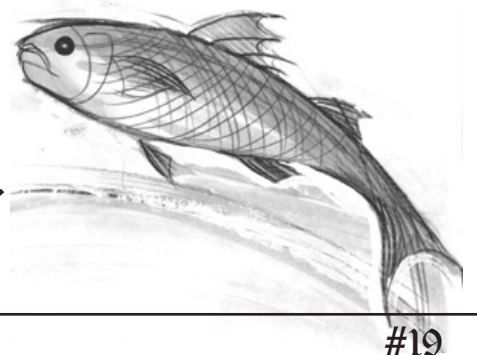


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Autumn 2007

#19

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CONNECT TO THE SEWER.

Water is an increasingly precious resource, and the sewer discourages recycling and encourages increased usage. If you take a close look at your situation, you may find an onsite system far more useful and cost effective, particularly if you want to irrigate your garden with treated wastewater.

Bio-filtration systems such as the Biolytix or the Aqua Clarus combine state-of-the-art treatment and management technology, can be fitted into your existing septic tank space, and you won't pay sewerage rates.

Alternatively, you may want to connect your blackwater to the sewer and use an approved grey-water device for irrigation. Council's info on greywater systems is here: <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/servicesfacilities/index.cfm?NAVIGATIONID=1209>.

For those who don't want to connect, Hornsby Shire Council, with help from

the League and the Cllr McMurdo-chaired Residents' Committee, has developed a Sewerage Scheme Connection Policy that sets out your onsite options.

Under the policy, your onsite system must meet "best practice", and will be issued with an Approval to Operate pending annual inspection.

What is "best practice"? Australian Standard 1547(2000) and NSW Health provide the regulations, and the NSW Health website includes details of accredited off-the-shelf systems - <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/ehb/general/wastewater/wastewater.html>.

Here you'll also find links to the standards and regulations. You may be able to retain a typical septic/trench system under these rules. Watch this space for more...

Remember, you don't have to connect to the sewer.

More links:

Biolytix: <http://www.biolytix.com>

Aqua Clarus: <http://www.aquaclarus.com>

Jonathan Sykes

Review Of Planning Controls for Dangar Island

Hornsby Council has recently undertaken a review of the planning controls that apply to Dangar Island, Brooklyn and the River Settlements. A report titled "River Settlements and Foreshores Review" has been prepared containing recommendations for several changes to the Dangar Island Development Control Plan (DCP) and to the Hornsby Shire Local Environmental Plan (HSLEP) that the Dangar community should be aware of. Changes proposed include:

- Rezoning of properties currently zoned Environmental Protection B (River Catchment) on Dangar Island to Environmental Protection E (River Settlement).
- Amend Clause 15(1) of the Hornsby Shire Local Environmental Plan (HSLEP) to reduce the maximum Floor Space Ratio control for the Environmental Protection E (River Settlement) zone (which will then include Dangar).
- Amend the HSLEP map to include a Foreshore Building Line on Dangar Island (and potentially the other river settlements) so that there is a consistent application of the control throughout the river settlements.
- Amend the Development Control Plan (DCP) provisions contained within the Brooklyn, Wisemans Ferry, Dangar Island, Exempt and Complying Development, and Rural Land DCPs to ensure consistency and add additional controls relating to roof forms, undercrofts, colours, materials and finishes, landscaping, boatsheds, seawalls, stairs and fencing.
- * Permit short term accommodation (holiday rentals) without development consent on Dangar Island, Brooklyn and Wisemans Ferry only, and permit Bed and Breakfast accommodation across all river settlements.

The consultant also recommends that the additional DCP controls and clarification of DCP controls be implemented by repealing the existing DCPs relating to the river settlements and preparing a consolidated river settlements DCP.

The report is about to go on public exhibition for a minimum of three (3) months. During that period Council will send a letter out to everyone on Dangar giving notice of the exhibition of the final report. An information night will be conducted at Council Chambers towards the middle of the exhibition period to enable members of the public to review the exhibition material prior to the meeting and to provide adequate time for submissions after the meeting.

Two focus groups will then be conducted by the consultants to provide an opportunity for more intensive discussion of the desires and attitudes of individuals on the recommendations of the Review. Participants in those groups will be selected by the consultant.

What To Do?

It's suggested that everyone take a close look at and comment on the recommendations as they have the potential to impact significantly on where you live, and that impact will last at least until the next review which may not take place for another ten to twenty years.

Ask yourselves questions such as whether a single DCP for all of the (quite distinctive) River Settlements is an appropriate way forward; and what the long-term impacts might be for unlimited holiday rentals on the residential community. Make an effort to attend the Information Evening and ask questions. If not already a member, join the Dangar Island League and come along to meetings to discuss the issues.

League Planning sub-committee

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE President's Report

The weather has finally turned and the beautiful autumn days have begun. It won't be too long before the soft smoky smell of wood fires sweeps across the Island late in the afternoon, as people try to keep the cold away.

The League has written to the Council and the Priority Sewer Program in regard to the repairs of the roads, when they occur. We have requested to be involved in the planning so as to ensure they roads are returned to the best condition possible, especially taking into account their importance to the Island's character.

The League also wrote to Council regarding the introduction of the 4 hour parking trial at Brooklyn and in McKell Park. The 'trial' has no time limit, nor does it have any indication of how its success or failure will be judged. Council chose to ignore the more than 20 objections by Islanders and others and chose to implement the trial after representations by a few business owners. We have concerns about the process and its outcome. As yet we have had no reply from Council.

The League had a short presentation about the Foreshores Review, a new planning document created by Council with the assistance of a consultant. Of particular significance is that the review recommends that short-term (weekend) rentals be allowed on the Island arguing that there are similarities between Brooklyn, Wiseman's Ferry and this Island. This particular recommendation is of major consequence to all residents and I recommend that residents make their feelings known to Council about this and other recommendations contained in the Review. As with everything the devil is in the detail and what may appear as inconsequential now may not be so next year.

One wonders how this particular recommendation regarding weekend rentals sits with the introduction of limited parking time at Brooklyn. What this does illuminate is the lack of consistency, consultation and coherence in Council's work with this community as one report appears to work against the spirit of another. It is certainly time that Council developed a far more strategic approach to River issues including providing facilities for rate-paying residents who must use Brooklyn as their mainland base, working towards strengthening communities rather than weakening them, and understanding that people live in communities, not economies. Moreover, Council seems to misunderstand the idea of community consultation, listening as it does to the few and not the many.

The League Executive will be seeking a meeting with the Mayor to express our concerns about the parking trial and to seek ways with which to work with Council to ensure that the needs of Islanders are taken into account, and that true community consultation is undertaken. We will identify members' vision about this community and its geography and seek ways to work collaboratively with Council to achieve it.

Sincerely,
Dr Peter Short, President.

The Dangar Island Community Vehicle has arrived!

The Buggy is finally here after 2 years of hard work by the Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee. It aims to assist less able residents and visitors get around the Island, and to help us with our shopping on those days that we just can't face pushing the wheelbarrow up the hill! It will also be used as an emergency vehicle.

The fees for use of the buggy will be used to pay for and maintain the vehicle. The DIVMC will be holding a public meeting in June, where everyone is invited to comment on the buggy and its operation. We are hoping to roll in a Saturday service very soon. We are looking for volunteer drivers to do a Saturday shift once every 8 weeks. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jude on 9985 7879.

Cut out the business card below, for your wallet or your fridge!



Dangar Island Volunteer Buggy Service

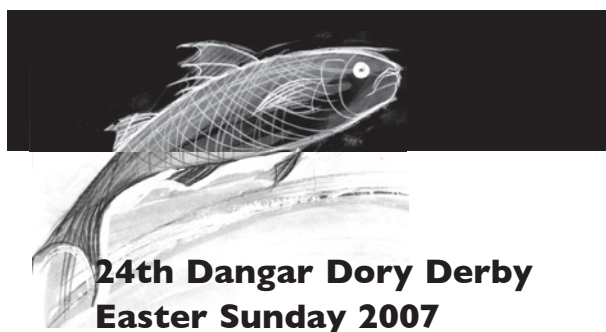
0405 909 236

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
8.30am-7.30 pm

\$5.50 p/person \$2.20 mobility assistance

at other times 48 hrs notice subject to drivers large loads extra – large loads extra

this is a new community initiative – please be patient
whilst we work out best management.



24th Dangar Dory Derby Easter Sunday 2007

Men Round-the-Island

Winner	Ballantyne de Wolf	16:43
Line Honours	Steve Cameron	16:18
Youngest	Leon Curtis (5th)	18:46

Women Round-the-Island

Winner	Richenda Ewen	18:46
Youngest	Caitlin Sallam (9th)	39:00

Special thanks to David & Juliet Howell and family for hosting the event, to Sue Baxter for the certificates, to Charlie Hill, Wendy McMurdo and Lt. Commander Murray for all their work on the day, and to the weather for being dry exactly when we wanted it.

Bushcare

2007 Bushcare calendar is on display outside the shop. Next session May 12th

Miss May is the tiny and curious *Drosera spatulata*, a small sundew that supplements its diet with insects.

In June or July we'll be running another National Tree Day event with Planet Ark and the Hornsby Council Community Nursery. Seeds from Kiparra Reserve, have been collected and propagated for planting beside the hall. Special local plants will be given away to lucky volunteers on the day.

There is a plan at foot to move the sandstone drinking fountain from the middle of the park to beside the hall, then reinstate its water supply. Any strong opinions regarding this should be expressed to me a.s.a.p., before the new position is set in concrete.

Cybele Shorter

DIFS www.difs.net

Aussie 80's classic Puberty Blues provided a magical evening on the south beach in March. The screen hoisted afloat on Pauline Foote's catamaran before our stunning estuary under the evening sky enhanced the ambience of this classic story of youth culture. The weather was less kind at Easter for the Fire Brigade fundraiser screening of *Gattaca*, forcing us into the shelter of the hall. Only a fraction of the expected crowd came to devour Wally Bower's delicious BBQ and Lindee Horman's mulled wine, raising a small sum for the brigade.

Look what's coming up:

May 12th Tango – Chabela Torres and Mario Castiglioni invite us on a journey into dance from the Rio de la Plata in a film by Carlos Saura (Spain).

June 10th Topkapi – Anna Pollak takes us on a mad treasure hunt caper through Turkey

July 7th Don't' Look Back – Peter Short celebrates the roots with classic Bob Dylan.

All will screen with a short film in the Hall 7:30pm.

Although you are all asking for another cocktail party, still no date is set, we promise to get onto it soon. Meanwhile Jonathan Sykes has been tinkering with the difs website and we will soon unveil our online poster archive along with a browsable database of our 6 years and 73 film events. Join our e-mailing list to keep up to date with events.

Cybele Shorter

Children's Film Making Workshop 2007 July school holidays

Four days of intensive film making sessions.

Cost \$60.

Age limit between 10 -18 year olds.

Limited places, apply by email to workshop@difs.net

Alluvium IV

Have you prepared your artistic contribution for another wonderful gathering of island talent? This year my focus will be on, workshops and installations. If you like me, have been less artistic this year, consider this your opportunity to get creative. All entries are welcome. Entry forms will be coming in the mail soon.

Cybele Shorter

Wu Tao – The Dancing Way is a therapy that uses dance, music and Meditation to balance the Qi (Life-force energy) in the body.

It is an amazing Dance and exercise program that will have you feeling energized, distressed and peaceful in just one hour.

Classes commencing this Spring.

Register your interest with **Helen Cooke on 9985 7267**

QWERTY

Dangar Hall

Saturday 5 May 3.30pm-5pm

\$40 family (best for 10+years), \$15 single and \$10 concession

See Ana, Jonathon or Guy for tickets. Tickets will be available for sale in the afternoon but likely to be Dancing Room Only (behind the seating)

QWERTY is a musical innovation, a narrated story, a unique phenomenon

The lyricist, Peter Rowe, who cannot communicate by speech, composes a whole concert of completely new songs by tapping out words on a board imprinted with the QWERTY keyboard. Accompanied by the soaring vocals of Terri Delaney, Linsey Pollak playing music via "live looping" on a WX5 windsynth and real time video mixing by Chris Peckham, the entire performance is improvised. The process that occurs between the artists is a first in Australia, and more than likely worldwide.

'Few experiences are as deserving of being labeled 'A MUST' in the entertainment world as Qwerty. With sublime aesthetic, playful dynamic and infinite imagination, this ever-ready team of improvisers challenge the moment, themselves and their audience on the threshold between necessary thought provocation and pure raw emotion. They have been a catalyst for more tears, laughter, hope and inspiration than I've ever seen in an audience. The reason is because their work is disarmingly real in every sense of our perception and its reflection on our existence. It is quite simply evolutionary art.' Carl Pannuzzo

Next issue Mullet Mail
Winter 2007

Entries close 16th June send to designatopia@optusnet.com.au
Deliveries 23/24th June –
Delivery Volunteers needed,
please offer your help
at the next League meeting.

Native bees

By Dr Ben Miller

In early March, Scott Ferrier drew my attention to a number of large black-bodied bumble bees flying noisily around a white flowered bush opposite Manfred Merl's house in Baroona Street. Looking more closely I spotted some 30 individuals of this species as well as introduced honey bees and numerous other smaller bees or wasps, all feeding from the blossoms. Never having noticed these large bees before despite their size and loud buzzing, I wanted to find out more about them. Having caught one I could see that when not silhouetted it was not really black, but actually a brilliant metallic green.

I phoned the Australian Museum, and as luck would have it, I was able to talk with a Dr Michael Batley, co-author of 'Native Bees of the Sydney Region'. He was interested enough to arrange to come over to Dangar island on the following day in order to photograph what he told me were 'Carpenter Bees'.

After a few deft strokes with his little net, Michael soon bagged up six smaller native bee species to go with my Carpenter Bee from the previous day. The shrub he later identified as a Beach Cherry, a close relative of the Lilly Pilly. It occurs naturally along the Queensland coastline and had been bought by Susan Adams from a specialist rainforest nursery. Michael said that he had never seen more native bees around a shrub, than were around this Beach Cherry.

Two other large and conspicuous native bees are abundant on Dangar Island. These are the Teddy Bear Bee, and the Blue-Banded bee, both about 1/2" long and 1" across the wings, with heavy, rounded bodies. Because they are solitary they have no commercial value as honey producers and attract little attention from

humans. However, like introduced honey bees, they provision larvae with a mixture of pollen and nectar. Carpenter bees, as their name suggests, cut holes up to a foot in length in timber, using their jaws as chisels. Dead grass-tree flowering stems are a favourite site, and Michael showed me a longitudinally sliced section of such a stem with evidence of their workmanship. We were unable to locate any nests amongst the numerous grass trees on top of the island. Teddy Bear and blue-Banded Bees bore holes into earth banks or even soft sandstone. I've often seen these, as well as other smaller species prospecting for hole sites in freshly cut earth banks.

All three of these large native bees are far more wary of human approach than the honey bee. They tend to hover, move like a hover-fly, then dart sideways when approached. Unlike honey bees, these native bees 'buzz-pollinate'. As soon as they settle on a flower the normal buzzing sound changes into a higher-pitched more frenetic sound. This extra vibration of the wings induces the pollen-producing antlers to burst open and shower the bee with pollen. This is very easy for an observer to witness.

Most native bees have a barbless sting which, like a wasp, enables them to repeat sting. An exception is *Trigona*, a small (4mm) social bee which lives in colonies of up to several thousand individuals, and stores honey. They can be kept in specially constructed hives and both Rob Harrison and Harry Recher on the Island have just such a hive. About a year ago, while gardening on Helen Wakeman's block, I noticed small bees entering into a normal plastic garbage bin, the lid of which didn't seal. When I lifted the lid there were hundreds of *Trigona* attending mass of reddish coloured comb about the size of a coconut. I could see honey oozing out of some cells. A month or so later the colony was abandoned for some reason.

Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

It's been a busy few months for the Brigade. The large fires, south of us near Mt Kuringai, caused us a flurry of activity over several days. Crews were called out late on the Sunday afternoon of the 44 degree Celsius day and were tasked to stop the fire crossing Cowan Creek near Apple Tree Bay/Bobbin Head. After a long night they returned home at about 0800.

On Saturday March 3rd a crew of 6 attended the 2nd Waterborne Brigades Competitive Exercise at Fishermen's Point, near Bar Point. Brigades from Brisbane Waters, Scotland Island, Brooklyn, Bar Point, Milson's Passage, Berowra Waters (X2) and Regentville all gathered to contest the prizes. Crews had to complete five different exercises over the morning. These included saving a sinking boat, bush-fire fighting, structure fire fighting, an LP Gas fire and a structure and bush fire. Throughout these a number of mock first aid incidents were 'thrown' at them. It was a very wearing day with the temperature topping 40 degrees and a number of crew members from all brigades were affected by heat stress.

After lunch the crew was extremely pleased to find out that this year the Dangar Island Brigade won First Prize. (This added to our Third Prize last year.) They were presented with a trophy that will be on display at the Shop throughout the year.

We have had three more members join and undertake Basic Training – Phil Sargeant, Dave Pakes and Courtney Mullen. We welcome them and look forward to working with them.

Later in March we held a Community Meeting to inform residents of our intention to hazard reduce an area of the Reserve in 2007. It was well attended, and excellent presentations were given. The Brigade intends to complete the Hazard Reduction as soon as the area identified is sufficiently dry. It will be on a weekend and on the day the Reserve will be closed to ensure community safety. Riverview Avenue will also be closed. Notices will be posted a week or so before and on the day residents need to be aware of the possibility of embers falling in their properties so now is the time to prepare your property as identified in the brochure you have received.

The Brigade is happy to assist residents to identify hazards and suggest ways to clean up. Don't forget the services of the local mulching men and local gardeners and the Council green waste collections. Your property is your responsibility. The Fire Season has ended and if you wish to burn off, you still require a permit from the Council. Remember, if you have no permit, you cannot burn. There are significant fines for unauthorized burning or for burning materials such as construction timber, treated timbers, chemicals or plastics.

Please change your smoke detector batteries and check all heaters, fires and electric blankets prior to use this coming winter. There are Safety Tips near the Shop on the Fire Brigade Sign.

Sincerely, Dr Peter Short, Captain