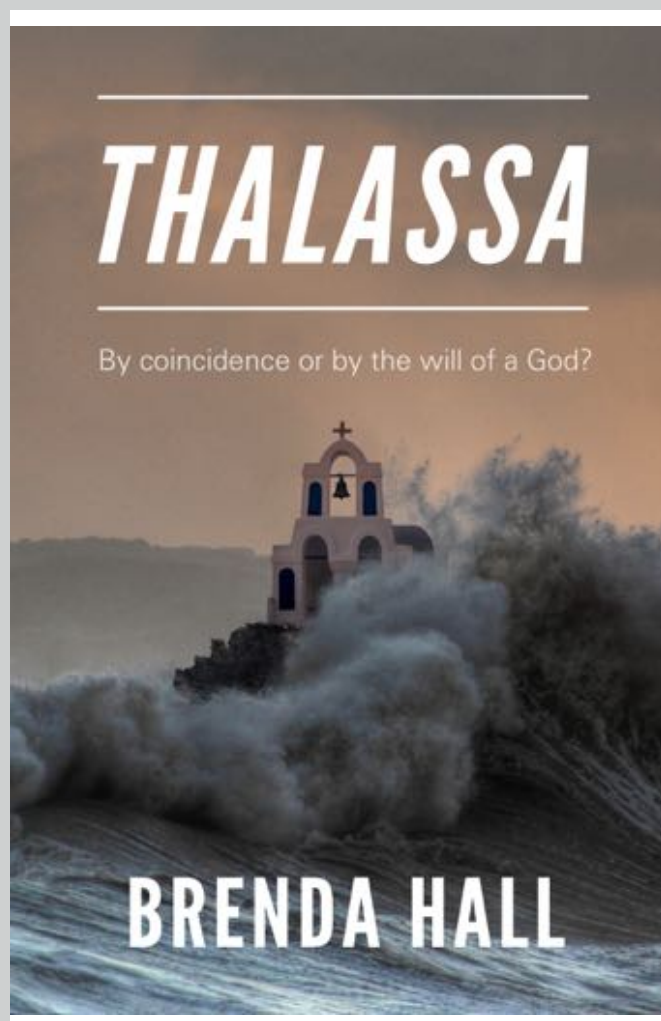
You can also cut out the middle-machine and get a printed book directly from me.

Find me on the Web:<http://brenda-hall.com> or on Facebook: **@brendahallwriter**

If the thought of the digital multiverse makes you reach for antihistamine, you could even talk to me in person. You'll enjoy the detective work if you don't already know where I am.

Oh ... the novel is called **THALASSA**.

Thalassa, in Greek mythology, is the primeval spirit of the sea, and she's just a bit angry with George's family.



Brenda Hall

THE HAWKESBURY RIVER: A SOCIAL AND NATURAL HISTORY

The following is the Foreword written by Dangar Island resident, Harry Recher, for Paul Boon's book 'The Hawkesbury River: A Social and Natural History' published this year by CSIRO publishing. It is available from CSIRO both as a hardback and as an ebook. Harry has a copy, if anyone would like to look at it.

Although I had often passed over the Hawkesbury River, I never really saw the river. Between 1967 and 1969 when I travelled from Sydney to study honeyeaters at Pearl Beach, on the Central Coast, the river was hidden from me. It did not matter how many times I crossed the Hawkesbury or looked out over Broken Bay from the Warrah Lookout in the Brisbane Water National Park, I did not see the river until October 1969 when my wife, Judy, and I visited Dangar Island on the Hawkesbury with idea of buying a house. It was then that I saw the river in all its grandeur and began to appreciate what Governor Phillip must have felt as he sailed into Broken Bay and up the Hawkesbury to the Colo River and Richmond Hill in 1789.

From the time we arrived in Australia in 1967 we'd rented a flat on Drummoyne Bay on Sydney Harbour. In those three years we'd become used to living on the water's edge, enjoying fishing and boating, while eating dinner looking out at the Harbour Bridge and seemingly endless sail boat races with their brightly coloured spinnakers weaving among the harbour's trawlers, ferries, tugs, and barges. After two years of an Australian waterfront lifestyle, we had decided to remain in Australia and began looking for a home to buy. Months of searching were fruitless. Anything we liked was too expensive; a home on the harbour was out of the question. Finally we decided to look on the Central Coast where houses were less expensive. Pearl Beach was to be our starting point, but that Monday we saw an ad in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for a house on Dangar Island. It was affordable and living on an island sounded like an adventure, so arranging to inspect the house, we drove to Brooklyn and took the ferry to Dangar. It was a classic Sydney October day with patchy cloud, bright sunshine, and clear blue skies –

the kind of day dreams are made of. Dangar Island confronted us with grass roads, birds, no cars, and quiet. Getting directions from the local shop, we set out across the island. I can still see the brilliantly coloured Rainbow Lorikeets feeding on Coast Banksia nectar along Neotsfield Avenue as we walked.

Neotsfield intersects with Grantham Crescent and we turned on to Grantham to find the house being sold. We were greeted at the kitchen door and led into the living room. One look from the living room windows over a sandy beach to a dazzling bright river reaching 5 kms eastward to Challenger Head in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park meant our house hunting was over. We moved to Dangar in November 1969; one of the best moves we ever made. Our girls grew up in a community where cars did not exist, with a beach designed for children, and where oysters were abundant.

Judy and I have a deep affection for the natural world and it was this that made Dangar and the Hawkesbury special to us. An abundance of birds, green hills, sandstone cliffs against which we could watch the sun set, clean water and air, and a suburb where the roads were grass formed our first impressions of the Hawkesbury. As an ecologist who had experienced the environmental destruction of California and Florida while growing up in America, I knew that keeping the things we valued about Dangar Island and the Hawkesbury River would not be easy. Judy and I thought we would have five years before the growing City of Sydney would drown us in people, cars, and pollution. In the end those five years have come and gone nine times, and Dangar Island remains home.

The Hawkesbury is a magnificent landscape. The river's weathered shores and cliffs that are the works of an artist. As much as for the grandeur of the river and the surrounding landscape as for the water it provides the City of Sydney, much of the Hawkesbury's catchment is protected within national parks. The Greater Blue Mountains and the convict built Old Northern Road have World Heritage status, while Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves have National Heritage status. Despite this, the future of the Hawkesbury's naturalness is not secure.

Soon after we moved to Dangar residents

brought cars to the island and Hornsby Council began to sell the bush reserve on the island's summit. To counter these actions and to stop the State Government from selling the land around the old steam train reservoir above Brooklyn, land that rightly belonged in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, The Hawkesbury River Association formed with the aim of uniting non-government conservation groups throughout the catchment to work together to protect the Hawkesbury's natural values. For more than a decade the Association worked closely with the National Trust (NSW) and other conservation groups to protect the river and its estuary. The challenges were endless, as regardless of how much we valued the river's natural values others saw the Hawkesbury as a resource to be used and developed for private gain. A proposal for a fish processing factory at Brooklyn, a convention centre on Juno Head overlooking Broken Bay, marina development on Careel Bay in Pittwater, the reclamation of mangroves in the Gut at Brooklyn, and canal estate development on Riley's Island in Brisbane Water were a few of the challenges faced and defeated. There is no factory in Brooklyn, no cars on Dangar or a convention centre on Juno, but each year brings new threats to the river.

A tree can be saved from the woodsman's axe 99 times, but fail once and the tree is felled. For those who value the world of nature, it seems that no sooner is one threat blocked than two others appear. As 2015 draws to an end, the State proposes the development of the land around the old hospital at Peat Island on the lower Hawkesbury. For those who value the river as a natural waterway the idea of the Peat Island land housing five storey apartment complexes and a 250 berth marina, currently the largest commercial foreshore development ever proposed on the river's estuary, is difficult to comprehend. Not only would this single development irrevocably change the character and grandeur of the lower river, but it would set a precedent for the sale and development of other state lands on the river, as well as the way existing residential areas could be developed. It would steal from the people of Sydney their only remaining opportunity for a riverfront State Park that everyone could enjoy; a park where they would have access to the special beauty and naturalness of the Hawkesbury River. It would mean that Sydney had finally caught up with Judy and I.

Since we moved to the Hawkesbury in 1969, the river has changed. Many of the changes are for the better. The river is cleaner, with less silt discharged downstream and there is better treatment of waste and stormwater flowing into the Hawkesbury. As a result, seagrass beds are recovering. Mangroves have colonized foreshores from where they had been cleared. Seagrass and mangroves mean a healthier river and estuary with more fish and other marine life. Fishing is good and the Hawkesbury's waters are generally safe for swimming and boating. Sea eagles and other water birds breed prolifically along the river and land birds remain abundant. Hornsby, Gosford, and Hawkesbury City Councils have active and effective estuarine and foreshore conservation programs that enhance and protect the Hawkesbury's natural values; programs that did not exist in 1969.

Much has been done but more needs doing; not all changes to the river have been positive. Migratory waders, birds that winter in Australia and breed north of the equator, and nomadic honeyeaters, the birds I studied at Pearl Beach, have declined in numbers, but their decline is due more to events outside the river's catchment than changes locally. The river has lost the giant Leatherback Turtles I used to enjoy sharing a tide with on Broken Bay during the 1970s, but whether their loss is due to death by boat or from eating the seemingly endless plastic debris that has become commonplace in world's oceans, with the Hawkesbury River and Broken Bay being no exception, I do not know. By contrast the number of Green Turtles has increased and they are a common sight during summer along the river's shores.

Although the Hawkesbury's waters are cleaner, the river's air has deteriorated in line with poorer air quality in the Sydney Basin. The clear night skies of 1969 are gone, replaced by urban smog. The polluted air affects the health of trees along the river just as trees and people suffer from toxic air in cities across the world. The river is now crowded as boats proliferate in numbers and grow in size. Crowding and loss of personal space is just one of prices paid for increasing numbers of people and greater affluence. Despite the losses, the Hawkesbury remains a magical place to live. The question is 'how long will this continue?'

All ecosystems change over time, but the world in which the Hawkesbury River finds

itself in 2015 is vastly different from the world in 1789 when Governor Phillip explored the river. Since 1967 when I arrived in Sydney from the United States, Sydney's population increased from 1.3 million people to more than 4.7 million in 2015, with expected numbers exceeding 8 million by 2060. When I was born in 1938, the world's population was just over 2 billion. Today it exceeds 7 billion and is projected to exceed 11 billion by 2100. The sheer numbers of people and their use of the world's resources mean that people, not natural events, drive changes in global ecosystems. Human-induced climate change or 'global heating' as I prefer to call it, sea level rise, acidification of the world's waters, and depletion of its soils, water, fisheries and forests, along with the loss of biodiversity ('biowealth') are caused by people and their consumption of world resources.

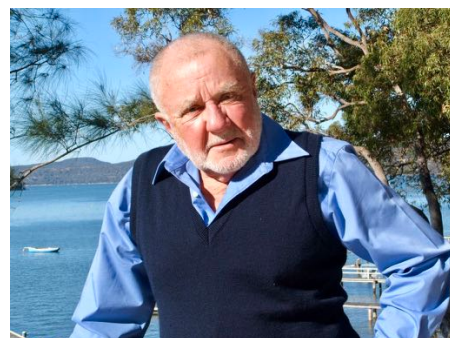
Australia is in an era where governments are pre-occupied with growing the economy and creating jobs. There is no discussion about limits to growth despite the Earth and its air, water, and land being finite and fragile resources on which all life depends for survival. Since the Global Economic Crisis of 2008 provided the excuse, protection of the environment has become of little concern to Australian politicians. What does this mean for the Hawkesbury River?

In writing his book on the Hawkesbury River, Paul Boon set out 'to show how wonderful and valuable the Hawkesbury River is, and why it needs and deserves our utmost protection'. He asked why the river needed to be protected. Paul and I value the Hawkesbury not only for its naturalness, but for what it gives the people of Sydney and Australia. The catchment gives Sydney the water it needs for drinking, cooking, gardens, and industry. It provides for recreation and tourism, as well as being home for countless plants and animals with which we share Australia. The catchment yields land for homes and farms, and provides fish, timber, and minerals. These are sound reasons for protecting the river and ensuring its health, but each year sees these values degraded.

Each generation accepts the world as they find and few miss the past. As an ecologist, these 'shifting baselines' are not only frustrating but prevent long-term, scientifically based management of the environment on which we all depend. Few of

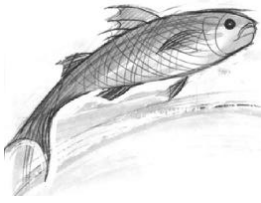
the people I live with on Dangar Island see the changes in the Hawkesbury or understand why the river is different from the way it was 50 or 200 years ago. To most people the world is green, birds are abundant, and it does not matter if the greenery and birds are different from those that were here in the past. Perhaps it does not matter that only I know the honeyeaters are gone. It may be that there are too many times when I weep for what Australia and the Hawkesbury has lost in just the time I have been here. As Aldo Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac* (1959); *One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist [lives] in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.*

The Hawkesbury River Association is long gone, as are THREPS (The Hawkesbury River Environment Protection Society based at Spencer) and SHURE (Save Hawkesbury's Unique River Environment based on Dangar Island). Community groups dedicated to the preservation of the Hawkesbury are needed if the river is to continue to provide what the people of Sydney will desperately require as the city grows – a clean river in which to fish, swim, and boat; a landscape that provides the opportunity to return to a world of nature and find comfort in a fresh breeze blowing off the water. Paul's words provide the knowledge and understanding necessary to protect the Hawkesbury for generations to come. What the river needs is a new generation of environmental warriors.



Harry F. Recher FRZS, AM, Senior Fellow, Australian Museum Research Institute, Australian Museum, Sydney,

AN INTRODUCTION TO and THANK YOU from the LHRRA



We write to thank the *Mullet Mail* for their courtesy in inviting us to contribute to your publication. Many of us on the other side of the river have enjoyed reading 'black marketed' copies of your high quality paper in past years. While not all of it was relevant to us directly, we related to the spirit of its content as we obviously share a very similar life style.

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce your readers to us of the LHRRA (Lower Hawkesbury River Residents Association Inc). We are members of an association formed in December of last year who own property or live regularly at Little Wobby, Cogra Bay or Mullet Creek.

The initial impetus for the formation of the Association was to create a vehicle through which to take action to present our interests, within the context of Hornsby Shire Council's development of their 'Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan', particularly our dependency on Brooklyn as a transport hub.

I think it fair to say we are well on the way to achieving that objective. We don't know what the current planning recommendations are, however we believe the Councilors, Council staff and Consultants are now fully aware of the importance of Brooklyn to us as a transport hub as well as our importance to Brooklyn in an economic and community sense.

In addition to the initial objective, by forming the LHRRA we have created the final link in the chain of River Communities. Now, in conjunction with the other 5 Associations (Dangar Island League; Brooklyn Community Assoc; Mooney-Cheero Progress Assoc; Milson Passage Progress Assoc; and Bar Point Community Assoc) all residents in the Lower Hawkesbury River area have the opportunity to have their voices heard and opinions considered on matters that affect us all, irrespective of Council boundaries. What some of your reader may not know is that to facilitate the communication between the various Associations, representatives from each generally meet monthly on a very casual basis at the Angler's Rest. This gives us an avenue for the expression of common interests and concerns and has the potential to achieve some very constructive outcomes. For example, just as we, on the Central Coast side of the river, appreciate having the opportunity to voice our opinions on the Brooklyn Master Plan, the 3 Associations on the Hornsby side of the river, likewise appreciate being heard with respect to Peat Island redevelopment. We believe all are now benefiting from this closer Community network.

At our recent AGM we set the following Goals for the next Financial Year:

1. To continue the engagement with other Lower Hawkesbury River Associations with the aim of developing and maintaining a stronger and united river community.
2. To continue to lobby Hornsby Shire Council for the creation of more car parking facility, particularly at the east end of Brooklyn.
3. To continue to lobby Hornsby Shire Council for the creation

of more commuter boat mooring facility at the east end of Brooklyn.

4. To make a submission for Government funding and approval for the construction of a North Wharf at Wobby.
5. To continue to support activities that promote the most efficient Emergency Response for water access only properties from Police, Ambulance, Marine Rescue and Fire Brigade.
6. To continue to be a conduit for communication of Community activities on the River.
7. To continue to represent our interests in any development proposals for Peat Island and the adjacent land.
8. To ensure our environment is maintained in a high quality and sustainable manner.

By your generosity in broadening your readership to the wider river community you've helped us achieve our first goal. We are now confident that working together we can ensure this fantastic environment and the associated lifestyle it allows, is maintained and enhanced.

Tim Irwin
President

Lower Hawkesbury River Residents Assoc. Inc.



An Afternoon with Tony Bird

One sunny afternoon in August a couple of scallywags, docked on a neighbour's wharf and invited themselves in (obligatory liquid welcome gifts safely nestled under each arm of course). This is what they discovered...



Tony Bird is one of four children – the only boy in his clan with older twin sisters, and a young sister too. Tony is a kind and lovable soul. In the prime of his life (having recently celebrated his 80th birthday!), Tony keeps fit by walking approximately 3km each day to greet the Riverboat Postman and sort all the Bar Point mail into our respective mailboxes. For this – fellow Bar Pointians are exceptionally grateful! Fitter than most of us, he does concede that getting up on the roof to clean the gutters is

getting harder as time goes on. Tony never married, and jokes that he 'never found the right girl, or the richest one'. Tony enjoys a happy life, accompanied by his steadfast and trusty sidekick - Susie his 16-year-old pup. She has been by his side since she was 8 weeks old and Bar Point wouldn't be the same without this all too familiar pair.

Tony lives in one of the oldest houses on Bar Point. Rumoured as circa 1904, the original owners are thought to be buried on Bar Island. Tony's father & his uncle Frank later owned the house. Tony loved coming to visit the little house on the river as a child. Some years after his uncle Frank (WW1 veteran) passed away, Tony bought the property from his father. The year was 1972 and the house had no electricity. Small goods were kept cool in the original kerosene fridge – which still sits proudly on display! Thanks to an electrician mate, Tony had power connected to the property pretty swiftly. Back then, he had no immediate neighbours, the Abney & the Hamilton families were the closest - a few hundred metres away on either side. Nowadays, there are numerous houses between their properties.

Living in Arncliffe and working in Carlton as a butcher (where he worked for 30 years), the river house was Tony's weekend getaway. When he left the butcher shop, Tony spent a few years caring for his elderly mother before making Bar Point his permanent home around 2008 / 2009. One of the biggest changes he's seen at Bar Point over the years is in the marine life. The thousands of jellies currently bobbing up and down our mighty river blow him away. He doesn't recall seeing any dolphins this far up as a child, or when he first moved to the river full time. It's only been in the last five years or so, that he's noticed them making regular visits to Bar Point. As an added bonus – he's never seen a shark in all his years here... maybe it's safe to swim in the muddy after all!?!?

Tony's favourite thing about Bar Point is the community; his lovely neighbours, the fact that there's no one he doesn't like, and that everyone gets on well. Community BBQs and monthly Sunday Roast

nights at the neighbour's are part of what makes Bar Point such a magical place to live. Although he did mention with a giggle that he'd heard whispers of 'a few dickheads and potential thieves' rumoured to be living amongst us. All in good jest of course!


Tony's least favourite thing about Bar Point is 'lousy weather when you have to go out shopping' in the boat. Tony told us that the recent and particularly blustery Wednesday (blimey August Winds!!) was the worst he can remember – it was so rough, he was convinced that his 1978 Quintrex was going to 'flip over' at any second. On that day, the trip from Milsons Passage to home, which would normally take 5 mins – took him 25 mins! Once safely at home, Tony enjoyed a cold beer to recover from the ordeal. Reliant on tank water, Tony cautioned that one must 'keep that for cooking and bathing – you can't waste it by drinking it', before adding: 'why is it that people on the river all like a drink?' As the sun went down, so did the temperature, and it was time for us to get a wriggle on. Tony encouraged us to 'have a couple of rums when you get home to warm up' and we happily obliged.

Tony doesn't have a computer or a mobile phone, but if you'd like to get in touch, he welcomes you to reach out to him at anytime - via 'carrier pigeon'.

Article written by:

Caelia Collins, Bar Point Community Association – President.

Buggy News

By now most people know the new buggy phone - 0438925363. The amazing efforts of our volunteer drivers keep the buggy going rain, hail  or snow!!!!

If you want to become a driver, contact Judy Nikola - 0415488606

Judy Nikola, secretary DIVMC



Yvonne Liehti 25/7/34 – 2/5/17



It was on July 25th 1934 that Frank and Mabel Liehti welcomed little Yvonne into the world. She was born and grew up in Hampton, not far from Hampton Court Palace. She had two good friends Marion and Nora. All three attended Rectory senior school in Hampton Hill. When they finished school Yvonne and another friend Sheila Friston decided to set off to see the world, spending time in Germany and France. In those days an almost unheard of event.

Her dad worked in refrigeration. Apparently she was a bit of a rebel growing up and her family remembers that Brighton Beach was her favourite holiday destination. She had a sister called Beryl.

Yvonne lived in Canada for several years before moving to France, working as an au-pair and mastering the French ways, cooking, the language and even driving a Citroen 2CV. It was while living there in 1973 that she wrote a letter that was to change her life. She wrote to a friend in Montreal and asked them to send a selection of interesting books to read. One of the books was "Ice Bird" by David Lewis, a copy of which you will find on the table as well as a book on the Oceanic Research Foundation, which he founded. Dr. David Lewis was the first person to sail solo to Antarctica. She was so fascinated with the story that she wrote the author a letter which was the beginning of a correspondence that lead to them meeting each other in New York. They got on very well and ended up living together in Hawaii, Indonesia and Australia. She came to Australia in November 1975 to sail with David and while they were sailing for repairs at Barringtons on the yacht "Solo" they apparently passed Dangar Island and decided it would be an ideal place to live. In 1977 they married on the Island. Yvonne became an Australian citizen in November 1980 and travelled back and forth from Australia to Europe to visit friends and family fairly regularly.

The community spirit on Dangar Island is unique and not often found these days -Yvonne loved the Island life and was very close to so many of her wonderful neighbours. It was a place that she never wanted to leave.

She lived on Dangar Island until she was 82 years old. She tackled the tasks at hand on the property and on the boat with great enthusiasm - there wasn't much she could not do herself or teach herself how to do it.

She loved music & poetry – especially the Opera and she attended many recitals at the Opera House.

As most of you would know, Yvonne was an artist & loved to paint. Yvonne would like you all to choose one of her paintings should you wish to take one home with you today. They are all on display in the living room.

She loved cats, Burmese cats in particular – Phoebe was her first pet. She then went on to adopt the beautiful sisters Kayla Kahn & Tasche

whom you will see in the pictures.

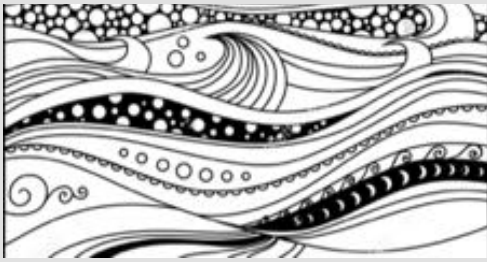
She also surprised us in liking the Bee Gees music and a special memory Keith and Ann have is visiting the Bee Gees Memorial Walk with Yvonne in the Bee Gees home town of Redcliffe.

She very much enjoyed playing Scrabble, Bridge and doing crosswords. She had a very competitive spirit.

Ann Petrie



Mayhem At Milsons Passage



It is mid-afternoon as the Dangar Island fire boat arrives at a scene of horrific carnage. What had been a violent dispute between a young man and his parents had escalated into what now lay before us.

Other fire crews who were closer at hand had contained what now remained a smouldering shell. The young man had locked himself in a workshop filled with all manner of flammable material and then had set it alight.

The ensuing fire and explosions with him still inside the workshop had resulted in third degree burns, to the extent that he looked more like charcoal than human.

As part of the crew assisting at the scene, I was tasked, along with two others to immediately pick up a medi-vac team from Milson Island. This team were part of the helicopter crew who had landed at the closest available site.

Quickly running to the helicopter, whose blades were still rotating, we grabbed multiple bags of medical equipment and escorted the medi-vac team back to where their patient remained barely alive.

At one point the patient went into cardiac arrest as one of the paramedics was using a scalpel to cut into the trachea to open up the airway.

That sight was very confronting, along with the body flailing at the initial retrieval from the burning structure. That image remained with me for some time.

To lie in bed with that image seared into my brain took some time to get over. In some ways it was worse than some of the scenes I witnessed whilst working in a hospital.

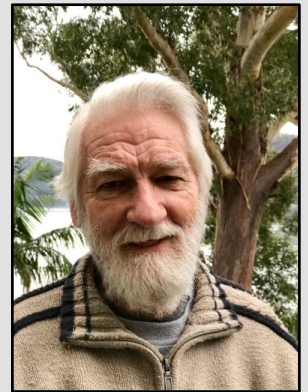
With the patient stabilised, albeit very touch and go, he was transferred to the helicopter and then to the nearest burns unit.

I never found out what happened to him, but I could not imagine a favourable outcome.

As one could imagine, the return to the island was a sombre affair as we reflected upon the events that had occurred that day.

A day that could so easily have been so different but for one

moment of irrational thought, bringing events to their ultimate conclusion.

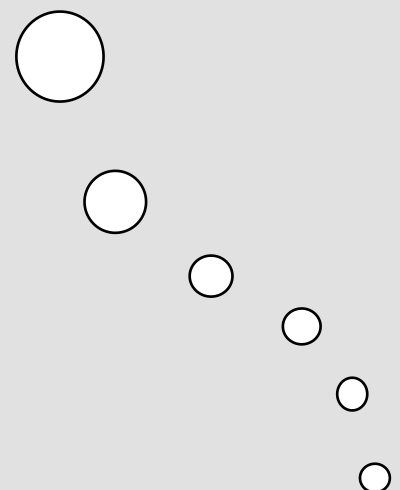


Bruce Lambert

Trundling

They trundled up the hill diagonally,
struggling to keep their balance.
All had tasted plenty,
with still more to be had.
"Onwards" they joked,
"Onwards and upwards."
Steeping the slope they climbed.
The trees watched on
as a sweet breeze seeped right through them.

Cameron Cook



Farewell Otto...

It is with gratitude for a lifetime of love we announce the passing of Otto Curtis, a labrador/poodle of Grantham Crescent. He was 16 years and 4 months old.

Raised on the Island, he spent some time as a hipster dog in Newtown before returning to Dangar for a long and well-earned retirement.

A graduate of Puppy School, Otto tried his best to be a Good Dog at all times. A lifelong pacifist, he tried to be a friend to all. He went out of his way to befriend the street people of Newtown, who hailed him as a kindred spirit. Ahead of his time, he strove to forge new friendships between the Dog and Cat communities.

His hobbies included weeing, sniffing and digging holes. A keen gourmet, his favourite food was BBQ chicken, and sausages, gourmet dog mince, tinned food, pasta, pork mince, sushi, cheese, fishcakes, chop bones and pigs' ears.

Some of the things he liked: Manfred and Joan's doggy door—which he could find even when blind; being part of the crowd; the time he found another dog's pig's ear and for the first (and only time) in his life he won the chase.

Despite his many infirmities he remained a cheerful, optimistic soul and was an inspiration to all who knew him. Even in his great old age he was still plotting to escape the garden and go for a wander down the beach. He never lost his appetite.

Otto passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends.

He is greatly missed.

Rose, Peter and Alex



*Otto looking at someone
he really liked - Georgia
Lynn Robinson*

The Dog

**The truth I do not stretch or shove
When I state that the dog is full of love.
I've also found, by actual test,
A wet dog is the lovingest.**

A poem by Ogden Nash

United Footballer Of tthe Month

Name: Stuart Allen
Age: 31
Height: 1 fathom
Currently playing in: Division 4
Which Grade: Over 35's
Number of seasons with Brooklyn United FC: 15
Field position: Right back
Team nickname: The Gut
Most hated opponent: Hornsby RSL
Your best moment: Winner 2016 Player's player award
Your stupidest moment: Taking the first ten minutes of every 2nd half to remember we are running the other way.



Have you ever...? Yes unfortunately.

Which right back do you most admire? Dave Jackson

FIFA rule changes mean you can now pass backwards from a kickoff.

What kickoff set pieces have you been working on? Early "shock and awe" own games to throw the opposition off their game.

Explain how the new DOGSO rules effect you: Impunity

What does DOGSO stand for: Don't Overtly Gouge Striker's Organ's

Favourite ground in your league: The Field of Dreams (Brooklyn Oval) and anything artificial.

Your secret weapon: The forfeit. If you forfeit you only lose 3-0 compared to 8-0 if you turn up and play.

Which professional team do you follow: Chelsea FC

Once Tim Cahill scores his 50th goal for australia, what should the Cahill Expressway be renamed? The Cahill Lap of Honour

What is BUFC's best record in the FAA Cup so far: Hearing about it.

The Public Ferry Wharf

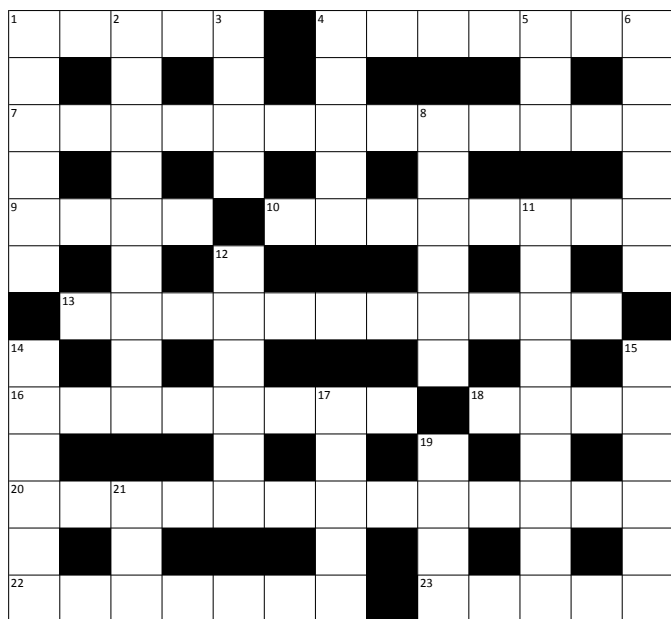
Please do not leave out of date electronic items like TV monitors etc in the Ferry Shed in the hope that someone will take them away. The Ferry Wharf Shed is not for the dumping of unusable clothing or electronic goods.

Jenny Rowe

Dangar Island League Membership

If your membership details have changed and you would like to update them and continue to receive occasional email updates from the Dangar Island League please send your current details to:

membership@dangarislandleague.net



Across

Cryptic

1. Walker closes Kombi and starts pedalling (5)
4. Heavyweight currency loses energy and support (7)
7. Perfect current promises monster lake for persistence (13)
9. Everyone's strand unopened (4)
10. Shadowy margin upset near bump (8)
13. Hair loss remedy as car polish (11)
16. Owl's cry in chorus is a crime (8)
18. Produce time in reverse (4)
20. Liberal sidekick resonates with fiesta (8,5)
22. Engages line with the French (7)
23. Possessive article to go Spanish (5)

Down

1. Lean dough! (6)
2. Puppet is iconic hop variety (8)
3. She heals love in short film (4)
4. Terminal protector (5)
5. Tribute to most of fashion (3)
6. Sycophant eyes Manu's heart (3,3)
- 8.. Coma sprouts wings (6)
- 11.. Beam in air movement warms gently (4- 5)
12. Tired and emotional, big love starts on thespian Miranda (6)
14. Exploit catch in newsgroups (6)
15. Time for loser in band goes and goes (6)
- 17.. Miserly point approaches (5)
- 19.. Spawn quarrel over shoes (4)
21. Hectic second half spasm (3)



1. Belgian brown ale (6)
2. Point of the compass (8)
3. Jug (4)
4. Etolated (5)
5. Possess (3)
6. Corroded (6)
8. Excitement (6)
11. Paolo Coelho move "The....." (9)
12. Preliminary drawing (6)
14. Elitist (6)
15. Tool (6)
17. Stagger (5)
19. Smelly rock monster (4)
21. Strange (3)



Down

1. Thick (5)
4. Decadent style (7)
7. Outdoor cooking utensil (13)
9. Delayed repeat (4)
10. Look at the night sky (8)
13. Bazaar (11)
16. It's my pleasure (8)
18. Secondary (4)
20. German folk tale writers (8,5)
22. Jewish language (7)
23. Automatic compound (5)

Across

