

Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Winter 2013 www.dangarislandleague.net #39

The River Health Issue



Cybele Shorter

Humans are exerting unprecedented pressure on estuarine ecosystems which have been estimated to provide more than AUS\$5 billion per year globally. 50% of all urbanisation is on coastal land; 80% in Australia. Sydney houses 4.5 million people, a fifth of Australia's total population in a single sprawling coastal city.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean is the longest coastal catchment in NSW at 470km, collecting water from the Blue Mountains and urban plains in the west. The geomorphology is a tide-dominated, drowned river valley where ocean wave energy is dampened at the narrow bay entrance, and river freshwater discharge is naturally minimal. Although the system is not pristine it still supports good facility for aquaculture, commercial fishing, and recreation. Values are high, with at times iconic significance.

Biogenic habitat such as seagrasses, mangroves and oysters provide protection against storm surges and land erosion; epifaunal and infaunal invertebrates play an important role in nutrient cycling; fin- and shell-fisheries are a source of food production; and estuarine biodiversity is of recreational and aesthetic value.

We impact our estuarine ecosystems in 4 major ways - fishing, construction, pollution, plus interference in, and alteration to, the water cycle. Modification of the water cycle is a key threat to estuarine ecosystems. Freshwater, essential to life, is a finite resource. Use of freshwater by humans has developed out of proportion with its limited availability and without consideration of essential ecosystems dependent on adequate quantity and quality of fresh water inputs.

The Healthy Rivers Commission of NSW 1998 found water quality used frequently to be poor, with high concentrations of nutrient

chemicals, viruses and more regular algal blooms. Biological issues ranged from decreased native flora and fauna to increased invasive species, along with toxic algal blooms of dinoflagellate cysts and cyanobacteria. Since July 2010, Sydney Catchment Authority releases water to stimulate environmental flows, dependent on inflows, matching 2 or 3% of Sydney's daily water usage.

Hornsby Shire Council has invested greatly in catchment management, monitoring water quality for the trigger variables of algal blooms, using remote continuous measuring stations since 2002. They report that bloom events are reducing in frequency and severity. Further work by Hornsby Council as part of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee (both recently chaired by Dangar's own Wendy McMurdo) continue excellent work in catchment management for a healthier river estuary.

Swim Risk Indicator

Have you ever wondered how clean our river is? How long should you wait after flooding to swim? When is it safe to swim?

The Hornsby Council **Hawkesbury Watch** water quality monitor (new.mhl.nsw.gov.au/users/HSC/) could help. A near real-time Rainfall, Water Level and Water Quality monitoring system, this management system has been developed for Hornsby Council to provide maps of Salinity, Temperature and Swimming Conditions in the lower Hawkesbury river.

There is also good information at (www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-catchments/water-quality#01) on many other aspects of water quality.

Barriers to erosion

Sarah Galvin

The maintenance of a healthy estuary is an essential component of a healthy river system. The Hawkesbury-Nepean estuary is a tide-dominated drowned river valley and is the largest in NSW. The tidal influence in the Hawkesbury River extends approximately 145km upstream. The lower estuary sub-catchment is dominated by bushland interspersed by local foreshore settlement.

Hawkesbury – Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Native riverside vegetation helps maintain the water quality of the river. It prevents soil erosion and by reducing sediment from banks allows for higher biological productivity in the water, improving conditions for aquatic vertebrates and fish. The various root structures of different native plants help to stabilize foreshores and riverbanks and minimizes run off. You can imagine with the sheer size of the Hawkesbury – Nepean estuary there are many different plant communities and vegetation types, all of which contribute to the health of the river.

When boating along the river different vegetation types and plant communities such as Mangroves, Salt Meadows, Rushes and Sedges, Shrubs and Casuarina forests can be seen along some parts of the water's edge whereas on the rocky sandstone foreshores there can be Lichen and Moss, Herbs, Shrubs, Scrub and Eucalypt Forest and on some sandy foreshores Grasses, Acacia Shrubs and Coastal Banksia.

As residents of Dangar Island we live amongst this diverse native riverside bushland and this is a description of just a few of the Island's native plants. *Isolepis nodosa* - (Knobby's Rush) grows on Bradley's Beach. The tough spreading root mat structure stabilizes the sandy foreshore and stops erosion. It grows in damp sandy places near saltwater and can be identified by stiff stems and terminating globular clusters of brown spikelets. *Eucalyptus robusta* (Swamp Mahogany) provides food for nectar feeding birds and animals. It is a

Eucalypt species that grows in moist conditions and there is a small stand in the mid section on the bank behind Bradley's Beach. It should be noted that stands of Swamp Mahogany are becoming increasingly rare in the Hornsby Shire. There are remnant mangrove trees which provide valuable habitats for birds, aquatic vertebrates and fish, one is located on the Spit and two on both the East and North West foreshores. *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp She-oak) is a salt tolerant tree which retains the riverbank by binding the soil with its suckering root system and grows in small numbers along the South, East and North West foreshores. *Angophora costata* (Smooth barked Apple) can be seen growing in rock crevices mostly on the south side of the island and one of our predominant trees is *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt). It is a unique Eucalypt species for this area and provides habitat for birds, invertebrates and possums. There are numerous native plants that grow on Dangar Island and the plant list can be sourced via **Bushcare** on the Dangar Island Community website. The list includes Sedges, Grasses, Orchids, Ferns, Ground Covers, Climbers and Herbs, Shrubs to Small Trees and Medium to Large Trees. Native plants are listed in alphabetical order under their botanical name, common names are also provided with full descriptions and location of where they grow. Unfortunately some of the plants are now becoming scarce and whether it's for rehabilitating the vegetation on the adjoining foreshore on your property or planting in your garden it all promotes the health of the river environment.

Maintaining the balance

Ana Pollak

Dangar Island is a highly prized destination for its **Blackbutt** and **Rough and Smooth Barked Angophora** apartments. The very roomy and protective hollows within these tall 3 tree species are rarely found together in Hornsby Shire Council making them highly sought and fought for by the bird community.

Battles over tenancy rights occur. A few years ago the long term Glossy Black Cockatoo tenants were evicted by the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. Sadly these Glossies, a vulnerable species have not returned to breed on the island.

They still visit the island to eat the seeds of the **sheoaks** - *Allocasaurina torulosa*. Much of the rugged bushland around Dangar Island is reasonably healthy, thanks initially to its unsuitability to grow crops (that happened upstream from the 1800's) and later being protected in reserves and national parks. Most recently in 2006, Porto Ridge above Brooklyn was included into Ku-ring-gai National Park. Up to then this ridge was earmarked for hundreds of townhouses and large houses. Currently the question of what will happen to Peat Island and its northern foreshore is being reviewed by the State Government of NSW. Our suburban island in the middle of the ancient river escarpments is mostly hidden from view by the island forest. But as most of the forest is not protected within Kiparra Reserve at the top of the island, a natural regeneration of plants into the future is compromised. Maintenance of this diverse forest of trees and shrubs could help ensure the island continues to blend in with the rugged escarpments

while providing a year round supply of nectar and seeds for the birds, possums and insects. If we planted local species for our nonhuman neighbours, a balance between urban and natural needs could be met. A list of local plant species and plant nurseries can be found on the Dangar Island Community website.

FREE PLANTS

Currently the Dangar Island Bushcare group has Blackbutt seedlings and foreshore grasses to give away as part of an ongoing seed collecting and propagating program with Hornsby Shire Council.

Today Kiparra Reserve is largely weed free after more than 20 years of regular weeding and bushcare. What began in the 1990's as a lantana bash has grown into regular monthly sessions by the Dangar Island Bushcare group. The group has been given 2 grants from Hornsby Shire Council: In 1996 botanist Jacqui Volmer, compiled a comprehensive vegetation study and in 2004 steps leading up to the reserve were constructed to contain soil erosion.

Everyone is invited to join in our regular bushcare sessions on the second Saturday of each month at 9am, starting from the base track to the reserve at the Bushcare sign.

Bushcare Group Enquiries about plants, contact Ana, 7707



Cleaning up the river

Mel Anderson

18,000 pieces of plastic are estimated to float in every square kilometre of ocean.

276 species worldwide including 77 Australian species are impacted by marine debris.

The **Tangaroa Blue Foundation** is a not-for-profit organisation focused on the health of our marine environment, and coordinates the **Australian Marine Debris Initiative**, an on-ground network of volunteers, communities, organisations and agencies around the country monitoring the impacts of marine debris along their stretch of coastline.

The **Tangaroa Blue Foundation** highlights the importance of protecting our oceans and creates

programs and resources to help communities look after their local coastal environment. The **Australian Marine Debris Initiative** has been operating in the Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters area since 2010. Dangar Island is part of the Lower Hawkesbury River area and over this time a great deal of debris has been collected. Graham Johnston has been co-ordinating volunteers through schools, corporations and other groups to physically give their time to clean up the river.

From October 2012 to March 2013 (which excludes the April floods) the top ten items collected in the Lower Hawkesbury River included (in order) glass beer stubbies and pre-mixed alcohol bottles, aluminium

cans, broken glass and ceramics, foam insulation and packaging, plastic drink bottles (water, juice, milk, soft drink), wine, spirit and other glass bottles, plastic packaging (food wrap, packets, containers), hard plastic remnants, rubber footwear and thongs, and plastic bags. Plastic, glass and ceramic are the three materials most discarded. This does not include any debris from the oyster farming industry with oyster farmers actively supporting this project through the hire of boats and the volunteering of their time.

On Dangar Island we may be unaware of the efforts of these volunteers as they leave Brooklyn on regular rubbish trips. Avoiding Dangar Island shores due to

our high population density, volunteers recently removed 200kg of rubbish from Gunya Beach, Dead Horse Bay, Porto Bay, Sandy Bay, Eleanor, Cowan beaches, Hallet's Beach, Spring and Croppy Beach. Many of the students on these outings are disengaged youth or students with disabilities.

The foreshore program recently won the Regional Landcare Award for Coastal Communities.

If you would like to be involved in this project please contact **Graham Johnston on 0411 184 642**. More information can also be found on the Tangaroa Blue website www.tangaroablue.org/

PLASTIC CHALLENGE A Rubbish Symposium

Cybele Shorter

3pm – 8pm Saturday, July 6th
DANGAR ISLAND HALL

difs



Heard about the floating island of plastic garbage accumulating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean? Ever wondered if the myth is real? Let's take a look at disposal problems, the golden R's Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, as well as alternatives to everyday single use plastics.

4pm Live Forum with special guests:

Geoff Gauslaa, Jimmie Jaggs, Lisa Wriley and Wendy McMurdo

3-5pm Solutions demonstrations and displays:

Boomerang alliance, Take 3, art project, make your own TetraPak wallet and take the Sort It Challenge.

6pm Bag It movie – an irreverent and thought-provoking film about rubbish

7pm Supper

More - www.difs.net

Enquiries:

Cybele – 9985 7142

Lost

Nerina Knight



Lost. One (almost) regular family. Last seen in Brooklyn just before Australia Day.

Concerns for their sanity after they were overheard raving about moving to Dangar Island.

Tis true...

Having moved to Brooklyn just before Andrew and I became parents, I was very familiar with the River but more as an acquaintance than a friend. For 10 long years the river and I had a somewhat rewarding but distant relationship. I felt relief each time I returned home and saw her curves and waves. I have felt close enough to know her emotions but not well enough to really know how she feels. I have crossed her bridges but never passed under them.

I have lived a life close to the river but not on it.

My husband, on the other hand was wooed by the mistress long ago and visits her in his kayak every day. They share special stories and he treasures the stolen moments. I am not jealous of her... but I am of him. I too want a relationship with the Lady Hawkesbury and he knows it.

The time is right. We pack our bags and in the dark of night (or early morning anyway) we make our break.

“Come on kids. We’re going to the beach.” I say. “Grab your things. No! All of them” and we

(9 y.o. - “practically 10”, as she would say - daughter Maggie and 7 y.o. son Tanna) follow the Sun (ferry). Destination Dangar!

As the plan unfolds I assure them that we retain a sense of belonging in a strong community filled with passionate and capable people. Dangar will deliver them adventures beyond their dreams, a sense of freedom and treasures aplenty. There is a water wilderness awaiting and we will all develop our very own relationships with this liquid lady from close quarters.

And so as I stand upon the south beach of desirable Dangar outside Our Shack and prepare for another Sunday paddle around the island to talk about secret women’s business, I know that we have made the right move. The kids are happy, blissfully unaware of the extra pressure it places on Andrew (as primary carer and proud ferry parent). They know that I won’t see them in the morning (having already caught the 6.10am ferry for work) but I will return at the hour of 6pm - something they only dreamed of when I was not beholden to the restrictions of the ferry timetable.

The river brings a great many trials and pleasures. I hope to experience many of the latter.

and found ...

Steve Griffiths

I moved to Dangar Island from the Inner West with my partner Sharon just over a year ago and we are really enjoying life on the island.

Living in a warehouse in Petersham for 9 years, I never really knew any of my neighbours in all of that time and the sense of community on Dangar is such a wonderful contrast.

We have met so many friendly people who are prepared to go out of their way to help, particularly in the transition from total land lubber to boat owner!

I was lucky enough to have spent part of my childhood in a fairly rural area of Surrey in England, where unsealed roads

were still quite common and traffic was scarce. The car free environment here on Dangar is something I really appreciate, with its echoes back to less hurried times.

I have worked in music my whole life as a performer, DJ, venue agent and as a tour producer for local and international artists. I am also the world’s only Gramophone DJ, playing original shellac 78’s on my ‘steam powered’ mobile Gramophone Contraption.

Sharon and I have to go back and forth from the city regularly, but we feel the commute is worth living in such an idyllic place.

Thanks for having us!



Dangar 360°

Andy Payne and Mel Anderson

This island is a unique environment with many different perspectives, no matter where you live.

Each house on the island has it’s own unique outlook and perspective of the island.

We would like to invite you to submit your own personal perspective.

Simply photograph the view

or outlook from your property and email your photo to the adress below.

We will then add the views to a clickable map of the island on the League website. I hope you can all find the time to get involved! To contribute, email payniac@me.com or website dangarislandleague.net

Happy snapping!

Critical Support for Hawkesbury River Rescue

Hector McLeod



“For the past 26 years, The Hawkesbury River Rescue, formerly the Bar Point Boating and Communication Club has been the only organization to provide a 24/7 marine safety net on the lower reaches of the Hawkesbury. They have recently sought support from those of us who utilise the river on a daily basis. Based on the estimated number of water-access-only properties (1000), they requested an initial donation of \$40 to replace the current motors (\$40,000), ensuring safe and modern equipment. Future income would be based on an annual donation of \$30 per household. This would allow

the service to continue and replace the running equipment as required.

Unfortunately, the response to a recent request for support for this essential service “has been slightly less than minimal.” Without community support for this valuable service, we may find it missing when we need it the most. Please contact Hector McLeod, Cox’n at Hawkesbury.rescue@bigpond.com or hcmcleod@optusnet.com.au for more information on how you can ensure the safety of yourself and others at minimal cost.”

**Payment may be mailed to
PO Box 62, Brooklyn 2083**

garbage collection

Rosemary Curtis

1. All garbage bins left out – from one collection to the next – have to be checked whether they are full or empty, making unnecessary work for the collectors when they are empty. So in addition to improving the scenery its a good idea to bring the bins in – if possible.
2. Each bag of rubbish placed in the red bins has to be put onto the back of the ute, taken off the ute and tossed onto the barge and then removed on the other side and placed in the truck. So putting garbage in one large bag, rather than separate small bags, helps reduce handling.

Feathered friends

Manfred Merl

We share out island with more than 20 different types of birds. Most of them have made their home here permanently while some, like the cuckoos and the koels come for a few months each summer. If you like birds and appreciate the fact that we have so many in such wide variety, you might wonder what you could do to support them.

Birds need food, water, shelter and nesting places. There is normally enough natural food for them all year round which is why they like to call Dangar home. If you want to supplement their food plant bottlebrush, grevillia and banksias rather than giving them bread, cake, meat or sausages. Offer them a birdbath and think about shelter and nesting opportunities before you cut down a tree. Go easy

on pesticides and ratsak as kookaburras and owls can get very sick from eating mice or rats affected by these poisons. If, on the other hand, you really hate birds because they eat your tomatoes, chillies and strawberries, attack your citrus trees, scratch up your garden, dirty your washing and wake you up early in the morning with loud screeching noises just consider what this island would be like without birds. The only loud noises would be from lawnmowers, chainsaws, whipper snippers and leaf blowers. Your fruit trees and vegetables would still be damaged by all sorts of pests. Imagine the place without birds. Dangar without birds would be as bad as the island without the ferry, the buggy, or the coffee shop or without trees or without children.

Hall hiring procedures and conditions

Vanessa Payne

The Hall is an important part of our Community. Booking the Hall is simply a matter of calling or emailing Vanessa to check availability and rates, filling in the relevant application and arranging to pick up the keys. When signing the keys out PLEASE ensure a name and phone number is included, and your purpose for hiring the hall. On returning the keys, please enter the time you hired the hall for, EVEN if no fees are due – this is a new reporting requirement from council. Council is becoming stricter in their reporting requirements from me, in turn I need YOU to provide the

relevant information which will save me time. Washing up liquid, wipes, brooms, mops and buckets are provided for your use. Please bring your own tea towels and wash, dry and put away all used kitchen utensils. Keeping the hall clean and tidy is in all our interests. Lastly, please bear in mind that this office is a purely volunteer role. I endeavor to deal with all enquiries and requests as efficiently as possible. Prior bookings are always given preference.

Vanessa Payne, Booking Officer, Dangar Island Community Hall
nessrepublic@gmail.com
0414 317 260 or 9985 7488

Birds of the Lower Hawkesbury

Harry Recher

Dangar Island residents are fortunate in living in an environment surrounded by broad expanses of native vegetation and immersed in an estuary that remains healthy despite its proximity to a city of nearly 5 million people. The vegetation of the Hawkesbury/Nepean catchment is among the world's richest in species behind only southwestern Western Australia and the Cape Province of South Africa. The catchment is also rich in animal life with nearly 1200 species of fish, frogs, reptiles, birds, and mammals recorded from the Greater Sydney Region. Invertebrates (insects, worms, spiders, and the like) are far richer in species, numbering in the 10's, if not hundreds, of thousands, but most are undescribed and numbers can only be guessed at.



Whistling Kite

Of special interest to residents and visitors of Dangar are birds. Few places in Australia boast the abundance of birds as occurs on Dangar Island. Move a short distance across the water and the bird life is different, less abundant, but much richer in species. On Dangar, 14 species of land birds dominate and all are common commensals of urban environments in eastern Australia. By contrast, more than 120 species of land birds are found in the national parks and nature reserves bordering the Lower Hawkesbury. There are more than 30 species of honeyeaters alone, plus wrens, pardalotes, whistlers, hawks,

ravens, parrots, and the now infamous brush turkey to name a few. Waterbirds are also part of the fabric of life on Dangar and along the river and for the past few years have been the subject of special interest from the estuary management team of Hornsby Shire Council.



Australian Pelican

Waterbirds are of special interest for several reasons. Firstly, they may be at risk from climate change and rising sea levels. Secondly, a number are migratory and move thousands of kilometres between their breeding grounds in northern Asia and where they spend the northern winter in Australia. Thirdly, some are endangered and threatened with extinction. Endangered species are listed by State and Commonwealth governments and receive special protection (all native wildlife is protected no matter how abundant or rare). Migrants from the Northern Hemisphere are also protected by international treaty. For these reasons, Hornsby Council obtained grants from the NSW Department of Environment to conduct surveys of the waterbirds of the Shire. The first survey was conducted by the Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre of the University of NSW during 2010/11, and the second by P. & J. Smith ecological consultants during 2011/12. Their full reports are available from the Council. Historically 68 species of waterbirds have been recorded along the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary. This includes 62 native

species and 6 introduced ducks and geese. I've personally observed or had reported to me 57 species of waterbirds, including some seabirds, on the lower river, Pittwater, and Brisbane Water since 1967. The most recent of these was a red-tailed tropicbird (probably from Lord Howe Island) found by Dave Lyons, Maritime Services Officer, just up river after heavy storms earlier in the year. Forty-six of the waterbird species I've observed have been on Dangar or Brooklyn waters. Most common are chestnut and grey teal, wood duck, black swan, silver gulls, cormorants (pied, little pied, little black, and big black), crested terns, pelicans, white-faced herons, whistling kites, sea-eagles, and spur-winged plovers. These can be seen every day with almost no effort. Others occur less frequently or require some searching to find. Mangrove herons, for example, are always along the island's shore, but are secretive and avoid places where people congregate. Less frequent are great, snowy, and cattle egrets, spoonbills, white ibis, and black-necked stilts.

Last spring, two brahminy kites, normally a more northern species, spent time on the island and used the rocky spit as a roost. Earlier in 2012, one or more buff-breasted rails took up residence on some of the less tidy island backyards. Migrants, such as azure and sacred kingfishers, are regular but seasonal visitors, staying a day or so on the island before moving on. The same happens with migratory waders from the Northern Hemisphere. During spring, when they are returning from breeding, and autumn, as they go north, whimbrel, bar-tailed godwit, and eastern

curlew were regular features of the island's tidal flats where they fed and the rocky spit with its lone mangrove where they loafed. In the last two years, these birds have failed to appear reflecting a decline in numbers of all species of migratory waders along the Western Pacific Flyway. This decline is the result of the loss of critical feeding grounds during migration on the Yellow Sea and in South Korea and Japan following the construction of major dams and reclamation of wetlands. Waders, including non-migrants, such as pied oystercatcher, have also been affected adversely in Australia with coastal development leading to habitat loss. Just recently the island served as home to as many as three pied oystercatchers, a threatened species, one of which remained in residence for nearly a year moving between the island and Brooklyn.



Little Pied Cormorant

Seabirds also visit the lower Hawkesbury and from time to time can be seen around Dangar. These include little or fairy penguins, which nest on Lion Island, jaegers, gannets, and shearwaters driven inshore by rough seas.

In all, Dangar Island and the Lower Hawkesbury is rich in bird life. It will remain this way for as long as the river remains healthy and the birds have places to feed and find refuge.

*Images courtesy of
Ian Montgomery
www.birdway.com.au/*

Making the hard yards - delivering the ideas.

Bronek Karcz

President Dangar Island League

The League Committee is in the process of chasing up and implementing the many initiatives and ideas that we have discussed with you over the past months. This is hard work and I am very appreciative of the time and effort being put in by the League Committee Members.

The key League initiatives are: the establishment of improved emergency procedures for the Island, engagement with the Brooklyn Community to solve parking problems, establishment of the Dangar Island Mooring Co-op (DIMC), protection of Peat Island and the adjacent land from inappropriate development, completion of the road maintenance program

as well as many others.

I am particularly pleased that Ron Barelle is back and working hard as ever to help deliver the DIMC.

Please keep in mind the dates and times of the next Dangar Island League public meetings where your attendance, input and support are greatly appreciated. The dates are:

League Public Meeting.
2pm Saturday 15th June 2013
At the Community Hall

League AGM
2pm Saturday 28th September
At the Community Hall

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Dangar Island League Inc. RENEWAL Memberships due 30th June 2013

Membership of the League (and active participation) ensures that a broader consensus on important matters is better established, and our collective voice is stronger when seeking to influence external authorities to take into account island-specific concerns that may otherwise have been missed.

Membership remains at \$5 pp per year. You can either pay for one, two or 5 years (\$25). The longer term helps with administration and some members it find more convenient.

There are three ways to renew:

- i) internet payment - go to website , www.dangarislandleague.net select menu and then membership renewals
- ii) by cheque : complete the tear off below and post with cheque into the Dangar Island League PO Box - bottom right of Café door.
- iii) cash - will only be accepted if you choose to renew when registering at a Public Meeting - next on Saturday 15th June at 2pm in the Community Hall.

Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

Dangar Island Café Survey

Jo Karcz

Report now available

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the recent survey of how the café is used, what people like about the café and what would encourage them to come more often.

Your responses have been collated into a report which is now available electronically. If you would like a report, please email me at bronekjok@bigpond.com Joanne Karcz (for the working group set up to support the café)

Dangar Island Café

Fiona Mullen

The shop has had a very busy period. School Holidays, Easter and Mothers Day. Chef *Adrienne* arrived just in time to experience it all! Thank you to her hard work in coming 'on line' and to all of our customers who visited during this time. As we enter the cooler months please ensure you continue using 'your' shop. Our food selection is constantly changing and evolving. Events and get togethers can have a menu tailored to suit. Adrienne's cakes are fabulous, so order one through the shop (with a weeks notice) and plan a celebration around one!

We have now been able to source our range of meat again from our original

supplier. Delivery had been an issue but has now been organised so we can enjoy the quality and better pricing.

Andrew from Nonnas Gourmet Sausages is a frequent visitor to the island and we are very pleased to announce the return of his range. This includes the La Ionica whole chickens. These are processed using an 'air chilling' method which does not use any chemicals. Special orders can also be taken.

As always, special thanks to our core group of volunteers. We really couldn't do it without you!

Dangar Island Café
9985 8539

www.dangarislandcafe.com

Buggy News

Judy Nicola

Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee

FOR SALE

2 'Safe and Sound' child car seats (one baby size, one toddler size)

AS NEW, bought for the buggy but never used.

\$50 each O.N.O.

Proceeds go to the Dangar Island Vehicle Management fund.
call Judy 0415 488 606



The Historical Society Renaissance continues

Peter Wolfe

We are making good progress under our new committee and are now inviting everyone interested to join up or rejoin.

Membership options:

5 years: \$45 individual or \$100 family (up to 5 adults or children at the same address).

1 year: \$10 individual or \$25 family.

Please email or inform us of your interest and we will send you our membership application and payment details.

Our biggest project will be to rewrite and reprint the Historical Guide. This will take most of our funds, current and expected, and we are delighted with the proposed Art Exhibition as a fundraiser for this.

Our history tours are available to all at \$10 a head or \$8 for Concessions/Groups, all proceeds go to Society funds. We have several groups booked over the winter already.

We are mounting an exhibition on Saturday 7th September in the Community Hall, and as this is part of NSW History Week events, we are expecting to welcome many interested visitors as well as islanders. We will be running a number of history tours that day. Our AGM will follow on the Sunday 8th and will include another opportunity to view the exhibition.

The central theme of the exhibition is “Dangar Island in Pictures: Then and Now”.

We will source photos from the collection, but would

like to invite you to submit your own ‘then and now’ photo(s).

It could be of anything relevant to Dangar: house, dog, children, boat, tree...

The time difference is up to you. 6 months ago, 10 years ago, 50 years ago...

Format: printed on photo paper; (If you have concerns for an older photo - we can scan your original photo and show the scanned copy).

Size: 4x6; 5x8.

We need photos to be submitted by end of July.

DANGAR ISLAND ‘IN THE NEWS’

Another theme of the Exhibition in September is “Dangar in the news”: a selection of news clippings over the years.

In researching this theme, we came across the following brief mention published in December 1938 in The Barrier Miner, a Broken Hill newspaper.

NATIVE BEARS DIE

SYDNEY, Thursday.—Hundreds of native bears have perished in the fire which has been blazing since Sunday at Dangar Island, on the Hawkesbury River. The fire swept through the bush and tall trees blazed from top to bottom.

(Broken Hill, NSW), Thursday
8 December 1938, page 3.

Dear Everybody

Michael Liebenberg

We are having an on island ART SALE to raise funds for the Historical society.

Please scour your cellars, ceilings and boat sheds for that old, beautiful but unloved, some may say “surplus to requirements” piece of ART.

All of these donations will be put on SALE at the end of July.

Please get hold of Michael on 9985 8455

This brief mention raises many questions:

Did this happen on Dangar? Or has Dangar been confused with somewhere else?

Did Dangar ever have koalas (assuming ‘native bears’ = koalas)? Could the vegetation of Dangar have supported koalas? Are there any other reports of koalas on Dangar?

Did other newspapers cover the story?

Does the Hornsby Rural Fire service have a record of fires in the area in 1938? (The Island’s Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1944).

We will give answers at the exhibition.

Please speak to any of the committee for more information on activities or registering your interest in Then and Now, or commenting on the koala story.

Peter Wolfe
peterdwolfe@bigpond.com
9985 7800 or 0420 303 414

Lisa Hayes,
lisahayes.aus@gmail.com
Rosemary Curtis,
rtcurtis@iprimus.com.au
David Reynolds,
dangardave@hotmail.com
Hans Pol, Judith Doyle,
Jenny Pakes.

New faces at the Bowlo



Peter Wolfe

A warm welcome to our new keg beers—Carlton draught, Blonde and Reschs. After many years of faithful service our antique cask system has been replaced by something from this century courtesy of Carlton Breweries. This allows us to have 3 beers on tap, so come and try them. Early reports are of very satisfied customers.

In this winter season we are open as usual except for Saturday lunchtimes so that’s Thurs, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime. Come and join us.

The major event of the season is Christmas in July on Saturday 27th July. Traditional Christmas and a one of the main fundraisers for the Club improvement fund. Tickets available soon at \$50 inclusive. Remember we are available at any time for your own celebration – just ask us.

MISSING

Angel pedestal garden feature from Sue Baxter’s old house. May have been mistakingly taken at the garage sale. Please phone **Judy 0415 488 606** - Ebon would like to have it as a keepsake.

Winter Burning

Jonathan Sykes
RFS Captain DI Brigade

The cooler months are safer for fuel reduction burning, so this is a great time to perform any pile burns around your property, to reduce bush fire hazards and get rid of unwanted vegetation. Weather permitting, the Dangar Island Brigade will soon be burning in Kiparra Park: more of that in a moment. Even in winter, formal environmental approval from Council is required before you light a fire in the open, plus you need a permit from the local fire authority in the Bushfire Danger Period (Oct to Mar inclusive). There are significant penalties for failing to obtain these approvals, or comply with their conditions. After you have obtained any necessary approvals you must also make sure you have notified all adjoining landowners/occupiers and your local fire authority before you light up. This prevents volunteer fires being responded unnecessarily, and it's common courtesy to your neighbours who may be affected by your smoke. Also, remember that there is a Green Waste collection every second Friday. This is often a much easier way of disposing of

your unwanted vegetation

The NSW RFS website (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) has great resources about backyard pile burns, resources also available from your Brigade. Contact Vanessa 0414 317 260. Bill Lynn-Robinson is the Dangar Island Permit Officer 9985 7279 Hornsby Fire Control 9883 2000.

Hazard reduction works are already underway in Kiparra Park as part of Hornsby Council's risk management plan, developed in consultation with neighbouring residents, the League, the Brigade and Bushcare. Works include a combination of manual clearing, pile-burning and broad-acre burning. Brigade members have already begun chipping firebreaks in the north-western corner, and a short period of dry weather should allow us to proceed with burning operations. We will of course fully notify the community in advance of any smoke and traffic hazards. Finally, please be safe and sensible with fireplaces and heaters: don't leave them unattended, and don't use them to dry laundry.

The Tumbling Man

Martin Lloyd

My body spins as consciousness settles in to its rightful place. Below me I see a figure clad in a suit of rubber as he tumbles along the sandy bed.

He is in trouble. And I am at peace.

Bubbles and eddies buffet me as the water roils about me and yet, and yet they do not touch me for I am in a separate place. In this place all is quiet, it is warm and calm I can feel the wind blowing gently across my body and I am flying, separating from the man

below me as he tumbles, legs and arms flailing and I realise again that he is in trouble, that he may be dying and again, that I am at peace, with his fate and with my fate. I feel no anguish and no pain. Anguish is the realisation that there is a difference between that that is, and that that I may once have wished to have been, and for me I have only what is.

A shaft of moon light glimmers and illuminates all about, but it is no moon that I know, but rather a light that is only light.

Emergency Medical Services

Christine Sanderson

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Community Information Meeting

Improving our access to emergency medical services The Hall, 2pm, Saturday July 13th The meeting will be a chance to discuss challenges for islanders of getting to emergency medical services, to think about what procedures we can set up to help improve our access issues, and to discuss the idea of starting a Community First Responder (CFR) group on the island. Some people may already be aware of the CFR group on Scotland Island, where they have very similar issues to ours.

If you want to be informed, if you have questions, concerns or ideas, if you would like to hear more about the CFR group idea - please come along.

The meeting will be attended by Superintendent Sue Webster, manager of Ambulance Volunteers & Community First Responders statewide, as well as by a senior manager from our own Zone.

First Aid for Islanders COURSE #2

The Hall, all day, Saturday November 2nd

Following the very successful (and fun) first aid course that was run earlier this year, and back by popular demand, a second course will be offered, again run by Sasha and Margo. If you are interested, put this date in your diary. More information to follow in the next Mullet Mail.

For more information on these activities:

contact **Christine Sanderson (15N)**
9985 8869 - 0487 325 366
christinersanderson@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Dangar Island League.



Far below me the man in the rubber suit turns and spins, dropping away.

The light that is only light gets no stronger but remains, calling me. The warm wind blows through my hair and the light soothes me and calls me. Below, tied to me by a thread thinner than thought the dying man turns and tumbles, spinning slowly, now only a speck, an unfathomable distance below me.

Before the thread breaks I realise that I have free will,

that I have choice and that my destiny is still mine to determine, do I follow the light, or reel in the silken line that still holds me to the tumbling man now barely visible, still falling, still weakening, still lost in the torment below.

He calls to me along this finest of threads, tells of lives not yet lived and of mistakes yet to be made and...

And I revel in the delight of my choices.

GUERRILLA KNITTERS



YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THIS

TEXT 'GUERRILLA' TO 0414 317 260 FOR DETAILS
(YARN DONATIONS WELCOME)

Vale Sue Baxter

Sarah Galvin

Sue Baxter lived on Dangar Island for a long time and was always a very active participant in the community. It is difficult to list all her contributions. In the different volunteer roles she undertook she was supportive and often helped to organize whatever was needed. She helped out at Brooklyn School when her son Ebon attended, did signage and participated in working bees at the bowling club, the shop and the community hall and over time was very involved on community hall committees and community vehicle management.

She had a good sense of fun and creativeness and her distinctive displayed signs, trademark face painting and costume making are just a few examples of her input in many community social events. She enjoyed the involvement and would help out whenever she could even though she became increasingly ill. Ebon was brought up in this community environment and was part of this warm family contribution. Sue and Ebon Baxter were a part of many peoples' lives and our thoughts are with Ebon as Sue is very missed.



Judy, Sue & Sarah

Dangar's link with Lucknow, India

Andrew Marr

Several years ago I worked in Lucknow, India for three years on an irrigation management project funded by the World Bank. I was amazed to see the "Twin Fish" symbol on all the old buildings around the city and even today the symbol is on the Coat of Arms for the State of Uttar Pradesh!



Coat of Arms of current day Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State of India

Lucknow is a city of about 5 million located 450km south-east of Delhi, making it 870 km from the Bay of Bengal to the east and 1060 km from the Arabian Sea to the west. It is the capital of the State of Uttar Pradesh which has a population approaching 200 million. It is about as different from Dangar Island as it is possible for a place to be, I thought! How did we get the same symbol? Did they copy this symbol from Dangar Island, I wondered.

Lately I have found time to do some Web research. I found that the use of the twin fish symbol in Lucknow dates back to at least 1722 when it was adopted as the symbol for the Nawabs, the rulers of

the kingdom of Avadh who ruled from Faizabad and then Lucknow until the Mutiny (called "The First War of Freedom" by Indians) in 1856. The Nawabs were a Persian Shia Muslim dynasty from Nishapur in north-east Iran. During their rule they invited, and received, a steady stream of scholars, poets, jurists, architects, and painters from Iran.

My research also revealed that the twin fish symbol is not unique to Lucknow. One reference states:

"The twin fish symbol is believed originally from the Mediterranean states from which it travelled to and settled around Lucknow. The same twin fish symbol can also be seen in ancient buildings in Nepal, Pakistan, China, and Japan and the gate of royal tomb of King Suro in the South Korean city of Gimhae."

Not surprisingly (it is India!), there is a mystical story associated with the twin fish:

"the icon begins with Sheikh Abdur Rahim, appointed governor of Lucknow by Emperor Akbar. He apparently spotted two entwined fish in the Ganga, an auspicious sign. Soon, the mahi maratib [now we have an exotic name for the twin fish] became the symbol of Lucknow."

So, I have not cleared up the mysterious link between the Lucknow twin fish and our own, but I now know that our Dangar twin fish have famous cousins all around the world!



Twin Fish symbol over an ancient gateway, Lucknow

Celebrating our volunteers

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN UNTIL END OF JULY

Andy Payne & Peter Wolfe

Our special way of life on the island is significantly enriched by the high level of volunteerism and the time individuals in our community give to the numerous groups, events and activities.

From people supporting the café and shop by cooking the weekend barbeque, to those improving the Club by helping out on working bees, the volunteer fireys, the bush carers, the musos who make Open Mic such a success each month, the League committee for their tireless efforts behind the scenes with council and others, the buggy drivers who turn up the ferry whatever the weather, the artists who create such beautiful projects for the island's children to get involved in; the list just goes on and on...

And yet until now there has not been an opportunity where we come together as a community to celebrate that spirit of volunteerism and to recognise the people who have made a difference through their contribution over the course of a year, or over a lifetime.

While most volunteers will tell you that recognition is one of the least important motivating factors, the bottom line is no matter what people say, they

do need to be recognised for their contributions and talents. Wanting to feel appreciated is human nature.

Providing an opportunity for people to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of others – a chance to say thank you - is equally important.

We have therefore established an event, jointly supported and hosted by the Dangar Island League and the Bowling Club, that provides a forum for islanders to say thank you and recognise others who've made a significant contribution. It is expected that the event will be held every two years.

Nominations are now open and can be able to be made in hard copy (nomination forms will be available at the Cafe and Club), or through an online form on the Community website (dangarislandleague.net/recognition). Nominations can be submitted until the end of July.

Volunteers give their time in many ways and often to many groups and causes. As a result there will be no nomination 'categories' as such.

The nomination form asks you to provide examples of how the nominee has made a significant

contribution to the community and/or organisation over time, how the nominee sets an example for others or how they have encouraged others to join their cause. You can nominate more than one person.

A review committee comprising members from each of the major island volunteer community groups and this year chaired by 'Ross Pavarotti' Higgins will meet during early August to review the nominations. In later years, past nominees will form the committee. If you'd also like to participate in the review committee please let us know. All nominees will be advised that they have been nominated and for what - giving them an opportunity to 'opt out' if they wish.

The objective of the nomination process is not about creating a contest. It's about making sure everyone on the island has the opportunity to recognise individuals who make a difference to our way of life – however they do it – whether they are part of an organised group or not. It's not a popularity competition and the Committee will review each nomination on its merits.

A special event will be held at the Club on Saturday 17 August

- more details will be provided closer to the time.

All nominees that the committee considers appropriate will receive a certificate of appreciation.

More information and the online nomination form is available on the Community website – at dangarislandleague.net/recognition. We hope you take this opportunity to say thank you and recognise someone who makes our island community such a special place.

New opening hours for HANG

Nicole Ruiz

HANG's new trading hours are now Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am - 5pm.

As winter approaches we have started to light our fires and have warm soup and lasagne on the menu so pop in and enjoy our cosy corner of beautiful Brooklyn.

Thanks for all your support.

A Church for the people on the river

Christine Sargeant

The Mooney Mooney Chapel is just off the highway, opposite the club, and was originally built for the Peat Island residents. The Chapel is available to all for anming ceremonies, weddings and funerals. A non-denominational group meets at the Chapel at 10am on the second and fourth Sundays and a Catholic group meets every Saturday at 4pm.

Contact Christine Sargeant on 9985 7040 for more information.



Near death experience

Sofan Chan

This legendary island had been drenched like a soggy pile of mud after a week of solid rain. I have been feeling like a mud pie myself – a bit mouldy and spiritless.

The sun finally poked its head out for a short while behind all the heavy rain cloud this morning and I was lured to the garden to soak up the rays, to rebuild and re-stock my solar energy and positivity.

In the back veggie garden the star fruit tree near the chook pen was covered by thousands of big and small green star shaped fruits. Very pretty and so abundant. All the leafy limbs were so heavily loaded with star fruits they were pulled down so low, like green leafy curtains decorated with green stars. The curtain formed a beautiful rounded-lantern like space inside the

tree.

I had to draw the curtain apart and lower my head, bending down slightly, to get closer to the voluptuous body of this green maiden, like bowing to the magnificent fruit bearing goddess before entering her sacred temple.

Inside this star fruit goddess temple, I finally understood why people will worship nature as divinity. Natural beauty is the most powerful enchanter of man and I was captivated by this unknown force of beauty. The past and the future were all vanished and I was standing in the moment of now and my heart was singing the song of love.

Then I noticed there was a small carton box sitting right under the main trunk of the tree. It looked so out of place.

I opened the box, a small pile of unrecognisable rotten flesh revealing to me and hundreds of bugs, flies and maggots crawling and feasting of whatever it was life once.

The sight of what happened after death rattled my heart and I screamed out loud and jumped backward, almost falling off the sandstone steps of the garden path, like getting attacked by a six-foot-tall fierce hungry lion.

When I was a child, I had helped my mother to kill, gut, skin, dissect, and cook chickens, ducks, fish for food preparation. It did not trouble me then and still killing for food and handling carcasses do not bother me now.

Then what is that frightened me so much? Is it my own MORTALITY?

This long-forgotten-possum

was found injured by Cassia and Jarrah in the garden over a week ago.

They wanted to nurse it back to its full life force. Unfortunately, the possum did not make it through the cold long lonely night in a tiny carton box, wrapped up like a new born baby with a fluffy blanket.

Even though, intellectually, I understand life is terminal and death is unavoidable, It took me by surprise that I flinched at the sight of death and decay.

I picked up my shovel, dug a big hole under this stunningly beautiful fruit bearing goddess tree, buried the possum in it. So then the possum could return its physical body to where it came from - The Earth. The possum's physical body is going to vanish and decay and its spirit..... keeps on.

Broken Spines..

Angela Brinn

Want to be in the thick of the Hawkesbury literary scene?

Since it's inception, **Broken Spines Second Hand Book Shop** has become the focal point for literary, literacy, poetry and all other things to do with the world of words. It has consistently maintained it's position as a rallying point in all manner of creative and philanthropic adventures.

The shops creator/instigator/agitator, *Trish Cox*, along with

willing sidekicks *Angela Brinn & Jon Watkins* have recently made changes to the structure and direction of the shop, including a four day week (long weekend) and all revenue used to maintain the shop as a vital resource and venue in the community. To that end, more people are sought to man the shop on a volunteer basis, helping with the work load of the current crew. Do you have occasionally a spare day Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday? Like to meet people and immerse yourself in stories? Let Angela know, come and meet the team for a chat, get involved in making the space a bigger, better and richer experience.

talk to Angela at:
angellinabee@hotmail.com

Conversations

Bruce Lambert

The expression of the badinage
had me in its thrall.

The tenor of the repartee
ensured it did not pall.

The footy game was going well
with rules just there to break.
The offside rule came into play
and I damn near lost my stake.

To bet with mates about the game
is bonzer mate, true blue.
That is until the ribbing starts
as if as though on cue.

The wit of puns is lost on me
as back and forth we parry.
That is until I strike my words
and decide no more to tarry.

The rancour left is soon expunged
as others try their skill.
The game is soon forgotten
as words parry for the kill.



Liver Health

Leanne Bremner

Even short detoxes of one to two weeks are beneficial for the liver health. Especially when your alcohol intake and consumption of processed foods is high. Read below to see how many of these symptoms apply to you.

Signs and Symptoms you need a liver cleanse

- Chronic recurring infections
- Muscle weakness or pain
- Headaches or migraines
- Chronic tiredness, chronic fatigue syndrome
- Digestive discomfort, loss of appetite, irritable bowel syndrome
- Nausea
- Abdominal bloating
- Intolerance to fatty foods
- Multiple chemical sensitivities e.g. hayfever, foods, asthma, skin rashes, red itching eyes
- Hormonal imbalances
- Alcohol excess/drug abuse/pharmaceutical drug intake including paracetamol
- Exposure to occupational or environmental pesticides, insecticides, herbicides
- Diet high in saturated fats and refined sugars, particularly when combined with weight gain around the abdomen
- Raised cholesterol/blood pressure levels
- Bad breath
- Mood changes, depression, foggy brain

Here is a great juice to have either during your detox or after a big night out. I have seen many people taking energy caffeinated drinks which are poor for you health have little nutritional value and also have a detrimental effect on blood sugar levels. This juice, will help replenish the body of the nutrients lost through alcohol consumption as well as beneficial liver cleansing properties.

Recipe for liver cleansing juice: beetroot, carrot and pineapple (or apple) with a little ginger. It really doesn't taste too bad with the added pineapple and ginger!

Liver Detox Diet: One to 4 weeks Avoid all alcohol! Minimise animal products to fish and chicken 2-3 times a week and eggs. Avoid dairy. Include a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. A combination of cooked vegetables, legumes and salads works well over winter. Include liver herbs like milk thistle, dandelion and schisandra to take care of phase one and phase two liver detoxification. Ask your island naturopath what herbs will work best for you.

Visit www.naturopathvitamins.com.au **liver detoxification page for more information and recipes for liver detoxification.**

YOGA with Jo

Jo Scarsbrick

Term 3. Wed 17th July - Wednesday September 26th 2013

When: Wednesday mornings
Where: Dangar Island Community Centre
Time: 10.25am-11.55am (1 ½ Hours)
Who can attend: all ages and all levels of fitness
Cost: 10 classes \$155

Casual \$20.00, Pensioner \$10.00

Benefits of Yoga: Anti-aging, reduce & manage stress, increase: breathing capacity, flexibility, strength and endurance. Have fun!

SPECIAL BONUS:

Book and pay upfront for 10 classes and get a special

bonus: Experience a great hour long massage for only \$30.00 or a ½ hour Reflexology for \$15.00, with Jo Cameron, gift certificate provided.

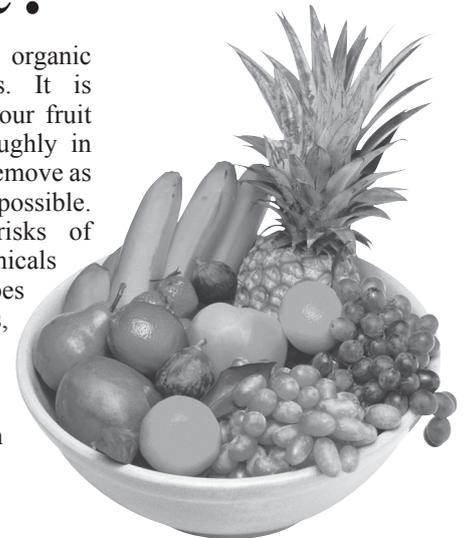
Contact:

0414 240 342

j_yoga@bigpond.com

Toxic residue?

If you don't eat organic fruit and vegetables. It is important to wash your fruit and vegetables thoroughly in water and vinegar to remove as much toxic residue as possible. Researched health risks of exposure to these chemicals include several types of cancers, diabetes, dementia, parkinsons, depression, dermatitis, infertility and risk of birth defects.



Reflexology ... putting feet first

Joanne Cameron

Reflexology feels great and is so good for us. Our feet have 7,000 nerve endings and address all the points to support the entire body. The feet are a mirror image of our body and astounding results have been proven with the use of Reflexology. In my case, many years ago I was faced with a serious health challenge. I decided to approach my problem in a holistic way first, reflexology was recommended. I was lucky to find a very good reflexologist, a retired Nun, who worked on my feet, once a week

for three months. I regained perfect health and my entire body was pain free once again. Still to this day I give thanks for her knowledge and healing skills and I too take a great interest in natural health and reflexology.

The benefits of the treatment are:

- **Helps remove waste deposits and build up of uric acid crystals in the feet, increasing energy and vitality.**
- **improves circulation and stagnant energy.**

- **normalises organs and gland function, improving performance and health of internal organs such as liver, lungs, kidneys etc.**

- **Relaxes the whole system, even the mind and is a prerequisite to good health and heals the body naturally.**

Also, I highly suggest walking on sand or earth every day, for just a few minutes to recharge your system. It's free and is a wonderful tonic for your well being. Try it, take off your

shoes, it feels great - you'll love it!

To book a treatment phone Joanne Cameron 0422 061 876

Cost: \$25 for 30 minutes.



The Artist's Way

Tracey Harwick

Artist Way meetings.

For Writers, Poets, Actors, Painters, Musicians and creative people in All walks of Life.

**At 81 Grantham Crescent
7.30-8.30pm fortnightly
on Mondays.**

An empowering course for aspiring and working artists. With the basic principle that creative expression is the natural direction of life.

Recover your creativity from a variety of blocks, including limiting beliefs, fear, self sabotage, jealousy, guilt, addictions and other inhibiting forces, replacing them with artistic confidence and productivity.

A copy of the Artist way by Julia Cameron and Mark Bryan is recommended.

We currently have a spare copy to lend to a participant.

\$.no fee.

Horoscopes

Fresh from the charts and almanacs of Randy Dong

ARIES

 Winter is coming, and with it a dark scourge that shall leave no man untouched, no kingdom unconquered. So stock up on firewood.

TAURUS

 Avoid making any important decisions this week. And, come to think of it, next week as well. In fact, assume this is always the case unless the stars tell you otherwise.

GEMINI

 Nobody cares about your cry-baby, whiny-assed opinion.

CANCER

 You will forget to pay your exorcist and get repossessed.

LEO

 There's no worse fate than dying alone. Thankfully, you'll be surrounded by hundreds of airline passengers when it happens.

VIRGO

Just chill, you are way too uptight. Get drunk.  Valium might help as well.

LIBRA

 You really piss people off with your smarty pants talk. Stop it now!

SCORPIO

 There has never been a better time to submerge your head in a large steaming vat of horse manure.

SAGITTARIUS

 On Friday, you will accidentally click iTunes and will have to wait 2 minutes for it to open before you can close it again. Which will make you just miss the ferry, which will lead to you driving too fast on the freeway, which will get you arrested and thrown in gaol, where you will become the "companion" of a lady called Doug.

CAPRICORN

 You are a strange half goat, half fish thing. Doesn't that bother you?

AQUARIUS

 Next week will be brought to you by the letter D and the number 12.

PISCES

 You will forget to bring your phone with you next time you go to poop and you will be bored the whole time.

Randy Dong makes no representations, warranties, or assurances as to the accuracy, currency or completeness of the content contained in these star signs.

Marauding Vegan Finally Captured!

After many months on the hop, Dangar Island's legendary bunny rabbit Toby has finally been captured. A local resident managed to corner the long-eared menace under a bush near Yallaro Parade, a location he has been known to frequent. The bunny was turned over to Council, which assessed the severity of the alleged crimes, set a record fine, and released the little cuniculus to a long term caged existence (but with stunning water views). The Northern Dangar rabbit has been evading bulldogs, magpies and the ever-present labradors whilst raiding the nearby veggie patches for treasures, such as fresh silver leaf kale. He has also been seen begging for carrots at the bowlo's kitchen door. Labeled "vermin" in most other parts of Australia, Toby has become somewhat of a folk hero amongst the Dangar youth with

his playboy antics, especially his flirting with his boyfriend Monty. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our local community, this vegan vandal will no longer poach parsnips from the population. Or will he? Experience says no cage will contain this bunny for long, so stay tuned...



You can send messages of support to Toby via his Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/harvey.toby>

Submitted By
A Staff Correspondent

Peat Island Project

Mel Anderson

The **Peat Island Group Exhibition** currently showing at HANG Gallery Brooklyn has proven to be a most emotional and powerful exhibition. Many ex-nurses and family with strong connections to the island have been through the doors in a sometimes emotional response to the work and the history of the island.

Peat Island holds a significant place in the white history of the river over the last century and this exhibition is a response to the island, and a sometimes murky history, by local artists, poets and writers.

Many people have shared stories of their time at Peat Island and we have created a Facebook page to collect these stories and memories as a further adjunct to the exhibition (www.facebook.com/peatisland). The exhibition will be travelling to other local galleries in the future but closes on the 24th of June at HANG, Brooklyn.

If you are an artist, musician or writer who would like to contribute to this ongoing exhibition please contact Myff Sharp at myffsharp@gmail.com or talk to Mel Anderson on island mel@melanderson.com.au.

Photography Club?

Jo Karcz

To see if there is interest in starting a **Photography Club** I am hosting a preliminary meeting at my home on Saturday 29th June at 2pm.

If there is enough interest, we can work out the what, how, when and where.

RSVP Joanne Karcz 9985 8694 / 0410 613 149

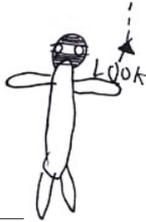
Ninja Chase

NINLU-CHAS.

Theo Tillson

Episode 2: The Sea Monster and The Monster

A Ninja fights two monsters - and wins!



COMIC BOOK

NINLU CHAS

THE SEA MONSTER AND THE MONSTER



EPISODE 2

BLGB

A NINLU FIGHTS TO MONSTERS AND WINS.

Theo

PUTT.



Dates for your diary

JUNE

- Sat 15 - **LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING**
2pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 21 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 28 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall

JULY

- Sat 6 - **DIFS Plastic Challenge**
3-8pm Dangar Island Hall
- Sat 13 - **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**
Community Information Meeting
2pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 19 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 26 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Sat 27 - **Christmas in July**
Dangar Island Bowling Club
- Sun 28 - **National Tree Day**
Hall Committee and Bushcare

AUGUST

- Fri 2 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 9 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 16 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Sat 17 - **ISLAND VOLUNTEER AWARDS**
Dangar Island Bowling Club
- Fri 23 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Mon 26 - **MULLET MAIL**
Deadline for submissions
- Fri 30 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall

SEPTEMBER

- Fri 6 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Sat 7-8 - **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
History Week Exhibition
Dangar Island Hall
- Fri 13 - **Dangar Island PLAYTIME**
10:30am-12:30pm Dangar Island Hall
- Sat 28 - **LEAGUE AGM**
2pm Dangar Island Hall

**deadline for next
MULLET MAIL
26 August**

puzzle one

A man lives on the twelfth floor of an apartment building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and leaves the building. In the evening, he gets into the elevator, and, if there is someone else in the elevator -- or if it was raining that day -- he goes back to his floor directly. Otherwise, he goes to the tenth floor and walks up two flights of stairs to his apartment. Why?

puzzle two

A man is found hanging in an otherwise empty locked room with a puddle of water under his feet. How did he die?

ANSWERS:

All the answers to the puzzles contained on this page are to be found on the Dangar Island website <http://goo.gl/dPFLO>.

Not-so-Evil Sudoku

Sudoku courtesy of sudoku.com.au/

		9			6		5	
2	4				7		8	6
6			3	8	9			1
		5			1		3	
8	6						9	5
	2		9			7		
9			2	5	3			4
4	7		6				1	3
	3		1			2		