

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past few months have been very active on the island, with a wide range of community interest activities. (The June edition of the Mullet Mail express covered many of these, so I'll largely leave space for news of many of the other island groups this edition). There is activity on many of the topics mentioned there – the tree register, community art project etc. Please get in touch with the people mentioned in the Express or send me an email and I can put you in touch.

The Peat Island / Mooney Mooney development is an incredibly important area. It may appear that it is at a distance and not terribly relevant to life here, but in fact the decisions made will set the tone for the next 50 years on the development of the lower Hawkesbury, a unique environment (especially so close to Sydney). It is incredibly important that we – as both Dangar Island residents and simply concerned Sydney-siders) help to ensure the development, if it goes ahead, is done carefully, and with the absolute best outcome in terms of the long term future of the

lower Hawkesbury estuary. Please contact Bronck if you are interested in helping or being involved in any way.

There is strong interest in preserving the history of the island and we hope to start a project soon on digitally archiving much of the material. We have some interested people – but please come forward if you'd like to help on this.

The residents commuter mooring co-op and wharf upgrade is a continuing topic and another public meeting will be held at 11 am on Sunday 31st July 2011 in the Hall to present the current status and plans.

We will hold the next general Public Meeting of the Dangar Island League on the weekend of the 3-4 September 2011. I've had several residents comment to me that they have not been able to attend previous public meetings as they are on Saturday's when many younger families are attending sporting events etc. So I'd like to ask you to tell us when you think is a good time. Roughly speaking there are 4 blocks – Saturday or Sunday, morning or afternoon (say 10am or 4pm).

Please drop me an email at the address below – all you have to say is your roughly preferred time. We will endeavour to set the meeting at the time that is best for most. (One option is to hold each Public meeting at a different day/time to allow at least some opportunity for everyone to attend some).

The League tries to help organize community events and collate Dangar Island resident opinions and present them to relevant Government agencies and bodies. We can only do this if you make your views clear to us. Use the mail box at the Shop or the email address below. The cliché of "help us help you" could not be more applicable than here!

Thanks – see you in September!

Cheers,
Antony Schinckel, President
Dangar Island League
president@
dangarislandleague.net



CAFÉ UPDATE

12th July 2011

Dear Shareholders and Islanders

With our second financial year now at a close, an update on the Café and Shop is over due.

The directors are pleased to advise that the Café and Shop is now trading profitably with sales up by some 10% year on year. Significantly, we are also meeting other, important objectives, including the employment of Islanders and particularly Island children (four this year have had their first job at the

Café) and our objective for the Café to be the place where we all like to meet. The Café is now very much a part of Island life and there is a feeling that it is also a little part of every Islander's life.

We continue to rely on the help of volunteers and without them, we would not exist. We owe a special thanks to Graham and Corrynth White and Fiona Mullen who have continued to be mainstay of the Café team. There are many others who have helped organising and cooking breakfasts, organising the monthly gallery, transporting groceries, arranging events and helping with tasks like washing tea towels. To all of you continuing thanks.

We have also received generous donations from several people on the Island. This has allowed us to

upgrade equipment and install an air conditioning system. To those donors again many thanks. Every little bit helps.

It remains the case that the Café needs a little from everyone to survive and improve. We will need to build a reserve for equipment and maintenance over the next year and we need to find ways to keep costs like electricity under control. Being profitable and building a small cash balance will help towards that. For the Café, as we have all said before, a little extra expenditure does go a long way. So it remains that case that spending an extra \$10 a week really helps, bringing your guests to the Café does make a difference and telling off Islanders it is a great place to visit and have lunch does go a long way. But most importantly, spending at the Café is a small investment in your community, particularly with our low

winter season upon us.

The accounts will be prepared at the end of the financial year. The accounts for 2010 have been audited and signed off and are available for inspection.

We have done an awful lot with the \$20,000 raised and our success is something to celebrate. Please continue to come to the Board and staff with ideas. We always want to improve.

As a Board we are looking forward to the next year and will call a meeting once the next set of accounts are adopted.

See you at the Café and we look forward to your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Innis

On behalf of the Board
of the Café and Shop.

DANGAR ISLAND HALL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Dangar Island Hall Committee
**AGM Saturday 10th
September 10:30am**

Please support your hall and join us for a cuppa afterwards.

Thanks, Joanne Karcz, Secretary,
Dangar Island Hall Committee

DANGAR ISLAND RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Allow me to introduce myself as the new Captain of Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade. I am honoured that the Brigade, now in its 58th year, has placed this trust in me. I and my fellow volunteers will do our best to keep our community safe from fire, and in doing so I hope we can honour the legacy of our friend Peter, who gave so much in his 12 years as Captain.

Now to business! Please remember your winter fire safety – make sure your smoke alarms are working, have your flue cleaned and don't dry clothes on heaters. Have you drawn up and rehearsed an Escape Plan in case of a

fire in your home? There's plenty of information on www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Check your mailbox next week for a Household Safety Assessment Questionnaire. The form gives us valuable safety information in the event of an incident, and helps you think about reducing the hazards around your place.

You can see the Brigade's data projects in action, along with firefighting demonstrations, information forums and much more on RFS Open Day Saturday 24th September.

Jonathan Sykes | 0404 719 997

Manfred Merl





HAWKESBURY RIVER RESCUE

Hawkesbury River Rescue (HRR) operates 24/7 assisting people in trouble on the river. HRR currently has 130 members using the "Spirit of Brooklyn" shark cat as a rescue boat. HRR goes to the assistance of people in trouble on the river, either towing them back to safety, restarting their engine or whatever is necessary to get them out of trouble.

Capable of rescue at night using night vision glasses, HRR has a better chance than any other service to find a person or boat in danger. The river can be a dangerous place, especially at night. HRR is well equipped to give help so often needed by people in distress on the water.

HRR trains all our crew to a competent standard of qualifications for the role they will undertake in our rescue service.

HRR received a grant from the government to promote Boating Safety and we teach safe boating in schools giving hundreds of presentations to

children and the boating public. HRR has produced 1,500 Basic Marine Radio DVDs.

Our boat master is a course instructor in first aid and runs one day comprehensive advanced first aid courses throughout the year. This course is open to the general public.

New members have opportunities to practice on the boat and develop competency in the water and rescue situations.

Some of our members prefer to monitor the radios, which is a vital part of our 24/7 operation. Members don't have to be actively involved to support the service.

So talk with HRR, join us and promote your business with HRR.

See you on the water.

Contact our operational number 9985 1111 and see how you can be part of this caring group and help us help you.

Felicity Brownrigg

Dangar Island Bowling Club Report



The best little Club on the Hawkesbury goes from strength to strength!

COMMUNITY MEETING

The Club held its second annual community meeting recently and there was unanimous support for the great improvements being made at the Club. Thanks for all those who took the time to attend the meeting. The Club is an important community facility on Dangar Island and the community's ongoing support is very much appreciated. All neighbours would appreciate the support of all members and guests maintaining their focus on keeping noise to a minimum whilst at the Club and on the way home!

NEW CARPET

The Club has had new carpet laid throughout to continue the improvement to the club's facilities. In addition Matt, Di, Tom and Mel have done an awesome job in repainting parts of the Club. Come along and have a look at our latest improvements!

BOWLING:

The Club is continuing to focus on its bowling pedigree. In addition to finalising its re-affiliation with the Royal NSW Bowling Association, we are re-introducing local bowls competitions! Singles, pairs and mixed pairs lawn bowls competitions will be starting in September at the Club. This is your chance to get your name on the re-established honour boards and be a permanent part of the

Club's history. Alternatively, come along and learn to play and enjoy the game.

The competition will be free to enter and no experience is necessary. A pre-competition singles ladder will start in July (but you can join at any time). To sign-up or get more information, email the club at dibc@live.com, or SMS your name and email address to Andy Payne 0412 093 762.

KITCHEN SERVICE

Joshua Smith has taken over the kitchen service at the Club and is continuing the great work done by Gareth Tillson.

We have full, fresh menus on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6pm, and on Sundays from 12pm. In addition every Thursday night we have Pizza and Pasta for in club pick up and home delivery. We are also available for bookings at other times for special events! We are looking to extend our roster for bar and restaurant work to new folks. This is an important part of the Club's contribution to the Island Community. If you would like to go on our register for casual paid work please, send us a note at dibc@live.com detailing your interest and previous experience. Over 18s only, RSA required, and training is available."

*Thanks and best regards, Tim Ebbeck
Secretary, Dangar Island Bowling Club*

HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL ARTS UPDATE

Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre

We are excited to announce that after many years of planning, months of hard work and lots of noise, we are almost ready to unveil the new Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre at 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.

Built in 1903 as a large residence, the building was generously donated to Council in the 1960's. Until recently the building has operated as a community centre.

We have long seen the potential for this beautiful building to be used as vibrant space for the arts community, and are pleased to now offer local artists a number of intimate spaces to accommodate classes, exhibitions and networking, along with informal spaces such as the Artists' Lounge for catching up with friends.

Exhibition spaces

The upper level of the building features The Verandah Gallery, a small and intimate exhibition space with high ornate ceilings and original floorboards. This affordable and accessible space is perfect for smaller exhibitions. For larger exhibitions, the lower and upper foyers offer more hanging space.

If you are interested in exhibiting in this unique space or would like to find out more information, please contact Sarah at Council's Art Desk on 9847 6893.

Hornsby Art Society

Hornsby Art Society (HAS) will be joining us on site with an office and creative space in the level 1 Garden Room. For more information about HAS's plans for this space, visit <http://www.hornsbyartsociety.com.au>.

HAS will continue to hold their successful exhibitions in the Verandah Gallery, with new exhibitions during the first and last week of every month.

Sydney Art School

Sydney Art School will also join us at Wallarobba, offering a number of classes and workshops with extremely talented teachers. For more information, visit <http://www.sydneyartschool.com.au>.

2011 Hornsby Shire Festival of the Arts Saturday 22 October - Sunday 27 November

The 2011 Festival of the Arts is fast approaching. If you or your group would like to run an event as part of the festival, registrations are now open. Along with the Hornsby Art Prize, the Community and Cultural Facilities Team are planning a secret community event. If you're interested in getting involved in something a little fun, we want to hear from you.

For more information on the 2011 Festival of the Arts and to register your event online, visit <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recreation-and-facilities/arts-and-culture/hornsby-shire-festival-of-the-arts> or call the Arts Desk on 9847 6893.

2011 Hornsby Art Prize

Wednesday 23 - Sunday 27 November

Have you started preparing your entry for the 2011 Hornsby Art Prize? The Hornsby Art Prize is a major annual arts event, and artists of all ages, backgrounds and artistic styles from across Australia are encouraged to enter.

To read important pre-entry information including key dates, visit <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recreation-and-facilities/arts-and-culture>

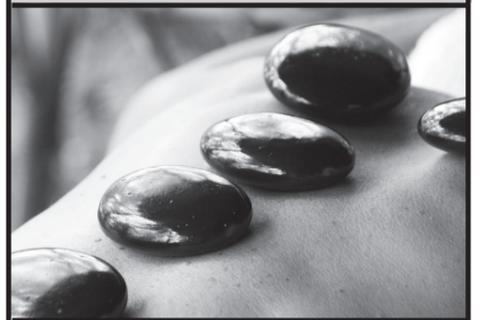
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recreation-and-facilities/arts-and-culture

Hornsby Shire Arts Network

Do you know an artist or creative organisation not already registered in our network? We'd love for you to invite them to join us. You can find our registration form on Council's website or contact us to be sent one in the mail. Download a registration form from <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recreation-and-facilities/arts-and-culture/hornsby-shire-arts-network>

For more information about the Arts Network, contact Council's Arts Desk at 9847 6893 or email arts@hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

Lomi Lomi HOT ROCK MASSAGE on dangar island



**FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL
Joanne Cameron 0422 061 876**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SHARED OFFICE SPACE - BROOKLYN

Creative, local, small business professionals are looking for a like-minded individual to share office space in Brooklyn at approximately \$50 a week for a year lease.

For enquiries, please call
0409 606 067.

ARCHIVIST REQUIRED

DANGAR ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society is looking for someone to co-ordinate archival of their documents and images. The position involves creating and overseeing a system to preserve these valuable documents with support from a committee. If you could assist, please email Judith Doyle at:
jd@judithdoyle.com

**REMUNERATION
AVAILABLE**



Know your Island

A group has recently formed to raise awareness about the island and the river. This group (so new that it still has no name), aims to build on past childrens' projects to create events that help you get to know your island.

Our first event combines a community exhibition - **My Favourite Tree** with a forum on **The health and safety of trees** with Mark Hartley a Qualified Tree Risk Assessor and Arborist to talk and answer your questions from 2 - 4pm, Saturday 8th October at the Community Hall. The **My Favourite Tree** show is open to all islanders of all ages to create a work in any medium about their favourite tree. **For more information contact Ana 9985 7707 and Jo 9985 8694.**



BUSHCARE

Get to know others who are interested in the natural environment that surrounds us and learn about the plants of the Reserve at the top of the Island by spending a pleasant few hours on the second Saturday of each month with the Bushcare Group. Meet at 9:00am "149" Riverview Ave - main access track into the reserve. Wear closed shoes, long sleeves and hat. No prior knowledge necessary. **Next session 13th August.**



Illustration: V. Bear from HSC website

PLANT LIST

To assist you choosing plants for your garden, we have a list of Australian plants suitable to Dangar Island and the specialist nurseries that sell them. The plants are easy to maintain, attract birds and complement our bush environment. To obtain your electronic copy, please email Joanne bronekjok@bigpond.com

Did you know?

Asparagus Fern is an invasive weed which is easier to remove than you think. To weed out Asparagus Fern only the growing corm below the surface must be removed. The numerous water tubers can be left in the ground, as the plant can't reproduce from them. However the seeds, distributed by birds all over the island, germinate readily. Berries should be bagged and removed as a priority to slow weed invasion.

The tricks of the trade...

Wear thick gloves - old stems can have sharp thorns. Locate where stems join the crown at ground level. Use a knife to cut around crown (see picture) severing all roots and water tubers. Lift out crown, checking the corm is entire. Trim off stems with secateurs about 10cm above crown. Stems and leaves without berries or flowers can be left, they will not regrow without the corm. Bag the crown and all berries.

Learn more with us at Bushcare or see video <http://sydneyweeds.org.au/asparagus-fern/>

*Jo & Cybele
for Dangar Island Bushcare*



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

DANGAR ISLAND WRITING GROUP

Looking to connect and meet/correspond regularly with other writers on the island. Wondering if there would be any interest in putting together a writers' group that get together regularly and/or an online writers' group.

To express interest, please call **0409 606 067** or email mel@frogpondstudios.com.au



difs deerubbin island film society

for more details visit www.dif.net

SATURDAY
6TH AUGUST

~
Lettre de Siberia
(Letter from Siberia)

~
Toute Une Nuite
(A Whole Night)

~

SATURDAY
3RD SEPTEMBER

Azur et
Asmar

~ animation feature ~

The Princes' Quest



THE DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE HAS A REFRESHED HOME ON THE INTERNET WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT www.dangarislandleague.net

The site allows you to keep up to date with island activities through a special online version of the Mullet Mail as well as providing updates on League initiatives and membership information. There are links to all the useful sites related to the island, including ferry times, weather and tides, so you only need to remember or bookmark one address.

There is also a 'Classifieds' section - which aims to encourage the recycling of unwanted goods unsuitable for the wharf recycling area outside of the official council clean ups, as well as allowing people offering services to islanders to promote what they do. Adverts are free and all details can be found on the site.

Lastly there is an opportunity for islanders to share photos which capture the essence of our special environment, community and way of life. There's some up there already - why not check them out? If you have any photos you'd like to submit please email them to Andy Payne at payniac@me.com, along with your name and a sentence or two about the photo and he'll post it on the website. We'll be doing something special with the best photos submitted later in the year - stay tuned.



**next M M issue
summer 2011**



Mayor Nick Berman Georgia L-R & Councillor Wendy McMurdo in front of *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) on Grantham Crescent

NATIONAL BIG TREE REGISTER

I recently heard an interview on ABC Radio with Derek McIntosh, Co-ordinator of the National Big Tree Register. This is a project to help record Australia's grandest and oldest trees. The Register will work closely with all Federal and State Forestry/Environmental Departments and related entities, such as National Parks, Shire, City and Town Councils, Botanical Gardens, Greening Australia, and the National Trust of Australia.

Derek mentioned that Sydney's largest Blackbutt *Pilularis* was in Killara and

I thought it must be a very large tree to beat our "Captain Phillip" Blackbutt near the corner of Grantham Cres and Baroona St, Dangar Island. This nickname came about as it is believed the tree would have been here when Captain Phillip stepped onto Dangar (Mullet) Island in March 1788.

I checked the Killara Blackbutt on the National Big Tree Register website and suspected that ours could beat it. Bill and I spent a few hours that afternoon, measuring the tree according to Derek's formulas and Bill photographed the tree. It has a circumference of 5.3m, a height of 45m and a crown of 30m.

A few days later I received an email from Derek, congratulating us on the acceptance of the nomination of "Captain Phillip" as the largest Blackbutt in Sydney. Derek has aged our tree at approximately 300 years.

Even though "Captain Phillip" nearly killed Bill and me earlier this year by dropping a huge branch just behind us as we walked under it, we can still appreciate this majestic old timer and would like to help safely preserve it for everyone's enjoyment. We can all help one another to survive here happily together.

Georgia Lynn-Robinson

Letters to the Editor...



Just a word of appreciation for the ongoing effort to communicate to the Island Community on a regular basis. While I see the League as the overarching organisation representing Island interests it would be important for future issues to have regular updates from the other organisations such as the Hall Committee, Fire Service, General Store, Bushcare group etc - I know the onus is on them but any encouragement to participate would be welcomed.

Regards
ROSS SPENCE

editor's note:

Don't forget that the last Mullet Mail edition was an 'express' edition. The full Mullet Mail always welcomes submissions by all our local groups. An express edition is printed when information is more urgently required to be made available to the community. It's great to know that you read the Mullet Mail with such interest in what is happening in all areas of the community. Thanks for the positive feedback Ross!

EXHIBITION THANK YOU

I want to thank the community for your generous support of my recent exhibition in the Dangar Island Cafe.

All prints are still available for purchase up to three limited editions once the exhibition closes. This includes images from the books that you may like to have reproduced as a

framed print at any time. Please feel free to contact me directly to place an order.

I would very much like to offer all the books for purchase and will look at getting permission from all involved over the coming weeks. Please email me with any expressions of interest in buying either of the portrait books.

Mel 0408 947 336
mel@frogpondstudios.com.au

Hard Times

Four pounds for a dollar
I heard him holler.
Four pounds for a dollar
And I am no scholar.

A dollar a bag another one said,
A dollar a bag was offered instead.
The worth of a dollar I then went and said
For a bag full of fruit is value unread.

Now the proof of the pudding is in the eating they say
As I look upon the alleged four pounds with dismay.
For a dollar a bag is a bargain of sort
But not when it is nearly a whole pound short.

Bruce Lambert