

# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #48

[www.dangarisland.net](http://www.dangarisland.net)

SPRING 2015

## Dangar Island Community First Responders Marking the end of the first year

Christine Sanderson

Just over a year ago our team of community first responders went on duty, and we have provided continuous ambulance cover for the island since then. It has been a very very big year for us, and since we started we have now had 15 triple zero calls. We have also assisted numerous casualties that didn't need an ambulance.



*The CFR's first birthday party .... L to R Superintendent Sue Webster, CTO Scott Dries, Charlie, Chris, Mark, Kim, Barry, Michelle, Inspector Grahame Rathbone, Manfred and Cynthia (inset) – and a well-earned cake for the team.*

## The Future of Preschool in Brooklyn

Vanessa Payne

As you may be aware Brooklyn Mobile KU preschool will close its doors at the end of the school year 2015. This was very sad news for Brooklyn and the River communities it services.

In light of this closure Michelle Armstrong, Wobby resident, has worked hard to find a suitable, local, alternative option for making a preschool education available for Brooklyn and its surrounding area in 2016.

Michelle has met with Diana Aitken, principal of Brooklyn Public School and Hawkesbury River Child Care (HRCC)

president and director and has had a positive response with assurances from Diana to all families that a preschool education WILL be available in Brooklyn 2016.

The current thinking is that HRCC will run a separate preschool program for 3-5yo from 8:30am-3pm, along with their long day care model of care. Where this preschool is to be run has not yet been decided but there are several options being considered.

KU have kindly donated all preschool equipment, furniture, resources and craft supplies to assist the community in continuing

to provide a preschool.

There are many details that need to be covered and a business plan developed in the coming months. This will take a lot of work.

Gauging the community's needs is one of the first steps.

If you feel, or know of anyone that feels this proposed option for preschool education is right for you or their children, please contact us:

**Vanessa Payne**  
[nessrepublic@gmail.com](mailto:nessrepublic@gmail.com)  
0414 317 260 or  
**Michelle Armstrong**  
[wobbyshell@gmail.com](mailto:wobbyshell@gmail.com)  
0448 456 607

## Buster

The Jaggs Family



We would like to thank everyone who sent us letters, cards, poems and lovely FB posts when Buster was put to sleep on June 15th.

It was so nice to know that so many of our neighbours felt the love we did for our gorgeous dog. We had almost 14 years of his wonderful company and he is sadly missed every day.

Thanks for your support and understanding as we finally came to grips with letting him go. It was such a difficult decision but we know we made the right one.

He is forever fishing in heaven now-where we all know he will be extremely happy!

The Jaggs Family x

### MULLET MAIL BACK ISSUES Archived online

A selection of back issues of the Mullet Mail are available on our Community website. You can access the site at either [dangarislandleague.net](http://dangarislandleague.net) or [dangarisland.net](http://dangarisland.net).

# Try Sailing on “All Our Girls” – Crew Needed

Mark Cole



“All Our Girls” is a Southern Ocean 32 racing yacht co-owned by Charlie Hill, Chris Sanderson and Mark Cole. “AOG” or “Girls” is moored in the boat bag on the North Eastern side of the island. The ferry passes closeby her on the way to Brooklyn. “AOG” sails regularly through Spring, Summer and Autumn – most weekends in fact! Over the coming ten months,

AOG has a program of over 40 races. These include:

- Friday twilight races and monthly races with the Hawkesbury River Yacht Club in the lower Hawkesbury and Broken Bay
- Short offshore races with Gosford Sailing Club between Box Head, Terrigal and Long Reef
- Two Weekend Races with GSC to the CYCA in Rushcutters Bay and return
- Some longer Offshore Races to Newcastle and Port Stephens and return cruises
- Broken Bay Interclub Challenge Races involving yachts from Pittwater, Gosford and Hawkesbury in four events including the Three Islands Race around Lion, Dangar and Scotland Islands

Over the past couple of seasons a number of Dangar residents have been introduced to yacht racing and sailing by Charlie and Mark, who have both been sailing

since the mid sixties. The AOG team currently contains a number of Dangar residents including: Charlie Hill, Mark Cole, Chris Sanderson, Vanessa O’Keefe, Brenda Hall, Dean Finnigan, Ceri Adams, Aaron Todd, Peter Fetzter, Luca Dahl and Martin Lloyd. Our ages vary between 13 and 60 and there is a good blend of male and female crew. Anyone aged 12 or over is welcome for river racing, and anyone aged 18 or over can join us for offshore races or cruises.

Ideally we race with 6 or 7 crew, and so we need another half dozen or thereabouts to join our team to ensure there is always a full crew on the water. Beginners are most welcome and can try out sailing in the twilights and river races. If you prefer not to do offshore sailing, that’s fine.

Any level of interest or commitment is “OK”, from those wanting to “taste” sail racing with an occasional outing, to those wanting to commit to a regular or semi-regular place in the racing

crew. While we have a core group, all of whom race at least half the time, we are always trying to fill gaps when team members have other things to do or just need a break from sailing.

We guarantee excitement, fun and camaraderie. “Girls” is currently the HRYC Club Champion, having won the 2014-5 Season’s Point Score and was originally campaigned by the Australian Olympic Sailing Coach, Buster Hooper. Under spinnaker, All Our Girls planes and surfs easily especially in a seaway. Crewing involves sitting out on the side of the boat, legs overboard (on the rails), where you will get wet, but the company and views are good! “Girls” is purely a racing boat, so don’t expect a “caravan” afloat – down below she is very basic with just the bare necessities for overnight sailing. She is fitted out with approved safety and first aid supplies. Crew members include a qualified medical doctor, nurse and ambulance qualified first responders. “Girls” meets all safety requirements for short coastal racing.

If you are interested (or know of a friend or family member who might be) talk to one of the team or give us a call. You don’t need to be a resident of Dangar Island - Brooklyn or beyond is fine.

**Mark Cole**

0408 394 941/9985 8867

**Chris Sanderson**

0487 325 366

**Charlie Hill** 0448 857 750





# New Island Arrival

Ceri Adams

I moved from sunny North Yorkshire to the inner west in 2010, and then up to 19 Riverview in July. I'm a social worker by background, but I now work for the NSW Ombudsman investigating complaints about disability and child protection services. I commute into the city every day and am the hunched over semi-comatose character in the grey coat on the 7:10am ferry. My decision to move to Dangar was based on three factors: 1) the realisation that my mother would actually kill me if I applied for the social work job in the Falklands which I had my eye on, 2) a longstanding interest in public drinking without the risk of police involvement, and 3) excessive alcohol intake while considering points 1 and 2. I should probably use some of this space to clear up any confusion on how my name is pronounced - It's spelt Ceri but pronounced Kerry. My family is Welsh, and while my brothers got nice straightforward English names, I got this. To be fair, in hindsight my mother says she wishes she had called me Keziah, so maybe I should just be grateful for small mercies.



# Dangar Island League

Peter Wolfe

With the coming of Spring, we can report some progress on long standing items. We will give full details at our next public meeting and AGM on Saturday 26th September-please come and join us.

Nature and hard work have combined to clean up Bradleys Beach after the storm, but the problem of eroded areas of reserve and longer term measures to stabilise the beach remain. Working with Cybele and Jodi (aka the Beach Warriors) we have submitted an application for Community funding for \$85,000 to start the process of stabilisation and rehabilitation. We also supported a similar application direct by Hornsby Shire Council for funding under the Government's Climate Change resilience program.

We have been asking about Internet access for ever and have now received confirmation that the Brooklyn Exchange is due for upgrade by Telstra in October, so new ADSL lines will be available. Dangar Island has also been scheduled for fixed line NBN rollout commencing in the first half of 2016 for our area. We shall see!

We were invited to participate in an update briefing on the Peat Island Development, organised by Matt Kean and attended by State Property representatives, the MP for Gosforth and representatives of all the River communities. A decision is expected soon from Gateway to rezone the land, and then the real business of planning the site begins. Full consultation is promised for then and we are coordinating with the other River Communities on this.

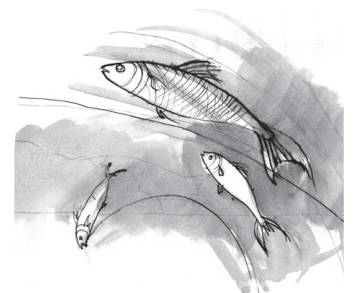
HSC issued a proposal for the Brooklyn Masterplan Project, including Terms of Reference, management process and community involvement. We were broadly in agreement to the proposal and Vanessa attended the late night HSC meeting where it was voted through. The next step is the appointment of consultants and selection of a community reference group. Any community member can express interest in being on that group.

Unfortunately there is little to report on the Wharf upgrade. However persistence has resulted in responsibility for the project overview being handed to a new manager in HSC and he seems to be responsive. He has (verbally) indicated that consultants are being sourced to peer review the SMEC work, and to undertake more

structured consultation with the community. We await the next steps.

Ferry users were dismayed to read that the replacement of the PET paper ticket meant that PET fares would not be available on the Ferry. It seems that a rethink on this may happen, so fingers crossed! If not then we will mount a lobbying campaign. Plenty of time yet.

All positions on the League Executive become vacant on the 26th, so please consider nominating for positions and please come and join us at the AGM. Next year promises to be a busy one.



# VICE-COMMODORE CLAIMS DANGAR ISLAND!

Tony Partridge



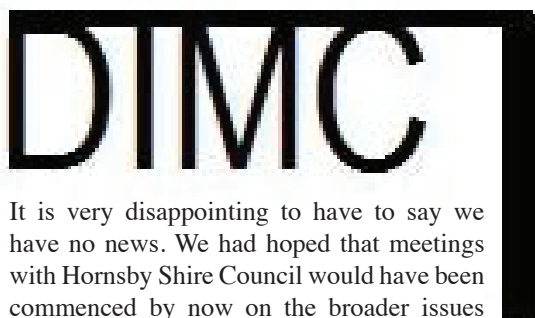
No, not what it sounds. Dangar Island has indeed been claimed, but by a resident. I recently discovered a cruising yacht club primarily established to raise funds for Prostate Cancer research, so I decided to join. However this proved unexpectedly difficult as the on-line form requires applicants for membership to nominate their nautical location - a river, bay, island or islet, etc. Easy, I thought, and of course nominated Dangar Island as my location . . . and my application bounced! It took several attempts and email contact with the organisers before eventually realising that Dangar Island had already been 'claimed' - by Dennis Cooke!

Vice-Commodore Cooke, in fact - but only because this egalitarian club designates ALL members as Vice-Commodores! So I eventually became Vice-Commodore of Whistling Kite Point - and any of you who may also apply for membership will need to select another similarly unique location. There are many nearby, so that's not a problem, though Whistling Kite Point is an especially appropriate location as the club itself also bears the name of a bird: *Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club*. And, yes, such an island does exist off the Queensland coast and is the venue for an annual club gathering. Just might get there eventually!

I hope some of you do choose to join, as membership funds go towards prostate cancer research - a problem that affects about as many men as breast cancer does women. Membership requires a one-off payment of \$60 and brings the recipient a warm feeling for a deed well done . . . plus a blue Vice Commodore's shirt. Look out for mine on the water this summer!

Like to find out more - or, I hope, to consider joining and supporting this important research effort? Simply enter '[sicyc.com.au](http://sicyc.com.au)' into your browser - and think of a locality you can claim!

Vice-Commodore Tony Partridge, SICYC



It is very disappointing to have to say we have no news. We had hoped that meetings with Hornsby Shire Council would have been commenced by now on the broader issues around the proposed mobility access pontoon structure at the public ferry wharf, but that had not happened. We will continue to push for this engagement, but have only limited influence.

Our position continues to be that DIMC would like to see the needs of all sections of the community and statutory bodies accommodated and integral to modifications to the Dangar Island Public Ferry Wharf.

If you would like to discuss any matters about the position of the DIMC regarding either, the public wharf matter 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.

**Your DIMC Committee:**

Ant, Sue, Tom and Stuart.



## BROOKLYN Spring Fair & Markets!



Hawkesbury River Child Care presents:

**Sunday 20th September**

**10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Brooklyn Oval, Brooklyn**

**Market Stalls! • Loads of Rides**

**Yummy Food! • Entertainment!**

**Petting Zoo ~ Free reptile show ~ Horse Rides**

(proceeds from the event go to keeping the local community run, not for profit child care centre running)



# Dangar Island Cafe

Fiona Mullen

Spring will be welcomed by everyone, it's been such a long winter, or so it seems. As new legislation came into force on the 6th of July outdoor smoking has been restricted to one table. This is located in one of the cooler morning locations unfortunately.

We have new faces at the shop as some staff return to full time study. A couple of the juniors are now stepping up and gaining some Barista skills which is great for them.

BYO is always welcomed and wine/bubble glasses are available upon request. Fridays we have our fresh Pasta Sauces and Fresh Housemade Pasta, we aim to have at least one vegetarian sauce available. Also our frozen meals for one, are in the meat freezer. Currently Thai Green Chicken Curry and Beef Burgandy.

A thank you for the support that is shown for commercial kitchens. Of course there are costs that are associated with compliance and your support is very much needed and appreciated.

# Pantomime



**Performance:  
Saturday 12th December**

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We are seeking community members to be part of this year's production of the Christmas Pantomime.

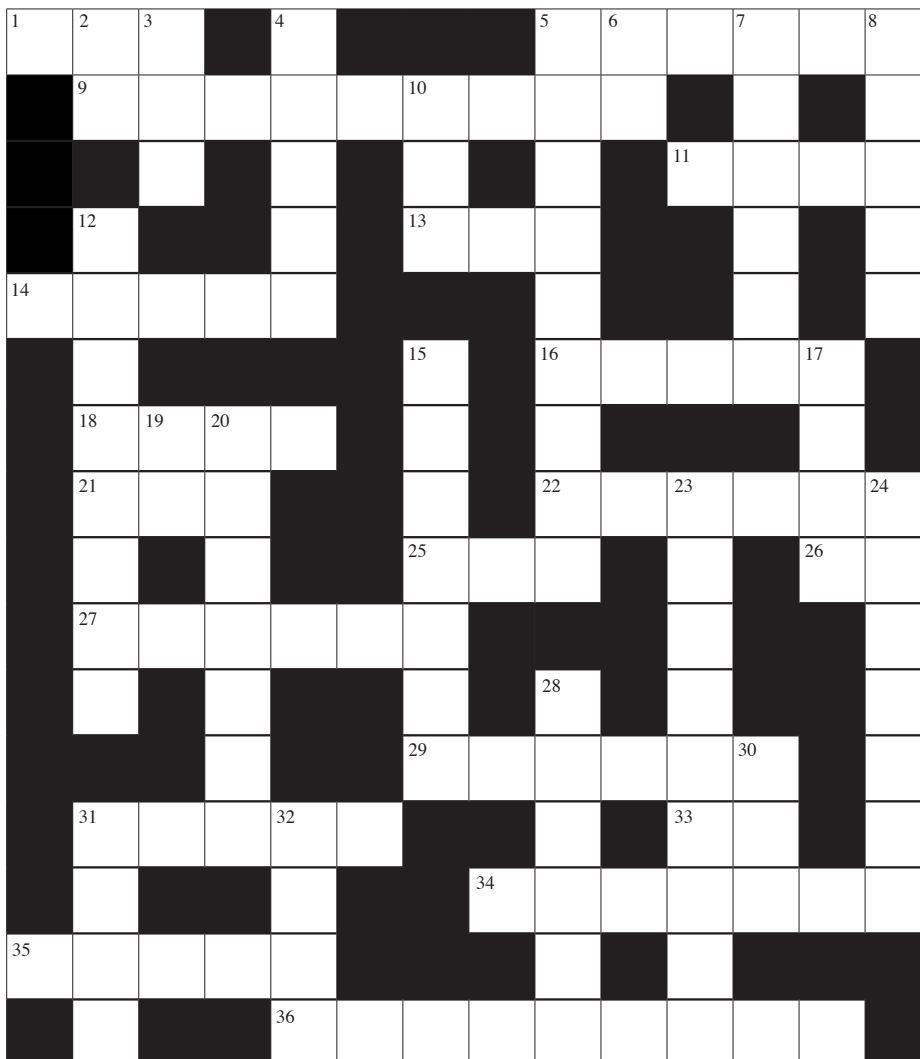
Whether you want to act, help with sets, music, costumes or choreography - **WE NEED YOU!**

Please indicate your interest to either **Michael Liebenberger 0404 103 913** or **Mel Anderson mel@frogpondstudios.com.au**.

We will be having an initial meeting to discuss the script and how we will be running the show this year. Please join us on **WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER AT 7:30** at the Dangar Island Hall. Looking forward to seeing you all!

# Dangar Island Crossword

Mel Anderson



## ACROSS

1. The First Responders deliver this.
9. Aboriginal name for the Hawkesbury.
11. Nest of vipers.
13. Silent night flyer.
14. Noisy body of water.
16. Colin Putt was part of an expedition to which Antarctic Island?
18. A barrel for holding liquids.
21. Twain.
22. Bulletin.
25. Grows from an acorn.
26. The (old).
27. Puzzle.
29. Running line dead-weight.
33. The third note of a musical scale.
34. A Broken Bay tribe.
35. How you get around Dangar Island.
36. Scary time of the year on the island.

## DOWN

2. The unconscious part of the psyche.
3. Lair.
4. Floating seaweed.
5. Coastal waters sea cow.
6. Preposition.
7. Sleeps in a bed.
8. Cocky Dangar dog.
10. What happens at 36.
12. Common island injury.
15. The Banksia's original name.
17. Traditional Dangar watercraft.
19. Sound of mild disappointment.
20. Crab army of Bradley's beach.
23. Dangar Christmas event.
24. Threadlike climbing support.
28. Book size of 16 x 23cm.
30. Nautical fitting.
31. White-faced wader.
32. Solemn promise.

Send in your *words* and *clues* to include in next issue's crossword!

# How crafting saved my life

Vanessa Payne

Prolonged exposure to trauma and stress changes your biology. You become hyper-vigilant, unable to switch off. Anxious. Depressed. Sadness without end. You begin to bargain with...someone, something so that all will be well in your world once more.

My personal trauma followed the premature birth of our son James, at 25 weeks gestation just over 5 years ago. He spent his first 100 days in the Royal North Shore Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. For most of that time he was on life support, unable to breathe for himself. He was so vulnerable and yet I was helpless and could do nothing to protect him. The odds of him developing into the capable, sociable and happy little boy that many of you know were remote.

I started to sew, or more specifically, quilt just after James came home from the hospital. It gave me a focus. I was able to visualize and complete projects in 15-minute bites between caring for him. The repetitive motion of some crafts like hand quilting, knitting, crocheting (there are lots) release serotonin, the feel good stuff.

I became prolific. And possibly a bit obsessive. Believe it or not, quilting helped me overcome my anxiety. I look back on those early days and can't believe how productive I was, I made about 15 single, queen and king sized bed quilts in 2 years. Mostly hand quilted. I now know that it was

an essential part of my coping and healing.

You don't ever really get "better" from posttraumatic stress disorder and related depression. You learn to live with it. You learn strategies for dealing with the symptoms that are different for different people. My, extremely frightening major symptom was what I thought was a heart attack. Several times a day! Crafting allows me to practice mindfulness – an important strategy.

Being pregnant with Jemma {Rosie} was no cakewalk either. I spent 8 weeks in hospital being monitored closely and rested to give her the best chance of being viable. During that time I crocheted every day. I made lovely things for my son, my nieces, and my home and after 25 weeks I started to crochet for my own baby. She was probably going to make it.

I still craft every single day. Every. Day. It helps put those negative thought cycles out to dry, it helps my concentration (which went out the window with trauma and hyper vigilance), and it gives me a focus for restlessness and anxiety. It helped me re enter social groups without it being just about me, the focus was on the creating. Most of all the mindfulness and happy place I go when following a repeating pattern has helped me recover and feel normal again. And I have beautiful gifts, handmade with love at the end. Win win.

Crafting quite possibly saved my life. It certainly helped pull me back from the edge

of a very dark place. I might have got here on my own, without quilting and crochet. But then I wouldn't have a houseful of blankets and crochet covered stuff. I am certainly no artist but I am beginning to understand and accept that I am a creative person and have many colourful projects on the go at any one time.

People craft and create for different reasons, which brings me to:

## MONTHLY CRAFT GROUP

Along with a small band of crafty like-minded islanders we have started a monthly craft group. Sewing, knitting, cross-stitch, crochet. All welcome.

**We meet in the hall on a designated Sunday 10-1.**

We drink tea, chat and create lovely things. We bounce ideas off one another, and help each other out. We make time for ourselves to focus on the making.

If you would like to come along please text me and I will give you the next date: **0414 317 260.**

## Knit and Natter @ Dangar Island Bowling Club

Vanessa Payne

Put on your Nana hat and join us to create some community projects, stimulating conversation and enjoyable company.

All welcome to a regular handicrafts night starting **Friday 18th September** from 7-9pm at the Bowling Club.

Bring any small handwork/handicraft to work on, eg. knitting, crochet, embroidery, scrapbooking, mending etc.

Assistance given, ideas discussed and help supplied if needed.

Would love to see you there.





# Meditative Handwork

from "Simple Abundance" by Sarah Ban Breathnach

Many women, especially if they have children, simply can't find twenty uninterrupted minutes every day to meditate. But those of us who *can* carve out those precious minutes to sit down and be still often find our minds racing on without us. The truth is that traditional meditation methods take time, practice and discipline before they yield restorative rewards; after a few attempts in which nothing happens, many of us get discouraged and give up. Because this is real life, I've tried to find other ways to induce a meditative state, even in the midst of chaos. One of the best methods is through meditative handwork. When other people see that our hands are busy, they often give us a few moments' peace before making their next request. What they don't know (and we shall never reveal) is that when our hands are busy, our minds can rest.

The creative artistry of handicrafts has been a part of women's domestic daily round for centuries. Handwork in all its many varieties was high art for Victorian women. This intimate and intricate soulcraft gave exquisite outward expression to countless authentic artists who were often strait-jacketed by the expectations of a rigid society. It's only in the last thirty years that what was once esteemed has been demeaned, as handicrafts have been demoted from being every woman's accomplishment to the personal pursuits of a chosen few.

I know the argument well: women today don't really have the time for crafts the way our foremothers did. Victorian women had more time on their hands because they didn't work outside the home. As far as I am aware, Victorian women had twenty-four hours each day to spend, savour, save, or squander. And while they weren't commuting to a job outside their homes, they were beating rugs, washing dirty *cotton* nappies by hand, hanging the laundry to dry on a line, cooking without electricity and refrigeration, baking from scratch, tending the sick without modern medicines, and nurturing families larger than most of us do today, and without electricity they weren't able to blur the distinction between day and night the way we do. Frankly, women have *always* had too much to do. It's just that Victorian women often coped better than we do; they realised the restorative power of rhythm, routine, rest, recreation, and ritual. They preserved their energy by alternating household and childcare tasks with centring pastimes that provided creative fulfillment and relief from tension.

No matter what your personal inclinations, there are so many different kinds of handicrafts available that every woman can find one that appeals if she's willing to explore. Consider weaving, basketry, bead craft, needle craft (embroidery, needlepoint, tatting, cross-stitching, lace making, smocking), sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, leather craft, rug hooking, pottery, stained glass, ribbon craft, paper craft (decoupage, collage, marbling, papercutting), bookbinding, framing, and carpentry. A friend of mine took up carpentry several years ago because she wanted to make some hanging bookshelves. She started with Shaker reproduction kits available from a catalogue. Now she wields a lathe as if it were a sewing needle and sells beautiful pieces of art.

Start small. You don't even have to sign up for a class if you don't think you have the time. Many marvellous and reasonably priced kits are available at craft shops and through mail order. The important thing is to keep trying one thing new each season until you find something you love.

Whatever handicraft you choose to pursue, be sure to keep your favourite project in clear view. If you store your unfinished embroidery canvas in the cupboard, that's where it will remain. Find an attractive basket to hold everything in one place, so the next time you find a few minutes you don't waste time looking for your supplies.

The Austrian novelist Marie von Ebner-Eschenback wrote in 1905 that "Nothing is so often irretrievably missed as a daily opportunity." For many of us the daily opportunity missed is the pursuit of pleasure. The next time the fabric of real life seems to unravel before your eyes, get busy with your hands, so that your mind can serenely sort out where to pick up the next stitch.

# Dangar Island Playgroup

Vanessa Payne

**Fridays 10-12**

Playgroup NSW

Dangar Island Community Hall

\$4 child / \$1 second child

**NEWCOMERS WELCOME**

Morning tea and craft activities provided.

*Call Vanessa for more details*  
**0414 317 260**

# S&A Motors

Arn Storch & Stu Allan



Need a mechanic you can trust?

**S&A MOTORS IS NOW OPEN!**

Car repair and servicing with  
FREE local pickup and drop  
off.

FREE pre purchase inspections.

FREE end of warranty expiry  
inspections.

**Call Stu 0420 926 949**

**or Arn 0414 507 679**

to book your vehicle in now.

Unit 15, 4 Hamley Rd  
Mount Kuring-Gai NSW 2080



# Dangar Island Bowling Club

Andy Payne, President



We recently held the AGM for the Bowling Club to close out the 2014-15 year.

The year has been a turnaround year for our Club and we have returned to profitability. This follows a number of very difficult years, during which the Club would not have survived had it not been for the generosity of a small number of islanders.

While the Club is a 'not for profit', it is our responsibility as Directors to ensure we establish and maintain a sufficient buffer to weather unexpected expenses, to allow us to pay our way during quieter months and also to continue to maintain and improve the ambience and amenity of the club as well as the bowling green.

The Club plays a special role in our Community, a place to come together with friends and neighbours over a drink and a meal. It's often said that the health of the Club is in part a sign of the health of our Community.

Maintaining the Club as a volunteer led organisation allows it to better respond

to changing community needs and expectations than if it was simply a privately owned commercially run bar and restaurant.

But that takes work, and as you know we are an unpaid volunteer board each with other competing priorities for our time, whether it be work, family or other activities, volunteer groups and causes we give our time to.

Having a full complement of Directors who are mostly on the island and are able to each attend meetings and share the load makes things so much easier.

The new Board following the 2014-15 AGM comprises the following four continuing director - me as Chairman, Leigh Johnson as Deputy Chairman and Director Bar & Kitchen, Evan Walsh as Secretary and Licensee, Vanessa Payne as Treasurer. We are joined by three great new additions - Jenny Rowe, Mel Anderson and Kevin Hansen. We'd like to formerly thank Matt Johnson, Chris Innis and Steve Crane for their service to the Club.

## Bowling Club Events



### OCTOBER

**Friday 2nd October**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

🍷 OKTOBERFEST  
– GET YOUR  
LEDERHOSEN ON!

**Sunday 4th October**  
**OKTOBERFEST**

🍷 Homebrew Festival 🍷

**Friday 16th October**  
🍷 Knit and Natter

**Saturday 31st October – HALLOWEEN**  
🍷 Special Ghoulish Dinner 🍷

### NOVEMBER

**Friday 6th November –**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**Saturday 7th November 12-3 PM –**  
Christine Jane Kirkwood  
🍷 Folk and Blues in the Park 🍷

**Friday 20th November –**  
🍷 Knit and Natter 🍷

**Saturday 21st November –**  
🍷 TRIVIA NIGHT 🍷

### DECEMBER

**Friday 4th December –**  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**Friday 18th December –**  
🍷 Knit and Natter 🍷

**Sunday 20th December –**  
🍷 CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
IN THE PARK 🍷

## Greens Fees

**\$10 per adult**  
**\$5 under 18**  
**MEMBERS**  
**FREE**

Groups of 10 or more on Saturdays half price.  
Pay at the bar in Club opening hours *or*  
out of hours place fees in the honesty box.



# SPRING



*From The Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce (1911).*

**S**auce, n. The one infallible sign of civilisation and enlightenment. A people with no sauces has one thousand vices; a people with one sauce has only nine hundred and ninety-nine. For every sauce invented and accepted a vice is renounced and forgiven.

**P**erseverance, n. A lowly virtue whereby mediocrity achieves an inglorious success.

'Persevere, persevere!' cry the homilists all,  
Themselves, day and night, persevering to bawl.  
'Remember the fable of tortoise and hare –  
The one at the goal while the other is – where?'  
Why, back there in Dreamland, renewing his lease  
Of life, all his muscles preserving the peace,  
The goal and the rival forgotten alike,  
And the long fatigue of the needless hike.  
His spirit a-squat in the grass and the dew  
Of the dogless Land beyond the Stew,  
He sleeps, like a Saint in a holy place,  
A winner of all that is good in a race.

– Sukker Uffro

**R**epose, v. i.  
To cease from troubling.

All roads, howsoe'er they diverge,  
lead to Rome,  
Whence, thank the good Lord, at  
least one leads back home.

– Borey the Bald

**I**s the first letter of the alphabet, the first word of the language, the first thought of the mind, the first object of affection. In grammar it is a pronoun of the first person and singular number. Its plural is said to be *We*, but how there can be more than one myself is doubtless clearer to the grammarians than it is to the author of this incomparable dictionary. Conception of two myselfs is difficult, but fine. The frank yet graceful use of 'I' distinguishes a good writer from a bad; the latter carries it with the manner of a thief trying to cloak his loot.

**N**ovember, n. The eleventh  
twelfth of a weariness.

**G**racies, n. Three beautiful goddesses, Aglaia, Thalia and Euphrosyne, who attended upon Venus, serving without salary. They were at no expense for board and clothing, for they ate nothing to speak of and dressed according to the weather, wearing whatever breeze happened to be blowing.

# Dangar Island Historical Society

Peter Wolfe

## HISTORY AGM AND PHOTO DISPLAY

It's that time of the year again. **The Historical Society AGM is at 11am on Saturday 26th September.**

We will be reviewing activities in the year ended June 2015 and electing the Committee for the coming year. Please join us at the meeting and if you would like to participate in activities, either on the committee or in other ways, please contact us.

This year we have acquired some great images from the archives and will be putting some on display in the Hall on the 26th for the AGM and leaving them up for show throughout the day.

**Peter Wolfe (President)**

**Tel 9985 7800.**

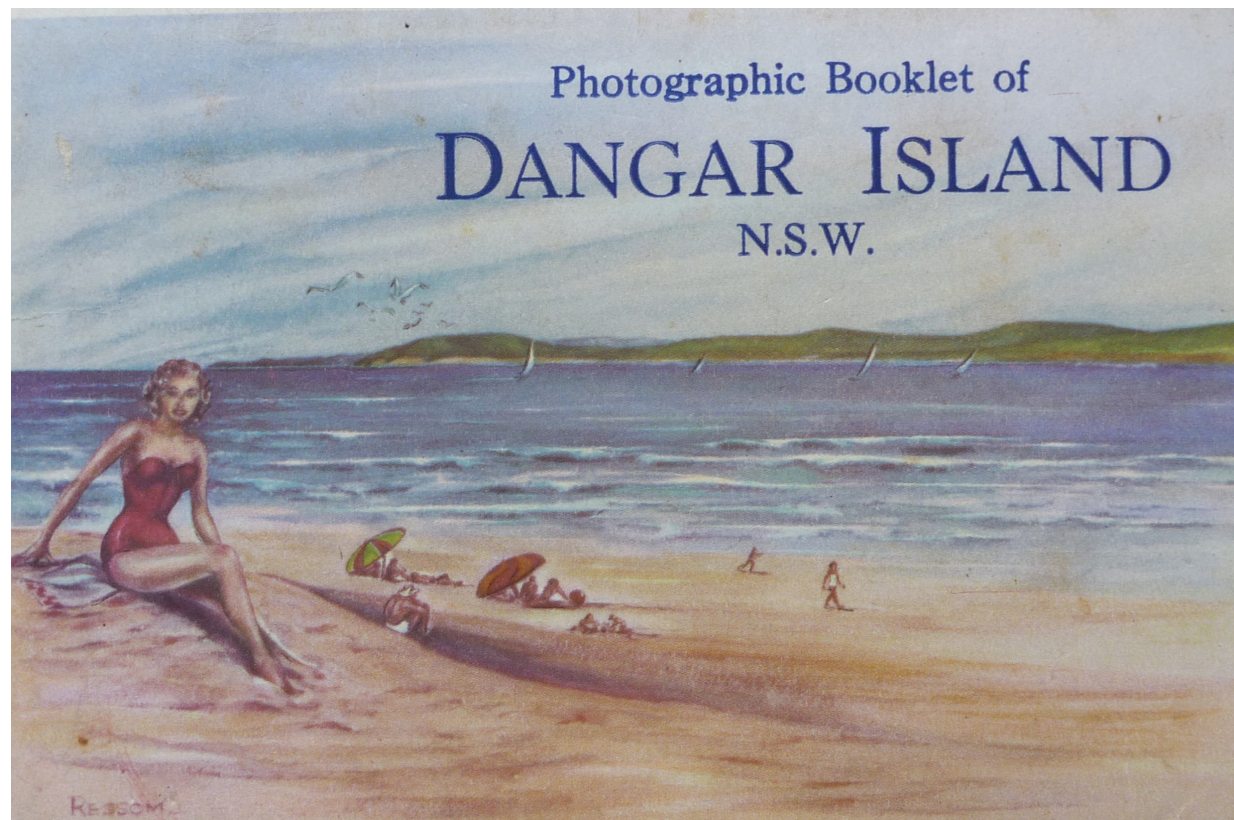
Or contact other Committee members:

*Dave Reynolds, Rosemary Curtis, Hans Pols, Trevor Kanaley, Judith Doyle, Rowena Reynolds, Lynda Dryden.*

*The south east tip of the island circa 1912, with Wobby and Croppy Point in the background. In the middle of the photo can be plainly seen Mareela Reef at the end of Bradley's Beach (without a mangrove on it!)*



*Bradley's Beach circa 1955 with oyster leases in the foreground.*



*Cover of postcard album from circa 1955*



*Ferry shed in 1911, taken from grounds of Dangar House. In the background can plainly be seen the remaining piers of the very long wharf built for the bridge construction.*



*View from Dangar House of a steam train crossing the original bridge in 1911. The remaining piers of the original long wharf used during the construction of the bridge can be plainly seen.*



*The office of Ryland & Morse, the American contractors for construction of the bridge spans, taken in 1887. The office was situated just above the original wharf, roughly where 8 Neotsfield is now.*



# Morning on Dangar Island

Brenda Hall

Over six months the sun slips through forty degrees, topping the cliffs over Wobby, then a little further North each day but not as far as The Tanks before it starts its way back to dawn behind Wobby again at the Summer equinox. It is always beautiful, but I like the sidelight – from the Northern and Southern reaches, more than the days when the sun directly faces the window from which I wake.

The sidelight defines one flank of each gum with a bright line that widens as the first hours of day develop. The broad leaves of exotic plants shine at the sun with bright faces, casting deep green pools behind. The varied palms create dramatic patterns of line and shadow against the water, redolent of luxurious tropical retreats, putting me in a mind to simply stay.

The river ripples in pewter, with imperfections flattened or raised where currents bump or unseen gradients lie beneath. Always moving, always changing, and always rhythmical. The tide is out; the mud comes up for air; the broken oyster shells bristle. Herons stand one-legged, their sharp bills ready-aimed, and the jetties stand on their many posts, stark and dry and withering. The tide is coming in, wetly creeping over the flats to the river's rock edges. The pelicans float, neatly folded; the boats rise and the jetties welcome their water back.

A silhouette lazily oars a standing board across the sun's diffuse ray. It is a reminder, for me, of a photo I took on the Congo river. Primitive function blended into modern leisure; proof of the time-and-race-lessness of river life. The Sun, bringing another nostalgia to the mix, carves its way smoothly, wooden white with grey trim and red caps, on time for the 7.10 commute. Runabout horsepower hums and the white froth of a wake cuts through the river, soon settling into dark waves, and eventually lapping into the shore with deep, soothing resonance, long after the noise of the boat has gone and the river has reclaimed its morning peace.

To the East, across the river, the cliffs burn brightly in sediments of ochre and sand sprinkled with humps of olive-grey gum. The boats below, stern swinging free and bow tied tight to golden buoys, are gleaming white, trimmed in sail-wrap navy. To the West, the sun makes wings of the railway bridge; dragon's breath of the clouds, and the river becomes a spiky crocodile underbelly.

# Evening on Dangar Island

Brenda Hall

The water edge rocks of Dangar light up their sandstone faces, revealing gritty whorls of cadmium yellow, orange and red. Mangrove roots pop through the muddy stretch of low tide while bleached tree bones and boat spars speak of the river's high wash.

Along the last-lit beach, human follies rest in a most appealing disorder. Wooden jetties stretch out with barnacle fetlocks, white post caps and sagging planks. A tinny chained on top of a pontoon; another strung between mangrove trees. A kayak tied to a wharf, baking its long bottom; a short canoe woven into a stretch of wicker fence. An aluminium hull mired in mud and wedged in a fallen tree-fork, full of moulding tangles of junk; empty vessels long time downturned on the hillside. A once-proud sailing vessel now toppled, the rotting ropes that once held it ready for repair now flapping uselessly in the light Nor-Wester.

Out on the river the sun catches The Sun's tail, as the 6.45 from Brooklyn brings Dangar's workers home. The ferry self-importantly bustles with the tide, then turns against it, first slipping sideways towards shore, then fighting back to the wharf. The river is busy, runabouts cross at varied revs, and their wakes refract and diverge. Stays clank as moored sailboats rock; pontoons seesaw; waves speak sibilantly to the shore and fade away. An outboard backs, an anchor chain rattles over the transom, another Dangar dinghy squeezes into the press of boats entwined at the wharf.

As the Eastern slope of Long Island becomes dark, and the sun shows itself to be a star, dusk falls on Dangar's beachfront, and each in turn the light circles on the Northern pontoon edges go out. Soon on the island, houses gleam through glass and bamboo, while on the water, boats sprint this way or that as green or red spots. And later, when the wind and the boats are still and the river has settled in nightfall, the all-round white light of a visiting yacht creates a mini-moon beacon across the glistening, smooth water to the window from which I watch.



*Dangarites in 1887. Employees of Ryland & Morse, the bridge span contractors, pose for the camera.*

# Brooklyn Ferry Service

Richard Stockley

I would like to take the opportunity to provide some feedback to the community on the current Pensioner Excursion Ticket situation, and to respond to comments published by DIMC in the last edition of the Mullet Mail.

The Minister of Transport, Andrew Constance, recently announced the discontinuance of paper tickets from 1 January 2016. The announcement as stands currently, will mean Dangar Pension Card holders and Seniors Card holders will have to pay the standard concession price each way for Dangar Island Ferry Service travel, plus the \$2.50 excursion ticket price if travelling on another form of transport with their Gold Opal card. This will mean an increase from \$2.50/day under the current arrangements, to almost \$10/day.

I understand that many of you have written in to TfNSW or our local MP Matt Kean. We have likewise contacted these parties, and have also notified and briefed The Hornsby Advocate. While we have asked the media to allow time for a resolution or outcome, they are keen to follow through with a story if needed.

More importantly we have combined forces with Church Point Ferry Service, Palm Beach Ferries and Cronulla – Bundeena Ferry Service, all of whom have local residents who will be similarly impacted. Through our combined efforts, the issue has been raised directly with the Minister by our respective Members of Parliament. Apparently the Minister was not fully aware of the potential impact to offshore residents, and discussions are underway with TfNSW to come to a fair and equitable resolution. We will keep the community informed as new information comes to hand.

In the last issue of the Mullet Mail, the DIMC implied it was community groups delaying the planned upgrade of the “Dangar Island Ferry Wharf”, and in turn the plans of the mooring cooperative. It was further suggested that both the community concerns and the costs to Council were unreasonable, I would like to point out the following:

- The Public Wharf at Dangar has the principle objective of providing public access to the island, not as an access way to a private mooring facility.
- Council has to date expended an undisclosed sum of funds, preparing plans, designs, and associated engineering not only for the public wharf upgrade, but also for the private mooring facility which is planned to be appended to the public wharf. I personally find the concern by the members of the DIMC as to the cost to Council surprising given that to date, and to the best of my knowledge, the entire cost of design and engineering studies and reporting for the “Private Mooring Cooperative” has been borne by Council, at everyday ratepayers’ expense.
- Council’s objective should be to upgrade this facility to disabled access standards as their principal objective. The current “Concept Design” appears to be aligned more with constructing a “Private Mooring Facility” rather than achieving the best solution for these goals.
- The current structure is an all-weather facility; the proposed concept plan has limitations and is currently not designed as an all weather facility.

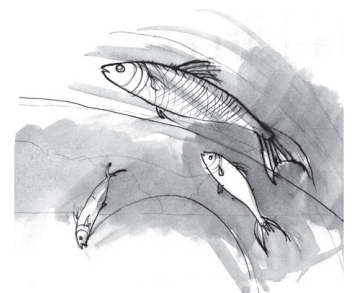
The current set of engineering and concept drawings, which have been presented, along with the accompanying design engineers’ report on the proposed structure are, in my opinion, a sub optimal solution for those on the island who are less mobile (including our school children and parents with prams). The design forces these people to traverse an extended length of unsheltered walkway / wharf / pontoon, in the very conditions where they would least want to do so, and would increase potential safety issues with children and elderly / frail residents.

Furthermore, the statements made by the design consultants in the report present a serious operational restriction to the ferry service. As written, and under advice from our insurance underwriters, the ferry would have to cease operations at any time that W or NW wind speed exceeded 22 knots, whether this be actual or just forecast, or when local wave height exceeded 60cms, as under these conditions the design engineers have indicated that the proposed pontoon would become unsuitable for berthing. This would result in the “Public Wharf Pontoon” being classed as an unsafe berth under insurance and maritime law, meaning that the ferry service would not be covered by our Passenger Liability or Hull and Machinery Policies if using the facility. A condition of our Contract with TfNSW is that we must be insured and hold valid insurances whilst we are operating with passengers on board.

If the current concept plan moves ahead to construction, there is a serious risk to the viability of the Ferry Service to Dangar Island. The Service’s viability is predicated, on being able to provide a regular and reliable service at the discretion of the master on board - and it is this that is at risk.

A recent Mayoral Interview has resulted in council appearing to have a better understanding of these issues, and of possible inadequacies in the SMEC report and design. The Mayor and Council staff agreed that it is necessary to have the data and report presented by SMEC peer reviewed. In this meeting, Council’s representatives also stated that whatever is done to upgrade the current facility, it must not impede the operation to the Public Transport link to the island.

As such we will continue to push Council to spend whatever funds are necessary to ensure that the facility upgrade is designed to a standard which provides “All Weather Access”, the best access solution for the mobility impaired and school children, and ongoing viability of operating a ferry service to the Public Wharf at Dangar Island. I encourage all of the community to treat this issue seriously, as regardless of who operates under contract to the Department of Transport, any inadequacy in design, or usage restrictions, have the potential to threaten the ongoing privilege that the island has of having a public ferry service.





# Seasonal Produce

Adrienne Williams BHsc Nutrition, Qualified Chef

Using seasonal produce has many benefits,

- when produce is in season there is more available therefore the price is lower
- if you are using locally sourced products such as from farmers markets you are reducing the time from farm to the plate. The faster a product is eaten after harvesting the higher the nutritional value – nutrients are lost as soon as the fruit/vegetable is harvested
- reduced carbon footprint
- supporting local producers keeping local economies alive especially important in small communities such as ours
- the biggest benefit is taste – food in season tastes much better!

Seasonal produce doesn't just include fruit and vegetables but seafood, cheese and meat and is readily available from local and Farmers markets. Buying locally not only reduces your Carbon footprint, it ensures you get the freshest possible produce and helps the local economy thrive.

## FRUIT IN SEASON FOR SPRING IN AUSTRALIA:

Cherries, lemons, mandarins, nectarines, oranges, peaches, plums, strawberries, avocados, bananas, custard apple, lime, melons, pawpaw, papaya, passionfruit, watermelon

## VEGETABLES IN SEASON FOR SPRING IN AUSTRALIA:

Artichokes, Asian vegetables, broad beans, broccoli, cabbage,

cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, leek, lettuce, mushrooms, potatoes, radish, rhubarb, silverbeet, spinach, squash, tomatoes, beetroot, capsicum, celeriac, eggplant, fennel, kale, zucchini

## SEAFOOD:

As Australia has such a huge fishing territory many seafood species are available year round. Some species peak during the spring period so some to look out for are:

Spanner crab, Pacific and Sydney rock oysters, school/bay prawns (start peaking in October), Atlantic salmon, coral trout, Spanish mackerel, snapper, big eye tuna, trumpeter whiting.

## MEAT:

Young animal meats such as lamb, veal and kid are particularly good in spring. Talk to your local butcher about what is best at the time.

## DAIRY:

Fresh cheeses, especially goat and sheep milk cheeses are at their best in spring due to the new pasture growth and the birth of babies. Eg: locally produced chevre, labne and goat's ricotta. Even Australian produced goat and sheep's milk yoghurt would be milder and sweeter this time of year.

For more information:

[www.seasonalfoodguide.com](http://www.seasonalfoodguide.com)

[www.sustainabletable.org.au](http://www.sustainabletable.org.au)

[www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au](http://www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au)

(sss-seasonality guide & crustaceans and molluscs seasonality guide)



## MADE TO ORDER!

Homemade sausage rolls,  
pies and savoury tarts.

Adrienne 0409 746 275



# The Breaking of the Day

**Bruce Lambert**

The shroud lies heavy on an earth  
drawn visage cold and grey.  
The swirling mist alone does mourn  
the death of night.  
Arise the breaking of the day.

The cloak of night that lies upon the earth  
whose folds of comfort now give way.  
The leaden sky assumes a different hue  
as pale half light precedes  
the breaking of the day.

The night bird high in silent flight  
no sound betrays the hunter to the prey.  
The moth is taken on the wing.  
No struggle does ensue before  
the breaking of the day.

The pale half light itself does find  
now then a stage where some will play.  
The first dawn chorus thus now begins,  
as shadows melt and fade away.  
Soon will be the breaking of the day.

The slivers like some errant spot  
upon an undiscovered panoply.  
The golden shafts of sunlight dance  
between the trees, caress each branch.  
It is the breaking of the day.

# Council Clean Up

**Oscar the Grouch**

Our recent Council Clean Up was the usual great opportunity for a treasure hunt. However, despite Council warnings of potential fines, a number of households put unwanted material outside their properties well before the collection day.

We have two clean-ups a year and always feel the island rises two inches and looks renewed when the collection day passes. Unfortunately, however, leaving things outside property boundaries long before the advertised collection date detracts dreadfully from our lovely island's appearance. PLEASE DO NOT DO IT!

If you have unwanted materials unsuitable for the red and yellow lidded bins please keep it all inside your property boundary, preferably well inside and out of sight, until shortly before the designated clean-up day - or arrange and pay for someone to make a prompt removal. Ten days, tops, would surely be ample and would leave only two weekends with the island looking a shambles, not four or more.

If you don't want to have rubbish spoiling your view please realise that NOR DO WE!

☹ Oscar the Grouch

# For Sale

**Rick Nock**



4 metre Fibreglass boat – \$100



Pair of Parker shelves – \$400

4.4m Laser sailing skiff – \$150

**Contact Capitane Rick Nock 0414 573 829**



# Buggy News

**Judy Nikola, Secretary, DIVMC**

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.

The recent spate of breakdowns has frustrated and disillusioned even the most hopeful among us. I would ask that you be patient with the whole process, be assured that the management committee is doing its best, in conjunction with council and the manufacturers.

Why don't you come along to the AGM on September 26th at 1pm in the hall.....yes, I know the football grand final is important too - you can tape that.

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLING CLUB  
*presents*



LIVE MUSIC - GEMMA GLENDENNING • GREAT FOOD • HOMEBREW COMPETITION

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER • 10 - 6 PM

## CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

Expressions of interest.

All ages. Adults and children.

Starting next school term on the island.

**Please indicate your interest, age of participant  
and times available to Mel Anderson  
[mel@melanderson.com.au](mailto:mel@melanderson.com.au).**

Programs would include visual arts, ceramics, design,  
drama, photography, zines and more.

## Mullet Mail Deadlines

### Christmas Edition 2015

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 23rd November  
IN BOXES: Friday 11th December

### Easter Edition 2016

COPY DEADLINE: Monday 29th February  
IN BOXES: Friday 25th March