

## DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE PRESIDENT REPORT

The island has had a wonderful summer so far.

A belated thank you is due to Andrew from Hawkesbury River Tourist Services (the operators of our ferry *Sun*) for enabling 40-odd islanders to celebrate Christmas Eve with a "carols from the ferry" cruise. The *Hawkesbury Explorer* picked up a happy mob at the wharf and we serenaded houses along the north shore of Dangar and at Wobby Beach. The great group of singers aboard the ferry was treated to views of all the beautifully decorated houses, and the unsuspecting householders were treated to loud and heartfelt (if not perfectly executed) Christmas melodies and cheer. I think I speak for both singers and listeners alike when I thank Andrew for donating the use of the ferry and Robert, Barry and Pete for donating their time to make this fun and festive event possible!

You will have received a survey in your mailbox asking for some information on how you commute, how you use boats etc. Results will help us move forward on the issue of wharf space for the island. We would like to cover several issues with a coordinated plan that improves disability access, public access and provides "private" mooring spaces on a wharf for residents who do not have access to their own wharf. Your views on this are crucial to us in ensuring we present a plan that represents what the island residents want.

Finally, there will be a **Public Meeting at 10:30 am Saturday 13 March 2010** in the Community Hall. We'll present information on the survey results from the water access committee as well as other League matters.

Wishing you all a healthy 2010! Antony Schinckel



## NEW FIRE DANGER RATINGS AND WARNINGS

You will have seen in the media and on signs elsewhere the new national fire danger rating system. The new system includes the rating "Catastrophic". This additional rating divides the fire danger index into three significant sections rather than the previous two. Essentially the "Severe", "Extreme" and "Catastrophic" ratings provide you with more information than the previous ratings in that you can readily discern the escalating scale of fire danger.

It should be stressed that what the ratings are communicating is the likely fire behaviour that will ensue in case of an out break of fire under the predicted conditions, and not simply the "chance" of a fire occurring.

The fire threat on the Island remains as it has always been and we continue to rely heavily on the goodwill of Islanders to "do the right thing" both in terms of preparing your property well ahead of the fire season and to act responsibly once the fire danger ratings approach "High".

The Island and our surrounds have gotten through this fire season with only minor fires in our vicinity. The recent rains have been a welcome relief to our gardens and the Island generally but it will result in increased growth which in turn will lead to increased fuel levels when summer returns later in the year. Please ensure that you keep fuel levels under control and that you are ready for the next fire season starting on 1st October, 2010.

Your brigade is certainly preparing for the season already. Shortly we will be distributing to every house a fire checklist that is simple to fill out and we will be asking that you return it to us as quickly as possible. The information that you provide will then add to our data already collected and will form the basis of the DI bush fire risk management plan. Our plan will then be a sub-set of the Hornsby/Kuringai Plan. It is important that we have as comprehensive information as possible and again we will be relying on the common sense and goodwill of all Islanders. Thank you for supporting the Brigade and to all who worked to reduce their own fire risk, our heartfelt thanks and congratulations on a job well done.

As an aside, the fire boat has gone for its long-awaited refurbishment. Although it is the oldest boat in the Hornsby 'fleet' it is in generally good condition. It will be re-painted, repairs made to cabin and lockers and generally updated. It is expected to return in about 12 weeks. Until then we have the use of the Berowra Waters Boat 'Bravo'. Additions will soon be made to the fire pontoon fence, closing off the gap near the water, making it secure once again. We ask that you do not climb the fence or access the pontoon or tie your boat to the pontoon. To do so is not only dangerous, it is trespassing.

Peter Short, Captain, The Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

DIRFB 2010 AGM ~ 27th March

## AUSTRALIA DAY - A BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of the Dangar Island League, Dangar Island Cafe & Shop and Hornsby Shire Council we would like to thank everyone who helped make Australia Day on the Island such a success. It was a great effort and many, many people contributed to make it a special day and make Dangar Island[ers] proud.

The response from the visiting public has been very positive and the feedback received has complimented the Island on its friendliness and hospitality. People enjoyed the shop, the Club and all the wonderful open house exhibits.

Some attractions on the day...The island tours by David Reynolds were fully booked out. The art exhibitions, organised by Miranda Dines and assisted by many others were a tremendous success with four open houses and the Community Centre full of art. Charlie Hill tackled a spit roast and Wally Bower battled 8 hours straight at the shop BBQ. Later Pavarotti (Ross) and Manfred had to do time in the cool room after their stint at the Club barbie. Pav recovered in time to lead us in a sunny version of Advance Australia Fair as the flag was raised at the Bowling Green. Marine Cabs and the Ferry were flat out transporting people across the river.

Will we do it again next year? Share your ideas at the next Dangar Island League meeting (13th March) or leave feedback at the Cafe & Shop. To all who helped on the day, again a big thank you, it proved that we live in a fantastic community.

Antony Schinckel and Chris Innes

## INVASION DAY 2010: THREE'S A CROWD...

Australia Day 2010 left the residents of Dangar completely aghast as an estimated 1,200 visitors swamped our shores, swelling the population to approximately 1,500. The council-funded venture to open our doors to the general public soon ballooned into an enterprise of mammoth proportions, leaving many wondering if it was the largest crowd ever assembled here. A quick search through the island's history has led me to believe it wasn't, with 3 previous events challenging for the honour.

Firstly, the opening of the original railway bridge on May 1st 1889 saw a very large number of visitors to the island for the official banquet on the huge pontoon moored alongside the public wharf (photo below). The Sydney Morning Herald the next day reported 2 trains carrying 700 guests from Sydney, and another with 100 from Newcastle arrived in Brooklyn, with 3 steamers ferrying them to Dangar Island. With the 450 odd workmen living here at the time, plus the press and other onlookers, the numbers may have nudged 1,500 but there is no official record of the total.

Another Australia Day, this time in 1988, saw the Bicentennial celebrations on the island, with the re-enactment of Governor Phillip's arrival here, tall ships on the river and across at Parsley Bay, a rock concert featuring Jon Stevens. Again, there

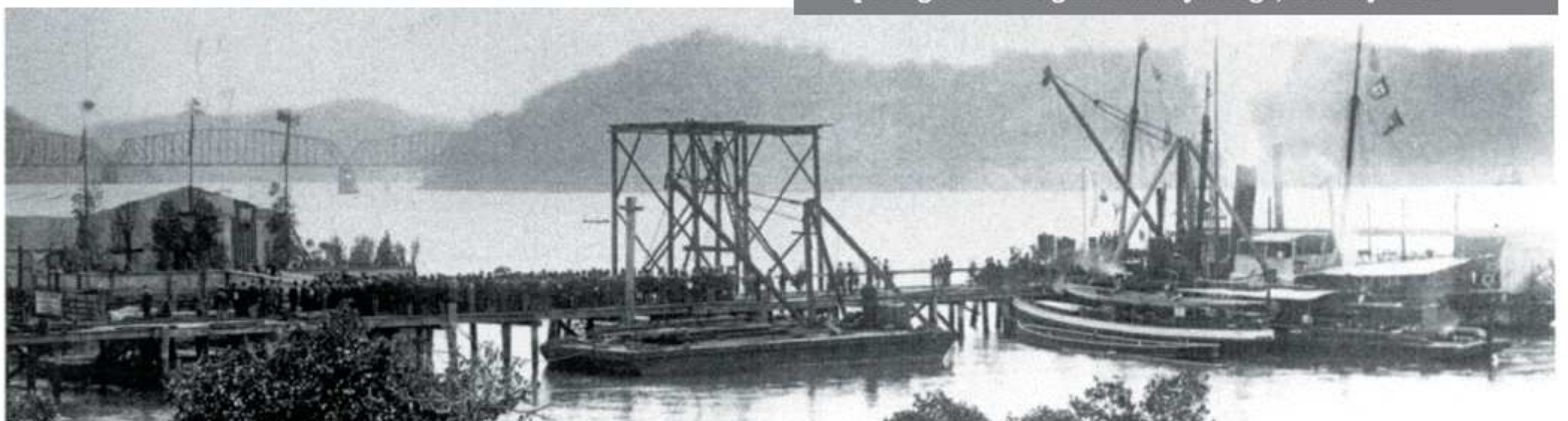
are no official crowd estimates but long-term residents assure me there were at least 1,000 visitors, so along with the residents the total of 1,500 may have been reached.

But the largest crowd was reached on November 12th 1984 when a record number of 1,660 competitors from 415 boats lined up on Bradley's Beach for the start of the Bridge To Bridge. When you add support crews, family, friends and the island residents there would have been close to 2,000 people on Dangar that morning! Pedants may argue that not all racers would have been standing on land at the same time, or that only land above the high tide mark can be counted as the island, but surely the total number to stand on Dangar that day was a record.

The largest number of overnight visitors would probably have been during the mid 1970s on the eve of the Bridge To Bridge race. In those days race competitors would camp here overnight, with tents stretching the length of Grantham Crescent (when it was ALL grass!) and also in the park next to the bowling green. The Saturday night was always a rowdy affair with lots of alcohol consumed, and some very "tired and emotional" racers jumping into boats the next morning. Aaah, the good ol' days before breathalysers...

David Reynolds, Dangar Island Historical Society

Below: Guests queue along the Dangar Island wharf to board the official banquet pontoon to celebrate the opening of the original railway bridge, 1st May 1889.







## THE TANKS

Mike Kermode

Both corner and hall of this old house  
A stoned grove, alive with wear  
Its creek beckons, rising in gush and hush,  
Its quiet a strong and sightless stare.

A single wall a mark of man  
White pole gates to a silted harbour,  
And a roof of sky tapering north  
With caves of leaves and arbours.

Up there, a host of sandstone glasses  
overflow  
With water, and leaves and air,  
And courses are ground, arcing down;  
Parables of someone we know.

Damp tracks swollen with recent rain  
And sandstone measures grain by grain  
And squinting south you find it hard not to feign  
That you're remoter than you are.

Gravity—it sounds odd uttered here,  
A concept, fast like grout;  
But the topple of the water and your own  
slip and slide  
Share something besides, something  
without.

As the water approaches the end of the hall  
And stumbles its way to its last fall  
The irony still, tainted through fault  
Merges below with briny salt

The boat's hitched to a twisting tree  
And work's not far out of mind,  
Amongst thoughts of places with straighter  
lines  
A different grade: a dual grind.

But we laugh and lark, and drink, and sigh  
And quenched, we go home, out of its sight;  
Back with the yearn of the ebbing tide:  
That old, diurnal delight.

And as the water pools in gracious thanks  
It carries in motes its itinerant run, running  
through The Tanks.

## IN SEARCH OF EPHEMERA

Bruce Lambert

The soft caress of gentle breeze  
upon a naked cheek.  
This florid fulmination  
of a driver's roadside pique.

A momentary glance  
at a danger warning sign.  
Sparks a burning pyre of hatred  
for the following traffic fine.

No lesson learned or skill retrained  
so joined the heaving throng.  
As master of the universe  
this lane yields only to the strong.

One moments inattention  
and it all seems so unfair.  
As I gaze so ever wistfully  
from the confines of my chair.

## RETURNED TO GLORY

Re-use, create and win. More than \$5,500 is up for grabs in Hornsby Shire Council's 'Returned to Glory' Recycled Art Competition 2010, which celebrates the re-use of pre-used human-made materials. Prizes of up to \$1,000 for winning artworks in the following categories: 3D/sculpture; functional; wearable; mixed media (wall mounted); and youth (ages up to 24 years). Artists must be residents of Hornsby Shire or members of Hornsby Art Society.

An exhibition of the best entries will take place at Wallarobba Arts & Cultural Centre in Hornsby from Wednesday 2 June to Sunday 20 June 2010. "We're inviting artists to submit artworks which demonstrate recycling through the use of recovered waste products and materials," said Council's Waste Education Officer, Kerry Euers.

Entry cost \$10, proposal deadline Friday 23 April 2010. Photographs of the 2009 entries on display in the study rooms at Hornsby Library.

For more information call Council's Waste Hotline on 9847 4856 or visit [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson)

## OUR CAFE & SHOP 1 YEAR ON

On Sunday 21st February 2010 we gathered to celebrate our achievements. Pavarotti lead a cheerful round of Happy Birthday while the little ones cried over the last popped balloons.

We've reached many of our objectives including providing a meeting place for Islanders and visitors, employment, groceries and excellent coffee.

As suspected, the Shop is not a money spinner. It has been a team effort with all our volunteers. (We still need more volunteers to join in the fun.) We owe a great deal of thanks to Graham and Corrynth White and Fiona Mullen for their dedication to all aspects of keeping the shop running.



Dangar Island Cafe & Shop

## MONTHLY EXHIBITIONS

Dear fellow Islanders

2009 was a successful year for those who exhibited in the Café. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support, as many works were sold.

Changing monthly exhibitions will continue during 2010 however with a point of difference: - the feature artist will host a small opening reception.

The openings will be on the first Saturday each month at 4pm.

The first of these was on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January for February's feature artist Judith Doyle, exhibiting gorgeous photographic works.

March feature artist Yvonne Terkildsen

April's feature artist Yvonne Liechti

May's feature artists Corrynth White and Lars Gundlach.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yvonne Terkildsen

Artist Co-ordinator



Our 10th year was off to a flyer with two Australian movies *Mary & Max* and *Storm Boy*. Coming up next the Easter Fire Brigade Fundraiser with the **Marx Brothers' A Night At The Opera**. Tuck into the BBQ with a big dose of vintage comedy and help support your local fires.

We're showing a film the first Saturday of each month this year (come along after the art opening). 1st May is *The Boat That Rocked* a riotous romp in the early days of rock 'n' roll radio, followed by **The Beatles' Yellow Submarine** on the 5th of June.

**Gerard Depardieu's** great triumph in *Jean de Florette* is July 3rd with the sequel *Manon Des Sources* afterwards for the hardcore romantics

Finally a big red one for your diaries...yes the return of the Mango Daiquiri Membership Drive, Sat November 6th with *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Come up to the lab, see what's on the slab! Prizes for costumes and karaoke and of course the coolest cocktail bar this side of Christmas. It's just a jump to the left!

Jonathan Sykes

## DANGAR TO CANBERRA

Masterpieces from Paris at the National Gallery until April 5th. Many of the pieces will never be in an Australian Gallery again.

From the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, one of the great museums of 19th-century art come over a hundred of the best-known works of modern art. Works include Van Gogh's *Bedroom at Arles* 1889, Cézanne's beloved *Mount Saint-Victoire* c1890, Gauguin's *Tahitian women* 1891, as well as many other great examples of Post-Impressionist art. This extraordinary exhibition is one of the most spectacular to come to Australia.

Sue Merricks is proposing a coach package to this event (if enough response). The plan is: meet the coach in Brooklyn 6.30 or 7.30 am. Four and a half hour drive to Canberra with a 'comfort stop'. Four and a half hours at the gallery. Return to Brooklyn about 8.30 or 9.30pm. Cost all included will be \$85-\$90/person (need 20 people for this to work).

The trip will probably be on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the third or fourth week of March 2010. If you are interested please contact Sue Merricks in person (147 Riverview), or email no later than Monday 1st March [s.merricks@bigpond.com](mailto:s.merricks@bigpond.com)

## TRANSPORT AWESOMENESS & ELECTRIC BUGGERY

Dangar Is Community Vehicle Management Committee (DIVMC) ended another successful year at our AGM 30th January 2010.

During 2009 a few more volunteer drivers were trained. We introduced a new Thursday shift "on call" 3.30-7pm then "meet the ferry" 7-8.30pm. Plus a Saturday "on call" service.

People barging vehicles to the Island have become much better at remembering to pay the Pedestrian Precinct Access fee. That money is used to pay for regular maintenance of the buggy and we are hoping to save up for a replacement cart that will better handle Dangar's steep terrain and community needs.

Thank you to Sue Baxter, Judy Nikola and Charlie Hill for all their hard work in 2009.

Thanks also to all the generous drivers who keep the buggy active. Here's to a buggy 2010!

DIVMC

Phone 0405 909 236

Fare: \$5.50 per person (Disabled passenger \$2.20)

Outside shift hours requires 24 hours notice for bookings.



## E-WASTE TRIAL 2010

Hornsby Shire Council is commencing a six month trial of a new 'e-waste' drop-off service. Electronics can contain many toxic materials including lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic, which can have serious impacts on the environment and human health if they are not disposed of safely. "The items will be dismantled and recycled to make new goods." said Council's Waste Education Officer, Amanda Watson.

E-waste includes:

Cabling associated with electrical appliances  
Computers and peripherals  
TVs, stereos, DVDs, CDs and VCR players  
Game consoles, faxes and phones  
Fans, toasters, microwaves, kettles and irons

We are planning a few trial trips from Dangar to Council's Waste Management Depot, 31 Sefton Rd, Thornleigh. Come to next League meeting (13th March) if interested in helping or getting help with your e-waste.

For more information about e-waste call Council's Waste Hotline is 9847 4856.

Cybele Shorter

## BUSHCARE: KIPPARA RESERVE 2<sup>ND</sup> Saturday EVERY MONTH

## Miss February *Pratia purpurascens*

From the Lobeliaceae family, commonly called White Root due to the succulent roots, reputed as a cure for snake bites (Les Robinson 2003).

Pretty ground cover to 15cm high. Semi-succulent leaves are toothed and hairless with distinguishing purple underside.

Flowers November to June, 8-10mm, white with pink lines or tips.



## PLEASE TURN IT OFF!

There have been a few incidents recently of neighbours producing excessive amounts of noise into the wee hours. The last noisy-neighbour experience I had was after an Open Mic Night.

We live in a very quiet environment. Those coming from the city to enjoy our Island are used to a high level of background noise and do not realise that a person talking at a normal tone and volume carries across the river. (I have often remarked that visitors from the city must bring their noise with them to be comfortable.) Most of us also do not have air conditioners; we keep our windows open at night to catch the breeze. Unfortunately, fly-screens do not screen noise as well.

If you are annoyed by the noise of holiday makers in short-term rental properties on the island, use: **24/7 Holiday Complaint Hotline; Call Kevin 9985 8115.**

If you are annoyed by a property owner the advice offered on the many government websites is:

- 1) talk to your neighbour
- 2) call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 - "you will need to tell the operator the exact location where the noise is coming from and describe the type of noise."

The legislation states that "quiet-time" is from 10PM to 8AM weekdays (Sun - Thurs) and midnight to 8AM on weekends (Fri, Sat).

The legislation explicitly states:

33 Use of sound systems on vessels

A person must not cause or permit any musical instrument or sound system to be used on a vessel in such a manner that it emits offensive noise.

51 Musical instruments and sound equipment

(1) A person must not cause or permit any musical instrument or electrically amplified sound equipment to be used on residential premises in such a manner that it emits noise that can be heard within a habitable room in any other residential premises (regardless of whether any door or window to that room is open):

(a) before 8 am and after midnight on any Friday, Saturday or day immediately before a public holiday, or

(b) before 8 am and after 10 pm on any other day.

more info: [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net)

Philip Doggett

## YOGA STYLE STRETCH

All are welcome to join the yoga style stretch classes held in the Hall Tuesday nights 7pm-8pm (and sometimes on Saturday mornings)

Non-competitive, all levels

Cost by donation

Bring a mat, wear loose clothing, have dinner after  
Phone Jenny 0402 997 598

Harry Carry is still out of operation til some time in April. For those waiting for Harry Carry to be up and running again he is recovering and doing physiotherapy now. Ed.

## FOR SALE

Recycled building materials:  
12m<sup>2</sup> treated pine decking fair cond. \$50; 7-step treated pine external staircase good cond. \$100. Contact Jonathan 7142/0404 719997

next **MM** issue

Autumn

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[dangarislandleague.net](http://dangarislandleague.net)