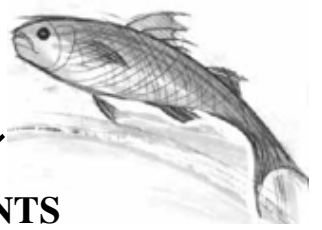


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. # 63

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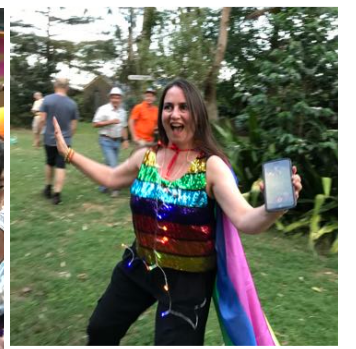
Autumn 2019

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

Dangardigras



Dangar Island residents once again threw on their rainbow colours and embraced the true spirit of Mardi Gras, a spirit celebrating diversity, inclusion, tolerance and family. In a fun filled evening that began with 'the little parade that could' and ended with music, song and dance, Dangar Island stepped out in heart-felt style.



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Dangar Island League Presidents Autumn Report 2019

Welcome to autumn Dangar Islanders, and the end of the hottest summer on record - surely those that deny have exhausted their credibility by now.

The League has had an uncharacteristically busy summer period, with many issues on the boil, and increased interest in our little patch from government representatives both State and Federal. Not to mention the continuing interactions - both positive and not so positive - with Council. A quick summary:

Brooklyn planning. Council has terminated the master planning process, and instead intends to make more incremental change. See <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/news/new-direction-for-brooklyn-improvements>. At a meeting of 7 March of the Brooklyn Community Reference Group, Council presented some interesting slides on ideas from the master-planning process. Notable was the absence of any acknowledgement of the existence of the BMC. We have an assurance from Council that we will be consulted prior to any decisions re changes at Brooklyn. As part of this new planning process, David Johnston Council's Strategic Place Manager, has agreed to come to the Island to discuss planning for Brooklyn, the new planning process and how Dangar residents will be included.

For your diaries, the meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, 10 April at 7.00pm in the Dangar Island Bowling Club.

Brooklyn planning will be a major focus for the League over the coming months.

NBN. See Trevor's separate article.

Opal card. Through Matt Kean we have approached Transport for NSW about the opportunity for inclusion of the Dangar Island Ferry in the Opal card system (and most importantly for its inclusion under the daily/weekly cap system). The response was disappointing, factually incorrect and seemed not to grasp our issues. We will wait until the dust settles on the election and have another crack at this during the second quarter of this year.

Road maintenance. We were hoping to get grading and rolling of the unsealed sections onto the regular maintenance schedule rather than having to constantly

lobby Council. This proposal was not supported by Council. Our next approach will be to seek a commitment from Council for regular scheduled inspections (with a community member), so that we do not have to continue to be the squeaky wheel.

Toilet block. Matt Kean was looking for projects on the Island to fund, and we suggested an upgrade of the toilet block - nothing fancy, just a refurbishment to the Brooklyn standard that would make it easier to clean. Council has supported the proposal. We will talk to Matt now he has been re-elected on how to proceed with this project.

Waste Management. Chris Horsey from HSC braved our DIL general meeting of 9 March to talk turkey on waste. Thanks to Chris and all islanders who came along and participated. He explained the constraints and the contract ins and outs, and promised to come back with options to workshop with the community. We will be following this one up with Chris.

Street lighting. Ausgrid are changing the street lights to LED. This means they will be brighter. Judith Doyle is pursuing this one - trying to get hoods on the lights that shine into people's houses. But if affected, you need to act now. Contact Judith the with pole number if you think it needs a hood. And contact Ausgrid directly - the more representations they get, the more likely we are of success.

The wharf. Oh dear. The community managed to get NSW Police, Maritime and Council well and truly off side on this one. The western side of the wharf is now reserved for emergency vehicles and loading/unloading only, and the two spots on the east have reverted back to 1hr mooring. Trevor and I tried our darndest to negotiate a more sensible solution, but given recent mooring behaviours, our store of goodwill was empty.

Website. Genevieve is in the process of upgrading our website. It will be far more interactive, up to date, and generally fabulous. We are even thinking about having the Mullet Mail 'online' - with articles posted as they come in. Then maybe a bumper 'best of' in print once a year. Happy to get your thoughts on this. And while on the website:

A huge thanks to Andy Payne for his selfless maintenance and management of the site over many years. Much love and luck to him, Vanessa move to Adelaide. R no to visitors, and ye back to the Island wi time.

Cheers to all,

Vanessa O'Keefe
DIL President



The NBN Rollout and Mobile Phone and Internet Reception

The League has recently written to our Federal MP, Julian Leeser and to Stephen Rue, the Chief Executive officer of NBN Co, expressing our disappointment that the Australian Government through NBN Co has recently put us onto satellite rather than fibre-to-the-curb for our internet. Satellite is a third best solution with lags, speed caps and higher \$ costs. These will become more apparent as we increasingly go digital and it will then be too late to change. Moreover, much of Dangar Island is heavily screened by trees making satellite delivery for some houses problematic. Scotland Island - where decisions were taken earlier in the NBN rollout - is being fully serviced with fixed line NBN.

Another feature of satellite delivery is that residents of Dangar Island will not be disconnected from their existing fixed line phone and internet services by NBN. This is not a source of great relief and comfort. There have been many complaints from Dangar residents about the quality of phone and internet services on the Island and the ruthless milking of the existing, very poorly maintained, infrastructure by Telstra. While Telstra is obligated to maintain the service until 2032, their enthusiasm for maintenance will be even less likely when neighbouring Brooklyn and all other areas of Sydney are on NBN. Julian Leeser has taken this up with NBN Co and the Communications Minister and we appreciate his efforts. He has visited

the Island twice to discuss the matter, most recently bringing two representatives of NBN Co to present their case. Initially NBN Co indicated the main reason for not providing a fixed line service was environmental – disturbance to sea grass. When this was questioned, they very quickly shifted their argument to one of cost. They now claim it is too costly to provide a fixed line service to the Island. When questioned on these costs and on whether they were significantly greater than for all other communities provided with a fixed line service, they prevaricated.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that NBN Co - their balance sheet and business model - are under pressure and small communities like ours are wearing the cost for their failings. They have indicated they will not change their position. From the League's perspective, this is a matter created by the current Australian Government and it is for them to fix the problem. We will take this matter up again with the Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland MP, before the upcoming Federal election..

Moving to a related subject, access to mobile phone reception and 4G internet on the Island remains problematic. It varies from house to house. Houses on the western side have generally good reception; houses on the eastern side spotty reception; and houses in the middle of the Island very poor to no reception. Standing around, waving a phone, hoping for a signal is for many "best practice" with the Fire Brigade a particular problem. It now appears likely the Island will get a mobile base station – a tower - later this year under the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program. While we have not received any formal notification, there are likely to be two issues. First, the location of the tower - there is not much point having a tower unless it is located where all Islanders can have quality reception. Second, the service provider - towers are usually linked to a single provider (Telstra or Optus or Vodaphone). Telstra is to be the provider to Dangar Island, once again creating a monopoly provider for many households. The league will be chasing more information on this over coming weeks.

Trevor Kanaley



DIBC Autumn News

What a fantastic night Dangardigras was! Significant thanks must go to all who organised stuff. The parade was awesome; the acts fantastic Dale, the food superb, the kids dress-up magic, the atmosphere delightful... a super community event. You Ming we bring!

Big congrats to workers and directors alike for how well the night went. Sharon's food organisation was spot on. Garreth showed that as well as great sausage sambos he has legs. Karen earned her RSA before the night and did fantastic work and Steve was awesome as always with the sound.

Speaking of Steve, we encourage everyone to support the crowd funding effort he has initiated to replace air conditioners at the club. I know it's OK now, but it's going to get hot again in 6 months and our air conditioners have been around the block too many times. A tinge of sadness surrounds the impending departure of the Paynes to Adelaide in just a few short days. Andy's prowess as a bowler and club president are renowned and Ness's support and organisation will surely be missed. We wish them all the best as they start a new life on the mainland. We'll miss you... till we turn up for a visit.

Remember that bowling is our game. So join the stalwarts of a Sunday or just ask the bar staff to help you organise a casual roll up. Go Moonee pearls!

Tom Garvey President Licensee



Club Entertainment

Here's a summary of what's coming up at the Club - entertainment wise - in the coming months. I'd like to remind everyone that it's always wise to book a table for the music events, because we are getting more off islanders coming to the shows and we'd hate for locals to miss out!

Friday 5 April: 7.00pm
Rory McLeod

This is the first of - hopefully - many evening dinner/show events and to kick things off we have an extraordinary international performer.

Rory McLeod is a rhythmic story-teller and multi-instrumentalist, singing songs that are percussive, bold, lyrical and deeply personal.

A one man soul-band and modern travelling



troubadour wielding guitars, harmonica, trombone, spoons, stomp box, tap shoes, a big heart and a cheeky wit. "I've travelled to look for work, to mend a broken heart, to be with someone I longed for. I'd travel to visit friends and on the way I'd make new ones; I'd roam because I was curious to see what was around the next corner..."

This show will be staged inside the club and although there is no door charge, we will be running a set menu and patrons will need to book to reserve a seat. Booking online in advance will secure you a seat and cover the cost of your main course. Please book via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rory-mcleod-dangar-island-tickets-56222882154> or email the club via dibc@gmail.com. There will be standing room at the back for those not eating.

Friday 12 April: 7.00pm

Open Mic Night

Open mic is moved by a week so we can have Rory Mcleod perform on the 5th. Make sure you bring your best new tunes to this edition. We'll be back to the first Friday of the month for the May edition

Easter Sunday 21 April: 1.30pm - 4pm

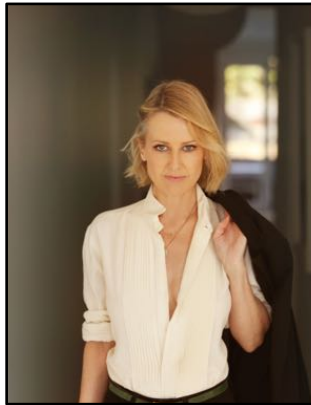
Abby Dobson

ABBY DOBSON has had a wonderful career as a singer and songwriter. She has just released her beautiful new solo album, **'It's Okay, Sweetheart'**, that she produced with **Brad Jones** in Nashville; songs from which she is performing at a handful of wonderful venues across Australia. Today's show will be in duo mode. She was a founding member of the hugely successfully band, **Leonardo's Bride**, who garnered many accolades; their chart-topping song, **'Even When Im Sleeping'**, winning APRA 'Song of the Year' and later voted as one of the APRA 'Top 20 Australian Songs of All Time'.

She went on to record more gold selling albums and tour extensively with dance

producer wunderkind, Paul Mac. She has supported Tom Jones, Everything But the Girl, Barry White, Joe Jackson, Neil Finn among others...

She has been invited to sing duets with Neil Finn, Daniel Johns, Alex Lloyd, Mark Seymour, Leo Sayer and esteemed others, was commissioned to record her songs for the hit TV series, 'The Secret Life of Us', and released her highly acclaimed solo album, 'Rise Up'.



Sunday 12 May: 1.30pm - 4pm

Dave Graney & the mistLY

Dave Graney and his band are gonna paint up 2019 with a new album called

ZIPPA DEEDOO WHAT IS/WAS THAT/ THIS?

Its approximately their 33rd (?) and is a killer set of rock music. Made properly, like they've always done. It has "eight songs done thirteen ways" and ranges from pop gems like "baby I wish I'd been a better pop star" to their homage to Stones Lore in **ULTRAKEEF** and then the 8 1/2 minute West Coast epic jam that is served up twice that is **Is That What You Did?** They play music drawn from a lifetime in rock 'n' roll culture. They didn't learn their licks in school, they made their own mistakes and set up their own standards. Whatever they do, whatever they play, they bring their ace game. Their primo strategies. Their stellar grooves and street wise lyrical fire.



Steve Griffiths DIBC

Sculpture Competition Results

Once again a hearty thank you for the support, imagination and the involvement shown by the Island Artists. For a month the island was decorated and enriched by the 52 wonderful artworks that sprung up all around. We had joyous figures, puns, dwarfs, toadstools, water references, family trees, stone carvings, growing plants, industrial art, political art, stick birds, garbage art, insect art and island nature mobiles.

The competition for the prizes was judged by Katherine Pigneguy, Romy Hutak and Ben Walsh, many thanks to them all for their input, humour and expertise.

And the winners were:

1st Prize, a Family Pass on the Riverboat Postman donated by the Riverboat Postman was won by **Abigail Fetzer** with "Hawkesbury River Cottages"

2nd Prize, a Bottle of Moet and two Gold Class tickets to the movies donated by Belle Property was won by **Jane and Paul Rider** with "Pooh Corner"

3rd Prize, an original Art Work donated by Paul Taylor by was won by **Martin Lloyd** with "What would make you take a journey like this"

And

The Funniest Sculpture Prize went to **Judy Nicola** for "Pool Party" who received a \$40 voucher from Life Boat Seafoods

And Now... for the first time I can announce that the Peoples Choice Awards were won by;

Joint 2nd prize was won by **Judith Doyle** and **Yvonne Terkildsen** with "Wheres ya bin" and "Anticipation" who both receive a \$50 voucher from King Tide.

And finally, 1st prize goes to **Martin Lloyd** who receives a \$100 voucher generously donated again by King Tide.

A special thank you to Judith Doyle for help and support.

Thanks again all,
Michael Liebenberg



Staying safe with the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

It is the first day of autumn as I write this article. It is still hot – very hot. It is hard to believe that summer is (supposedly) over and autumn has (apparently) started. In theory winter is on its way! On the fire front Dangar fared well this summer. Your brigade members provided out-of-area support, assisting with the response to fires as far away as Tasmania. However we were pleased to be less active at home.

The island's fire safe summer can be attributed in large part to the preparation and awareness of island community members. So thank you to everyone who kept their homes safe, respected the fire bans, and conducted safe burns offs with the necessary pre-approvals.

Now let's keep it safe as we head into the cooler months!

Getting your house ready for winter

There are a few precautions you can take around your home to reduce your risk of fire over winter:

- Do you have smoke alarms? Every home should have smoke alarms fitted. Change the batteries and test them.
- Have a small fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the home. Keep them in the kitchen in case of a cooking fire.
- Make sure your chimney is clean and place a screen in front of open fires.
- Keep bedding and curtains away from heaters.
- Don't place wet clothes too close or on the heater.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Extinguish open flames, including candles, before going to sleep.

What to do if there is a fire at home?

Every home needs a home fire escape plan. Get the household together, prepare a plan, and then practise it!

Try your plan by day and by night. Why not time yourself. And don't forget to dial 000.

Prepare

- ★ Identify two escape routes out of each room.
- ★ Agree on a meeting point outside the home.
- ★ If you hear the smoke alarm it is time to act.
- ★ Choose the safest route out of the room.
- ★ Stay low and go, go, go.
- ★ Get out and then STAY OUT.
- ★ Go the meeting point

Call **000** to report the fire.

The emergency operators will contact us.



Thinking ahead - Mitigation Planning

Working with Hornsby Council and other local brigades, the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade will continue to look for opportunities over winter to reduce ground fuel loads without impacting sensitive island species (plant, animal and human alike) or destroying the bush character, in readiness for another fire season.

This may mean that we carry out hazard reduction burning on or around the island over the cooler months (conditions permitting). Please be patient if the road is blocked to traffic as we carry out our work, or your clothes smell like ash.

You may be interested to know that on-island hazard reductions are carried out on a rotation system which means that areas with a fuel load that has built up over a period of years up are attended, to while other areas are left to regenerate. You should also note that some parts of the island, although heavily vegetated, are far less liable to burn than others.

You can help to mitigate the risk and impact of bush fire. Use the cooler months to clear fuels on your own block in the immediate vicinity of your buildings, as this the strongest defence against bushfire attack. Offer to lend a hand to neighbours who may require assistance.

Easter Family Film Fundraiser

Join us on **Easter Saturday 20 April @ 6pm** in the Hall for the Fire Brigade's annual family film night.

Yes: the film will be fun for all the family.

Yes: there will be delicious meals and tasty treats on sale.

Yes: there will be prizes

Watch out for posters with more information.

Dangardigras 'Out of this World'

Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in this amazing event.

Never one to miss the action, the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade Truck threw on her best lashes and lippy, and to the theme song from Star Wars, joined the parade accompanied by Guardians of the Undergarment Drawers Ceri and Josh.

Report to fire control: It's called

C.O.M.M.U.N.I.T.Y E.N.G.A.G.E.M.E.N.T.



The Dangar Fire Brigade

(To the tune of Engine 143)

The Dangar Island Fire Brigade, the swiftest in the Shire
Guaranteed to get there first to a Dangar Island fire
Although they're dressed in yellow, they never are afraid
Those heroes of the Hawks-berr-ee, the Dangar Fire Brigade.

A cry went up one afternoon, a garbage bin's alight
They hit it with their biggest hose, but it was a losing fight
But thanks to a mighty thunderstorm that garbage bin was saved
Another brilliant callout for the the Dangar Fire Brigade.

You see them on a training day with hoses everywhere
It's like spaghetti junction but the firies they don't care
Their hoses have so many holes that everyone gets sprayed
No danger of them burning up, the Dangar Fire Brigade.

The firies shed was falling down its race was almost run
The Council weren't going to fix it up 'til twenty-forty-one
But thanks to a clerical error by mistake a builder was paid
And just for good luck, they got a new truck, the Dangar Fire Brigade.

David Turner



Altered States

The sensuous touch of a velvet glove
Upon a naked thigh.
An image held forever captive
In a mind's eye.

A memory of silk stockings
Draped across a chair.
Now but all forgotten
As I slowly brush my hair.

Whatever did but happen
To those pearls and that brooch too?
My fox fur stole and evening wrap
Matched cleverly with my shoe.

Now my time is over
As my mirror looks askance.
No more invitations
To just one more formal dance.

The night nurse now is calling,
It's medication time.
For just one fleeting moment
It all seemed so sublime.

Emily Evermore

Whatever Happened To The Tic Tac Man?

With a feeling of expectation I step quickly down from the running board of the packed tram and am swept inexorably forward by the surging crowd. An overwhelming sense of confidence seems to permeate the jostling throng as they struggle to pass through the turnstiles and on to their inevitable contest with the bookmakers.

To the casual observer the betting ring appears a scene of utter chaos. Each bookmaker has his own retinue and as he stands with his big leather satchel stuffed with cash, the tic tac man sends changes in the odds for each horse by way of semaphore. That is, he is waving his arms like a demented windmill.

This process is somehow understood by the man operating the board that show the odds for each horse in that race. The odds are constantly changing as the punters try to predict the winner.

As the bookmaker is nearly overwhelmed by the handfuls of cash being thrust at him, his overworked penciller is writing out the betting slips that are soon to become confetti, littering the ground.

he crowd that surges and heaves in the betting ring are not just your wide-eyed punters. The urgers and dips are out in force. That is, the characters who claim to have the inside running, and for a small gratuity will give you the good oil. The dips or pickpockets on the other hand will be looking for any big wins and will be quick to relieve you of your winnings.

A list of colourful characters would be too long to detail. Suffice to say, many heavy duty criminals and well known politicians, for such are surely interchangeable beings, are found amongst the throng. Much business of a less than salubrious nature is enacted within the confines of the betting ring.

I on the other hand will not be placing a bet as I reflect upon the relative standing of two of my mother's uncles. One a paddock bookmaker with no doubt very fat leather satchel and the other, his penciller with an impressive talent for figures.

As for the tic tac man, I don't know much about him, but I would not be surprised if he were headed for the way of the dodo.

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 be dispatched for you, the CFRs on duty 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

The Red Book

A little red book (no, not that one) debuted on the island in December to rave reviews.

The ***Guide to Historic Dangar Island, Gem of the Hawkesbury 3rd edition*** is the result of dedicated effort by the DIHS over many months.

Can an impeccably researched and perfectly edited history text garner 'rave' reviews?

"Beautiful. It's really beautiful. I have bought 4 copies; one is for my brother in Italy"

Dangar Island resident 17/1/19

"Thanks so much for the Guide to Historic Dangar Island – it's great - I have just spent the last day of 2018 reading it from cover to cover! I learned a lot about the island that I was not aware of! It's great".

ex Dangar Island resident 1/1/19

"Love love love the book."

Catherine Pignéguy, The Riverboat Postman

"Very impressive. Highly readable. Respectful to people. I learned things I didn't know. Also corrected things I thought were true but turned out not to be."

DI resident

Thanks to Rosemary Curtis, David Reynolds, Brenda Hall, Hans Pol, Rachel Shields, Trevor Kanaley and Judith Doyle, along with many supportive islanders for persevering with this significant task. *"This edition is dedicated to Ross Higgins (1941-2018), president and keen supporter of the Historical Society, and long-term, active participant in the Dangar Island community. " (p.3)*

Catherine Gray, the editor and designer (the Island's new best friend) engaged with Rosemary, the committee and our island's past, offering the professional standard and eye for aesthetics we gratefully appreciate. Patron support from Ivan and Sue Judd was remarkable; islanders with some history here recognise and value the authentic stories that our community should be able to experience.

An historic guide that's readable, reliable and rave-able is on the island now, in the Depot, on the river with the postman, and on the mainland at the marina. Get yourself one!

Yes, your grandpa, your neighbour or your mama has filled you with Dangar Island tales. The myths are nearly as interesting as the real deal; nevertheless, knowing the straight story will surely give you a heady sense of pride.

"We hope this guide will introduce you to some of the island's stories, from the long custodianship of its First Peoples, to the colourful characters of a rich history and a community drawn together by the charm of the island life." (p.5 Welcome to Dangar Island)



Dangar Island Historical Society

A Feathery Tale

Those of us lucky enough to live on Dangar Island know what a special and beautiful natural environment we have at our doorstep.



There is always something new to learn about the flora and fauna that surrounds us.

Caleb Ley, one of Dangar Island's younger residents is a budding naturalist with many interesting insights into our local natural environment especially the birdlife.

Very recently he introduced me to Lorrie the Lorikeet, a baby lorikeet whose flight feathers are slow in developing. Caleb with the help of his grandparents, Graham and Janet, have been giving Lorrie a bit of extra TLC in the hope that he will get strong enough so that he can fly. Caleb has looked closely at the shape of Lorrie's feathers and thinks he is a boy and explains that Lorrie has a box he climbs into when it is cold but otherwise lives in a bush in Graham and Janet's garden. Keeping him safe from cats is a big challenge.



Marina Garvey

Art in the Park

Every Sunday morning down at the Community Garden wood carving is being taught to children and any one interested of all ages really.

The carving is putting into relief drawings made by children of plants grown in the Community Garden onto the trunk of a dead Blackbutt tree near the compost bins by the Bowling Green.

If you or your child are interested, come around 9.30am on Sundays to the tree. Tools and gloves are provided.

Contact Ana for any enquiries - 7707

BRING BACK THE NIGHT



A few years ago, my granddaughter was very excited to try her new torch. Coming from a brightly lit city she was sure that Dangar was the place to try it out. So we ventured out at night however, to my dismay, we could not find a dark area on the road where we could use the torch. This incident got me thinking why do we have street lights on Dangar? There is minimum foot traffic at night, and vehicles such as the buggy, ambulance and fire truck use their own lights. Most people carry a torch or use iPhones to light their way. To cut the story short, this led me to research darkness, light pollution and its effect on us and the environment:

Effect on the human body

At night our bodies produce melatonin, which allows us to fall asleep, and stay asleep. We produce this hormone the most between 11pm and 3.00 am and even the slightest ray of sunlight or artificial light interrupts the secretion of this important hormone. Less melatonin in the blood causes fatigue, bad mood, anxiety, hormonal imbalance, poor concentration and many other problems.

Effect on wildlife

Light pollution interrupts ecosystems and poses a serious threat in particular to nocturnal wildlife, having negative impacts on plant and animal physiology. It can confuse the migratory patterns of animals, alter competitive interactions of animals, change predator-prey relations, and cause physiological harm.

Effect on crime rates

There is a common misconception that lighting diminishes crime and increases security. In fact several government sponsored research projects in the United Kingdom and the United States of America have failed to demonstrate any benefit from lighting in the fight against crime.

LED Street Lights

Some of the street lights on the island are LEDs. The council plans to replace all of the existing lamps with LEDs because they are cheaper to run. LEDs, however, could be worse than the existing lights because they emit heavy doses of a “blue-rich white light” which is especially disruptive to circadian rhythms.

In conclusion, there is evidence to suggest that street lights have the potential to be very harmful to us and the environment, and are not needed on the island. Turning off the majority of the lights may be the best solution. Perhaps we could also ask the council to reallocate some of the money saved from the street lights back to the community to use for the Community Hall, Bowling Club, Buggy, Ute, Fire Brigade, and First Responders; they all could do with extra funding.

Surely it can't be so difficult to carry a torch at night? Especially if our health and the island's ecosystem benefit greatly from it. Not to mention the added pleasure of being able to look at the stars without the glare of an invasive street light.

Nina Tyrrell

The Dangar Island Path Fairies....

Our son, Benjamin and family were coming from Spain to visit us on Dangar Island. Seven year old Emma had visited three times previously but this Christmas was the first time Emma had her very own (90kg) mobility aid, her “*silla eléctrica*”. (electric wheelchair).

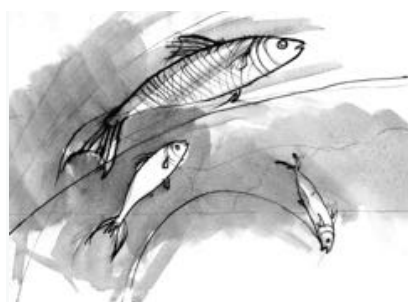
Emma has SMA which means she has very little muscle tone, giving her limited movement in her hands and forearms only. So, I was occupied for some time by the need to build a number of platforms and ramps to get the chair up our hill and into the house. I built a platform for the rear of Cameron's boat to transport the wheelchair from and to the mainland.

Thanks to Terry Dorrough, we were able to land the wheelchair at his pontoon and wharf. Our next preparation was a ramp at the land end of Terry's wharf to the path heading west. Part of this path, was extremely uneven and too narrow in places, so I began repairing it but ran out of time before heading north for an early family Christmas in Brisbane. I resigned myself to the painstaking use of multiple planks to get the wheel chair over the path's remaining rough section.

We were just contemplating the long drive back from Caloundra to Brooklyn when we received an amazing photo of the completed path along side the magicians, the ‘*path fairies*’: our truly amazing neighbours Terry Dorrough, Adam Crome, Graham Morey, Marina and Tom Garvey.

How lucky we are, to have such caring neighbours as ours here on Dangar!

This level path gave Emma easy access up to our house at any tide. Our wonderful main wharf was perfect for transfers and from there Emma could visit other parts of the island and meet the kids in the playground. Emma loved the birds, the boating and swimming in the river.



Graham and Janet Ley

A Love Story With A Tragic Ending

Where Grantham Crescent executes a right angled turn towards Brooklyn there is a native rainforest block, which being unoccupied and densely vegetated is periodically home to some interesting bird life. Last year white-faced herons reared a youngster high up in the tree tops. This year, for several months up to a couple of weeks ago it was home to a male Tawny Frogmouth which issued its hoom-hoom-hoom call throughout the nights in an effort to attract a mate. During the day it perched low down on the stub of a lower branch and island residents and their visitors knew this and would stop to photograph the bird.

Three weeks ago I was delighted to see the original male had been joined by a smaller and lighter coloured mate which sat alongside it and this continued to be the case over the next week or so. The male had ceased to call, apparently satisfied with the results of its untiring efforts. I anticipated nesting activity was just around the corner but then disaster struck.

When I visited the block to tidy it up for Christmas I couldn't see either bird on the

usual perch. Instead there was a smashed white egg on the path and tell-tale bunches of feathers in the area around. My conclusion was that the female had flown down to the ground to pick up an insect, as these birds often do and then been attacked by a cat, causing the ejection of an egg which was about to be laid. I eventually located the male sitting several trees away alone, but he too now seems to have left.

Cats cause enormous damage to birdlife both on and off the island. Some residents who are otherwise very decent human beings seem to have a blind spot when it comes to addressing this problem. When I was involved in preserving the then endangered Lord Howe Island wood hen in the late 1970's I had legislation brought in to have all domestic cats desexed to prevent a continuing flow of animals into the bush and to allow current pets to live out their lives but prevent further imports. Cats on Dangar Island nightly patrol most of its 30 hectares and have divided it up into their territories in much the same way as we have into our domestic blocks. New arrivals spark furious screaming and growling from outraged cats on either side but

only at night. Because of this range of predation nothing of suitable is safe. Be it a bird, a possum, a lizard or a snake.

Throughout the Australian mainland domestic cats are estimated to kill 61 million birds each year, which is a truly staggering figure. The entire Australian mainland is overrun with feral cats that kill an estimated 316 million victims per year making a grand total of 377 million victims per year or more than 1 million each day.

Islands such as Dangar Island offer the only possibilities of providing cat free habitat for birds and as a great admirer of our wonderful native fauna I believe this is the direction we should be heading in.

Dr Benjamin Miller



More information for Island cat owners can be accessed from the following sites:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/councils-to-introduce-cat-curfews-to-limit-prowling-at-night-201702>



<https://www.smh.com.au/national/war-on-feral-cats-australia-aims-to-cull-2-million-20170214-gucp>



Disappointing NBN meeting

What a disappointment today's meeting (Wednesday 20th March) with NBN CO and Julian Leeser. So many unanswered questions. The take home message I got was:

1. NBN is running out of money and consider Dangar too expensive for them to bother with a cable connection. Hence, we are expected to put up with inferior, inadequate satellite, which for example does not provide unmetered netflix- you pay for every byte with Skymuster (NBN's satellite provider I believe). This is not the case with all other NBN options.
2. The decision is made and all the excuses they gave were furrphies (sea grass, rail corridor access, reliability of service, heritage issues, piggybacking problems). *All* of these issues could be addressed.
3. The only consideration they are worried about is the cost - we are above the 'threshold'. They admitted that other communities above the threshold (\$6k/ household) had been connected, but would not concede that it was possible for Dangar. As for our rep, Julian Leeser, he did seem to be, and admitted that he was dissatisfied with NBN's response (the minister for communications was mentioned as well). However his approach seems to be that he considers real NBN to Dangar a lost cause. I suspect the party has told him to suck it up. He is after all in one of the bluest electorates in Australia, and can afford to lose a few paltry DI votes. We've been sacrificed. We will not receive the core infrastructure that was the basic premise of NBN. We need to protest loud and clear. This is not equitable or justifiable.

Graham Morey

Dangar Island Bush Care

so achievable to keep weed free. Twenty Five years later and you have to search hard to find a weed in the reserve.

Residents on the League's web site - <http://www.dangarislandleague.net/Groups/Bushcare>

The Dangar Island Bushcare group recently was given an award from Hornsby Shire Council for its bush regeneration on the island for over 25 years, being one of the

The enduring bushcare group on the Island is a testament to community and local government working together towards a shared goal, that is of course about removing weeds, but is more than that: collaboration,

The group also has plant displays to inform residents and been involved in three major reconstructions of the main track leading up to the reserve.

In 1993, residents organised monthly bush regeneration sessions. Before this individual residents would randomly remove lantana or organise spirited working bees called "Lantana Bashes".

dedication, democratic principles, knowledge and skills building enrich the activity at hand.

All residents are welcome to join us on the second Saturday of each month starting 9am at the base of the main track up to the reserve.

Since 1993 the group has learnt major lessons in what not to do, has received a grant from Hornsby Shire Council to engage a botanist to

Any enquires contact Cybele - 7142 or Ana - 7707

The group decided to focus its efforts on Kiparra Park, as it is on top of the island and

do a thorough plant study in the reserve, put together a island plant list that is available for

DiG update

Wow what an amazing six months! The garden's been humming over summer with bumper crops of basil, cucumber & pumpkins! So proud of the efforts of the DiG mob who've stuck with it & our wonderful island community for being so supportive and welcoming this crazy little venture into their midst.

Many hands make light(er) work so thank you to all who have volunteered over the months to weed & water, hammer, lug, haul soil & boats. We now have two huge compost bays simmering away nicely taking the Bowling Club's kitchen and the Dangar Island Depot's scraps & coffee grounds. It's so great to be able to close the loop and recycle and up-cycle as much island waste as we possibly can and prevent it from ending up in landfill. Thanks too to all the wonderful islanders dropping off eggshells and coffee grounds regularly it's amazing! Hopefully as the garden grows we'll be able to expand to process even more island household waste.

Don't forget to check out our monthly DiG WISHLIST on the DiG Facebook page and keep an eye out for our new noticeboard and signage happening over the next few months plus we LOVE volunteers so if you'd like to be involved just email contact details to Janel - dangarislandgarden@gmail.com We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Margie Tillson for her fabulous contribution in getting DiG up off the ground. Margie's beautiful positive energy and enthusiasm and general brilliance will be sorely missed as she leaves us to juggle a very full work/life balance. So this means DiG's looking for a general admin & events organisery type person - its totally a shared role amongst a few of us but would be great to have another bod on board to help wrangle the general adminy-type running of things and maybe help with a bit of creative planning & promoting fundraisers, working bees etc. So if you're the kind of person that wants to

volunteer and not get their hands too dirty and who doesn't run a mile when someone says "let's have a cake stall... or a party!" then this could be for you! The garden has been especially keen to incorporate our island and river artists in its planning and layout. We've been so lucky to have some of our talented creatives lending their skill & vision to the look & feel of the garden space including the multi-talented Rachel Shields who continues to inspire with her wisdom and knowledge and who so generously donated her time to run a wonderful Seasonal Calendar workshop giving all proceeds from the day to the community garden - thank you so much Rachel & all those who attended - your donation paid for much needed straw, seedlings and fertilizer. And of course the amazing Ana Pollak who is running a regular botanical drawing and carving workshop free of charge every Sunday from 10 am at the beautiful old eucalypt stump next to the compost bay... transcribing and embellishing this stately old grandmother tree with discreet carvings taken from drawings of plants in the garden created by the kids (& adults) who come along. So much to look forward as we head into March and as the weather gets cooler the garden will change with soil to prepare and winter seedlings to plant. Looking forward to an exciting and productive 2019! Happy Gardening everyone!



Dangar Island League Membership

If your membership details have changed and you would like to update them and continue to receive occasional email updates from the Dangar Island League please send your current details to:

secretary@dangarislandleague.net

Memories of Dangar.....

Hearing the 6 o'clock ferry and knowing I can sleep for another hour

Six king parrots on the railing, one of them bright yellow

The scuttle of the water dragon across the deck, coming for tidbits

The rhythmic plop-plop-plop of oars from a passing dory

Shadows of the railway bridge on moonlit water

Brumm-brumm-brumm-brumm – the tawny frogmouth in the tree at night

Being aware of the tide coming in and going out, the splash of the ferry wash on the beach

Mist filling the valley in the early morning, tumbling over the ridges

Raking up leaves, sticks and bark and being startled as a kookaburra dives on a worm just a finger length in front of your hand

The train snaking along Mullet Creek then bursting onto the bridge and rattling across before silently disappearing

Fishing for bream from our jetty and catching an octopus, cutting the line when it wrapped its tentacles tightly around the pier

An early morning dinghy revving up as it passes – shift worker?

Climbing into our little tinnie, heading first towards Mullet Creek and as the revs increase swinging east towards Wobbe Beach and on down the river

Carrying shopping bags up from the Public Wharf, magpies chortling in the trees

Being recognised as “Gerry’s cousin and his partner” – which one is your cousin?

Doing a “lap” of Riverview Avenue and seeing the grass trees in flower, the lorikeets chirping as they feed

Bradleys Beach with all those little balls of sand rolled up by tiny crabs, who

sometimes wave claws in unison

Scraping away a few leaves and seeing the rock carvings left by the old people

Lying on the jetty just after dusk and trying to see satellites and identify constellations

Stunning sunsets over Muagomarra, jets leaving trails in the orange sky

Friendly islanders passing on local knowledge and contacts, stopping for a chat at the shop or along the road

This special place was our sanity break from the Inner West and busy lives for around two decades. Thanks to all of you for sharing this sanctuary with us, while we quietly came and went. We have promised to come back from time to time, but that may be unsettling because the magic spell has been broken. Someone else will call our cosy little house their home. We will look back with fond memories from our new home beside the rainforest in Cairns.

Ciao Andy and Peter

Off To Adelaide

Leaving Dangar is not an easy choice to make. We have a beautiful life here on this island in the Hawkesbury. The children here accept a freedom that many Australian kids can only dream of. A wonderful beach for swimming or wallowing depending on the tide, riding their bikes safely around without a worry of traffic (except on bin day and the occasional other), jumping off wharves, and travelling by ferry to school. We will miss all of these things.

Most of all we will miss YOU, our community, who rallied around us when we were in our darkest moments (and we have had a few). We will never forget your kindness and charity. We are moving away from family as well. My parents, Ken and Jean Johnston, are quasi-locals and they will miss their island getaway.

I know many of you were surprised to hear of our decision to move away. To Adelaide of all places. Yes, we know it's HOT! Power outages at the whim of the government. And those big sharks. We know.

I'm not sure how to put it into words so you get our perspective. Some of you are intuitive and 'get it' without me saying a word. That word is RESET. Our family has survived years of extreme stress and worry, and you might wonder what sane person would up and shift when things are just settling down? Andy and I have always been adventurous, we have travelled extensively together, we are a great team and we have made great choices in the past. We believe this is another one. We could not have made this choice 12 months ago (James still on treatment, we didn't know if it had worked). We are in

a different head space now. We are not willing to have regrets and wonder what it might have been like. We have been given another (is this our second?) chance and when the opportunity came up to consider Adelaide as a place to live we decided to look into it.

Adelaide, if you haven't been, is a planned city. It's neat and tidy and appeals to my sense of orderliness. Its family friendly. It has great schools. Amazing places to explore. Food. Wine. And if you ask my kids they will go on about the parkour playground a ten minute bike ride from our new home, and the massive sting ray we saw in the crystal clear waters beneath Glenelg jetty.

This move is a big lifestyle change for us. Andy will be travelling less, a lot less. No more international trips every 2nd month and a much shorter commute. The difference in daily commute time alone buys us ten hours a week of family time.

I didn't mean for it to happen but having a sick child defines you. While James was sick, and then recovering we needed to withdraw from most of our responsibilities and social invitations, mostly to keep James safe and healthy. I didn't see people as much. People didn't understand and friendships have fallen away. People don't know what to say. We are forever grateful to those of you who stuck by us and supported us in this period and beyond, you know who you are – we love you.

Andy is going to miss his Sunday social bowls. Even more he is going to miss the bowlers. Such an important part of his life this last 9 years or so.

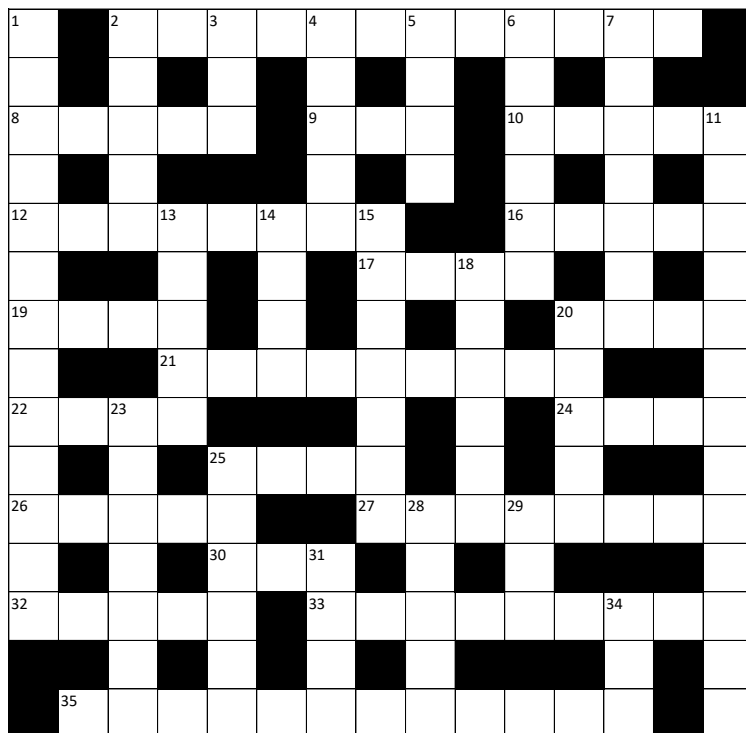
I hope we have contributed a little to this incredible community. I know our presence has fallen away over the last few years, out of necessity and self-preservation.

The Payne Family

CRYPTIC XWORD

by Chico

Autumn 2019



Across

- 2 28th PM's motto (4,3,5)
- 8 Drugs dropped at start of getaway car's last lark (C5)
- 9 Keeps head warm inside new igloo (C3)
- 10 About to steal chocolate substitute (C5)
- 12 Old tray I renovated with skill (C8)
- 16 Prospero's spirit companion (5)
- 17 Simple (4)
- 19 Trick German says "Yes!" to exercise class (C4)
- 20 Queenly fight is #4169e1 (C5,4)
- 21 Nickname of Barbadian singer Robyn R. Fenty (4)
- 22 Church fly, perhaps, not at home (C4)
- 24 Cut, saying nothing at start (C4)
- 25 First person to propel skiff's bow (C4)
- 26 Become subject to (5)
- 27 Hindu symbol adopted by fascism (8)
- 30 Eggs (3)
- 32 Use eucalypt, perhaps, when wrapping cross around (C5)
- 33 Denies access in cul-de-sacs before start (C6,3)
- 35 Don't be mad when you see that he want it, Cos if you liked it then you shoulda.... (3,1,4,2,2)

Down

- 1 Type of warrior, according to online conservatives (6,7)
- 2 To hesitate after drink is great (C5)
- 3 Propeller (3)
- 4 Pull the Spanish thrash (C5)
- 5 Border mostly grass (C4)
- 6 Where Nadal dominates (2,4)
- 7 Ends of lines (7)
- 11 Sweet thing, remarkably genial wife filling in puzzle (C7,6)
- 13 Obvious (5)
- 14 Hand in play in ancient city (C4)
- 15 RFS PPC (7)
- 18 Avails jumble of spit (C6)
- 20 Feel bitter, lose new, start again (C5)
- 23 Influential French artist, writer & filmmaker of the early C20 (7)
- 25 Genus of S. African flowering plants. (6)
- 28 Point logical gate turns golf sinful (C5)
- 29 He's confused her pronoun (C3)
- 31 S. American palm berry 'superfood' (4)
- 34 Grain capitals of all time (C3)

This is a mixed cryptic and general knowledge crossword. The cryptic clues are marked with a C. Good Luck!

Planning For Brooklyn Meeting

David Johnston, HSC's Strategic Place Manager has been invited to attend a meeting where he will discuss new planning for Brooklyn and how it will include Island resident's.

Wednesday 10 April 7.00 pm

Venue: Dangar Island Bowling Club