



Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#83 Spring 2024

www.dangarislandleague.com

Mullet Mail acknowledges traditional custodians of country. Together we care for our island and river, for the future!

Always was, always will be, indigenous land.



Australasian Darter, 2014, Angus Fisher, ink, pen and watercolour on paper



Parking In Brooklyn and Council Elections

In the long running battle for access there are changes afoot. The northern side of lower McKell Park has become completely timed while the southern side remains untimed and all the triangle parking area returns to being untimed. This compromise will avert Council's attempt to move all untimed parking out of Lower McKell until there is an effective long term solution – ie a built carpark. See Council's letter to the League on the website. If you can safely park in Upper McKell we urge you to do so to make room for residents who are less able to do so.

The League has worked with the collaboration of the Brooklyn Mooring Co-op and has called on the time and input of a number of residents to fight for safe access to our cars. This outcome negotiated by the League and Brooklyn Mooring Co-op with Hornsby Council officers and Councillors was reached as a compromise with the Brooklyn Community Association's support.

A motion by Greens Councillor Tania Salitra to have Council commit funding to upgrade safety for Upper McKell park access was defeated by Mayor Ruddock and Nathan Tilbury. Notably Warren Wardell (LIB) supported the motion of a Greens Councillor and the two have been supportive of our right to access our cars with safety being a paramount concern.

In the upcoming Council elections our community needs to support Tania Salitra and Warren Wardell to ensure that Council maintains a commitment to not progress any further changes to parking until there are safe alternative arrangements for residents.

Warren Wardell, Tania Salitra and Nathan Tilbury are all running for Mayor. Given Nathan Tilbury's implacable opposition to the river residents' rights we urge you to ensure that you put Nathan Tilbury last and urge others to do likewise.

The League AGM is coming and we hope to see you there. I will be stepping down as president and we look forward to further renewal in the make-up of the League.

Stephen Boyle, President, DIL



**League
Membership**



Birds of Dangar

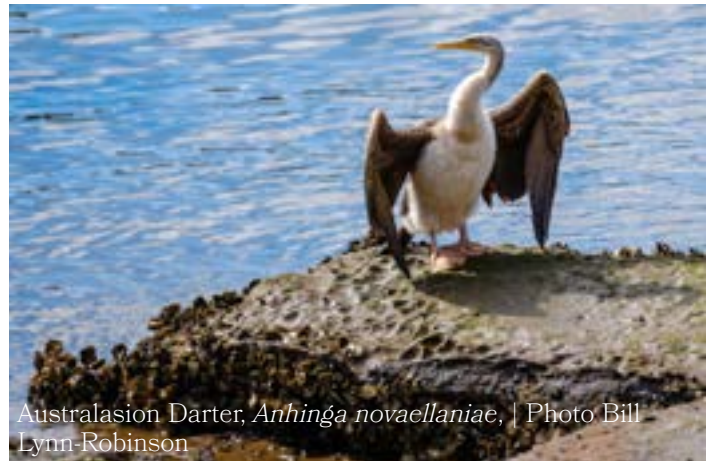
Georgia Lynn-Robinson

We have a magnificent pair of Brahminy Kites nesting on Dangar Island. They only live along mangrove lined coastal inlets and feed primarily on fish and scraps. To find food they soar in low tight circles, usually at less than 50 metres altitude. In Australia they are solitary and pair only for breeding. The female does all the incubating and brooding, while the male hunts and brings food to her.



Brahminy Kite - *Haliastur indus* - up to 510 mm in length with a white head, neck and mantle. Back and shoulders a magnificent chestnut brown. | Photo Bill Lynn-Robinson

We are so fortunate to have this pair on Dangar Island at the moment. Most days they can be seen soaring over Mareela Reef searching for food. This is another reason that our mangroves and reef are so important.



Australasian Darter, *Anhinga novaellaniae*. | Photo Bill Lynn-Robinson

Also we saw this beautiful immature Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* swimming about near us!

The Darter is a large, slim water bird with a long kinked neck, sharply pointed bill, and long, rounded tail. It is often seen swimming with only the long snake-like neck visible above the water, or drying its wings while perched on a tree or stump over water. While its gait is clumsy on land, it can soar gracefully to heights on thermals, gliding from updraft to updraft. It has a cross-shaped silhouette when flying.

Moving In

Ben Miller

Looking at this amazing photo of a pair of Brahminy Kites on a Dangar jetty, one could be excused for thinking they live on a diet of tomatoes. In reality they scavenge coastal waterways for dead fish and crabs, like their close local relative the Whistling Kite. Back in the day we called these birds Red-Backed Sea Eagles, a far more evocative name, which has met with the disapproval of modern nomenclature experts, who seem determined to standardise out of existence any local colour or emotional engagement with nature.

Fifty years ago I saw my first Brahminy Kite at the mouth of the Hastings River, near Port Macquarie. I had put my boat into the water with the specific aim of seeing this bird at what then was the southern limit of a tropical distribution. And within 10 minutes there it was, cruising down the estuary. It always amazes me when I visit a site known to be occupied by a target species and there, as if on demand, it is. Like visiting Mount Tomah in the Blue Mountains and immediately seeing a flock of Gang Gang Cockatoos in the gum trees, or walking through the heathlands of the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve above Minnamurra, and having Ground Parrots burst up from under my feet.

Brahminy Kites have a huge distribution, right around the northern coasts of Australia, up into Asia as far north as China, and westward to Iran. As such they can be considered a highly successful species, and are classified as “of least concern” in the rating scale, at the other end of which is “critically endangered”. For several years now these birds have been turning up around Dangar Island, a sizeable extension of range from Port Macquarie, along with another water-based raptor, the Osprey, which has been photographed at the very same Dangar jetty.

Where I stay in Papua New Guinea, on a small island 20km off the eastern tip of the country, Brahminy Kites nest in a tall tree just behind my house. They are very vocal at dawn. They annoy the villagers not because they steal their fish but because they swoop down and grab the young chickens. Maybe that is why they nest so close to the village.

Most birds of prey are fairly drably coloured, and appear even more so silhouetted against the sky as they cruise overhead. As is evident from the photo, the Brahminy Kite is far from drab. Reminiscent of a small, brightly-coloured Bald Eagle, it has a snowy white head and breast and rich chestnut back, which looks reddish in the sunlight.

So now we have four estuary-based birds of prey in our area; the huge White-Bellied Sea Eagle and the very vocal Whistling Kite, both of which nest locally, and also the Osprey and Brahminy Kite as recent visitors. The worldwide trend of creatures penetrating into areas previously off-limits due to restrictively low temperatures, is well documented. I imagine that is what is happening here. Australia is one of the worst villains in driving global warming which, while allowing some creatures to extend their geographical range, is wreaking havoc, with destruction of the Earth's coral reefs, forests due to unprecedented wildfires, and polar ecosystems.



Blue Swimmer Crab, 2014, Angus Fisher
Ink pen and watercolour on paper

The River

Angus Fisher

I have an upcoming solo exhibition in Sydney, with works focusing on the island and wider river environment. The exhibition titled 'The River' is a large suite of drawings consisting of big charcoal works and smaller ink, pen and watercolours. The charcoal works investigate various landscapes adjoining the river as a witness to the passing of time, from the ephemeral rhythms of waves and tides to the deep geological time embedded in the stones and rock faces. The smaller works feature a mix of the fish and bird inhabitants of the river that we are so familiar with. I think locals would be interested to see it.



Celebrating Two Decades of Monitoring the Hawkesbury Estuary

Ana Rubio, Estuary Manager, HSC

This July marks a significant milestone as Hornsby Shire Council celebrates 20 years of successful monitoring of the Hawkesbury River estuary. In partnership with Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, the Council has collected vital data through seven monitoring stations, providing near real-time observations of salinity, turbidity, water temperature, and Chlorophyll-a. This data is essential for decision-making by government bodies, researchers, and both recreational and commercial users, particularly those involved in oyster farming.

One of the program's key achievements is the long-term dataset on Chlorophyll-a levels, a unique data resource in NSW and possibly Australia. Since 2004, the Council has used Chl-a probes to monitor algae blooms, ensuring the estuary's health and safety. Looking ahead, the Environment Team is exploring the use of artificial intelligence to predict river fluctuations based on this extensive dataset.

Calling for community input into the Hawkesbury-Nepean Coastal Management Program

In addition to monitoring, the Council's Estuary team has been working on progressing the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Program (CMP). Six councils have collaborated over the past three years to confirm threats to estuary health and opportunities for improvement in a long list of future management options. The management options list has been developed based on previous strategic planning and from intensive consultation with relevant government agencies. The community will be encouraged to provide feedback from mid-September to mid-November, with further details provided through the CMP newsletter and via direct emails to community associations.

You can register for updates via the HNRCMP project QR here. Our data dashboard and a video about water monitoring can be found here.



Video



Dashboard



Register

HNRCMP Community feedback sessions are being planned as follows:

September: Thursday 26th Hornsby Organic Food Market; Sunday 29th Second-Hand Hornsby Market
October: Friday 4th Parsley Bay Boat Ramp and The Cottage and Wednesday 9th Berowra Waters Marina

Dear Bushcare,

I love what you do. I have borne imagining what would happen if there were no organisations actively maintaining safe spaces for native flora and fauna. I also love my neighbours and the joy their furry friends bring them, but not the potential conflict that can ensue. Am I worrying unduly about dogs being walked in reserves?

Jann French

Dear Jann,

This is a question that comes up a lot, because on the island we are living our suburban lifestyle right beside native bushland. The first part of answering that question is to decide if we see the bush in Kiparra Reserve as an extension of human habitat, for our recreation, or as habitat for wildlife?

Dangar Island Bushcare take our cue from state laws to protect native flora and fauna. Our aim is to encourage native biodiversity and apply the precautionary principle in every decision we make. Part of the reason we worry about companion animals on the island, is that native animals are already compromised by habitat loss and fragmentation of the bushland, from building, gardening and road clearings. The island bushland is also disconnected by the river reducing the ability of new wildlife to reach it.

Most pet owners will be thinking their animal doesn't hunt, and they may be right. "Even if you feel your dog won't attack wildlife when off leash, the forest's wildlife will still perceive your dog as a predator and modify their behaviours, leading to a chain reaction, negatively impacting the forest ecosystem" (HSC website). Put simply, a wild animal needs to forage in safety and if it has to move on when dogs or cats are around, it has to use precious energy reserves to relocate to a new foraging site. (*Milinski & Heller 1978, Nature 275*)

Think of it like an economic budget equation. You have \$35 a day for food. You go to the Depot to eat, but someone bullies you and scares you off. You catch the ferry to Brooklyn for \$11. You find Brooklyn food doesn't fit your dietary requirements so you catch the train to Berowra for \$4. You spend \$5 on some dodgy snack saving the last \$15 for getting home to shelter. You hope tomorrow that bully stays at home, and you can spend all your \$35 on a full meal at the Depot.

Council's website says - Dogs are permitted in Hornsby Shire Council-managed bushland, where it is essential they **stay on leads, stick to managed tracks, and dog droppings are picked up** and disposed of properly.

Cybele Shorter, Bushcare



Rakali | image: unknown source

Was Arn Storch a rat?

Martin Lloyd

I once accused my friend Arn of being a rat...of chucking a half eaten raw Bream into my dory and then, to add insult to injury, of taking a wee in the boat as well.

In fairness he had form. I had been finding a miscellany of beer cans and maccas wrappers over the previous months dumped into the dory. You had to understand Arns' sense of humour... and have a fairly thick skin. I loved him.

So, was Arn a rat? Unless he had weird dietary needs and a major UTI (the wee really ponged). I had to back down, offer my humble apologies and happily accept that I had been the recipient of love gifts, not from Arn, but from a Rakali or Australian Otter, previously known as the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*). I have recently seen such a beastly hunting in the evening at Brooklyn Mooring Co-op, so we know that they are around. This is confirmed by friends on DI who had them living in the bilge of their tinnie - possibly not to be recommended.

Six Fun Facts

The name 'water rat' was phased out in the 1990s with a push from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. 'Water rat' held negative connotations and harmed conservation movements to protect it. In 1995, the Agency proposed rakali, from the Ngarrindjeri people in the lower Murray River and Coorong region of South Australia, to be used as the species' common name.

Rakali have a different name in almost every language group in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Rakali are more similar to otters in their behaviour, than beavers or rats to which they were initially compared when European settlers first came to Australia.

Rakali are commonly found in similar habitats as another native Australian animal, the platypus.

The two species face similar threats, with their habitats often under threat.

Another threat that rakali face is hunting, which has been banned since the 1950s. During the 1930-40s, rakali were almost hunted to extinction as their waterproof fur was used by upper-class Australians for coats and hats.

Rakali often come into contact with humans and they can be spotted around urban waterways. They are known to raid goldfish ponds or poultry yards, kill free-ranging guinea pigs in gardens, steal bait and snacks from anglers and deposit piles of fish bones on the decks of moored yachts.

So please be aware that these guys are around and enjoy them when you meet up with them. So... No, Arn wasn't a Rat, he had a nuts sense of humour and could smell foul (I spent a number of nights in the "Love Tent" in the rain on the Birdsville track with him) but he ain't no rat.

Vale Arn.

Ultrasonic Pest Deterrent

Christopher May

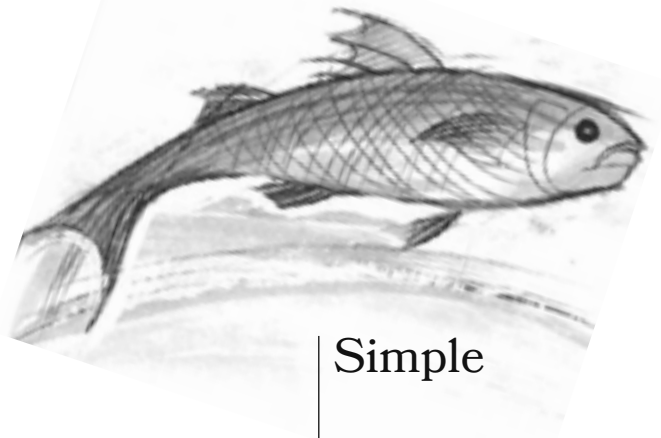
[In response to "Frogmouth and Possum Poison" page 6 MM#82]

We were hearing lots of noise of something running in our ceiling. I presume it was rats, but don't know, since I have seen a ringtail possum in the tree outside.

I believe there are rat poisons which would not have a secondary effect on any animal using the dead rat as food but personally I'd rather not get involved with any of it.

Rather than poison, which you are not permitted to use on possums anyway, why not try an ultrasonic pest deterrent. I bought the cheapest I could find online, less than \$10 including postage, and within 10 minutes the unwelcome guests were off. They have been back a few times to try again but as soon as I hear them I switch it on again.

The small print indicates it works for insects and other greebies too but I have yet to find that out.



Hello

Bridie Lunney

Hello, I'm a very new Dangar resident. Hoping to be here for a long while, who knows what the future holds?

Here are selected poems, from my book of poetry *Sucking my Tongue to Keep the Salt of You Close*, published by 'no more poetry'.

I am also an artist and a lecturer in Sculpture at the National Art School in Darlinghurst.

with warmth!

Simple

I'm hurling rocks
in a storm.

Waking up
bruised.

Longing for nothings,
simply sweet.

You know, a little sugar
in my tea.

Keep it simple.

Just come over
and change the tide.

River

Call me new. Call me silver.

Tear me a hole
in the river.

Let me glide the light.

Dismantle the sunset.
And wait
for a careless dawn.

Here and now,
everything
is everything else.

No need to be reborn.

In this moment

I am the mercurial water
and you are the phosphorus night.

Goodbye Rose-Boyson-Wilsons

Rowan Boyson

We arrived in pouring rain in late April; the Morrisons were performing in the Club and, bedraggled and jet-lagged, we stared around us. Rather unbelievably, after an admin to-do-list as long as hell, we had made it!

Aspiring to spend a period abroad, and given an alliance between Rowan's university KCL, and UNSW, Sydney was an obvious destination. Daniel's nearly 3-decades-long friendship with Ollie Bown - and the contrast it offered with East London - made Dangar appeal, and we were lucky to rent a beautiful house on Bradley's Beach.

None of us had ever previously been to Australasia, so the sight of pelicans, king parrots, kookaburras and frangipani startled our senses.

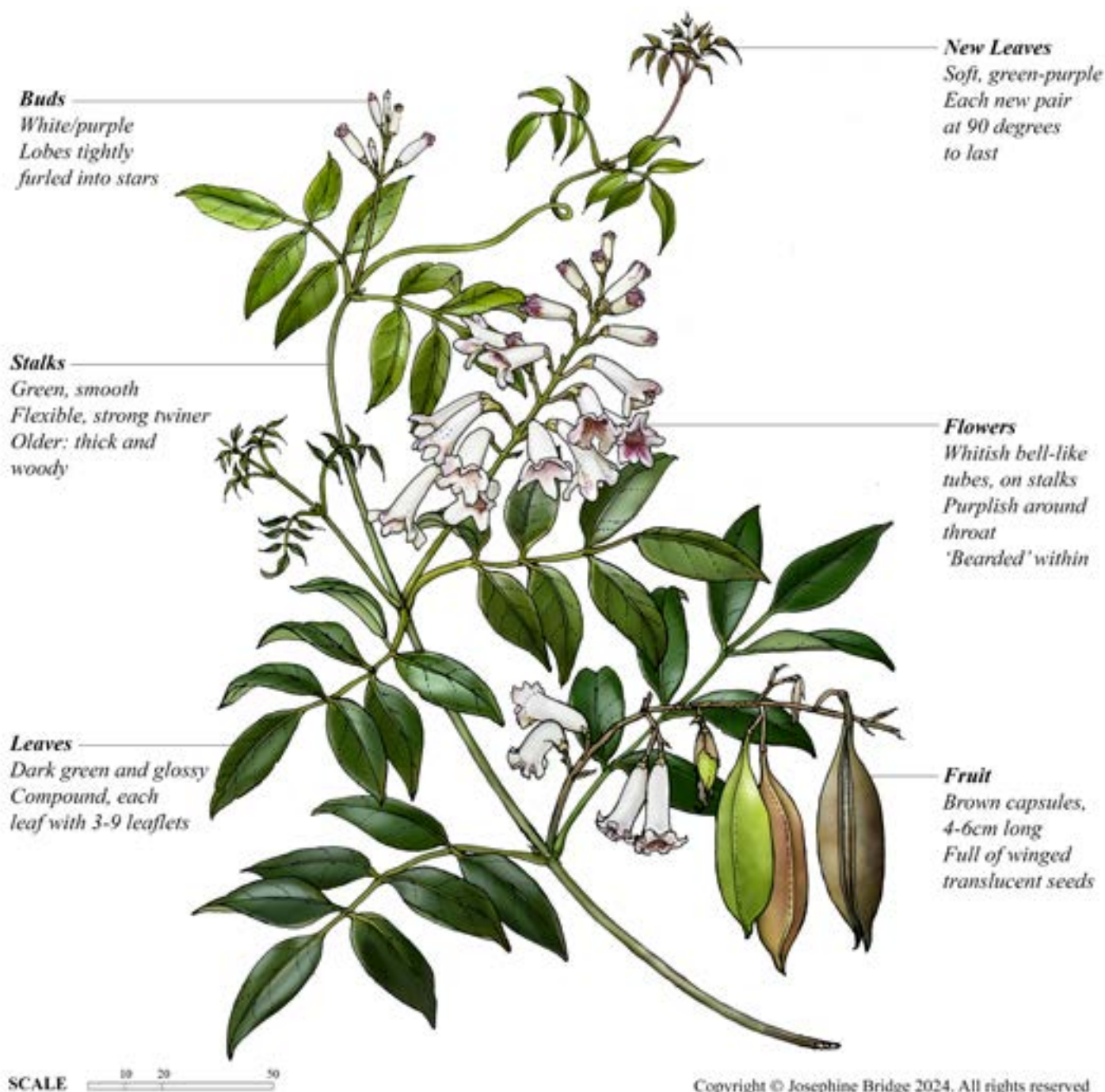
We bundled the kids into second-hand uniforms and on to the ferry to start at Brooklyn Public School. They bravely and quickly acquired new friends and phrases. We adults settled into work, with rather too many evening Zoom calls but time

for daily loops of the island. Pizza night, Minifarms and Ice-Cream Friday structured the weeks.

COVID struck in June, and during a long weekend which included the incredible Winter Cabaret, much partying, and river floods, we got worried about our son Ruben, and on Aileen Woo's advice took him to hospital. He was kept in for over a week with complicated appendicitis, which at any rate gave us a good chance to thoroughly compare the NHS and Medicare, and him, a long-dreamed of Nintendo Switch. (Thank you, islanders, for your kind words and favours at that time.)

Things picked up thereafter. Daniel got his boat licence and went cycling with Ollie. Rowan got a chance to reprise her school-years love of performing, in Kate Bush's *Wuthering Heights* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. (We anticipated that the island would be fun for kids; we hadn't realised quite how much adult playtime it would offer.)

Ruben learnt saxophone in record-quick time so that he could join Dangar's newest band, the Jazz Donkeys. Maxine hopped around the island chatting to everyone. We'll very much miss Dangar and its interesting, friendly, and talented denizens! Keep in touch via rowanboyson@gmail.com.



Native plant Profile: *Pandorea pandorana*

When you look closely at this species, one of its striking characteristics is the sense of symmetry and balance. Its leaves occur in pairs along the stalks; each of those deep green compound leaves is made up of 'leaflets' which are also arranged in balanced pairs. Same too for the arrangement of the frilly tubular flowers along their stalks. There is also a symmetry to the species' names: both the common name 'Wonga Wonga vine', and the scientific name '*Pandorea pandorana*'.

Both parts of the latter are named after 'Pandora' - according to Ancient Greek myth, the first human woman created by Zeus to live on earth. We've all heard the story of 'Pandora's Box', but in fact that was a mistranslation. In the earliest versions

of the story, the vessel that Pandora opens (out of curiosity, releasing an array of evil misfortunes into the world) was in fact a 'pithoi', an elongated clay pot. The brown capsules of *Pandorea pandorana* bear a resemblance to such a vessel, which is why the species was named after Pandora.

In the myth, Pandora closed the vessel just in time to trap one final thing inside: Hope. When the capsules of *P. pandorana* burst open, they release a spray of beautiful, ethereal, translucent winged seeds which are carried on the wind to their final resting places. I like to consider these tiny seeds as little metaphors for hope for the species. In any case, it is a very successful propagation method: the Wonga Wonga vine has a vast natural distribution along the east coast of Australia, and also central Australia, where its thick woody stalks were traditionally used for spear making.

Josephine Bridge, Illustrator, Bushcare



Wuthering Heights 2024 | Photo: Cybele Shorter

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever

Michelle Ramage

History: The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever is a joyous event that's taken place internationally since 2016, on or near Kate Bush's birthday (30 July). Initially inspired by Shambush, a UK performance collective's 2013 show for the Brighton Fringe Festival, it's now described as 'a worldwide phenomenon where people of all ages and genders dress head to foot in red and dance merrily in a field (or park) to Kate Bush's 1978 masterpiece, *Wuthering Heights*.

How did it get to Dangar? Alcohol!

July's Open Mic was a quiet winter affair. Over a few ales discussion turned to a shared love of Kate Bush. Following an impromptu and very loose performance: James on the piano, Aileen singing and Michelle 'dancing', a plan was hatched. Not only would we do our very own Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever, but we would also realise James' dream to perform this with live music. Only on Dangar!

James set to rallying musicians and writing individual instrument scores, Kim dug out her previous choreography (don't ask!) and planned some dance rehearsals. The response was met with Dangar's usual enthusiasm for all things quirky. Two short weeks later on 21 July, a sea of locals filled the park with red.

The rest, as they say, is history.

See you all next year.

'Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever' video by Gareth Tillson



Pirates of Penzance

OlivARRRGH Bown

In fierce conditions, thrown this way and that, at last smashing against Mareela Reef, the galleon sank to the depths with all her men and loot aboard her. I clung for my life to the last salvaged barrel of rum with my left hand, my right hook sunk into a piece of flotsam, my trusty parrot Jerome atop my head. I dragged my sodden, oyster-scarred body to shore.

What was this place? Settled, but not a person in sight. As the wind changed I perceived shards of raucous chatter from within the island's body. I followed the sound, through a bountiful garden to a simple wooden cabin from whence emanated this din of merriment.

I cannot say what sight befell my eyes next. A coordination most extraordinary of musical harmonies through which a gripping tale of love, valour and policemen most fickle was interwoven. My eyes darted this way and that at the agile movements of the dancers, and I could barely keep up with the lightning pace of the actors' song. And then, all heads did turn to our queen — at least a most beguiling likeness of her — cast in light, a profound pause in the chaos.

These people had a frivolous energy about them I've failed to discover before nor since, uncanny, bewitched. I left at midnight on a raft vowing never to return lest I break the spell of these memories, for there are times one should not ask what is truth and what is fiction.



Pirate chorus | Photo: Jo Karcz

Mullet Mail Fundraiser

Buying a tea towel for \$20 will help keep the Mullet Mail coming to your mail box.

order by email at:
mulletmail2020@gmail.com

or

pop into the Riverboat Postman ticket office and buy your tea towels there.





The Fire Shed Siren Call

After a series of technical malfunctions over the last 12 months council have taken the decision not to repair the Dangar station siren. When you next hear our siren on the first Sunday of the month you will be hearing our vintage hand cranked equivalent to call our members to arms! (photo below)

If you need assistance from emergency services, no hand cranking required, please contact 000 as your first point of call. This triggers a centrally coordinated emergency escalation to island-based volunteers from the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade and / or the Community First Responders.



Dangar Brigade's vintage hand crank siren

Bushfire preparedness starts at home.

The 2024-25 fire season officially starts on October 1st. We encourage all islanders to prepare their homes.

Have at least 1-2m cleared area around your home

Trim trees and shrubs that are next to or overhanging your home

Clear all leaf litter and debris from under and around your home including roof and gutters

Remove flammable materials from around the home (gas bottles, chemicals, petrol, etc)

We all leave the green bin empty some weeks, but over the course of the year green bins allow for the removal of approximately 6 cubic metres of green waste per household. This is in addition to the annual 3 cubic metres allowed for bulky green waste kerbside allocation (next pick-up scheduled for 20/11/2024 so put it in your diaries and on the kerb).

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 green bin and make sure you are making the full use of your 9 cubic metres annually!

Get Ready Weekend

Thanks not only to brigade volunteers who give up their time to man (or woman) our Get Ready Weekend stall at the ferry shed on **Sunday 22nd of September**, but also those of you who take the time to drop by to discuss your personal Bushfire Plan. If you miss out on the day or would like any advice on the upcoming fire season, please message us on the brigades Facebook page.

Josh Ginty, Community Engagement, DIRFB

The Way We Move

The buggy has been ticking along nicely after recent repairs, but we need more drivers to keep the service going 7 days / week.

If you're interested in volunteering a couple of shifts a month please call to do a quick training session.

Join us at our AGM in the Hall on **Saturday 21st September at 10am.**

Judy Nikola - 0415488606, Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee





It's been an exciting Winter at the Club with two massive community events in the shape of Winter Cabaret and the recent *Pirates of Penzance* production. Both were resounding successes with two sold out nights, and they showcased the astonishing level of talent on the island.

Our membership drive at the end of May saw many of our members sign up for the year. However there are still quite a number of residents who frequent the club who haven't renewed their membership. We urge anyone who hasn't, to go online asap and renew, as it is a requirement that anyone living within 5kms of the club must be a member to use the facilities, and we are obliged to enforce this rule by law. Go to this link to renew...

Bowlo membership renewals



The club has continued the program of improvements to the building and much needed upgrade of essential equipment and we are truly grateful for the incredible generosity and hard work of our friends and directors who have contributed so much to make this happen.

We have seen two fabulous Directors move on since our last message in *Mullet Mail*. We would like to extend our warmest thanks to Karen Jaques and Michelle Ramage, who have both served on the board for many years and have gone way beyond the call of duty on countless occasions - massive thanks to you both! This does mean that we have two spots available on the board for new Directors. The

Club is an incredibly vibrant and fun part of the community and we'd welcome anyone who can spare a little time and energy to be part of the organisation, so please get in touch.

We've also had further challenges through the Winter months with staff illnesses and forced closures resulting in reduced income, so we're introducing a new menu and wine list for Spring and we'd love to see you all popping in for a meal and drinks regularly as the weather gets warmer. We also have an incredible line up of concerts in place for the Spring as follows!

Steve Griffiths, President, DIBC



**Sun 22 Sep
Hat Fitz & Cara Robinson**

Roots royalty bring their high energy old time sounds to Dangar for the first time.

~

**Sun 29 Sep
Mingus Amongst Us**

Former Dangar resident and baritone sax virtuoso Steve Fitzmaurice is the director and instigator of this nationally renowned 9 piece mini orchestra devoted to the ground-breaking sounds of jazz great Charles Mingus.

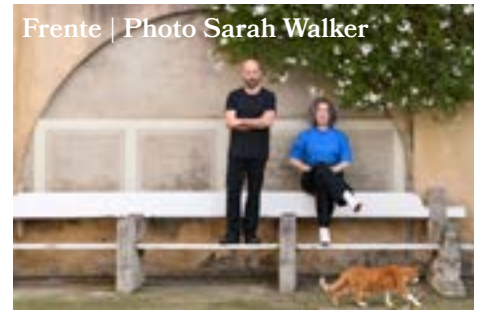
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**Sun 6 Oct
OKTOBERFEST**

w/ The Sauerkrauts

One of the biggest days in the calendar where we celebrate all that is Germanic - beer, music and wurst!

Music on the day comes from the riotously funny Sauerkrauts.



**Sun 13 Oct
Frente**

Melbourne 90's pop darlings have reformed for a national tour and we're lucky enough to have secured a visit to Dangar.

Book soon, this one will sell out!

~

**Sun 3 Nov
Elana Stone - Album Launch**

Alongside her own successful solo career, Elana has been an integral part of Missy Higgins' touring band for many years.

She joins us to celebrate the release of her new album of delicious pop.

~

**Sun 17 Nov
The Gadflys**

First formed in the 80's, The Gadflys have had a long and illustrious career.

Most visible as the house band on ABC's *Good News Week* in the 90's, they are a roots-rock band that existed long before the genre was a thing.


~

**Sun 1 Dec
Jeff Lang - Album Launch**

Jeff's new album on ABC music *More Life* is an incredible project of collaborations with artists such as John Butler, Liz Stringer, Don Walker, William Crighton and many others.

This show see's Jeff play with his band and tour guest William Crighton along for the ride.

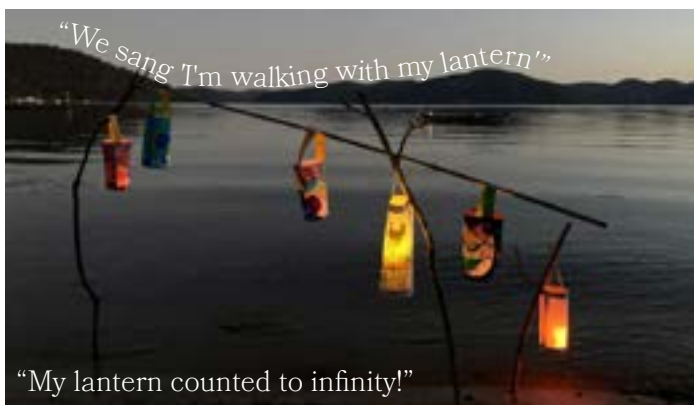
Upcoming ticketed events at our Bowlo



Winter Lanterns

Lila San Roque

As the Winter Solstice approached, mutterings were heard about lantern parades. James and Aileen had joined lantern festivals in the north, and decided it was time to make it happen on Dangar, so they set a time and place and made sure everyone had the materials needed. More than 20 river kids joined on Sunday 23 June to create beautiful paper lanterns on the Bowlo verandah (thank you DIBC!), then walk together around Yallaro and down Grantham to the beach, where we joined the lights of the river. Here is what some of the participants said about the event while bouncing on a trampoline the next day...



As we chatted in the park, parents recalled walking with their lanterns in the winter dark as children, transfixed by flame and risk.

"How can fire be held by paper?"

"How can light be held by water?"

"How many bounces in a trampoline?"

Thank you James and Aileen for giving us new questions and a lovely winter tradition to look forward to!

Collage

Sam, Ben and Bronwyn, c/- Ella Baché



Some winter evening collages, from old cookbooks and magazines found in the ferry wharf donation corner.



When I Moved2Dangar, I wish I knew...

Kylie Burke

That you could order additional green bins from Hornsby Council (at a cost of course)

Island Parenting Practice: Building Our Village Together

Delicia Moraleda

Hello Dangar Island Parents!

In our bustling lives, it's easy to overlook the essence of community. But as we all know; it truly takes a village to raise a child. Inspired by the African philosophy of Ubuntu—meaning 'humanity towards others'—and the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," I'm excited to extend an invitation to all parents on our island.

Having been raised by a supportive community in South Africa, and having fostered similar networks as the founder of a Montessori Preschool in Johannesburg, I've seen firsthand the profound impact a connected village can have. My journey has also involved creating online parent communities globally, which led me to envision bringing this spirit to our island.

I'm thrilled to introduce the inaugural Island Parenting Practice, a dynamic 6-week program crafted to strengthen our local support network. This program is a distilled version of a 12-week course I've taught internationally, benefiting over 500 parents, educators, and professionals.

Our children are often seen laughing and playing together, but as parents, we sometimes miss the chance to deeply connect with one another. This program aims to bridge that gap, offering a space to engage, share experiences, and support each other. Over six weeks, we'll explore key topics such as attachment science, emotional intelligence, and brain development, through interactive Zoom sessions.

Gain valuable parenting insights in a vibrant, nurturing community where every family feels truly valued. Uplift one another, share dreams and challenges, unite in a common purpose. Together, we can foster joy, resilience, and growth for every child and parent. My vision is to build a thriving village where connections are deep, support is unwavering, and every family feels a sense of belonging and strength.

Interested? For details, visit Go Beyond Parenthood or email me at delicia@gobeyondparenthood.com. Flyers are also available on the notice boards at the hall, ferry shed, and phone box.

Let's build the best village possible, where every family flourishes together. I look forward to connecting with you and creating a stronger, more vibrant community together!

Treating bites and stings!

Summer is coming, and with it increased exposure to creatures that bite and sting! Here's a reminder of the appropriate first aid needed for different types of envenomation. The chart below has been reproduced from the *Volunteer & Community First Responder Reference Booklet*, published by NSW Ambulance in 2017.

If you suspect the bite/sting could be life-threatening, call 000.

If you call 000 for an envenomation here on Dangar, our local CFR team, an ambulance and a police / rescue boat will all be activated at the same time. A CFR should get to you in 10-15 minutes. While you wait, commence first aid, as specified in the chart. If possible, send a bystander to the nearest road to meet us, and direct us to the injured person. Remember, where the chart indicates 'PIB' (Pressure Immobilisation Bandage), the bite victim must stay as immobile as possible.

Brenda Hall, CFR33 Dangar Island
dangarcfr33@gmail.com



BITES AND ENVENOMATION							
PROTOCOL: VE6							
If safe to do so the dead creature should be brought with the patient to hospital to enable definitive identification of the source of the bite.							
Source	PIB	ICE	SW	HW			
Terrestrial							
Snake	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Spider – Funnel Web	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Spider – Red Back	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Spider – Other	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Insect – Tick	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Insect – Scorpion	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Insect – Centipede	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Insect – Bee	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Insect – Other	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Human, Dog, Cat	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
Aquatic							
Barbed Marine Creature	✗	C	✗	✓	✓		
Tropical Jellyfish	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗		
Non Tropical Jellyfish	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗		
Bluebottle	✗	C	✓	✓	✓		
Cone Shell	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Blue ringed octopus	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
KEY							
SW	Sea Water	PIB	Pressure immobilisation Bandage	✓	Yes	C	Consider
HW	Tolerably hot water	ICE	Ice/cold pack	✗	No		



BoteTiket Challenge #009

Cybele Shorter

1 What is the maximum engine power you can use to drive a powered vessel?

A The maximum power specified by the vessel manufacturer

B Whatever you feel is safe

C Whatever the weather conditions allow for

D Whatever is bigger than your mates have

2 When should you consider reducing the number of people on board your vessel from the maximum recommended on its Safety Label?

A You don't need to think about the number of people on board

B When boating in poor weather conditions or on open waters

C Only when operating a commercial vessel

D Depends on if they bring enough booze, usually a case o'beer plus bottle of the good stuff per person

3 What should you consider about your vessel before travelling to open waters?

A How your vessel performs when towing

B Whether your vessel is stable in enclosed waters

C Whether your vessel is suitable for large waves

D How pumped you are to show off to that bloke you want to impress

4 Why should you tell passengers on your vessel not to move about suddenly and without warning?

A They could cause the engine to stop

B They could cause the vessel to speed up

C They could cause the vessel to capsize

D They could fall overboard

Top Tips - Justin Pigneguy

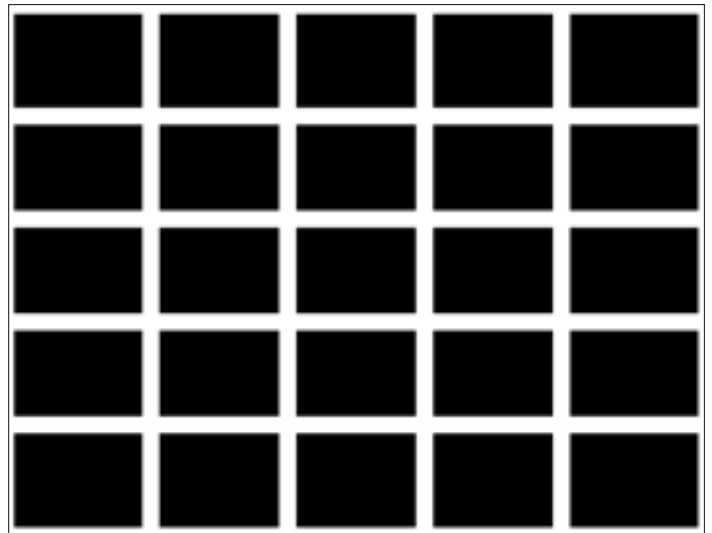
1 Don't own a boat!

2 The best boat is someone else's!

3 If you do end up with a boat, and you take your mates out in it, make sure they pay for the fuel and everything.

4. When in doubt refer to point #1.

Quiz Answers: 1A, 2B, 3C, 4C&D



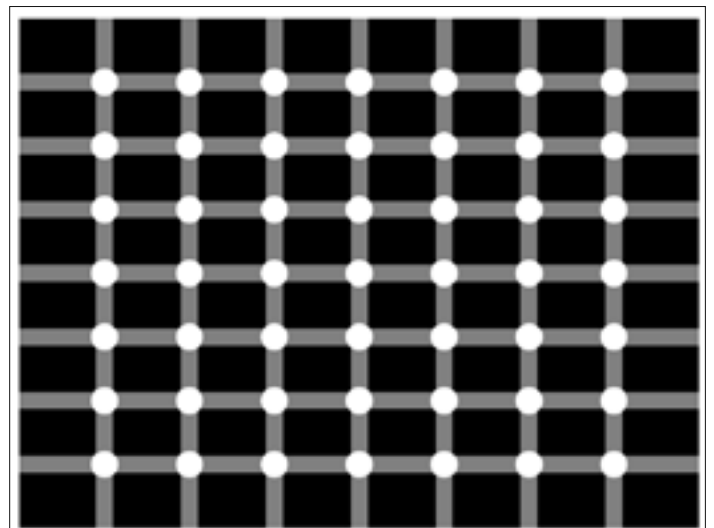
Hermann Grid

Jonathan Sykes

Ludimar Hermann (1838-1914) first reported this phenomenon in 1870. Hermann was a pioneering speech scientist, but he also discovered one of the most interesting and controversial optical phenomena of all time.

Look at the intersections of the white lines. What do you see? The effect is perhaps even stronger in the Scintillating Grid image below.

There are competing theories explaining this phenomenon. The initially promising lateral inhibition theory of retinal ganglion cell receptor fields was debunked simply by varying the parameters of the illusion. More recently the illusion has been described as brain-level rather than retinal level.



Simple Maths Puzzle

Marina Garvey

from *The Penguin Book of Puzzles*

A generous man set aside a certain sum of money for equal distribution to the needy of his acquaintance. One day he remarked, 'If there are five fewer applicants next week, you will each receive two shillings more.' Unfortunately, instead of there being fewer there were actually four more persons applying for the gift. 'This means', he pointed out, 'that you will each receive one shilling less.' Now how much did each person receive at that last distribution?



Super Cryptic Puzzle #029

Chico

Our very first themed puzzle! Clues do not have a definition part, because the definition is always an example of the theme.

What is the theme, you may ask?

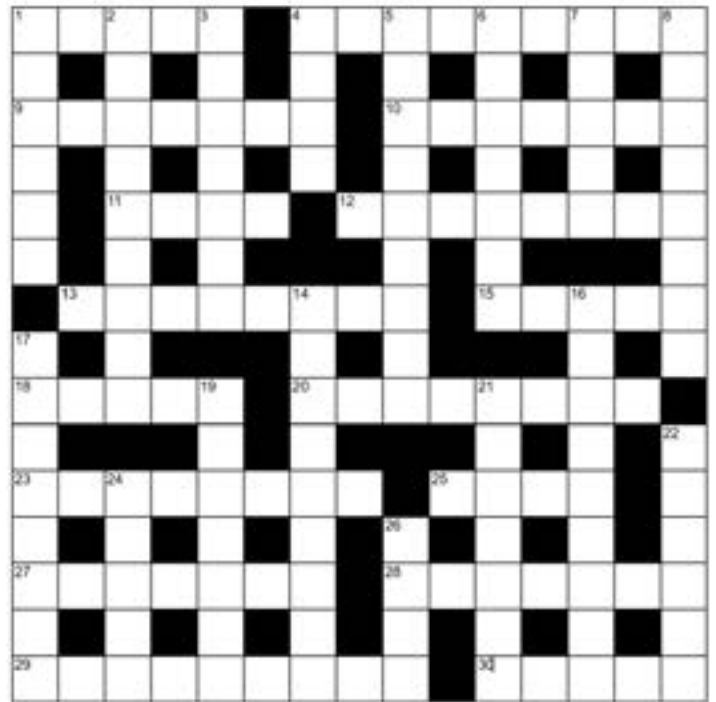
You can discuss, give or get help at [Dangar Island Community Facebook page](#)

Across

- 1 Box office failure takes over (25)
- 4 Strange mentoring (29)
- 9 Is not timeless gum, perhaps (37)
- 10 Nothing found in two vehicles (27)
- 11 Favourable heart (24)
- 12 Develop free land (68)
- 13 Fudge and/or oak (58)
- 15 Dominant male (45)
- 18 Say what boat evenly (25)
- 20 Bushfire? (28)
- 23 Sprocket beam holding arts degree (25,3)
- 25 Starts to undress like a nun (24)
- 27 Dwayne Johnson (23,4)
- 28 X-Man takes on 1000 following common era (27)
- 29 Beat Henry badly (29)
- 30 Nothing heard (35)

Down

- 1 Guiding light (66)
- 2 Blend up a Norman (59)
- 3 Courtroom riot of dropping odds (57)
- 4 Mythical garden (24)
- 5 Platini, perhaps earlier (29)
- 6 Two logic gates get top marks (67)
- 7 God of 8's absent (25)
- 8 Viking (68)
- 14 Amphibian consumes gospel drug (49)
- 16 Each US state holds endless relish (69)
- 17 Endless assault on workshop taken aback (68)
- 19 Rumour of a North American trash-eating mammal (27)
- 21 Male topless youth (37)
- 22 Georgina's first in degree exam (26)
- 24 Priest's land (25)
- 26 Born in shaft of light (24)



FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS

Bruce Lambert



Rally round the flag boys
 rally round the flag.
 In times of war and conflict
 no matter how ragtag.

From the sands of Iwo Jima
 to the borders of Ukraine.
 With the raising of our flag
 we hear the one refrain.

For we are but a people
 united in our cause.
 Onward unto victory
 wherever are the wars.

The Battle of Agincourt
 fought on Saint Crispin's Day.
 To the horror that is Gaza
 not that far away.

Yet many are the reason
 we hold that flag on high.
 Sporting prowess engenders
 the sound of the battlecry.

Of social justice and politics
 we rally to the call.
 Onward unto victory
 the flag encompasses all.

Online interactive puzzle



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Enquiries: info@dangarislandleague.com

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Jonathan Sykes and Kathy Merrick

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available on the [league website](http://league.com.au)

