

May 2000 Mullet Mail

In the tradition of the Dangar Island League Newsletter

Thanks: League President, Neil Renfree has stepped down from the Chair at the last AGM. The League thanks Neil for the great contribution that he made to the Island, particularly with regard to the Sea Wall issue. The League also thanks Sheila Walker for her many years of patient management as the Hall's booking officer.

Welcome: The League welcomes a new committee for the year 2000: President: Michael Bourchier, Secretary: Susan Goff, Treasurer: Manfred Merl. **Committee members:** Neil Renfree, Terry and Heather Dorrrough, Fran Malzard, David Noakes, Ray Toman

Thoughts on a representative League:

The Dangar Island League is, by many people, thought to be unrepresentative – and it is. The purpose of the League is to deal with issues that affect us Islanders and I guess that makes us self-interested. But the doors are open for anyone to attend. Having lived on the island for only five years, I am not sure if there are historical reasons for these reservations. What I do know is that there is energy within the League to better represent people's views whether or not they are members. Meetings are as informal as we can make them and we are open to discussion of any subject that anyone wants to air. Our next meeting is on July 22nd at the hall at 4pm. Or write to us for the next edition of the MM.

Michael Bourchier
President

Summary of discussions from the last League Meeting:

The Fire Brigade requests that residents "adopt" the fire hydrant nearest to their house – make sure you know where it is and that it stays visible. Knowing this can make all the difference in any emergency. Tree lopping:

Energy Australia failed to brief Active Tree Services on how to do a light crop for the island. However both Energy Australia and Active Trees are keen to do the right thing. If anyone wants to report unnecessary damage, call Active Tree Services on 1300368733. Hornsby Council is looking to solve the Green Waste (garden refuse) problem for the Shire. This is a particular issue for the Island and the Council is interested to set up a pilot project on the island. Any development will only take place as a result of consultation. There is some interest to set up a satellite on the reserve to increase the quality of TV reception.

There are also concerns about the impact this could have for the reserve and how useful it could be. For further information contact Fran Malzard. Dogs and cats: there has been a suggestion that a cat and dog free policy for the island over a fifteen year period is introduced. There are some concerns about how those who rely on companion pets will feel about this. The shop requests that all dogs are kept on a leash to stop them from coming into the outdoor eating area. If the food inspector catches dogs in the area, the shop will be fined \$500. Please help. The League will be asking Council to send the dog

catcher to the Island to round up those dogs that are left to roam unattended throughout the day. The League wishes to contribute \$500 to SHURE in recognition of its work to save Kangaroo Point.

EIS for sewage system:

The shop advises residents to look out for the Environmental Impact Statement that each household should be receiving in their mail towards the end of May.

The Sea Wall:

The Mayor advises that the sea wall between the Brooklyn Marina and the tidal baths is subject to a two stage development process. Under the Centenary Federation Project funded by the Commonwealth Government the existing eroded sea wall is to be reinstated to its original alignment. This first stage will require an EIS and a community consultation will take place. The project is required to be completed by July 2001. The second stage will include construction of a second sea wall twenty metres beyond the existing wall, dredging of the channel, back filling and eighty additional car parks. The Council will not approve this development until State funding is assured.

Secure Parking:

Due to the recent spate of vandalism and theft of vehicles, the League is initiating discussions with the Council about improved lighting and other security measures for McKell Park. As requested by the League, the Shop has run a survey to

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identify the amount of concern on the island regarding the car park security issue. It is important to note that this is not a vigilante exercise, but an attempt to bring council and related agencies together to address the cause and solutions to the security issue. As regards secure parking, Council considers that it cannot move on this issue until the Senior Citizens Centre's future location has been decided. The Mayor has requested that this matter be dealt with as a priority.

Dangar Island Community Centre Association:

Chair Person: Sarah Galvin,
Vice-Chair: Heather
Saunders, Secretary: Sue
Baxter, Treasurer and
booking officer: Jenny
Shanley, Councillor Rep:
Graham Orr

With the coming of the GST all community facilities will be taxed. No changes to fees will be made this year, but the situation will be reviewed next year. Changes to Council's insurance requirements will require some paper work for hirers.

Mooring Solutions:

A workshop was held on April 29th with residents who have interests in the mooring solution. Some options are: Change the current public wharf with current funding for disabilities access; build several small pontoons at the public walkways; build a long pontoon on a mangrove walk type wharf over the reef on the back beach; set policy for private wharf sharing arrangements. The group

decided to review the history of the issue, then approach Council with this history and the options. Future workshops will be advertised for public attendance.

Bush Regeneration Group:

The group has almost finished the follow up work on the second major site near the midden cave on the western slope of the Reserve. Members are very concerned about the many weeds growing on the roadside particularly around Riverside Ave. If anyone wants help or advice in eradicating these weeds please call Sarah on 99857765 or Heather on 99857729. The group has up to date information on the notice board outside the shop and meets on the first Saturday of each month by the seat at the junction of Riverview Ave, 9.30am.

SHURE news*

Thank you! To all those who helped campaign and raise money for the court case defending Kangaroo Point, our heartfelt thanks. We did it! And hopefully, SHURE will be back in the black. Not only did SHURE win in the Land and Environment but Council have since moved (on a motion from Councillor Graham Orr) to have the zoning of the land component of the site changed to Environmental Protection B and the mangrove area of the site rezoned to "wetland". They have already approved the Draft LEP incorporating the change to be referred to DUAP for certification. The Brooklyn DCP is then to be amended by deleting the site specific guidelines for the

Kangaroo Point site. Assuming DUAP accept the Council recommendations, which come with the support of all relevant statutory authorities, then the changes should mean that this is the last time we have to fight to protect that particular part of the waterway. Phew!

**** SHURE says No to high risk sewage plant:***

The Environmental Impact Statement for Sydney Water's proposed sewage treatment plant is rumoured to be imminent. SHURE believes that an outfall direct to the River poses serious risks to oyster farming and do little or nothing to improve water quality on the Lower Hawkesbury.

****Join SHURE! - Contact us
by post at SHURE PO
Dangar Island, phone 9985
8334 or email:
shure@cctcm.nsw.gov.au***

Classified Ads: For sale: Native Plants

3 tubes for \$2 *ready to plant now*. Ring Heather on 99857729 – limited quantities.

Plants propagated from Dangar Island seed:
Graceful pea bush, Prickly mosses, Hop Bush
Native Indigo, Port Jackson Fig, Piny Headed Mat Rush, Pillflower, False Sarsparilla, Dusky coral pea
Wombat berry, Wonga vine, Flannel flower
Smooth flax lily

Work wanted: Pachi's maths tutoring

For students from years 7 – 12. Pachi is currently studying high level mathematics at university. She is available Friday afternoons, Saturday and Sundays on 9590 8057.