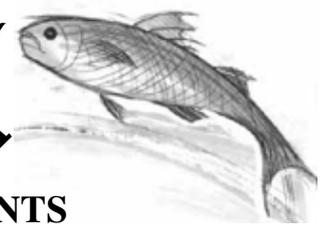


# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

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Xmas 2018

*Content found in this publication does not represent the views of the Dangar Island League*

## Walking With Elephants

*Georgia Lynne-Robinson*

I have always adored animals, elephants in particular and, about 18 months ago, I read about an opportunity to meet and walk with two semi-habituated elephants in the Okavanga Delta in Botswana.

Living with Elephants Foundation is devoted to providing rescued African elephants with a second chance and safe home in the wilderness of Botswana. Currently under care are Jabu and Morula, two rescued elephants, saved from culling operations in which they were orphaned.

Doug and Sandi Groves have dedicated nearly 30 years to providing world-class care and refuge to these orphans. The elephants thrive in a loving supportive environment and are provided with specialized care. Jabu and Morula live in expansive natural elephant habitat, which offers freedom for exploration, natural behaviour and wildlife interactions.

Maybe I could meet them? Somehow it all came together and we were off to the Okavanga Delta!

The 4 hours we spent with Jabu and Morula were incredibly special to me. These huge gentle creatures are very intelligent and have amazingly long memories. They silently walked out of the wilderness and slowly came up to familiarise themselves with us, sniffing and very gently touching us with their trunks. When they felt confident about us, we went for a walk with them through the wilderness. Morula gently put her trunk into my hand and we wandered along together. Her footsteps were completely silent. She allowed us to touch the very stiff bristle at the end of her tail which she uses as a fly swat, the underneath of her feet, her trunk and her mouth. Jabu the male elephant was just as gentle and allowed us to touch his huge curved tusks.

We ended up having a picnic lunch with Jabu and Marula



standing beside us, munching away on twigs and leaves and a special treat of apples and pears. When we parted, I felt so privileged to have spent time with these beautiful creatures who gave me a special glimpse into their lives.



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# Dangar Island League Presidents Xmas Report 2018

Ho ho ho, and welcome to a bumper holiday edition of the Mullet Mail. Thanks so much to the community, and in particular the kids, who've really stepped up to make this a cracker of an issue (pun intended).

The League committee has had a busy couple of months progressing our ongoing issues, and framing up future initiatives such as a website update and communications modernisation more generally. Of note, committee members met with both the new General Manager of Hornsby Shire Council Steven Head, and with our State member Matt Kean. See below for Trevor Kanaley's summary of the

meeting with Steven Head.

In the meeting with Matt Kean we canvassed various issues including the potential for introduction of the Opal Card (and associated cap) on the DI ferry. While no promises were made, Matt agreed to follow this up for us. Thanks again to Trevor for articulating our position on this in a follow up email. We also discussed the provision of 'services' to the island more generally, in particular health and community services. To this end Matt proposed a day in the not too distant future when service providers would come to the island for an information forum - making

themselves available to the community to discuss options and pathways to access their services. We look forward to this in the new year.

That's it from me for this edition - short and sweet. No doubt we'll all have some opportunities to catch up over the festive season. Take care and stay safe.

*Vanessa O'Keefe*  
**DIL President**



## Meeting with Steven Head, GM, HSC

Steven Head, General Manager, Hornsby Shire Council visited Dangar Island on Friday 2 November. The visit was Mr Head's first visit to the Island and provided the DIL with an opportunity to showcase the Island's geography and history and canvass some of the issues we face. Mr Head was accompanied by Steve Federow, Environment and Human Services Division Manager, HSC, who over a number of years has directly handled many Island issues. Trevor Kanaley and Judith Doyle took Mr Head on a tour of the Island and later joined with Caroline Coggins, Genevieve Ginty and Joel King for a general discussion at the café about the Island and its issues.

The aim was to let Mr Head see the Island and its issues, rather than achieve outcomes. Our problem with garbage bins becomes clearer when you appreciate the width and road base of Riverview Avenue and the steep drop to houses on the water front. Similarly with our issues with the community hall, road maintenance and the toilet block. It's better to see why the buggy and the ute are critical to our community than long-winded explanations. We took the opportunity to thank Council for the new wharf, which has transformed access to the Island, and Mr Head was able to see the successful beach rehabilitation work to remediate storm damage. Marela reef, migratory birds and the protected sea grass areas were also discussed.

### **Take Aways:**

We took the opportunity to brief Mr Head on the increase in Dangar Island's population and the shift to permanent residents. While we have substantial numbers of school

age children we also have a growing older population, emphasising the importance of easy access by boat and ferry, buggy and ute, car and train. Many older residents simply could not live on the Island if access becomes more difficult. We are now almost half of Brooklyn's population and rely on Brooklyn as a transport hub and for shopping and services.

### **Road maintenance:**

Mr Head agreed to get back to us on Council's proposals for maintaining the roads on the Island and their inclusion in Council's on-going maintenance budget. We emphasised that maintenance is predictable and should not occur on a 'complaints' basis.

### **Waste management and garbage bins:**

There is no simple solution to this problem. Mr Federow noted that they are presently starting to formulate their views for renegotiating the Shire's Waste Management Contract – a new contract will have to be tendered for commencement in 2020. The DIL should explore whether there is any scope in negotiating this new contract for better management of Dangar Island issues.

### **The community hall:**

Mr Head emphasised that the aim of the new hall arrangements was not to stop community groups using the hall and felt the new arrangements were not well understood. He acknowledged our problem with small incorporated entities such as the DIL and the Historical Society which flow from our small population of 300 people and the inability of memberships to cover the costs of public liability insurance. He offered to organise a meeting with their Risk Management officer

to explore how this issue might be overcome. He also offered to have a note prepared for the Mullet Mail explaining the new arrangements for hall hire, specifically tailored to Dangar Island, which should make it easier for non-incorporated community entities and private individuals and groups to access the hall.

**Peat Island redevelopment:**

We briefly discussed Property NSW's progress with a proposal to redevelop Peat Island. A proposal is due to go on public exhibition for community consultation in early 2019. We noted that as presently envisaged this redevelopment would add some 450 people to the population of Mooney Mooney bringing it to around the size of Brooklyn. Property NSW studies focus on the site rather than regional impacts. It would have presently undefined impacts on Brooklyn, Dangar Island and

Berowra ranging from school enrolments to demand for parking. Mr Head acknowledged the issues but noted this matter is presently within the ambit of the NSW Government and HSC is still to be fully consulted.

**Brooklyn as a transport hub and parking:**

Mr Head indicated that HSC would not be proceeding with a Brooklyn Masterplan. Council had decided that such a plan was divisive within the community and probably unworkable in the near term. Rather Council will now be proceeding to develop more modest local initiatives to address particular issues with the objective of incremental improvements. Mr Head agreed to consult with the Dangar Island community on these initiatives.

*Trevor Kanaley*



**DIBC Xmas Report**

On 28 October a new board was elected for the Dangar Island Bowling Club.

The board is; Tom Garvey president, Steve Griffiths entertainment, Garreth Tilson daily running, Karen Walsh secretary and memberships, Alec Pratt maintenance. I look forward to the next year's work with this productive group.

If you have any concerns about the club or suggestions to make, please feel free find one of us out, make a post on facebook, or leave a letter in the club's postbox. If you wish to contribute as a director, a spot exists for any full member of the club to join our elite band. No payment is available.

Thanks goes to the previous board. I am sure you will agree that the club is in pretty good shape. The new compressor is a great thing. Massive appreciation to the work of Sharon, who has done a fantastic job wrestling the kitchen into shape and cooking great food. Steve of course for the fantastic line up of entertainment. The remaining list of contributions is too great to write out but thank you to the other stalwarts without whom the club would no longer be eligible for the title as *The greatest little club on the Hawkesbury*.

Visitors and locals alike will be impressed with the work of DIG. The vegetable plot is awesome. What fantastic partners to the club! We hope to extend this partnership and find a way to go solar to reduce the club's carbon footprint. 15 December 2018 will see a big meeting up club with some possible solar providers. Y'all most welcome to attend from 930.

Enjoy the chance to have a roll up on the club's greens. Casual spots can usually be had using the visitors balls in the shed. Just ask one of the friendly bar staff. Thanks to the unpaid maintenance staff for the greens.

In the near future we will need to have a working bee. When the date is decided we will communicate by all the usual means. If you can, please be a part of the WB even if only for a short

time.

Best of seasons wishes

*Tom Garvey President Licensee*

**A SOLAR POWERED COMMUNITY?**

The DI bowling club will be the venue for an information meeting on the morning of Saturday 15 December, starting 9:30am. A team developing community-based domestic solar power networks will explain their concept and its potential here. For further information visit [www.shinehub.com.au/sydney](http://www.shinehub.com.au/sydney).

Apparently the island's extensive tree cover may no longer be the problem it once was but ShineHub can carry out a commitment-free assessment if sent your name and address. That information can be channelled via Tony Partridge here on the island ([a\\_partridge@bigpond.com](mailto:a_partridge@bigpond.com)) prior to the meeting - but he stresses that he is purely a channel, not otherwise affiliated with ShineHub!

*Tony Partridge*

# A Message from The Entertainment Director (or TED)



It's been great to see the community respond so positively to the program of music events that we have been presenting at the Club over the last year.

Islanders and visitors alike have been coming to the club in numbers in all through the Autumn, Winter and Spring to see great artists such as Garifuna Collective from Belize, Jeff Lang, Ricky Nifo, Mic Conway and Canadian Hawkesley Workman and it is the continued patronage and generosity of everyone who attends that makes these shows possible. Open Mic continues to be a monthly success and draws good crowds and amazing talent throughout the year.

Our thanks go to Philip Doggett for his hard work setting the room up and doing sound every month.

I'm happy to say we're continuing with a truly exciting line up of entertainment coming up in the next few months.

First up for Summer is a visit from **FourPlay String Quartet** on Sunday 2nd December. With a career stretching back to the mid 90's, they have released 5 albums, toured the world, played the album *Pet Sounds* with Brian Wilson, appeared at three TEDx Sydney events, and collaborated with wildly popular best selling author Neil Gaiman, performing with him at



venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York and The Barbican in London. This really is one not to miss. As ever, it is really essential for islanders to book so the kitchen can staff and stock accordingly - we rely on you to tell us you're coming.

The next Open Mic falls on the 7th December and the 11th January - to give everyone a chance to get back from holidays.

The first Sunday after New Year - January 6th - we are happy to welcome back **Queen Porter Stomp**. This band has such a lovely strong bond with the island, this is sure to be an excellent Sunday afternoon party. For the uninitiated, this is jazz where swing is the key you play, Melody is your gypsy mistress, and signature is what you're trying to avoid committing to paper until you have a shot of bootlegged whisky. This will be a loose sunny afternoon of summer musical goodness.

Sunday 27th January - Australia Day weekend - we are happy to have another island favourite **The Royal River Rats** returning for some great swing, rhythm'n'blues and jump jive. Bring your dancing shoes and jitterbug along to the sounds of the 40's and 50's with some of the finest players in town.

We will have a show on February 17th, so put that in your diary. We're just waiting on final confirmation - hopefully of something very special.

Steve Griffiths DIBC



# It's a GREAT read .... EVERY HOME SHOULD HAVE ONE! ....

Hopefully you'll have already received an invitation in your mail box .....

The Dangar Island Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication of the new edition of the Guide to Historic Dangar Island, to be launched alongside the AGM on Saturday 8th December in the Community Hall.

Last published in 2000, the new edition has been completely revised with significantly more information and twice the number of photographs and images.

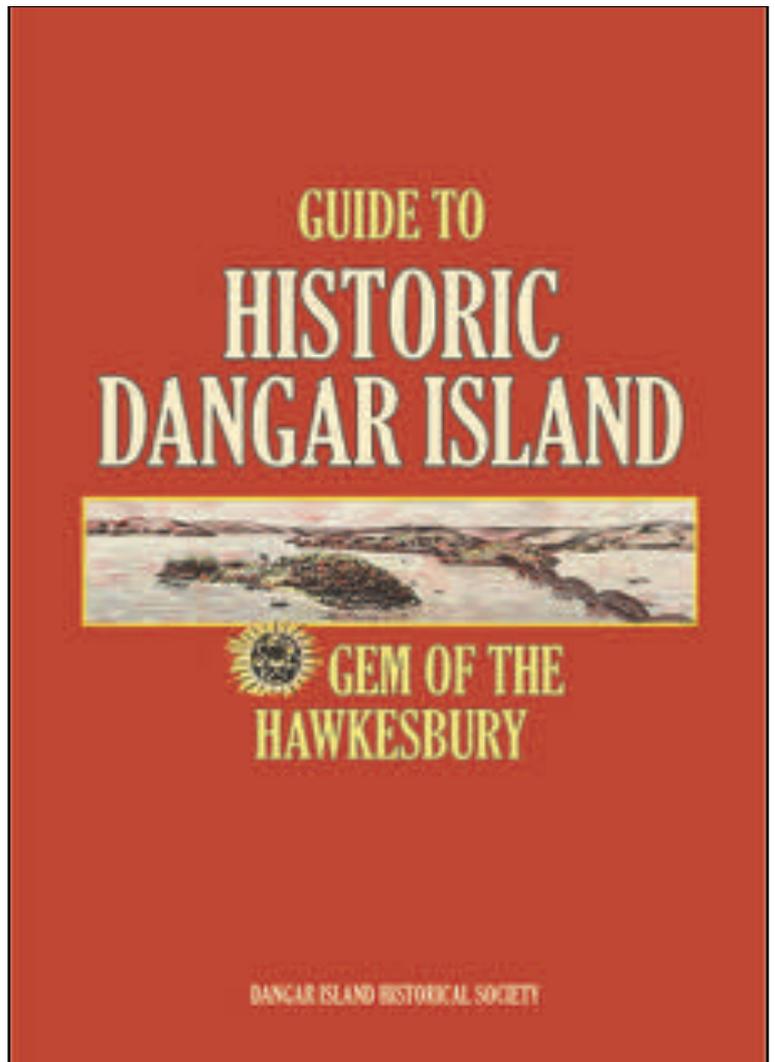
They will be available at launch for \$8 per copy.

Refreshments and nibbles will be provided.

We are justifiably proud of the enormous amount of work that has gone into producing this Guide Book. So come along, bring your neighbours, and buy your copy ... every Dangar Island home should have one!

Subsequently they will be available from the Dangar Island Depot/Shop and on the Riverboat Postman for \$10 each. Copies will also be available by post in quantities of 5 or more - place your order by email to the secretary, [dangarishistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:dangarishistoricalociety@gmail.com)

Judith Doyle  
Dangar Island Historical Committee



## Pedants Corner

"I'll be honest with you." A statement made in good faith or a mere throwaway line.

Why is it that so many people feel the need to preface their conversation with such a declaration?

Could it be that they are so unsure of their position that they need to bolster it with a sincere affirmation? The inference to be drawn is that their usual conversation is somewhat suspect.

Thankfully the reader need never doubt the veracity of the content of

Pedants Corner.

On a somewhat more mordant note, the increasing Americanisation of our language gathers apace. Elevator for lift, sidewalk for footpath, perhaps leading inexorably to that coming downward spiral into laissez-faire capitalism.

This coming event could have a catastrophic effect upon a reader of a sensitive disposition. With such an unfettered attack upon our linguistic heritage, the loss of our beloved "ough" will be too much to bear. Not to mention our delightful "re" which will now become the "center" of our world.

"Alice Thru the Looking Glass" will

never seem the same again.

Millicent Malaprop



# Island Portraits: *Leonie Daria Warren*



*Leonie has lived on Dangar Island for 34 years, but for the first 23 she hardly knew a soul. It was only after her husband died, and she started to use the ferry, that her circle of friends began to widen. Now many of us know and love Leonie; for those who would like to know more, here is some of her story.*

I caught up with Leonie as she was packing to spend Christmas with her family in the Philippines.

Born in 1943 in the north, in the village of Macarcarmay in Bangued Abra near Luzon, Leonie was one of eleven children. The family – indeed the whole village – was very poor. Education was recognised as a key to improving life.

Leonie did well and finished Grade 6 at the local primary school. A (relatively) wealthy aunt recommended her for further study at a private high school run by the Catholic sisters. Leonie moved to town to live with her grandparents. For 4 years, she worked to earn her place there; in her grandparents' general store during terms, and in the fields harvesting

sugar cane for vinegar and rum back home in the holidays.

Her elder sister worked in a shirt factory in Manila, and had already taken in one sister. Leonie passed the entry test for Philippine Normal College (now University), and brought her younger sisters to stay. This was another 4 long years, working for her fees and their keep, planting corn and rice, and selling the local long cigarettes with her city relatives.

Leonie's first teaching job was back in the province. To get to that school she had to cross a river, climb a mountain and walk 9 k. She approached the Governor several times to find closer positions. At each new school she was expected to enrol her younger siblings and support them all. Finally she was transferred to her local primary. It was a struggle to secure enrolments in her impoverished village, however: "There were 25 ghost enrolments and no one turned up the first day. The next day there were 2, and the next week 6. It ended up with 11, but I needed 20 to hold a graduation, so I had to grab

some little village girls and dress them up."

Civil Service Eligibility was required to work in Manila, and political influence was required for that. Increasingly unhappy, Leonie sought to enter a convent, in order to teach in Manila as a nun. She still carried the responsibility to educate her younger siblings. Her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education carried respect, however. Leonie did not have to solve her problem through the nunnery. She found work at a rich private school, and earned enough to support four of her siblings into teaching as well. It was demanding, however. Each class had 60 students, and Leonie had responsibility for supervising 12 teachers in the Kindergarten section. She regularly tutored until 10pm. Like most in the Philippines, she had no time for herself, or for travel; like 98% of teachers in her large school, she remained unmarried.

Meanwhile, Leonie's college friend Josie had wed and moved overseas. She found life good in Australia, and made it her mission to find husbands for her teacher friends back home. For Leonie, she came up with Geoffrey Warren, of Dangar Island; he was a fellow church member, divorced and lonely. Josie encouraged Leonie to become pen pals with him. Leonie was reluctant; having turned 40, she felt too old for marriage. However, after receiving a nice letter and photo from Geoffrey, the pair wrote for 7 months.

Then Geoffrey announced that he was coming to the Philippines for 8 weeks. Supported by her friends and sisters, Leonie went to meet him at the airport, but he had already left for the hotel. He came to her Manila house the next day, however, and his hopes soon became clear.

*(Cont. Pg. 7)*

He asked directions to a jewellers; he wanted to go to her village, to ask her parents for permission to marry. Leonie's father agreed; she had fulfilled her obligations to the younger children, and could to support the family comfortably from Australia.

Leonie said that she was not in love, at first. When her brother pointed out that marriage can be for companionship, she accepted the arrangement. They could not find a Catholic priest prepared to marry them, so they had a civil ceremony.

She arrived in Australia soon afterwards, on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1984. Leonie stood looking across the water to Dangar Island, in awe. At first, she thought the boatshed was their house.

The school principal had assured her he would keep her position open, if she

wanted to return. For two weeks, Leonie would not let Geoffrey touch her. Then she wrote to the principal. She had decided that she could trust Geoffrey, and grow to love him.

"After a while," Leonie told me, "he became a father, a brother and a husband to me. I was never able to have children, but I was very lucky. I see it as a grace from God, for looking after my younger sisters and brothers."

Geoffrey would give her \$50 from every pay, which she banked. She wanted to support her family in the Philippines with her own money, however. She was not able to teach without further study, so she worked in factories. Now she regularly collects ferry shed clothes, toys and other things for the villagers who are

still very poor. She enjoys crocheting, gardening, cooking, and children's TV (because she misses her Kindy kids).

Joan and Manfred are Leonie's long term friends on the island. It was Manfred she rang when Geoffrey had his stroke (and the CFR, when her brother had an asthma attack). She will miss Ming and Marcella, but she finds all the islanders friendly and helpful.

"I know more people on Dangar Island now than I do in my home village", says Leonie. "At the end of my Philippines holiday, I say *I am going home now, to Australia!* I will be happy to die here, on the island."

By Judy Lattas

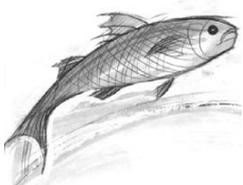
# Tribunal

A huge thank you to the Dangar Island community and beyond for making the performance of TRIBUNAL a truly special event. The PYT cast and crew were overwhelmed by the warm welcome and the community's incredible generosity on the night and week preceding. The play is wholly dependent on audience participation and of course Dangar didn't disappoint! Special thanks goes to Judi & Paul for allowing their boathouse to be turned into the greenroom; Su & Tony, Jacky & Paul and Janel & Alec for going above and beyond the call as the "circus rolled into town" and generously providing the company with such beautiful accommodation. Thanks as well to Cathy and Arn for the wonderful offer of backup should the clown's get out of control! And to the wonderful Sharon and the Bowling Club kitchen for creating a sumptuous feast and working so hard to feed everyone after the show... & to Gareth, Margie, Theo & Audrey for being the best front row this production have EVER had (Mahdi & Jawad's words: "...that Audrey is a born actor!")

Thankyou thankyou one & all!



Mish Moore



# DAVID'S PLACE COMES TO DANGAR



*David's Place* is an inner city Community which brings together the two ends of town, the comfortable and the not so comfortable. It is a Community that is based on sharing the stuff of our lives and being honest with each other. We think one of its side benefits is that it makes the city of Sydney a better place to live in. It has been going for nearly 20 years and those who are part of it meet every week and some of the very involved like Sue its founder meet 4 or 5 times a week. There are probably over 100 people involved to some degree and those from the poorer side of town out-number those from the more well off end. This may be due to the fact that Bob Dylan once enunciated "if you ain't got nothing you ain't got to lose". By living vulnerably, Sue believes, the poor have much to teach those of us who are materially comfortable about life and its meaning.

A big part of *David's Place* is celebrating and recording birthdays and the many events like picnics and outings that are an ongoing part of the life of the Community. It is a strong belief at *David's Place* that everyone's life is important and therefore it should be photographed. Our centre is in a demountable at the back of St. Canice's Church Kings Cross and its walls are lined with many, many photos. About a year ago

I asked one of the *David's Place* people Ross, whether he had ever had his portrait painted. He seemed to me such a wonderful subject for such an undertaking and he was keen to be part of it. I contacted the National Art School and asked if the students there would be interested and they were very keen to be engaged. So we did it and the art produced was wonderful but also Ross loved all the attention given to him.

From this Judi and I started thinking about bringing some of the people from *David's Place* down to Dangar Island for portrait sessions. We knew David Collins and Ana Pollack have been part of a group of artists who have been doing portraits at various venues for the last few years and so we asked them if they would like to be involved. They were and so over the last few months we have had two sessions at our boat shed involving 9 sitters from *David's Place* and about the same number of artists. The works produced have been great and have formed the basis of an unique ART SHOW that was held on the 26th of October this year at St. Canice's Church. The two days of portrait making at our boat shed will long be remembered by all involved. Both the sitters and the artists felt they had been involved in something quite magical and there was a deep sense of gratitude at the end of each of the days of art making.

We hope to continue to invite people from *David's Place* to Dangar and possibly with the involvement of more of the Dangar locals. If you would like to be involved in future projects please feel free to contact us. [www.davidspplace.com.au](http://www.davidspplace.com.au)



Paul and Judi Taylor



## Dangar Island Community First Responders

For medical emergencies on the Island

### ...Call Triple Zero...

•We run a 24/7 roster that provides emergency medical response for islanders and visitors

•We provide emergency care, and we liaise with the paramedics so they can get to you quickly.

•In an emergency, please don't call individual CFRs on our mobile numbers – this is unreliable and slows us down

•At the same time an ambulance is being dispatched for you, the CFRs on duty are called up by the NSW Ambulance control centre.

•Pensioners and those with health insurance are covered

•If you're not covered, consider taking out "ambulance only" health insurance

# Gardens and Gardeners..... by Marina Garvey

Dangar is an island of gardens and gardeners. One such gardener is Andrew Lattas who over the years has given his garden largely over to the cultivation of Bromeliads, a South American plant with over 2000 different species. Andrew tells me that perhaps the most well-known Bromeliad is, of course, that spikey pine cone shaped fruit, the pine-apple.

Indeed, when you get off the Dangar ferry and begin to walk up the hill along Neotsfield Ave Andrew's passion for the Bromeliad is hard to miss. Apart from the hand-worked sandstone paths, leading up to the house and around it, almost every inch of Andrew and Judy's garden has a bromeliad of one form or another poking through with irrepressible determination. It is a profuse and busy garden with a vigorous, hardy energy underpinning it.

Andrew's commitment to Bromeliads, in fact, began more than ten years ago as a practical response to being away in the field for lengthy periods of time and

wanting plants that required little maintenance and were drought tolerant. The Bromeliad is an indefatigable plant, running so-to-speak on the smell of an oily rag, well perhaps not oily but they are tough, coping with poor soil, little water and a variety of climatic conditions. Some might say just the thing for a place like Dangar!



However, as far as Andrew is concerned, the toughness

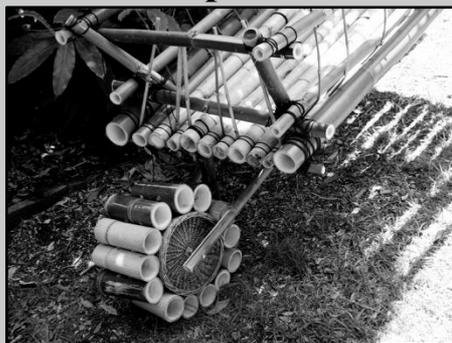
of the Bromeliad is one of its most endearing features.

Toughness aside, the sculptural impact and sheer variety that can be found in the Bromeliad becomes increasingly apparent as we wander up and around the garden. *Vriesia's* with their striking striped foliage, enormous *Alcamarea* that sprout huge flower spikes, *Neoregelia* with reddish markings on the leaves and then *Aechmea's* with their long lasting sprays of pink flowers are just a few of the species growing.

The more we talk it becomes clear that Andrew loves these plants and has lavished endless hours on creating a surprising garden escape for himself and his family; one that is not only self-sustaining but also uniquely imaginative and quirky. In my mind it confirms just how much a garden becomes us and we them, when we give it the time.



## Island Garden Sculpture Competition



For the second time a garden sculpture competition will be held on Dangar Island. Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January both visitors and residents

will be able to walk around the island and enjoy the sculptures entered in the competition. A range of fabulous prizes donated by local businesses will be awarded to entrants in each of the following categories: First, Second and Third Prize, Young person under 13, Humorous and a Peoples Prize. Judging of the sculptures will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January

So, to all Dangar Islander's put on your creative caps and build your piece of garden then position a pair of white shoes beside it and place it near

the path or road so that it can be seen.

To enter please register your intent by either emailing [marina.mulletmail@gmail.com](mailto:marina.mulletmail@gmail.com) or talking to Michael Leidenberg.



# Silence In The Mind

Silence

*But the silence in the mind*

*But the silence in the mind  
is when we live best, within  
listening distance of the silence  
we call God. This is the deep  
calling to deep  
of the psalm-  
writer, the bottomless ocean.  
We launch the armada of  
our thoughts on, never arriving.  
It is a presence, then,  
whose margins are our margins;  
that calls us out over our  
own fathoms. What to do  
but draw a little nearer to  
such ubiquity by remaining still*

by R. S. Thomas

I believe we know stillness. Unexpectedly all thoughts can vanish, and we can be whooshed into Reality, away from our surface mind.

A death, a diagnosis, a painting, a meeting, or the dark silence of the river at night. Many things invite us deeper than our busy minds can fathom. And yes, we are drawn a little nearer to this ubiquity.

The Australian poet Les Murray says, “*We have gills for a dream life, in our head, we must keep them wet.*” We live in the midst of sacredness, as sacred beings together, silence lets us grow these gills for dreaming.

Keeping our gills wet, being drawn into silence is both gift and cultivated. Is there really any response needed ... we are people of many words, and yet in waiting there is space and time, cellular knowing's beyond our own conceptions.

The original people of our country know these things, as do the Irish. Seamus Heaney the Irish poet speaks of his aunt.

*Field of Vision*

*I remember this woman who sat for years  
In a wheelchair, looking straight ahead  
Out the window at sycamore trees unleafing  
And leafing at the far end of the lane.*

*Straight out past the TV in the corner,  
The stunted, agitated hawthorn bush,  
The same small calves with their backs to wind and  
rain,  
The same acre of ragwort, the same mountain.*

*She was steadfast as the big window itself.  
Her brow was clear as the chrome bits of the chair.  
She never lamented once and she never  
Carried a spare ounce of emotional weight.*

*Face to face with her was an education  
Of the sort you got across a well-braced gate —  
One of those lean, clean, iron, roadside ones  
Between two whitewashed pillars, where you could see*

*Deeper into the country than you expected  
And discovered that the field behind the hedge  
Grew more distinctly strange as you kept standing  
Focused and drawn in by what barred the way.*

Freedom and silence are strange friends. Freedom is not necessarily what we imagine. It is not the capacity to do anything we like but the capacity not to do and silence is not just the absence of sound but a mind that can be quiet without knowing anything much, but safe enough to rest in this ubiquity.

And the river flows on, like our breath, inspiring and expiring, till it ceases as it must.

By Caroline Coggins



## D.i.G IT!

### Your Community Garden Needs You!

If you've walked past the Bowling Club lately, you will have noticed that the Dangar Island Garden has blossomed from dream state to reality. Many hands make light

work, and the rewards of seeing the fruits of our labours is well worth the investment of time.

The garden will serve the bowl kitchen, and the kitchen serves the gardens by saving its waste for the compost and so the loop is complete.

Cont Pg 11

In addition to the Community Garden, Sharon would love to source as much produce as she can from Dangar Island. If you have an excess of anything, or can provide regular supplies, please let her know. Many people have donated seedlings, seeds, garden materials and equipment and money.

Special thanks go out to our resident guru gardener and the inspiration for this entire project the extraordinary Manfred Merle - thank you Manfred for everything you do!, Rob Moxham for his amazing generosity and assistance getting the organic soil to the island, Ben Miller for his wisdom and advice, Sharon for your never-ending enthusiasm, Leigh and Aaron for getting us into this thing in the first place (hmmm moot point), Jo Cameron for the fab garden barrow, Mark and Chris for the compost tumbler that has worked such a treat, Rachel and Sofan's sublime heirloom corn, Rocky's magnificent mulch!, Josh & Gen's wonderful worm farm, Cam's Macadamia trees and top-notch water tank (via Jonathon & Cybele thanks guys!), Eben's mammoth hauling, Pauline's sweet lettuce! Cath & Arn's beautiful bamboo, Joel's sunflowers & stone, Ana's maize-configurations and keen eye (skill & advice) on all creative goings-on, Crystal's generous donation of bricks, Dave & Rowena's virtuous Vietnamese basil & mint AND Bug-Busters Georgia & Bill for their beautiful gift of a lemon tree! To Matthew for sharing his shed and giving us the much coveted lawn-clippings and to the bowling crew for putting up with us and the smell of chook poo wafting over the green on a Sunday afternoon - we say thanks! And for all the other contributions too numerous to mention in this update PLUS all the wonderful conversations and kind words of encouragement and island good-will from passers-by it means alot!

Huge thanks to Sue & Tony whose donation of their sweet little tender set the tone for what has become an impressive flotilla moored along the bowling green fence-line - we were 'Over-The-Moon' about Helen

Kaminski's glorious shipshape tinny's (x two - thanks Martin and Michael for saving them!!!) which were closely followed by Manfred's marvellous too-good-to-be-true dinghy... & last but not least Kym's charming canoe! Boats of every persuasion, but no longer seaworthy, are a great addition to the garden, providing more gardening space and of course lending a nautical feel that is uniquely Dangar. Let us know if you have something you want hauled away and we will send our volunteers to make it disappear. Then come see how your contribution has transformed morphed into a veggie vessel adding to the beautification and bounty! Thankyou thankyou one & all!

**ARTISTS:** Our resident artists of all ages are foundational to the vision of the garden and are an integral part of...well... everything! We Love You! And your creativity and collective skills will chart the garden's progress, from photography to watercolours, charcoal sketches, ceramics, botanical drawing to weaving fences, designing a noticeboard and signage and the elusive garden logo to eventually create a unique and beautiful space for everyone to share. Imagine the bowl surrounded by a beautiful meandering perfumed garden of edible plants and fruit trees, playing barefoot bowls on a summer evening under a trellis covered in grapevine.

SO "Follow Us On Facebook" for all of the latest news, drop in gardening hours and how you can support this initiative. Watch for plant sales and other not-in-your-face fundraising efforts to ensure that we can continue what we have started. <https://www.facebook.com/dangargarden/@dangargarden>.

**KEY ACTIVITIES COMING UP:** yes please, we'd love your help!

- Prune bay tree
  - Construct/extend/improve compost and potting table area
  - Install Water tank at club to assist with watering system
  - Signage workshop on WED 12th DEC, 4pm onwards at the Club.
- We encourage all kids and adults with an artistic urge to come along and have

some fun making beautiful signs. Connect to our FB page for further details, there will be a shout out for donation of materials coming soon! Ways you can help:

- Come spend some time with us. Drop by at your leisure or if you'd like advance notice of working bees and other key activities, email [dangarislandgarden@gmail.com](mailto:dangarislandgarden@gmail.com) or text your contact details to Margaret to be included as a regular volunteer.
- Donate unwanted garden tools and supplies - WISHLIST: straw/sugar cane mulch; mushroom compost, a small garden shed; tumbler bin; an old bathtub and/or another worm farm.
- Building skills and/or materials - WISHLIST: hardwood timber (to build grapevine arbor/& fix bowling green benches), trellis, marine ply etc
- Share excess seeds and seedlings
- Donate a boat
- Make a financial contribution, donations of any size welcome or why not sponsor a Boat or Bed! Will need more soil soon.... (see Margaret Tillson)
- Bring us your used coffee and tea grinds (see the labeled bin in the compost area)
- Save your eggshells for us (place them on the potting bench)
- Save your empty loo paper rolls to be used for planting seeds.
- Drop by with cold drinks during the drop in gardening hours
- Offer some time to assist with research for grant applications etc.
- Anything else, large or small. All ideas welcome! It's your garden, too!

**Contact:** *Margaret Tillson* | [dangarislandgarden@gmail.com](mailto:dangarislandgarden@gmail.com) | 0417 222 086



*Mish Moore*

## *An Invasion On Dangar Island*



This is *Ochna*, commonly called *Micky Mouse Plant*.

It is a shrub with serrated leaf and the flowers are yellow in spring, then turn bright red, and the fruits turn from green to a glossy black - very attractive to fruit eating birds.

Many readers may think of it as an attractive, long flowering garden plant. In fact it is an aggressively invasive South African woody weed - a real "enemy of the bush".

It may start as seemingly harmless small shrub, but will grow to over 2m in height, and because so many new plants spring up around it from the fallen fruit, it can soon form dense thickets, and is much harder to eradicate than Lantana. In the last 10 years or so, it has been spreading along Riverview Avenue, on the north side of the Island, but now appearing on the west and south east as well. I hate to think what it may be like in another 10 years if left.....

New shoots and small plants up to about 30cm high can be carefully pulled out of damp ground, but they rapidly grow a very deep taproot and will break off when pulled, then shoot again from the root. The best thing to do with established plants is first to cut off all the branches with flowers on, and put them in your green bin, so the birds won't get this year's crop. Then the recommended method of attack is, with a sharp knife, to scrape down the trunk to a little below the ground level and quickly run full strength 'roundup' down the scraped area. This is safe, if you wear gloves, and won't hurt other plants. *Ochna* is a very tough customer, and this process may have to be repeated several times.

Of course there are other invasive enemies of the bush out there - Asparagus fern is also spread by birds, and seems to be in plague proportions at the moment. If you want advice about these issues, you could talk to

someone in the Bush Care group. Or better still come and join us, and learn more about weeds and the native plants of the Island.

Terry Dorrough

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### **Discover The Dangar Puzzle**

In case you don't know, for the past few years people walking the Riverview Loop between Christmas and New Year have been challenged by a 1000 piece community jigsaw. Some contribute a piece or two, others sit all afternoon completing a big chunk.

This year the river themed puzzle will again be there from Boxing Day. Get involved. The challenge is on to finish it within the week.

Jo Karcz

#### The Enemy Within

Dark primal thoughts  
Clamour to be heard.  
Like characters in a play  
In a theatre of the absurd.

Phantasmagorical beings  
Flit across the screen.  
Unlike any others  
You are likely to have seen.

Unbridled despondency  
Is the harbinger of doom.  
As misanthropic figures  
Emerge slowly from the gloom.

Frantic fear of falling  
Does lead quite now apace.  
The only greater worry  
Is the man without a face.

A spectre of foreboding  
For surely it should seem.  
The greatest fear and torment  
Though it was only just a dream.

Bruce Lambert

# 12 Days Of Buggy Yule



On the 1st day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Thanks for using it - so we don't lose it."*

On the 2nd day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Extraordinary mobility assistance - GO AHEAD."*

On the 3rd day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee .... *"Phone ahead of time - 30 minutes."*

On the 4th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Pay the correct fare."*

On the 5th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Have the right change."*

On the 6th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Volunteer drivers aren't heavy lifters."*

On the 7th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Place bags on seats carefully."*

On the 8th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Respect the volunteer drivers."*

On the 9th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee.... *"Maximum speed 10kph (6mph)"*

On the 10th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee... *"Join the volunteer drivers."*

On the 11th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee... *"Use the ute for big stuff."*

On the 12th day of Xmas thy buggy said to thee... *"Merry Christmas and Happy 2019!!!"*



**And Don't forget.... the Island Garden Sculpture Competition. Register your intention to enter at**

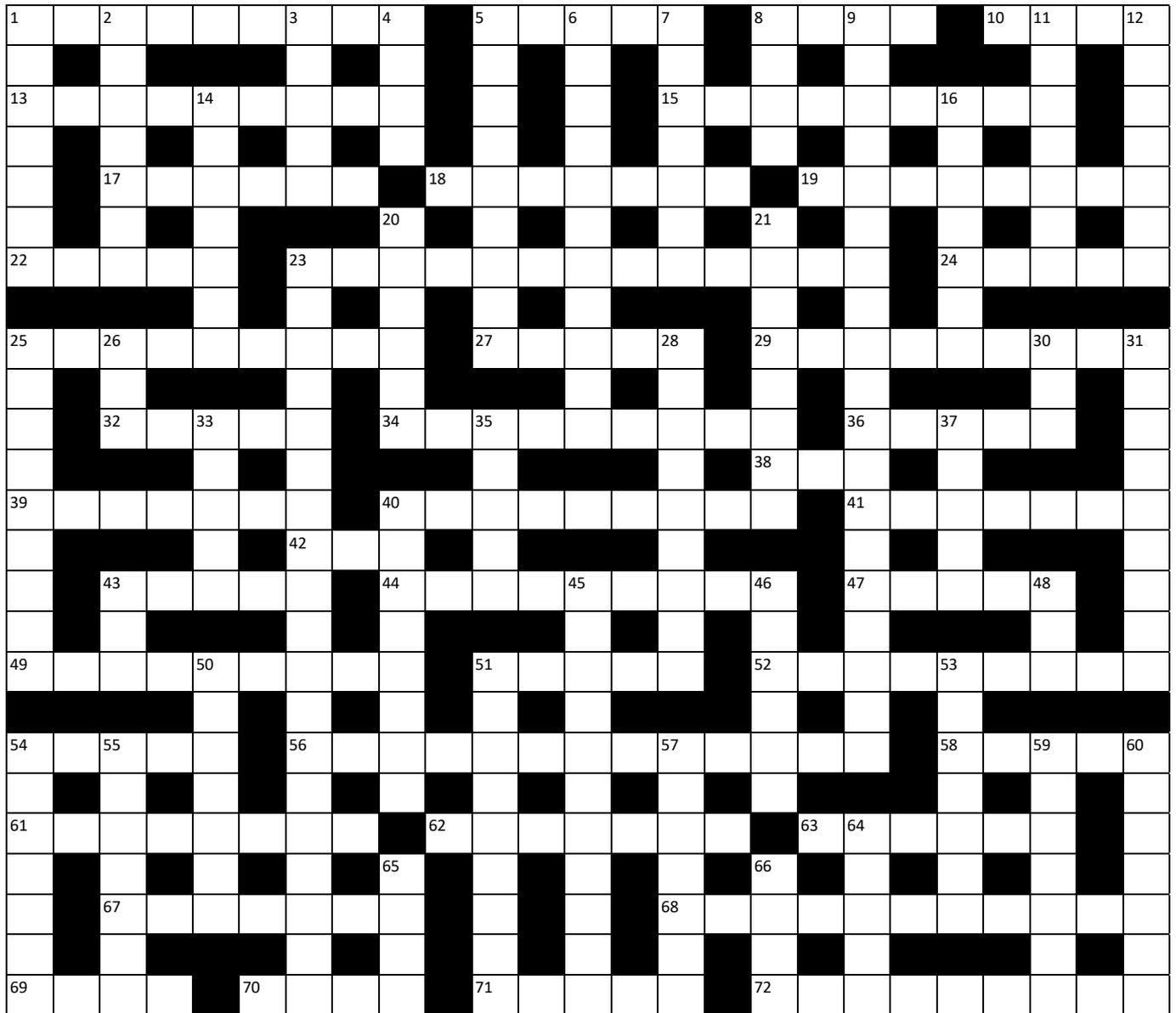
***marina.mulletmail@gmail.com and we will get back to you with more details***



# HOLIDAY XWORD

#101 by Chico

15/11/2018



Picture A



Picture B



Picture C



Picture D



Picture E



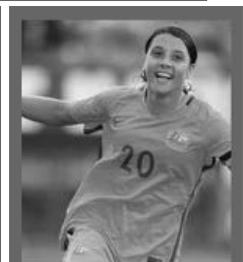
Picture F



Picture G



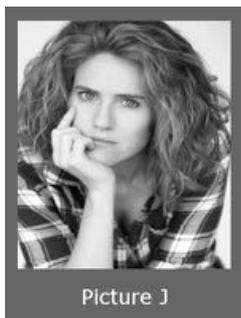
Picture H



Picture I

## Across

- 1 They believe war and violence are unjustifiable (9)
- 5 see 41ac (5)
- 8 Pot for cut flowers (4)
- 10 Fencing sword (4)
- 13 Red pigment made from the powdered mineral cinnabar (9)
- 15 see 24ac
- 17 see 54dn
- 18 Plant growth medium from volcanic glass (7)
- 19 Rare (8)
- 22 Spanish word for Monday (5)
- 23 Charitable (13)
- 24 & 15 Federal MP for Lord Howe Is - pic. A (5,9)
- 25 Pleasure craft that offers neither! (9)
- 27 Lock of hair (5)
- 29 High-necked, slit-skirted silk dress (9)
- 32 \_\_\_\_ Davis, ABC TV's Miss Fisher - pic B (5)
- 34 Pic C (9)
- 36 Fantasy (5)
- 38 Fuss (3)
- 39 Sounds like a funny bone! (7)
- 40 Wine grape (9)
- 41 In woodwork, combined with a Sac to make a 54ac (7)
- 42 Pic D (3)
- 43 Internet provider (5)
- 44 Porosity (9)
- 47 Dawn (3,2)
- 49 Talmudic study academies (9)
- 51 1853 Dickens novel; \_\_\_\_ House (5)
- 52 Send a letter (4,1,4)
- 54 Spliff, bifter, doobie, blunt etc. (5)
- 56 Green (13)
- 58 Talents (5)
- 61 Street party (8)
- 62 Searches for food (7)
- 63 Weak (6)
- 67 West Island Kiwis! (7)
- 68 Name of WWI before WWII (3,5,3)
- 69 Bottom (4)
- 70 Objectives (4)
- 71 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (movie)- pic E (5)
- 72 Local gov't constituent (9)



Picture J

## Down

- 1 Crucial (7)
- 2 Drape (7)
- 3 Snow traveller (5)

- 4 Of sound mind (4)
- 5 Line > square > cube > ? (9)
- 6 Mullet Mails (11)
- 7 Doomed music filesharing platform (7)
- 8 Space (4)
- 9 Head-turning muscle (19)
- 11 Role-playing video game series first released in 1996 (7)
- 12 Country code .ee (7)
- 14 The right table salt for goitre (7)
- 16 Bill \_\_\_\_\_ - pic F (7)
- 20 Of living organisms (6)
- 21 Male astronaut or cosmonaut (8)
- 23 Raising standards and required qualifications (19)
- 25 Cold wind late in the day (9)
- 26 MI5 agent played by pic G (3)
- 28 Author of The Grapes of Wrath and Cannery Row - pic H (9)
- 30 & 66dn Matildas striker - pic I (3,4)
- 31 French port (9)
- 33 Aussie comedian \_\_\_\_ Kendall - pic J (5)
- 35 Political journalist \_\_\_\_ Tingle - pic K (5)
- 37 Fraudulent US energy firm captured on film as The Smartest Guys In The Room (5)
- 40 Flying water (8)
- 43 Prog rock behemoth now 45yo (3)
- 45 Drunkenness (11)
- 46 Entice into sex (6)
- 48 Hawaiian dish of fermented taro root (3)
- 50 Understands instinctively (7)
- 51 Secondary outcome (9)
- 53 Mathematics of variables (7)
- 54 & 17ac NZ PM - pic L (7,7)
- 55 Encroachments (7)
- 57 Often seen in counterpoint to Oedipus, plotted with her brother Orestes against their mother Clytemnestra (7)
- 59 Motorway without tolls (7)
- 60 Agent provocateur (7)
- 64 White heron (5)
- 65 Employs (4)
- 66 see 30dn (4)



Picture K



Picture L

No cryptic clues in this puzzle, but where you see a "!" there may be some eyebrow raising going on. Merry Xmas and all the best for 2018 from Chico.

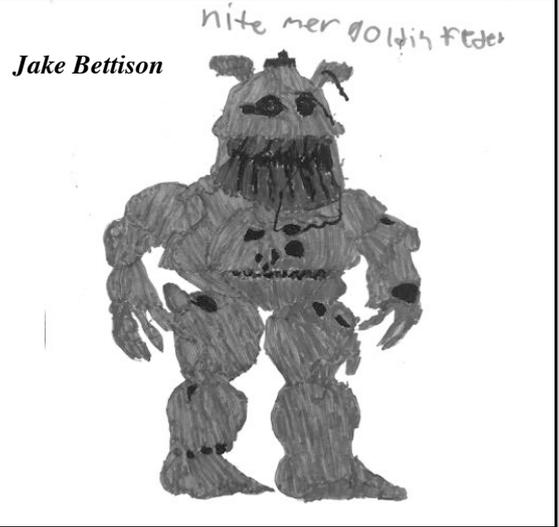


# FINDA-DANGA-WORD

By Leonardo WALSH

C	S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y	Z
L	A	A	P	K	I	C	A	F	E
U	Q	V	D	V	S	B	Z	G	H
B	I	W	E	Q	A	O	F	B	A
A	G	R	X	S	N	A	E	M	J
R	A	G	N	A	D	T	B	J	E
O	Y	S	T	E	R	U	F	V	L
I	S	L	B	T	L	P	Y	O	L
S	U	P	S	A	L	C	U	T	Y
L	E	Y	N	O	H	N	X	R	F
A	O	C	V	H	S	H	R	G	I
N	E	E	R	M	I	E	E	L	S
D	R	Y	S	Z	F	P	M	O	H

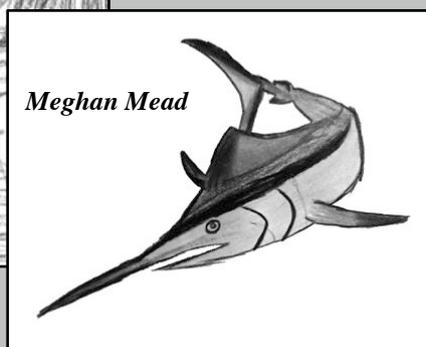
- |        |           |          |      |
|--------|-----------|----------|------|
| DANGAR | ISLAND    | CAVES    | EELS |
| RIVER  | JELLYFISH | STINGRAY |      |
| SAND   | CAFÉ      | OYSTER   |      |
| PLOVER | FERRY     |          |      |
| FISH   | BOAT      | CLUB     |      |



## Just Wood

Fear me tree, for you are  
 Just wood  
 With leaves that sound prickly.  
 I hear you in the wind  
 As you howl with the moon.  
 There are many heroes but  
 You are not one.  
 Although you and I trade breath  
 This is war for I am a hero.  
 You are just wood.

Elliot



## Dangar Island Mullet Mail

Unleash your inner writer....your stories, poems, opinion pieces....have your say (respectfully and kindly of course) and send to:

[marina.mulletmail@gmail.com](mailto:marina.mulletmail@gmail.com)