

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are past the solstice, and summer is just around the corner!

Ok, with that minor piece of optimism out of the way, I'd like to report on a few activities that the League has been involved with during this year.

As I'm sure you all know, the program to connect the island to a central sewer system by Sydney Water was completed early this year. As part of that, Sydney Water and Hornsby Shire Council coordinated the restoration of the roads around the island to "original" condition.

Now, therein lies the problem: "original"- as of when? Sydney Water argued that their responsibility was to return the roads to the condition they were in before they started work. In fact to ensure this was done correctly, they videoed the entire road system on the island so that any disputes could be resolved. There were many views expressed by residents about what should happen to the roads.

The League opened a poll for residents to express their views in February this year, and we summarised that information to the Council and Sydney Water. In large, they agreed to the requests of the League, and performed re-paving and restoration in accord with our requests. There were some disappointing exceptions, which we are still pursuing with them.

Other activities that the League has been engaged in at various levels include:

- discussions of proposals to upgrade the facilities in the park next to the Bowling Club
- issues relating to changes to processes around development, such as "set backs"
- the closing of Brooklyn Police Station
- the stairs at Hawkesbury River railway station, and lack of disabled access
- the general issue of disabled access to the island.

Most of these are on-going, and I'll report here and through the DIL Public Meetings on any progress.

Hornsby Shire has indicated there are no real funds available for playground upgrades – but I will continue to support the members of the community who've taken a strong lead!

I have meetings to arrange with a number of groups and individuals – for example, our member Judy Hopwood – to put forward the League's views on some of these.

I'd like to thank everyone who has also written to the relevant bodies about some of these issues – the clear independent path of community support that this shows adds credibility to the League's case. Please do copy the League on these, so I know what other communications are being explored.

If you have issues you'd like the League to address, please don't hesitate to email me at [president@dangarislandleague.net](mailto:president@dangarislandleague.net) or drop a note in the DIL mailbox (bottom corner).



Thanks! Anthony Schinckel  
President, Dangar Island League

## BULLETIN BOARD CLUB UPDATE

A couple of years ago I set up a League bulletin board at [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net)

The idea was to create a live forum for discussion of Island matters, not just for League members but everyone. Sadly everyone turned out to include spam-robots posting hundreds of topics a day on the typical themes of gentleman's enhancement, Xanax and pirate Photoshop.

It turns your stomach to look at this material, and I apologise if anyone has been offended. I've upgraded the security again - now you must answer the question "what fish did the Island used to be named after" to register. This should keep the board free of bot-stardry and open for your contributions.

Don't forget the complete Mullet Mail archive is posted there, and you can post your views, start polls etc.

The League is open to any ideas on getting a Dangar internet forum up and running. We considered a blog, where mods can post entries and the community can discuss in the comments on each posting, but there are probably lots of other ways we can do it, so post your ideas at [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net) or email to [mulletmail@aanet.com.au](mailto:mulletmail@aanet.com.au) and let's see if we can make it work.

Jonathan Sykes

As Members will be aware 2 of our hard working Directors have had to resign during the year. They are Paul Fowler and Arn Storch. We are very grateful for their input and years of service. Matt Johnston has accepted one of the casual vacancies while Jenny Rowe has re-joined the Board accepting the other vacancy. We welcome their input and their acceptance of nomination.

Expressions of Interest are called for persons interested in operating the Club's kitchen on behalf of the Board and for the benefit of members and their guests. If interested please contact Russell Taylor or call the Club on 9985 7083, or enquire at the Club. Conditions apply and these are available upon request.

Don't forget our Xmas in July on 25th. Tickets are already selling but there are still some left. Your Director's will be doing the catering again this year so its back to the future!

Budding home brew exponents are also reminded to get brewing for Oktoberfest. Judging happens on 4th October this year. Lets see if you can beat Freddie or Jonathan.

Russell Taylor  
For the information of Members and guests.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST: Dangar Island versus Brooklyn

So you think the "friendly rivalry" that exists between Dangar and Brooklyn residents is a relatively new phenomenon? Here is an excerpt from the Centennial Magazine of November 1888, written while the American bridge contractors were living on the island:

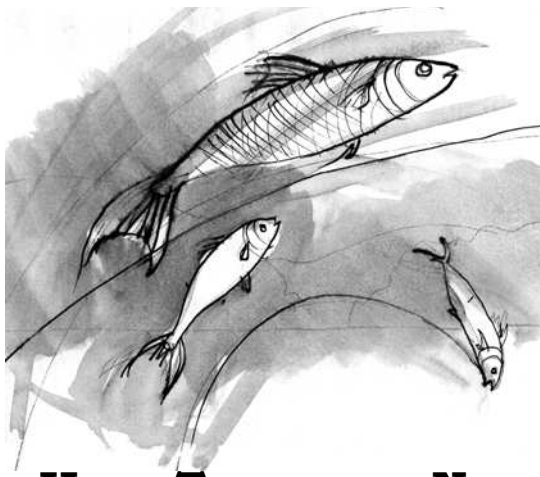
"Now there 300 souls there- as isolated and happy a community as any outside Utopia. The ground has been shared into divisions to meet the social requirements of the inhabitants. The contractors and their departmental heads occupy pleasantly verandahed cottages beneath the pine trees. Everything is neat, everything is clean, everything decent and in order....with luxuriant patches of flowers and vegetables, with sunflowers as tall as the cottage itself. A "town hall" with a miniature stage at one end supplies the amusement, and school is held as regularly as on the mainland. An ideal commonwealth indeed!"

"If you would complete the picture- I regret to say it- by a striking contrast, cross the water and inspect the settlement at the end of the bridge. There at Brooklyn, not a mile away, the same class of people are living under conditions that would be a disgrace to the worst slums in East London. Their huts are wretched, the women are slovenly, the men indolent, even the dogs are sour tempered and mangy, whilst instead of sunflowers the surrounding land develops nothing but poisonous stench and broken bottles. Such townships are a shame to the fair civilization of our young country. I can only wonder why the noble river that rolls its stainless torrent past this particular plague-spot does not rise in majestic wrath and complete the desolation."

David Reynolds,  
Dangar Island Historical Society

### SEPTIC PUMP OUT:

Looking to create another group septic tank pump out.  
Please contact Jenny 9985 7060.



## YACHT ARION, CAIRNS

**Ship's Log: May 2009:** There is an island paradise, a long way away, on a mystical river I frequently dream about. It seems like another lifetime since I squished my toes in the soft sand on the beach at Dangar Island or strolled its leafy pathways. I have not lived on the island since 1996 but it remains the nearest thing to home this vagabond sailor has ever found, and one of the most beautiful and peaceful places imaginable. Arion and I sailed away last time in January 2005, in search once more of adventure and tropical climes. Sometimes I wonder what possessed me to leave, though living aboard a yacht is much easier in North Queensland, where it is both legal and catered for.

Now Arion is in a cute little marina in the northern suburbs of Cairns while I potter around, exploring the local area and going out for short cruises when the weather is perfect. On stormy, miserable nights, I can just roll over and go back to sleep. In the last decade I have spent too many sleepless nights tending the ship. It is part of the lifestyle and I have thoroughly enjoyed my adventurous seafaring life but feel it is time to take a rest.

In Cairns I have found a place that attracts me as powerfully as Dangar Island did. It is a very beautiful little city, with wide streets bedecked with exquisitely lush tropical greenery and flowers. Walking down the streets of the inner city is like taking a stroll through the Botanical Gardens, and the city is surrounded by picturesque mountains. The only downside is that, like most places in the Wet Tropics, the bug life is prolific. There is also a large crocodile living 100 metres up the creek known to wander around here sometimes - but not on the walkways I hope!

Dangar and the Hawkesbury River will always have a central place in my heart.

Take care of it, Graham Cox

## CAMEL WISE

Craig and Jude are suffering from Dangar withdrawal and apologise to everyone for being so remote. The mere thought of not being on the ferry at 7am renders me mute - but the fact is Alice Springs is a second home and I can see that Jude is putting all her talents to work persuading camels to use reproductive restraint and stay west of the blue mountains. I understand 2,000 camels intend to attend the club mid winter christmas carrying 2,000 wise men.

Craig San Roque

**Harry Carry**  
is up and running with his  
home delivery service.  
Well done Harry! Ed.

## YOGA 20 YEARS

**CELEBRATION 27 JUNE 2009**

**8.30-10am** free yoga & meditation

**10.30-12** breakfast

**12.30-1.30pm** possibility of after breakfast guest yoga teacher class if there is enough interest.

If you have ever come to yoga or would like to start coming, come along to this special day!

PLEASE RSVP ASAP 9985 7060 JENNY



Saturday 4th July 2009

**POTTERTHON - LET THE MAGIC BEGIN**

10:00 Philosopher's Stone PG

12:45 Chamber of Secrets PG

15:30 Prisoner of Azkaban PG

18:00 Goblet of Fire M

20:45 Order of the Phoenix M

and coming soon...

Sat **1st Aug:** Jake Cassar. See Bushcare News this issue.

Sat **Sept 5th:** The Island. Jenny Shanley brings us an absorbing Japanese classic.

For more info visit [www.difs.net](http://www.difs.net)

## BUSHCARE NEWS

**Visiting BUSHMAN Jake Cassar** on Dangar Saturday **1st August**

will have you eating out of his hands and dazzle you with his treasure trove of local plants. Jake will share with us his bountiful knowledge of traditional uses along with his ecological understanding of Darkinjung (Central Coast) flora. Jake's commitment to communicating the wonders of our natural surroundings is infectious.

**Afternoon:** Walk about in Kiparra Reserve, collect seeds, and learn how to identify and remove weeds.

**Evening:** Drinking bush tea, collect your council seedlings, and ask questions about reducing weeds and fire risk at your block.

**7:30pm** Jake's documentary showing by DIFS.

## COMING HOME

Quiet hum, rushing tide, electricity in the air. Oars splash beside the boat refracting water through the air. I stand on the beach posing yoga, the wind combs my hair, like you, making more tangles there. Water creeping over mud, stretching for the sand, a giant blue elastic band. Pulling in everything it can, bringing items down river off the land. Ropes stitch mud to earth across the beach, attracting algae in fair share, like doctors wounds and fair incisions where humans anchor square. Heart opens like the sun on blinking eyelid, warmed through, not really there. Expanding out beyond the skin, in particles of you, as I fade my edges into other being there.

Monique Ewen

## TWILIGHT RIVER

Smiling beaked boats rock,

Tied to moorings,

Patiently wait.

A distant lone craft, released,

thrusts forward,

White froth wake in tow.

Muffled rumbling, a train crosses

the iron rattling bridge,

Disappears, pulled into hillside's

black silence.

Soft voices of large brimmed late

coffee drinkers,

Respectful, subdued.

A boat drops its surging beak to

skim quiet to the pier.

Silver dancing, grey ripples lap to shore,

Forever arriving, eternally moving.

Secret River, tell your ancient

story.

Stillness. Deep stillness.

A child's holiday voice. Joyful reply.

The mother calls them home.

Seagull's last call to day time

friends.

Insects start up bush vibrating

thrumming.

An anchor's splash.

Softness. Grey, silver ripples, last light dancing.

The black line of the tree bristling hill lies patiently still.

Earth's stillness.

Water responds to air's breath.

Pleasure ripples.

Seaweed's iodine breath wafts in.

Breathe in your childhood,

Muddy games in murky shallows,

Crabs' sidelong rush.

The ferry's throaty chugging, soft.

Islanders from city return gentle

to Hawkesbury home,

To possum pungent earth, to

kookaburra morning,

To brown leaf paths.

Dedicated to Federico Paredes and

Island friends

Helen Jackson

15th April 2009

## DANGAR ISLAND

The water it glistens

Wet against my skin

The waves splash

Beating the shore

Like an unseen hand

In the distance a great range

Guarding this place

Like a tall fence

But inside

Among the boats and tinnys

Lies the real treasure

An island

Small in size big in love

The place I once called home

Dedicated to Sofan Chan and

Rochman Reese

Isabella San Roque (Alice Springs)

next issue

Spring 2009

## HALL TOGETHER NOW

How lucky we are on Dangar Island to have the Hall as a meeting place and a general centre to the community. It's a great venue for community and other meetings, for classes, films and parties and so on.

However the Hall does need to be cared for. Recently quite severe cracking was found in a wall near the door to the park. This was reported by a later user. So make good use of the Hall but please do take care of it. If accidental damage should occur please let someone on the Committee know, and if you see anything that is not right we would be obliged if you would tell us.

Thankyou and enjoy the Hall.

Jane Putt, Secretary, Hall

Committee

## BRIGADE LULLABY

To the tune of Gershwin's Summertime

'Wintertime and the weeding is easy  
Recent rainfall & cool weather is here  
Reduce your fuel load  
from all 'round your house  
Clear your gutter and roof  
ready for summertime!'

## GORILLA PHONES

Gorillas are on the brink of extinction and they're calling on Dangar residents to donate your phone today!

You can now help save Gorillas in Africa simply by donating your mobile phone! Each time your mobile phone rings, a tiny piece of metallic ore from Africa is making this call possible: coltan. The mining of this commodity within the Congo River Basin is contributing to forest loss and unrest in the region, and is accelerating the loss of mountain gorillas at an alarmingly fast rate.

By donating your phone through the **They're Calling on You** mobile phone recycling program you are:

\*Diverting your phone from landfill

\*Helping raise money to support the UNEP Year of the Gorilla primate conservation work in Africa through the sale of refurbished phones and

\*Lessening the demand for coltan mining by providing the coltan coated capacitor in your old mobile phone a second life.

Bring old mobile phones to the bin at Dangar shop.

Formoreinfo goto [www.yog2009.org](http://www.yog2009.org) or chat to Guy Williams (#8860)

Guy Williams

Ambassador Australasia - UNEP/  
CMS Year of the Gorilla