

# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #51

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

WINTER 2016

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



*Photo by Therese Rutledge*

## Island Living

Leonie Findlay

Why live on an island?  
How do you get there?  
Do you have water and electricity?  
Do you get internet?

These are just a few of the many questions most islanders have been asked at one time or another.

Most questions are easily answered except of course "where do you park your car?"

Why live on an island, particularly Dangar Island, is a question that would draw out many and varied answers as would questions relating to life in any of the surrounding river communities.

Life on the island as we have known it over 24 years has changed considerably. When we first arrived we were told that it took at least 7 years to be considered a local. Well I think we have made it!

The amenities and services provided by the state and local councils, the upgrade of the ferry service, the rural fire service and the care provided by the volunteers of the First Responders have made life on the island possible for many who could not enjoy living on the island were it not for this level of support.

In addition to the above those who work in the Dangar cafe and Bowling Club add enormously to the social life of the island as well as providing goods and services especially to those who have restricted mobility. In addition let's not forget the

great service provided by the volunteer drivers who willingly give their time to transporting many residents and their luggage of all sorts to and from the ferry. Also consider the fruit and vegetables delivery and we are spoilt by a member of the community who bakes and delivers a wide variety of fresh bread every Friday.

But back to the key question "why are we here?"

As is the case in any community where people share their lives, there will always be challenges and life on Dangar is no exception. Having said that, it is the very essence of community which makes living in such a community so special. As well as the many support services provided by countless volunteers, there are the gifts of kindness provided unannounced and often unnoticed by those who simply see a need and spring into action.

It is these obvious and unnoticed acts of service that we want to celebrate in this issue of the Mullet Mail. Many community members, especially the more elderly, could not live in this beautiful place if it were not for the many volunteers who serve the community all in different ways.

It would not be possible to identify all who serve in this way even if they wanted to be acknowledged. However, hopefully by raising the awareness of the role of so many we can say thank you in ways that are most meaningful and appropriate.

## Farewell Pixie



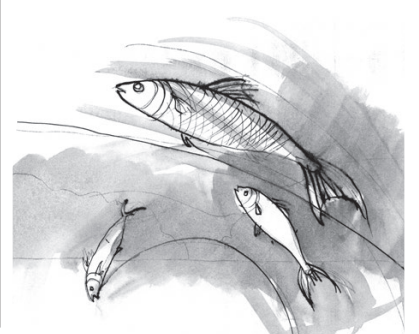
On 11 May 2016 the island lost one of its friendliest little characters. Pixie was known and loved across the island by children and adults alike. There was nothing she enjoyed more than playing on the beach or in the park with the kids and a ball, although visiting her friends on the verandah at the club was probably a close second. Pixie chose to turn her back on city life, and spend her time where she was happy and belonged. She had many friends and a wide social network including snack stops that extended across the island. After another day full of adventure, Pixie died suddenly but peacefully surrounded by friends. Pixie will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

RIP little friend xxx

Kathy Arn Roly Cindy Wil Zena

### 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 [dangar-island.net](http://dangar-island.net).



# Dangar Island League President's Report

Sophia Walsh

Welcome to Winter!

Time to pull out your woollies and don your beanies because the cold is finally upon us.

Since my Easter update, the League has been busy working with Council and State Government to improve our community facilities. Significant progress has been made on a number of important island projects, including:

## Completing the new playground

Island children love their new playground and the equipment is getting a great workout after school and on weekends. Feedback from our kids is very positive, with nothing but good things to be said about the variety of activities and creative stunts that can be performed.

## Completing Roadworks on Riverview

Riverview roadworks have now been completed, so hopefully there will be no further disruptions to residents as preparations for the new garbage truck come to a close. We have been working with council to ensure your concerns are taken into consideration, and there will be broad community consultation prior to the new service commencing.

## Ferry Wharf Upgrade

Council are using a consulting firm to engage with key stakeholders on the ferry wharf upgrade. In April, League representatives attended a briefing by Elton Consulting on the proposed design, which provided an opportunity for us to voice community concerns. Details of this discussion can be found on the League website. Broader community consultation is planned,

and we will communicate these details once they are finalised.

## Community Grant Funding

Following the storm damage in April last year, we submitted two grant applications for rehabilitation works on the beach front reserve. We were unsuccessful with one and expect a decision to be made on the other in the coming weeks. Community and environmental grants are available each year to support local initiatives that enhance community infrastructure and cohesiveness. If anyone has ideas for this year's grant applications, please feel free to jot them down (however briefly) and pop them in the League box. We can discuss them at the next league meeting and perhaps progress some applications over the coming months.

## State Government

During May, League representatives met with MP Matt Kean to talk about island issues, including:

- Transport: Opal cards and train station lift
- Sydney Water property on the top of the mountain
- Security in Brooklyn carpark

It was a good meeting which promised progress on a number of outstanding community matters.

## Stay in Touch!

Overall it was a productive quarter for the League and we plan to keep busy over the winter months, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please send them through to me at [president@dangarislandleague.net](mailto:president@dangarislandleague.net)



## 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.

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

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

# Humans of Dangar Island

Amber Pye

You may or may not have heard of the social media project “**Humans of New York**”. Started by New Yorker Brandon Stanton, it is described as, “New York city, one story at a time”

Humans of New York began as a photography project in 2010. The initial goal was to photograph 10,000 New Yorkers on the street, and create an exhaustive catalogue of the city's inhabitants. But it has become so much more since then, in addition to the photographs Stanton began interviewing his subjects which included short stories or quotes about their lives living in the ‘Big Apple.’

I want to do the same thing with our diverse and wonderful Dangar community. With your help I'd love to start taking photos of each and every one of you and would love to also hear your story. Be it a quote you live by, what you love about Dangar Island, what drew you here, anything really. Cause our diversity is what makes our community so special and a pleasure to live in.

If you want to help me kick start this awesome project and be one of the first subjects, email Amber Pye at [amberlinaa95@gmail.com](mailto:amberlinaa95@gmail.com)

Can't wait to hear your stories :)

# Saving lives on the Island

Chris Sanderson, CFR Teamleader – on behalf of the whole CFR team.

Soon after I moved to Dangar Island a newspaper article was published entitled “Island named city’s worst spot for heart attack”. Which Island? Yep, that would be Dangar Island.

If that article was to be written now, the story might look a bit better. Since NSW Ambulance has helped us set up a Community First Responder team, turnaround times are not so different to other parts of Sydney. We work with paramedics, water police and Marine Rescue to get sick or injured people safely off the island. Not only that, but we can give emergency care in the meantime – resuscitation, defibrillation, oxygen and other medications which can be a game-changer, so people survive to get to hospital.

However, this raises a new and interesting issue for our little community. There are people who, for reasons usually related to significant health problems, would not choose to be resuscitated if their heart stops. They might want to have other kinds of treatment – eg for pain, breathing difficulties, and so on, yet still not actually want everything done to save them if they have a cardiac arrest. Obviously this is a very personal decision. But the CFRs, as part of the NSW Ambulance service, are obliged to treat any person who has a cardiac arrest. Nor is there much time to think about it in an emergency, and the patient usually can’t tell

us what they want at that point in time.

I raise this because it has been raised with me. And it is important. And there is something you can do to make sure we treat you how you want us to treat you. You can get a written document for NSW Ambulance which says exactly what kind of care you want – if you don’t want to be resuscitated, and so on. If this is something you are concerned about, talk about it with your own GP, who understands your health situation, and fill it in with their help – as this is a serious medical document. Your GP should talk you through the pros and cons of your plan, and sign off on it.

I have put in a link to this “authorised care plan” document. For people with these plans, it means NSW Ambulance has information, linked to your address, about what you want. And we – your friends and neighbours in the CFRs who only want to do the right thing by you – won’t know anything about this unless we actually need to know, ie when an ambulance has been called.

That’s all. Sometimes it can just be really important to have a choice.

[www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/btf/pdfs/Amb/Adult\\_Palliative\\_Care\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/btf/pdfs/Amb/Adult_Palliative_Care_Plan.pdf)



## 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
- In an emergency, don't call individual CFRs on our mobile numbers – this is unreliable and slows us down
- We are called up by the NSW Ambulance Control Centre, at the same time as an ambulance is dispatched for you
- Pensioners and those with health insurance are covered
- If you're not covered, consider taking out “ambulance only” insurance

We are NSW Ambulance volunteers



# The Needs of Long Term Residency On Dangar

**Sarah Galvin**

A neighbour came up to me the other day to genuinely ask what my needs would be for living on Dangar now and into the future. A thoughtful question to ask and very appreciated. Everyone's needs are very different but to think as Island residency in it's uniqueness of a River Residential Settlement the one word that comes to mind that covers everyone's basic needs is "Access".

Every resident in the area needs improved access to public transport whether it is better access to the ferry at Dangar and Brooklyn Wharves and a lift at Hawkesbury River Railway Station or more frequency of bus transport around Brooklyn and to Hornsby.

For some residents commuter berthing is a need for water access.

Volunteer drivers of the community buggy provide access to residents and visitors with an ongoing community transport service. Thank You.

The First Responders volunteers provide residents access to medical emergency services 24/7. Thank You.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade provides residents with access to fire protection and emergency fire services. Thank You.

Residency on Dangar Island has a high input of collaborative volunteering which provides services with care.

Access to health care and exercise therapy and counselling is difficult and expensive to organise on the Island but there is the Brooklyn Community Centre and Brooklyn and surrounding river settlement groups to reach out to possibly make it easier and less expensive to organise as joint community needs.

The Brooklyn Medical Centre provides access to a variety of medical services and are helpful and welcome enquires from residents in the area.

Unfortunately, accessing the Dangar Island Community Hall has become more difficult to organise simple community group gatherings to throw about ideas or just to have discussions with a cuppa, but if there is a need it is worth the input to organise any like minded meetings.

Personally access around my house and access to my house through my garden is important as I reside longer on Dangar as it does require functional thoughtful planning.

Access to information is important and the Mullet Mail provides a resource for community update of information and notification and exchange of ideas. Thank you for the volunteer work that enables each publication.



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## Cafe Dangar

**Ron Ballinger and Charley Message**

The new Café Dangar has been re-opened since Easter. We would like to thank all the people (too many to name, but you know who you are) who have given their support in so many different ways to get Café Dangar up and running. It has been very reassuring for us from the local community.

We want to make Café Dangar a place where you feel really welcome, come in, relax, and enjoy the beautiful ambience that Café Dangar can provide.

Our current opening hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8.00am–4.00pm. Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8.00am–5.00pm. Currently we are closed on Tuesday's for renovations

Our current menu includes Adrienne's wonderful home cooked meat and chicken pies and sausage rolls. Charley's amazing home cooked Quiches, bacon & mushroom or pumpkin spinach & fetta. We do all day breakfast bacon and eggs or a Café Dangar big brekkie.

We also have a fantastic range of home cooked Muffins being baked regularly at Café Dangar. Come in and try one with our great new Diva coffee range. As they say "excellence with attitude".

For the kids (and the kids at heart) we have yummy milkshakes and smoothie's all different kinds of flavour's or create your own.

We have expanded our grocery lines and frozen food sections to meet the needs of our local community and holiday maker's coming to the island. Come in and have a look.

With winter coming we will be introducing a range of delicious home made soups which you can enjoy at Café Dangar with a piece of crusty bread or buy to take home and enjoy.

We will also be having an official opening of Café Dangar in the not too distant future. Looking forward to meeting you all there.

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# Bushcare

Cybele Shorter

Four years ago our article in the Mullet Mail concerned Spanish Moss - *Tillandsia usneoides*. It is creeping across the island: birds take it for nests, wind blows it around and we love the look of it!



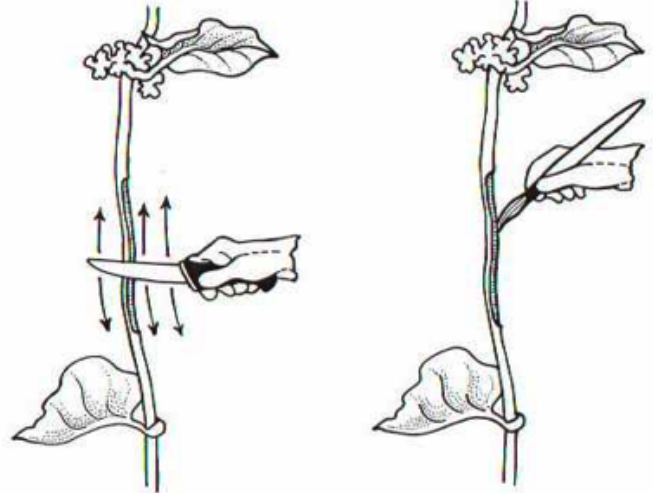
Drawing by Borealchick Designs - <https://borealchickdesigns.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/spanish-moss.jpg>

Plants infested with the grey moss are suffering and even large trees have died on the island.

Do your bit for local bushland... **Please help prevent it from spreading further.** Remove it from trees and shrubs in your garden or wherever you see it on the roadside. Dispose of it in your compost or bag it for council green-waste.

Our work sessions are open to new members. Joining in is a great way to learn more about local native flora while enjoying a relaxed morning out on the top of the island. Tools are provided and we'll teach you about invasive weed removal as we go. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, 9 am at the access track to Kiparra Reserve (149 Riverview Ave).

Vine removal can be one of the most fiddley weed control activities. Strip painting of herbicide is the most successful method but it entails chasing the runners to the main roots without destroying the plant. The herbicide only works if the plant transport tissues are still active to mobilise the poison to the whole plant system. Problem vines on Dangar Island residential blocks are Morning Glory, Black-eye Susan, Honeysuckle and Jasmine.



Drawing by Lyn Skillings - <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/HerbicideInfo>

**Vine Technique from NSW DPI:** A sharp knife is used to scrape a very thin layer of bark from a 15–30 cm section of the stem. Herbicide is then **immediately** applied to the exposed soft underlying green tissue.

## Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

Cybele Shorter

Hornsby Shire Council have sent us the Hazard Reduction Certificate for our next fire mitigation activity in Kiparra Reserve. We will now go ahead with another burn in

the Strategic Fire Advantage Zone on the western slopes. Preparation of the area will begin as we coordinate volunteer resources over the next month. Our plans for burning are, as always, weather dependent but we hope to have time before winter rains set in. Residents will be informed 24 hours before smoke commences, likely on a Sunday, and Riverview Ave will be closed to vehicles between Nos 56 and 66 until lunchtime.



## Fire safety over winter

Cybele Shorter

The bush fire season may be over, but with the cold months approaching, fire in the home becomes a greater issue. Now is the time to check that your smoke detectors are working, that you have a fire blanket and fire extinguisher, and that everyone in the family knows your family fire escape plan.

Now is also the time to think about fire dangers, and the steps you can take to prevent an accident happening at home.

To help with your own home assessment, here is the list of the top 7 causes of fire over winter as identified by the NSW RFS:

7 Combustibles too close to

heat source

6 Children

5 Overloaded power boards

4 Falling asleep with a heat or flame source on

3 Short circuit and electrical failure

2 Unattended heat source

1 Cooking equipment

Did you pick all 7? Perhaps some of these are familiar?

Play it safe over winter – be alert to the risk of fire and prepare a plan with your family about what you would do in an emergency.

**And don't forget - if there is a fire ring 000 and ask for 'fire'.**

# There's Always Time For Sandcastles

Myella Recher

Come play, said Sam to me  
and held his hand out,  
wet and widely spread, sand covered,  
every grain in sunshine etched.

I'm sorry, I said  
and tightened lips that wanted to smile  
as his hand reached for mine  
and tugged.

I'm sorry, I said  
I'm busy.

I have no time for sandcastles.

(But mummy, he said)

I've bills to pay  
and shopping to do  
and supper to cook  
(and Sam's lip sulked,  
his eyes downcast)  
and the house to clean  
(but mummy, he said -  
I wouldn't hear him)  
and ironing to do ...

But mummy!

I look down and swallowed the words  
that tried to force their way  
over tongue and lips.

He took my hand  
and between my fingers  
gritty grains of sand  
dug and stung.

But mummy, he said  
and turned to look  
at the sand he'd piled high.

His shoulders,  
so slight,  
so small,  
slumped with his sigh  
and ...

You're right, I said  
and took up his hand,  
gladly sharing the sand,  
catching it in my nails  
and burying the morning  
under waves and sun.

You're right, I said  
and ran with him,  
kicking the sand into spumes of gold.

You're right, I said  
there's always time for sandcastles



## II - Seagulls

Myella Recher

Sam and I sat on the beach,  
the sandcastle long gone  
to the hungry waves.  
'Look mum', he said  
and I opened my eyes  
to his pointing finger, 'seagulls'  
and the sound of wings captured the wind  
to brush Sam's hair from his forehead  
(blond waves of feathered lightness).

The seagull's smiling face intruded  
and I hated that bird for a mere mortal moment,  
which broke when Sam ran screaming  
into the midst of the flock.

It melted before him,  
wheeling and winging in circles.  
landing again with raucous laughter.

I watched him run,  
digging my fingers into the sand below.  
This moment will last forever, I thought,  
and gave myself again to the bliss of childhood,  
catching Sam and throwing him into the air,  
offering him to the gulls  
on glad wings of summer and endless waves,  
of foaming, rolling water  
and late nights of droning mosquitoes and full moons.

It does not end, it will not end  
until tired eyes finally close,  
sandy fingers clutching tightly the shell  
found washed with ocean magic.  
"Night mum," he says  
and sails off into dreams,  
while I watch from shore and wait for his return.



# The Wood Heater: Bad for Your Health and a Nuisance to Neighbours<sup>1</sup>

Harry F. Recher

In his foreword to the Environmental Protection Authority guidelines on selecting and installing a home wood heater, Bob Debus who was then New South Wales' (NSW) Minister for the Environment stated that "Everyone has the right to breathe clean air and to be protected from pollution." On closing the 2004 Forum on Clean Air, he declared a vision of Sydney free of 'smoky wood heaters', as well as other sources of air pollution. While NSW has reduced air pollution from motor vehicles since 2004, pollution from wood heaters has increased. Between 2004 and 2008, fine particle pollution from wood smoke in Sydney increased from 4500 to 5700 tonnes. In recent years, Dangar Island has also experienced a proliferation of residential wood heaters and significant wood smoke pollution during autumn and winter.

The right to clean air espoused by Bob Debus is being denied to us by a few individuals who choose to heat their homes with wood, but do not take care to minimise emissions. Most people enjoy the warmth of a wood fire and find the smell of a campfire pleasant, but it is not good for you. Exposure to wood smoke causes significant health issues. Wood smoke contains toxic chemicals, such as benzene, formaldehyde, and dioxins, which can cause cancer, as well as noxious gases, such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide.

As many of us experienced this autumn when Sydney was covered in smoke from hazard reduction burns, wood smoke causes itchy or burning eyes, throat irritation, and runny noses. People with heart and lung conditions such as angina, emphysema, and asthma are particularly vulnerable to the fine particles found in wood smoke. It is for these reasons that air pollution alerts for Sydney were issued during the recent bouts of wood smoke pollution.

Children and the elderly were advised not to exercise and to remain indoors with doors and windows shut. Infants and children are more susceptible to smoke as their lungs are still developing, they breathe more air than adults per kilogram of body weight, and they are more active than adults. Older people are more likely to have pre-existing conditions that make them especially vulnerable to poor air quality. Dr. James Markos, a spokesperson for the Australian Lung Foundation says that wood heaters should be banned from urban areas: according to Dr. Markos "There is no safe level of wood fire smoke in urban areas."

Studies have shown wood smoke is more hazardous than cigarette smoke. Burning 5 kilos of wood generates 4,300 times the amount of cancer causing hydrocarbons than 30 cigarettes. If you have a wood heater or are thinking about getting one, ask yourself would you enjoy or even permit cigarette smoking in your house or around your children. If your answer is 'no', then you should consider other ways to beat the winter cold, such as dressing more warmly and fully insulating your home.

Not only is wood smoke a hazard to health, but it significantly affects the quality of life of neighbours. Having a neighbour with a wood burning heater means that you need to keep your doors and windows shut even if you prefer to leave them open and enjoy what would otherwise be clean air. Unfortunately, closing doors and windows does not protect you. The particulate matter in wood smoke is so fine (less than 2.5 microns) that windows and doors cannot keep it out. An American study showed that 50 to 70 percent of outdoor levels of wood smoke were found in homes not burning wood. This means that significant amounts of the smoke generated

by your wood heater also enters your home and affects your health and the health of your children as much as it affects the health and well-being of neighbours.

The use of wood burning heaters is regulated in NSW and new heaters must comply with tough emission controls. Hornsby Council requires a Development Consent for new wood heaters. When assessing and approving new installations, Council generally requires that the heater complies with the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010 and Australian Standard 4013-1992 for domestic solid fuel heating appliances. Council's Compliance Team will investigate concerns regarding improper use of wood heaters, taking an educational approach in the first instance to ensure correct processes are in place to reduce smoke emissions. In instances where complaints are still received, a smoke abatement order can be issued. As a guide, there should be no visible smoke 10-20 minutes after a wood heater is lit and the smoke plume should not exceed 10 metres.

Recommendations for the installation wood heaters in NSW include:

- the top of the chimney should be at least 1 metre higher than any building within a 15 metre radius
- the chimney should be more than three metres from property lines.

A walk around Dangar during the colder months will show that many wood heaters smoke continuously, with the smoke drifting long distances. Many chimneys are too low, too close to neighbours, with some at the same height as windows and doors of nearby homes.

In addition to following the guidelines for the proper installation of wood heaters and using modern, more efficient burners, there are some simple things that can be done to improve the performance of your wood heater.

The amount of smoke can be minimised if you:

- burn only dry, seasoned, untreated and unpainted wood
- use smaller pieces of wood
- do not pack the wood in, as this just denies the fire air and causes it to smoulder and smoke
- when starting the fire, use plenty of dry kindling.
- fully open the air controls on the heater for the first 5-20 minutes to allow good air flow into the heater
- do not leave the fire to smoulder; always have a visible flame
- periodically check that your chimney is not smoking and causing a nuisance of neighbours and a health risk to everyone, including yourself and your children
- clean the chimney at least once a year to remove soot and tar

We live in a unique environment and one of the joys of living on the Hawkesbury River is having clean air. It is something we should cherish; it is something we should protect. We all have a right to clean air and no one has the right to take that away from us. If you heat your home with wood, be considerate and check with neighbours that your wood heater is not affecting their health or the quality of their lives. If it is, take action to correct the situation.

<sup>1</sup> I have chosen not to add references to this article, but it is easy to check out the facts on wood smoke through Google.

# Dangar Island Bowling Club

Evan Walsh



After an autumn that never seemed like it was going end, the cold weather has finally caught up with us. The good news is that Adrienne has made some tweaks to the menu to reflect the wintery conditions and you're sure to always find a hearty wholesome meal on the menu to warm you up.

While the winter months are normally a bit quieter, there is still lots going on over the next few months.

Open Mic continues to rock on the first Friday of every month. Partly thanks to the late night transport back to the mainland options, these nights are increasingly attended by members of communities up and down the river. In case you're not over it yet, there will be an **Election Special on Friday 1st July** with some specially themed cocktails. Floating voters can ask Ben and Angela who to vote for.

On top of Open Mics, we also have a Winter Solstice event coming up later in June, Christmas in July and then a Trivia Night in August and some live music in the park in September once things warm back up a little.

## Calling new Directors!

Two weeks after the Federal Election, 11am on Saturday 16th July, the Club will be holding its own election at the Annual General Meeting. Strictly an election will only be necessary if there is a surplus of candidates for positions – unfortunately that has not happened for some time.

The current Board of Andy Payne, Leigh Johnson, Evan Walsh, Vanessa Payne, Mel Anderson, Jenny Rowe and Kevin Handy Hansen have had a big year and judging from the feedback we've received people are generally very happy with the changes and improvements to the Club over the last year.

The successes over the last 12 months would not have been possible without the diversity, hard work and skills of the current Board. The Club plays a unique role in our community and ensuring the Board comprises people from as broad a cross section of our island population as possible is the best way of ensuring that the Club offers something for everyone.

We've made some tough decisions this year and reinvested considerable amounts in improving the amenity of the club, overall more than \$25,000 over the course of the year. This has included completely stripping and refitting the kitchen (including replacing the kitchen and bar floor), repairing the refrigeration to ensure the tap beers and cider are ice cold, and

purchasing new outdoor tables. And of course not to forget the beautiful chandelier. We brought the kitchen back 'in house' to provide a more consistent experience across the bar and kitchen – based on feedback we'd received ahead of last year's AGM. With Adrienne's hard work and beautiful food, 'local' trade is up significantly.

Due to obvious reasons unfortunately Andy and Vanessa are stepping away from the Board after the upcoming AGM to focus all their energy on James's treatment and recovery. Each are very grateful to the other Board members for the extra work they've had to put in to cover for them since January.

We are therefore calling for nominations from people who would like to either assist as directors of the club or as volunteers to assist with events. The Board operates very effectively and the workload is manageable with a full complement of seven Directors. Things are much harder with just four or five. We are therefore appealing for two or three new volunteer Directors to join the Board.

A successful Board comprises a broad mix of skills. Of the ongoing current Board, Evan brings amazing organisation and negotiation skills, Leigh brings creative vision, handyman and motivation skills (no job is too ambitious), Mel brings her wonderful professional design skills to promotions and events, Kevin brings electrically wizardry and Jenny brings an important dose of reality to keep our feet on the ground. Until recently Vanessa was our chief bagman, running the gauntlet each week banking our takings and getting change.

We would love to attract a new Treasurer (to replace Vanessa), who might also be able to take on the book-keeping duties which have been done by Corrynth White over many years. Corrynth is taking a step back after being our important behind the scenes numbers lady, making sure all our suppliers and staff get paid on time, and that we keep up to date with our ATO and banking requirements. You would be inheriting a well ordered financial system, managed using the Xero accounting package. It's all cloud based so can be accessed anywhere you have an internet connection, so doesn't need to be done on the Club premises.

I know I speak for Boards past and present when I extend a huge thank you to Corrynth for all that you (and Graham) have done in support of the Club over a long period. You're amazing and leave big shoes to fill!

If you have some spare time and would like to join a very capable, competent and passionate Board please speak to any of the current Directors.

The agenda for the AGM is as follows:

- Accept the minutes of last year's AGM
- Receive and consider Board reports

- Receive and consider the financial statements for the 2016 financial year;
- Deal with the Election of Directors for the coming financial year; and
- Deal with other notices of motion that have been received

Members will soon enjoy a discount on bar prices. NSW club rules are such that all people within 5km must be members to enjoy the club so if you are not a member, now is the time to sign up.

## Position Vacant

Dangar Island Bowling Club is looking for a new book-keeper, ideally on a volunteer basis but we will consider a paid position if necessary.

Expected work is a few hours a week and includes:

- Calculate and pay wages
- Pay supplier accounts
- Reconcile Banking (not actual physical banking of money)
- Prepare and submit quarterly Business • Activity Statement
- Helping the Board prepare and manage an annual budget

Knowledge of Xero accounting package essential.

Applications by email to [payniac@me.com](mailto:payniac@me.com) or speak to Andy Payne on 0412 093 762 by 5pm Friday 24 June.





# Let's over-winter our critters and build an insect hotel!

Ingrid Murdoch



Up here in the UK and in Australia there is a wide range of insects in our gardens, helping to control our favourite blooms from pests, and also to pollinate fruits and flowers. The insects disappear into nooks and crannies for hibernation when autumn hits, and building an insect hotel is a great way to provide those creatures with shelter. Also, you will get an opportunity to unleash your creative side by bringing an interesting feature to your gardens or shared spaces.

Whilst at Green Man Festival in the UK last summer, I came across a workshop group who were making Bee Hotels. Constructed from an old tin can and some chopped bamboo, I then made my first hotel on a small scale - but then got the bug (!) and wanted to go bigger.

Building your hotel shouldn't cost you a cent. Just collect natural and discarded materials - we all have a few bamboo canes lurking in the shed. You will then get your eye in - searching for fir cones, logs, seed pods and basically any other bits that can be used to fill spaces. Old pallets seem to be a must when constructing a hotel - if you have the space, stack five on top of each other to go high rise - a real community project.

I started by chopping pallets down to make the sections for the various "rooms" and then moved the hotel to its site position. When it comes to installation, a site against a wall or fence in a shady area with existing planting is preferable. Also, make sure the surface is flat since the hotel can become quite heavy once it is filled. Put the

heavier items, like bricks and stones near the bottom to balance the weight. Small frogs can then nestle in amongst stones and invertebrates curl up in bark debris.

The bark section is my favourite - a potential new home for beetles. My bark had been in large pieces and needed to be cut down to fit into the space available. It also needed to be arranged whilst damp into a curling pattern. It is easy to get carried away - my hotel continues to be a work in progress.

Finally, use the internet to view some of the amazing hotels that have been constructed around the globe - no doubt these will inspire you further. Also, check out the type of "Des res" your native Australian species prefer - there are lots of community sites and blogs in NSW and Queensland.



# What Happened To Yesterday?

Bruce Lambert

The dripping block of ice slides easily from the hessian bagged shoulder of the iceman into the top cabinet of the old ice chest. How long now until we get our first refrigerator?

It can't be too long either until someone lets us onto their party-line. I reckon it will be just great to have our own telephone.

Almost forgot to bring the milk bottles in off the front step. One gold top and two silver. I hope I get the cream from the gold top first.

Just then disaster. I make it to the toilet out the back but now the sano-man is waiting impatiently outside the door.

What an embarrassment!

Time for the breadcarter to come up our street. Funny that he goes into one house, while his horse pulls the cart up to the next place and then just stands there waiting for him.

While he waits I pull out a handful of long grass from the gutter and feed it to him. Just got to be careful when my fingers get near those big teeth.

The trick is to curl your fingers back as he snaffles the last of the grass.

Off to the shops, and Mr Moran and Cato with his snazzy white apron slides the ladder along, and climbs up and reaches to the top shelf for that ever so hard to reach item.

A brown paper bag full of broken biscuits for a few pence and I'm done, leaving the shopping list for the groceries to be delivered later by the grocery's delivery boy.

Still have a handful of change. Bob, zack and trey don't sound nearly as grand as florin, but any amount of shrapnel is better than none.

Back at home and there is Mr Taranto delivering the week's fruit and veg. Vince is the only Italian I have met.

At school there was amazement when we saw a new boy from Germany who wore leather shorts. His name was Norbert and he was the only kid I knew who wasn't born in Australia.

Nearly time for tea, but first I duck through the fence at the back and run the gauntlet of the milkman's horse as they try to stomp on me as I run through their paddock.

That got my heart racing and now I'm ready for the

evening radio serials. I just hope that the blackouts don't come when the best ones are on.

Dad reckons it's all the Commo's fault, but I just wish it didn't happen so often. Might as well go to bed as the kero lamp isn't up to much.

Wake up in the morning and then I think, what happened to yesterday?



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# Harvest Hub

Jonathan Sykes



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Hubster Jonathan Sykes



## Yoga on Dangar Island

Kristina Wilson

**Classes starting soon!**

Open class on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Dangar Island Hall. \$15 waged, \$10 unwaged. Call Kristina on 0478 134 465 to register your interest.

# Recyclable Items at The Wharf Shed

Sarah Galvin

The Shelf at the Wharf for "Recyclable Items" is sometimes a fantastic trove of very useful and interesting secondhand books, toys, shoes and unusual knick knacks. Over time I have scored some wonderful things that friends have often commented about and asked where I got them from, to which I answer "The Wharf", and they reply "oh, where is that shop?"

Unfortunately I have a feeling that if this area is used for leaving junk and dangerous items for children (such as old chairs with wheels on and rusty old barbecues), Council will soon impose a restriction and no items will be permitted to be responsibly left for secondhand exchange.

There is a distinction between useable and non useable secondhand recyclable goods, and there is also a limited amount of space at the Wharf Shed for quantity and type of goods. If items are large in size and quantity sometimes it is better to put a sign up with an address and phone number rather than leaving it down the Wharf Shed Shelf.

Maybe I am becoming fussy as I am getting older but I don't think secondhand worn underwear is recyclable for use, nor broken items of any type, nor old books once the paper has become too difficult to cleanly read, nor stained and damaged clothes and shoes, nor outdated useless electronic goods and wiring.

I love looking through the items on the "The Shelf at The Wharf" and would really miss not having the opportunity to pick up an interesting item or two and a good book to sometimes read on the ferry and train, so I hope that no more junk is left at the Wharf Shed to accumulate for Council to have to put an end to such a good thing.

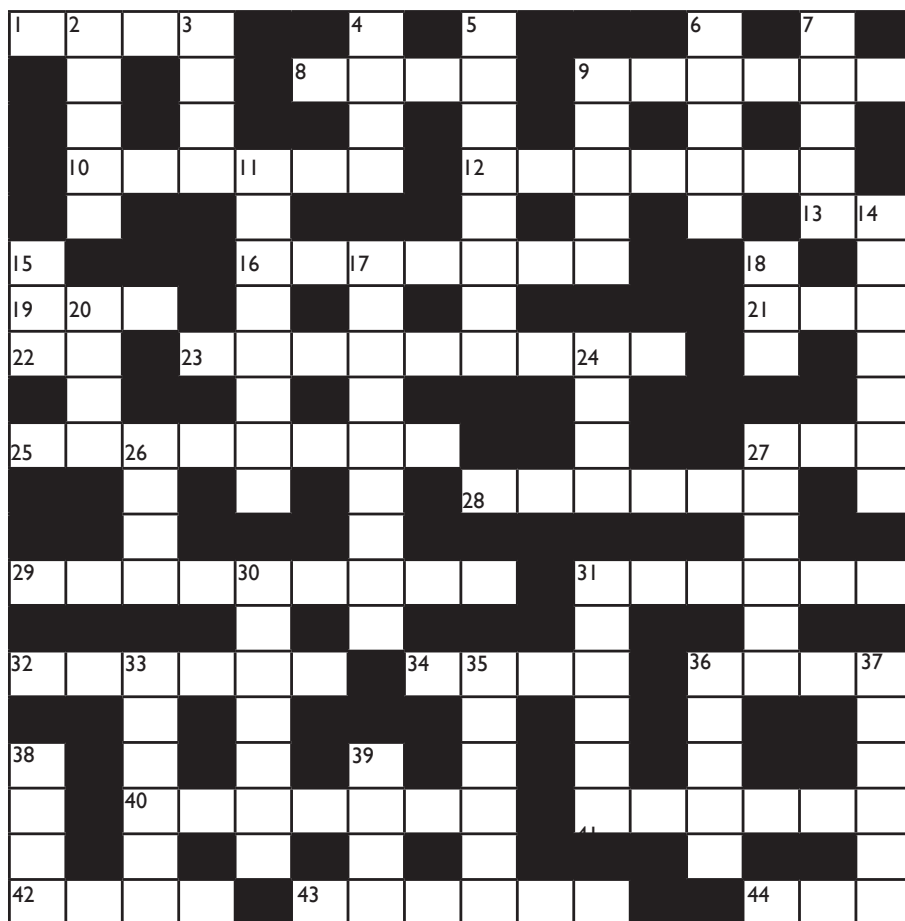




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1. Frozen water you skate on (4)
8. None (4)
9. Bitterly cold (6)
10. Winter month (6)
12. Anthropomorphic snow (7)
13. Sacred sound (2)
16. Dense ice constantly moving (7)
19. An obligation to pay or repay (3)
21. Incision (3)
22. Perform (2)
23. Cold, bad weather air (9)
25. Squally (8)
27. Forbid (3)
28. Achoo! (6)
29. Extreme cold gangrene (9)
31. A subtle difference (6)
32. Intensely cold (6)
34. Heat up (4)
36. Animal skin (4)
40. How to make 27 Down (7)
41. Neck warmers (6)
42. Moist (4)
43. Spiky ice (6)
44. Consisting of ice (3)

2. Perfect (5)
3. Male ruler (4)
4. Liquify (4)
5. Shortest day of the year (8)
6. A large community of plants and animals that occupies a distinct region (5)
7. Musical instrument (5)
9. Ground wheat (5)
11. Aussie foot warmers (3,5)
14. Hand warmers (7)
15. Group of dolphins (3)
17. South Pole (9)
18. Frozen water (3)
20. Natural fibre (4)
24. Light toboggan (4)
26. Cancel (4)
27. Head warmer (6)
30. Hot drink container (7)
31. Storm clouds (6)
33. White like snow (powder) (6)
35. North Pole (6)
36. Referring to 17 & 35 down (5)
37. Comfortably warm (6)
38. Not hot (4)
39. Elegantly and stylishly fashionable (4)