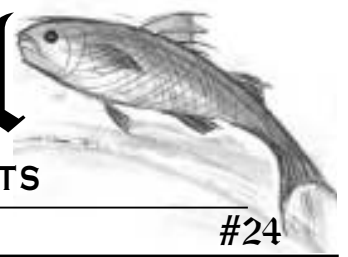




Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

www.dangarislandleague.net

Winter 2008

#24

SEAGRASS MUSICAL

Brooklyn Public School is doing its bit to raise awareness about seagrass, staging "Seagrass - The Musical" back in June. Students wrote and performed their own musical drama about the environmental effects of damage to the seagrass. They showed the important animals and plants in the seagrass bed and the many ways humans and boats have an impact.

Seagrass is just as important to fish as gumtrees are to koalas.

The Dangar Island seagrass bed is the largest in the Lower Hawkesbury. It covers 14 hectares (equal to approximately 20 football fields) and is an important habitat for marine life.

"Seagrass is an important part of our River's ecology," said Kristy Guise, Hornsby Shire Council's Environmental Scientist. "Animals can live in it and feed off it. However, seagrass is easily damaged by boat anchors or propellers and it takes a long time to grow back leaving the animals with nowhere to go."

"Because this seagrass is just south of Dangar Island, boating activities and commuter traffic is potentially harming this habitat." Kristy said.

"When operating a boat visitors and locals can help maintain this important resource through three simple actions:

1. Observe channel markers and seagrass marker buoys
2. Drive boats through the deep channels - not over the seagrass
3. Tell others about this important seagrass area"

NSW Maritime have placed nine yellow marker buoys around the Dangar Island Seagrass to help locals and visitors identify where the seagrass bed is located.

Last summer workshops held at Dangar Island proved popular with the local community, indicating a high level of interest for protecting the seagrass bed. People interested in future seagrass activities should contact Kristy Guise at Hornsby Council on 9847 6899.

The Dangar Island Seagrass Protection and Education program is a joint initiative between Hornsby Council and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, funded through the Natural Heritage Trust.

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INC

Annual General Meeting Sunday 28th September

1400 to 1600 in the Community Hall.

The League is one of this community's representative groups. It represents the interests of members and the community of Dangar Island. I encourage you to attend and if you have the time, nominate for a position. The League needs people who wish to assist their community. The work is not onerous but is steady.

The League has written to the Council seeking the erection of at least two sign-posted animal waste bins with bag dispensers for the use of the community members with dogs. The League will write to the Council seeking information about when the park toilets will be connected to the sewer system.

The League congratulates the film group on its recent 100th film screening.

On behalf of the League I would like to thank Jenny Shanley for her creative work over the past years with the Mullet Mail.

Peter Short President

Join the League Today!

\$5 Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Mail with \$5 to: Jonathan Sykes, 7 Barooma
or direct deposit BSB: 633 000 A/c: 129693330 Dangar Island League Inc - advise by email glaba5@aamnet.com.au

DANGAR ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting Saturday 6 September

12.30 pm in the Community Hall.

Come along and meet the Committee Members and learn how your Community Centre (aka Hall) functions.

The Community Hall is such an important part of this little community. Perhaps you would like to consider joining the Committee and making your own contribution to our Hall?

The rainwater tank, despite a few minor glitches is now operational and providing rainwater for flushing the toilets in the park.

The Hall Committee would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Geoff Gausla who transported the tank to the island for free as a donation to the community. Many thanks Geoff!



The public toilets at the park are now flushed with rainwater. You'll see a rain tank on the west end of the Hall, which feeds the toilet block via a pressure control pump. The tank is topped up with tap water in times of low rainfall, guaranteeing 100% supply. Well done Hornsby Council for this water saving initiative.

If like me you want or already have a wastewater recycling system, you will have received a letter from Council saying you must connect to the sewer. Well let's not forget the days when town water first came to the island and the Government made us decommission our rain tanks. 25 years later they PAID us to re-install them. Onsite wastewater management is responsible use of a valuable resource, which Council's own policy commits it to promote.

The League is making representations to Council on this, so get in touch or get onto the bulletin board at www.dangarislandleague.net and post in the "Sewerage" forum. You need to be registered and logged in post but you don't have to be a member. While you're there there's plenty to entertain and inform you, and you can start your own discussion. Jonathan Sykes, Dangar Island League Committee.

BRADLEY'S BATHING BEACH

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group has engaged the University of NSW to undertake a valuation of Sydney beaches and develop a process to assist Local and State Governments to make more informed decisions on how to protect coastal property, infrastructure, beach environments and amenity at threat of coastal erosion due to enhanced climate change impacts.

The project will determine the total economic value of selected Sydney beaches in three different local government areas, and has chosen Bradley's Beach on Dangar as the (only) estuarine site.

The results of the study will be used in developing a process for assessing coastal protection measures against social, environmental and economic criteria. This will enable more efficient utilisation of available beach management resources at a state and regional level.

Further information about the study, and a wealth of other information relating to coastal management issues, can be found at <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au>.

Cllr Wendy McMurdo
Bradley's Beach is the south facing beach between the two public access tracks along Grantham Cres. This spectacular area is a designated Public Bathing Reserve providing the only non-private waterfrontage on the island. Many boats are abandoned there. If you are not using your "wreck", please take it home. -Ed

BROOKLYN SPRING FAIR Sunday 14th September

Mark your calendars! The main fundraiser for the Hawkesbury River Childcare Centre is scheduled for September 14th. Stalls, food, face painting, jumping castle, kids' rides, the annual Pony Poo Competition and lots more! Also this year a giant white elephant and book stall. If you have any items you don't need, bring them on the day to the stall or drop them off at the Childcare Centre. For information on having a stall or any other fair information, call 9985-7362. See you there!
HRCC fundraising committee

GREEN CORNER

IT'S TIME TO RENEW -

CALLING ALL BOWLING MEMBERS

Memberships for the year commenced 1 June 2008 are now due.

www.dibc.com.au

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLS OPEN Saturday 16th August

Save the date and get your name down at the Bar if you're interested. There will be a Singles event and Pairs (with Pairs drawn on the day).

OKTOBERFEST - HOMEBREW COMPETITION

Now is the time to start preparing if you wish to enter this year's Oktoberfest Home Brew competition which will be held over the October long weekend.

RIVERTIME

Andy Merl, Arn Storch and their team provide an increased range of great value meals and are now open Thursday nights through until Sunday lunch. Bookings are essential (phone 9985 7083).

For the information of Members and guests.



Sat 30th Aug 2008: An Evening with Nathan James Smith. Meet local filmmaker who enchantingly captures the flora and fauna of the Hawkesbury area in his DVD series *Life In Our Backyard*. This evening is proudly brought to you by the Dangar Island Bushcare Group.

Sat 20th Sept 2008: Family Night. For all the Little Islanders and their Mums and Dads.

For more info visit our website www.difs.net You can join or mailing list, send us a message, download and share our latest Kids Workshop movie *Message On The Water*, and see our awesome poster archive.

DANGAR ISLAND FAUNA STUDY

To explore, educate and understand the ecological importance of the fauna of Dangar Island, Hawkesbury River.

Introduction

• Various land uses interact with the ecological functionality and health of Dangar Island. These include, but are not limited to, fire, residential development, water and associated waste water, and exotic pest species (including domestic pets).

• Past fauna studies have only recorded the species known to occur on Dangar with little exploration of this fauna in the context of changing land use pressures and a wider regional context.

• This fauna study hopes to establish the local and regional importance of fauna observed or known to occur on and around Dangar Island.

• All outcomes and findings from the fauna study will be available to all stakeholders in the interests of understanding the ecological importance of the fauna of Dangar Island. This will inform residents and local community groups, contributing to land use and natural resource management strategies, including Bushcare, fire management and Historical Society. We will also communicate information and data to wider local, regional and national

wildlife atlas and database records.

• It is known that many fauna species are transient visitors to Dangar Island either on a seasonal or sporadic basis. Other species, isolated by the surrounding Hawkesbury River spend their entire lifecycle dependent upon Dangar Island. Both of these groups will be explored through the study.

• As well as fauna sightings, key habitat features, including feed and nesting sites will be identified and included in the outcomes and findings of the study.

The Approach

• The fauna study kicked off by contacting residents to send on either recent or historical incidental sightings, or species lists. This baseline reference is essential in identifying any changes in the faunal assemblage. Two key ornithological records have been identified as providing key information on the bird faunal group (Ben Miller circa 1990 & Harry Recher circa 1980). Further ongoing engagement with local residents would add to this baseline information.

• The next step is to establish ongoing methods for gathering field data. To date the fauna study has undertaken the following sampling effort:

- Small traps have been placed throughout the reserve to capture, release and record incidence of small marsupials (& non-marsupials).
- Mist nets and harp traps have been placed along Riverview Avenue to record potential activities of small bats (micro-bats).
- A number of raised honey stations have been placed high in trees throughout the reserve to record potential feather tail glider activity.

Moving forward

• We invite all residents to keep a vigilant eye out for any interesting fauna sightings (either current or historical). Please send these on to Guy Williams (9985 8860, guy@tdaconsulting.com, Ana Pollak (9985 7707).

• We are continuing our sampling of the reserve and other key habitats. We welcome keen and interested residents to help with this program.

• We are very interested in gaining a full record of the activities and potential impacts of domestic pet and other feral animal. See story "Dangar Ferals" Mullet Mail #23.

In a myriad of ways Dangar Island is a special place, with a unique community, a unique ecology and a unique set of changing pressures. We will continue to share the findings and thoughts arising from the Dangar Island fauna study throughout the coming seasons as well as continuing to request your input and assistance. Cheers, Guy



WHALE WATCH

A female humpback whale with calf, spotted by Marine Cabs' Rick Stockley just off Wobby, Friday 8th Aug.

COMMUNITY VEHICLE REUNITES OLD FRIENDS

From left; Dot Holland, Edna Myers, Elsa Durante and Jeanette Hutchinson pictured with our yellow buggy and volunteer driver.



WHERE IS OUR SHOP NOW?

A group of islanders are looking at ways that will allow the shop to re-open under a new management which would both provide what the shop has provided in recent years and potentially some additional services.

Ron Barrelle, the owner of the shop premises, has considerable goodwill towards the island and his preference is to get the shop reopened. A proposal that is being entertained is to turn it into a Co-op and islanders that elect to be members will receive a 10% discount on goods purchased against a commitment to spend about \$3,500 per annum through the shop (or we believe 40% of their weekly spend). In return the Co-op would provide, at competitive rates relative to convenience a set of groceries each week which are groceries most people buy. This will allow the shop to buy in bulk. The idea is not to provide the weekly shop through the Co-op but to provide those items people buy regularly. So the focus will be on bulkier items, meat and vegetables. Other groceries will be available but more at convenience store rates. The proposition needs about 40 households to commit to make it work. The discount will apply for all goods purchased at the shop which would include cakes, coffees and the like.

By making this commitment to the shop, which will involve some purchasing discipline by those that commit, the shop becomes a viable commercial proposition and the service and focal point it provided can be provided again and with the right team to run it, extended.

We would like to know if islanders would be interested in making a commitment and if so at what level. If they were committing to a level of expenditure, what would they like most to see purchased by the shop which would form part of the commitment? Would it be nappies, children's food, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, dog food, meat, vegetables, dishwashing liquid, washing powder, toilet paper etc? And in what quantities a month? The items are yours to feed back to us.

The intention is to make the shop a commercial proposition with the help of the buying power of islanders in a disciplined way so as to buy bulk and improve purchasing power and storage capacity. We would welcome your feedback and commitment to the idea. The shop is more than a place to get groceries but committing to groceries is the key to getting your coffee, cakes and milk back.

Please give your feedback to Chris Innis at chrisinnis@yahoo.com best with answers in writing so that they can be collated and any questions call 0415784969.

SAVING TIME

A stitch in time saves nine. A statement of the utmost inanity I mutter, as I casually regard the slightest of imperfections in the weave of one of the legs of my oldest and most beloved pair of jeans.

With an air of arrogance, bordering on contempt, I casually don the aforesaid article of apparel and, horror of horrors, the denim is dealt a resounding rent.

So much for tired old homilies. The nine stitches saved would not even make an impression upon the number that are now needed, to have possibly justified putting time aside to do one stitch in the first place.

But time waits for no man, at least not for one who now sits with needle and thread and contemplates the sad state of his jeans.

Though they could still be saved. If only I had the time. Funny thing that, I never seem to have enough time.

Bruce Lambert

Next Bush Care 13th Sept

MISS SEPTEMBER *Logania albiflora*

Graceful shrub less than 2 m high, in sheltered forest slopes on sandstone especially in moist conditions.

Leaves: opposite and hairless, from square stems, variable in shape, olive green above and pale on the underside.

Numerous tiny sweet scented white flowers.



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send your articles to mulletmail@dangarislandleague.net