



Eastern Osprey. Photo: Bill Lynn-Robinson

Return Visitor

Georgia Lynn-Robinson

Meet the Eastern Osprey! I have been recording the birds on Dangar Island since 1987 and I have only ever seen the Osprey on one other occasion – August 2017. He was sitting on top of our flagpole, exactly as he was 4 years ago. Our resident bird expert, Ben Miller, says he has never seen it here. It is rare or absent from closely settled parts of south east Australia.

To take a fish, the Osprey plunges into the water feet forward, submerging in a plume of spray with wings raised. About 90% of dives are successful and the bird emerges from the water with fish in talons, aligned head to aft, “torpedo style”.

How privileged we are to be host to this magnificent creature.

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!

Slow walk on Larapinta Trail, NT

Pauline Foote

In May, Lindee and Greig Horman and I flew to Alice Springs to walk the Larapinta Trail in the Tjoritja. We planned to do this walk last year, but the first COVID outbreak kept us at home. Weren't we lucky to get out this time?!

The Trail starts at the Old Telegraph Station just out of Alice Springs, and follows the ridges and valleys of the MacDonnell Range, finishing 250kms to the west of Alice.

Each of the 16 days' walking was filled with wonderful sights and surprises to absorb. Walking is a great way to travel through this ancient landscape and its ecosystems. A slow pace gives you a chance to take in the magnificence of the place that constantly presents you with new and wonderful plants, rocks, landforms and sounds of little birds. After a couple of days we all relaxed into walking at our own pace, stopping every now and then to take in the colours, textures, smells, sounds and changes from one valley to the next.

Most days we walked about 16kms, some days were longer. The walk is challenging because the track requires you to concentrate on where you put your feet. The chasms and drop offs are filled with large boulders and trees thrown down

continued page 2...



Sitting on Courts Point, looking west to Mount Stroma



watched the budgies ducking in and out of tree hollows, fluttering about feeding their babies, or preening each other.

Each night we climbed into our swags to watch the glowing night sky. Out where there is no light pollution, the Milky Way is so bright it's almost impossible to close your eyes. Each night we watched the Dark Emu stretched out from its head to its feet moving across the sky as the Earth rotated. At the darkest time of night, you can see the clouds of distant constellations (Magellan Cloud). Central Australia is very beautiful Country, and I am grateful to the Arrernte people for caring for it.

narrow gaps in the last big flood. The tracks are mostly loose broken rock and at times obscured by thick grasses and spinifex. Climbing to the top of long steep escarpments, we went over broken granite, red quartz and limestone, where we saw the fossilized ripples of ancient shallow sea beds.

Little birds chattered all the time. There were flocks of green and yellow budgies along the rivers and finches in the savanna grasses of the valleys. At lunch, some of us lay in the dry riverbeds or under trees, and



Top left: Heavy Tree Range, Valley Walk
Left: Ormiston Gorge, Pound Walk

For further information:

<https://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/plan-your-visit/bushwalking-hiking/larapinta-trail>

<https://www.treklarapinta.com.au/>

or follow this QR code



Reviving our Community Hall

In September 1966 our Community Centre was officially opened. Here we are 55 years later and it is rarely used let alone the 'centre of our community'.

A sub-committee of the League has recently formed to tackle this issue. We have a vision of a thriving public facility that enhances the culture of our unique isolated river community.

That's not how it is now, so let's make things better. We need your input to understand your needs and hopes for our shared public space?



Let's hear your wishes, values and experience
Follow this link to have your say:
<https://forms.gle/NwiTwAV5aHRZvxxz7>

Closing date 30th September

Thanks from Cybele, Lisa, Liz and Wendy.

Don't know anything about the issue? Check out the latest Mullet Mail video article from Gareth Tillson's series by scanning the QR code or follow this URL:
<https://youtu.be/ESGvr6JhMRkv>





DangArChibald 2021 - coming to a studio near you

Kathy Merrick

For those who are still craving their annual cultural fix, having missed out on attending the 2021 Archibalds in person, local artist Sandra Burns will be bringing her very own take on the Archies to a studio in our own lockdown zone.

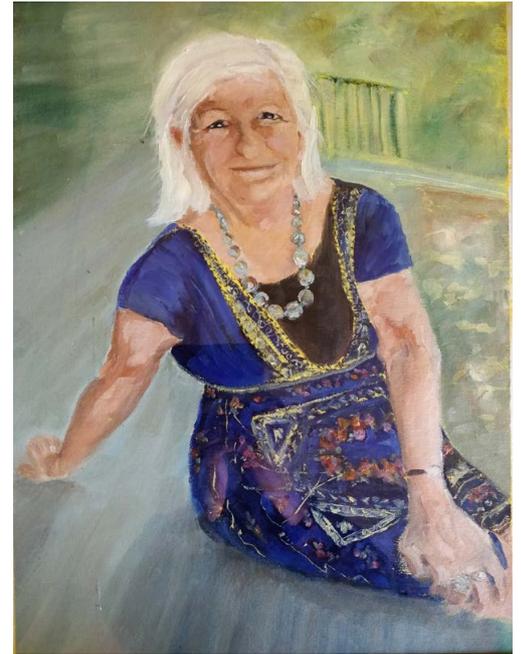
Many of us attended Sandra's inaugural River Portraits exhibition earlier this year. Inspired by the UK reality program Portrait Artist of the Year, Sandra set herself the challenge of painting portraits of Dangar Island and other Hawkesbury River folk, in each case within strict time constraints.

The resultant portraits are delightful and fresh, capturing the essence of their subjects without the burden of heavy detail. Works were snapped up by the sitters, and taken home for a small donation, with all money raised given equally to our two local emergency volunteer organisations, the Rural Fire Brigade and the Community First Responders.

Buoyed by the success of Series One, Sandra is re-stocked with paints and canvas, brush in hand, and has already completed a number of portraits for a Series Two exhibition. Sandra paints island and river folk from photographs and the subject does not see the result until the exhibition day.

Gladys willing, the exhibition of River Portraits #2 will open at the end of October or early November. Should subjects want to take charge of their portrait at the end of the exhibition the donation system will be back in place to replenish paint, canvas and other supplies, with surplus funds again being donated to volunteer groups on the island.

Portraits of Judy Latats (above) and Cindy Smith (right) by Sandra Burns



Spring is in the air and we can see green shoots sprouting

and the slower pace and quietness gives us all a chance to contemplate. The river is coming to life with dolphins, seals, whales and turtles being seen around the island. Perhaps it has to do with the lack of noisy boats and the river inviting the wildlife back to test out an impromptu rewilding. It is a constant reminder of how lucky we are to be living in such a beautiful place and perhaps one of the benefits of where we find ourselves.

We have deferred our annual general meeting until December when hopefully we will be able to gather together once more. All places on the committee will be vacant and if anyone is interested in joining the committee please feel free to have a chat about what is involved.

Telstra are yet to submit their DA to council. Once that happens there will be a consultation process. Again the lockdown is likely delaying this.

The League is looking into recycling on the island and if anyone is interested in joining a working party please get in touch (info@dangarislandleague.com).

Lockdown has deferred Hornsby council elections, which means the Brooklyn Place Plan has been pushed to later in 2022. We are

always emphasising to Council the need to widely consult with the community when it comes to any changes to the current parking arrangements. We are also looking at the Council's Car Parking Management Study as Council is using this as the basis of its policy. If anyone is interested in joining a working party on this issue please let me know. We continue to work collaboratively with the Brooklyn Community Association on the issues that are important to everyone in our wider community.

We are fortunate to live in a place that is both beautiful and safe. Let's all help keep it that way by following the rules and getting vaccinated.

Stephen Boyle, President DIL



How Fireproof Is Your Plan?

The winter months have seen our volunteer members kept busy in search & rescue activities (thankfully all with positive outcomes), hazard reduction (HR) preparation and support, as well as COVID safe equipment maintenance. We are also very proud to have had Kathy Merrick officially recognised as an RFS Crew Leader. Huge congratulations Kath!

The HR burn the brigade had planned for Kiparra Park Reserve in late August was postponed due to wet weather. We are still hoping to have the burn proceed in September and will keep the community posted as soon as we have a revised date.

Whilst HR prep and execution have kept the Brigade busy recently, they are only one of the ways that we as a community can mitigate the risk of bushfire impacts.

Bushfire preparedness really does start at home.

The 2021-22 fire season officially starts on October 1st. We encourage all islanders to prepare their homes.

- Have at least 1-2m cleared area around your home
- Trim tree branches and shrubs that are next to or overhanging your home
- Clear all leaf litter & debris from under and around your home including roof and gutters
- Remove flammable materials from around the home (gas bottles, chemicals, petrol, etc)

We all leave the green bin empty some weeks, but over the course of the year green bins allow for the removal of approximately 6 cubic metres of green waste

per household. This is in addition to the annual 3 cubic metres allowed for bulky green waste kerbside allocation (next pick-up scheduled for 24/11/2021 so put it in your diaries).

Removing debris from close to your house and storing in a compressed pile reduces its ability to burn quickly due to lowered oxygen and higher moisture content. It can be used as garden mulch, or as a quick way to fill the green bin and make sure you are making the full use of your 9 cubic metres annually!

Josh Ginty - Community Engagement Officer

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

Keep your eyes open for Dangar's contactless Get Ready Weekend details on a poster near you.

In the meantime RFS MyFirePlan material can be found on the QR code link.



Dangar & Brooklyn Brigades attending the Porto Ridge HR. Photo: Martin Lloyd

Gauslaa Gifted

Wally Bower and Jo Karcz

Geoff and Steve Gauslaa, like all of us, were disappointed that their afternoon tea had to be postponed. Instead of waiting, we gave Geoff and Steve part of their gift.

Each received Bunnings Gift Cards to the value of \$950.00. The remaining money bought Thank You cards and a 'memory' book in which you will be able to write your own message when we finally do get together. On the day, we will present flowers to Narelle and Shane (Steve's and Geoff's partners).

Geoff called Wally to thank Islanders, saying that he was "blown away" and "overwhelmed" by your generosity. They are very much looking forward to getting together for afternoon tea when we are able to do so.

Drivers Wanted

Want to do something for your community?

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

Want something to do in these times of lockdown?

Your commitment can be as little or as much as you like.

BE A BUGGY DRIVER!! You'll need a current NSW driver licence.

Contact Judy Nikola if you are interested 0415 488 606

We follow NSW health guidelines:

- The buggy has a check in QR code. Please ensure you do the right thing. Contact tracing saves lives.
- Drivers wear a face mask for your protection. You also must wear a mask and maintain 1.5 metre distance.
- We avoid mixed bookings unless the neighbour is in your Household Bubble.
- To reduce cash handling, consider our new EFTPOS travel ten cards. Current offer of free 11th ride. Call 0499 935 103 to get one.



Hours of operation:

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

Following negotiations with Hornsby Council, your vehicle committee has gained their approval to reduce the buggy fares to \$5 & \$2.

Recycle Right

Michael Neville,
Waste Management, HSC

Council's Waste Management Team has recently been contacted by residents with their concerns about waste and recycling collection services on Dangar Island.

Some residents have notified Council that materials from the yellow (mixed recyclables) and green (garden organics) bins had been collected by the waste collection truck at some properties. This is correct, however there are specific reasons that this happened.

When Council's contractor, Cleanaway, arrives at your property they assess whether there are incorrect materials (contamination) in either the yellow or green bins. If they estimate that contamination levels are too high, the materials are collected by the waste truck instead. A whole truck load of recyclables can be rejected at recycling facilities if contamination is too high.

On the 'mainland' this situation is managed by tagging bins to alert residents to the problem. Residents then have to contact council direct to have the bin collected on the following day. However, this isn't possible on Dangar Island as collection vehicles only visit once each week.

The graphics below explain simply what can and can't go in your yellow and green bins.

If you would like more information, please contact the Waste Hotline on 13 70 30 or visit <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/waste/recycling>

Recycle right

Accepted:

- Glass bottles and jars (lids removed)
- Newspapers, books, junk mail, magazines (remove plastic covering)
- Cardboard, pizza boxes, paper, milk and juice cartons including tetra packs
- Aluminium cans, clean foil, steel cans, empty aerosol cans
- All rigid plastic containers and bottles used in the kitchen, bathroom or laundry including food, beverage, shampoo, detergent and household cleaner bottles and containers.

NOT Accepted:

- Plastic bags, soft plastic packaging, polystyrene
- Food scraps and nappies, garden clippings
- Toys and clothes, window glass, mirrors
- Scrap metal and appliances
- Medical waste including syringes
- Shredded paper, waxed cardboard

Additional instructions:

- Please no plastic bags or soft plastic packaging.
- You can now keep plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers. Please ensure they are empty before placing in the yellow lid recycling bin.

Accepted:

- Grass clippings, flowers and weeds
- Pruning, leaf litter
- Twigs and small branches (up to 75mm in diameter and 1200mm in length)

NOT Accepted:

- Plastic bags, plastic packaging and food waste
- Large branches (>75mm), plastic packaging and food waste
- Timber and building materials
- Garden hoses and garden pots

Important:

- Bin lid must be completely closed
- Bin must not weigh more than 70kg
- Please don't pack your bin too tightly as it may prevent it from being emptied properly.

Additional instruction:

- Please cut your branches so the bin lid will close.



Caring for our island owls and other birds of prey

Ana Pollak

You may have been hearing recently the calls of the Mopoke (Southern Boobook) and Tawny Frogmouth at night. The island is also visited by the endangered Powerful owl. However owls are dying across Australia due to eating rats and mice that have eaten rat or mouse baits. The toxins stay in their organs for months and even years so that when they rely on their fat reserves the toxins stored in their body become too much to tolerate and they die.

We can help by reducing dependence on poison baits. Consider other, non-poison pest control, like snap traps, and only put out baits when you actually need to.



Photos: Bill Lynn-Robinson.

Top left: Wide-eyed Tawny Frogmouth, Nov 2018

Bottom left: Tawny Frogmouth pretending to be branches, Sep 2019

Make the change to first generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) or other alternatives: look for active ingredients like Warfarin (Ratsak Double Strength) and Coumatetralyl (Racumin), or natural constituents like Sodium Chloride (Ratsak Natural). Leave second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) behind on the supermarket shelf.

Make your house and garden less friendly for rodents:

- seal potential roof/wall cavity access points that rodents might be using,
- pick up any fallen fruit and ensure excess pet food isn't accessible,
- rodent-proof your chook pens and aviaries,
- replace rat-friendly palms with owl-friendly natives,
- tidy up garden waste and limit access to compost heaps,
- retain large old trees for their hollows to provide nesting places.

For the citizen scientists out there, Hoot Detective is a program for you to help scientists identify owls from sound recordings. There are audio references to help you identify each species.

<https://hootdetective.net.au/>



I'm pleased to report that all members of the CFR team are fully vaccinated. I cannot stress enough that everyone who can be vaccinated should get vaccinated ASAP. The Delta variant is a vicious strain of Covid, that is highly infectious while the carrier is asymptomatic. The only way to keep yourself, your family and your friends safe, is to act as if you already have it, or the stranger who just walked past you already has it.

- Wash your hands; use the hand sanitiser provided in shops
- Observe physical distancing rules when out, even in the open air
- Wear a properly fitted mask covering your mouth and nose
- Stay home, avoid public places as much as possible

Mangrove Propagation

Ana Rubio, Environmental Scientist (Estuaries)
Natural Resources, Hornsby Shire Council



Hornsby Shire Council was successful in securing funding under the 2019 Australian Government's Communities Environment Program to learn

how to propagate both species of mangroves that are found along the Hawkesbury River: Grey Mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) and River Mangrove (*Aegiceras corniculatum*). Propagation and planting of Grey Mangroves has been done before as this species grow faster and seeds have more energy than their counterpart the River Mangroves. Hornsby Council focused their effort to pioneer the 'how to' of propagating River Mangroves in the field and at the Council plant nursery using different methods from seeds and cuttings (N.B. mangrove cuttings required a Fisheries permit).

We can now say that we can produce River Mangroves under the controlled conditions of a nursery until seedlings are 1.5 years old and then plant them where needed. This work would

not have been possible without the assistance from Bushcare volunteers and community members who came to help with the planting of mangrove seedlings back in May 2021 at our three sites: Crosslands Reserve, Salt Pan Creek and Seymours Creek (we also prepped this site removing 300m of lantana along the creek line and doing some plantings of various native plants).

Two educational videos have been produced to raise the importance of mangrove ecosystems and to summarise the learnings from the propagation project. We were also invited to present at the 2021 Landcare conference and we have just submitted a nomination to the Keep Australia Beautiful Waterways & Marine Protection Awards – it would be nice to get the award to put the Hawkesbury in the winner agenda!



Photos supplied by HSC

above left: River Mangrove seedlings growing at Council nursery

above: Bushcare volunteers and Council staff working on the mangrove project

The earliest symptom for Delta appears to be a sore throat ... check your symptoms at

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>



AstraZeneca vaccination is available for anyone over 18, by appointment, from the Brooklyn Pharmacy. Phone 9985 7660.

Coles Online delivers to Brooklyn for orders of \$100 or more. Enter your own Dangar Island address and in the Delivery Instructions: Brooklyn Ferry Wharf, Dangar Road.

Brenda Hall,
CFR33 Dangar Island
brenda.hall458@gmail.com

The Stay-at-Home rules change frequently...

Stay up to date at
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules>



Links & QR codes

1) To project presentation
www.dropbox.com/s/lgr45exne28u8g/2021_07_29_Rubio_Increasing%20Salty%20feet%20canopy_Friday%201340_low%20res.pdf?dl=0



2) 'Mangroves – our smelly friends'
<https://youtu.be/Hrb56tFnbDU>



3) 'A helping hand for mangroves'
<https://youtu.be/Tuwd65jata0>



Native Profile: *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*

Josephine Bridge

This tree is known by many names, and one of its most ethereal - “Fairy Petticoats” - conjures images of the delicate skirt-shaped flowers, bobbing in abundance from October to January like a class of twirling Degas ballerinas.

The fringed white/pink flowers are followed by small, bright blue fruits from April to October - hence some of its other common names ‘Blueberry Ash’ and ‘Blue Olive Berry.’ The genus name ‘*Elaeocarpus*’ is derived from the Greek meaning ‘olive-fruited’.

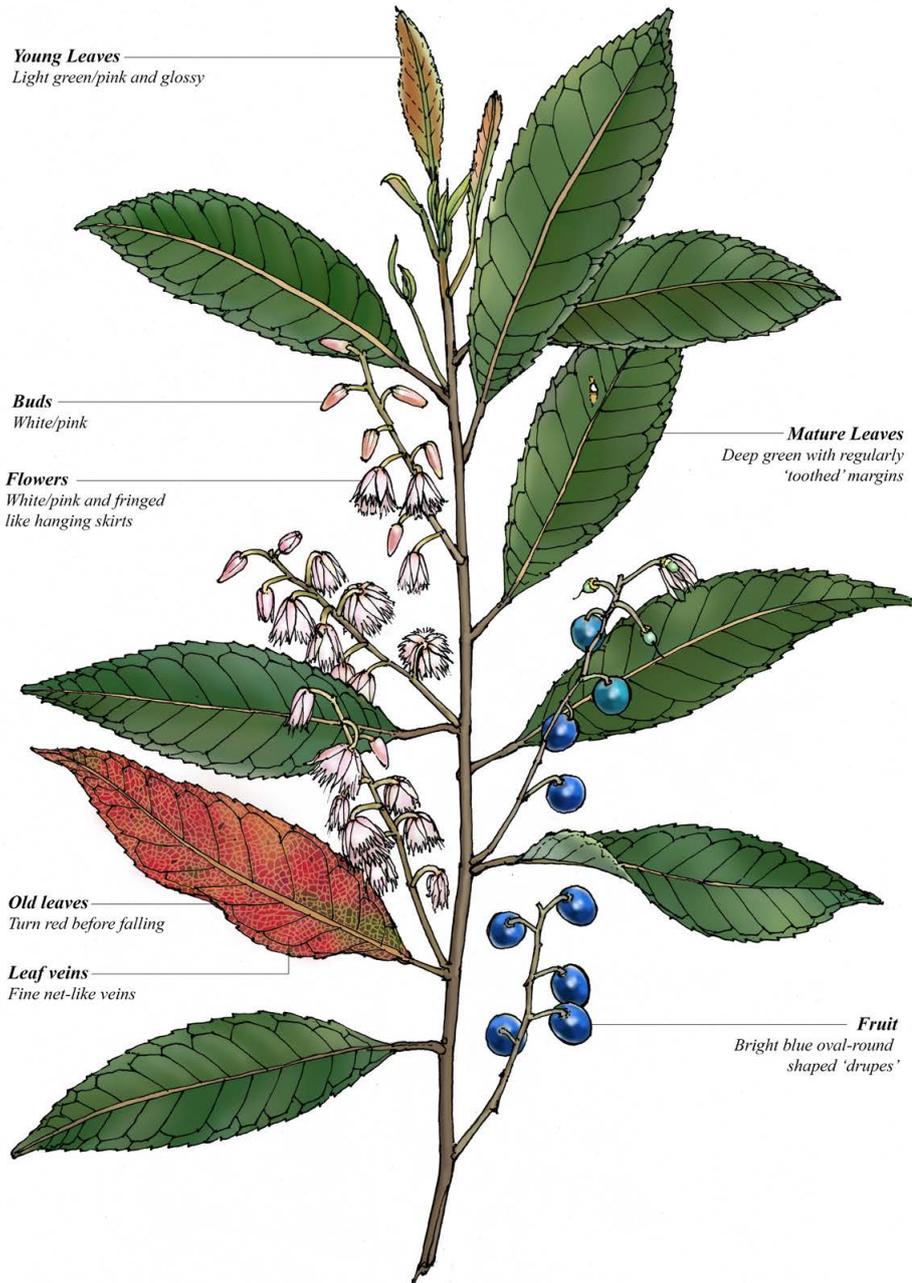


If you break one of these ripe ‘drupes’ open you’ll see it’s actually a deep red colour inside.

The flowers and fruit sit in contrast with the handsome dark green, and occasional bright red foliage. The leaf shape resembles that of the northern-hemisphere ash tree, hence some more of its common names “Scrub Ash” and “Ash Quandong.” The species name ‘*reticulatus*’, from Latin meaning ‘having a net-like pattern’, describes the network of little veins covering the tops of the leaves.

Also known as the “Fringe Tree” and “Lily of the Valley Tree,” *E. reticulatus* typically grows 3 - 10m tall, though can reach up to 30m in ideal rainforest conditions. It inhabits many environments - from the coast to stony ridges, moist gullies to tall eucalypt forests - and can thrive in poor soils, due to mycorrhizal relationships underground. Although it doesn’t tolerate extreme fire conditions well, it actually has fire retardant properties, and is able to recover after moderate burning with the help of its lignotuber.

Look forward to seeing the darling blossoms coming soon, meanwhile enjoy the last remaining blue berries as the season changes.



Young Leaves
Light green/pink and glossy

Buds
White/pink

Flowers
White/pink and fringed like hanging skirts

Old leaves
Turn red before falling

Leaf veins
Fine net-like veins

Mature Leaves
Deep green with regularly 'toothed' margins

Fruit
Bright blue oval-round shaped 'drupes'

SCALE 10 20 50

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ōvər-wīn'tər

Winter arrived and with it the quiet stoicism of those plants that not only endure but flourish in cold weather. Cavolo nero with its deep green cruciferous leaves and curly kale, maintaining poise as the temperature dropped, supplied comforting verdant nourishment. Parsley prevailed as well - patient, implacable, almost indifferent, to our eager harvesting.

As Delta took hold, and the island locked down, households got busy in the kitchen preparing meals, helped by a small but steady supply from the community garden.

We found solace too, worshipping at the Bowlo temple, where chef Sharon aka Madam Flip Flop, island veggie goddess and epicurean deity, whipped up a winter storm, soothing us with heartwarming takeaway meals including wonderful pumpkin soup (made from DiG's second harvest), and the garden's stout-hearted lettuces, rocket & mistune adorning every Sunday burger.

Lockdown does have a silver lining or two, giving us the opportunity to slow down and take in the rare beauty of this place we call home. With a little more time to spare, DiG's been active: constructing new beds on the north bank next to the Tom Taj and planting a new crop of baby veg, some seed harvested from last year's crop.

To say it's been a rough few months is a bit of an understatement but we're a strong, spirited, robust bunch, well used to facing these kinds of challenges together with consideration, kindness and a healthy dose of humour. So for now let's be grateful for the simple things, like growing veggies and putting food on the table and hopefully, one day soon, we'll be sharing a meal together again...

(P.S. Remember DiG is an organic garden using natural fertilizers and compost please wash vegetables thoroughly before consuming. When in the garden please wear a mask, wash your hands and stay physically distanced from others. As this is a kitchen and community garden it's a resource for all islanders to use but please do so respectfully taking only the outer leaves allowing the plant to continue to grow and provide. :-)

See you in the garden!

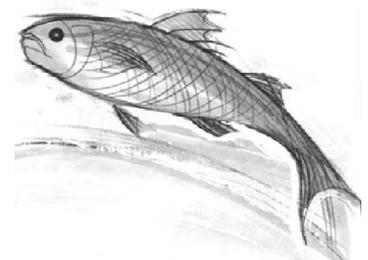


The Janus Arch, created by Marti from local driftwood
Photo: Mish Moore

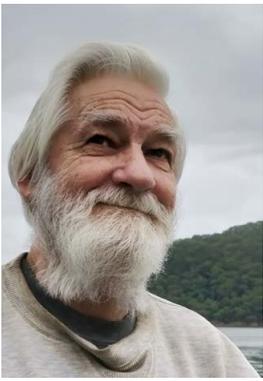
...Ah, world, what lessons you prepare for us,
even in the leafless winter,
even in the ashy city.

I am thinking now
of grief, and of getting past it;
I feel my boots
trying to leave the ground,
I feel my heart
pumping hard. I want
to think again of dangerous and noble things.
I want to be light and frolicsome.
I want to be improbable beautiful and afraid of
nothing,
as though I had wings

*Mary Oliver,
From Owls and Other Fantasies*



Opp page: *Cockatoos by Mel Anderson*



The Old Wooden Fence

Bruce Lambert

The striation of your palings bear witness to your age. Such momentous times in history you endeavour to assuage.

For God and King and Country they sailed off to lands, a few Those Diggers could not realize they returned with Spanish Flu.

A frightening pandemic the like of which unknown. To any in living memory the damage it had sown.

An epidemic one could fight whilst the good times did prevail. That is until the bubble burst and we struggled to no avail.

A growing time of misery of despair and humiliation. Such economic damage the greatest in our nation.

But soon the drums of war were beating once again. A people now united as they moved toward their ken.

Victory when it came hard won with sacrifice. An economic boom to come but could we pay the price.

A post-war boom saw people come from every distant land. Now tower blocks and units march out across the sand.

Your simple little cottage that once had such a view. Now lies forlorn and gutted as the workers came for you.

They set about with gusto at the very fabric of your being. Secure in the knowledge more tower blocks would be seeing.

A pile of half burnt timber is all that they have left. Those memories of history now totally bereft.

Epilogue: Both of my mother's parents died within weeks of each other at the height of the Spanish Flu pandemic.



Medical staff and workers from the Riley St Depot, Surry Hills
source: records.nsw.gov.au



Book Nook

by Penelope Sheppard

'The Woman in the Green Dress'

Written by Tea Cooper

Published 18 November 2019

Easy to read and enjoyable without being unputdownable – good for a lazy Sunday afternoon.

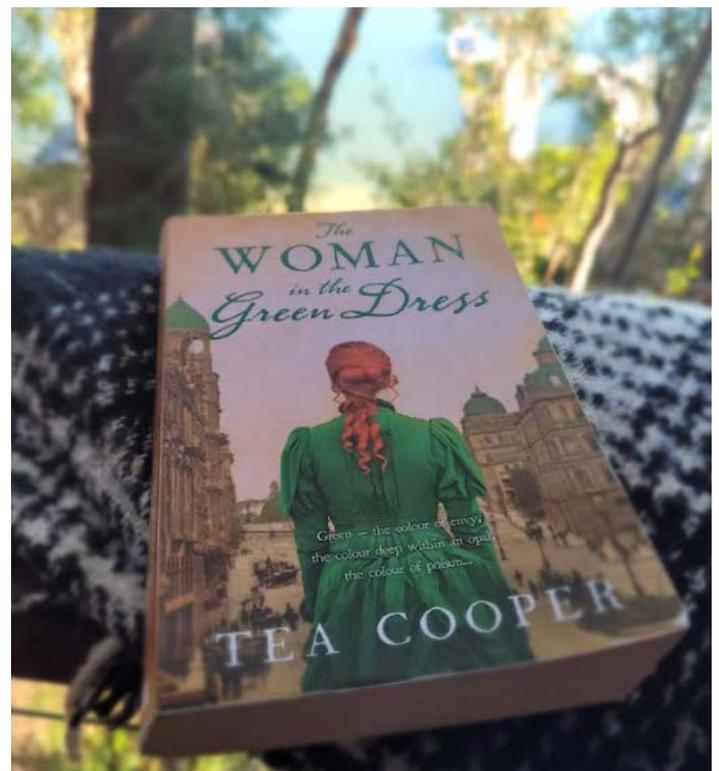
The woman in the green dress by Tea Cooper is a historical novel set in Sydney and the Hawkesbury River. It follows the stories of two women, Della Atterton in 1853 and Fleur Richards in 1919.

Fleur travels to Sydney from London after inheriting two properties from her Australian husband who was killed in the war. She is in denial about her husband's death and hopes that by traveling to Sydney she'll find that he is still alive or at least find some of his family so she can return the inheritance.

She lands in Sydney and we follow her as she learns about her inheritance, a property at Mogo Creek on the Hawkesbury River and a boarded up 'Curio' shop on Hunter Street in Sydney.

At the same time, we learn about Della Richards from 1853 who inherited the same property and shop from her parents. Della lives at the property at Mogo Creek and taxidermies Australian wildlife or 'curios', for the shop in Sydney.

Fleur's story intersects with Della's when Fleur uncovers a mystery from the past.





When A Magpie Warbles

Marina Garvey

When...

the kookaburra calls
the morning splits open.
Cicadas storm in
holding a single, shrill note.
Sulphur Crested Cockatoos screech
In raucous reply.

Until...

Until a magpie struts along the balcony ledge,
then stops,
and lifting its strong beak to the sky
warbles deeply,
a deep and joyful song.

I really enjoyed this book. I loved reading about Sydney and the Hawkesbury River in 1919 and 1853. In 1919 Fleur takes a journey up to Spencer via Brooklyn on the Riverboat Postman. I was delighted by the feeling of recognition as she passed through here. It's a rare thrill to read a book and feel such a strong connection to the setting.

Although it's fun recognizing the places, the character development isn't great. We don't ever understand Fleur's life in London enough to understand why she would travel all the way to Australia to find her husband's family with the aim of returning the inheritance. The book suggests that this is because she doesn't feel she deserves the inheritance and hopes she'll find her husband alive and well in Sydney. However, with limited backstory, I didn't have any sense of her love for her husband. I didn't get a sense of her basic character, so it's hard to believe that this waitress from 1919 London is prepared to give up a huge inheritance and travel half-way around the world to find someone to give it to.

I found Della's story more interesting as it describes the Hawkesbury area in 1853, how she survives and receives deliveries to the property at Mogo Creek, and her relationship with the Darkinjung people from the area.

Let me know if you'd like to borrow it.

Below...

A pair of plovers insistently guarding the foreshore,
their needle legs paused as if in notation,
ready to grab those quavers of quivering air.

And yes below...

The fat and serene water dragon sunning on the path
is mesmerised,
its eyes, round and unblinking in wonder
as throaty bubbles of warbling sound burst and
splash around him.

Then...

A sleek, green tree snake,
now roused,
slides with shivering grace from behind the rock wall,
but soon slips out of sight under the shed,
its scales, just for a moment, glinting in the sun
like fine iridescent blades.

Listening...

The Tawny Frogmouth Owl resting on an
overhanging branch
silently withdraws
and then like magic
sinks softly
into the muted eucalypt green and brown
of leaves and peeling tree bark,
before losing itself, again, yet again in hushed
dreamy sleep.

But still...

The magpie's jubilant warble
drifting over the river
becomes a blessing.

Catching...

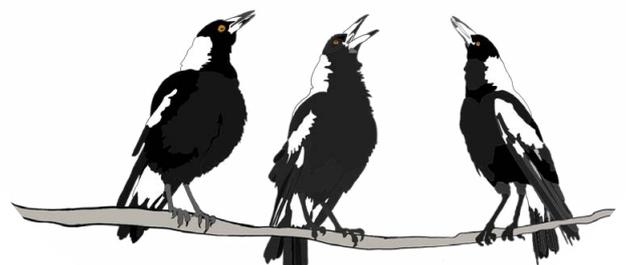
The attention of a pelican who turns its long neck
and opens its sagging bill expectantly
as if ready to scoop up fragments of song
now floating like confetti on the water's surface.

Yes....

Yes, when the kookaburra calls
and the morning cracks open your bedroom blind
you know it's time.

Yes, it's that time...

When a magpie's magnificent warble
will sing
you into a whole new day.





Frock Up Friday

Angela Brinn

It's the latest lockdown community activity: dress up in your fancy clobber or do your Friday exercise walk in your deadly threads, and share with friends on the socials!



Cindy, Mel and Angela dressed to the tens, socially distanced and mask free just before outdoor masks were added to the fashion accessory must dos!



no social distancing required

Spoonville

Alana George

There are some new residents on the island and unlike the rest of us, Operation Stay at Home does not include them. Introducing the people of Spoonville – a small community of colourful Spoonfolk in Dangar's Community Garden. Perhaps you have a wooden spoon at home that is looking a little sad - it might be cracked or maybe it makes everything taste like fennel... Why don't you frock it up and send it down to the Spoonville party to join some new friends? Let's see how big and diverse* the party can grow over the course of lockdown.

*Spoonville is inclusive of all kitchen utensils and does not discriminate based on functionality.



Films to watch

Jonathan Sykes

No public screenings of course, so here are some things I've enjoyed lately. Catch up with us on Facey for a chat about these, or any film – just search Facebook for DIFS.

I Am Not A Witch - SBSOnDemand

This second feature from young Zambian-Welsh director Rungano Nyoni is a gem. American films tend to be very focussed on justice, and how it can be achieved with guns. In young Shula's rural Zambia, injustice is just a fact of life, and her extraordinary story is comic, tragic, spooky and beautiful all at once. Nyoni's arrestingly original images like the witch truck, the bathing politician and the off-screen argument show but don't tell, leaving them still with you days afterwards.

(part of the MIFF Selects stream on SBS – check it out).

Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten - ABC iView

Exciting biopic about the late Clash frontman who would write whole albums worth of amazing lyrics in a single session. Frank and surprisingly warm contributions from two former bandmates.

My Name Is Gulpilil - ABC iView

In his final film, the great Australian actor David Gulpilil faces his extraordinary, dizzying past and, staring down death, his own mortal future.

Cancelled Plans - extract

Jo Karcz

This week, I should be in Broken Hill, having a milkshake at Bell's Milk Bar, discovering White Cliffs and Silverton and exploring the Menindee Lakes, which for the first time in years is full of water and birdlife.

I am sad to have missed out on my holiday, but it was only a holiday. For the hotel and tour company it was their livelihood. I feel deeply for them.

Instead of being in Broken Hill, I'm at home. Like you, my world has shrunk.

As a retiree, I'm lucky. I have a roof over my head, I don't have a job to lose or young children to home school. I live in a beautiful part of Sydney surrounded by nature and easily accessible bush walks.

But without work, and my hobby of exploring Sydney at a standstill I have little structure to my day.

Like many I am anxious and on edge, not keen to leave the house unless absolutely necessary. I'm learning to take each day at a time and to not feel guilty about not doing much.

I walk a bit more than I used to and bake more than is good for me. I religiously listen to the 11am press conference, and apart from reading trashy novels do little else. And yet when I get into bed each night, I wonder where the day went.

The Bowling Club has continued to operate through lockdown with takeaway food and drink specials on offer for the community and still opening four days a week. It is truly heartening that everyone is supporting the club through this time by purchasing meals and drinks. It really is keeping the business afloat and keeping two of our favourite islanders in work!

Sharon has been doing a great job in the kitchen making wonderful fresh takeaway specials every week and she has also become something of an expert in the pie making department! We've now settled on the menu below for opening.

Weekly specials are announced on Friday via our Facebook page and it pays to order early because some nights do get extremely busy!

Please order with Sharon directly before the times listed below. Otherwise, Sharon is too busy cooking up a storm to check her phone.

We're working on an online ordering system, so hopefully we'll have news of that in the next edition of Mullet Mail.



Leanne can also help you with a good range of wine and beer specials at low prices - some cheaper than the mainland! And we've now started selling 1.89L glass beer bottles for takeaway tap beer. We have Reschs, Ekim After Battle Pale Ale and Young Henry's Newtowner available. The bottles are fully reusable and cost \$10. To fill them with delicious tap beer is a snip at \$20.

Sadly, all of our live events are postponed, but you can be sure that we will be presenting live music again as soon as restrictions allow.

Steve Griffiths

President of the Board

Thurs: 6pm to 8pm - **Pizza Night**

Fri: 6pm to 8pm - **Weekly specials + Pie meals**

Sat: 6pm to 8pm - **Weekly specials + Pie meals**

Sun: 1pm to 3pm - **Fish'n'Chips, Gourmet Burgers and other treats from the lockdown menu**

Order **BEFORE 5.30pm** and **12.30** for lunch with Sharon via FB Messenger or SMS on 0419 163 381

Please place orders after 5.30pm, with Leanne at the club on 9985 7083.



What Arn Cooks

Mullet Mail

MM: So, thanks for agreeing to speak with the MM today. We're really looking forward to interviewing someone who goes by a single name, and to peering behind that gruff exterior to discover the secrets to Arn's delicious cooking!

A: My pleasure

MM: When and why did you take up cooking?

A: When I left home at age 16 because I was starving.

MM: Did your parents cook

much at home?

A: I mucked about in the kitchen with my father helping to make homemade chutneys and sausage rolls. I think this was the German heritage coming through.

MM: And how about your mum - any skills you learned from her?

A: How not to burn a steak.

MM: Would you regard yourself as a cook or a chef?

A: I am not trained. I just cook.

MM: So how do you explain your skills in the kitchen?

A: Practice. No one else was going to do it.

MM: Kaf tells us that two of her favourite vegetables are zucchini and eggplant. Do you have any recipes that use them?

A: None that I like! I guess you

can't really go wrong with baba ganoush - has to be smoky and garlicky. Actually miso eggplant is ok - even I will eat that. The best eggplant I have ever had was cooked by Steve Griffiths. Zucchini is best served in an antipasto - chargrilled with lots of flavourings - or as an extender in a soup.

MM: So what have you got on tonight's menu?

A: 2 inch sirloin on the bone. I might make a pepper berry bush tucker gravy to go with it.

MM: And for sides?

A: A can of cold spaghetti with chilli. Actually maybe a grilled tomato and broccolini lightly fried and deglazed with lemon, and a truffle mustard.

next edition - Arn's famous gravlax recipe



In The Habit

with Crispin Friar

Robin Loosely of Grantham Cres, who is still stranded in Portugal by the COVID lockdown, asks neighbours to please mow his front lawn, but not, under any circumstances, go in his shed.

Angitha and Pradeep Venkataragavan have been blessed with their fifth child, Myfanwy, who is unexpectedly Welsh.

Speaking of the Land o' Dragons, local historian Bryn Morris-Jones has convincing evidence that TikTok, sushi and pre-stressed concrete were all invented in the diminutive British principality. He explores the Cambrian origins of everything from pantheism to Pop Tarts in his forthcoming book *Evans Above! - 1000 Things You Wouldn't Believe Are Welsh*, launching in the Community Hall next Wednesday.

The Fire Brigade has asked local teenagers to advise them in advance of any large-group vaping, as smoke sightings are being called in to 000 from the freeway. And still with matters municipal, the council has announced the public wharf is now a free-for-all, but asks locals to leave the signs up at least.

Phase VIII of the Yallaroi Millennium Project has entered the consultation period, featuring further localised widening, the addition of a stepper machine for the Flab-to-Abs treetop gym, and the statue of John Howard AM to be raised onto a 4-metre granite plinth. Submissions close a week on Friday.

East Point stalwarts Julius and Wendell celebrate 19 years on Dangar Island at The Cabana this weekend. Keen numerologists, they say the three houses of 19 are the Snake Chakra, rebirth and white wine.

True Story

Craig San Roque

Mother calls daughter for lunch

'Come out of your little world now and have lunch.'

Daughter, 'it is NOT a little world - it's a BIG world.'

Mother, 'Well you come out of your world and come into our world.'

Daughter. 'I don't want to go into your world...'

PS. This is a true story heard by me. 'Daughter' is anonymous... but she does live on Dangar - which is a very big world.



Creative Bunch

Joanne Karcz

After setting off this morning on my regular walk around the top of Dangar Island, the latest creative contribution made my day. I chuckled out loud and smiled for most of my walk.

To explain, I have to go back quite a few years. Islanders were challenged to create sculptures for a community sculpture walk. The sculpture walk was a huge success. While few of the creations remain, one continues to provide amusement and fun. Here is where I admit that it is my contribution.

The guard rail around a neighbouring electricity transformer provided the ideal site for the two 'racks' on which I arranged the tiles to read DANGAR ISLAND with two blanks, and waited to see what would happen. It wasn't long before creativity surfaced.

Unlike Scrabble™, there are no rules. Words don't have to be spelt correctly for the meaning to be clear. I was thrilled when someone realised that letters don't have to stay in their normal orientation. Rotating letters opens the door to a world of creativity.

I often hear small groups gathered around the tiles working out their words for the day.

Visitors and young children seem to prefer the original words "DANGAR ISLAND" while others write messages to DAN or GRANDAD. I've seen "GRAND ISLAND", "DARUG LAND", "AND IT DRAGS ON" and "HAZZARD STAL". After hearing teenagers taking selfies and laughing at their contribution, I discovered their contribution - "VAGINA".

That's what prompted me to chuckle out loud this morning.

Congratulations to Joanne: the full version of this article was published in the Sydney Morning Herald - read it here





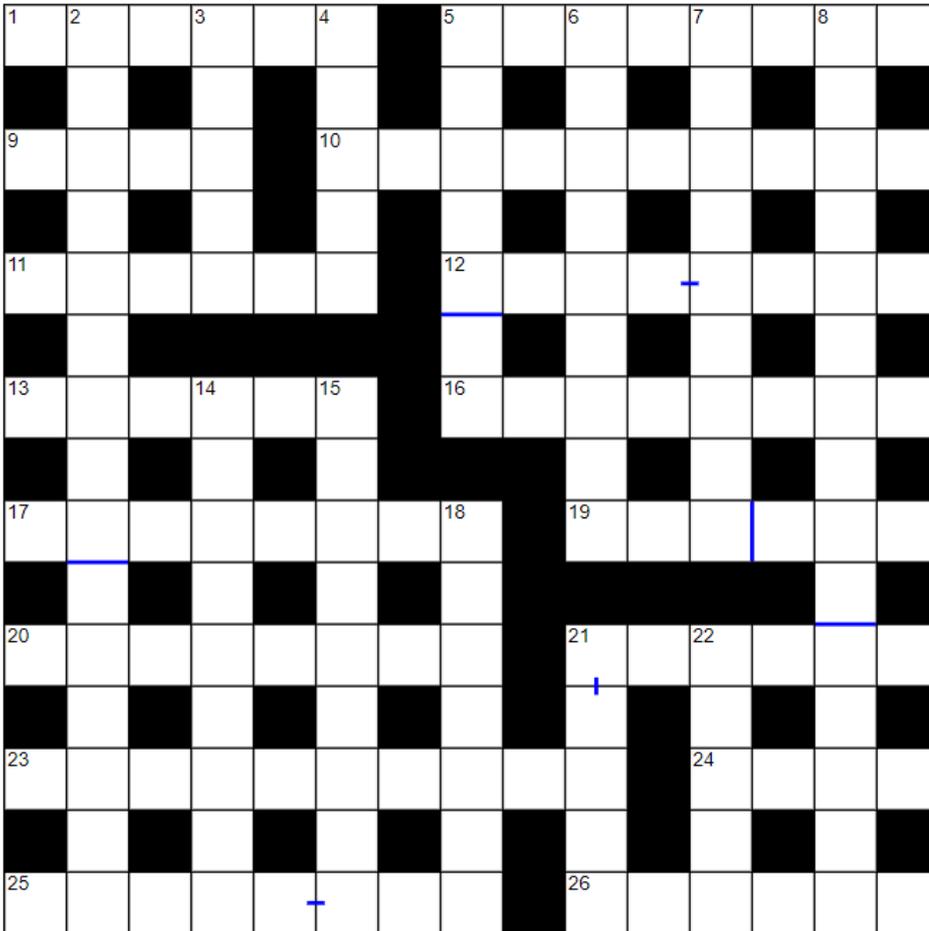
Puzzle #018 by Chico

I've got a difficult one for you this issue. Chin up; you've got 3 months to solve this thing! The QR code links to the online version, which gives you loads of extra features, even the answers!

I've also posted a thread for this puzzle on the Dangar Island Community Facebook group. Post a comment there to give or get help, and I'll offer hints if you're stuck.

This season's puzzle emphasises three classic cryptic clue types: Anagrams, Alternations, and one I'm calling Tricky Punctuation. Watch out for anagram indicators like MIX, AROUND or AT SEA; words that speak of rearrangement or disorder. Alternations assemble the answer from alternate letters in a phrase, and again there is an indicator word suggesting alternation. Tricky Punctuation really points to a general

rule in cryptics: massively distrust all punctuation. There are some conventions around terminating ?s and !s, but even those are soft. Punctuation is there to give the clue "surface", ie to trick your brain into inferring meanings that mislead you. I'll say no more...



Down

- 2) Site of protest means quarantine in chaos (9,6)
- 3) There's Parisian! (5)
- 4) Brown pigment is constant in ocean (5)
- 5) Hides push Leo around (5,2)
- 6) Vessel carrying poorly soldiers (9)
- 7) Fish chosen via lottery (9)
- 8) Number the last property on lonely street (10,5)
- 14) Reference tops of hundred and eighty scored in bull (9)
- 15) Settled against shortened odds (9)
- 18) Dishearten the girl's occupancy (7)
- 21) Second grade team of interest to fans only (1-4)
- 22) Problem child (5)

Across

- 1) Tonnes in stores made into barrels (6)
- 5) Pressure craving inconvenience (8)
- 9) "Duty!" I shouted upon hearing a glass break (4)
- 10) Prudent fellow representative (10)
- 11) Prawn farms as oddly large canal (6)
- 12) They betray full houses (4-4)
- 13) Quote Chico; "Looking back, it sickens me." (6)
- 16) "Parlez Moi, George!" evens out debut performance (8)
- 17) Unpaid junior's alien network (8)
- 19) Sycophant eyes mannequin's part (3,3)
- 20) Flounder on a quiet mathematical statement (8)
- 21) Famous mariner takes time to curse (6)
- 23) Run! Barmaid playing bass! (10)
- 24) Heard quote found by searching 17 (4)
- 25) Fail 3 o'clock period for Eid-ul-Fitr (5-3)
- 26) With such regularity one appears in lounge (6)



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