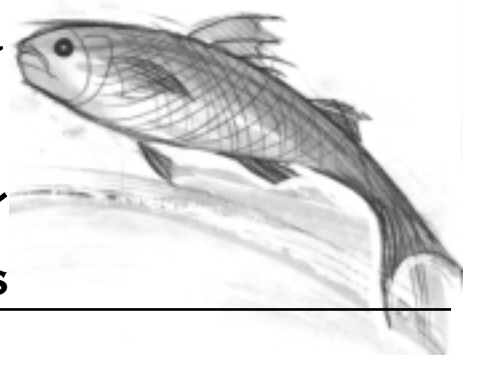


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#8

December 2001

21 principles for community sustainability

When we think about Dangar Island and its immediate surrounds - what do we all treasure? What would we all not want to lose for future generations or ourselves? At its last committee meeting, the League agreed to explore the possibility of setting up a new sub-committee. The idea is to identify and document our common ground about the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the Island and to use this information to make decisions that affect the future of the Island.

At a recent preliminary meeting a few island residents who are interested in participating in the sub-committee discussed the concept and agreed that LA21 could prove a useful framework. LA 21 is a list of 21 principles that seeks to integrate environmental, social and economic interests for a community. Developed at the 1990 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro, the principles are presented in a "universal" form, as they can be applied to every country in the world - a shared starting point for local communities to come up with a local charter, specific to their local assets and needs.

The sub-committee would be an advisory body and would not represent any individual or interest group. It would be made up of residents who not only have experience in environmental, social and economic matters as they apply to the island and its surrounds, but who also understand how these three elements work together rather than against each other to create a sustainable future for our community.

The sub-committee, being locally focussed, would provide advice to the League, and a strong link to Hornsby Council's LA21 committee where issues of mutual interest arise. At the preliminary meeting issues such as renewable energy, tourism, holiday rentals and bed and breakfasts, social events and facilities, young peoples' interests, transport for the frail and aged, commercial developments, moorings, boat pump-outs, the wharf, jet skis, riverine reclamation, tree lopping, sewage and stormwater management, fire management, recreational water quality and domestic animals were raised as being relevant to the LA21 charter. Early participants in this group include Michael Dean, Libby and Daylan Cameron, Susan Goff, Wendy McMurdo and Jenny Shanley. The group is open to anyone who considers that they have something to contribute to the Island's common ground.

We will be presenting at the next League meeting, where we will outline the 21 principles and invite comment from the floor. If we are supported to continue, our next step is to hold a community workshop where everyone is invited to help formulate the charter.

Thanks to all those who made the first meeting possible.

Susie, Daylan, Michael

5mm



FIRE ANTS ALERT

heard of these ferocious little beasties???

Originally from South America, *Solenopsis Invicta* [the invincible] was identified in the suburbs of Brisbane in February this year.

Fire ants sting like mad, causing severe allergic reactions in 1 of every 100 victims bitten. They can be confused with the common brown ant, but are much more aggressive and attack in swarms.

Extremely prolific and long-living, they have been spreading throughout Florida and Texas, in the US, over the past decade, and residents there report that they can no longer enjoy

outside leisure activities. In Brisbane the situation is similar in some areas.

They are attracted to electrical equipment and can cause short circuits and even fires.

All round bad news, there has been a report of a fire ant colony on Dangar Island [now hopefully eradicated] from a local resident who found some in a palm tree pot he had purchased from Queensland.

So Dangar residents, be extremely careful about importing soil and plants and check vigilantly if doing so, as once established these nasty critters could make our lives a lot less pleasant.

NSW Department of Agriculture says that if you think you have seen a fire ant habitat, do not disturb the nest. Immediately call the NSW Agriculture hotline on 1800 888 251.

editor, jenny s.

References

NSW Department of Agriculture
www.agric.nsw.gov.au

John Taylor
abc news online

Juan-Carlo Tomas
SMH 31.8.01

This newsletter is produced under the auspices of the Dangar Island League in order to inform the community of the issues in which the League are involved on behalf of the community. The Dangar Island League represents the community to Council and other Government bodies, whose decision-making processes affect the quality of life of our community. Resident groups such as the League give structure for these bodies to respond to; ARE listened to, and often give more weight to an issue, than individual contribution. Residents with a community issue that they wish to take action on, can approach the committee with view to form a sub-committee for that reason. Meetings are held in the community hall on a regular basis.

Current positions are held by the following residents:

- PRESIDENT:** Cath Phillips
- Vice President:** Hendrikus van Hasselt
- Secretary:** Leyla Moncelet
- Treasurer:** Manfred Merle
- Committee:** a Dorrough
Mario Castiglioni
Liz Trevena
Suzie Goff
Leyla Moncelet
Jenny Rowe
- Pedestrian precinct sub-committee:** Ana Pollak
Jenny Shanley
- Newsletter:** Jenny & Heather D

Contributions to the Mullet Mail are very welcome and can be left at the shop post office facility. If possible, please include digital word or text document on floppy disk. Alternatively, email to jshanley@ozemail.com.au. All contributions will be considered and published depending on available space.

Island Community Centenary of Federation Project

The Island's historical records are an important and valuable resource. However, the DIHS's photographic collection consists mainly of early 1900s images and very little of how the Island has changed over the years.

In this Australia's Centenary of Federation year, the Society would like to gather together a photographic record of the Island as at the end of 2001. To this end we invite the Island Community to submit a photograph of what your house/boatshed/block of land etc., looks like now and hopefully sometime next year we can have a "then and now" exhibition. You can:

1. Leave your photograph/s, addressed to the DIHS, at the General Store before the end of December. Don't forget to put your street address on the back.
2. If you are unable to submit a photograph the Society can do this for you, although obviously we'd prefer to keep costs down.
3. If you don't want a photograph taken on your behalf, could you please phone Joanne Cameron on 7141 before the end of November.

Barbara Zydenbos

MEMBERSHIP

Want to know more about Dangar Island's fascinating history? Annual membership to the DIHS is open to everyone - \$5 per family or \$3 per individual. Payment, together with your details, can be left at the General Store addressed to the DIHS. Membership fees, donations, and proceeds from the sale of the Historical Guide to Dangar Island, all help to conserve the Island's historical records.



BOOK REVIEW

Falling Woman

BY BELINDA CASTLES

Falling Woman reminds me of Raymond Chandler; the terse, painstakingly crafted prose and at the centre of the mayhem the accident or the kind act, its moral purity obscured in layers of weakness and desire. This is a good thing, and an easy way into this angst-ridden, chaotic tale - to understand the story as pulp fiction from behind, the Lady In The Lake from the point of view of the lady.

Local author Belinda Castles, a Pom herself, tells the classic immigrant story of Rebecca, a young Englishwoman floating above a glittering Sydney, on the run from the demons in her backpack. Rebecca still quaintly uses English words like duvet and laundrette, yet remains totally rootless in her flight towards the postcard romance and deep sexual fulfilment of her vivid and insistent dreams.

Cursed by the fear of love as a weakness, scarred by a damaging affair in London, always defaulting to chemical oblivion, she witnesses a strange, nightmarish suicide. She works as a waitress in the revolving restaurant at the top of the Centrepoint tower, and one night looks up from the linen to see a woman and her child fall past the window.

Already in too deep with her lover Jonathan and his old, symbiotic friend

Bushcare News

Everyone is welcome to join us, even if you only come once to meet us and ask for helpful hints re on avoiding the use of poisons. Someone you won't meet though is Sarah Galvin, who has been our backbone for a number of years. Sarah is taking a well deserved break. Thankyou Sarah for all your time and effort

Recently visitors to the island have commented how well our bush is looking. We are proud of what has been achieved over the years. From individuals concerned by weed infestations to our recent incarnation as a council monitored and protected group, well trained and co-operative. We have agreed on strategies to enhance the integral biodiversity of our area.

If you take a walk around Riverview Ave you will see, just above the road, beautiful and delicate plants in all the nooks and crannies, flowering and flourishing. Especially slow down near the south and check out the insect catching plants and the one-leaf orchids.

If you wonder why your roadside bush is not doing as well perhaps you need to think a little about all the exotic plants competing for space or how much water you dispose of in the soil. We get out there every month to weed the reserve, watch the notice board at the shop for dates, and you can come and talk to us about how we do it and apply this to your patch.

Cybele
bushcare volunteer

DEERUBBIN ISLAND

FILM SOCIETY NEWS

Blast from the Past

Did you know that ... "Jim Stanbury was the first white person born on Mullet (Dangar) Island. He was born in February 1868 and was the World Professional Sculling Champion from 1891-1896 and again in 1904. He was so strong he could load telegraph poles onto wagons unaided and could snap saplings off at the root. Jim Stanbury died in December 1945." (*Daily Telegraph "Sportifacts" 13 Jan 1975*). Something in the water perhaps!

SMWS?

You probably don't know what that means. Well, it stands for Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services Inc. The purpose of this organisation is to assist with the rescue and rehabilitation of injured wildlife in the Sydney Metropolitan area, which includes of course, Dangar Island. Spring time is usually the busiest time for the SMWS, because quite a few young birds leave their nests just a little bit too early for their own good and have to be sheltered from the elements and protected from cats and dogs until they learn to fly.

So what can you do if you come across an injured or sick native animal or a young bird in distress? Provided you can do it safely without injuring the animal or getting hurt yourself [beware of sharp claws, teeth or beaks, even if the animal looks cute and cuddly], pick it up and put it into a suitable box. Cover the box with a towel and take it to a quiet and sheltered place. Don't worry about the parents rejecting their young because you touched it with your hands. That's not true. And don't worry about food. The bird or animal is probably in shock and needs time to recover. Then ring the SMWS on 9413 4300 or contact one our two local

NOTICE OF AGM

Saturday 8 December

3pm

Dangar Island League
at the Community Hall

AGENDA for ordinary meeting

Minutes of previous meeting
Incorporation of League
League Logo Competition
"Dangar Do" update
McKell Park update

AGENDA for the AGM

Read Minutes from the previous
AGM
President's Report
Financial Statement & Auditor's
Report
Election of Office Bearers
Election of Hon. Auditor
Motions on Notice

child fall past the window.

Already in too deep with her lover Jonathan and his oid, symbiotic friend Adam, Rebecca becomes obsessed with the life of Kathy, the falling woman, subconsciously locking onto the metaphor for her own life the tragedy represents. From this moment flows a florid, hallucinatory cascade of yearning, intrigue and betrayal as Rebecca grapples with the mountain fever of her emotional bankruptcy.

The story feels real, the evidence all around my own life, and in short, punchy sentences, the narrative rips along irresistibly. I found myself stumbling up steps reading it, my train journey not long enough.

Weak points? The two men feel at times like thin, unconvincing exposititional makeweights, like the women of Paul Theroux to take a recent example from my library. Few writers manage the opposite sex well: Iris Murdoch is a rare example. But as events unfold between the threesome of Rebecca, Jonathan and Adam the interplay of love, truth, lust and blokeness feels real and not preachy, the character development merely late for its appointment. There are some clunky moments in writing which at times feels like blank verse it is so economical. Blobs don't peel, and yes the city rushes by oblivious, when does it not? But the neatly sketched metaphor ("*Joy trickled slowly from a pipe in my chest*") and the bold tonal shift are always around the corner and pleasing to behold when you get there.

It's a short book, too thin if it were longer, easily read and intense enough to ponder awhile. I ordered my copy and waited a month, but inner city shops may have some.

Jonathan Sykes

DEERUBBIN ISLAND FILM SOCIETY NEWS

Cybele reports:

Thankyou to everyone who came to our Horror fundraiser in October. We had a great time and hope you enjoyed yourselves too. We made enough money to keep going for another year.

We'll follow the same format as last year. Chabela Torres and Alison Page are fantastic as our children's programmers, and everybody has been taking turns to choose for the other nights.

We are hoping to bring a new event to the island next year called FLICKER FEST.

We are an open group, though we have no formal meeting structure, and new people are getting involved as time goes on. Come along and watch, or come and get involved, everybody is welcome.

Last Saturday of every month, rain, hail or shine.

Michael reports:

Following the [spectacularly successful?] Horror theme cocktail night, last Saturday saw DIFSoc screen a selection of films from the science fiction genre.

A curious audience were treated to comedy/satire/animation spanning the last century, including the earliest known science fiction film, from 1902, Moliere's "A Trip to the Moon".

The film is loosely based on a novel of the same name by Jules Verne, depicting an expedition of eminent scientists and captains of industry setting forth ambitiously for the new world, only to retreat in disarray following a hostile reception by the moon's aborigines.

true. And don't worry about food. The bird or animal is probably in shock and needs time to recover. Then ring the SMWS on 9413 4300 or contact one our two local members, Manfred Merl [7419] or Anne Truman [7578].

Many birds plus the odd blue tongue lizard and ring-tailed possum have been in our care over the years with some rewarding and encouraging results. But unfortunately there are at present only two of us on the Island, and Anne and I are not always able to care for our precious wildlife. Therefore we would like to encourage more people to join us. So, if you are interested in attending a very informative and enjoyable training course with SMWS on how to care for injured wildlife, especially birds, please let's hear from you.

Manfred Merl

"Les Astronauts" (1959), the team of Walerian Borowzks and Chris Marker pioneered the animation techniques (accompanied by a mix of light and darkly absurd humour) later employed by Monty Python.

Finally, "The Time Masters", the second feature film by Rene Laloux's (famous for 'Fantastic Planat') entertained both adults and children with cartoon characters and lush animation.

Following criticism of the limited publicity for the evening, DIFSoc November guest presenter Michael Dean has been teleported to a retraining facility in a galaxy far, far away. The next film night is December 29.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

4 bedroom house, north facing, 4 min from ferry, huge verandah \$340 per week, 12 month lease call 9985 7136

NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE

Most indigenous to Dangar, for sale to residents, cheap @ 3 tubes for \$2 - now in stock - *Banksia serrata* [old man banksia], *Hovias* [medium shrub with purple pea flowers], *Kennedia rubicunda* [running postman, climber] - come and have a look!, *Rushes* [great for soaking up septic damp] plus more. Phone Heather Dorrrough 9985 7729 [seeds propogated on requested]

YOGA CLASSES

Tuesday night 7pm-8pm by donation [50% to hall funds] Bring a mat. Wear loose clothing. [ph 9985 7060]

Classifieds for private or commercial postings which are relevant to the community such as cleaning are invited for the next *Mullet Mail*. Commercial classifieds are \$10 for a display ad, \$5 for a listing; private by donation. [will be spent on production of MM]

STOP PRESS.

The island community is greatly saddened by the death of Sheila Walker early Tues: morning. (NOV.27)