

# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #50

www.dangarisland.net

EASTER 2016

## Across the River Issue

*Content found in this publication do not represent the opinions of the Dangar Island League*



*Photo by Cybele Shorter*

### NSW Commercial Fishing Industry

By Dane Van Der Neut

The NSW commercial fishing industry over about 30 years has lost access to a large proportion of fishing grounds and numbers have declined from around 4000 fishermen down to about 1000. This can be looked at as just jobs being lost however it is much more than that. Every time changes have been made to the fishing industry there are those that suffer in silence, 'The Seafood Consumer'.

As a result of past government policies, misguided green ideologies and the greed of the recreational sector 'leaders' 87% of the seafood consumed in NSW is imported and prices of local seafood have risen.

As a small cottage industry we support local communities and most of the seafood we catch is sold to local markets supplying NSW and Australia more broadly. As fisheries are changed to quota management or corporatised for want of a better word, less of the seafood finds Australian consumers. Local ports where small fishing families operate start to lose their commercial fishers with the quota making its way to larger

ports because the quota fees become too expensive for the smaller operators to continue.

The commercial fishing reforms which came into play in 2012 have already had a devastating impact on the mental health of commercial fishers and their families. Every recommendation handed down by DPI has caused more anguish. The minister we have today has travelled up and down the coast meeting with fishers hearing what their thoughts are. This is a positive for industry as he now knows for himself the angst that has been caused by the senior managers in the department of primary industries and the so called "independent" consultants.

The Hawkesbury River fishers are at the forefront. Some fishers are projecting a 300% loss of income if the recommendations were to be implemented. Fishing towns such as Patonga, Brooklyn, Spencer and Wisemans Ferry etc. would be significantly impacted if their small fishing industry was to be corporatised by the proposed changes.

... continued page 2

### MONA on Hawkesbury?

Chris Innis

We have a unique setting on the Hawkesbury called Peat Island where a mental home once was. Absolutely unique, great setting, can be approached by ferry, a short hop from Brooklyn for the train and right off the M1. There is plenty of space for parking and it is half way between Sydney and Newcastle.

Why not create a Museum of New and Old Art, called MONA, there? Similar to the one in Hobart which attracts over 800,000 people a year. It is innovative, employs some 600 people and has put a very different perspective on art using technology and its approach to exhibitions and events.

It has transformed Hobart as a destination for tourists, it could do the same for Hornsby Shire and the Central Coast.

There is plenty of art work and artefacts lying around in museums, art galleries and private collections that could be shown. It could be really terrific.

### POMS affects Tasmanian Hatcheries

Roly Rush

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) has put a stop to supply of spats from the two main hatcheries in Tasmania.

POMS is the virus that killed ten million oysters in Mullet Creek around Australia Day 2013, taking hold of the whole river system growing areas over the next three months and ending the Pacific Oyster Industry in the Hawkesbury.

# POMS affects Tasmanian Hatcheries

Roly Rush

... continued page 2

...from page 1

Tasmania has been supplying eighty per cent of all pacific oyster spat to South Australia and NSW and with the two main hatcheries in Tasmania now put to a stop there will be real pressure on the supply of Pacific Oysters to these states.

## So what does this mean?

If the State Government come to the aid of farmers in Tasmania and South Australia will that put pressure on the NSW Government to help the farmers affected in the Hawkesbury River and other areas of NSW? If not, there will be a shortage of supply of Pacific Oysters in NSW as most fresh Pacifics into NSW currently come from Tasmania and NSW farmers.

Opening up the market to get frozen oysters from countries growing an inferior product with lower quality standards may increase the value of Sydney Rock

Oysters to fill demand. This could be a plus for local farmers as there are still a few of us growing QX resistant Sydney Rock to some success, but we are still finding it tough.

While there are some good results in the pursuit of sourcing a POMS-free Pacific Oyster, it could be at least two years (or more) before the supplied numbers get to a percentage to convince farmers to take a gamble on farming them again.

The plan is to source a POMS-free Pacific Oyster to restart the oyster industry in the Hawkesbury River, in my opinion one of the best growing areas in Australia and well able to compete with the New Zealand Oyster Industry on their quality of product.

Let's hope with this latest outbreak, which is very sad for the farms in Tasmania, that the powers-to-be will invest the money and time in finding a solution to the virus.

# NSW Commercial Fishing Industry

By Dane Van Der Neut

A further loss of product would more than likely force the closure of the historic Hawkesbury River Cooperative at Brooklyn. That loss would cause flow on affects for the local community and surrounding businesses.

The commercial fishing industry in NSW is at a critical point, if

any more access to fishing ground is lost or if any changes are made that mean fishers will be forced to buy more shares, imports will flourish, the price of local seafood will escalate and the majority of the public will be unable to secure fresh local seafood.

The seafood loving community need to get behind the fishing industry as we are too small to stand against those that want us gone, you are the voice that is needed in order to maintain your right to access fresh wild caught sustainable seafood.

# Dangar Island League

Sophia Walsh

## Happy Easter Everyone,

Last month, Councilor Nathan Tilbury and his family joined League committee members for lunch at the Dangar Island Bowling Club followed by a tour that highlighted numerous issues of concern for residents.

These included:

- Riverview roadworks
- Lawn maintenance in the park
- Road re-sheeting
- Our new playground
- Storm damage on Bradley's Beach
- The ferry wharf

A detailed list of questions were provided to Council ahead of this meeting, and Mr Tilbury was able to provide a response to each. This information was then passed onto residents at the League General Meeting held on 20 February.

You will be pleased to know that our new playground will soon commence construction. Council have committed to more frequent mowing and to leaving mulch from trees removed for community use.

Riverview roadworks to accommodate the new garbage truck, will soon be completed. Council plans to consult with the community about the planned changes to waste removal, and when the dates are confirmed, we will post them on our website.

HSC have also promised to assess damage to the roads we recommended for re-sheeting.

The ferry wharf upgrade is progressing and council have promised community consultation when the peer review has been finalised.

Positive feedback has been received from residents about the Migratory Bird Information Station near the ferry wharf and sea wall improvements nearby.

Vanessa O'Keefe continues to represent our interests on the Brooklyn Masterplan Community Reference Group. If you have any suggestions, please email them through to [president@dangarislandleague.net.au](mailto:president@dangarislandleague.net.au)

If you would like further information on any of the League's activities, you are encouraged to review the General Meeting minutes found on the League website.

A special thanks as always, to Mel Anderson for her dedicated work on producing The Mullet Mail. We are eternally grateful for the time and effort she puts into our wonderful publication.

Once again, Happy Easter to you and your families.

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# New Arrivals - Away from the Rat Race

Mark (Kylie, Clare and Kate)

It doesn't make sense. Really, it doesn't make sense.

We moved to the island from North Epping just before Christmas. We moved away from my work at Macquarie Park, where I could MTB to work a few days a week (in under half an hour) and where school for our two kids was a 5-10 minute dawdle around the corner. Where you could drive your car into the garage and take your grocery shopping straight into the house. Where a doctor was 10 minutes down the road. Where shops were open until late and those last minute supplies were readily accessible.

Here we are on Dangar. Separated from the mainland. Access only by ferry (or boat, or kayak, or dory – if you have one). With kids at separate schools in Brooklyn and Gosford, our days are manic. My work is still way down at Macquarie Park (I know some of you travel further). I pass

back through Epping on a daily basis. It all seems wrong.



But this – as I sit on the train coming home. Tapping away on my laptop, finishing a days work with emails and last minute reports. The train pulls out of Berowra and snakes its way down to the river. It's a different world. The bush, the river. The magnificent red cliffs towering above Wobby as the sun begins its path over the horizon. The hustle and bustle

of a sweltering sprawling city lies behind me. The day draws to a close. It's calm. Peaceful. This is what we come home to. No traffic. No pollution (so it seems). No crowds of people jostling for their place. The only noise is of the birds, the wind in the trees – and the occasional boat (and of a child or two in the background). It reminds me of a distant campsite, just that it's right here.

Better still on the weekend. Time to explore the island, it's inhabitants and all of its comings and goings. It's a unique place. The social amenities. The community groups. The reserve up on the hill with all its nooks and crannies. Then there's the river.

There is so much to explore. So many people to meet. So much of simply just being here.

It (nearly) doesn't make sense.

# Offical welcome to our five new CFRs and Merv the Ambulance.

Christine Sanderson

Five new Community First Responders have pulled on their combat boots and stepped up for duty. And we are very glad to have them! Big congratulations to **Brenda Hall, Rowena Reynolds, Therese Rutledge, Evan Walsh, and Vicki Worthington**, whose graduation was held on March 13th. What a great team ....

I can now also announce the name of the island's new ambulance, which will henceforward be known as **MERV (Medical Emergency Response Vehicle)**. Or just Merv. Our wonderful **Chief Superintendent Sue Webster** christened the baby for us after the graduation ceremony, and launched him in her usual inimitable style.



There were a lot of great suggestions for names, over 30 of them, most of them actually printable – thank you everyone! It was a difficult choice.

So there we have it. If you need medical help: Merv will come, with the CFRs. Just call triple zero. Thanks to Mark Agnew for the winning name - as promised, it will live on for a very long time!

# Refugee and Asylum Seeker Information Evening

Tony Partridge



Photo (C) SSI

Not many events can fill the community hall but it is an indication of the level of interest and concern among islanders (and some neighbours from Brooklyn) that it became standing-room only for some at a Refugee and Asylum Seeker information evening on 18 February. As the meeting started more than eighty people were present, including two representatives from SSI, the placement agency cooperating with the island's proposals to provide an asylum seeker refuge, who took part in the discussion following the guest speakers' presentations.

The information evening, organised by Martin Lloyd and chaired by Trevor Kanaley (ex Director-General, AusAID) focussed on the terrible conditions experienced by refugees and asylum seekers held in detention camps for prolonged periods with little hope of moving on – all under laws or policies supported by both the major Australian parties, in and out of government.

The speakers, Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Elenie Poulos, National Director, Uniting

Justice Australia, and Madeline Gleason, Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW, presented very similar accounts of the plight of these people based on their separate experiences in the camps. Indeed the presentations left the audience in stunned silence until, when questions were invited from the audience, the speakers were asked "what can we do?" and the message was clear: Contact any and all members of parliament elected to represent our opinions and, repeatedly and loudly, make it clear that the detention policies are completely counter to the Australian collective conscience. In particular it was suggested that every opportunity should be seized to add weight to calls by organisations such as Get-Up and to make direct contact with our local State and Federal members in upper and lower houses expressing personal feelings about the situation.

Dangar Island has a 'militant' reputation among politicians – so live up to it!

## Contacts

**Senator Jenny McAllister**  
(Labor, Berowra) / jenny@jennymcallister.com.au

**The Hon Malcolm Turnbull** / via website

**The Hon Bill Shorten** / bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au

**The Hon Peter Dutton** / via website

**The Hon Philip Ruddock** / via website

**The Hon Tanya Plibersek**  
/ Tanya.Plibersek.mp@aph.gov.au

**Mike Baird, NSW Premier**  
/ manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**Matt Kean MLA NSW** / Hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

## Asylum Seekers Refuge Progress Report

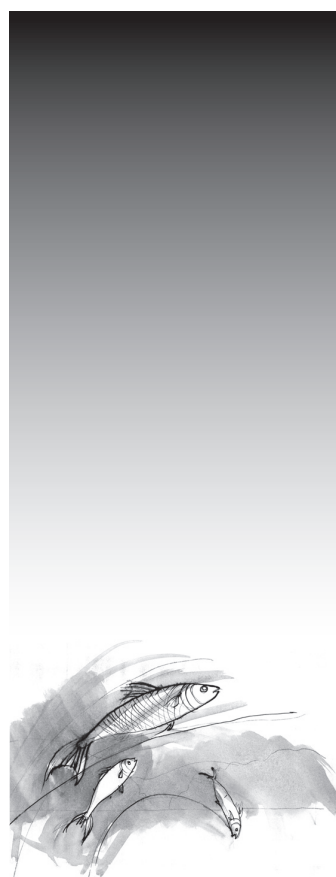
Tony Partridge

Regrettably, despite the heading, there has been very little progress on this front since the last Mullet Mail article for a variety of reasons. Among these has been the need to find an available house and a suitable small group of asylum seekers . . . simultaneously! With the intention being to fund, or largely fund, the living costs of a small group or family of asylum seekers on the island we have established a liaison group to act as a bridge between the new people and the island community and

another 'finances' group to manage a Bendigo Bank account for the venture. However nothing appears to happen as rapidly as had first been expected and we still hope the two key essentials – house and people – will coincide before too long.

We continue to keep in close contact with Charles Rich from the SSI placement organisation but it is evident that the torrent of asylum seekers originally anticipated to reach Australia has yet to eventuate – though the international

problem continues to grow, as discussed at the recent information evening in the community hall. That meeting, organised by Martin Lloyd, saw a packed hall, demonstrating the grass roots horror of our community at the terrible situation of many millions of people, displaced by senseless violence. Maybe by the next Mullet Mail we will see renewed progress with the island's aim of providing an asylum seekers refuge. We hope so.





# Refugee Forum Follow Up

Martin Lloyd

As a follow up on the success of the Refugee Forum I would like to forward excerpts of two emails that I received recently: "I was encouraged to write letters last night. One of the things that stops people is the time and energy to write their own. If anyone wants to use the template at right they are welcome."

All recipients can be sent mail to the same Parliamentary address - just add the relevant name above the address: **MPPO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.**

The Hon Peter Dutton MP  
The Hon Philip Ruddock  
The Hon Tanya Plibersek  
The Hon Bill Shorten

And from one of the speakers:

"Regarding who to contact, I think the comments made at the end were best: your local members, whoever they may be, at all levels - including senators and state. Perhaps also the premier, who has been quite involved on this issue. If any of those seats are due to be contested, the candidates too."

I would encourage everyone to write and lobby both major parties and anyone else interested.

Get involved, we do have a voice.



19 February 2016

The Hon Prime Minister  
Malcolm Turnbull MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Turnbull

Re: Offshore Detention is NOT a solution

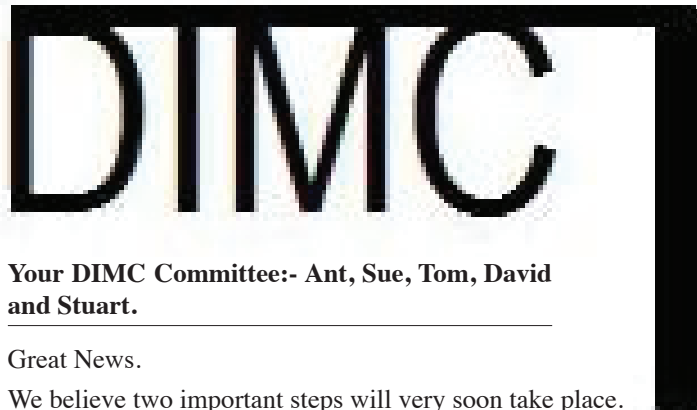
I do not believe that Offshore Detention on Nauru and Manus Island is a solution to preventing people from seeking asylum. Rather it is an extremely costly and inhumane way of treating people whose only crime was to seek safety.

The government is **spending many millions of tax payers' dollars annually** to keep up to 3000 people indefinitely in offshore detention. It is claimed that this has stopped the boats and people smugglers. I understand that the boats have not stopped coming. They just have not arrived on our shores. They have been turned back at great cost to our government. And apparently people smugglers have actually been paid by our government.

I ask that your government close down the off shore detention centres and use the money saved to find regional solution that ensures protection of people who need protection instead of the persecution that is currently happening.

It is wrong to tell the Australian public that the current solution is working. It clearly is not. An alternative sustainable solution must be found.

Regards



**Your DIMC Committee:- Ant, Sue, Tom, David and Stuart.**

Great News.

We believe two important steps will very soon take place.

The publication of the Wave Climate Review commissioned by Hornsby Shire Council from their consultants, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, is due and the Community Consultation Process is, we believe, to commence in March. Neither of these matters is about the Co-op.

However, with their conclusion, we expect to have a clear picture of what our Council will decide with regard to the upgrade of the Dangar Island Ferry Wharf and, therefore, what the course of action will be for the DIMC.

If you would like to discuss any matters regarding either the public wharf or the cooperative itself don't hesitate to contact us at [info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net](mailto:info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net) or call one of the committee or drop a line into the Coop Box - 147 Riverview Ave.



## Buggy News

Judy Nikola, Secretary, DIMVC

Many of us have come to rely on the buggy to get heavy shopping home or deliver frail aged relatives who would otherwise not visit us.

We are currently recruiting new drivers to help man the buggy on a volunteer basis. Although we have many wonderful volunteers that keep the buggy going 7 days a week we are always looking for more drivers to help out.

All you need is a current driver's licence and to contact Judy Nikola for training. Call Judy on 0415 488 606.

# Cafe Dangar

Ron Ballinger

The Dangar Island Cafe closed its door on the 10th of March and the new **Cafe Dangar** will open on the 18th of March under new management. The hours for the shop will be 8.00am to 5.00pm seven days a week. Ron Ballinger has taken over at the shop and will be there over the first weekend. Unfortunately due to commitments Ron has to return to North Queensland for a short time but when he returns there will be some exciting changes to the shop. Please come on down and meet Ron and the crew. Unfortunately the phone number for the cafe will change and the new number is pending.

## Notice Of Formation Of The Dangar Island Genealogical Society. (D.I.G.S.)

Marcus Whitaker

- Have you ever wanted to research your family tree but felt you lacked the skills to do so?
- Have you ever compiled your family tree but were unsure of how to upload into a family tree program or Internet site?
- Have you inherited ancient family documents, but can't match the names, dates, places or faces in photographs or portraits to people in your family tree?
- Have you ever found skeletons in your family closet that you felt compelled to exhume?

ATTENTION PERSONS interested in the study of family genealogy, all ages, amateur to advanced.

INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the Dangar Island Genealogical Society on Tuesday April 5th, 2016, at 6pm, at the Dangar Island Community Hall.

If you are interested in becoming a Member of the Society, please contact Marcus Whitaker on 0424 733 899 or email: [stormwhitaker@gmail.com](mailto:stormwhitaker@gmail.com)

# A 'Tinny' Bit of Trouble

Karen Gilbert

A few years ago I had befriended a lady on the Island. Late one night she called me to say she was paddling a tinny (not rowing) from Brooklyn as the motor wouldn't start. The tide was going out and she was being carried out down the river. She had no torch to show me where she was positioned and her mobile was going flat. I bought my boat in to the beach and headed off. She was giving me land marks of **where** she was but as she was moving rapidly they didn't help. I eventually found her and luckily she had an overcoat on but had no food water or medication to get through the night. I towed her into the beach but I have always wondered where she may have ended up and in what condition. It shows that no matter who we are or how experienced it pays to have emergency supplies on board at all times.

## The Road to Damascus

Bruce Lambert

The smell of cordite hangs  
still heavy in the air.  
Mixed with the lingering whiff of death  
each moment to ensnare.

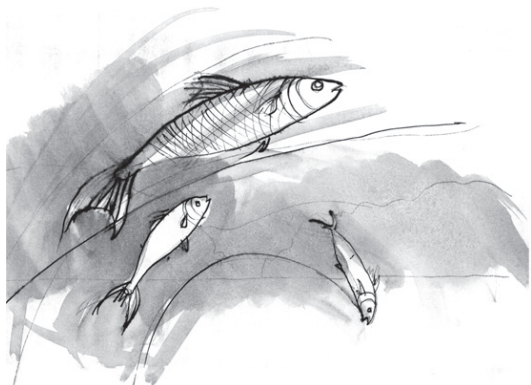
White smoke trails the sky  
as the whirr of warbirds wrought.  
Carnage and destruction  
on a scale not often sought.

Barrel bombs rain down  
on a populace undefeated.  
For all our pain and suffering,  
our cries are still entreated.

The Arab Spring did dawn then wane,  
for us it brought no flower.  
No peace or calm, just fear remains  
whilst the regime still clings to power.

Horrific images assault the senses  
as the new barbarism rises to the fore.  
The plight and indignity of a once proud people  
subsumed by the swirling of the fog of war.

Now it is up to us,  
should we go or stay?  
Whatever we decide,  
death beckons either way..





# Thank You

Andy and Vanessa Payne

Garden tidied, fresh flowers, nutritious and delicious meals, cuddly toys, lawns mowed, Scout looked after, beautiful posters of the island kids artworks to brighten James's room, activities, books and gifts for the kids, lifts across the river at all hours, lovely kind words of strength and support, incredibly generous contributions I cannot disclose ... and more.

A huge, heartfelt and very public thank you to you all. So many of you have contributed to James's fight against leukaemia in so many ways.

I don't intend to try and thank each of you personally for fear of forgetting and offending.

While we have been overwhelmed by James's diagnosis, and we are still coming to terms with his prognosis and long term treatment plan, we feel very lucky to be a part of the Dangar family.

Despite being a very sick little boy James started school in the hospital with a teacher coming Monday to Friday to spend 40 minutes with him intensively. He enjoyed the stimulation and learning new things. Westmead Children's Hospital is an incredible and inspiring place.

James has now been discharged and we are staying at Ronald McDonald House until we can be safely allowed home.

James will likely look quite different next time you see him; pale, bald, he has a central line in his chest. Please know he is still the same cheeky, lovely little boy that you all know and cherish.

Some basic facts: James has pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL). Basically his bone marrow has gone haywire making dodgy blood cells. These dodgy cells crowd out the real ones and cellular functions begin to go awry, he can't fight infections, he struggles to get enough oxygen around his body and so on. ALL is the most common childhood cancer. It has a 5 year survival rate of more than 80%. His

treatment protocol will last 2-3 years depending on his response to treatment and risk categorization. He is losing his beautiful hair. He will be more susceptible to infections so please don't be offended if we steer clear of runny noses – his life might depend on it. We will never know why he has leukaemia. It's nothing anybody did or didn't do, it's just really tough luck for our boy who has been through so much already.

We are learning about his condition as we go along but if there's something you want to know please ask us. Don't be afraid. If we don't want to talk about it we won't.



## Shave for A Cure Saturday 12 March

Andy Payne

A huge thank you to all who made the 'greatest shave' event such a wonderful success, with a special mention for Mel Anderson and Michael Liebenberg (shaver extraordinaire - is there nothing this man can't do). It was lovely to catch up with so many people we'd not seen for so long. We are grateful for the love and support shown for James. It means a lot to us and to him as he fights this difficult battle. We know leukaemia and other cancers touch a lot of Islanders' lives and many shared their own stories with us privately.

Thanks to the very generous donations received over the last few weeks, with some more on its way, Team James has raised almost \$30,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation. This is a huge amount and was in the top 10 in Australia, second in NSW! This money will go to support people with leukaemia and their families as well as fund research looking for a cure.



# Dangar Island Bowling Club

Evan Walsh



The Dangar Island Bowling Club has celebrated some great events over the past quarter. Our Australia Day and Valentines Day events were well frequented and very well received by both community residents and visitors to our beautiful island. By the time this article goes to print we will have added a Mardi Gras parade and yet another Open Mic to that list.

We encourage community feedback and participation in all our events. We have over the past year started and also ceased events based upon your input, so please don't hesitate in getting in contact with us.

We are looking to add to our staff by calling on anyone who is looking for some casual shifts, you will need an RSA and we can help you with this by pointing you in the right direction and also by reimbursing you part of the cost.

Easter is coming up, then ANZAC day and winter solstice will be on us before we know it. In the meantime we can recommend planning your week in the following manner: Send your kids down for Thursday Chess and Games Club at 6pm (moved from Wednesday afternoons), stay for pizza on Thursday night, have an exotic cocktail on Friday, come for lunch on Saturday and stay for dinner (why go home?) then come back for a lunchtime Sunday Roast. There, all sorted, you can thank me on Monday.

## Chess Club Has Changed To Games Night!

**Come and join us on a Thursday night from 6pm for chess, checkers, Monopoly and more!**

**All ages. All skills.**

## DANGAR'S GOT TALENT



**FRIDAY 15TH APRIL**

**GET YOUR GIGGLES ON!**

STAND UP | PERFORMANCE | (FUNNY) MUSIC | STORYTELLING

**Chess and Games Night**

**Thursday afternoons from 6pm.**

Bring your chess board or other board games, and prepare to play!

All ages welcome, held on the verandah of the club.



## EASTER TRADING HOURS



**THURSDAY 24 MARCH - NORMAL TRADING 6-10PM**  
**GOOD FRIDAY 25 MARCH 6-10PM NO TAKEAWAY**  
**EASTER SATURDAY 26 MARCH 12 - 10PM Jazz in the Park**  
**EASTER SUNDAY 27 MARCH 12-6PM**  
**EASTER MONDAY 28 MARCH 12-3:30PM**

NO TAKEAWAY GOOD FRIDAY | GET YOUR TAKEAWAY THURSDAY NIGHT



**Royal River Rats**

**SATURDAY 26 MARCH**  
**FROM MIDDAY**



# Across the River

Robert Ottignon, Cogra Bay

Indeed, a 'cross' river this day! I had just purchased a property, Lot 20 at Cogra Bay and after some work it was now habitable. Sort of. No furnishings to speak of and as this was to be my retirement home, some lie back and stare time was essential. Therefore an Eames recliner and Ottoman would do the trick just nicely.

Juggling time off from a Hotel in the City, I was managing, was going to provide the opportunity to deliver such a big heavy unit. Problem was the weight and size. Firstly to get it to Brooklyn and then across the River from the Gut and then up the 50 winding steps to Nirvana.

That morning in September 2007, it was overcast and windy. I had, during the breakfast session at the Hotel, managed to persuade a visiting guest from Oxford University to visit the River, by warbling on about the landscape and tranquility and beauty of the Hawkesbury River. The family that were with him and now resident in NSW joined the chorus "you should go" and soon he was ready. I then explained that I was delivering a chair as well. His name was Noodles and he stood nearly 2 metres tall and weighed about 145 kilos. Whilst an academic, his impressive hulk had given him jobs as a rent collector and bouncer whilst studying. A formidable presence indeed. He just looked at the chair I was struggling with and calmly picked it up in one movement, laying it into the back of the van with precision and grace. I was impressed by this feat, and knew that a problem was solved.

We drove through Hornsby and along the Pacific Highway through Berowra and past Cowan, as Noodle delivered a potted history of his life. Drifting past, *Pie in the Sky* and winding downwards, past the towering

sandstone escarpments and tangled bush, the sky let go and monsoonal rain in unison with its mist maiden, greeted us on every bend bring us to a crawl. Conditions did not look good and with my inexperience of the river and a 12 foot tinny to get into, I now started to consider how the hell was I going to manage this situation.

Noodles was now quiet and certainly looked pensive as we worked the road up the gut to Ripples Marina. The storm had abated and with a break in the rain, man mountain once more became animated, grunting and heaving the parcel onto his shoulders, through the gate and looking for the boat. I had parked near the loading area and I meekly pointed to my pride and joy. Credit to him, no smart remark, just a shrug and then he stepped in.

The boat nearly sunk. With this huge man, and maybe 100kg of chair, the tinny, a Quintrex, bless it, took the load and rested

about 150mm above the water line.

We slowly approached the mouth of the gut and with the Highway Bridge looming on our left, a lightning flash welcomed us as we turned right into the wickedest southeasterly I had experienced up to that time.

Poor Noodles was overwhelmed. He was pale, ashen even, as wave after wave breeched the bow. I threw a life jacket towards him saying it's fine, only 5 mins to go. He grabbed at the jacket like a small boy and grimaced, as it just fitted like an amulet over his leg of lamb like shoulder. He managed a grimace of a smile and turned quickly away from my gaze to face the wind. The water was close, real close to the boats rim, and line after line of white tops greeted us as we slowly moved up Long Island's isolated flank.

Two sea eagles wheeled overhead as we hugged the shore for some protection,

ready for the northern push across to Spectacle Island which seemed to jut out like a green dormant volcano from the turbulent river. By this time my handy helper was in trouble, real trouble. Completely out of his comfort zone and mumbling things like "you said it was just a river" and "I can't swim very well" he was now kneeling down, low in our low boat, resting behind the furniture package and staring at the hull.

We were being blown sideways rapidly into the wide and comparatively quieter entrance of Cogra Bay with its majestic mist shrouded hill looming over Lot 20 at its centre point.

Whilst shouting into the wind, we're here, we're here, I excitedly point towards where we lived. Noodles, relieved and wet, lifts his head, takes stock of the vista and then yells, like some visiting King Kong, "Bloody Hell, It's Jurassic Park!"

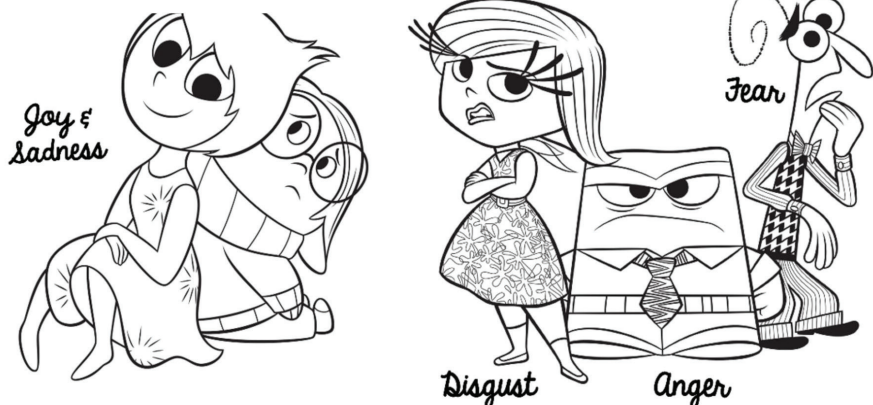
## Easter Saturday film night in the Hall

DIFS presents  
A film for the  
whole family

Disney · PIXAR  
**INSIDE  
OUT**

BBQ dinner and  
treats on sale

All proceeds to  
the fire brigade



Adults – this is not just for the kids! Still not sure – Google the trailer!

# The Great Dangar Billycart Race Australia Day 2016

Jo Karcz



*Photos by Jo Karcz*

Michael put the word out in the last Mullet Mail. There was to be a billycart race on Australia Day. He then got to work behind the scenes encouraging and cajoling the dads to get involved. How could their offspring participate if they had no billycart? In true Dangar style, initial hesitation was followed by keen competition. Competition to build the biggest and the best. The fastest and the most eye catching.

Stuart spent time in his new workshop welding and refining his design. Wally found old wheels in his shed. And then had to buy axles to fit the wheels. Aaron and Leigh scrounged a wheelbarrow and sprayed a skull gold to finish off their cart. Bike wheels and tricycles were reused. Dennis put his skills to use with an innovative three-seater while Jimmy made sure that Australia Day was remembered by flying the flag.

Australia Day arrived and gradually participants – mainly kids and dads – and their carts arrived at the Fire Shed

for a few practice runs. Most wore some safety gear – a helmet and closed shoes as a minimum. Kathy dressed as a Goth to match her cart, while Michele donned full race gear complete with overalls and full face helmet. Jimmy took the minimal approach by racing shirtless.

The start was decorated with brightly coloured bunting (courtesy of Vanessa). The crowd grew, lining the street, jockeying for the best (not always the safest) view point. Cybele and Jonathan worked the radio and timer while Phil helped to ensure no pedestrians got caught unawares by a speeding billycart.

To shouts and calls of encouragement, the carts raced one by one past the Fire Shed, around the corner into Baroona. Anxious dads ran alongside, or behind their offspring. The crowd cheered loudly as each cart raced past.

Then brave and hardy sorts attempted the second faster course. Down the hill to the wharf. Wheels came off, drivers and

their passengers ended up in the river and Stuart's brake stop has been recorded on camera for posterity.

It was a fabulous day that will go down in Dangar History. Well done to all who were involved – planners, helpers and participants. A big thanks to Michael who made it all happen.

I hear that some are already planning their carts for next year. If there is a next year – Michael only does things once!









# Dangar Island Mardi Gras 2016

Photo by Bill Lyn-Robinson



## Mardi Gras

Peter Horsam

Mardi Gras? How you say?.... That's Fat Tuesday... isn't it? I bet you're thinking feathers, sequins, exotic drummers and fireworks. Yeah but...

Even my mildly Anglican parents celebrated it, We called it 'Pancake Tuesday'... Shrove Tuesday if you want to be precise. It's the last day before Lent... a time of dearth, slim pickings and of giving things up.

It's the day we party and eat the last of our good stuff. It's Carnival time! Carne -val...

that's just 'goodbye to meat'.

It's still quite easy to see in this in Europe, despite the warming times bring it in earlier each year. By March, the deepest Winter has gone, but there'll still be a few fierce weeks to come. Nothing is growing. The seeds are going in, but there'll be nothing edible for folk nor beast till the summer comes again. Let's party before we hunker down.

Midsummer! We'll have another party then and look forward to all that fruit and a

plentiful harvest.

Mardi Gras is our last big blowout, we'll be just scraping by for a month or two. No excuse though, not to have that party.

In Rio, the neighbourhood's content to put on the most spectacular show. In New Orleans the jazz and blues bands let you dance all night. In Sydney we celebrate our personal freedom.... sober citizens who've kept their heads down all year suddenly emerge in their spangles and

sequins. This is who we are... Cop this! It's another form of springtime, you'll see a few exotic blooms!

I've been fortunate to be invited to few post-Ramadan evening celebrations.... it's not a lot different. It's just us puny humans, living, coping and rejoicing... despite the hardness of the season. On Dangar we'll do it our way. It'll be different, yes. It'll be fun. We'll face down the hardest times with a celebration... and be ready again when the good times roll.



# Dangar Island Mardi Gras 2016





# Lock and Key

Chris Innis

Coming back late at night you are sometimes compelled to put a chain on to lock your boat, you never know if someone wants to help themselves to a midnight ride on the River. But locks rust and need to be regularly checked and even replaced.

So knowing I would be back late one evening I checked the lock and it was rusted, so a new lock thrown in the boat, the boat secured with it and down to the City I went. Returning at 1.30 am on a June evening and looking forward to bed I went to unlock the padlock, the key didn't fit, I had forgotten to change the keys. That meant a night sleeping in the car, it was cold and clear, there was no blankets, but I was first on the ferry that morning to get those keys!

# Dory Story

Ana Pollak

Rowing home one midnight with  
no wind and a king tide.  
A slog through a big welcome mat of mud  
makes me forget to clip the dory to its running line.

8 hours later, the telephone rings  
"Anyone in your boat?"  
"No"  
"Good, I'm 15 kilometres out at sea and  
your boat's here".

He's off to the fishing grounds and can't tow the boat  
but calls the Coastal Patrol.

The Broken Bay Marine Rescue search for hours  
and almost give up until  
someone sees something bobbing on the horizon.

The dory is towed to West Head then passed to the  
Mooney Mooney Coastal Patrol to deliver home  
where it is exchanged for a box of booze.

A donation to the Coastal Patrol sent by post  
gets a prompt reply  
"If ever you need our assistance  
please let us know".



# Seen from the shore

Tony Partridge

Mainlanders often ask how we cope with the need to bring everything across the river and are sometimes incredulous when we take deliveries in our stride. Quite apart from the much appreciated commercial services to the island, it is of no concern for we islanders to employ solutions that others see as unbelievable. Three examples spring to mind, two of them leaving delivery teams scratching their heads and the third leaving islanders laughing:

## Water Tanks

Yvonne L. had ordered two water tanks and asked for them to be delivered to Brooklyn. The delivery from there was simple – or should have been – as the tanks were waterproof so the idea was to have the delivery truck roll them into the water at Parsley Bay where they would float and be towed by two small boats to the island. The truckies were clearly startled by the idea but did what was asked and lowered them into the water. They then watched as each tank was tied to a line ready to be towed by the boats. No problem, except that one of the boats then refused to start so a rearrangement of tow ropes was made and the truckies, still watching with bemused faces, saw a linked group of two tanks and two boats smoothly leave the bay and head off, successfully, to the island. When last seen the truckies were still taking photos, no doubt to confirm their story!

## Judy's Freezer

Equally bemused were the truckies (different truckies) who delivered a domestic freezer to Parsley Bay and clearly didn't believe that it was to be slid over the wall and into a small waiting tinnie. They, too, watched with evident disbelief – and would probably have had their opinions confirmed if they could have still seen the tinnie as it rounded the island . . . and then stopped, out of fuel! Naturally the boat was equipped with a spare can of fuel and was soon under way again but one suspects that, if seen, the incident would have confirmed the truckies' opinions of islanders!

## Royal Arrival

And, finally, the story of the elegant lounge suite – a sofa and two arm chairs – obtained by Sue and Tony. Clearly too much for a tinnie in one hit the decision was to take the two chairs on one trip – eliciting comments from two anglers nearby to the effect that they liked the idea of a fishing boat with upholstered arm chairs – and the sofa in a second trip. No problems at all and Tony couldn't resist lounging back on the sofa and waving languidly, like royalty, as Sue steered past the island. And, to his great satisfaction, getting appreciative comments from a couple of islanders who had observed the event



# The Dangar Dash

Peter Godbolt



The Dangar Dash, our very own monthly fun run, is about to have its 6th event, with many a bunch of Islanders plodding, dawdling, jogging, sprinting, and pretty much everything in between twice around the bottom, and twice around the top.

The idea of the Dash is to encourage as many Islanders as feel like it to get together on a weekend morning and plod around the Island at their own pace in a timed event. We've spawned three events from a single origin, and now feature the Dangar Dawdle as well as the Junior Dash.

The Junior Dash, being twice around the bottom, has had several different winners with Noah often setting a cracking pace, Elliot and Alex winning in great times in two separate races, and recently Lisa setting a course record despite getting to the finish line before the timekeepers! Kate and Clare also recently added the concept of monkey bars half way through the race... a possible Dangathalon in development!

The kids race is a little under 2K, and it's quite fun to all set off together we've settled on a course which starts at the fire shed, does one full lap of the flat, then on the second time you turn right after the steep path following the community hall, for a grandstand finish at the

ferry shed.

Along with the Junior Dash, there's also the Dangar Dawdle, the idea is to walk just once around the bottom and once around the top, but to be honest you can just enjoy whichever course and company you feel suits you most! It's a friendly wander with the chance to both coach / mock the runners and catch up with friends and neighbours.

The 'main event' has seen really good participation, with the course times around 25 to 35 minutes. Peter is the proud current record holder at 24:27, with Myles (age 8) the only repeat winner with two victories. We've welcomed Mark Agnew to the Island and the Dash to win the most recent race, and the course record is looking like it's going to go in March!

The race is held on the Sunday after open mic at 8am in summer, and come daylight savings time we'll be moving to 9am on a Saturday. There are loads of photos and info on facebook if you search for 'Dangar Dash'. The whole thing is inspired by the 'parkrun' movement which aims to encourage anyone who feels like it to run a regular 5K in their community. That's our aim too, and if it sounds like your cup of tea, we'd love to have you along! Happy running!





# Across the River Historically

Dave Reynolds



*The first regular island ferry 'Dangar' moored of the north beach c1925.*



*Mannie Cassimatis with his ferry 'Dangar II' at wobby beach c1950.*



*The Dangar ferry MV Protex at the public wharf in the late 1970s.*



*Terry Hodgon with the Dangar ferry MV Protex c1976. Terry ran 'Terry's Ferries' before the Sun started the run in the early 1980s.*







*The paddleboat steamer 'General Gordon' crossing between Long Island and Mullet Creek station in 1887, with the first completed bridge pier visible to her left.*



*Before starting the bridge construction the American contractors Ryland & Morse took a short trip upriver with their families. This photo, taken by Edwin Morse, is of his wife rowing at Marra Marra Creek, early 1887.*



*Muriel Dangar, friend and doggie rowing on the north side of the island c1911.*



*Unknown visitors crossing from the island to Alison Point c1900.*



*The SS Arangi was used by the American bridge contractors to ferry workers across to the island and supervise construction at the bridge site. Here she is off the Dangar wharf in 1888.*



# A Very Social Bloke

Tony Partridge

A very social bloke (with a very social family), Frank lived on the DI waterfront some years ago and on one occasion headed off on his own in his kayak for a social evening on board a friend's boat. Unfortunately, on heading home quite some while later (his wife, Zoe, having long since had the good sense to call it a day and go to bed), Frank had the misfortune to roll the kayak and found he couldn't get back in.

Clinging to the upturned craft (fortunately) he was then swept seawards by the outgoing tide, un-noticed by anyone.

Stories vary as to whether he reached as far as Lion Island but, the tide turned and, still clinging to his craft, Frank eventually found himself reaching terra firma in Parsley Bay at dawn, some five hours (it is said) after he first entered the water.

Here, relieved to finally feel terra firma under his feet, he forgot to hold the kayak line and this drifted happily away, never to be seen again.

An hour or so later, the first island ferry for the day arrived at Brooklyn and Frank secured a berth and a blanket for the trip back to Dangar. He eventually got home, to be greeted by Zoe, just awake, who hadn't missed him too much!

## Coffee?

Tony Partridge

Another (and current) islander was seen by Frank from his north-beach garden spending what had become more than a couple of hours in his half-cabin runabout at its mooring, clearly having a struggle with the runabout's engine. So Frank set off in his kayak to see if he could be of any assistance. The gentleman working on the boat only saw Frank coming when he was perhaps twenty metres away and called out, jokingly, "I hope you have a cup of coffee with you?", to which Frank simply laughed and came alongside where the 'worker' took his line. "Open that hatch" said Frank, gesturing to a lidded opening in his foredeck. And, yes, inside was a steaming cup of coffee from the cafe!

What makes this an especially Dangar Island story is that, un-noticed, Frank had first gone to the island cafe and asked "How does \*\*\*\* take his coffee?" ... and they knew!

## Lost

Tony Partridge

**LOST, my MSc thesis (c.1970) from McGill Uni, Canada, that was inadvertently left along with other books at the ferry wharf a few weeks ago. Pre-word processors and with hand drawn diagrams and graphs it is sadly missed even though it didn't attract a Nobel Prize!**

Tony Partridge 147R

# Oonga Boonga

Jo Cameron

The circus came to Brooklyn town many moons ago, around 26 years. It was an exciting time for us all, especially for the families with young tiddly-winks.

So, off The Cameron's went to see the clowns, lions, monkeys, horses and elephants.

It was a fun night, Leanne, our daughter, was chosen from the audience to ride a horse, strapped safely with a harness. Luckily, as the horse took off leaving her flying in mid air! What a hoot and we all enjoyed the night when the circus came to town.

The one thing the circus left behind was the elephant dung, they say it is the best animal manure there is.

So off Valentina and I went to collect the treasure. We managed two huge garbage bags each. How proud we both were of our efforts and how excited to introduce this magnificent feast to our vegie gardens.

But we still had to board the Dangar Island Ferry first. Sheepishly, not wanting the Ferry Driver to know what was in our bags.

So there we were trying to look as innocent as we could, closely guarding our elephant droppings. Then on walked the Lone Ranger with an umbrella and accidentally poked one of our bags. Out poured the manure onto the clean ferry floor! Panic stations! Valentina and I quickly scooped up the mess and managed to hide the evidence before the Ferry Driver knew any better. Luckily the other passengers kept calm, not really knowing what the bags contained.

With our stash in hand we slowly walked off the ferry and up the hill, loading our treasure into our wheelbarrows and laughing all the way.

Our gardens flourished in the passing weeks, locals asked us what our secret was ... "elephant dung" we replied ... they laughed and shook their heads, not realising it was the truth.

Still to this day when Valentina and I meet we greet each other with our little secret motto - "Oonga Boonga" and it takes us back so many moons ago to when the circus came to town.

## Felt workshop

Lisa Hayes

Mid April. Date tbc.

Come and let your creativity flow and hand craft your own beautiful felt object to take home. All levels welcome, with instruction and guidance available.

Morning and afternoon tea is provided. Total cost \$95, including materials. A range of colours will be available for you to choose from.

**Please call or email Lisa Hayes: 0405 005 745 or [lisa@riverfelt.com](mailto:lisa@riverfelt.com) if you are interested or would like more information.**



# Foreign Correspondance

Across the River Communications

## Democratic Republic of Milsons Passage

President John

The residents of the Democratic Republic of Milsons Passage are excited to learn there are other settlements on the mighty Hawkesbury River and to the many readers of the Dangar Mullet we say Hello.

Although we are out of your view from your island, we are but a few bends in the river and under a few bridges away, we are close enough to be called cousins. I always suspected there could be a link, for as I gaze out at the river as it flows

upstream on the rising tide and see the wonderful donation the Brooklyn sewage treatment works releases, we can enjoy your affluents, it's heartening to know you are doing so well and the fish also thank you.

I intend to enjoy the hospitality of the cafe at the Dangar Wharf to add to the joy of sharing.

**From the international desk of the Republic.**

President John

## Bar Point

Caelia Collins, President, Bar Point Community Association



Bar Point folk are particularly social creatures, and in the past few months alone we have, as a community: done a trail walk to Bar Point Dam, trekked through Muogamarra National Park, visited our friends at Dangar Island for their infamous open mic night, donned our spookiest best for a night of Halloween fun & trick-or-treating, gone back to the 1970's, flown a magic carpet into the New Year and even hosted a Christmas long lunch for over 50 guests!

Naturally Bush Santa made his annual appearance, which left our ever-growing tribe of Bar Pointian children with beaming smiles from ear to ear.

It may surprise you to know that the population of Bar Point is booming! There is now an abundance of full time residents as well as many active weekenders. Maybe it's time you came to the Point for a visit? Drop in for a glass of wine anytime!

## Little Wobby

Felicity Brownrigg, Wobby

Hi Islanders and other Mullet Mail readers!

Your Wobby neighbours say G'day.

We are trying hard to keep our carbon footprint low but it is as hot as hades on the Western shore. Thank goodness for large trees giving some shade, the odd sea breeze and an occasional skinny-dip in the river. (NO LOOKING)

Wobby wild life is busy (Not the Wobby folk) a large red kangaroo (? Refugee) was hopping around the other evening but he was a bit camera shy. The lyre birds have turned total vegan, loving our veggie gardens. At least they sing for their supper, and what a good repertoire they have as they can mimic anything from a chain saw to a fax machine.

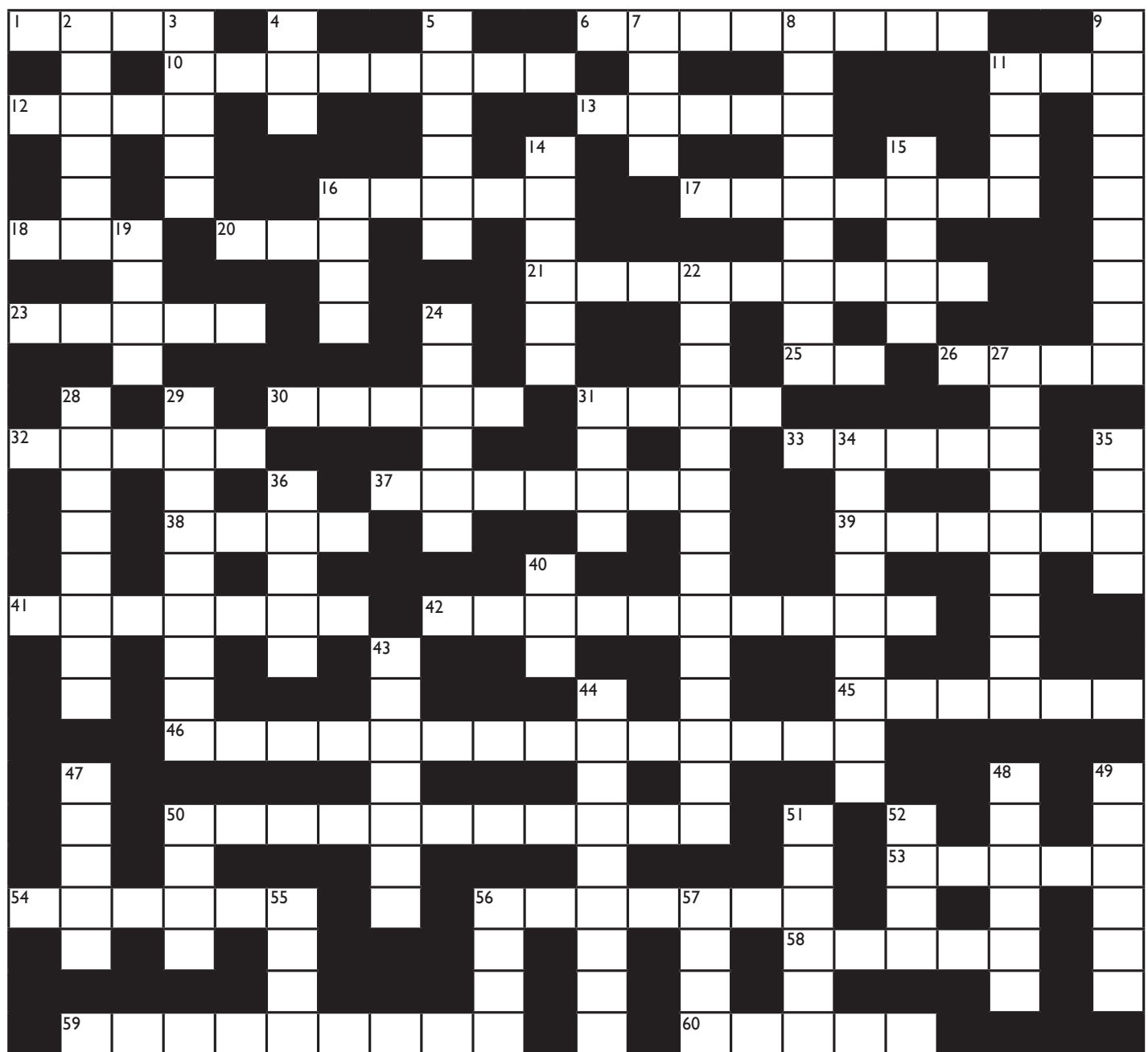
6 crewmembers of Volunteer Rescue Association live at Wobby. Yes the Hawkesbury River Rescue is still alive and kicking at Peat Island. If you would like to come on board or just see what we do check out our web site ([www.hawkesburyrescue.org.au](http://www.hawkesburyrescue.org.au)) or our face book page ([hawkesburyriverrescue](http://hawkesburyriverrescue)).

In the main life is quite, the tide ebbs and flows, the ferry comes and goes. We have some new families moved to Wobby which gives us an excuse for the odd boozy BBQ. A few houses are for sale if you want to cross over to the other side but beware of the wild life, some have two legs.

Stay cool!







## Across

1. Large flightless birds (4)
6. Something very big and powerful (8)
10. Where baby pacifics were grown (8)
11. Beer Container (3)
12. Costs nothing
13. Flat bottomed boat (5)
16. Water that collects at the bottom of the boat (5)
17. With tongues (7)
18. Night bird (3)
20. Not me (3)
21. Underwater vessel (9)
23. Thursday fare at the club (5)
25. Powered Boat (*abbreviation*) (2)
26. Island (4)
30. Hawaiian Greeting (5)
31. A type of fish (4)
32. To stop being tense (5)
33. The place where you live (5)
37. Floating structure (7)
38. How many strokes do you have if you don't have to add oil? (4)
39. River scalpel (6)
41. Farmed oyster (7)
42. Personal floatation device (4, 6)
45. Deprived (6)
46. River Class torpedo boat destroyer resting in the Hawkesbury (4, 10)
50. Makeshift boat mooring (7, 4)
53. Relating to Dangar Island (5)
54. What you get bats in (*colloquial*) (6)
56. Post on a ship to tie up (7)
58. Same again (5)
59. Rivercraft often stuck on mud flats (9)
60. Breath of the sea (5)

## Down

2. Furthest community stop on the Riverboat Postman (6)
3. Nautical term for your rear end (5)
4. To call on for an answer (3)
5. Heavenly Birds (6)
7. Test (4)
8. Malevolent storm (9)
9. A lack of knowledge (9)
11. Tide royalty (4)
14. Personal watercraft (6)
15. Commuter vessel (*colloquial*) (5)
16. Useful boat hole-plugger (4)
19. Not active (4)
22. Smallest Sydney suburb (7, 7)
24. River Prawns (6)
27. Previously an island of goats (9)
28. General Purpose Hand (8)
29. A simple overhand knot (4, 5)
31. Marked Float (4)
34. Local semi-mature tide-dominated drowned valley estuary (6, 3)
35. Red nautical term (4)
36. A small and unusual object that is considered interesting or attractive (5)
40. Towards 3 Down (3)
43. What we all become without transport over the river (7)
44. Island at the junction of Berowra and Marramarra Creeks (3, 6)
47. What 46 Across was part of (5)
48. Stops the boat drifting (6)
49. What Dangar Island used to be called (6)
50. Floating flat structure of logs (4)
51. You'd be up the creek without one of these (6)
52. A secret evil plan (4)
55. Something that takes away your freedom (4)
56. Used to catch fish (4)
57. Small and painful creatures of the island (4)