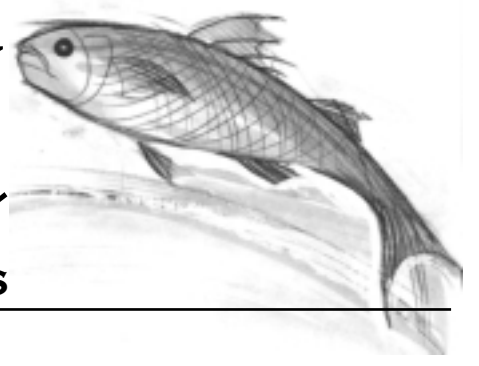


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#10

August 2002

From a not very comfy chair.

Since I've been president, the League has played a pretty low key role on the vehicle issue and at a recent committee meeting we decided it would be a good idea if I explained why.

The initial Pedestrian Precinct Committee(PP) was set up as a special committee of the League with Jenny Shanley and Ana Pollak. When I became involved in the League this committee had been running for some time and the survey and Council process were already in place.

Strong feelings had already been expressed on both sides and it seemed to me that there was the potential for the League to be severely damaged. As an organisation it already had a reputation for alienating many of the folk it was supposed to represent. Given that the Council was going to run a community workshop on the vehicle issue, the PP committee was liaising with the Council, and I own the tractor, it seemed a reasonable idea to keep the League out of it for a while. Anything that I said or did as President would be interpreted as biased and there wasn't anything to be gained by stirring the pot further. So if any of you have been saying, "Where's the League in all of this?", that's the answer.

However, things have taken a nasty turn with the tyre stabbings and anonymous posters about the place. Perhaps there is a role for the League in trying to heal some of the wounds and conciliate between the many different views. Would it be possible to have a community gathering in the hall and discuss the common ground, the fears and the needs, without hurting each other? After all, there are some things we can agree on - nobody wants cars, nobody wants dissension, everyone recognises that the hill and the flat are different. Could we start there?

If there is anyone who believes that we could resolve some of the trauma of the last few weeks please say so. I would gladly convene a League meeting if I thought it would heal rather than harm. Sue, I and a group of islanders are sea kayaking in far north Queensland for three weeks. We'll be back about the 8th September. My number is 9985 7028, message machine 9985 7201, e-mail bawuna@rivernet.com.au. Failing that contact Leyla Moncelet on 9985 7384.

Cath Phillips

NEW CONSTITUTION

To conform to Department of Fair Trading requirements, we need to have a new constitution in order to become incorporated. I have gone through our own and the model rules of the Department, and have tried to meld the necessary parts of both. This is just a draft, and has not been vetted by a lawyer yet. Here are the first few sections; next issue, we'll publish more, any comments will be appreciated:

1. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be The Dangar Island League Incorporated, for which the short title League is used in the text below.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the League shall be:

To further the interests of the Dangar Island community.

3. MEMBERSHIP

1) Membership of the League shall be open to any ratepayer of, or adult whose principal residence is on, Dangar Island who accepts the objectives and Rules of the League.

1) Adults wishing to become members of the League should apply to the committee for membership.

2) Members shall pay such fees as are determined by the League at a general meeting, which will fall due on the first day of each financial year of the League.

4. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The League shall maintain a register of current Members of the League showing name, address and date of joining.

5. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The members of the League shall have no liability to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the association, or the costs charges and expenses of the winding up of the association except to the amount of any unpaid membership fees.

6. MANAGEMENT

1. The management of the League will be vested in a Management Committee consisting of the office bearers and four other members.

2. Except in respect of urgent matters when it is impossible to refer a question to a general meeting, the Management Committee will not enter into any transaction nor commit the League to any policy that has not been approved by a general meeting.

3. No remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the League to any member of the management committee except

a. repayment of out-of-pocket expenses.

b. Interest at a rate not exceeding the rate for the time being charged by bankers in Sydney for money lent to the League.

c. Reasonable and proper rent for premises let to the League.

Leyla Moncelet

Thank you, Barbara!

On behalf of the Dangar Island Historical Society and indeed of everyone on Dangar Island, I would like to thank Barbara Zydenbos for the enormous amount of work she has done in sorting, copying and filing the Islands historical records.

Over the years our Historical Society has accumulated many items of interest in regard to the Islands history. Countless documents, letters, paper clippings and photos filled the drawers of a big filing cabinet. Others were being kept in cardboard boxes and plastic bags or simply gathered dust on the shelves of an old bookcase.

It was very difficult to find anything.

But Wow! You should see it now!

Everything has been methodically catalogued, filed and cross-referenced by Barbara. If you want to look at plans or photos of the first rail bridge across the Hawesbury or find out what was on the menu at the bridge's grand opening

Council moves to expedite pp

Cllr Graham Orr moved a motion at the Hornsby Shire Council General Meeting of Weds Aug 14th, for Council 'to proceed to close the roads on Dangar Island as a priority and consult with the Dangar Community to develop guidelines for the use of Emergency, Service, and Vehicles for the Disabled'. In presenting the motion, Cllr Orr questioned Council's officer dealing with this issue, Garry Kennedy, on the history of the issue so far, and the process mechanics from here. Garry reported his recent survey's robust response and unequivocal indication of the community's wish for pedestrianisation. The motion was carried, meaning that Council has resolved formally to proceed with regulation of vehicular traffic on Dangar Island. [have since spoken to GK at HSC - this negates the second survey option and we will now proceed directly to the workshop. ed.] Until such regulation is in place, any vehicle, registered or not, can drive at speeds of up to 60kmh on the island.

I am opening a motorcycle dealership next week. Joking.

Jonathon Sykes

pp sub committee update

Hope everyone found our brochure informative. At a recent meeting, with over 30 supporters in attendance, we unanimously voted that the group was opposed to vandalism of any sort. Colin Putt tabled his report, which gave an engineer's perspective on the issue, concluding that our roads are not suitable for unrestricted vehicle usage.

Jenny Shanley for pp

ceremony in 1889, you will find it quickly and easily. If you are interested in the history of our Bowling Club, Fire Brigade or Ferry Service, you'll find it under the relevant headings. The many documents, letters, references and photos relating to the Dangar family have been sorted and beautifully preserved for posterity. Everything is there and in its right place, from a copy of the deeds of the purchase of the Island to the 'Explanation of the Last Will and Testament of Henry Dangar'.

We are continually adding to our collection by keeping relevant documents relating to current issues and events on Dangar Island. There is no doubt that letters, pamphlets, fact sheets and various other contributions concerning the present topic of buggies on the Island will make interesting reading in years to come.

If you have anything of interest in regard to the past or the present of the Island, you might consider leaving it with the Historical Society for - thanks to Barbara - for safe, easily accessible and user friendly storage.

Thanks again, Barbara, and Bert, for a remarkable job!

Manfred Merl
D.I. Historical Society

This newsletter is produced under the auspices of the Dangar Island League. The League's role is to create a link between the community and Council or other Government bodies, where decision-making may affect our community. The League gives the community a collective voice, and creates structure for issues to be addressed. Come to meetings to raise an issue and/or form a sub-committee. Meetings are held in the community hall on a regular basis.

Current positions are held by the following residents:

PRESIDENT:	Cath Phillips
Vice President:	Hendrikus van Hasselt
Secretary:	Leyla Moncelet
Treasurer:	Peter Gurney
Committee:	Jenny Rowe Lindy Horman Claire Quoyle Ron Barrelle
Pedestrian precinct sub-committee:	Ana Pollak Jenny Shanley Manfred Merl
Newsletter:	Jenny S & Heather D

Contributions to the Mullet Mail are welcome and can be left at the shop post office facility. If possible, please include digital word or text document on floppy disk. Alternatively, email to jshanley@ozemail.com.au. All contributions will be considered and published depending on available space. Please note that the views of contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the publisher.

Another crack at the nut

The NSW Waterways Authority has advised that funding may be available under its Waterways Asset Development and Management Program (WADAMP) for a community commuter facility for DI. To be eligible for funding the facility must also serve the broader boating community and not just residents. Stephen Boyle and Michael Dean are progressing this matter and would like to hear from you if you are interested in such a facility.

Contact Steven on 9985 7002 or Michael on 9985 8273.

Letter to the editor

The Dangar Island League should disassociate itself from the Pedestrian Precinct Committee. Given all the anti-private vehicle propaganda displayed on trees and such forth, I note that the PPC has not taken the step to distance itself from the criminal actions against private vehicle owners.

Whilst not criminal, other protagonists have, for a long period of time, engaged in various forms of harassment towards us. I don't think rational thinking, law-abiding citizens within this community would believe the incidences if I told them. They tend to think that these people are 'oh! so nice'.

Kath Phillips and Ron Burrell were quite correct in providing everyone with the facts about the use of private vehicles on this island. But some people who feel it is the 'calling' to protect this island from anything that they don't personally condone, just won't accept that other residents have their rights to do what ever they want - as long as they are within the law. It seems the passion for some people to control others is greater than their respect for the law.

Can anyone imagine the horror experienced by elderly and ill residents of this island when visualizing someone sneaking into their private property in the dead of night armed with a knife or similar instrument of terror? what would have happened to one of us had we caught those persons in the act? Would the frenzied attack have then been turned on us?

The attack to the tyres of our golf cart was frenzied. There were up to four slashes in each tyre. Are the residents of Dangar Island prepared to hide the perpetrators, or is someone going to come forward and provide the information to the police so that future activities of this nature can be curbed?

Last Easter Sunday on Norfolk Island a young woman was beaten to death with a hammer by someone who thought they could get away with it. Maybe that terrible end started off as a disagreement within the island community but the murderer was mad enough not to know when to stop.

Does the Dangar Island League really want to be the forum for people who think they too are above the law?

Helen Jones

PS I can't help but shake my head at the hypocrites who in the past two years have asked for our help to transport their elderly relatives or heavy loads from the ferry to their homes. One such resident, having been so grateful, even offering to pay for the service [which we quite rightly refused to take] went door to door recently with a petition for the banning of private vehicles on the island! We can only conclude that his incapacitated relative either died or she has fallen out of favour with him as well and won't be coming back!

GROWN YOUR OWN ON DI [PART 1]

I have been asked to write a short piece for the Mullet Mail about having a veggie garden on Dangar Island.

The following notes are a record of my own experience, and are not a definitive 'how to' by any means. So for what it's worth - here goes!

1. INTRO

In the past I have found the growing of plant from seed, specifically those Dangar Island native species to be an exciting, worthwhile and nurturing experience, and thought that those positive attributes would be enhanced further by being able to actually eat the produce, at the same time knowing that no pesticides or nasty additives had gone into the production - my veggies were to be organic.

2. COLLECTING INFORMATION

Never having had a veggie garden before, I called on Cath and Sue. I asked them how they managed their vast area of veggies, which always looked so productive and tasted so delicious. They were extremely helpful - and it was from them that I learned of the quite marvellous Esther Deans 'No Dig Garden' method. (From the little reading I had done I knew that step 1 was to make and prepare the beds, and a no dig method sounded good to me). This is it.

3. THE NO DIG GARDEN

Aim to make a series of raised beds on top of any reasonably level ground.

- Make frames with timber or bricks about 20cm (8") high. (I have 4 beds - each 2.4m x 1.2m of treated pine sleepers)
- Lay a layer of newspapers 1/2" thick, ie lots!
- A thick layer of lucerne hay (approximately 15cm)
- Sprinkle a dusting of organic fertiliser
- Cover with a thick layer of loose straw (approximately 6"-8" ie 18cm)
- Sprinkle this layer with some fertiliser
- Put rich compost (I used mostly potting mix) where seeds are to be sown
- Let it settle for about a week and the bed will reduce in volume. (I don't always do this!).

(See Esther Deans Gardening Book: Harper & Row 1977 ISBN. 063120011)

Peter Cundle, of the ABC Gardening of Australia Programme, confesses that he doesn't know how it works, but it does!

Cath and Sue also lent me several books through which I waded and from which I made notes - about such subjects as:

- Various mineral additives to the soil
- The making of compost
- Crop rotation
- What to plant where (orientation)
- What to plant when
- Seedlings versus seeds
- Investigation of commercial seed producers, particularly the heirloom (old fashioned) varieties.
- Location of suppliers for things like straw and lucerne hay and the getting of same to Dangar Island etc. etc.

All the above items can be explained in detail in the future if there is any interest from anybody out there!

Perhaps we could set up a gardening information exchange in the Mullet Mail - I've got lots of questions!

Heather Dorrough

SOIL

Did you know that soil is one of the vital organs of life. It is a dynamic and complex mixture of rock fragments, highly altered minerals, organic debris, humus and living organisms. The organic compounds we need to function come to us from the earth. It is home to hundreds of species of micro-organisms that turn inorganic matter into organic chemicals that then enter the food chain through plants.

Australia's soils are among the oldest and poorest in the world yet we are steadily destroying large areas through clearing and inefficient farming practices causing erosion, acidity and salinity problems. It is seen as uneconomic to change our use of the land to a sustainable system. How can you put a \$ figure on our future? Perhaps you can buy organic food and fair trade products for a start.

On over-crowded Dangar Island we face the pressing issue of soil degradation daily. We use far too much imported water per household and also contaminate the ground with domestic chemicals that can be avoided.

Please think about your personal pollution. Remember living healthy soil is vital.

Love from
"The Ground Beneath Your Feet".

PS local suppliers of organic food are Organic Haven on the central coast 4385 6044 and Organics on the Hwy newly moved to Artarmon www.organichealthland.com.au

Cybele Shorter

An excerpt from the minutes of the Residents Committee-Sewage Schemes Meeting held on 23/5/02

Sewage Update FROM SYDNEY WATER:

'Council met with representatives of Sydney Water on the 25th July 2002 to clarify scheduling of sewage schemes in the Hornsby Shire. Sydney Water reps conveyed the following information:

Completion of Brooklyn/Dangar by end of 2005 - The proposal being considered involves the construction of a STP in proximity to Mooney Mooney Point with a discharge outlet under Peat's Ferry Bridge. As part of Sydney Water's investigations there is a proposal to use new pressure technology in lieu of gravity systems. This will eliminate the need for a number of pumping stations. The major milestones of the proposals are as follows:

- Contractor signatures for commencement of design and construction works within the next month.
- Commencement of community consultation by end of October 2002.
- Preparation of a supplementary Environmental Impact Statement commencing Sept/Oct 2002'

Lindy and Greg Horman



CLASSIFIEDS

BELLY DANCING CLASSES

Including yoga stretch, balance and relaxation exercises at Mooney Mooney Workers Club Bowling Annexe, 6.30 pm on Wednesdays. Have a laugh, get fit, see friends. Teacher: Deirdre Henshaw. Cost: \$10. Belly dancer specials available at Restaurant after class.

YOGA CLASSES

Tuesday night at the Hall, 7pm-8pm [by donation, 50% to hall funds] Bring a mat. Wear loose clothing. [ph 9985 7060]

Classifieds for private or commercial postings which are relevant to the community such as cleaning are invited for the next Mullet Mail. Commercial classifieds are \$10 for a display ad, \$5 for a listing; private by donation. [will be spent on production of MM]

When? 28 & 29 September
Where? In the Hall
Why? To raise \$s for the League

get rid of those old paperbacks
clean out the bookcase make a cake

BOOKS RECORDS CDs
CAKES JAMS PICKLES

BOOK SALE!