

Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #44

www.dangarisland.net

SPRING 2014

Community First Responders — the first two months

Christine Sanderson

After completing their training, our brand new team of **Community First Responders** graduated in May. The graduation was attended by senior ambulance staff including *Chief Superintendent Tony Gately*, *Superintendent Sue Webster*, and all the trainers involved in our teaching, as well as our local MP *Matt Kean*. We are now set up next door to the Fire Brigade, in a small but very well-fitted out shed. Thanks to *Rochman Reese* for doing such a great job on this. And thanks also to Hornsby Shire Council for allowing us to use this space, which is so ideally located.



(back row L to R): Bill Donaldson (Paramedic Educator), Superintendent Susan Webster; CFR Mark Cole, Sharon White (Paramedic Educator); CFR Barry Kepert, CFR Charlie Hill, CFR Manfred Merl, Scott Dries (Clinical Training Officer); Tom Patton (Clinical Training Officer), Chief Superintendent Tony Gately. *(front row L to R):* CFRs Angela Brinn, Kim Wilson, Cynthia Bobst, Michelle Ramage, Fiona Mullen and Christine Sanderson, MP Matt Kean, CFR Andrew Knight.

Dangar Island CFR Unit has had a busy time since we went live at the beginning of July. We had four call-outs in our first month of operation. We have had very positive feedback both from our patients and our

operational command at Point Clare about these jobs. It has taught us how valuable it is to be on the emergency services' radio network providing clear, early radio reports to paramedics about the status of

the patient, whilst being able to liaise directly with the Water Police boat or Marine Rescue by radio, and guiding them in if necessary, has made for quick turnaround times.

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THE NEWEST ARRIVAL ON THE ISLAND



Jemma Rose Payne (Rosie)

Born 1 September at **8.45am** weighing **3.14kg** and **48cm** long.

Mum, bub and hub doing well and very thankful to everyone who has helped during what was a difficult pregnancy!

MULLET MAIL BACK ISSUES Archived online

A selection of back issues of the Mullet Mail are available on our Community website. You can access the site at either dangarislandleague.net or dangarisland.net.

Beside Rivers

Many of you will remember the superb launch of Susan Adam's first book of poetry *Beside Rivers* launched on a magically balmy night from the shop last year. Susan was very proud to learn that *Beside Rivers* was later awarded **COMMENDED** in the National Literary Awards—quite an extraordinary achievement.

Copies of her book can still be purchased from Susan (0412 822 235).

Congratulations Susan!



Council Ute Hire

Lars Dahl

IMPORTANT

The conditions of hire for the council ute have changed. A hire application and agreement will now need to be signed prior to the use of the ute and fees are payable in advance.

Please contact Lars
on 0402 280 377
for enquiries.

Water Taxi

Neil Garnsey

Islanders, if you haven't seen the sign in the Ferry shed, there is a new Water Taxi Service serving the River.

Neil Garnsey, who you may know as one of our terrific garbage men, is operating, at the moment Friday, Saturday and Sunday, other times by appointment.

The taxi will hold 18 people.

Excellent rates.

Ring to book on 0422 300 100.

Community First Responders – the first two months

Christine Sanderson

Continued from Page 1

Our next challenges are to plan some joint training with the fire brigade to ensure we can work well together when needed, and to set up a database of access points for properties on the island.

You may wonder about the second of these. However, imagine this ... you are called out at 3am (it will be raining, obviously, with no moon) to a house you don't know on the island. It is not numbered or lit, and it is not easy to find a safe way to the house in the dark and wet. In fact, the house may not actually be accessible from the road. You are carrying an Oxyviva, a defibrillator, and other equipment, and you want to get to the patient quickly. You also need to work out how best to get your patient safely out of there, and where the police boat should pick them up from. That is why knowing ahead of time what the access issues are, having reliable landmarks to identify access points, including GPS bearings,

and being aware of the feasibility of the road and water transport options for each property, will be critical for us. So if you see people in ambulance uniforms wandering around the island and taking notes and photographs, we may be working on this project. It's all part of creating an effective service and building our capabilities. We may also contact you directly to check the information we have collected.

It has been a fantastic experience to be involved in setting up this organisation from scratch. The support from the NSW Ambulance, the encouragement of our fellow-islanders, and the camaraderie between a really committed group of people who are learning together and supporting each other is just remarkable. Next year we will be looking for some new recruits – so please get in touch with me if you are interested in being part of this in the future.

Friends of the First Responders

Christine Sanderson

A big thankyou to everyone who has so generously donated to the CFRs – you know who you are! - and an even bigger one to *Jackie Morgan*, who is acting as treasurer for Friends of the First Responders. Here is Jackie's financial summary:

Total income to 24/8/14: \$1844.12

- Individual donations (receipts 02,03,04,05,06,07,08,09,10,11) \$1500
- Donations placed in box at DIBC \$219.90
- Donations placed in box at shop: \$123.00
- Interest on account: \$1.22

Total expenditure (at 24/8/14): \$1699.30

- Stethoscopes: \$1451.75
- EpiPens: \$227.60
- Insulated storage bag: \$19.95

Balance in account: \$144.80

With the donations received we have been able to purchase a stethoscope for each member of the CFR unit. The rest of the money will maintain a supply of donated EpiPens (an adult and a child dose are now kept in our medication kit). These will need to be replaced annually or whenever they are used, so at this stage any ongoing donations will contribute to that.

Information about Anaphylaxis – a first aid update for islanders

Christine Sanderson

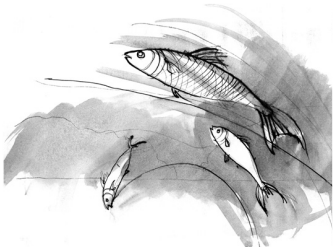
This is an important condition for island residents to know about. Anaphylaxis is a form of severe allergic reaction. The symptoms include wheezing and difficulty breathing, a rash that covers the body but is particularly dangerous when it affects the mouth, tongue or airways, and low blood pressure, progressing to shock and cardiac arrest. The emergency treatment is adrenaline – which can be administered by an adrenaline autoinjector (EpiPen or Anapen). Giving this treatment promptly can save a life. If in doubt, it is always better to give this treatment than not use it.

Most people who know they have a severe allergy (eg peanut allergy, bee sting allergy, and so on) should have an EpiPen or an Anapen with them at all times. If you are with someone who may be having an anaphylactic reaction, don't wait – help them to use their own EpiPen or Anapen. When 000 is called, the CFR policy will be to use the person's own EpiPen or Anapen first, and only to use the donated EpiPen if the patient's is not available or is expired, or if a repeat dose is needed. If you or anyone in your family has anaphylaxis – please check your own EpiPen or Anapen regularly and make sure you carry it with you.

Instructions on how to use:

EpiPen (or EpiPen Jr for 1 – 5 yr olds)	Anapen (or Anapen Jr for 1 – 5 yr olds)
Lie the patient down. Form a fist around the EpiPen. Pull off the BLUE safety release	Lie the patient down. Pull off the BLACK needle shield.
Place the ORANGE end against the outer mid-thigh (can be administered through clothing)	Pull off the GREY SAFETY CAP from the red button. Place the needle end firmly against the outer mid-thigh (can be administered through clothing)
Push down hard until you hear a click and hold in place for TEN SECONDS	PRESS THE RED BUTTON so it clicks and hold for TEN SECONDS
Remove the EpiPen or Anapen – don't touch the needle – massage the site of the injection for 10 seconds	
Keep the patient lying down and call 000	

Finally, anyone who has had treatment with an EpiPen or Anapen needs to go to hospital to be monitored even if they are feeling better, and they should be transported there by ambulance in case they deteriorate on the way or have a second episode of anaphylaxis, which can occur in about 20% of people.



DIMC

The DIMC Executive

(Ant Schinckel, Sue Merricks, Stuart Allen, Tom Weddin)

Dear Residents,

DIMC continues to work on a number of parallel issues.

Membership. Forms for both core members and “angel” investors. We are looking for an experienced lawyer who can help us ensure the forms and other aspects of the process are sensible documents. If you know of anyone who can help us in this area, please contact us at the email below.

As soon as appropriate, we will be contacting the community to announce the opportunity to sign up for membership by making a first payment. More details as we progress in this area.

Local and State requirements.

We have had some discussions with the Hornsby Shire Council about the steps we need to take in view of changes to zoning and permit processes. The Committee is currently addressing these matters, so the key message is: we are

continuing to move forward.

We have also had a number of meetings with companies who design, manufacture and install pontoon style facilities and have visited a number of such facilities - these floating concrete pontoons are impressively stable! If you want to take a look for yourselves, contact us for places to visit.

A number of the Committee attended the 31/8/14 meeting of the DIL where community concerns about the HSC published design for the DI Ferry Wharf were discussed. By and large the entire community of DI wants the same thing – a safe, usable disabled-access facility.

As usual, if you wish to ask any questions or have any suggestions, or wish to help, please don't hesitate to email us at: **contact@dangarislandmooringcoop.net**

Dangar Island Café

Fiona Mullen

Depressing news stories and horrid weather seems to have impacted on local businesses. Many report quieter than usual winter trading. Many thanks to those that do support the locals!

Changes are afoot at the café, much slower than anticipated but still in the right direction. Keep an eye out for our range of frozen meals. Thai Green Chicken Curry with Basmati Rice – Beef Stroganoff with Pasta – Vegetable Curry with Basmati Rice for starters! Other products will be added along the way.

Some new (second hand!) chairs for outside... hopefully not too hot in the summer sun, as impossible as that seems at the moment. If the chair Goddesses are smiling upon us, then some

new ones for inside too. Soon...ish.

The Hornsby Advocate is now only being delivered to Dons Boats. Not even the Riverboat Postie will be receiving them. This of course impacts for us on the rock but must be more so for our upriver mob. I've written to the editor who, whilst sympathetic, is unable to do more than pass on my concerns. Also discovered that the Advocate is a Newscorp publication.

Again thanks to the supporters and volunteers...so pleased to be part of this community.



Is your number up?

Bronek Karcz

The time wasted by Emergency Services looking for your property could be the difference between a good recovery and a tragic outcome. Don't take a chance; make sure your property number is clearly displayed at both the road and water access points.

There are 60 jetties on Dangar Island. On latest count only 24 had jetty number signs posted. If you have bought and received a jetty sign from the League please install it on your jetty so that your property can be found.

If you do not have a jetty sign please obtain one from Bunnings or a sign supplier.

The jetty sign specification is:

Size: 250 x 150mm
Background: Yellow
Numbers: Black
Number: Property Number and First letter of Road name.
(eg 92R for 92 Riverview Avenue)

Finding many properties on Dangar from the road side is often a matter of guess work.

Please make sure that there is a number at the road side entrance to your property.

The only specification for road side property number sign is that it is clear and visible.



Jetty Number



Roadside Number

Dangar Island League – President's report

Bronek Karcz

It is a very busy time for the League Executive Committee as we head towards the League AGM on 27th September, bringing to a close a successful and eventful year. The workload is high, not made any easier by State and Local Government authorities who more and more, avoid consultation with local Communities.

The improved cooperation between communities on the River is very pleasing. A week does not go by without a meeting or discussion between the Residents Associations of Brooklyn, Dangar, Milsons Passage and Mooney Mooney. The Brooklyn Master Plan, Peat Island Development, NBN/Telstra services you name it, we talk, compare notes and try to work together to achieve successful outcomes.

The updated League Constitution that was passed at our June League public meeting has now been registered with the Office of Fair Trading and is available on the League website. The Constitution has been brought into line with current legislation. The updated Constitution should serve us well for the next few years to come.

The commencement of the rezoning process for land at Peat Island and Mooney Mooney by State Government came out of the blue. All River Communities as well as Hornsby Council were caught on the hop. This is a start of the formal process by Government to achieve a sale of the Peat Island land. The process is rigorous and will include environmental studies as well as community consultation. Opposition to the Governments "concept plan" for Peat Island is organising and building. It is going to be a hard fought tussle over the next two years or so.

Hornsby Council is expected to approve and kick off a Master Planning process for Brooklyn in September. The idea of the Master Plan is to take a long term view of Brooklyn as well as its role and interaction with Dangar and other River

communities. The League is actively involved with Council and the Brooklyn community ensuring participation in the planning process.

Hornsby Council has been promising for some time to upgrade the Dangar wharf to provide disability access as required by Legislation. Unfortunately Council without consultation, sent out tenders to constructors seeking proposals to rebuild the Dangar Public Wharf, according to a Council/Maritime wharf design that has raised many concerns in the community. It is not acceptable that the Council should bypass the community and the League in this way. The League has written to and directly approached Council, raising residents' concerns and has asked for public community consultation before any decisions to build a new wharf are locked in. The latest position at time of writing is that the Council verbally informed the League, that when appropriate Council Officers return from leave in mid-September, a community consultation meeting regarding the new wharf will be organised. Council also verbally informed that no decisions regarding the new wharf will be made prior to the community consultation meeting. The League will continue persuading Council on this matter.

There are a hundred and one other League issues and work programs that have been completed or are underway. These are covered at the League public meetings that occur every few months. The 2014 League AGM is at 2.00pm on 27th September at the hall. At the AGM we elect our Executive Committee for 2015. Please come along to participate and vote. As for me, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM but I will not be standing for re-election in 2015. It has been a fun ride for the past few years and I thank all who have helped, advised and supported me during my time on the League Executive.

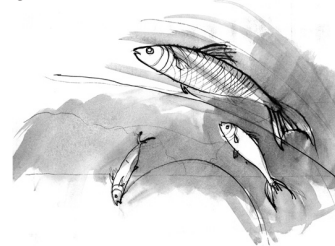
Thanks and best regards Bronek Karcz

A long walk

Joanne Karcz

Recently Bronek and I stepped into the unknown. Well not quite. We knew where we were going, but were unsure if we would get there or what we were letting ourselves into. We were going to walk an old pilgrim route – the **Camino Frances**. Starting in St Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees we planned to walk 800km to Santiago in Spain. Six weeks later we stood in front of the Santiago Cathedral. Tired, happy and with many wonderful memories and experiences to reflect on. Then we walked a further 90km to Finesterre (known as the end of the world) with the four days remaining before our flight home.

If anyone is interested, I kept a blog (mostly photographs) **www.8feetforward.wordpress.com**. And I would be happy to talk to anyone about the logistics of the Camino if they are thinking of doing it.



The Road to Dangar

Judith Doyle

***The Road to Dangar* was published and launched last November.** It contains non-attributable writings of 50 current residents and how they came to Dangar Island. The contributions are enveloped in some wonderful photographic images of the island.

There are just a few copies left, if you'd like to reserve one please email: **mail@theroadtodangar.com** \$85 each.

www.theroadtodangar.com



Dangar Island Bowling Club

Matthew Johnson. Board Chairman and President.

The club has been busy as usual and the Board is continually trying to update our facilities and provide the best service we possibly can to the community. Our mic nites have continued to be popular and a huge thank you goes out to *P Dog* for setting up and recording some of our great island acts. We are now heading towards our 61st Mic nite, which makes me realise how long this great initiative has lasted. Thanks to members and our community for your support.

I would also like to thank *Josh* and *Kym* for their tireless work in the kitchen and bar and for the endless logistics that help keep the supplies and systems working. Thanks again to *Tom Garvey* our Treasurer and to *Corryn White* who does all our books gratis.

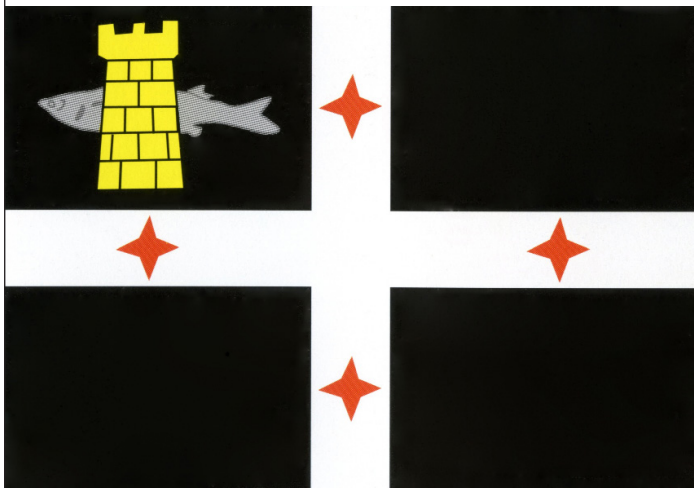
The Board, through our constitutional process, advertises for the Kitchen to go to tender once every three years. This process is underway and will be ratified by members at the Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the 2014 AGM of Dangar Island Bowling Club will be held at the Club on Saturday October 25th at 11am. Elections will be held for all positions on the Board and new Directors are always welcome (so come on down and don't miss your chance to be secure a position of world power and infinite influence).

As we move into spring it is hoped that we will continue to offer other events and activities for members and we always welcome ideas and suggestions from the community. Remember, no Director of the Club receives any remuneration, discount on services or stipend. All positions are completely voluntary and without the selflessness of our Board we wouldn't have a club at all. Thanks go to our current Board members, *Warren Brown*, *Tom Garvey*, *Chris Innis* and *Henry Innis*. Remember, you too can join the dream-team at DIBC. Best wishes to all.

Dangar Island Historical Society

Brenda Hall



You're invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Dangar Island Historical Society on Sunday 21st September Dangar Island Community Hall between 2pm and 4pm.

After brief formalities we will gather around cheese, bikkies, wine, tea and coffee to hold an informal, facilitated conversation with people who remember the Island as it was in the 50s, 60s and the 70s.

We are extending a special invitation to all those who were residents of the Island during those years. Please join us and tell us your stories.

If you are a relative 'newbie' to the island, please come and find out who used to live in your house; amongst other things you always wanted to know about Dangar ...

dangarislandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



BUGGY NEWS

Judy Nikola, Secretary, DIVMC

With the recent wet weather, the buggy and its band of merry volunteers has seen an increase in usage and has been working well to get us all home safe and dry. We now have 38 individuals on the roster, generally doing one or two days per month.

The Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee (DIVMC) needs more members - this would involve attending a meeting four times per year and doing very little in between. Come along to the **AGM on 27th September at 10am** in the hall to find out how you can be involved.

Halloween

Kate Barrett

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, spooky houses that want visitors are to put a broom outside their house.

Face painting by gold coin donation at the hall before, movie or disco afterwards, times TBA.



Vegetation Clearing – recent NSW Legislation

Tony Partridge

The recent “10/50” NSW State legislation aimed at reducing risks during the bush fire season has apparently resulted in real problems in some of the wealthier suburbs of Sydney, where a few landowners have evidently seized on what they saw as an opportunity to remove trees and open up “million dollar views”, as the media stated. Those news reports caused me to look into the legislation (RFS website <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>) to see how it might affect our island as I would hate to see trees ‘disappearing’ willy-nilly

I found that, yes, Dangar Island in its entirety is a designated “10/50 vegetation

entitlement clearing area” but that trees can only be cleared within very specific guidelines.

It is probable that our island’s RFS will mention the legislation through their own channels but, to give emphasis to the issue, my reading of the law (note my precautionary wording!) is that it applies to all trees with trunks thicker than 95mm diameter (about 4”) at chest height and, although such trees may be pruned by up to 25% ...

• ONLY trees within 10m of a residential building can be removed and, to ensure slope stability,

• ONLY trees on slopes of less than 18 degrees can be removed without written geotechnical approval (ruling out many areas on the island), and, obviously,

• ONLY trees on property owned by the individual may be removed (which rules out trees along track verges and perhaps other boundaries).

So stay legal! If in doubt visit the RFS website to check the regulations for yourself before starting that chain saw, then relax and enjoy the coming summer in our wonderful leafy home!

Rule 10/50 heaven

Beau Ghan - Founder and President of the “Why Save A Bird When You Can Flip It To Your Neighbours” Antisocial Club

Start mixing that 2-stroke, this new 10/50 rule is a block-clearing bonanza. The rule says those of us on the list (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing/tool) can cut down any tree within 10 metres of any habitable structure on the property and remove anything not a tree growing within 50 metres. I figure I’m allowed to clear from the river to the road!! I’m goin’ out to Bunnings to get a new Stihl long bar! Since all of the houses on Dangar are less than 10 metres apart, there won’t be a stick of tree left between them. How good is that?! Finally get an unobstructed view of that babe that likes to sunbathe in the nude on her back deck. Cooeee!

And you’ll be able to hear every

fart and moan from anywhere on the island ‘cause no bush will exist to break the wind. The painfully annoying sound of squawking Cockatoos will be banished forever to Brooklyn, as will the Lorikeets and Channel-billed Cuckoos. Yes, we’ll have a few more flies to brush away, but what’s more Australian than flies at a barbie?

And I won’t EVER have to pay the neighbour’s spotty kid to clean those GOD DAMN GUTTERS ever again. O’course there might be the odd land slip in heavy rain, since there’ll be nothing holding the soil onto the slope. But hey, I’d rather the house slide down than burn up, wouldn’t you?

And think of the glorious hot

summers to come with no bothersome cooling shade. Nothing better than the sound of an overworked aircon unit while you’re sweating buckets sitting under the parasol drinking a cold VB, eh?

The winters will become wonderfully bone-chilling, with nothing to stand between the house and the cold, wet easterlies. Heating bills might be a tad higher, though. Hang on! I’ll have all that wood to burn!! Yoohoo! We can fill the air with wood smoke in the winter from heating and in the summer from hazard reductions. The arousing annual aroma of the Sydney Basin.

But spare a thought for all those hungry white ants. What

will become of those fat little buggers when the great plague of trees is finally removed? No worries, mate! They’ll just eat the neighbours’ houses, because I’ve sprayed mine with enough poison to kill every green thing on Mars.

No more worrying about a bush fire on Dangar Island. Even though there hasn’t been a wild bush fire on Dangar in living memory – or probably since European settlement – we’re finally, finally safe. All that we have left to do now is divert the river through Woy Woy to eliminate the risk of flood, now that we’re paying the insurance premium. Damn! It’ll be just like the Eastern Suburbs, how I miss them.

Dangar Island



Community Hall

Hiring the Hall

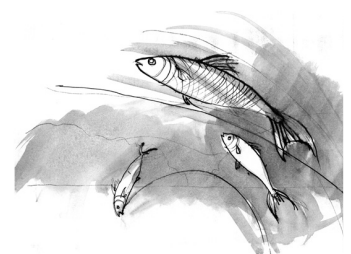
Vanessa Payne

To book or enquire about hiring the Dangar Island Community Hall please call Vanessa 9985 7488/0414 317 260 or email nessrepublic@gmail.com

Confirmation, hire agreements and an invoice (where applicable) will be issued via email. Payment methods to Hornsby Shire Council

are outlined clearly on the invoice. Cash payments on the island are no longer acceptable.

Keys can be picked up at 59 Grantham Cres, Dangar Island on the day of your hire. Please sign the keys out using the book provided. This is important as it allows me to track the keys.



Dangar Island Fire Brigade

Cybele Shorter, Acting Captain Dangar Island RFB

What does the 10/50 rule mean?

The first step is to determine whether your property is within a “10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area”. Some properties on Dangar Island are in the entitlement area and others are not. The RFS has an online tool that can tell you whether your property is within the entitlement area: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing/tool.

RFS records of fires on Dangar Island go back to the mid 1980s. There has never been a wildfire on Dangar over that entire period. There have been fires, but they have all been started by human activity on the island. Fire did not reach the island during the 1994 fires that surrounded Sydney, nor did they reach the island in 2002 when Brooklyn came under extreme fire threat. As a whole, properties on Dangar Island are at significantly lower risk than most of the surrounding areas, mostly due to the expanse of water isolating us from the mainland.

Our bush fire threat comes from the sky. Large fires upwind can carry burning embers kilometers downwind in severe conditions. Experience has demonstrated that the biggest single risk to our properties is the gutters on our house. As embers fall onto the roof, they roll or blow off into the gutter. If the gutter is clean and dry, the embers burn themselves out harmlessly. If, however, the gutter is full of dry leaf litter, the ember can ignite the dry tinder and cause the house to become alight.

For most of our properties, the trees surrounding our house work to protect the house from windblown ember attack by breaking the speed and flow of wind, causing airborne embers to fall to the ground away from the house. If the area around the house is properly prepared by reducing the buildup of leaf litter on the ground, any small spot fires ignited by falling embers will be slow to grow and spread, giving us time to locate and extinguish them. For good information about how to prepare your property against fire threat, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property.

Most of the houses on the island are at the bottom of the sloping block. Clearing the block up-slope from the house will do little to reduce the fire risk to the house because fire wants to run up-slope but only walk slowly down-slope. The properties at greatest risk to a fire running up-slope are those above Riverview Ave, especially those north facing. If your house is at the top of a bushy sloping property, you need to work to keep the quantity of leaf litter and small twigs down-slope from becoming too

large. You also need to ask your neighbours who live adjacent or below you to ensure the dry litter on their block is also kept to a minimum.

According to the Rural Fires Act of 1997, **“it is the duty of the owner or occupier of land to take ... practicable steps to prevent the occurrence of bush fires on, and to minimise the danger of the spread of bush fires on or from, that land.”** If you are concerned about the dry litter buildup on an adjacent or down-slope property, you should contact the Council Fire Management Officer (www.hkbfmc.org.au/?D=14), who will arrange an assessment.

The 10/50 rule says that for a property in a “10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area”, the owner may remove all trees and bush within 10 metres of any habitable structure and remove all bush – but not trees – within 50 metres. If this were to occur on each island block designated within the “entitlement area”, Dangar Island would be denuded and, as I hope I’ve pointed out above, would not be at reduced bush fire risk. The 10/50 rule was written to apply to rural properties of more than 7800 square metres (the area of a circle 50 metres in radius). We don’t live there. I don’t want to live there.

Do you want to significantly reduce the risk of losing your house to bush fire on Dangar Island? Do 2 things:

- 1) Clean your gutters
- 2) Join the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

Car Next Door

Joanne Karcz

Some time ago, a car share system was investigated for Brooklyn and Dangar residents. Unfortunately the car share company was not interested as they deemed Brooklyn to be an unsuitable location for a share car.

I recently came across a different idea that may work for the local community. Many of us have a car which is seldom used (or only used once or twice a week) sitting in the car park. ‘Car Next Door’ is a way that these cars can be used by other people who pay for the privilege. The company facilitates the sharing of cars by people in a local community. The system benefits the car owner (who gets paid when their car is used) as well as those who borrow the car. The company manages membership, bookings and payments.

Check it out at: <http://www.carnextdoor.com.au>. And if you do decide to put your car up to be borrowed, do let the community know that there is a ‘Car Next Door’ available to be borrowed.

Opening Party DANGAR FIRE STATION



19th October 2014
Family fun, food and live music

Come and help us celebrate
the completion of the new building.
Have a look around the facility. Be there!

Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade since 1944

New Arrivals ...

Therese Rutledge

My family and I all live at 36 Grantham Cres. Andy came to the island this time last year to start renovations on our house (thanks to our neighbours for their understanding during this time). We (Amber Marlee and myself, Therese) all joined him in January this year. We are all enjoying life on Dangar. Amber is currently travelling at the moment, Marlee is in year 8 at Newtown Performing Arts, is coping with the commute, loves having her friends up during the holidays and has already embraced open mic night. A huge thank you to everyone that has made us feel so welcome, for introducing yourselves to us and us to your friends; for all the tips and general help navigating island life – it is very much appreciated.

We are all feeling really blessed to call Dangar home and if we haven't met yet please come and say hi (not when I'm sprinting for the ferry though, which is most days! Does anyone else do this or is it just me?).



Alec Pratt

We are Alec and Janel Pratt and we took up residence on Dangar in late July last year, having bought a waterfront block on the NE corner of the island at the end of 2012. Between us, we have lived. We have lived collectively in seven countries across 4 continents. Both of us are delighted to be settling here on the Island to enjoy this chapter of our lives. As we await Hornsby Council's blessing on our house plans, Alec is looking forward to getting back on the water and Janel is dreaming of organic vegetables and fresh eggs. Feel free to follow our progress and newcomer's impressions of Dangar Island on janelpratt.wordpress.com.



PANTOMIME

on Dangar Island

The adults performance for the children

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST!

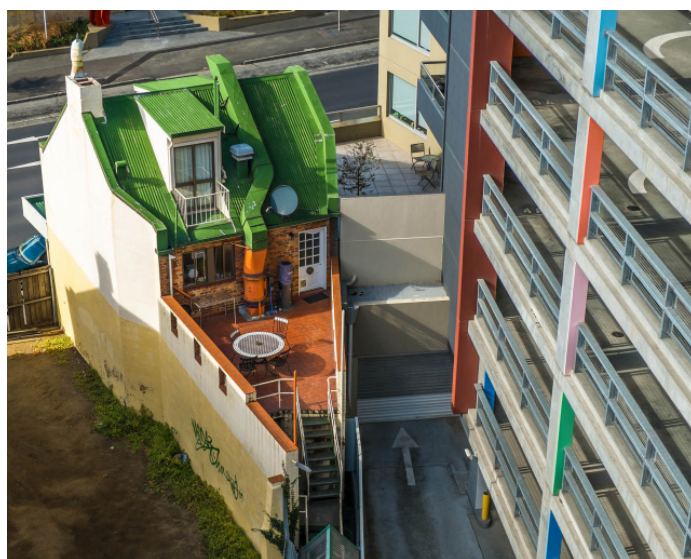
Calling all pirates, scallywags, heroes and villains for large and small speaking, singing and non-speaking parts.

We need you!

Can you help with performing? Designing sets?
Making costumes? Playing music?
Actors, performers, musicians,
sets and costumes required!

Contact Mel Anderson 0408 947 336, Angela Brinn
0423 167 528 or Michael Liebenberg 0404 103 913.

First gathering and script reading
Thursday 18th September 7:30pm in the Hall.
Performance 13th December.



Congratulations Bill!

Joanne Karcz

Since last year a small group of aspiring photographers have met regularly to review photographs and discuss how we can improve our photography. We decided that one way to do this was to join SMH Clique which presents a photographic challenge each month, shortlists 30 finalists and declares a winner for the challenge. We also get feedback on the photo that we have submitted.

Bill Robinson's, entry in the 'Buildings' challenge made it to the final thirty out of over 1200 entries. Well Done Bill!!!!

Unfortunately this black and white reproduction does not do the original colour photograph justice, check out the colour pic in the online Mullet Mail - archived at <http://www.dangarislandleague.net/News/MulletMail/index.html>.

The importance of immunisation in preventing preventable diseases

Andy Payne

As Vanessa and I welcomed our baby girl in to the world last week our minds quickly turned to the immunisation journey she would soon embark upon and the important difference that would make to her life.

By her fourth birthday she will have had 13 injections, and then a further 5 before she leaves school. Most are to protect her against diseases we normally don't hear about anymore including diphtheria, polio, measles and rubella.

When I was a kid, everybody got measles. In the 1960s my older sister contracted polio from the salt-water sea pool at Weston-Super-Mare in England (luckily she made a full recovery).

It's all too easy to forget the damage these diseases caused. A rubella epidemic in the US in 1964-65 infected 12.5m people, killing 2,000 babies and causing 11,000 miscarriages. In 2012, thanks to vaccinations, the US had just 9 cases of rubella. Smallpox is the only disease that has been totally eradicated globally through vaccination and this saves a staggering 5 millions lives per year (which is 100,000 per week).

Even though in Australia we rarely hear about the diseases we immunise our kids against the reality is they are still out there. Globally, measles still kills over 20,000 children each week¹. There is currently an outbreak of measles just to our north in Papua New Guinea that is killing people, mostly children, every day.

Immunisation rates in NSW average around 90% (children aged 5 who are considered fully immunised).

That might sound like a high level but it is dangerously close to dipping below the level required for 'herd immunity' for many preventable diseases. Herd immunity is achieved when the level of immune individuals in the community is high enough that the disease can no longer persist. Herd immunity thresholds vary by disease but for Whooping Cough (or Pertussis) the rate is 92%-94% and for measles its 83%-94%.

So why aren't all children vaccinated? And why don't all adults make sure that their vaccinations remain up to date?

Some children (and adults) simply can't be vaccinated due to medical conditions. Babies and toddlers of course remain vulnerable until they

have been able to complete their required vaccination programs.

It's therefore important that the rest of the community do their bit to ensure there is herd immunity so we minimise the risks to people unable to be vaccinated. Adult whooping cough boosters for example are an essential part of protecting vulnerable newborn babies.

There are numerous pockets around Australia (including the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and Byron Bay) where vaccination rates have fallen so low that outbreaks of preventable diseases are becoming more common.

'Conscientious objectors' in these areas are concerned about the risks of vaccinating their children. Many of their concerns have stemmed from the 1998 research by the since disgraced Andrew Wakefield who linked the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine to increased rates of childhood autism. Vaccination rates have fallen in the UK, US and Australia since his research was released. His research was a fraud. Wakefield was subsequently found to have had a financial interest in a firm that was seeking to profit from his falsified research. His research has been totally discredited and he has been banned from practicing medicine.

And yet the concerns and conspiracy theories live on aided and abetted by the likes of Meryl Dorey and her anti-vaccination group the Australian Vaccination-skeptic Network (who were recently required by NSW Fair Trading to change their name from the Australian Vaccination Network due to its misleading and deceptive name).

And as with so many other scientific issues in the interests of wanting to appear fair by providing 'both sides of the argument, the media has created confusion through false balance.

By providing equal airtime to anti-vaccine speakers (who have opinions based on opinions) and medical experts (who have opinions based on evidence), the media has provided more credence to the anti-vaccine view than if it was presented in isolation.

The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. The medical profession is unanimous on this. There is no uncertainty. But don't trust me, ask your doctor.

[1] Unicef - <http://www.unicef.org/pon96/hevaccin.htm>

Life Drawing and Portraiture Classes

Varry Niven

We are now offering Life Drawing Classes and Portraiture Classes at **The Edge Art Space**, 120 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn (opposite the oval).

Model each week, all materials supplied.
\$350 for 10 weeks (paid up front).

Contact Varry to book 0416 299 448.

CONTACT MEL ANDERSON 0408 947 336
FOR FULL DETAILS OF CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
TO BE OFFERED AT THE EDGE IN TERM 4.

Dangar Island Playtime Playgroup



Vanessa Payne

Resumes for term 4, 2014 on **Friday 10th October 2014**

Meeting at Dangar Island Community Hall
from **9:30 – 11:30am** each week

Playgroup NSW affiliated

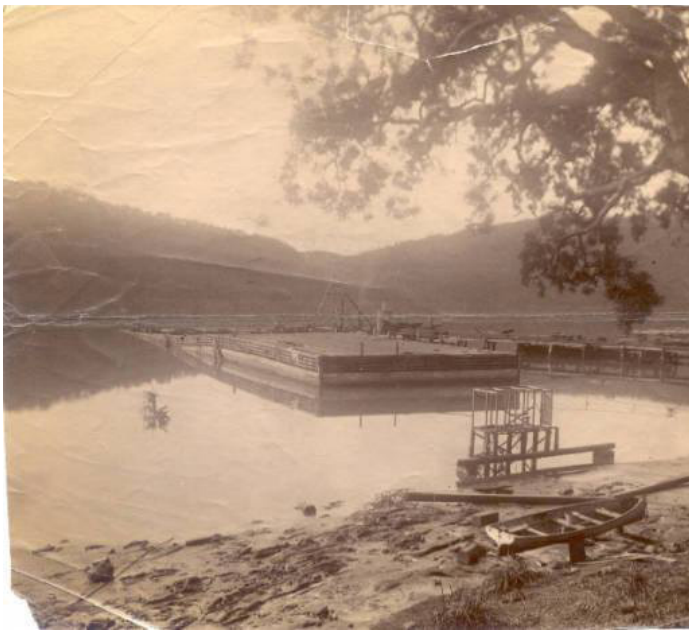
\$4 first child, \$1 subsequent child to cover hall hire fee

Morning tea. Meet the other parents and kids.

Playing. Adventure.

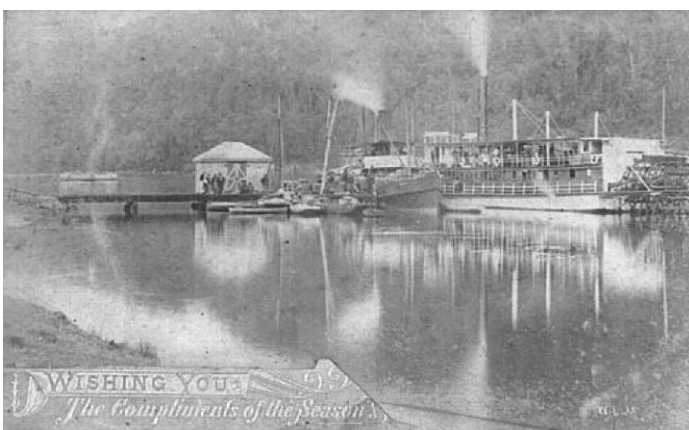
Island History

David Reynolds



Dangar Island public wharf from the north beach 1888.

The massive 320 foot long pontoon that the bridge spans were built on is brought into position in front of the present day shop. Notice how the back half of the pontoon is underwater. It had compartments that could be flooded so it would sit level on concrete piles while the spans were being built, then pumped out so it would float when ready. The pontoon, the biggest in the world at the time, was built on the flat part of the island at the site of Leigh and Aaron's house and pushed with steam engines along rails into the water at Bradleys Beach.



The paddle steamer General Gordon picking up passengers at the Mullet Creek wharf, about 500 metres south of the present day Wondabyne platform.

Until the bridge was completed the General Gordon ferried passengers from Flat Rock Wharf on Long Island, firstly all the way to Gosford, then just up Mullet Creek when the Woy Woy tunnel was completed in August 1887.

Reflection

What do you see nurses, what do you see?
 What are you thinking when you look at me?
 A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
 Uncertain of habit with far away eyes.
 Who dribbles her food and makes no reply,
 Who when you say in a loud voice, I do wish you'd try,
 Who seems not to notice the things that you do
 And is forever losing a stocking or shoe.
 Who unresisting or not, lets you do as you will,
 With bathing and feeding the day long to fill
 Is that what you were thinking, is that what you see?
 Then open your eyes nurse, you're not looking at me.
 I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
 As I do your bidding, as I eat at your will.
 I'm a small child of ten, with a father and mother,
 Brothers and sisters who love one another.
 A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet,
 Dreaming that soon a lover she'll meet.
 A bride now twenty, my heart gives a leap,
 Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
 At twenty-five now, I have young of my own,
 Who need me to build a secure happy home.
 A woman of thirty, my young ones grow fast,
 Bound to each other with ties that should last.
 At forty my young ones have grown and have gone,
 But my man's beside me to see I don't moan.
 At fifty once more babies play round my knee,
 Again we know children, my loved one and me.
 Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
 I look at the future, I shudder with dread.
 For my young are all rearing young of their own
 I think of the years and the love that I've known.
 I'm an old woman now, and nature is cruel,
 'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
 The body it crumples, grace and vigour depart,
 There is now a stone where once I had a heart.
 But inside this carcass, a young girl still dwells,
 And now and again my battered heart swells.
 I remember the joys, I remember the pains,
 I'm loving and living life over again.
 I think of the years all too few—gone too fast,
 And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
 So open your eyes nurse, open and see,
 Not a crabbit old woman. Look closer, see ME.

(Anonymous: This poem was reportedly written by a woman who died in the geriatric ward of Ashludie Hospital near Dundee, Scotland. It was found among her possessions and so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. Though it was addressed to the nurses who surrounded the woman in her last days, it cries for recognition of a common humanity).

TRUE CONFESSIONS

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

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

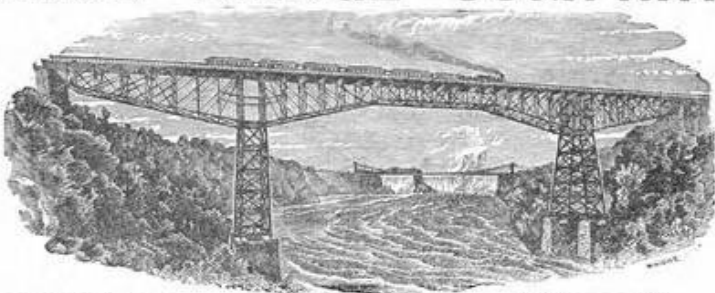
"Each day brings forth new and ever more unspeakable outrages upon my delicate sensibilities. The vilest forms of degradation are practiced with consummate ease by the inhabitants of this nether world as they perform their archaic rituals and mindless meanderings upon the centre stage of a posturing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

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

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

Bruce Lambert

UNION BRIDGE COMPANY.



CHARLES KELLOGG.
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EDMUND HAYES, C. MACDONALD

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Capacity, 14,000 Tons.

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(LATE CENTRAL BRIDGE WORKS.)
Capacity, 12,000 Tons.

Designs and Estimates will be sent on application to

UNION BRIDGE CO., Rooms, 713 to 719 Welles Bld'g No. 18 BROADWAY, N. Y.

The Union Bridge Co won the tender to build the bridge. They beat 14 other bids from around the world. Contrary to popular belief the company DID NOT build the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Peats Ferry became known as Brooklyn as early as 1880, well before the Americans arrived. It's believed the town took its name from the proximity of Long Island.

Pav's Pantry

Ross Higgins

Carrot Cake

This is just the best carrot cake!

- Grate fresh young carrots 1 cup
- Drain the juice from 200g of crushed pineapple (half a can)
- In a bowl mix 1 cup plain flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 3/4 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and 3/4 cup sugar.
- Add 2 eggs and 5 tablespoons of oil.
- Mix very well.
- Stir in grated carrot, crushed pineapple and 1/4 cup chopped walnuts.
- Bake in a moderate oven 175C for 35 to 40 minutes and allow to cool before icing.

Cream Cheese Topping, place in a bowl 3 tablespoons butter, 3 tablespoons cream cheese, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 250g icing sugar and beat very well. If too thick add a small amount of milk to give a smooth consistency.

The Ant (both sides of the story)

Warren Brown

Ant

Wandering around one day and all was fine
Loving life and everything seemed so sublime
There were sweets to eat and many a splatter
Siblings were about, food a proverbial platter

Human

Oh my goodness, there goes another ant
They annoy me so and climb up my pants
What can I do to rid my house of their grief
I find them horrible and they offend my relief

Ant

Oh geez, here comes a despicable spray from above
Espoused from one who is smiling and wearing a glove
While he eliminates me and all of my kind
Why do we deserve this disaster we now find

Human

There they go the terrible things that they are
I blast them with stuff as much as I can from afar
They writhe and distort as the poison takes effect
Standing back in horror, I now find time to reflect

Ant

Really it's so awful my family and friends are dying
The humans make our death and always are prying
All we try to do is eek out a place to survive
However humans only want to take our lives

School Holiday Activities

Hornsby Shire Council

Holiday storytime Hornsby Library

Join us for stories, songs, craft and refreshments.

Where and when:

Hornsby Library

Thursday 25 September, 10am

Ages:

Children 18 months and older for all sessions. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost:

\$2.00 per child.

Payment is required at the door.

Magic Show

with Rosanna the Magician

Come and experience a delightful show perfect for all ages featuring highly interactive magic that will have you yelling and screaming for more!

Where and when:

Hornsby Library

Wednesday 1 October, 1.30pm-2.30pm

Ages:

Ages: 3-12. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost:

\$10.00 per child

Bookings:

Essential as spaces are strictly limited. Book online. Tickets are not refundable.

Spring fling markets

Youth themed markets with t-shirts, beach wear, jewellery, trinkets and food for sale. For everyone's entertainment roving circus acts and youth buskers will perform throughout the day.

Cost: Free.

Where and when:

Hornsby Mall

20 Saturday September 20, 9am-4pm

Welcome home Vanessa and Rosie!



Intensive Learn to Swim program

Lessons are available 8am-12.30pm, more classes will be added if required.

Where and when:

WEEK ONE:

Monday 22 September

– Friday 26 September

WEEK TWO:

Monday 29 September

– Friday 3 October

**Hornsby Aquatic and Leisure Centre,
203 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby**

Cost:

One week is \$87.50 (group classes)

Two weeks is \$175.00 (group classes)

Bookings:

Essentials places are limited. Phone bookings on 9847 6306 or 9847 6307



book online for all activities:

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/my-lifestyle/events/september-school-holiday-activities-2014>