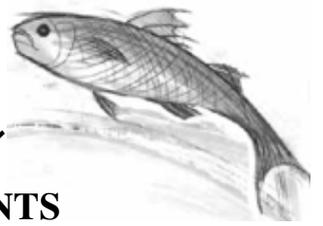


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. # 66

www.dangarislandleague.com

Winter 2020

'But that was then....'

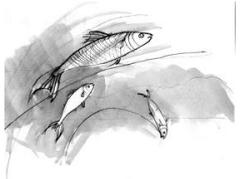
Only a few months ago Dangar Island came together in a community celebration of Mardi Gras – a tribute to diversity, inclusion and community connection. Looking back on it, the ‘apocalyptic, steampunk theme’ now seems very prescient in light of Covid19 and the climate of social distancing that has become a new normal for us all.

Marina Garvey



Dangar Island League Update

Dear Residents



At the start of winter some things are feeling particularly bleak, though there is hope of better days to come. Through the last six months we have seen fires, floods, storms and now a global pandemic. In times like these being part of a community, that cares of all its members, is invaluable. That is what we have seen and what we need to be grateful for. A sense of community was one of the most important reasons for living on the island according to the survey. Reasons to be cheerful.

Survey:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey and especially all of those who helped to collate, assemble and interpret the results. That took an enormous amount of time and effort, for which we are all extremely thankful. Such a document has never really been attempted before and we now have something concrete to help guide the work of the league and the whole island community. If you've not looked at the survey results please do check out the league website and follow the links. It is both interesting and heartwarming. We hope to be able to begin a process to bring the island together to advance the issues that are of most importance to us, as identified by the survey. If you haven't as yet accessed the Survey report and spreadsheets, go to: <https://www.dangarislandleague.com/survey-2020>

Telstra Tower:

The league, on your behalf, has been chasing Telstra, Hornsby Council and Julian Leiser (but mostly Telstra) to provide the community with information in relation to the proposed mobile blackspot solution. We continue to do so. Many of you have participated in an online survey conducted by the League to help us get a sense of the mobile reception in your homes. What we do know, at the time of writing this note, is that Hornsby Shire Council has negotiated with Telstra to lease the area within Kiparra Park where the old Sydney Water tank was located. Telstra are yet to provide any information to the community about their proposal, the reasons for selecting that location and any alternatives they have considered. We are continuing to push for

meaningful negotiation, including small-scale technology to provide reception with low visual impact that avoids alienating the public reserve. As soon as we know more information we will be providing it to you. Keep an eye out for updates.

Hornsby Shire Council:

Stephen Head Hornsby Shire Council's general manager had a walk around the island with league representatives on 19 May.

Toilet block: Council have committed to provide soap and paper towels in the public toilets and to look at the existing buildings, as they are quite dated.

Drainage: In relation to drainage, in particular around Riverview Avenue, Council are discussing the problems and will be coming back to us with their proposal to manage water flows especially during storm events.

Waste services:

From 1 July 2021 a new contractor will be providing waste services to the island. We were informed the new contractor will be using smaller trucks which will hopefully have less of an impact on the roads. The issue of the bins around Riverview Avenue is something we are going to need to continue to push for solutions.

Website:

An enormous thanks to Genevieve for all of her work in making the league website such an invaluable resource and easy-to-use source of information for all community. It has the added bonus of being beautiful to look at. If you have not had a look at it already please add it to your bookmarks! It is a thing of beauty.

Membership to the Dangar Island League:

By joining the league you get monthly emails from the League along with invitations to join us at committee meetings, participate in island surveys, plus membership fees pay to keep the Mullet Mail running as a hard copy edition.

We look forward to when we can all meet up together as a community to discuss island matters face to face.

In the mean time. Keep well and remember 1.5m

Regards ,
The League Team



DIBC News

Something of a roller-coaster.

Not so long ago we were doing the Dangardigras thing and all was well when suddenly...

I need to thank the directors and the club staff for their commitment and patience. Folks can get a little testy at times like these.

How good was the working bee? A huge thanks to all who put in

many hours to refresh the club. The results are amazing. Our colleagues from DIG were there in force and it was cool to work together... each on our own projects .

Memberships have now lapsed for a number of members on 31 May. If you're unsure ask at the bar in the first instance. It is financially very useful to receive membership payments; and to enjoy the community support.

I also wish to say a heartfelt thanks to the locals for their

support. It all seems a bit unbelievable from this distance but people supporting take-aways helped our survival significantly.

A big shout out to Leigh for the smart looking chairs and our bookkeeper who has definitely risen to the challenges of the last few months. Thnx Fi.

*Tom Garvey
President Licensee*



A message from the Entertainment Director:

It's been a very quiet time at the club with every music event cancelled since the heady days of Dangardigras at the beginning of March. We will start programming

live music and Open Mic night nights as soon as we are able to increase the number of people we are able to serve - hopefully in the not too distant future.

We're currently thinking of ways to get limited numbers of people together for special events within the current Covid 19 restrictions and so we have a very special event coming up on Sunday 21 June from 5pm. What better way to warmly celebrate the shortest day of the year than to enjoy some of the finest whiskies in the world, coupled with some gourmet treats?

Celebrate Winter Solstice by joining us for this limited capacity event where we will taste our way around the five regions of Scottish Malt Whisky production.

We'll sample very fine malts from each of the Highlands, Lowlands, Speyside, Campbeltown and Islay regions, accompanied by carefully chosen platters of charcuterie, cheeses, fresh and dried fruits, breads and biscuits - all selected to complement the flavour profiles of these incredible whisky's.

Admission to this event is via only pre-booking only.

Bookings are \$80 + bf per person and include 5 x 30ml drams of high-quality whisky and platters of gourmet preserved meats, cheeses, fruits and breads.

Bookings can be made via - www.trybooking.com/BJUQR. I'll be there to guide you through the various regions and offer tasting notes on each whisky. We will, of course, be observing current NSW regulations regarding venue capacity and social distancing, so book soon because places are strictly limited for this special event and are booking fast.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to pass on huge thanks to our former President Leigh Johnson, for his extremely generous donation of over 60 new chairs for the club. The club looks so much smarter with these new additions. Thanks Leigh!!!

Steve Griffiths



From the CFR Shed in Unprecedented Times

There have been some changes in the Community First Responders team since Covid-19 first showed up in the Petri dish:

- Our dedicated founders, Christine and Mark rushed to the Northern Territory before the borders slammed shut.
- Some worthy team members have been forced onto the back-bench by Ambulance common-sense policy - protecting those who are more at risk.
- MERV has gone into voluntary self-isolation in the garage next to the buggy bay, where we have also set up a sink and disinfection area in order to reduce the risk of cross-contamination should we have to treat a patient who has even the slightest symptom of respiratory distress.

Barry, Vicki, Brenda, Rocky and Evan are carrying on with CFR business as usual. We are well-supported by NSW Ambulance who have not missed a beat in keeping us up to date with the pandemic, giving us extra Covid-19 training and supplying us with PPE.

NSW Ambulance is scheduling an induction course at Point Clare (near Gosford) for new CFR volunteers to be held over 4 weekends from 29th August to 20th September.

We are in need of recruits who would like to join our team and are able to attend the course over those dates.

If you are interested please contact me – no obligation arising if you just want to talk to me about what is involved in qualifying as a First Responder.

Meanwhile, **everyone** can help us by keeping that curve down:

- Wash your hands
- Don't touch your face
- Observe physical distancing rules
- Stay home if you feel unwell
- If you are worried about your symptoms go to the Covid-19 checker at <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>

- Call 000 if having severe difficulty breathing and for other life-threatening emergencies.

Brenda Hall,
CFR33 Dangar Island
brenda.hall458@gmail.com



DOG POO SIGNS

I have recently posted several signs asking folk, mainly tourists, to do the right thing and pick up their dog droppings. Somehow many of these signs have been taken down, I don't understand why!! If anyone has a problem with the signs or a better idea of how to remind people of the duty dog owners have, please address your qualms to me personally.



Judy Nikola 0415488606

DiG

WINDING DOWN FOR WINTER

After an extraordinary year of drought and fires followed by torrential rain, not to mention a global pandemic that forced us to either stay at home or socially distance, the DiG community continues to grow. As a result the garden is thriving, nourished by an amazing composting regimen and loving care from a growing number of volunteers. We continue to return a significant amount of organic waste from the



Depot and Bowlo, despite the reduction in their respective trades with the current restrictions.

Thanks to the energy and passion of Martin Cole and others, the concept of Farm it Forward is taking hold, with a growing number of other island plots coming under the DiG umbrella.

You may have noticed that the central area is inching outwards, and increasingly filled with aromatics. Walk through and experience the mint, perennial basil, oregano, camomile, lemongrass, garlic chives.

The boats ... parsley, strawberries, lettuce, celery

The Borchard (Border Orchard) continues to expand... our collective patience will eventually be rewarded with a variety of citrus, Passionfruit, Kiwi, Blueberries, avocado and papayas.

Don't overlook the shade garden next to the Club with its raspberry, sweet potato, warrigal greens and geraniums.

A special shout out to our local musicians who serenade us during our Sunday working bees, weather permitting!

DiG Do's, Don'ts & Tips:

1) when picking produce please take only the outer leaves very gently leaving the plant to regenerate (using the scissors on the potting table can make cutting the leaf a little easier)

2) Winter watering: Tues, Fri, Sun before 10am and after 4pm

3) Bug-busters please be on the look-out for bugs,

slugs & snails

4) We always need eggshells to help fight off snails. When dropping them off please make sure they are rinsed clean and dry before leaving on the potting table

5) Pick-up DiG kitchen scraps from the Depot everyday - empty into the tumbler bins, worm farm or the in-ground composting bins with wooden lids in the garden with a few handfuls of straw or grass clippings.

6) We love volunteers please join us at the regular very informal Sunday Working Bee 8.30 - 11am.



Need some help to keep warm?

As the temperature begins to drop, why not treat yourself or a loved one to a little bit of luxury?

My handmade felt scarves incorporate superfine Australian merino and 100% silk. They are lightweight, yet extremely warm and very soft.

I am happy to take orders for specific colourways or you can choose from my recently made creations.

I also make hand warmers, bags, hats, cushions and vessels. Please contact me on 0405 005 745 or at lisa@riverfelt.com if you are interested.

Stay safe and keep well, Lisa at RiverFelt Studio.



Conversations with the River

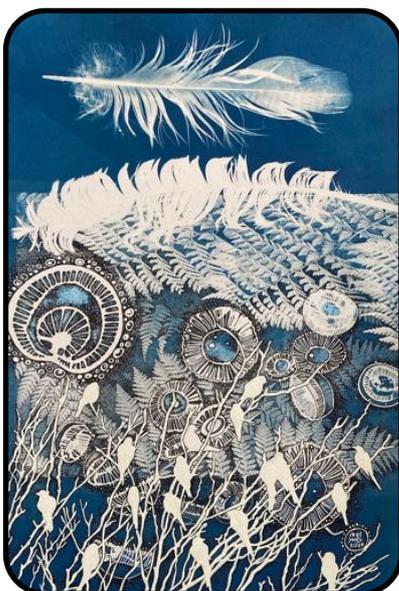


Dangar Island is a creative community. Musicians, writers, visual and ceramic artists add a great deal to the rich cultural life we are lucky enough to enjoy here.

creativity as a healing process that can be used to uncover and explore an individual's sense of self and purpose in the broader arena of life. Visual expression, with or without words, opens our minds to different ways of seeing ourselves and encourages us to be curious



Anderson who has been living and working on Dangar island for a number of years and drawing inspiration for her work from the community and environment around her. With a personal arts practice spanning more than three decades, Mel has worked extensively across diverse creative disciplines and as an educator strives to use creativity as a tool for discovery. Through her work with photography,



digital media, traditional illustration, graphic design and ceramics Mel is interested in using these as tools for greater self awareness and as a vehicle for exploring emotions. Mel believes that creative expression is a powerful means of understanding the complexity of life and



drawing beauty and strength from it.

Mel's teaching utilises these same skills to work with individuals to harness creativity as a tool for self discovery and to explore identity and our personal emotional landscape in a variety of ways. She views



about ourselves and our deeper interior world. Mel's work is shaped by the life of the river.



Mel's work can be viewed via the following links:
melanderson.com.au
<https://melanderson.com.au/cyanotype-gallery>



Marina Garvey

The musical life of Dangar....

reflects the eclectic character of the community. There are singers with vocal power and heart, jazz inspired musicians, rock n roll stalwarts, performers young and old who contribute to and support our Open Mic nights, our Sunday Music in the park along with a variety of other musical gatherings.

The following is a small sample:

The Motherpluckers

The Motherpluckers have been performing irregularly around the island since May 2013. There have been a few retirements (Chris on ukulele, and Zena on vocals) and new recruits (Pauline on drums and more recently, Liz on keyboards, vocals, guitar and more).

They like to cover the songs they love (44 different ones performed so far), especially those of female artists, and have started considering the odd - possibly very odd - original. Weekly rehearsals at Pauline's are the highlight, and these tend to be fuelled by cheese, laughter and Guinness.

Several times a year they find themselves blinking at the lights of the Bowling Club, or at guests of a local big bash - luckily, they like a weird dress up as much as any island party goer.

Judy Lattas



Guitar In the Park

Our own Island Troubadour Liz Nolf at work in the Park on Sunday mornings 10-11....



Dangar Dolce



In a unique Covid19 collaboration, 2Birds (marina Garvey and Liz Nolf) connected remotely with Island residents to create a joyful musical and visual tribute of community life - for those of you yet to see it:

<https://youtu.be/q1o55wfWMwk>



Sunday Band

For the past few years now a group of brassy, woody musicians and singers have met on Sunday arvo.



The bird in this photo.....



is called a tattler, most likely a Grey Tailed Tattler. The only other tattler, the Wandering Tattler tends to inhabit rocky seashores, while the Grey Tailed is more of a mud flat bird. In appearance they are only distinguishable in minor ways, not discernable in this photo.

I photographed this bird looking very relaxed on a jetty on the northeastern corner of Dangar island in early May. It is one of 36 species of shorebirds which breeds in the high arctic (northeastern Siberia in this case) and migrates to Australia during the northern winter when their breeding areas are covered in snow. This is the only tattler I have ever seen on Dangar Island in 40 years of casual observation. Over one million shorebirds fly back and forth between arctic areas and Australia each year.

Other migratory shorebirds like the plovers, curlews and godwits occasionally turn up on Dangar Island, but nothing like the concentrations to be found at the mouth of the Hunter river or in Botany Bay. As described on the excellent sign board opposite the shop, Bar Tailed godwits (a very common wader) have been tagged with tiny transmitters and found to travel 11,000 km non-stop from Australia to northern China, where they rest and fatten up for a few weeks before proceeding on to breed in Siberia and Alaska, averaging 56 km/hour. Over a lifetime they can cover 460,000 km.

In the last 24 years, based on records made yearly by volunteers at 530 key sites, migratory shorebird populations have declined by a catastrophic 79%, largely due to reclamation of their staging points in china and Korea. As a result of the burgeoning human population on planet earth (it has doubled in my lifetime) all other life forms are being squeezed, often to the point of extinction.

Economic (and population) expansion is touted by economists as beneficial to prosperity, as well it may be, but with almost no thought given to the incredible creatures which have inhabited the planet alongside us for millenia and which have no voice to protest their destruction. Environmental protections, instead of being strengthened, are actually being wound back by the current crop of leaders of the major nations and consequently our marvels of nature are being progressively eliminated.

Dr Ben Miller

Solar for Low Income Households Trial

Residents on Dangar Island being in the postcode 2083 area can apply for a free installed 3 kilowatt solar system to be installed at their home, funded by the NSW Government.

To be eligible for the program you need to have a valid Pension Concession Card or a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card, live in and own your own home, use at least 3,600 kilowatt hours of electricity a year, not have a solar system, receive a low income Household Rebate.

For more information go to <https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/media/1876/download>

Ana Pollack

New Cat Study *and* What We Can Do

Recent research published in April 2020 in Australia found that pet cats kill on average each year, 186 animals of which 110 are native. This includes reptiles, birds and mammals and doesn't include insects or frogs. On Dangar Island we have at least 30 cats on last count.

One study found that pet cats were going out at night when their owners thought them to be inside. A radio tracking study found that 39% of cats whom owners thought stayed inside were sneaking out at night.

Many owners think that their cat doesn't hunt because they never find any killed animals. However, cat video tracking research and cat scat (poo) analysis shows that cats bring back home only 15% of what they kill. At night more mammals are killed and at day more reptiles and birds.

So what can we do?

According to the RSPCA, cats live healthier and longer lives if kept inside the home, away from fights with other cats or dogs and insect bites.

Keep your cat indoors 24 hours a day. This will help wildlife from having to spend more time in hiding or escaping and give wildlife more time to rest, feed themselves and their young.

Bells on collars do not prevent hunting or disturbing wildlife, just reduce the success rate.

Most cats can live indoors happily if provided with the following:

- Cats being fastidious like to have clean litter trays away from where they eat so separate their eating and toilet areas. Cats also like a choice of litter trays, so 1 per cat plus an extra one in a different area. The litter trays need cleaning at least once a week and their toilet scooped out twice a day.
- They need to climb, jump and sharpen their nails so provide a range of cat furniture. Their love of the vertical space can be fulfilled with a ladder or objects to climb. Scratching towers or mats satisfy their scratching needs. Toys like a ping pong ball or crumpled up paper are also popular.
- Cats love watching the world outside, so place a cat seat for them to sit look out from. Some cats enjoy videos made especially for them to watch on YouTube. These show birds, fish and cats and can provide hours of mesmerizing entertainment.

- Cats love seclusion and safety. This can be provided with a cat basket lined with a soft blanket or a cat igloo on or off ground level.
- Cats need warmth, so place their basket in a sunny room or by the heater.
- They love to be regularly groomed and enjoy getting play time with you.
- Raw chicken thigh bones helps to massage their gums and satisfies their sense of 'the kill'.

Ana Pollack

Coronavirus Risk and The Recycling Shelf

The use of our "recycling" shelf at the wharf on Dangar Island has been discontinued for about 4-5 weeks.

This was very wise, as the American Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following guidelines regarding the length of time the CV-19 virus remains on various surfaces:

Wood and metal 4 to 5 days

Stainless steel 2-3 days

Plastic 2-3 days

Cardboard, boxes 24 hours

Aluminium, glass 2 hrs to 5 days

Ceramics same

Paper 0-5 days

Our shelf has all of these materials involved.

Quite apart from social distancing issues, both the Salvation Army and St Vincent's (Vinnies) have also closed their thrift shops at the moment, because of the difficulty of maintaining public safety with people handling all of the above materials with no possible way of knowing whether the items, their original owners, or the previous handlers were clear of infections, or indeed even the shelf itself.

It would be sensible to continue to avoid leaving items at the wharf until the Government and their Doctors have given the all clear for all normal social and business activities to resume.

The most obvious test of this would be when they themselves go back to their jobs as politicians and resume both State and Federal Parliaments.



Ron Barrelle

In Loving Memory of
**Stephen Nicholas
Tropiano**



15th December 1951-
8th February 2020

I only knew Steve for a few years. But it felt like I'd known him a lifetime. An intro from a friend and then the game of Backgammon brought us together. Welcomed also by the ever-gracious Corinne into their home. Many an afternoon, evening or anytime thereafter we enjoyed great times together. It's only now and again you get to meet a truly awesome person. And Steve for me was that person! He became an amazing friend and I left Dangar Island for New Zealand feeling I was saying farewell to a brother. When we'd go out, he'd come across people and talk about nothing, about something, about anything. But it didn't matter what it was really about, he'd make them smile and laugh, and so would we. Steve helped me remember to have fun in life, don't take everything too seriously. And that talking is good, as often and frequently as you like! Sad as it is to see my friend go, I'm glad he's no longer in pain. He can now have as many cigars, martinis and whisky's as he likes with no remorse. I miss him dearly and will remember him with reverence as a super guy, who:

- Always did his best to make others happy,
- Took the time to see if anyone needed help,
- Raved about his kids with such admiration,
- And made me a better person for knowing him.



Rest In Peace my friend, you are dearly missed!

Warren Brown

True Confessions

Yes dear reader, it is I, Conrad Muckraker, your Reprehensible reporter, bringing you another in the heart-warming series of soul-searching interviews. An experience that will tug at your heartstrings, as we speak to a man who Has known anger, frustration, aggression, despair; your Courteous and attentive local member; your man in Canberra.

An exclusive interview, to a political pundit
Is what dreams are made of. Yet the fantasy world
Of my dreams has now become the nightmare of my reality.

“Each day brings forth new and ever more unspeakable Outrages upon my delicate sensibilities. The vilest forms of degradation are practiced with consummate ease by the inhabitants of this nether world as they perform their archaic rituals and mindless meanderings upon the centre stage of a posturing parliament.

A parliament of warped perception, whose members' Lust for power and privilege is exceeded only by their Ability to present vice as virtue, and thus mask their Own self-seeking motives in the justification of ever increasing attacks upon the public purse.”

The bells range incessantly throughout the hall calling for a quorum, as the final ring of rhetoric ran rushing round the room.

Bruce Lambert



**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

