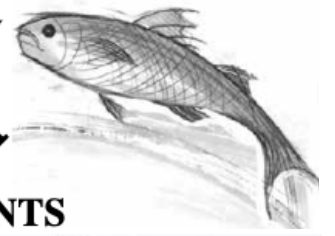


# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#78 Winter 2023

[www.dangarislandleague.com](http://www.dangarislandleague.com)



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

*Graceful Moment, Paul Taylor,  
mixed media on aluminium, 2022*



## Car Parking In Brooklyn

**League general meeting on Sunday 25 June for Brooklyn Parking issues.**

As I am sure you are aware Hornsby Shire Council is determined to re-organise parking in Brooklyn by extending the 4 hour restriction across the entire triangle parking area near the public wharf and along the water side of lower McKell Park between the Marina and the Mooring Co-op. Essentially our representations to

Council so far have been unsuccessful and we are obviously concerned about what they will do in the next phase.

The League is looking at a number of responses to the parking plan and to council's sham consultation process, including calling in the Minister for local government, and meeting with local MP Matt Kean and Council's place-making team. We need the community behind us so we can represent your views. That means we all need to talk. So please attend the general meeting in the hall: 2pm, Sunday 25 June.

**Stephen Boyle, President DIL**

## Beekeeper's Lament

**Sandra Burns**

I guess there are some who would say European Honey Bees are not native and shouldn't be in Australia. So might we say 95% of us are not native and shouldn't be in Australia. The loss of our hives on the island is for us beekeepers a devastating blow. I did not keep bees for their pollinating ability or for their honey, although both willingly accepted. I kept them for 60 years, with a couple of small breaks, as you might keep a dog or cat. And I feel so alone going into the garden in the morning seeing no stream of bees coming and going from the hives, hearing no buzzing, not being able to watch them get excited around the Salvia or Bush Basil, not hear or see them around the tree at the shop, or other flowering trees on the island.

Each hive was different and over time changed depending upon the queen. Sometimes the bees became very aggressive and covering up was essential before a new queen was acquired. My last two hives were the gentlest I can remember having, and although I always wore a net for head protection I could work the hive otherwise without protective gear, making sure there was no disease; that small Hive Beetle was being controlled; and that the bees had a good foundation to work. Not one bee would sting, although occasionally they would knock my hand as if to say enough is enough.

My only hope is that they weren't "euthanised" in vain and that the Varroa Mite will be eradicated, although I am not optimistic. If this eradication programme is successful it will only be until next time, such is the reality of a shrinking world and increasing trade. It will be another problem which will need to be managed.



## Plight of the Pollinators

The spread of the Varroa mite amongst European Honey bees in Australia didn't take long to affect Dangar Island since this pest was discovered in Newcastle in 2022. The Varroa mite kills the European honey bee and has the potential to kill Native bees which are important pollinators for our crops and indigenous plants.

Our island bee keepers who have kept the island sweet over the years with their jars of honey had to make the ultimate sacrifice to help prevent the spread of this pest by surrendering their hives. Hundreds of bee colonies in NSW have had to be destroyed to help prevent the spread of this mite.

Help with the pollination of our island vege gardens and indigenous plants by:

Avoid using pesticides that can kill native bees and other insect pollinators.

Making a bee 'hotel' for local species of solitary bees. Go to <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/bee-hotel/9440586>

Leave some ground unmown and undisturbed for burrowing bees like the Blue Banded bee.

Grow plants in clumps so they flower in groups. Bees especially like blue flowers and a diversity of colours.

Grow Plants that are local to Dangar Island. Eucalypts, Banksias, Wattles, Hardenbergia, Native Bluebell, Christmas Bush, and many more, attract native bees and other insect pollinators like beetles, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths and ants. See Dangar Island Indigenous Plant List on the bushcare page of the League website.

**Ana Pollak, Environment, DIL**

*Bee Size - comparison of smaller native (above) and huge european bee foraging pollen on same flowers.*

**Photos Jenny Pollak**

# Up River

Jann French

This quarter almost went by unnoticeably. A few low-key events while two mum's tums grew. Both strangely due on the very same day in May. Looking back nine months; no power cuts or weather events. Nothing in the rainwater.

In March a vague dozen of us slopped our gumboots through our lengthy shoreline. Suitably togged out in official Clean Up Australia kit for no passers-by to notice: sacks, bags, sharps box, gloves and first aid kit. Off we split into East and West gaggles chatting our way through the mangroves as we collected you-can-imagine and best-not-to-contemplate items for our goody bags. After a couple hours of this mundanity and no prizes for the loo seat, navigation buoy, flat fenders or even the unrecognisable LP record, we dragged the barbie out of the fire/mail shed for the usual snags and merriment after.

A Dangarite recently said, "we think we have it tough but you Bar Pointers are hardcore!" It made me chuckle. Dangar life does look cosmopolitan by comparison to our sleepy village.

Easter brought a colouring-in competition for three age categories including adults which we missed by going camping. Late April's working bee was to clean out the fire/mail shed with a view to turning it into a jollier fire/mail and gathering

shed. It's now de-spidered, decluttered and has a table and chairs in it. The décor sensibly remains fire hoses, pumps, mail boxes and barbecue - which got another airing.

In May two ready mums were booked into the same hospital because one baby was breech and the other was getting big. In a sudden pact our babies decided to scupper a lifetime of shared birthdays. Breech baby flipped so got to carry on gestating and the other... hell yeah, we ARE hardcore! Some are born that way, in a boat, by their mums!

Our other little acrobat landed beautifully a few days later during a 'four-hour dream water birth'. We are all oh so mightily proud. Bar Point would be overcome with excitement if we weren't planning a movie under the stars this weekend. Brrrr. Perhaps we'll be more boring again over winter?



*Bar Point Clean Up, Muddy gumboots and full bags.*

# Chess and Apocalypse

Gus Walsh

The Dangar Island Giant Chessboard has been my project alongside Michael Liebenberg (who organised the donations and followed up) and my dad, Evan Walsh (who painted with me and bought everything for it), for six odd months. It has been an arduous and agonising journey, but the paint is on, the pieces are assembled and named, and it is ready to use!

Of course, this is a difficult item to maintain, due to dirt, wear, and, pardon me, bird droppings. This is now a community chessboard, so let's take care of it like a community.

We're currently preparing a grand opening where



*Visitors play the giant chessboard.*

we'll have events, prizes and a barbecue, but until then, everyone is more than welcome to use it.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the fundraiser! Although it may come as a shock to many on the island, chess is not my primary passion.

Since 2017, I have been assembling a novel based around a zombie apocalypse on Dangar Island. It's undergone copious amounts of editing, refining, drafts, tears and everything in between, and now it's undergoing its final edits from my beta readers. The manuscript of Dangar Apocalypse is 80,000 words, with a sequel *The Vision's Child* already written, a third book *Rebirth* half-written, a planned fourth called *Ultimatum*, capping out with *The Dead May Not Rest*, all forming part of the *Misfortune* series.

It's far from a read for the little kiddies, as it contains gore, death, suicidal themes, sexual references, alcohol and drug use, and more. But I wrote it for the islanders, as a lot of the characters are based on you all. It's a large part of my own progression in life with friends and emotions, sort of like an autobiography with flesheaters thrown in.

Many of you will have already heard of it, and I'm looking forward to its release within 2023. If you'd like more information, have a chat, or follow my Instagram posts: [@gus\\_misfortune\\_the\\_series](#)



## Our Beloved Club

Our beloved Bowling Club closed for over three weeks to make some important repairs. The entire bar floor needed to be replaced and resurfaced, along with essential repairs to the cool room floor.

In an incredible display of community generosity, we raised just shy of \$15,000.00 through our GoFundMe campaign, and the Board would like to thank every single person who contributed. The donations covered a large chunk of the costs involved. Without this level of community support, it would be impossible for the Club to maintain the facilities of the ageing building. Massive thanks should go to the volunteers who cleared the club of all equipment ahead of the repairs and then reinstated everything when it was completed. This was a truly herculean task, so deep gratitude to everyone who helped!

The board also sent out a survey a while back to get feedback from the community and we're really pleased with the amount of people who responded. We'll be taking everything you suggested under consideration and making changes where we can.

We have an exciting program of events planned for the Winter, so we hope you can join us for some - or all - of them. Remember, our monthly Sunday events are for everyone. So, even if you don't have a ticket and you can see that the event is booked out for lunch you can always join us for a drink and enjoy the music.

### Sat 24 June - TRIVIA NIGHT with The Viking

In what we hope will become a regular occasion at the DIBC, we urge everyone to form teams and join us for a night of hotly contested trivia, hosted by The Viking - or Gareth Tillson, as many of you know him. There will be prizes! Register your team via email - [dangarsunsplash@gmail.com](mailto:dangarsunsplash@gmail.com).

### Sun 2 July - Continental Blues Party with Robert Susz

By popular demand, Continental Robert Susz and his Blues & Boogaloo Party are returning to Dangar Bowlo. Perhaps best known for his massive hit in the 80's with Dynamic Hepnotics, *Soul Kinda Feeling*, Robert has kept the flame alive since then with the Mighty Reapers and with a range Continental Blues ensembles. Robert is the benchmark for soul/blues vocals and harp in this country, and he has forged an inimitable sound and stage presence.



Robert Susz, Continental Blues Party.

### Sat 5 August - Dangardigras Winter Cabaret

Last year's inaugural Cabaret was frankly astonishing, so we're doing it all again! This will be a warm & magical winter's night of glamorous dance routines, stirring torch songs, comedic flourishes and....Drag Bingo!! Featuring the staggering array of talent we have on Dangar and surrounding river communities, this is a cabaret show not to be missed.

Register your interest to perform via [dangarsunsplash@gmail.com](mailto:dangarsunsplash@gmail.com).

Steve Griffiths President DIBC

Booking link for Robert Susz, Continental Blues Party



Follow us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/dangarislandbowlingclub](https://www.facebook.com/dangarislandbowlingclub)



Portrait of Ben Miller by Sandra Burns

## More Portraits

### Sandra Burns

There's been a lot of movement on and off the island since my last exhibition.

If I haven't painted your portrait yet and you would like to be in the next exhibition, please leave a little note in box 5Y with your name and contact details. You would be photographed, painted in oils and hung in a public show.

## Tea Towels

**\$20 each - ORDER NOW**

Please help keep our Mullet Mail in print by purchasing one of our limited edition teatowels.



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

## Easter Film Success

Thanks to community members and DIRFB volunteers alike for turning out to a fun night in the hall over Easter. Yummy treats were enjoyed by all, along with a great film and fire safety message.



Happy Jonathan Sykes at our Easter family film and fire brigade community engagement

### Dry, hot summer on the horizon

The latest long range weather reports indicate that the Australian east coast is heading back into an El Niño climatic cycle. Whilst not a bad thing for those seeking a more

stereo-typical Sydney summer than we have seen for the last few years, the drier, hotter weather obviously increases the risk of fire hazard.

Winter is a great time to start the process, I write, looking out over my own neglected garden!

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 fortnightly green bin.

For larger 'bulk green waste' Hornsby council offers an annual kerbside pick-up of 3 cubic metres for pruning and waste that do not fit in your green bin (2023 dates to be confirmed, but generally in Oct/Nov).

While pile burns are also an option for Dangar residents due to our C4 Environmental Living zoning we would always encourage the use of the green waste collection first where possible in order to reduce the impact on island air quality.

An application to burn is required year-round and can be submitted

online at the council's website by following the QR code below. When performing a pile burn always remember that approval is for burning dead and dry vegetation only. Burning of rubbish, plastics, building materials, cardboard, grass clippings, and green, wet, painted, or treated timber is strictly prohibited due to impacts on air quality.

When undertaking a pile burn outside of fire season you should also:

- Advise your immediate neighbours 24hrs in advance.
- Ensure that the fire is monitored at all times.
- Have a water source readily available.
- Only burn if weather conditions are favourable.

Josh Ginty,  
Community DIRFB

*Link to council -  
application to burn*



## Vehicles in Brooklyn

### Ray Toman

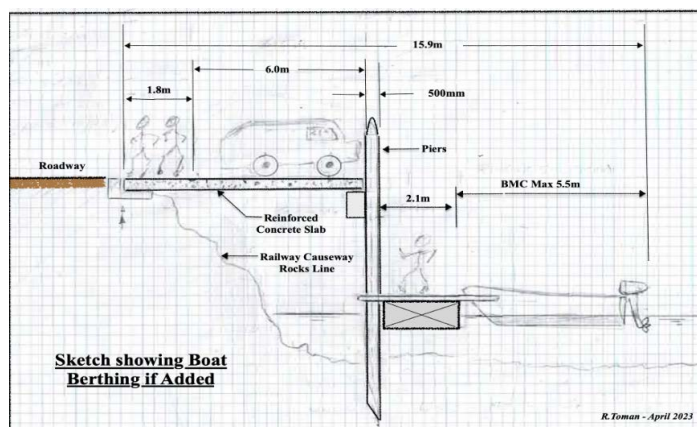
Aim: This flyer seeks to determine the level of interest among Hawkesbury River residents to participate in the creation of independently funded parking arrangements in Brooklyn. This initiative will concentrate on possible vehicle parking and commuter boat berthing opportunities on the Rail Causeway and/or in Parsley Bay.

Background: At a general meeting of the Hornsby Shire Council on 12 April 2023, the Council resolved unanimously to introduce extensive 4 hour timed parking arrangements in Brooklyn. This unfortunately will considerably affect all river residents who drive a vehicle. Overall there will be 40 fewer unrestricted parking spaces available in Brooklyn, and of the 142 parking spots around the marina waterfront, only 43 will remain for unrestricted parking.

Interested river residents are requested to register via email [r.toman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:r.toman@optusnet.com.au) Depending on the level of interest, a meeting will be held at the Dangar Island Community Hall soon.

It is hoped the meeting will formulate a plausible action plan and timetable that will futureproof some dedicated parking arrangements for Hawkesbury River residents.

Any river resident seeking further information concerning the rail causeway and Parsley Bay parking proposals should contact Ray on the email above.



Proposed car and boat parking design by Ray Toman



## Mobility Permit

I know, from personal conversations, that many die-hards in our community have not put in an application for the disability permit that they deserve. I admire you, I do, but I'm asking you to change.

For those without mobility permits, our Brooklyn home-parking could, in all probability by October, require a walk, to Upper McKell, which is approx. 150m and has a grade four times steeper than the disability code limit, with no landing breaks. Or maybe you'll take the steps ... a lot of them, uneven, with no hand-rail.

With your interest – and that of NSW Ambulance – at heart, I want you to be able to reach your car safely, even at times when the weather, or your own personal fitness, is not at its best.

Mobility permit holders can park for an unlimited time in timed parking zones, providing the permit is on display, and the parking inspector can read it. Council has justified the implementation of 4-hour parking on grounds that it will be easier for permit holders to park. If you are eligible, take them up on that, and please leave the few unrestricted spots to those who do not have a permit.

## Are your flu vaccinations up to date?

It's free for those aged under 5 or over 65, and recommended for women at any stage of pregnancy. Ask your GP or go to: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/flu.aspx>

You can get your free COVID booster at the same time as your flu jab, available at pharmacies and your GP. It's recommended for those over 18 with more than 6 months since last COVID vaccination. To get a PCR test you now need a pathology referral from your doctor. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

With the chill and wood-smoke in the air, there is an increased risk of asthma. If you have an asthma management plan, this is a good time to review it and ensure you have a sufficient supply of the medications you use.

If you or someone else in your household has trouble breathing, call 000. NSW Ambulance paramedics will be dispatched, and two or three Dangar CFRs will soon be at your location to help until the paramedics arrive. In our kit (pictured) we have Ventolin puffers to relieve a mild asthma attack (little daggers in your chest), nebulisers and oxygen for moderate attacks (can't get a whole sentence out, feeling scared), and we are trained in life-saving expiratory assistance if the attack is severe.

But don't let it get to that ... Stay safe and well this winter.

**Brenda Hall, CFR33**

[brenda.hall458@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.hall458@gmail.com)



What's in that heavy blue bag?



## A winters Tale

**Bruce Lambert**

Icy fingers do probe  
into space yet unseen.  
As the dishevelled mound of clothing  
reveals a man to us unclean.

A victim of society  
brought down by circumstance unknown.  
Whether by fate or chance  
or by deeds that he has sown.

Reduced to sleeping rough  
in a doorway or on a bench.  
Our olfactory senses are offended  
by his mortifying stench.

People shuffle past  
with their gaze now held askance.  
Perhaps if we don't enquire  
he might be in a trance.

At last police arrive  
and give him a mighty shake.  
Though all that does achieve  
is show there is no life to take.

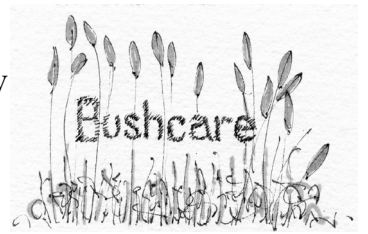
All that now remains  
a husk of life now past.  
Another victim of a system  
into which he was but cast.

No more the lucky country  
for the many who miss out.  
The glittering spoils now go  
to those with economic clout.

Perhaps we can look back  
to a time when a life did matter.  
Just a thought to muse upon  
as his ashes we did scatter.

# Native Plant Profile: *Glycine clandestina*

It's always such a joy to come across *Glycine clandestina* in the bush, especially when it's in flower. Flowering occurs predominantly in winter and spring, though you can find sprinklings of its pale pink - mauve flowers throughout the year. Its common names are Twining Glycine or, more endearingly, Love Creeper.



It has a large natural range, thriving in every state along the east coast of Australia, from Cape York to Tasmania. And accordingly, it is able to survive in a range of different habitats, from coastal zones to sub-alpine regions.

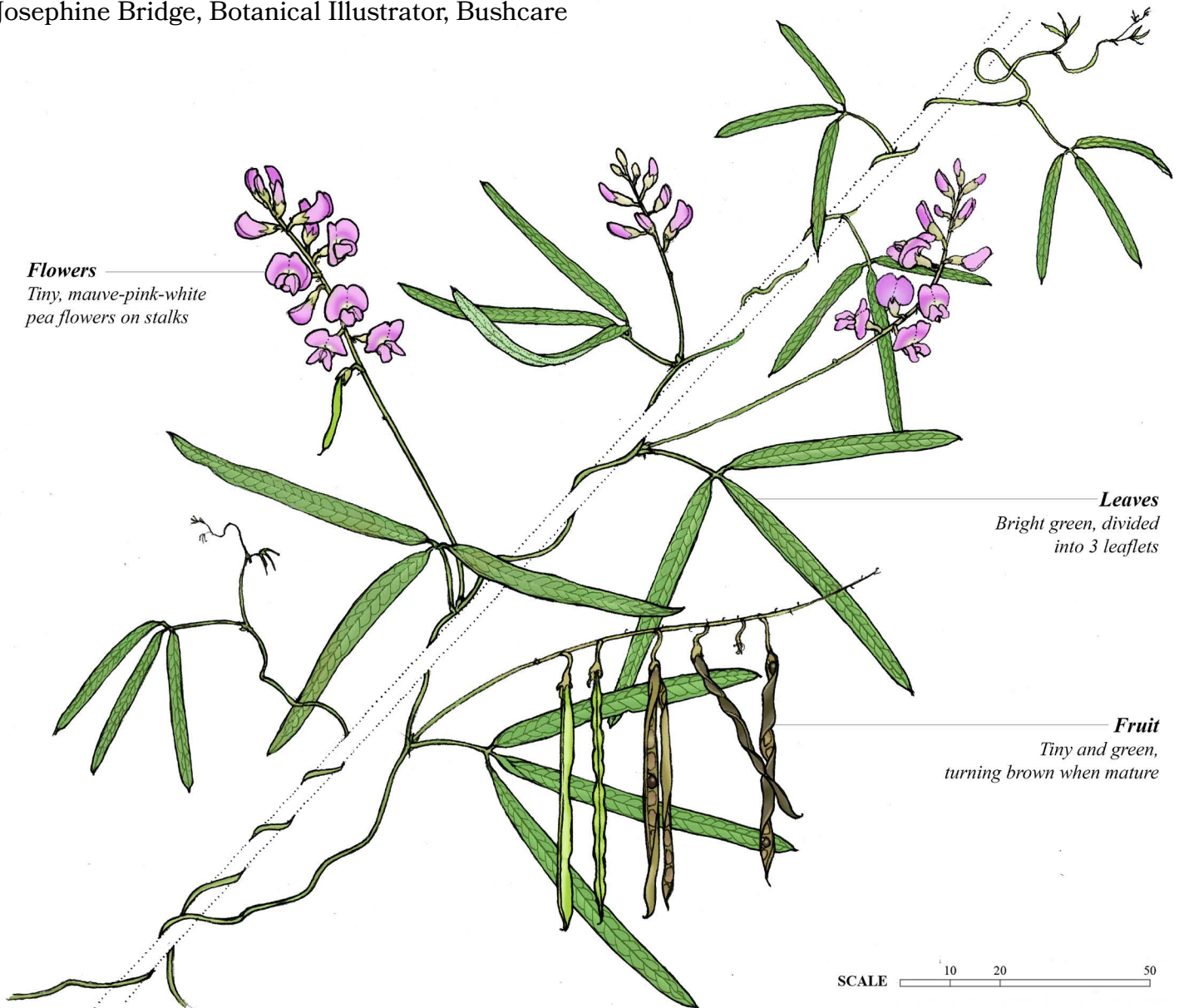
Interestingly, *Glycine* is actually the soybean (or soya bean) genus within the bean family Fabaceae. The most well known member of this genus is *Glycine max*, which you might be most familiar with from the edamame beans at a Japanese restaurant. Edamame's species name comes from the Latin 'Maximus' meaning 'the greatest,' whereas by contrast Love Creeper's species name *clandestina* comes from the Latin 'clandestinus' meaning hidden and secretive.

And it is a rather clandestine creeper, with narrow wiry stems twining around other plants for support, but never really overwhelming them. It's a polite and surreptitious little guest.

So how to find it? Its main identifiable feature is its leaves, which are trifoliolate. This means they're divided into three small leaflets which are proportionately long and narrow. These leaves occur alternately up the stem (rather than opposite each other). Flower stalks emerge from the creeper just above each leaf, and can each bear 4-18 tiny purplish pea flowers.

If a flower is fertilised, a tiny little bean-shaped fruit will follow, containing 4-12 seeds. But unlike edamame, definitely do not eat them!

Josephine Bridge, Botanical Illustrator, Bushcare



**Flowers**  
Tiny, mauve-pink-white  
pea flowers on stalks

**Leaves**  
Bright green, divided  
into 3 leaflets

**Fruit**  
Tiny and green,  
turning brown when mature

SCALE 10 20 50



# Cryptic #024

Chico & Zygote

Another tricky cryptic for the long winter nights. In this puzzle there are three multi defs. They work on the same principle as double defs, but using three or more definitions. They're much rarer than double defs,

so we thought it fair to flag them here. Also watch out for a key foreign spelling - we use Australian spelling here, so any other spellings are part of the game.



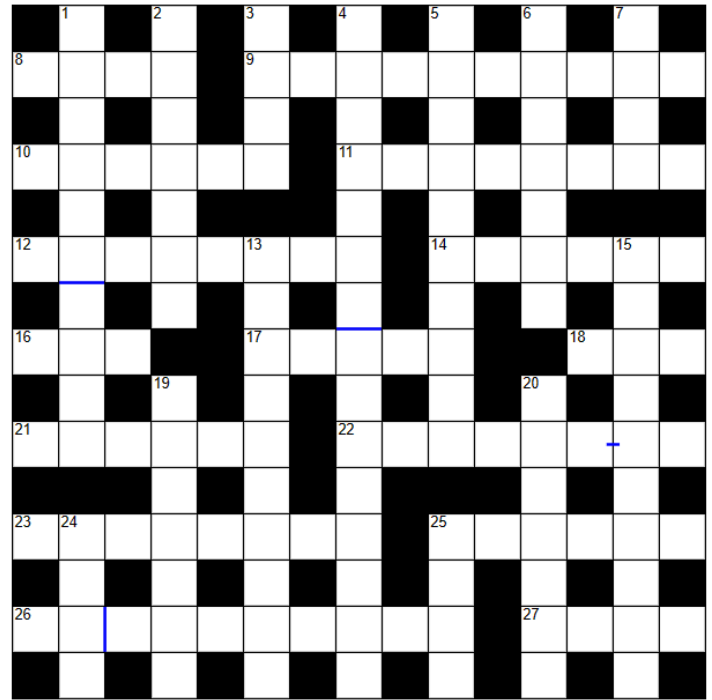
As always you can follow the QR to do the puzzle online, and give or get help at the Dangar Island Community Facebook page.

## Across

- 8 Huge in some games (4)
- 9 Seeking bedrooms for later on (10)
- 10 Policewoman starts to curse (6)
- 11 Got widely accepted (8)
- 12 Coming to terms is fitting in a dent (8)
- 14 Biggie's undies? (6)
- 16 One's charged over breaking into home (3)
- 17 Even Lea Michele busts a rhyme (5)
- 18 The same unspecified joke concerning people in general (3)
- 21 Order cream - what's in it? (6)
- 22 One there by chance, seeing European cut wages (6-2)
- 23 Acting so strangely non-committal (8)
- 25 Fool Swiss jerk (6)
- 26 'A' in Antibes reproduced while elsewhere (2,8)
- 27 Pine ridge obscures sea view (4)

## Down

- 1 A short time in millennial's pipe dream (6,4)
- 2 Shoot over transport drone (7)
- 3 Just really smooth (4)
- 4 Point to anger over limit on a settlement's disk space (7,8)
- 5 More than one joker restricts King being played (10)
- 6 Tabitha spoiled her natural environment (7)
- 7 Slothful extremes of island life (4)



- 13 Underworld figures attach things to primitive thoughts (10)
- 15 Hesitation after field reverse for defense player (10)
- 19 Disabled daunting defensive position (7)
- 20 The Spanish for 'run in underpants' is dogma (7)
- 24 Wilder code (4)
- 25 Kate mistaken for cabinet maker, perhaps (4)



Every day we have volunteers taking their turn driving the community buggy. Some people drive once a month, some fortnightly and others do a shift every week.

However each month the roster has at least 7 spots that need to be filled, and that often falls to a few superheroes who cover those gaps. Driving with us you get to know your people. The island community is strengthened every day by these interactions that keep us connected. It only takes a few

more regular volunteers joining the team to cover the roster. Muck in with the way we move! Move mountains! Move moods! Move us! Contact Judy Nikola, Trainer, DI Vehicle Management Committee 0415 488 606

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

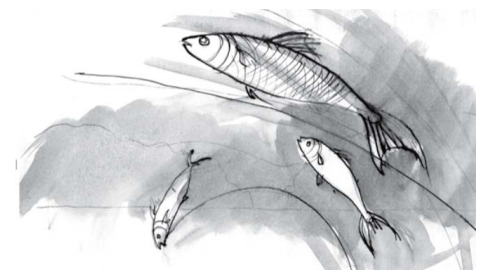


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