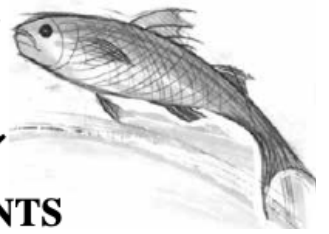




Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. #75 | Spring 2022

www.dangarislandleague.com



*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this country.
Always was, always will be, indigenous land.
Together we care for our island and river, for the future!*

© Yvonne Terkilsen, *Together*, 2021, Pencil on Paper
www.yvonneterkildsen.com



As I write, parking in Brooklyn is the main focus. A great showing of support at the Council meeting means we have won a delay in implementation by Council. But by the time this edition of the Mullet Mail is delivered, you will have received several updates—by email or letterbox drop—that render any further information on the topic here obsolete.

Follow the QR code to stay current with updates on our dedicated Car Parking webpage.



We encourage you to join the League to support our efforts — \$10 per annum (via QR above).

Our mission is to keep all residents and owners as well-informed as possible, so you don't have to be a member to be included on our email list. If you are not on our email list and would like to

be, please fill out the online membership form to become a member - which will give you the opportunity to 'subscribe'. You can elect not to pay at the checkout.

We have received a very generous donation from Sandra Burns; half the proceeds from her recent portrait sales. We are using this money to fund the additional printing costs of hard-copy parking updates in every island letterbox to ensure that everyone has access to information.

Meanwhile, the day-to-day business of interacting with Council on Island matters is continuing. On the executive committee's radar: Environment, including reservation of Mareela Reef; Cleaning up our beaches (more flooding expected in spring); The state of our roads and gutters (a third year of La Nina?); Organic and hazardous waste recycling; Winning back management of the community hall; Contentious issues: Pet management; Airbnb.

Stephen Boyle, President, DIL

Caring for Country

Maia Saxena



Kiparra Reserve Engraving | Photo: Ana Pollak

Walking across Kiparra Reserve recently, have you noticed the engravings site looks different? Last year Guringai elders Tracey Howie and Laurie Bimson visited Dangar Island at the invitation of the Dangar Island Historical Society. They came with heritage assessors to look at cultural sites on the island, and made a few recommendations.

One of their recommendations was to remove the branches that had been placed around the engravings at the top of the island to guide people to walk around the engravings. They were concerned that in case of bush fire, the burning branches would create extreme heat and cause the sandstone to shatter.

These sticks have now been replaced with an edge of small rocks as recommended by Tracey and Laurie thanks to the helping hands of twelve island children and four women. One of the school boys commented with pride "The Pyramids are about 3,000 years old, but on our island, the engravings are ten times older!"

The Great Egret

Georgia Lynn-Robinson

I have been recording the birds on Dangar Island since 1986 and first saw the Great Egret in 1999 near Mareela Reef. It visited again in 2014, 2015 and 2022. It is a solitary bird that hunts in water up to 30cm deep. Great Egrets are masters of the wait and watch strategy, freezing motionless for long intervals and then stalking slowly and deliberately.

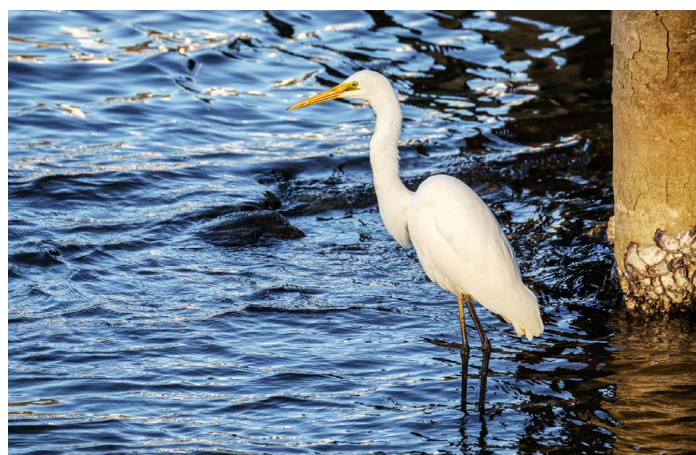


Photo: Bill Lynn-Robinson 2022

Up River

Jann French

Currently REJOICING under clear skies. Our neck of the Hawkesbury is spectacular again. We are no longer ankle deep in mud, though there are still a few places where wood has been laid like cowboy boardwalks to get across the muddiest bits. Some residents have optimistically removed their gumboots.

In the thick of the downpours, we all dug drains, since one of the Council's wheezes is to charge us quarterly water rates for storm-water drainage that is ridiculously unlikely to reach our enclave. Spade diggings now crisscross the land, in necessary guerrilla community service.

I began reading *Where the Crawdads Sing* by the light of the hundreds of weather warnings on my phone, only to think; we live where *Crawdads* should sing. Gordon has bought a banjo.

Skippering skills now include avoiding whirlpools, gusts and debris in Milsons Passage while changing in and out of gumboots. Hats off to those who get them on the correct feet AND those of their children.

Our last power outage, due to a downed cable, coincidentally at ex-Dangarite, Ceri's. Many men came to fix it. Rumours began. We've nothing better to do.

A five-day internet blackout was due to another neighbour's land clearing job, with a chain saw. That plot unravelled after 400 collective earhole hours hanging for Telstra (while huddled in blankets at the end of our jetties where mobile signals are found). We threatened a keel hauling. The accused's boat then sank and, I guess we'll let him off.



Bar Point's New Bushcare Group. L-R: Jann, Gordon, Leisa, Ceri, Janelle | Photo: Hawkeye

On tackling reserve weeds for a year. Ceri & Hawkeye took pity on my muddy knees and demonstrated that Bar Pointers will do anything if there's wine after. Voila, new monthly bushcare and bevvie group.

The children's playground equipment got emergency moved to higher ground. Social after.

A dead cow washed up. Re-moo-ved by barge operators with a crane and strong stomachs.

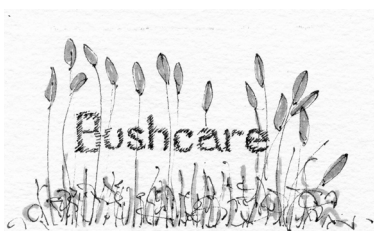
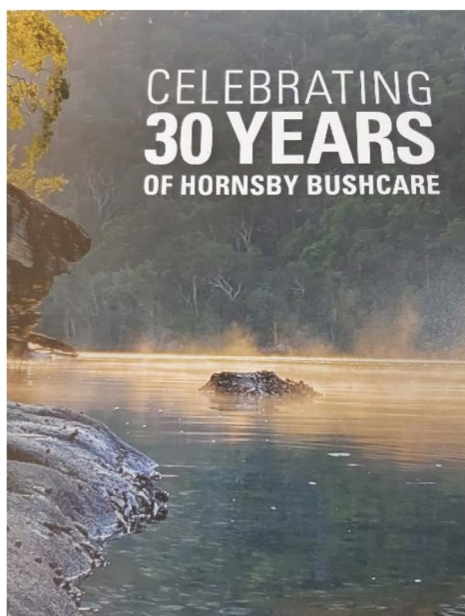
Wondering if cowboy boot style gumboots is an idea that has legs? Vino?

Missing Goats

Meanwhile keep a keen eye out for goats with star patterned foreheads from Peat Island.

Who even knew there were goats there in the first place?

MM



regenerating their local bushland.

This booklet celebrates the significant contributions made by Hornsby Shire residents towards protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity. Volunteers in the booklet come from many and varied walks of life, and every story is different. All express the urgent need for our next generation to treasure and care for the environment.

A copy of *Celebrating 30 Years of Hornsby Bushcare* is available to read in the Dangar Depot, or please contact Cybele Shorter to borrow a copy.



In Memory...

Mario Castiglioni

The Mullet Mail remembers a great craftsman, who built, extended or renovated over 20 properties on Dangar Island, including 8 full builds.

Mario Castiglioni 1947-2022



Aged Care

Royden Irvine

For everyone on the island who finds their age is catching up. I have been living alone on the island for 12 years, and now at 83 have found difficulty taking care of myself and daily tasks around the home and garden. My body has slowed down.

I have been getting **Right at Home** home care and assistance to keep me independent on Dangar

Island, which is paid for by **My Aged Care** [federal aged care agency - Ed]. However, there is difficulty in getting mainland workers to come to the island. The Right at Home provider is willing to employ someone with the qualifications listed below who lives on the island or surrounds, to help river residents stay independent.

Job Requirements: Certificate 3 in Aged Care or Disability Services. Plus current: Satisfactory Australian Police check, Current Working with Children Check, First aid and CPR. Enquiries: Amin Malek, amin.malek@rightathome.com.au



This month we welcome three new, fully trained members to our team: Cassia Chan-Reece, Suzana Milosavljevic and Ian Sherratt.

They completed 4 weekends of advanced first aid training in mid-July. They have been issued with uniforms and by the time you read this, you may have seen them out and about in bright-new-blue—for a familiarisation drive in MERV, a Dangar-Island orientation training exercise, or maybe at a real call-out, where they'll be showing us jaded

oldies how easily they can find a brachial pulse.

Here's a reminder of what happens in one of those real call-outs...

You **ring 000** and speak to an ambulance dispatcher. If not an emergency, the dispatcher may transfer you to NSW Health direct, otherwise, an ambulance and a police boat are dispatched to Parsley Bay. At the same time, our CFR unit is alerted and will be at your house in 5-20 minutes. We assess and help the patient while liaising with paramedics by radio, bringing them to your location. After that we also assist in patient transfer to the boat if required.

Brenda Hall, CFR33 – brenda.hall458@gmail.com



Initiation ritual for Ian; strapped into a pelvic binder by Judy, with Suzana and our NSWA educator Mike looking on

Quotes for this flowering and growing season

Ana Pollak, Environmental Representative, DIL



"What the casual observer may see as bats, birds, moths, bees, flies and wasps, are seen very differently by plants. They are, in the words of entomologist George McGavin, their "flying genitals". These pollinators visit and deposit pollen. They'll then go and visit more flowers, taking the pollen with them, fertilising other plants in the process."

A Guide to the Creatures in Your Neighbourhood, Murdoch Books

"It's to our peril to not have a deep respect and a deep understanding of plants because they are everything for us and they are our best friends on Earth. Nothing on Earth could live without them, that's the point. Everything we eat is either fed directly by us from plants or every animal that we eat is fed on plants. I'm not sure whether people quite understand that every piece of solid carbon that we depend upon comes from that process of photosynthesis. So we are standing on a platform that's made by plants, and if we don't look after them we are going to fall into a heap very quickly."

Tim Brodribb, UTAS The Science Show, ABC

Dangar Island's indigenous plants and animals have evolved over millions of years in symbiotic relationships with each other. Everyone of our island species plays a role for one or more other life forms.

"Remove our keystone plants and the diversity and abundance of many essential insect species, which 96% of terrestrial birds rely on for food sources, will be diminished. The ecosystem collapses in a similar way that the removal of the "key" stone in ancient Roman arch will trigger its demise."

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/>

"...trees evaporate vast quantities of water and give off gases that assist the formation of clouds above them. And the clouds that form above them bring the rain that sustains the forests, but at the same time reflect a vast amount of heat away from the Earth. In other words, they are part of the planetary refrigerator. If you take down the trees, the clouds go, and the place becomes a desert. The two are inextricably linked together."

James Lovelock, English independent scientist, environmentalist and futurist.

Dangar Islanders Come Out in Force

Joanne Karcz

"Chambers has a capacity of 80" the Council Officer told me, adding "I've never known it to be full, but if it is, there's an overflow room". Well, she doesn't know the river community, does she?

On Wednesday 10th August, a large group of islanders, people from Brooklyn, Little Wobby and even some from Cogra Bay and Bar Point, gathered in front of Hornsby Council Chambers. We took photos and chanted "No Parking Quotas, Represent Your Voters" before streaming upstairs to the meeting. Council chambers was filled to capacity. The overflow room overflowed. People stood outside in the cold watching the live stream on their phones. One person watched the proceedings from Rome airport as she waited to board a plane.

Mayor Philip Ruddock was determined to keep control of the meeting. He did so in a way that left those in the gallery feeling like they were back at school. Adults being told they'll be punished if they misbehave.

He reminded everyone to turn off their phones and then scrolled through his own smart watch while people were speaking.

No one can say we weren't heard. It took over an hour, but all registered speakers, including a big number of islanders, were given their three minutes. They spoke strongly and eloquently opposing the plan and addressed issues of safety, the social and economic impacts, the elderly and families with young children. Three people from Brooklyn spoke. Two supported the plan and one against. Overwhelmingly, the speeches reflected strong opposition to the plan.

Not allowed to offer further comment or ask questions, we sat through questions put to Council officers by a couple of councillors. Nathan Tilbury had a long list of questions, all designed to negate the issues raised by the community. If only we'd been allowed to challenge him and the answers given.

I wondered how many of the Councillors actually read the

document they were voting on as carefully as those impacted by the plan. Did they even read the emails sent to them? Or did they rely on the apparently pre-prepared question and answer session between Nathan Tilbury and the Council Place Manager to develop an opinion?

Tania Salitra (Greens) chastised the community for spreading misinformation while seemingly accepting the half-truths told by Council officers and others. In the end, it was obvious that the outcome was predetermined. Prepared motions to pass the plan with amendments were passed. The plan is now on exhibition for eight weeks.

At least the community was heard. But did Council actually listen?

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE EMAILS, ATTENDED THE RALLY AND THE MEETING ON A COLD WEEKDAY NIGHT OR WATCHED ONLINE.

NOTE: This is only the beginning. We will need your help to get a parking plan that meets our needs.



Protesters Wednesday 10th August 2022 | Photo: Bill Lynn-Robinson

Parking Mad? Join the Resistance!

Peter Davis

Council's Brooklyn parking study found evidence that on peak periods (lunch) over the weekend only 2 out of 50 visiting cars could find parking in Brooklyn. This confirmed anecdotal evidence by small businesses that they frequently get cancelled bookings because patrons cannot park.

Will efforts to make more parking in Brooklyn only incentivise more cars? Currently 37% of 110 cars do not move from week to week. This most picturesque part of the shire is being used as car storage. Reminds me of a saying "Building bigger roads to fight traffic congestion is like buying a bigger belt to fight obesity"

Recently a vigorous parking misinformation and fear campaign swept the river. Placard carrying protestors outside council chambers were not pleading for climate action but for the right to unrestricted parking. Without some serious introspection from all river folk on what they hope for Brooklyn village I'm concerned that it will remain a car park doormat, not a destination.

In a gesture of sincere goodwill and to build a relationship bridge, you are cordially invited to join (at the small cost of an ebike) our Brooklyn Outlaw E-bike Gang :The Brothers In Ohms.

As pedal-assist e-bike outlaws we say NO to tolls, rego, green slips, insurance and petrol.

We say YES to whatever measures possible to reduce carbon emissions and our environmental footprints. We do pay for a few cents of electrical charge with further reduced costs for members who have solar panels.

The installation of a lift at Hawkesbury River Station has extended our reach, and we now venture anywhere in New South Wales that is within 50 kilometres of a train station.

My own regular work commute involves a train ride to Epping and bike ride down hill to the Parramatta office. At days end the ride along the Parramatta River into Sydney city via beautiful bridges is both scenic and invigorating.

Equipping our ebikes with saddle bags or baskets makes shopping a pleasure. Woy Woy station at 10 minutes by train along one of the worlds most scenic rail routes makes this a convenient and joyful experience.

The freedom to wean off car dependency is not for everyone, though if you are thinking about another car please consider an e-bike instead.

The only thing that provides a greater sense of pretentious, self-righteous, moral superiority than living in a car free island paradise is to ride an e-bike past hundreds of traffic jammed cars on Pennant Hills Road at peak hour.

Now that parking has peaked, the good and creative river folk have been prompted to action, to be part of the solution.

I urge you to join the resistance.

Shimmer

Martin Cole

Shimmer is not singular, it is all that creates the moment. The colour, the light, texture, perception, experience, memory, sounds, the quiet, the brilliance, the tonal layering, the crescendo of all the elements brought together. They shimmer.

Martin Cole and Genevieve Ginty seemingly work at opposites, Ginty with sublime tonal photographs and Martin Cole's gestural abstracts, yet both are capturing the shimmer of the moment and all its component elements, in their unique ways.

Ginty's photographs are contemplations of subtle hues and colour, illuminating and meditative. Capturing the Hawkesbury River estuary as a shaft of light through lush undergrowth, reflected in the water's edge. It's a rare eye that notices the detail of light and colour. Ginty's photographs



breathe new light into the experience, encouraging another, deeper look.

Cole's Rorschach test of layered brushstrokes reverberates, revealing and concealing. The multiple readings make for revisiting and re-interpretations.

The large scale of Cole's immersive works allow for the subtlety of Genevieve's work to shine. These two artists have brought together their personal explorations and created another work in the experience of the combined exhibition

Come along to the opening on Sunday September 25th at 2pm and talk to the artists and enjoy the company while celebrating the exhibition.

The shimmer.

Shimmer is on at the Cottage in Brooklyn from 24th September to 20th November.

Open Saturdays and Sundays 10 - 3

*Best little club on the Hawkesbury.
A shady place for sunny people*



Sadie La Salle, aka Dale performing at Cabaret

Winter has been a busy time. We staged our first ever Dangardigras Winter Cabaret Fundraiser, which was a resounding, sold out success and featured an extraordinary range of talent, all sourced from our amazing community.

Massive thanks to all who helped make the show such a success, with special applause for musical director Pete Godbolt, who tinkled the ivories for nearly every performer on the night. We raised just under \$1200 for Dangardigras which will help with event expenses such as posters, decorations, lighting, signs etc.



Above: The cabaret cast | Inset: Pete Godbolt and Skye Bower kept the rythm and keys grooving along all night.

We have some fantastic spring and summer events approaching, starting with the return of Oktoberfest on Sunday 2 October. This is always a wonderful day of food, beer and music and this year will feature suitably Teutonic entertainment in the shape of The Sauerkrauts. Keen home brewers should register at the club to enter the Dangar Island Brewing Competition. Let's see if we can knock serial winner Dean Finnigan off his throne this year!

We'll also welcome the warmer months with a show from blues great Ray Beadle with his Guitar/Organ/Drums Trio featuring Clayton Doley and Andrew Dickeson on Sunday 6 November. Later in the month we're hosting the marvellous Queen Porter Stomp on Sunday 27 November. All of these shows are likely to be fully booked for lunch way in advance, so it's advisable to book early. We'd also like to make it clear that Islanders are always welcome at the Club on show days, even if we are fully booked for lunch. Because we only have one chef and a tiny kitchen, we only have the capacity to feed those who have booked for lunch, but there's always room for our neighbours to pull up a stool or a patch of grass and have a few drinks and a dance.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Club very soon!

Steve Griffiths, President DIBC



The Sauerkrauts coming Sunday 2nd Oktoberfest



Queen Porter Stomp Sunday 27 November

For event tickets...



For Tickets: The Sauerkrauts; Queen Porter Stomp; Beadle



Get Ready Weekend Saturday 17th September

Brigade members will be available at the ferry shed from 10am to answer any questions in relation to the ADFRS, your Fire Safety Plan or general preparation for the upcoming fire season.

A new bush fire danger rating model, the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), was introduced across Australia on September 1st. The new model is based on extensive community consultation and contemporary scientific modelling.

The key aims of the new model are to: improve and simplify the way that fire behaviour is communicated; provide a nationally consistent fire danger system; improve the scientific information and accuracy behind fire danger predictions; and provide government, industry, and emergency response teams with better decision-making tools

QR code for the DI RFB page where you will find details on the new Fire Rating System.

Or check out the fire station notice board.



The NSW RFS is currently updating the hundreds of local fire danger rating signs in communities across the state including Dangar Island's sign near the café.

The new AFDRS is simplified to four levels: Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

When there is minimal risk, Fire Danger Rating signs will be set to 'No rating'. This is the white wedge sitting under Moderate.

There are actions for each level, so you'll know what to do to protect yourself, your family, pets, and property in the event of an active fire in our local area.

Josh Ginty DIRFB



GREEN: Moderate → Plan & Prepare

YELLOW: High → Be ready to act

AMBER: Extreme → Take action now

RED: Catastrophic → Leave bushfire risk areas

Botetiket Challenge #002

Cybele Shorter

1 When driving a powered vessel at 6 knots or more, what is the minimum distance you must keep from a moored vessel?

- A. 10 metres
- B. 20 metres
- C. 30 metres
- D. All the above

2 What is the correct marine phonetic alphabet word for the letter T?

- A. Tango
- B. Tom
- C. Tinny



3 What would be the safest side of this cardinal mark to drive your vessel?

- A. East
- B. North
- C. South
- D. This mark is to practice doing donuts around!

4 Do you need to carry life jackets on your vessel?

- A. Only on recreation canoes and kayaks
- B. Only for adults onboard - children float even when unconscious so they don't need life jackets
- C. Life jackets are only required on sailing boats, no matter what length
- D. On all vessels up to 4.8 metres long

Answers on page 11

Top Tips! - Stupid ways people damage their boat, from Ozzie Hughes

1) Wrecking the propeller on rocks; 2) Not strapping the boat to the trailer before driving on the road. 3) Ignoring navigation marks and running aground on oyster leases



The River Vet

Dr Claire Bowland

Paralysis ticks are a year-round problem, but their peak activity is during the warmer months.

Female paralysis ticks inject a potent neurotoxin into the bloodstream, causing paralysis of the pet over a 2-5 day period. Male ticks do not cause paralysis and are often the reason some owners will think that their pet is immune to ticks. This is a dangerous pot-luck game to play as paralysis ticks are deadly and it is only a matter of time until a female tick attaches to your pet.

Paralysis signs are progressive and the early signs can often be overlooked by owners.

Early signs:

decreased appetite
slow on a walk
cats not jumping on to or off the bed, or observed sleeping in the same spot all day
vomiting or hacking white foam
change in bark or meow unable to blink.

Moderate signs:

wobbly back legs
falling over
not jumping up
gagging or retching
grunting when breathing.

Advanced signs:

unable to stand or walk
difficult breathing
mauve or pale gums
moist cough
tongue tip protruding (common in cats).

Around 80% of ticks are found on the front part of the body and head so focus your searching in these areas. 10% of cases will have more than one tick attached.

Daily tick searches should be performed in all pets even when on a tick preventative regime. Remove tick with tweezers or finger nails by grasping it as close to the skin as possible. Try not to squeeze or touch the tick too much beforehand, and do not apply any products to it as this will make the tick inject more toxin into your pet. Keep the tick in a jar to show your vet for identification.

Early administration of tick antiserum on the day you find the tick is imperative as signs will continue to progress after removal of the tick. Once signs are present it takes many more days to improve.

Prevention is the key. I recommend using daily searches year-round and a tick prevention product.



There are many different products available, but I prefer the 3-6monthly products as there is less opportunity for the product to be coming towards the end of its activity period and less opportunity for owners to forget and become 'overdue'.

Instagram [@drclairebowland](#) and [@therivervet](#)

Death in the Afternoon

Bruce Lambert

The soft caress of gentle breeze
belies what is to come.

Who amongst us could but see
such anguish in Autumn?

Though Ides of March are known
as a time to be beware.

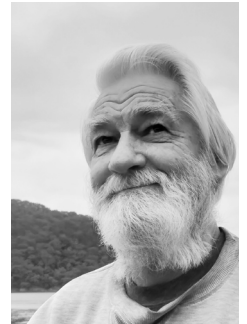
With nonchalance and ego
I tarry without a care.

In a garden of such beauty
that I fail to be aware.
Of the Praying Mantis beside me
as a Harlequin Bug does stare.

An Emperor Gum Moth being
one they could cut down to size.
My Praetorian Guard are missing
I now slowly realize.

With an Assassin Bug before me
and Death Watch Beetle at my side.
My only chance is fleeing
for it is now too late to hide.

I rush toward an opening
then realize with a sob.
A mighty flash and burning;
the zapper has done its job.



Unwanted Denim Wanted

Lisa Hayes

I'm on the hunt for old jeans or anything denim, preferably blue, but will also take other colours. If you're thinking of throwing out an old pair of threadbare jeans or overalls that have seen better days call me! I'd like to re-purpose them for a sewing project.

Please call me on 0405 005 745 and I'll arrange to collect them.

Drains in Riverview

Martin Cole

It was March when the mozzies began to bother me as I walked the ring road around Kiparra Reserve. The standing water on the roads had become a breeding ground, and concerns of a different strain of disease born by mozzies was in the news.

Bugger, something had to be done. On the north west corner the standing water was so considerable, council contractors had spent a day looking for a leaking main without realising the gutters just needed to be dug out and levelled so they could drain.

Torrential rain poured down entrances to properties on the west side. Fire Brigade volunteers dug out gutters and redirect waters with sandbags and a tarpaulin on a number of occasions. DiG members had done it the year before. Sodden work.

With a changed garbage contract, trucks with double wheels dug deep impressions into the saturated surfaces of the road, creating deeper pot holes. The gutters/trenches/drains needed to be dug out so they would flow,



Riverview Avenue in flood
Photo: Martin Cole

the pot holes could drain and the road surface levelled so the gutter could function. Several residents tended to areas near their homes. Something all residents have to keep an eye on.

Over winter the trench was dug out, the standing water drained and levelling in some areas. Tedious constant maintenance, done weekly as the rains continued.

Unfortunately run off on the west side gouged out the road in several places. These areas can only be fixed by Council delivering new materials. Holding your breath on this is not recommended.

Council, after 4 consecutive flood events, probably considers our track with limited use very low on their priorities. As a community we could be proactive if we wish the roads maintained so they are safe for walkers and vehicles.

Major contributors to the problem are the garbage bins, as they have crept out onto the the road. Trucks avoid bins by driving inside the curb, crushing and filling the earth drain. Then stormwater encroaches into the roadway, eroding the surface.

So please people move your garbage bins back away from the road as much as possible and prune back garden edges that reduce the size of the road.

Easy peasy.

Cheers, and enjoy your walks around Riverview Avenue.



In The Habit

with Crispin Friar

Longtime Riverviewer Matt Welcome made the news this week in his attempt to become the world's oldest man. Says Matt "when I started I was no chance for the title, but I've just turned 60 and I've moved up 7 billion places in the international rankings!"

Yallaroi neighbour Mike Lacker is amazed at the huge range of tarps he sees advertised on Facebook. However he points out that he already bought the fucking tarp.

Your columnist is just back from the 2022 British Coffee Expo in Driffild, East Yorkshire. He won't be going next year.

The rumours are true – Hollywood is coming to Dangar Island! Our little paradise will provide locations for an as-yet untitled post-apocalyptic coming-of-age mockudrama starring Rebel Wilson, Rainn Wilson, Owen Wilson and Kym Wilson. Like you, I was almost certain there would be a punchline in this sentence.

Catch you on the uptide!

Boteticket Challenge Answers
1.C, 2.A, 3.B, 4.D

Dangar Island Community Garden

Pop-Up Markets

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2
10am-2pm

Flowers • Ceramics • Felt
Prints and cards • Preserves
Jewellery • Tarot Readings
Yummy Cakes ... and more!

@dangargarden

Airbnb – an alternate viewpoint

Brendan & Lisa Dunphy – Ferry Master's Cottage

In response to Nina's article on the 'Infestation of Airbnb' in Mullet Mail #74 we would like to present a different perspective on short term rentals. We are the owners of the Ferry Master's Cottage.

For 15 years we had a succession of long-term tenants that either did not pay rent regularly – so we had to draw down on savings to pay our mortgage as well as fight battles in the rental tribunal – or they did not look after the condition of the property. Reluctant to sell, we opted instead to borrow to bring the house back to its original condition.

Our plan in this process was to only use local builders, renovators and landscapers for the property – providing work to the local community. To fund this, the only option was short term rentals.

We have since had a relatively steady stream of short-term visitors to our property on weekends and school holidays. Noting the relative quietness of the island, our guests are nearly exclusively young families or older adults.

Tenants provide ID and previous stay reviews, which we carefully monitor, and we have our own rules and requirements communicated to every guest ahead of their stay. This dual vetting minimises the chance of poor or anti-social behaviour. If, in the unlikely chance this does occur, they are immediately flagged, banned and reported to the respective booking platform.

Our co-host reports on any issues after every stay. This level of proactive vetting and consistent guest management is typically not feasible or realistic with longer term rentals.

As important to us, we provide consistent work for a number of people on the island and surrounds – from co-hosts and cleaners to gardeners and trades. In addition, we promote the café, bowling club and Brooklyn facilities to our guests so they can invest money back into the community.

We love the island and will ultimately move here on a more permanent basis. Our goal is to enhance, not detract from, DI's astonishing natural beauty and amazingly diverse community.

We hope this has given your readers a differing perspective on our experience and the often-maligned nature of short-term rentals.



Hours of operation:

Mon to Fri 8:30am - 7:30pm
Sat & Sun 9:00am – 5:30pm

There are rare occasions when no volunteer driver is available to be rostered, or a driver may be running a little late. Please respect our drivers are doing their best for the community. Check the roster board in the ferry shed to see how many volunteers it takes to keep the service running every day.

BE A BUGGY DRIVER!

Want to join the easiest and biggest volunteer group on the island?

Want to do something for your community?



TEA TOWEL PRE-SALES

Following the success of our first fishy fundraiser last year, we are now in production of a second must-have tea towel, called "Other Side Up". This little gem is a snapshot from our archive of light-hearted articles to entertain you everyday.

Funds raised keep the Mullet Mail in print.

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Note - Covid-19 safety

precautions are still in place. Our drivers wear a face mask for your protection, and passengers must also wear a mask in the buggy.

Judy Nikola, Secretary, DIVMC

Sulphur Crested Cockatoos – The Destroyers

Benjamin Miller

Lemons, oranges, mandarins, quinces, macadamias, bok choy, broccoli, cumquats, parsley. These are all edible plants which we grow for our own use, and which are being destroyed by the aggressive and domineering flock of Cockatoos which have taken up residence in ever-increasing numbers.

Not to mention treasured balcony plants, usually with fleshy stems, like orchids, zygocactus, epiphyllums, Burro's tails and others which for no apparent reason are scythed down to their roots. Timber handrails have been getting attacked and elsewhere, off the island, timber-clad houses get their cedar cladding stripped. I also find distasteful their treatment of the gentler parrots, especially King Parrots and Galahs, which are unceremoniously displaced from my feeding table. The main flock roosts around my section of the island and their ear-shattering shrieks are extremely irritating..

Over the 40-odd years I've lived on Dangar Island, Cockatoos

have been present for only the last 20 or so. They were generally thought at the time to have come to visit a tame Cockatoo called Robby, owned (if you can own another creature) by Willy Bobst, but maybe they would have turned up anyway.

What is not in doubt is that without humans feeding them copious amounts of wild bird seed, in particular oil-rich sunflower seeds, the flock would never have built up to the present extent. In fact I doubt any at all could sustain themselves here based on their meagre pickings from the plants listed above.

Corellas of two species (Long-Billed and Little) mix freely with the Cockatoos, as though the white-plumage birds recognise some affinity with one another, though when it comes to the business of reproduction, Corellas hybridise here with Galahs and not Cockatoos. The mixed Corella/Cockatoo flock now numbers about 40 individuals and is larger each year.

I think it is time for the whole community to act cooperatively (a rarity) and to cease feeding Cockatoos so that they no longer find Dangar Island a profitable place to spend their time. The flock spends the major part of each day in Brooklyn where people also feed them so withdrawal of food here won't cause them to starve. I have spoken with people who feed the flock daily and they seem to make half-hearted efforts to feed them less, but it is not enough.

My advice to people who want to feed the parrots is to feed only millet (Budgie seed), which the Cockatoos with their ginormous bills have trouble with. Also stand guard while the seed is out and actively shoo the Cockatoos. If you have to move away while seed is still out, cover it with something very heavy because Cockatoos are very strong and determined.

Unless we take action to deter the iconic *Cactua galerita* it will continue to scythe down everything which takes its fancy.

Flood Debris 2022

Ana Pollak

The July floods washed into the river and onto our shores a huge array of crap and treasure.



Photo: Ana Pollak

The ducks and gulls enjoyed free rides and siestas on many islands of bamboo, white goods, floating stairs and much more.

Many islanders helped collect and sort into bags organised by the Fire Brigade, that Rob Moxham and the EPA then collected. The EPA did regular pick-ups as each new wave of waste washed up.

Some residents wrote down what they saw washed up or floating by on telegraph pole posters. Here's the list:

A kayak, a new wrapped-up spa bath with installation manual, a singular Croc, a sheet of asbestos, 2 water tanks, a garden seat, oils and chemicals in drums and containers, gas cylinders, a bench, a wet suit, a big plastic bed storage box, wheel, chair, road barriers, small fragments of polystyrene, logs, boxing bag, tennis balls, fridge, plastic bottles, stairs, pots, Christmas tree decorations and lots of broken plastic fragments and bags.

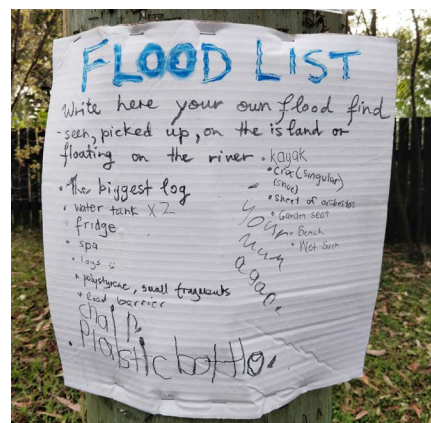


Photo: Cybele Shorter



Happy Birthday DiG

The second week in September was DiG's 4th birthday, marking the first Sunday we got together as a group of community members who wanted to grow an organic garden. It is an ongoing

experiment of learning in public, understanding priorities and working together to achieve positive goals for the broader community, and having fun along the way.

After some devastating years of drought and floods there is a network of involved contributors who have put their hearts into the garden. Support groups set up to water regularly gave way to the devastation of continuous rain, our soil sodden and compacted, the roots of plants becoming swollen and potentially exposed to pests.

Fortunately our ongoing food scrap collections from the Depot and Bowlo and the wider community helped to establish a practice of composting that is the backbone of our soil's productive output. This process has meant the garden is bouncing back after the recent deluges and the fallow beds are being freshly planted out in preparation for spring.

The market days are lots of fun - they build a broader aspect of the garden's potential and a good way to raise money for ongoing costs. We appreciate the islanders coming down and indulging in the hand made treats and the courage

for people to present their endeavours. From yummy treats to earrings, ceramics to pickled goodies, artworks, the raffles and also excellent chai. Through all this 'Guitars in the Garden' and other sessions have created a wonderful atmosphere to be working in the garden, with music and singing in the background.



All of this could not have been possible without the positive support of the Bowlo who have supported us to experiment and grow. Providing fresh salads and herbs for the kitchen (for a few years now) is a source of pride. Even though it's been fluctuating of late, it really is heartening to see fresh organic salad greens and tomatoes being eaten by regulars and visitors.

Recently we added a bamboo fence simply to keep unwanted animals out. It's funky and delicate and works a treat, enabling light and curious eyes, yet a successful barrier to the animals.

We are still in the early stages of learning how to grow and what best to grow, but we have expanded our potential growing areas that enable us to try our luck and see what works.

Come down, check out the strawberry and parsley boats, see what is growing and remember to indulge in the garden's bounty - you're always welcome.

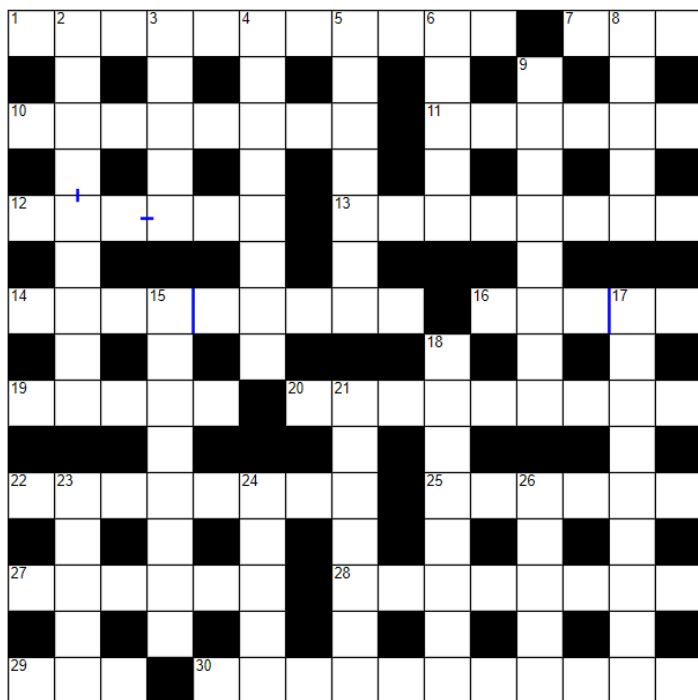
Happy 4th Birthday DiG - enjoy the season.

Martin Cole, Digger @ DiG



Sundays at D.I.G | Photos: Martin Cole

Cryptic #021 by Chico + Zygote



Your guest setter this issue is Zygote, with 7 brilliant clues. They've got a bright future in the game.

A few clues here employ the common trick of using the word "time" to indicate the letter T. There are so many word constructions in everyday speech - on time, time to, has time etc - that can be used to give a good surface to the clue.

As usual, you can discuss, give help or get help at the Dangar Island Community Facebook page.



Follow the QR Code for the interactive online version that includes single answer reveals, annotations and a bunch of other useful functions.

Down

- 2 Magnet, perhaps, lightly cooked planet (4-5)
- 3 Inherent in the origins of nearly all the Aboriginal legends (5)
- 4 Evenly burnishing intends to be out of contract (8)
- 5 Not as much going before son's classes (7)
- 6 Stomach ready on time (5)
- 8 Inclined to leave the teabag in (5)
- 9 Listener to stories has time most ancient (8)
- 15 Saga about French half is widespread (8)
- 17 Stubborn saint to be unorthodox (9)
- 18 Paraffin oil fixed sore knee (8)
- 21 She started in respectable bloodline (7)
- 23 Waste time on skin irritation (5)
- 24 Get together for litigant (5)
- 26 All parts express disapproval on Thursday Island (5)

Across

- 1 See 16a
- 7 Enquire as to why job didn't get started (3)
- 10 Expert tries out for rallies (8)
- 11 Photos of Chico's periods (6)
- 12 Pele has good game initially for amputee (3-3)
- 13 Partially covers set of six circuits (8)
- 14 Howl, for example, failed to back around point (4,5)
- 16, 1 Example of lunacy overheard? (3,2,11)
- 19 Swiss breeze reveals place to sit (5)
- 20 Dave tries exotic market (9)
- 22 Tries eat last two lures (8)
- 25 Openly gay match costume (6)
- 27 Simpler note when that's right (6)
- 28 Ultimate net value uncertain (8)
- 29 Which one Trump broke up with? (3)
- 30 Drum machine sees Her Maj behind building (11)



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