

Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Vol. #72 | Summer

www.dangarislandleague.com

Art For Art's Sake, Money For Good's Sake!

Kathy Merrick

Back by popular demand, Sandra Burns promised us a portrait exhibition even bigger and better than River Portraits #1. In late October, Sandra threw open her garden gate on River Portraits #2, and we were not disappointed.

True to her first series, Sandra selected Dangar Island characters to capture on canvas, again using photographs and working within strict time constraints to represent the fresh energy of her subjects without overworking the detail.

Sitters were not shown their portraits until the exhibition opened, and the reactions, as sitters discovered themselves among the array of other islanders, were priceless! Delight, surprise (have you made me look a little younger than I do in real life, Sandra?), and recognition (yes I do tend to wear that t-shirt/ those glasses / that smile / scowl a lot!) were common responses.



Terry Dorough



Ana Pollak



Mario Castiglioni



Jeremy English



Jo Karcz by Sandra Burns

Walking the rows of portraits and picking out the personalities, and just what it is about each individual that Sandra managed to identify and reflect back in paint, it was fun to think about the mixed, quirky, warm and dynamic makeup of the Dangar Island community. Thanks Sandra for reminding us what a wonderful group of people we live among.

Works were made available for purchase by the sitters, and after covering basic costs of materials, the money raised was divided equally between the Mullet Mail and the Community First Responders. ♦

Thank you Sandra

We really appreciate your support through your wonderful creative portrait endeavour. You bring joy to the community through your art and philanthropy. We are grateful for your donation helping us keep the Mullet Mail in print, and in turn support artists in our community.

Cybele Shorter, MM

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!



Well summer is here but it really doesn't feel like it. The expectation is for a very rainy season and we got a fair indication last year of just

how wet it can get. If everyone pulls out a weed or two when they walk around Riverview it will really help to keep the gutters flowing during big downpours. Keep an eye out for some new signs to help identify the weeds.

By the time you're reading this the council elections will have been finalised and Hornsby Shire Council (HSC) will begin its assessment of the parking situation in Brooklyn and what their proposed solutions might be. The League has been working with Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) to try to get HSC to engage with the community. Our understanding is that there is likely to be a survey circulated by HSC. If that happens, please complete it to ensure that you make your views heard.

The Telstra tower is now in the process of having its DA assessed and considering submissions from the community. The League has no further role in that process.

The other big issue is Peat Island. A sub-committee is working with a larger community group to make submissions. In addition, the League will provide information to our members to assist them in making their own submissions. Every voice counts so if this is an issue you are passionate about please take the time to send a submission.

Have a happy and safe summer. The pandemic appears to have mostly been managed but we should all remain vigilant. We have several vulnerable people on the island so please take care of yourself to help take care of everyone else.

The AGM was held in late November. The full list of committee members is on the League website.

Stephen Boyle, President, DIL

Tree Talk and Walk

Gareth Tillson

Recent guests to Dangar Island Peter Davies (Environmental Planning and Policy, Macquarie University) and Mark Hartley (Senior Arborist, Arborist Network) answer our questions on the value of trees, tree risks and tree health. Check it out in this 4 part video by Front and Centre Media - Scan QR code or go to <https://vimeo.com/646657681>.



Workshop

Gareth Tillson, MM



Scan the QR code to see the story on the Hornsby-Berowra Men's Shed. Would you be interested in helping form a men's shed on Dangar? Contact garethtillson@gmail.com to register your interest.

Dok Dok Dok!

Pauline Foote

Have you been kept awake at night by DOK DOK DOK DOK ?

That is the sound of *Limnodynastes peronii*, the Striped Marsh Frog. I have been hearing this at different times of the year since 1983.

Like so many other animals in Australia, frog numbers are in decline. The Australian Museum collects information about frogs across Australia. If you download their app 'FrogID', make a recording and send it to the Museum, you will get a message in a couple of days telling you which frog you recorded. My frogs sound like a brand of beer!

The FrogID app has information about habitat range, when they are likely to be calling and recordings of the different calls. I was very excited to find out the name of my frogs.

It was Frog Week 12-21 November, which has now passed, but you can make recordings any time you think you can hear a frog. If Dangarites send in their recordings, over time our frogs will be recorded on the frog maps.



FrogID - The Australian Museum
(<https://www.frogid.net.au/>)

<https://australian.museum> › get-involved › citizen-science

Remember to leave some parts of your garden for the small creatures that depend on this space. Don't be too tidy. Leave a few hollow logs, some loose-leaf litter, grass and areas that are dark and protected from domestic animals. Remember frogs and tadpoles eat mosquitoes and mosquito larva. ♦



DANGAR ISLAND DEPOT

Summer Art Exhibitions

Sandy Weule	24th November - 24th December
Yvonne Terkildsen	24th December - 5th February
Martin Cole	5th February - 13th March
Angus Fisher	14th March - 24th April

*“Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you got
'til it's gone” - Joni Mitchell - Big Yellow Taxi*

Suzanne Mead, DIHS

The Dangar Island Community Hall, once a vibrant centre of activity where family, friends and neighbours gathered regularly, seems to be a remnant of past good times. It still stands at the entrance to the park but the doors are locked most of the time. The terms and conditions of hire are now near 10 pages, the process of getting a 'unique access code' is lengthy; the expense is excessive. Registered clubs and associations are required to secure a \$20 million liability policy in order to book the Hall.

The Hall, owned by Hornsby Shire Council, was opened on 30 September 1966 at a cost of \$5,093. A Hall Committee of locals volunteered to administer matters for the Council.

An additional \$1,500 was spent by Council for extensions with \$500 contributed by the Hall Committee in 1972. Another sink was added then as Dr. Riskella had used the backroom as a doctor's surgery.

So, why do we call it 'our' Hall?

Well, there's a community history that explains the Hall's real value to islanders. While to some it may seem ancient history, the evidence of our sense of ownership clarifies the real value of this now largely inaccessible venue.

Lynn Higgins remembers a set of fun-loving, community-minded stalwarts who led to the Hall's construction. Bill Walker, his wife Sheila, Effie (Lynn's mum) and oysterman 'Higgo' and his wife Nan successfully lobbied Hornsby Council. The hall was built and continued as the life centre of the island, with a piano for Nan to play (with her feet, it's said) and a beautiful, pastel coloured tea set that has lasted.



The Hall has been used in a myriad of ways over the years reflecting the whole of the island. From social gatherings, community meetings to Mass, weddings, and State and Federal Elections, playgroups, quilters, pre-school, yoga, tai chi to name a few.

In the 1990s the Hall was used by a playgroup for island mothers and their babies providing support



for families living on an isolated island. Margaret Ferrier began an island pre-school for the growing numbers of littlies. They painted, ate a bit of play-dough, played, got to know each other and learned about living in a river community. To this day those young ones still return and call Dangar their home.

The Improvement League (DIL) and Historical Society and other groups had used the hall for AGM's and exhibitions. As these groups became officially registered to allow them to apply for Grants, their access to the Community Hall was constrained by insurance requirements.

Access to the Hall used to be simple. Check availability, fill in a form, and arrange to pick up the keys. But for some groups it has become an onerous process that involves the willingness of an individual to accept the requirement of a pre-authorised security deposit and a \$2,000 excess on a liability policy that is separate from what Council offers to other users.

Activities in our hall embodied a spirit of unity, community support and generosity. Milestone birthday celebrations, a trivia night for the film society and musicians' jam sessions are memorable examples. A 60s retro night dress-up dance was organised by the islanders; the evening raised significant funds for donation to the hospital respiratory unit that cared for the Ferrier's son, Glen. The Quilters' group whose purpose was to 'drink tea, chat, create lovely things... and help each other out' also raised funds for cancer patients. Historical exhibitions and art displays celebrated island life. And when the hall needed disabled access, Terry Dorrough gave his architectural skills.

Families over time have seen the Hall as 'our' hall, for good reason.

If Covid times have taught us anything, it is the importance of access to our family, friends and community. While we revel in our recovered personal contacts, we are still having a years' old conversation about our access to the Community Hall. It has a history as a heart of Dangar, yet seems to be gone. ♦



We are so happy to be meeting again in person after months of lockdown. If you'd like to get involved in caring for our beautiful bushland, we meet at 9am on the second Saturday of each month at the access track to Kiparra Reserve (149 Riverview Avenue).

Though the last few months have been quiet on the weeding front, we've remained very active. A particular thank you to Kylie Burke for keeping us all connected via Zoom and email through this time.

To investigate the cause of dieback affecting *Allocasuarina* trees along north-west Riverview, soil and living foliage samples collected by Hornsby Council were tested for pathogens. A soil sample found *Phytophthora palmivora*, which causes root rot in some fruiting plants, not commonly known as a native plant problem. See more about *Allocasuarina* decline in Gareth Tillson's Tree Talk and Walk on page 2.

The Kiparra Reserve hazard reduction burn has also been a recent area of concern. Members worked hard to remove dead vegetation in the lead-up to the day, to protect particularly fire-sensitive plant species. Monitoring of flora recovery is being carried out by both Bushcare and the Fire Brigade in consultation with Hornsby Council over the next several years.

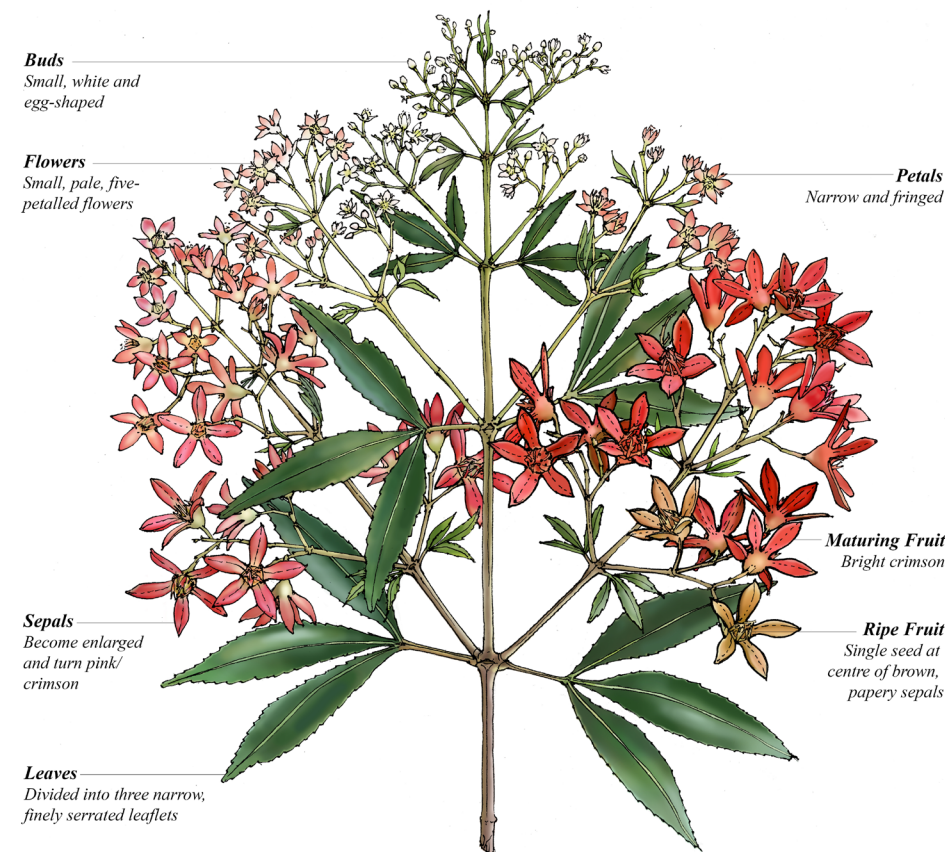
Josephine Bridge, Ana Pollak and Cybele Shorter, Dangar Island Bushcare

Native Profile: *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*

Josephine Bridge

Ceratopetalum gummiferum, commonly known as 'Christmas Bush' seems an appropriate local species to celebrate at the end of the year, since it reaches the height of its colourful display towards the end of December. Despite apparent order, symmetry and clarity *C. gummiferum* has many secrets; things are often not quite what they seem with this plant.

To begin with, the beautiful crimson petals are... not actually petals at all. They are called 'sepals' - the parts of the bud protecting the flower before it opens (there are 5 on each flower, collectively known as the calyx). When the sepals first open they are small and white (the flower itself has 5 minuscule white petals whose ends are divided into three tiny tips.) As the flower dies and the fruit in the centre matures, the sepals grow larger and turn dark red. King Parrots feed on this fruit.



Secondly, the 3 distinctive pointed leaves on either side of the stem are... not actually leaves. The leaves are pinnate, so these three 'leaflets' actually, technically, make up a single leaf on either side of the stem. The leaves are 'opposite', which means one occurs directly opposite another along the stem's length.

Finally - and this is my favourite - the fallen fruit of *C. gummiferum* has a fun secret. Once fruiting has finished, have a look around for some fallen brown ones on the ground and try casting them into the air from a high point. They spin through the air like little helicopters - an adaptation which assists seed dispersal.

Merry Christmas all, hope to see you at Bushcare in the New Year! ♦

SCALE 10 20 50

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Ceratopetalum Gummiferum botanical drawing by Josephine Bridge



Digging it Gently

Over the past few years, the DiG cultivators have taken a “softly, softly” approach. Starting with the area immediately behind the Green, inside the fence, replacing the flowering plants with veggies... adding a row along the outside of the fence, planting fruit trees, filling donated boats. Then the outside bed with aromatics, herbs, salad greens.... No machines, just loving attention and hard work by a group of enthusiasts.

It also takes money. From seeds to infrastructure, there is always a cost. The community has supported the Garden in so many ways – donating prizes for our raffles, buying tickets, donating tools, seeds, mulch, fertilizer... And the Garden gives back when we walk through the space and soak in the ambiance, and perhaps harvest a handful of goodies to take home for dinner.

Our latest round of fundraising to finance a drip irrigation system from the rainwater tanks began on Nov 28th, with a pop-up market and visit from Manu Prigioni from Farm it Forward who shared her expertise on everything from composting to crop selection. Thanks



to all who stopped by to say hello, and bought a muffin and a raffle ticket.

Fundraising will continue through the summer. Follow us on Facebook (Dangar Island Community Garden) for posts about our market days. You will always find us on days when there is an event on at the Bowling Club!

As always we welcome anyone to join us on Sunday mornings for our weekly working bee. No gardening experience required!

Janel Pratt, DiG



(left) Ceramic Fundraising Stall

(above) The blackboard quote

Musical Happenings

Liz Nolf



Mark your calendars - there will be Carols in the Park at 6pm on Friday Dec 17th, details to follow.

The second Dangar Dolce project is still happening! We got a bit distracted but are still keen for your video submissions. Contact Marina Garvey or Liz Nolf for more info, and go here for the instruction video (QR code)

The Dangar Island Warblers, our no-audition no-music not-scary weekly singing group, is back in action post lockdown. Come and join us 7:30pm Wednesdays at the club.

Double vaxxed only.

Music in the Garden, an ongoing fundraiser for the Dangar Island Community Garden, happens most Sunday mornings. Group and individual guitar lessons for all ages at \$5 a pop. See the poster on the phone box for more info. ♦



Community Hall Revival

BIG THANKS for completing our hall user survey.

64 people told us what the hall means to them and explained their reasons they no longer use the hall. We are currently analysing the results and writing a short report. Our next step is to negotiate with Hornsby Shire Council's Venue Management Team to look for solutions. This will be on hold until the new year, 2022. We are still happy to hear more from the community, so if you have more to say, contact us via elizabeth.nolf@gmail.com.

Happy Silly Season.

Liz, Cybele, Lisa and Wendy



Bushfire Season

Along with our usual quota of callouts, training and maintenance, Spring 2021 saw the Dangar brigade in action with the Kiparra Park

Reserve Hazard Reduction burn. We would like to sincerely thank all volunteers for their huge efforts over many weeks both leading into the burn, and with round the clock patrols and clean-up post-burn.

Whilst the burn largely achieved the objectives laid down by the RFS hierarchy, weather conditions on the day prevented us from safely completing the southern section. The brigade is in on-going negotiations with the RFS to schedule this activity outside of the current fire season and will advise as soon as a date is determined.

We would like to acknowledge that members of the Dangar Island Bushcare group raised concerns with the brigade in relation to the intensity of the fire in parts of the reserve. This feedback has been forwarded to our RFS local area command for review. Furthermore, a working group between the brigade and the Bushcare group has been initiated to help us work towards our common goals in protecting both the community and the integrity of Kiparra Park Reserve.

Know when to let the home fires burn.

As summer gets into full swing, we will see an increase in tourist visits to the island. Visitors and locals alike need to be aware of when and how it is appropriate to light a fire on the island for recreational purposes. This summer the brigade is aiming to engage with the Dangar community and short-term accommodation landlords on the island to make sure guidelines for recreational fires are clearly defined. Keep your eyes out for posters with more information.



Check the fire danger meter outside the the Dangar Depot, or the RFS website, before lighting any fire. NO FIRES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMISSIBLE ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Confirm total fire ban details (see above) before lighting up. On other days during the fire season, it is OK to have a small recreational fire (no more than 1 metre in either diameter or height, used for cooking or warmth) provided you stick to these simple rules:

- A mandatory cleared area of two metres around the fire is necessary,
- A water supply should be always accessible
- The fire should never be left unattended
- Minimise the impact of smoke and embers
- Do not light fires in strong wind regardless of Fire Danger Ratings

Josh Ginty, DIRFB

For more information visit the RFS Lighting a fire - Quick Facts page from the QR Code.



Remember: It is a finable offence to light a fire on the beach, or in a public park



A huge day! Hazard reduction burn debrief at the station.



Your community buggy, 'Red Fred', has been working tirelessly with its band of generous volunteer drivers, to get you from point A to point B without too much fuss.



On rare occasions, a driver might be late for their shift or there may be no driver rostered on a single day. Check the roster board at the ferry shed and please don't get impatient with our drivers, they are doing their best! If you are interested in becoming a driver, call Judy Nikola on 0415 488 606, all you need is a current NSW driver's license and a bit of free time.

Judy Nikola, DIVMC



My Covid message for summer is:

Get out and enjoy yourself as much as possible in the open air;

Be mindful around people who have reduced immunity, and;

If you are immuno-compromised, don't be shy about letting people know;

When you're in busy public places, a properly fitted mask is your friend, and;

Please continue to take care with your hand hygiene.

Don't underestimate 'the rona' – it's back, biting the Northern Hemisphere hard, and we can expect another round here in our

winter. It's very important that you keep your immunity up; complete your course of vaccination; get the booster when eligible.

If you're wondering what to do if you have symptoms, need to isolate, want to travel interstate or overseas ... this is the web page to check:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/isolation-guidelines.aspx>

If you're a stickler for information and prepared to use Facebook, I recommend you follow NSW Health: <https://www.facebook.com/NewSouthWalesHealth/>

If all this is giving you severe, crushing chest pain ... this is a great time to call '000'. Your CFR team has the CPR drill fresh-in-mind having just been through annual recertification training at our Point Claire headquarters.

It's Liz Nolf in the photo, behind the mask. Her patient prefers to remain anonymous.



Liz Nolf, CPR re-certification 2021

If you want more information on the CFRs, check out our page on the League website:

<https://www.dangarislandleague.com/community-cfrs>

Have a fun-safe Christmas and New Year!

Brenda Hall, CFR33

brenda.hall458@gmail.com

Chess

Cybele Shorter, MM

High school bright spark Gus Walsh has started a chess club. He has developed a programme for children only, and so far has 19 students enrolled. Not all of them are his cousins.

If you've come across a happy crowd of children in the park with chess boards (Wednesday 5pm to 6:30 after school, and Saturday 3pm to 4:30) you now know what the fun is all about.



Designed for kids, Gus has planned 30 lessons.

'Players can verse each other for practice and we will soon start a rating system to track progress. Everyone gets snacks regardless of participation', explained Gus.

'On the first Saturday we lost lots of chess pieces cos of the wind!'

Audrey Tillson says *It's, like, fun - and it's hands on and there's lollies!*

Liam & Joel Ginty say they *'highly recommend'* Gus' Chess Club. ♦

MyOtis, Sitting on the dock of our Bay!

Jann French

On the morning of 30th October all set for sailing we found two sleepy palm sized microbats in the flakes of our mainsail. One



Salty the Microbat.

woke and flew away, the other wasn't so lively. The word from the island network was to leave it nearby in a cool dark place to see if it left when evening came. We named it Salty and placed it in the folds of a new cloth under the dash of the tinny which was left on the mooring while we had a lovely day; released from lockdown in perfect wind and cool weather with our new friends, Liz and Bastian, from Bar Point.

On return that afternoon Salty wasn't well. Liz rang Wires and then delivered our bat to a volunteer en route to a party they were kicking onto. Good grief partying after sailing!

While Gordon and I were dozing off on the couch the bat handler, vaccinated against bat diseases, pronounced Salty an adult male Myotis Bat, *Myotis macropus* with a hole in his wing. Proving it by showing off the wing and his 1mm penis.

Myotis bats eat insects and fish! They swoop low over the water and spearfish with claws on their back feet. Amazing. There's a Hawkesbury Gazette article online from 2018 (see below) which says they normally like fresh water creeks, are increasingly rare and are new to our river. The short article is worth looking up. It blames the runoff of fertilizers, industry and heavy metals for their downfall. Being so very small and top of a food chain would make them especially vulnerable to pollution.

Salty went to the Northern Beaches that evening to be cared for with another poorly Myotis bat. When his health returns, he will be sent to Goulburn for a month of learning-to-fly-again lessons. On graduation he will be returned to Dangar and placed in a tree in Graham Two's Garden because it's the nearest safe place to where he was found on our yacht and from where he will be able to relocate his family and friends by their calls.

Arrrr isn't that nice?! ♦



In The Habit

with Crispin Friar

Lockdown Orgy Hell-Cruise Shame! News from around the river is that a houseboat bacchanal stalked the mangroves over winter, chanting **heavy rap music** and launching bottle rockets into the virgin forest. Shame on you townies!

Speaking of which, I was called a **townie** by a grumpy farmer the other day. It's a pity I couldn't think of a similarly waspish epithet I could make from the word "country" to fire back.

Philip Mamouth has inherited his grandfather's 1920s ventriloquist dummy **Spunk**, and he's playing the club circuit.

Bunny Savage on the west side has decided to Manage Cookie Preferences. Now there's a list of things all ticked and it says Save or Cancel and she just wanted to look at tumble dryers for Mum. Maybe she needs to join one of **Mal Boardman's workshops?**

It's easy to deal with **internet impersonators**, says **Mal**, "just change your profile pic to one of you on the toilet!" Mal knows all about tech and everything ("Hashtag Mal!" he says) and he's a real card! "It's called bitcoin because you can make a bit of coin. If you're lucky!"

With **International Austria Day** just around the corner, Rock Me Amadeus t-shirts are available at the shop, 2 for \$39. However please do not put glitter on your pets, it's cruel and not even authentically Austrian.

And we can hardly wait for this year's **Scotland Island Week!** I must admit I find it cooling to walk around like that...and anyway who cares about a few welts!

Chelsea Rutter's 7-year-old asked why there are so many lady beetles this summer. **Chelsea** explained that there was a plague of aphids and the spotty little bugs like to eat aphids. Young **Sasha** then asked if that means lady beetles normally die of starvation before they have babies, Chelsea said she hadn't really considered it, and now Sasha is on a hunger strike and has sent a terse 15-word, 2-page letter to "the Scott Minister".

Congratulations **Juan and Sandy Flores** on their third set of twins! I was at the bedside when the **reporter from the Advocate** asked if they have twins every time. "Ooh no!" said **Sandy**, "Hundreds of times we don't get anything."

Catch you on the uptide!



<https://www.wires.org.au/blog/australias-only-true-fishing-bat>

www.hawkesburygazette.com.au/story/5327523/



At the Bowlo

Sunday 2 January 12.30pm - 4pm
Festival of Open Mic

With the indoor capacity of the club (currently) still limited, but with outdoor events allowing greater attendance, we've decided to move our traditional '1st Friday evening of the month' Open Mic session to the day after New Year's Day. Why not blow out the cobwebs and test that NY resolution with the best talent the Lower Hawkesbury has to offer. Musicians and groups will need to sign up for a spot. We heartily invite all our talented performers to email Steve via dangarsunsplash@gmail.com to register their interest.



The Mother Pluckers rockin November Open Mic
Photo: Cindy Smith.

Please remember, that it's essential for everyone who wants to attend, to book a table - including performers. Booking is free via www.trybooking.com/BVPGA or scan the code below



Sunday 6 February
12.30pm - 4pm
Mic Conway & Robbie Long

In a circus of comedy, music and magic, Mic Conway presents an hilarious array of idiosyncratic songs that

will make your jaw drop, toes tap and sides split. Audiences will know Mic from his days with "Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band" and Circus Oz. Scan the code below or book through: www.trybooking.com/BTDCF

Steve Griffiths, President of the Board, DIBC



Festival of
Open Mic



Mic Conway &
Robbie Long



Surprise Chef

Mullet Mail

Last edition we spoke to Arn about how he came to be such a great cook. This edition we explore some of Arn's successes and failures in the kitchen.

MM: So, Arn welcome back to the Mullet Mail. Do you have any cooking ideas going 'round in your head at the moment?

Arn: Actually I bought a rolled rump of wild caught venison which I am thinking of slow cooking over charcoal with a stuffing of juniper berries and herbs, and maybe a red wine and madeira sauce. Venison has quite a gamey flavour so the sharpness of the juniper berries works well.

MM: Sounds delicious. Are your creations always a success?

Arn: No, not always. My first attempt at pavlovas, I left out two of the critical ingredients - cream of tartar and cornflour. It turned into a nice sloppy marshmallow.

MM: How about some of your most memorable successes?

Arn: I experiment with a lot of different styles and take inspiration from cooking cultures from around the world. I remember a delicious Japanese influenced crayfish and scallop ravioli, finished with salmon caviar and tarragon. For something hearty I cooked up a Moroccan style goat and fig tagine braised in lemon and cherry tomato. I never cook the same thing twice.

MM: So what would you cook on a standard night at home when you need to make do with whatever you can find in the fridge?

Arn: Well last night it was steak with miso mushrooms, seaweed and sesame. And tonight it is going to be Sharon's chicken and swiss mushroom pies (thanks Shazbot!) with sweet potato mash and broccolini, if Kaf remembers that I asked her to take the pies out of the freezer.

And as promised Arn's famous gravlax recipe:

Take a side of salmon and pin bone it. Pat it dry and sprinkle with salt, native pepper berry and brown sugar.

Grate beetroot and fresh horseradish, chopped dill, and lay out over the salmon. Pour over ¼ bottle vodka, cover in cling wrap, then put a plate on top and weigh it down.

Store in the fridge for at least 3 days. Take it out, scrape it clean, slice and present with horseradish cream, capers and dill. ♦

Haiku Challenge

Joanne Karcz

In the bright sunshine
A sea eagle flies overhead
Cockatoos erupt

Winter not yet gone
Westerly winds still raging
Hanging out for Spring

Cockatoos erupt
A noise deafening to all
They erupt again

There was a young man
From Wobby, who got limericks
And haikus confused

Lockdown Days
Trying to breathe Pause
Close eyes darkness calm listen
Exhale peace hopeful

Whales and dolphins here
Play island high tide and seek
Unlock happy days

The sun is shining
My face is happy
I can see you

Towards the end of lockdown, seventeen people accepted the Dangar Haiku Challenge: Bill Lynn-Robinson, Eleanor Catherine, Georgia Lynn-Robinson, Hans Pols, Jane Drummond, Jo Colman and her son Tom (11 years), Jo Karcz, Jonathan Sykes, Judy Lattas, Marina Garvey, Martin Lloyd, Suzanne Mead, Therese Rutledge, Terry Dorrough and two anonymous contributors.

Here are their offerings, in no particular order, including two previously unseen and only one per person where they submitted more than one.

Ocean Healing
Rhythmic blue waves plunge
Serene silent salty depths
Surface light gasp bliss

Morning Kiss
Lipstick too valuable to waste
That's life

On a languid night
Frangipanis fill the air
And veranda's talk

Here is a haiku
Have my seven syllables
That is my haiku

I sit down to write
But try as I might, the result,
is pathetically slight

Galooping dog walks
in front of me does a shit
mindless Zen master

Mighty Wheelbarrow
Quiet now
Rest a little, Rust

Dory gliding past
Oar caressing water
Good morning

Kippara Park
Majestic grass trees
Springtime bursting into life
Ancient caves beckon.

Bradley's Beach
Running on the beach
Diving into the water
Sand between my toes.

Welcome to Dangar

Lisa Hayes, MM

We're reinstating our introduction section in the Mullet Mail, devoted to providing a space for new island residents to say hello.

There's been lots of movement on and off the island recently and due to Covid, our ability to meet at social gatherings has been severely limited, meaning in-person introductions haven't happened as naturally as they once did.

If you arrived recently, we invite you to introduce yourself by providing a little about your background; what led you to Dangar, your interests, and a photo of your household members to help fellow islanders welcome you to our unique community.

For inclusion in our next edition, published in Autumn next year, email submissions by the deadline →

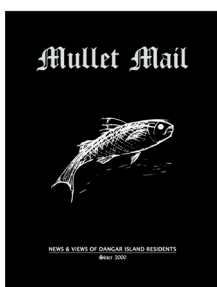
Deadline for Summer ed. #73
9th March 2022

[email: mulletmail2020@gmail.com](mailto:mulletmail2020@gmail.com)

Check out the colour version and past editions of the MM at www.dangarislandleague.com/mullet-mail

This publication is sponsored by the Dangar Island League and Rural Fire Brigade.

The Mullet Mail team are:
Cybele Shorter, Genevieve Ginty, Lisa Hayes, Gareth Tillson, Kathy Merrick, Jonathan Sykes and Brenda Hall



NOW SELLING

Buy a tea-towel and help keep us in print.

100% cotton and guaranteed to fade over time on the line like all good tea towels. We think they're pretty cool and we hope you do too.

Cost is \$20 for one & \$35 for two.

Available at events on the island, keep an eye out for the team selling them, or by sending orders to mulletmail2020@gmail.com.



Dear Mullet Mail

Lulu Bosnic

We came to the island at the end of October and noticed there was a Haiku Challenge. Very interested, me and the kids walked around trying to find all the creative Haikus. Unfortunately, we only found 2, "Here is a Haiku..." and "Morning Kiss, Lipstick....". But it still inspired the kids to make their own Haikus.

At night, we walked to the beach with head torches, and gazing at the stars from a distance, my 10 year old Marcus had his first Haiku...

Gigantic black holes,
making an immense spiral
for the sake of life

and then when we saw a jelly fish on the beach,
my 8 year old Eliza made one too...

Jelly fish swimming
through the cold ocean,
watery, slimy, gooey, Ouch!

Thought to share with you and let you guys know
how much we appreciate the effort everyone put
in. We really enjoyed it!

Returning here to live is truly a blessing in
disguise. First morning on Dangar this time,
having my coffee on the deck, the poem of Robert
Aitken and quote of Sylvia Boorstein came to my
mind; I put them together as below, maybe that
can express my feeling a little bit.

When wayward thoughts are persistent
I vow with all beings
To imagine that even the Buddha
Had silly ideas sometimes.

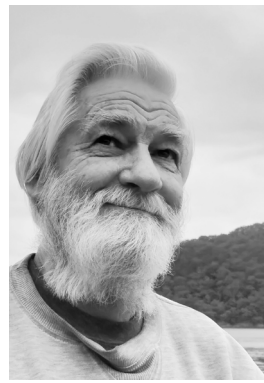
When traffic bumper to bumper
I vow with all beings
To move when the world starts moving
and rest when it pauses again.

Raking the leaves from my garden
I vow with all beings
To compost extraneous thoughts
And Cultivate beans of the Tao.

Now I am sitting at the deck of the Blue House
Filtering through the rays of the morning sun
May I meet this moment fully
May I meet it as a friend



*Lulu Bosnic: finding
inspiration*



My Name is Covid

Bruce Lambert

Bow down before me,
you wretches of humankind.
As was and will ever be
your weakness is in your mind.

Fear and loathing is amongst you
for I am everywhere.
Each surface now a challenge
best caution to take care.

No more a friendly handshake
such contact now a danger.
The fear of death perhaps
in every other stranger.

Close contact now forbidden
with others of your kind.
Dark thoughts may soon emerge
in the recesses of your mind.

Many are the times
when death has walked beside.
The names of pestilence are many
though too many to abide.

Of polio and H.I.V.
the memories remain.
Though The Black Death and smallpox
need someone to explain.

Yet of those times in history
coming closest to demise.
The mind of man seemed sharpest
much to my surprise.

My powers are now waning
though would seem reasonable to assert.
For all your so-called freedoms
best you forever remain alert.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge
Bruce Lambert for many years contributing to
the Mullet Mail. Bruce has been an honourable
island character for 46 years. He has often told
tales of old times on the island, with a catch
phrase "Years ago...", and sometimes brings
a quirky twist to current issues, like today's
poem. This poem marks his 50th published
work since edition #23 in 2008.

Cybele Shorter, MM

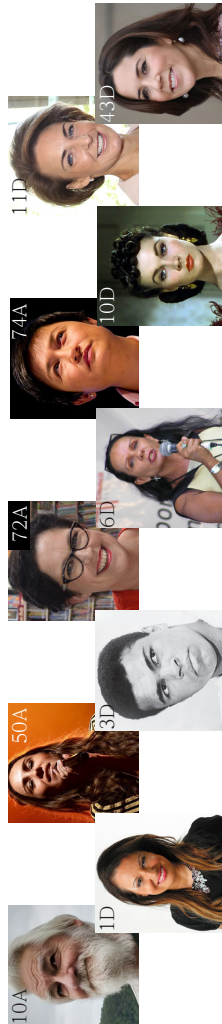
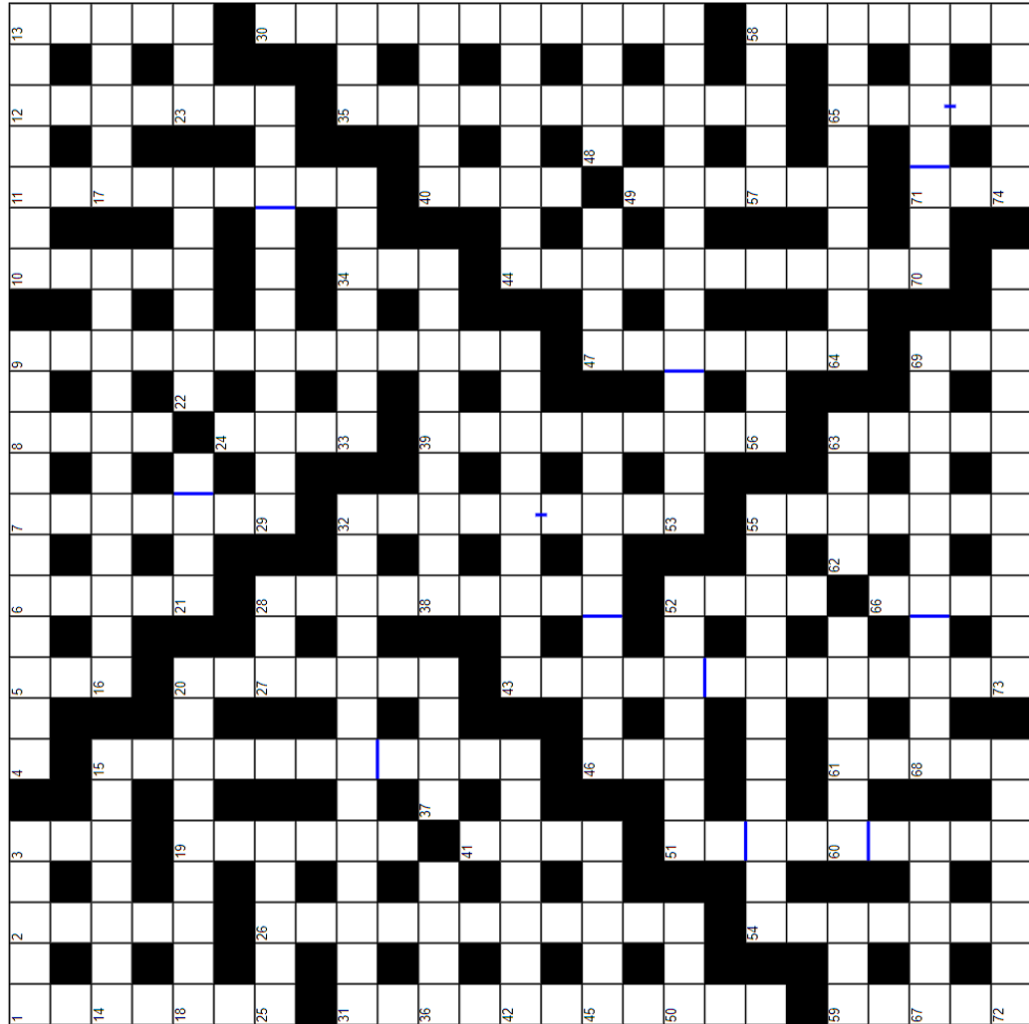


Chico's Giant Holiday Xword #019



General knowledge, wordplay and curly crypticity in 86 clues for your lazee dayze this summer. Gather the gang, take your time and enjoy it. I'll open a thread on the Dangar Island Community Facebook group where we can help each other solve it. Cryptics are marked with a ©.

Jonathan Sykes, MM



Across

1. Situated 100km from Sydney, its historic mall is planted with flowering cherry trees (5)
4. © Controversial ace bowled the French runner's chip (11)
10. (See pic) Island bard (7)
14. © Spanish royals' dogma is commonsense (7)
16. © Belgians had beaten up Asian (11)
17. Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Etta James, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley all recorded on this label (5)
18. Added sugar (9)
21. See 63d (3,1)
22. This "tree" grows in the Mojave desert between 600 and 2000m elevation (6)
23. Family subject of HBO's Succession (3)
25. Capital of Jordan (5)
27. Egg-shaped machine part (3)
29. © Carn! William confused about the punishment of offences (8,3)
31. © African river takes left, hesitating to have friends around rock types (1,3)
33. Cousins share one of these (7)
35. © Letter starts to promote heavy industry (3)
36. Australian Cave (4)
37. Lotion (4)
38. © Babs takes one new primitive (9)
40. River running from Graf Park to Botany Bay (5)
42. Wide area (7)
43. Shakira, cumbia and a Darlinghurst hotel (9)
44. © Bombardment of central tray in vessel (7)
45. Elections (5)
46. Series of organisms each dependent on the next for food (4,5)
47. © Respect anxiety (4)
48. See 74a (4)
50. (See pic) Her 2018 album Love Monster debuted at #1 in Australia (3)
51. © Means twist ends in T (7)
53. Alternative to carburation (4,9)
54. Classifies (11)
56. © Steam contents for infusion (3)
57. Garret (5)
59. Mongrel (3)
60. First name of Burke, Hilary and Blackadder (6)
62. © Only fair! (4)
64. Point of earth's surface vertically above an earthquake's focus (9)
67. Heavy, black, stoner, speed or christian are all types of _____ (5)
68. Opposes or disagrees with (4,7)
70. © Three points! Period for annual celebration (3,4)
72. (See pic) Author and journalist (7)
73. © Temporary stops for cloudy liquids (11)
74. (See pic) Senate Leader of the Opposition (5)

Down

1. (See pic) Indigenous academic, law professor, writer and artist (7)
2. © Custom time follows you and I (5)
3. (See pic) Boxer (3)
5. © Globe beginning to oscillate, rattle and bounce (3)
6. (See pic) Indigenous MP and National President of the ALP (5)
7. Minor scale that is different ascending and descending (7)
8. Ebb and flow (4)
9. © Tailoring to musicians to mash-up (1,3)
10. (See pic) Star of Gone With The Wind (5)
11. (See pic) Attorney General of Australia (9)
12. © Surprised you raised it! (7)
13. Appealing (5)
15. \$20.33 per hour (7,4)
19. Entwine (6)
20. © Green inside barrel for decency (7)
24. © Right freaking emperor! (4)
26. Of local government (11)
28. © Crazy claim to be about energy for life (9)
30. Norway's largest island (11)
31. © Think about trick stencil (11)
32. No 7 in League (5-4)
34. © Spanish noble in East London (3)
35. Main character (11)
39. © Lamenting troubled agreement (9)
40. Disney Pixar trilogy on 4 wheels (4)
41. © Elephants' rights for workers (4)
43. (See pic) Title of this Tasmanian (5,8)
44. © Glad she threw money at Wagga Wagga (11)
46. Jacked (3)
47. Atmosphere (7)
49. Narrowly pass (6)
51. Pregnant (2,3,4)
52. © Stylesheets plus sauce (4)
54. (See pic) AFL Club (7)
55. © States in herb salami (7)
58. Obviously (7)
59. © Pause firm combat sport (5)
61. A bump on a ski slope caused by skiers turning (5)
63. (See pic) Musician with most weeks as Australian #1 single (5)
65. © Involve stride piano evenly (3,2)
66. High road (4)
69. © Not worth holding pair (3)
71. (See pic) Her risqué hit song with Megan Thee Stallion (3)

