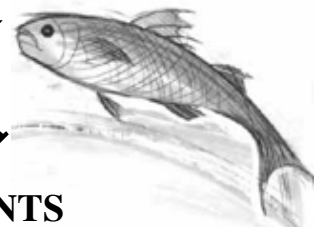


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. # 54

www.dangarisland.net

Autumn 2017

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A River Well Lived

The 'Cogra Bay Manuscript' *(memory of a river event 40 years ago)*

In the mid 70's I travelled to the Hawkesbury River for the first time. I was an art student studying painting. This experience of the river was, in the first instance, an artistic inspiration. In every way a sensory smorgasbord. But what has shown to be more sustaining for me is that it presented itself as a spiritual paradox. I remember that I saw this river, I smelt it, I tasted its salt. I remember the wind always heading in the other direction. Rowing was always hard work. The shoreline was not a refuge from the restless water but an inhospitable jumble of rocks and boulders, covered with oyster shells like razor wire. It wasn't friendly. The tide was forever receding revealing a muddy archaeology. People didn't lie around on the sand but went out on the water wearing gumboots in flat boats. The river seemed to remain at arms-length and this, with its shards of reality, made it compelling. The river would inspire me to muse about all kinds of things. Anything from the brushwork in a Rembrandt portrait to the first Herman Hesse book I ever read. A year earlier, I was fresh back from two years in Firenze/Italy, where I had studied classical drawing in a cultivated landscape of Renaissance architecture and art. Here on the Hawkesbury river the landscape could not have been more extremely different. Different in a positive way. Its primal turbulence became a counterbalance to the refined language of art, and to the poet's contemplative gaze. And all the while, the river ebbed and flowed under the radar.

Both etchings (here) are all that remain from my stay during the mid-1970's on the Hawkesbury River.

I would visit Brooklyn to hire a boat and row about in the wind and the water and those dark moody hills. It was on one of these crossings that I noticed a couple of shacks tucked in behind the 'railway bridge headland' in Cogra Bay. The shacks were only metres apart and located slightly up from the rocks and the water line. A poorly maintained track connected them and the rocks below. They seemed deserted and I was inspired. "I could work up there," I thought, and I enquired into their ownership to seek permission, but without success. Overall my stay there was not going to be very long but it would give me a platform to engage the river from 'within its own womb'. In the spirit of my youth I seized the opportunity and returned soon after with food and paper.

I used only a pencil, India ink mixed with shellac, brush and pen. To give

body to the drawings a teabag sitting in a small cup of water served as my colour and wash. A hand-held Claude-Mirror provided a tonal aperture onto the landscape. In a more playful way it served also as a subversive device when, every so often, I resorted to splitting the image into multiple spaces.



I had a random selection of papers that had been cut down to a manageable size. I also brought with me a few books that were always with me. I am probably more likely to read a writer than to look at a painter. Good writers make you think about what you are looking at.

A swim on arrival served as a baptism, and then I set to drawing. Once I made my first marks, there was a momentum that carried itself. Somewhere between reading the poets and looking out across the water, where Spectacle island was in clear view, I would orchestrate

one drawing after the other that comprised both visual and literary references. The landscape was very dramatic and forever changing. They were long days and I produced a mass of drawings and writings. In those writings, I remember that there were quotations from my favourite writers and poets including Baudelaire, Rilke, Apollinaire, Nietzsche, Thomas Mann and Kafka, Frank O'Hara and Edgar Allan Poe. Each page was contained within a visual schema of Euclidean geometric design.

This gave uniformity to the pages which reflected the formality of the scientific order of renaissance thinking. It was during the cinquecento in Italy that the mathematics and philosophies of the classical world re-emerged.

As the drawings were completed, each page in its turn was submerged into the river. Sometimes I would imagine how some of these beautiful words that I had so faithfully copied, would break away at times and go their own way. Breaking from the restraints of the sentence, to float freely



as single words and then to divide once more to being individual letters. Floating freely, like plankton, becoming integral in the food chain of the water. One drawing, I recall, had the complete list of all the 'titles of De Chirico's paintings'. I was in awe of this drawing. I carefully placed all these beautiful enigmatic phrases on the paper, and punctuated them, here and there, by small illustrations of rocks, jelly fish, brooding headlands, and eyes that looked out of the landscape from all the literature I was throwing at it. Like a page in a sacred book, I copied them with the dedication of a scribe,

dutifully applying his skill in the scriptorium of the rocks. I imagined this page had fallen to the river bed, leaving an imprint of De Chirico's titles forever embedded at the bottom of the river. Each completed drawing was lowered into the water, until it was fully saturated. This was a very careful process as it became heavier the more it was saturated. Holding the corners with small tabs, I would lift it back out. I would lay one onto the other, making sure that each sheet would bond with the one before. I had dedicated a drawing board close enough to the water's edge as it was too fragile to carry the drawing up to the shack. Then another board was laid on top. This I repeated over a period of several weeks until the height of the pile was significant to suggest a volume like a book.

This was my 'Cogra Bay manuscript'. Buried inside this tome were multiple drawings and hundreds of words. Along the outer margins which were in part loose and non-compliant one would see bits of drawings and random words and phrases that were part of a larger entry. At one of these edges I could just make out the last words of Apollinaire's calligram *Il Pleut*. Other edges revealed a bit of headland, and teabag washes with ink lines. The small previews along the margin added a sense of enchantment to what was buried inside. It was now a rectangular object and ratty on the edges. The result was a matted slab of paper that sported a decorative edge. I had the same scale and volume as an old 19th century bible I had at home. The matted slab of paper was discoloured and reflected the ambient tidal nature of the river water. One time a jellyfish rubbed up against the paper which was being submerged leaving markings that I could only dream of. Depending on the level of the tide the paper would be more soiled by river mud than other times. Each sheet came alive in the water. Being submerged it became vulnerable; its physicality severely compromised but it was in synergy with the drawings and writings that were buried on the surface. Like faded tattoos they bespoke a history and created their own memory. When all was done, I took the entire Manuscript and submerged it one last time.

Dr Ambrose Reisch January 2017



A Poem by Elliot Brock

I wish I was a swallow

Flying in the sky

I watch their shadows on the ground on the way to preschool

Dipping

Diving

loop the loop

I wish I was a swallow



Anticipation

I lay in wait. Shallow breathing, laid bare, too hot to sleep. Restless. Impatient.

On this balmy night I fear she may not come but I wait, anxious for her sweet scent and her forceful breath... if I am lucky.

I know that I can go to her and experience a timely reprieve. She summons me with all of the talents available to her with the aim of bringing me forth. She has offered to take me in, hydrating my being and releasing me from my suffocation.

But I stay in my bed awaiting her visitation.

... I sense her presence.

With stealth she arrives. The tingling sensation of her sensual touch passing across my sweaty body, licking my skin, cooling me down, sweet as she passes. I sigh in relief and anticipation.

I am receptive to the kisses of the southerly breeze fresh from the Lady Hawkesbury. Is anything so delicious on a hot summer night?

Nerina Knight

Degrees of adventure. Over the years many people have asked me and Torsten how we live in Cogra Bay with the tides, getting the kids to school each day, with the winter sun being 10 metres out from the house, the relative isolation of a very small community... and the lack of a ferry service. It's a curiosity that has seen us find an answer that works for each of us without having to really explain why we choose this place as our place.

A decade ago we saw the shack advertised online, came over on a high tide with David Broom showing us the place on a perfect day- tree through the roof, gaping holes in the floor, no jetty, no plumbing, peeling rusted tin, and a 50 metre stretch of sandy beach right beside the shack- we whole heartedly fell in love. The suburban life in our 'Blue Mountains charmer' was wearing thin with my Swede loathing the cold weather so of course we snapped it up and proceeded to patch up the place. The kids were aged 3 and 4 at the time. I remember the day, or the feeling of the time when I said to Torsten, 'Do you think we could live there?' His face lit up with an 'I think so' which was enough for us to sell and move. A tiny tinnie which really couldn't cope with the waves under the bridge on the outgoing tide, a happy family with kids too young to know what their parents were up to and an innate adventurous spirit saw us plonk ourselves in paradise.

Living in a big view, the wide breadth of the river across to both islands. Few signs of civilisation except for boats cruising in the distant channel, the faint rumblings of invisible trains and cars and neighbours going and coming home. This is our degree of adventure- being in nature, all the time.

We live amongst people who have sought something similar to us, where friendships are easy and privacy mostly assured. There have been many days when the tide has worn us out and has kept us out longer than we wished for, and many Septembers when as the sun finally hits the roof we all feel that distinctive spring lightness whilst mourning the beauty and ease of the passing of the winter tides that beckon the long summer of fun ahead.

Our shack became a proper house, the shelter's roof at the end of the 50 metre jetty made of solar panels which provide all the power we need... we retained the old stone kitchen which connects us to the days of the bay filled with locals on holidays... women wearing long skirts holding parasols and timber boats tied to the sea wall out front. The kids are in high school- still getting there on time, still jumping off the jetty and swimming from the beach. The view from our house is the same- full to the brim with nature.

Cogra Bay has changed a little with the times, more people come and stay, and now and then they'll stay for longer. We've decided to sell and build in another part of the bay on a bush block that gives us a little more privacy. If you have the thought of wanting more privacy and are happy to come and go with the tides (our middle part of the bay is effected by lows < .45) call Torsten 0404835245.

Happy Days, Sashe Fischer



Misty Morning Sail – oil on linen

TIDAL

Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Ceramics

by Yvonne Terkildsen

Dangar Island Café
Opening Saturday 11th of
March at 4pm

www.yvonneterkildsen.com.au mudsaks3538



Dangar Island League Presidents Report

Thank you to residents who attended our February public meeting. As discussed on the day, the League has been busy rallying Council to push several projects up the agenda.

The Brooklyn Masterplan remains a focus for the League, as Bronek and Trevor continue their advocacy work with Council and other island communities.

Long awaited roadworks are expected soon, which will finally resolve the challenges of walking and driving on streets such as Grantham.

Bronek has drafted updates on both the Masterplan and roadworks in separate articles found later in this edition.

After an extended period of consultation with Elton Consulting and Council, we are closer to seeing the start of work on the new public jetty. Council has advised that the finalization

of plans and preparation for the tender process will be completed early this year and that construction is still expected to commence in the first quarter. Elton has undertaken to provide a consultation summary once signed off and planning is finalised.

Marina has taken over responsibility for the Mullet Mail from Mel Anderson, so many thanks to both Marina and Mel for their contributions. A table of submission and publishing dates is now on the League website, so pencil them into your diaries.

The garbage bin debate is ongoing, with Judith and Vanessa continuing to highlight challenges and possible solutions. Many thanks to Riverview residents who have helped develop the case asking Council to reconsider the bin situation.

As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback, so please email

president@dangarislandleague.net with any thoughts you would like to share.

All the best,

Sophia Walsh,
President, Dangar Island League



Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan Update

The League Executive has set up a subcommittee to focus on the development of the Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan by Hornsby Shire Council. The subcommittee members are Bronek Karcz, Trevor Kanaley and Hans Pols.

If you are not aware of the planning process for Brooklyn and outputs to date, you can familiarize yourself by visiting the Council website and viewing the Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan page.

The League has been very active in engaging with Council members and planning staff, as well as other river communities, to ensure that the needs of Dangar residents are fully considered in the planning process. A letter to Mayor Steve Russell detailing our concerns with the process to date is on the League website.

A committee - the Lower Hawkesbury Communities Group (LHCG) - consisting of representatives from all the Lower Hawkesbury River communities has been set up to help develop and coordinate approaches where river residents have common issues. Representatives are from Milsons Passage, Bar Point, Mooney Mooney, Dangar Island, Brooklyn, Little Wobby, Cogra Bay and Mullett Creek. The committee meets once a month.

The LHCG met with Mayor Steve Russell and Council planning staff on 15 February to discuss the concerns of the river communities. In broad terms the issues raised were:

- The scope and importance of the Masterplan for River Communities
- Lack of structured and numerical content: Parking needs
- Lack of structured and numerical content: Economic activity
- The importance of addressing Economic Sustainability
- The impact of Peat Island on Brooklyn and the Masterplan
- Possible amalgamation of the northern Hawkesbury communities into Hornsby Shire

Mayor Russell assured river residents that their needs would not be ignored and that Council and the consultants recognised that river residents are dependent on Brooklyn to manage their lives. Schools, transport, parking, mooring, shopping and medical services were all mentioned. The Mayor noted that any proposals from the Brooklyn Master Planning process will consider the needs and impacts on all affected parties including Brooklyn Residents, River Residents, businesses, tourists, train travellers and so on.

(Cont. p.5)

Brooklyn Improvement Masterplan Update

The Mayor and Council staff made a number of other points.

- Brooklyn is run down from years of neglect.
- The master planning process has been implemented to get a clear long term plan for the future improvement and development of the town. The Brooklyn Master Planning program is entirely managed and paid for by HSC.
- Economically Brooklyn is struggling. In the CBD, businesses regularly close down as they cannot sustain themselves under current circumstances. The economic viability of Brooklyn needs to be addressed. The CBD is run down.
- There is no set agenda, preconceived view or preferred outcome for the Brooklyn Master Planning program.
- The Mayor is keen to see input and ideas from all parties involved, including river residents.
- The Mayor stressed that there is nothing stopping individuals or groups engaging in the process.
- There is a Brooklyn Master Plan website which should be used to convey ideas to the planning team and all will be considered.
- While some river residents (such as Little Wobby) are outside of Hornsby Shire, the Mayor recognised their dependence on Brooklyn and assured such residents that their needs will be included in the master planning process.
- The Mayor commented that there is no set deadline or unnecessary hurry to get the Brooklyn Master Plan finished. It is important that the broad Community (including river residents) is brought along.
- So far 50% of the program budget has been spent:
 - Stage 1 of the program is complete
 - Stage 2 is now underway (identification of issues/opportunities/solutions)
 - Stage 3 First draft of the Masterplan is expected in mid to late 2017
- During Stage 2 - to be run in the first half of 2017 - there will be several public "Drop In sessions" by the planning team. One was requested for Dangar and tentatively agreed.
- Two consultants have been appointed to the Master Plan team to collect and analyse statistical information on traffic and economic activity in Brooklyn. These are new resources. They will help address some concerns that have been expressed to date.
- As yet, no information is available as to the identity of the new consultants or their scope of work.

- The Master Planning Team at Hornsby Council has been disappointed at the lack of solutions emerging from the Community during the process so far.
- The planners are encouraging the presentation of ideas with sketches, drawings etc. These can be posted to them (to Fletcher Rayner) via the Brooklyn Master Planning Portal on the HSC website.
- As regards Peat Island, the State Government is still a long way from presenting the next draft plan. It seems previous proposals are being scaled back with Peat Island itself being designated a tourist area with some buildings under heritage listing review. As Peat Island is outside of Hornsby Shire it is not directly considered in the Brooklyn Master Plan process.
- There is no overwhelming demand for amalgamation of northern river-side (Gosford) communities into Hornsby Shire Council. It is very unlikely. There are too many obstacles.

After letters and consultation, we have assurances that development of the Brooklyn Masterplan will take into account the needs of River Residents.

It is clear that Brooklyn, the River Communities and Council need to work together to achieve a good and lasting outcome, though it is less clear how trade-offs will be identified and negotiated in practice.

More resources such as parking, community spaces etc need to be developed in Brooklyn rather than shuffling the scant ones that are now available from one interest group to another.

It is also clear that Brooklyn is in a run-down state economically and physically. It needs some serious TLC.

Over coming months, as the planning process continues and more information becomes available, the challenge for Dangar residents and the League will be to develop (and respond to) solutions which realistically advance our interests and those of the broader Brooklyn and river community.

Bronek Karcz

February 2017

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:

membership@dangarislandleague.net

Dangar Roads Maintenance Update

Hornsby Shire Council contractors plan to commence a Dangar roads maintenance program in March 2017. The scope of works is as follows:

- **Grantham Crescent and Baroona Street.**
The roads will be scarified (scrapped), compacted and rolled to alleviate the uneven surface.
The crushed sandstone nature of the roads will be preserved.
- **Neotsfield Avenue and Baroona Street intersection. (At the fire station).**
A short section, about 15 to 20 meters, of the narrow asphalt strip close to the intersection will be widened to 2.6m. The aim is to provide a more stable surface for turning vehicles and better water run off to the storm drain at the three-way intersection.
- **The track at the top of the children's park; the section between the hall and Yallaroi Street.**
The rutted sections of the track will be filled and raised to prevent water pooling during downpours.
- **The channels leading into two culverts on Riverview Avenue will be improved.**
The culverts at about 9 and 72 Riverview Avenue will be cleaned and the adjacent sections of the inflow channels will be lined with asphalt to improve water flow.

At this stage the League does not have information from Council regarding the open section of the road drain, that has been left in an incomplete state, adjacent to the turn round bay constructed on Riverview Avenue. (This work does not pertain to the maintenance crews but rather the capital works team at the Council.)

The League is in direct contact with the Hornsby Council road maintenance team. If you have any queries regarding the road maintenance program please call Bronek Karcz on 0414 563 149.

Bronek Karcz
February 2017



New Democracy Foundation Talk on Dangar Island

As old systems of governing and decision making become worn out and our future promises bigger challenges it seems now is the right time to contemplate new ways of deciding things; globally, nationally and locally.

On a local level, Kyle Redman from newDemocracy Foundation gave a talk on Dangar Island last December on how Citizen Juries have been set up in Australia by the Foundation. Kyle explained how Citizen Jurors are selected to represent a diverse cross section in communities. He also explained how Citizen Juries are guided by independent and skilled facilitators with input from people with expertise and knowledge relevant to the issue being deliberated on. Could you imagine applying this to Dangar Island? This model of decision making could complement the existing Dangar Island League (rather than replacing it) to create a well informed group that matches the island's demographics (gender, age, place of residence and occupancy tenure) to build on and celebrate our diverse viewpoints and skills.

After the meeting Kyle recommended Lyne Carson, a researcher and professor with the newDemocracy Foundation to advise on models of deliberation better suited for small communities like Dangar Island. She recommended a slimmed down version of the Citizen Jury based on the proven G1000 process that could be trialled by the Dangar Island League. But before any trials of the deliberation a demographic study of the island would first need to be done. This could be done by

an islander interested in sociology. To carry out the deliberation, a skilled and independent mediator and possibly specialists with expertise knowledge (if needed) would need to be engaged.

The process would involve two workshops. A one day workshop to identify and forward an issue that would benefit the island. This would be submitted at a public Dangar Island League meeting for discussion as to whether or not the community wishes to take it to the next step.

The next step of deliberation would be by Citizen Jury over two days to develop a solution from the issue.

The benefits of having a robust process deliberated by a group that matches its community's demographics are that it helps to build a stronger and cohesive community voice to represent local interests and has good credibility. This process could also be used to build dialogue and vision between river communities.

Ana Pollak
17.2.17

Dangar Island Bowling Club Update

A special meeting was held at the Club on 22 February to fill vacancies arising from recent resignations and some of the remaining directors wanting to step back. Nominations were called by 6pm on Sunday 19 February and nominations were received from:

- Angela Brinn
- Tom Garvey
- Kevin Hansen
- Michael Hutak
- Andy Payne
- Alec Pratt
- Evan Walsh

As there were 7 nominations for the 7 board positions all nominees were deemed elected to the Board at the meeting. The new Board will meet shortly to assign the specific Board positions of Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Unfortunately this will be too late for the Mullet Mail copy deadline but will be posted on the club's website dibc.com.au.

We would like to thank the outgoing directors for their contribution: Kevin Raby who has been Chairman of the Club since last July's AGM, Jenny Rowe who has made a huge contribution to Club over many many years, Mel Anderson (who will still be doing lots in the background we hope) and Tanja Rojas Forte.

As usual, the meeting provided a great opportunity for members to ask questions of the new Board and provide suggestions and feedback and offer help and support.

The discussion provided the new Board with a very clear and unambiguous set of priorities for the weeks and months ahead. Largely these relate to the kitchen service and overall pricing to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Club.

One of the clear priorities will be settling on a consistent menu for the kitchen and the new Board looks forward to working with the new chef to make this happen.

We also need to conduct a thorough review of the Club's finances, income and expenses, including enhancing the way the members list is maintained and membership fees are collected. Some prices will have to go up to cover the costs of the GST, which the Club has been absorbing since it was required to re-register. Once things cool down a bit we will have a working bee to address maintenance, and if there is sufficient money in the bank, make some improvements.

None of the Club's problems are insurmountable. You can be confident that your club has a fully functional board with a mix of deep experience and fresh ideas. Our next public meeting will be the AGM in July, but feel free to approach any of the new Board if you have feedback or suggestions in the meantime, or email dibc@email.com if you have something you'd like the Board to discuss formally at a meeting.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Club.

Coming Events

Saturday 11 March:	The Blues Wranglers
Thursday 16 March:	Spoken Word
Sunday 2 April:	Dave Graney and Clare Moore perform
Friday 7 April:	Open Mic
Thursday 13 April:	Spoken Word
Friday 14 April:	Good Friday
Saturday 15 April:	Easter Saturday DIFS Movie in Hall
Sunday 16 April:	Easter Sunday Music
Monday 17 April:	Easter Monday
Tuesday 25 April:	Anzac Day – River Rats
Friday 5 May:	Open Mic
Sunday 14 May:	Mother's Day – Live music
Thursday 18 May:	Spoken Word
Friday 2 June:	Open Mic
Sunday 11 June:	Queen's Birthday – River Rats
Thursday 22 June:	Spoken Word



BLUES WRANGLERS

PLAYING BLUES AND ROOTS

- HOWLIN' WOLF • MUDDY WATERS
- BB KING • WILLIE DIXON • ZZ TOP
- BUDDY GUY • ELMORE JAMES

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLING CLUB
Saturday 11th March
1pm-4pm

Bowlo Spoken Word Event

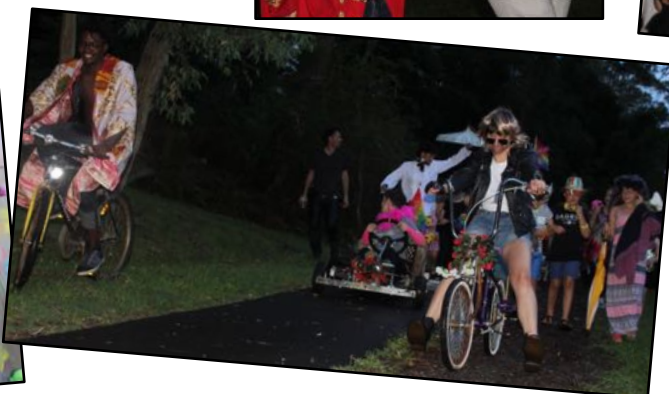
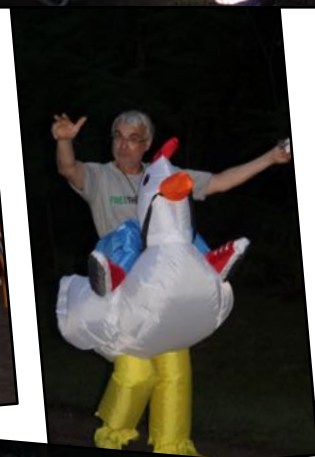
The night got off to a rocky start as but a handful of stubbled commuters stumbled past the mic heading for a shot of pizza, unable to remember more than 3 or 4 stanzas of Le Morte D'Arthur, until the door, or at least its lower half, was darkened by that colossus of letters Peter Hors AM.

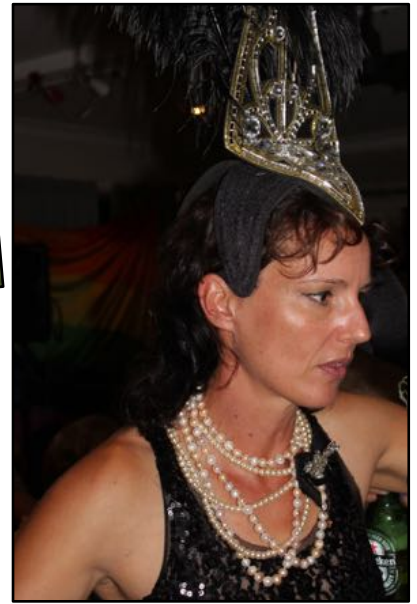
In moments, Horsam's mots faux were launchpad to existential musings from Marvell to McGough, Sartre to Shakespeare, Bieber to Baudrate (that last one isn't a real poet - just checking you're awake). Guest of honour Norton Anthology did gyre and gimple, beer mats were dampened and the Great Themes not just interrogated but water-boarded, til we just had no choice but to do it all again.

Jonathan Sykes

Mardi Gras 2017 On *Dangar*

In a joyous celebration of diversity, inclusion, community and family Dangar Island once more waved its rainbow colours with pride.





Water Water Everywhere



Saturday night and I am just settling down to my evening television viewing while the rain pelts down outside. All is well with the world until the phone rings. "Get down to the fire station". Is the curt message.

Reluctantly I don on my full uniform, complete with yellow council-worker raincoat and race down to the fire station, stopping only to sign the attendance book. At the wharf the fireboat is launched and we and we head off up river.

This call-out is not the usual fire call or even a hazardous S.E.S operation, but a marine rescue job. It seems that we are in just the right position to do a multitude of tasks of the various emergency services.

At the end of Long Island we turn in and head up the gut to one of the marinas. Now it becomes clear as we see a scene of panic before us. A large cruiser is low in the water, lashed alongside one of the marina's houseboats.

We come alongside, just as a low pressure high volume pump is being set up by two marina workers. This is soon joined by our own pump operating at full pressure.

It is just then that I notice that there is someone inside the cabin of the cruiser.

The water level in the cabin must have been nearly five foot deep, yet this man is futilely using his hands, trying to push the water out one of the open windows.

I find out from one of the workers that the people from the boat had arrived that evening and after provisioning had left the marina at a fair rate of knots.

This combined with a large amount of debris from flooding in the river had resulted in the hull being holed by a large log. They barely made it back to the marina.

Pumping out of the cruiser continued for hours until we realised it was pointless. The hull was now sitting in the mud. It was going nowhere.

As we packed up our equipment I wondered why I was still wearing my yellow rain coat. I was now as wet inside it as out.

This was one of those occasions when I would appreciate a really good fire.

Bruce Lambert

DIFS PRESENTS

2017

11 Searching for
MAR Sugar Man_(PG)

15 Flying High/
APR Airplane!_(PG)

01 The Admirable
OCT Crichton_(PG)

**see www.difs.net for
more events & to
join our mailing list**

A Bin Suggestion.....

Should we have bin fairies on the Island, that quietly put back or even put out bins for neighbours?

A fairy a week might keep Dangar more sleek!
And who knows a more appreciative neighbour?!

Chris Innis



DIMC News

The Committee is working away in the background preparing the way for the development of the co-op. We know it is slow going but bare with us. We are continuing our work and we are confident we will get there in the end.

As usual, please contact any member of the committee, Ant Schinckel, Sue Merricks, Tom Weddin David Pakes or Stuart Allen, personally or by email at info@dangarislandmooringcoop.net.au;

Safe and happy boating
Your DIMC Committee.

Hall Hire

Hiring the hall is easy.

Contact Vanessa Payne.. 0414317260

nessrepublic@gmail.com

I will check availability for you and confirm your booking. You will need to fill out the hire agreement I give you and return it to me and pay the council invoice online or at Hornsby Shire Council. It is that easy.

Our hall is very much a part of this island community and is well used and much loved.

Please tidy up after your event and remove all rubbish....and *please, please* turn off the lights.

Interested in Joining a Crochet and Knitting Group for a fun Project...

The Riverboat Postman has requested some wild and fun looking large tea cozies for 6 large tea urns.

They can be knitted and or crocheted and of any design which is fun to do and they are willing to reimburse too. Is anyone interested in joining a group to experiment and have fun with yarn and yarns.

We could meet in the park so children can also play. Wednesdays and /or Thursdays has been a suggestion of days so far but it is a matter of finding out who would be interested and when.

If you have seen any crocheted or knitted sculptures you can imagine what these tea cozies could become.

If you are interested contact Vanessa Payne 0414 317 260

nessvepublic@gmail.com.

Some safety issues and reminders.....

Parsley Bay boat launching ramp and Brooklyn swimming pool:

The lower part of the boat launching ramp at Parsley Bay is constructed of precast slabs with 10cm wide deep gaps that can't be seen under muddy water. The ramp is slippery and a broken or sprained ankle is a real risk.

The bars at the eastern end of the Brooklyn pool have been damaged, leaving a hole that a small shark could swim through.

Hornsby Council were notified of these issues in January.

Boating safety:

To all islanders setting speed records in their tinnies close to shore, please observe the 30 metre rule which requires vessels to travel at 6 knots within 30 metres of jetties or moored boats.

This is really annoying on the northern shore where tinnies cut inside the line of moored boats at high speed, and in the southern channel inside the sand bar at low tide. Please slow down to avoid an accident and reduce outboard noise!

David Turner

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER UPDATE



Don't forget - the Community First Responders are part of the NSW Ambulance. To call us, just dial triple zero. Finally...

MERV, the little orange ambulance, has just had some timely improvements done and is now all ready for winter - with new waterproof plastic sides. Thanks to Inspector Grahame Rathbone and NSW Ambulance for all of their support for our island community!



MERV comes home to Dangar



Michelle Ramage and Chris Sanderson



It has been 3 years since the first group of Dangar Island Community First Responders were trained in emergency first aid, with a second group of volunteers joining the team 12 months ago. In this time we have been able to streamline our procedures, iron out many of the challenges posed by our unique environment and most importantly, achieve our goal of getting people safely on their way to hospital in a timely fashion. The 13 volunteers have been able to provide 24-hour cover, 365 days a year. In that period we have been involved in more than 50 triple zero callouts alongside NSW Ambulance paramedics, some of them for people with very serious medical problems, and we have also looked after many "station casualties" with more minor issues.

NSW Ambulance is now able to offer a third training opportunity to any community members who may be interested in becoming a CFR. The initial training involves 4 weekends of 'hands-on' experience and is supported by additional on-line theory. The date is still to be set (dependant on expressions of interest) and will take place at the Point Clare NSW Ambulance depot. Assistance can be provided with travel or overnight accommodation, if required.

If you are interested, please contact the team-leader, Chris Sanderson, on christinesanderson@gmail.com or by leaving a message in her box - 15N. Feel free to talk to any of the current CFR team if you just want some information on how everything works. We are happy to have any potential volunteers join us for a training session, to help you decide if the CFRs are for you - we meet monthly on Sundays at the community hall. Come and check it out.

Improving our response

The island can be a tricky place to find your way round - particularly at night. In order to make sure we can get safely and quickly to where we are needed in a callout, we are planning to do a survey about the best ways to access each property. Please keep a lookout for a questionnaire in your mailbox in the near future. We will be trying to gather information about the best way to access each Dangar property, or any other specific information that you think would be relevant in an emergency. All information provided will be treated confidentially and only used if you make a 000 call.

If you call an ambulance

If you call an ambulance, especially at night, please help us to find you. Put the lights on in the house, particularly around the entrance. If it is safely possible to do so, please get someone to meet us and help us to locate our patient. These things can make a big difference in an emergency. We may also call you back on the phone number that you gave the triple zero operator if we need your help.

Dangar Island Rural fire Brigade

BBQ night - Easter Saturday 15th April

Family Film Fundraiser @ Hall Flying High (Airplane!) (PG)

Join us on Easter Saturday, BBQ from 6pm, cakes and drinks in the hall - fun for all the family and raising funds for your hard-working volunteer fireies, so please treat yourselves lavishly.

Be in the draw to win our bumper Winter Fire Safety Kit: smoke alarm, extinguisher, fire blanket, valued at over \$120.

Autumn Fire Safety

As the summer heat eases off, the high risk of bushfire reduces, and we can put some thought towards how to manage our winter fire safety. During autumn:

- Well before you light up that pot belly stove, make sure your chimney is clean and serviced. Think ahead and book a flue sweep with your neighbours.
- Check your smoke alarms? Is it long since you pressed the test button to see if they still work. Change the batteries before winter.
- Have a small fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the home – a good place to keep them is near to the kitchen in case of a cooking fire.

In the event of a fire dial 000

Green Bin Strategy

Now that the green waste system has changed on Dangar Island, it is no longer appropriate to do an annual slash and hack around the house before summer. This will only lead to piles of waste beside the road that the garbos will no longer clear away.

The ideal way to maintain your fire break is **regularly**. Prioritise **clearing fine fuels from the immediate vicinity of your buildings**, to maintain the strongest defence against bushfire attack. The green bin goes out once a fortnight all year round, so get a handful of fine fuel (**sticks <6mm**) in the bin every time you pass by, and keep doing it as a routine.

If you have a backlog of green waste, ask the neighbours if they have spare bin capacity. Piles left by the road increase risk to others.

Mitigation

This year we've been working again with Council and our District

Office on hazard reduction work in Kiparra Reserve. Manual trimming by council contractors has continued regularly to reduce elevated fuels near to property borders along the ridge top.

The mid-west slope hazard reduction burn area was 70 % completed and we are waiting for the right weather in the near future to put in the final 30% to complete the zone.

Once again we have successfully worked with Hornsby Shire Council's Fire and Bushcare Officers to preserve sensitive features of this valuable bush habitat and enhance biodiversity through appropriate fire regimes.

Cybele Shorter
Captain 2014/17

Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade.

PREPARE - ACT - SURVIVE



VALE (Dr) Carolyn Allport

Carol (Caz) Allport was a long-term Dangar Island resident. She moved here around 1978 with her husband Grahame, his six year old son, Julian, and their toddler Ewen, and the boys grew up here. The family lived for many years at 32 Grantham St, Dangar Island. Caz sold that house to Wendy McMurdo in 1991, after she and Grahame had divorced, and years later bought another house on Baroona St. Carole had intended to retire on Dangar Island, but that was not to be, sadly. She died in Melbourne of Alzheimer's on January 16th 2017.

I first met Caz when I took up my position at Macquarie University in Women's Studies 28 years ago. Carol was a history lecturer and had been on the selection committee. When I got to my new office, I found she had left some flowers to greet me. We became friends and worked together on union matters as well as teaching, until she left for Melbourne to become the first elected president of the National Tertiary Education Union in 1994. She remained as President of the NTEU until 2010. Her fierce defence of the rights of women, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, the working class, university staff members and anyone else in need of social justice is legendary.

It was to visit Caz that I first came to Dangar Island in 1989, and fell in love with the place.

I don't have any early stories but Wendy tells some anecdotes. When the island "celebrated the bicentenary", and was swarming with folk dressed as early settlers, including a local dressed as Captain Phillip, they held a ceremony on Bradley's Beach to commemorate the overnight stay of Phillip and his boys. Caz got a wreath together of native flowers and bravely waded into the crowd to throw it into the water, complete with appropriate words, in memory of all the Aborigines who died at the time. Later that day, when Caz, Wendy and their mates wandered up to the hall, they were verbally attacked for the act – indeed they were afraid



Carol on Dangar Island with friend and a young Dimi Lattas

of a physical attack as well! - but were different then, without all the amenities, but it protected by the more sensible folk around was a close-knit community. them.

Another time, Caz organised a demo and lay down in front of a truck when the Carole's ashes to Dangar Island for scattering demountable housing the library at Brooklyn later this year.

primary school was about to be removed - including the removal of the library itself.

The school still has a library partly because of her.

Carol was also a major part of organising the rubbish collection on the island in the days when there was only a tractor. Life was



Judy Lattas

For Sale Dangar Island

The Dangar Island Historical Society is holding an exhibition over the ANZAC day holiday weekend of the posters used in the early 1920s to advertise the subdivision and sale of Dangar Island. It is 95 years since the first subdivision. The exhibition will open at the Café on Saturday 22 April at 4.00pm. Come and see the original advertisement for your block, purchase a commemorative tea towel or order a reproduction of the poster/s you like. For DIHS members the exhibition includes a glass of wine and nibbles. Not a current member? You can join up on the day for our annual membership fee of \$10.

Dangar Island (then known as Mullet Island) was designated Crown Land from 1794 until July 1863. Six months later the Island was listed for sale and purchased by Henry Cary Dangar in February 1864. When he died in 1917, he left his large estate to his children. Dangar Island was left to his second son Reginald Neville Dangar. Reginald sold the Island to solicitors Lindsay Thom Crouch and John Stuart Thom in June 1921 for £7,500. The Island was then subdivided by Hornsby Council.

The first three subdivisions were auctioned by Raine and Horne between October 1921 and November 1922. The response was enthusiastic. At the first auction, practically every lot was sold on the day of the sale. Newspapers reported there was a large attendance, and 70 allotments were sold at 25 shillings to £9 per foot per frontage. Sales totalled over £11,000. The fourth subdivision was not put to auction. Lots were sold by H. Dudley Auctioneers and Estate Agents between 1923 and 1930.

After the first auction the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported: 'It is the first time that an island in the middle of a river has been subdivided and sold in allotments. Some of this land brought up to £9 per foot [per frontage]. A few years ago such a figure would have been considered extortionate'. It seems there is nothing new when it comes to developers and Sydney property prices!

The developers named four of the roads on the Island after the Dangar family's properties. **Neotsfield** Avenue was named after their property in Singleton which in turn was named after St Neot in Cornwall, England - the Dangar family's ancestral home. **Grantham** Crescent was named after the Dangar family's mansion in Potts Point; **Yallaroi** Parade after Yallaroi Station, near Warialda; and **Baroona** after the Baroona homestead at Singleton. **Riverview** Avenue was an attractive advertising descriptor for the second subdivision of April 1922.

The large posters advertising the sales were typical of real estate agents' advertisements created between the 1880s and 1930s as large estates were broken up and sold. The posters were pasted onto telegraph poles and placed in shop fronts around the city to entice prospective buyers. They had to be striking to stop passers-by and

encourage a second look. The posters of Dangar Island are beautiful works of art as well as pictorial records of the subdivision. They were successful. Blocks sold quickly for good prices.

The poster for the second subdivision is particularly notable as Raine and Horne commissioned the artist David Henry Souter (1862–1935) to create the poster. They hoped to build on the success of the first auction by commissioning a well-known artist to design the poster for the second. Much was made of the artwork. It was described as depicting the Island in a hazy blending of colours, with the hills of the mainland as a background, with a black spiderweb outline of the Hawkesbury Bridge cutting across the foreground corner balancing the design. The poster for the fourth subdivision by H. Dudley Auctioneers and Estate Agents heralded "Dangar Island - Hawkesbury River- 'Australia's Island gem'. **Come and enjoy the posters at the Café on Saturday 22 April at 4.00pm.**

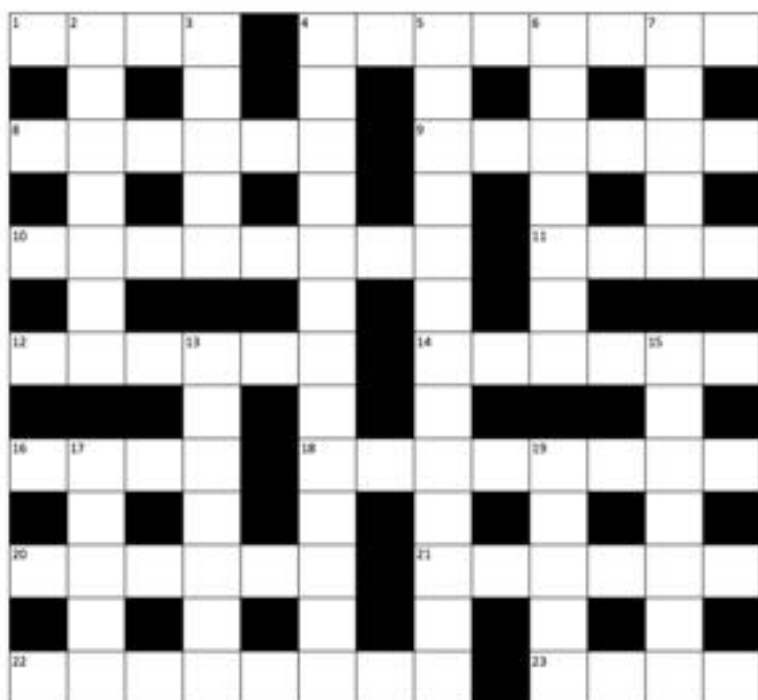
Dangar

Island Historical Society (research by Rosemary Curtis).

"The First Auction Poster for Dangar Island"

(Source: State Library of New South Wales)



**Across**

1. Killer from Oregon to California (4)
4. He discovered the 15th largest city in the USA (8)
8. Happy ascent is Sisyphean (6)
9. Peace of mind in record shop (6)
10. 1940s code with pin hides needles well (8)
11. Love note's content gets hot (4)
12. Naïve about coin (6)
14. Increase power about diameter (6)
16. Bet it's got a flat bottom (4)
18. Listen well: bean fits into fame (4,4)
20. Mat is junk for you in 90s band(6)
21. Furthermore, very certainly(6)
22. I dine all out of sorts in chutneys(8)

Down

2. Change percale! (7)
3. Ram to sire a crossbreed (5)
4. Learner left at perfection in positively- charged flag (4,9)
5. Strap strange karate bio to guerilla group (7-1-5)
6. Staff fool around Buddha's nipple (3,4)
7. Adelaide team almost pull together (5)
13. Dig latrine for intestine (7)
15. Parkies managed two thirds of tigers (7)
17. University leader turned savoury (5)
19. Remain on time for crack washer (5)

(Solutions will be published in the DIL website)

Farewell to Dangar

We are moving to The White House. We are moving on after nearly 9 years of ownership of the Bali House, with 7 years living here full time. It has been a rewarding experience and a transition from roaming the world to settling into retirement in Australia. It has also increased our appetite for peace and quiet and so we are following the well trodden path from Dangar to acreage, in our case 12 acres of garden, bush and pasture outside Dungog in the Hunter.

It has been a privilege to live in our lovely home and enjoy what must be one of the best views in Australia, and to have experienced the uniqueness of living in a small water access community. From knowing nothing about boats we are quite pleased with our progress and owe many thanks for all those who have helped us along the path. We will miss the river and its changing moods, and especially the birds and crab migrations we see on the beach every day. We will also miss many good friends we have made on the island, and especially seeing the progress of those who were tiny when we came and are not so tiny now. We have also experienced the

rewards and effort of participating in volunteering, both on the island and off. We intend to be more circumspect in what we sign up for in our next life!

We are serial seachangers. Lynda has calculated this is her 33rd move, and it is our 7th (over 4 countries) in the 13 years we have been together. We have wanted to try our hand at the country lifestyle for some while now and decided it was now or never.

So it is with optimism we swap our river view for a spectacular valley and bush view, and our Bali style home for a white colorbond/glass/concrete megashed locally and topically called The White House. The tinny will be swapped for an SUV and a ride-on mower. Pelicans and dolphins will be replaced by kangaroos and wallabies, the odd koala and apparently a plethora of other birdlife. We expect to learn quite a bit about cattle and fences, snakes and the mysteries of water tanks, dams and envirocycle sewage systems. Driving up to our front door with the groceries will be a highlight.

We will be keeping in touch with our good friends on the island, and will no doubt be

back from time to time. We will look out the car or train window as we pass and be able to say "Yup, we lived there".

Farewell and thanks Riverfolk.



Peter and Lynda Dryden-Wolfe.