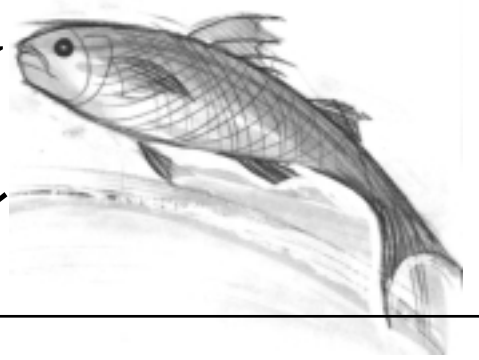


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#13

April 2003

Good news/ bad news

Firstly, CONGRATULATIONS to Phyllis Gilbert, who last week was made Honorary Life Member of the Fire Brigade!! Phyllis, who is the Island's oldest resident, was chuffed.

Here we are, a third of the way into the year, and your League Committee has been flat out. A quick summary of progress to date includes

Island Roads: Council has resolved to close the roads for a 12 month transition/trial period, pursue a Community Vehicle for the Island, and reduce the ute hire rates. All this has to be phased in.

Jetty Disabled Access and Berthing: A very busy campaign to put a proposal to Council, in time for Council's Budget Meeting, was rewarded when Cr Graham Orr successfully moved a motion to have Council provide funds for this project. Now we have to get a matching grant from the State Government to make this happen. The proposed additional jetty, if constructed by summer would be a great Christmas present for the Island.

Incorporation of the League is expected to be in place very soon, which is what we need to get the Grant just mentioned.

The famous Water Tank and preservation thereof is still being pursued. Changing State Ministers and responsibilities adds to the challenge. Sydney Water is musing over their breached responsibilities to supply water to hydrants in emergencies.

Island Sewerage is also on the Agenda. We are in communication with Sydney Water to find out exactly what it is that they plan, and to see what the repercussions of these plans are, and to nudge them into a situation that will be better for all.

It's like the League being a little rudder on the Queen Mary. Is that a change of course we see, or a trick of perspective?

The Island DCP has not got a look in yet, but it's turn is coming.

Phyllis gets a hug from Captain, Peter Short, on the auspicious day. Helen Whitty [president] and Pauline Foote in background.



Another important issue that we have to unravel concerns the Island Hall and constraints on it's use foreshadowed by Council due to Public Liability insurance issues.

Thank you HIH and compensation vultures.

It has also been a time of tragedies.

First the war, then the sudden death of Sue Staines' Dad while staying on the Island; Nola Smith suffering a terrible farm accident, and then the death of 'Garnsey' in a house fire at Wobby Beach..

The kindness and sympathy of all Islanders is extended to those affected.

Ron Barrelle, President

KNOW YOUR FIRE BRIGADE!

The December bushfire crisis prompted renewed interest in the organisation most likely to save their homes!

The Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade was established in 1944. It has provided a range of services to the Island community and the communities of the River. The Brigade always needs members who are willing to fight fires or provide other assistance. Join the Brigade and develop new skills!

Membership is open to everyone over 16 years of age on Dangar Island. It meets first Sunday of the month at 9.00 am. The formal part of the meetings is brief, whilst the practical side can take as long as necessary. The practical side involves training and maintenance. The Brigade has also taken on the job of cleaning the community vehicle (the ute) each month.

Senior Deputy Captain, Russell Taylor, was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the Australia Day Awards, a testament to his work for the Brigade particularly, and the community generally, over a number of years.

Peter Short, our Captain, was presented with a Community Service Award by the Brooklyn Public School's School Council at the end of year assembly 2002.

SMOULDERING NEWS

Fire Hazard Reduction on top of the Island is scheduled between May and July. Three times the Brigade was prevented from doing a scheduled burn off in 2002 by bad weather and a directive from Central East Regional Office of the Rural Fire Service.

You may be surprised to know that in the recent fires, 49% of Hornsby Shire was burnt - approximately 25,000 ha.

Membership form for Dangar Island League

Name

Address

Telephone

I include \$5 membership fee for the period to June 30 2003.

Please place in an envelope and leave at shop for the Treasurer or address to PO Dangar Island. Any enquiries, phone Jonathon 7142. A receipt will be issued.

Everyone is invited to come and bring your friends and join in the fun of a day
".....simply messing about in boats." (or just being a spectator), on

Dangar Dory Derby Day

**Easter Sunday
Sunday 20th April**

Heaps of races for everyone to be involved, including lots for the children, an Apostle's Race (12 to a dory with no oars/paddles), and the men's and women's Round-the-Island. Prizes for race winners, and for the best-decorated dory on the day!

Starting promptly at 10.00 am

And don't forget to bring a hat and some sunscreen



Letters to the editor

Thankyou to everyone who contributed to the wonderful Alluvium 2, with the biggest bouquet surely going to Cybele Shorter and family. The Hall was packed with goodies and showed the creativity of our community members.

Alluvium is a case of culture bought alive by a few dedicated people deciding to put that extra in, to bring us out.

Helen Whitty

Bush regeneration

We are very active at the moment, currently dealing with fire hazard reduction near properties above Riverview Ave. We have started a mapping project for the reserve to monitor changes. The black plastic on the rocks to the south of the reserve is a temporary in situ compost for fishbone fern garden escapes. The mass has reduced to about a third of its initial size, and when the contained weeds are completely biodegraded we will be able to remove the plastic.

Alluvium

Thankyou to everybody who became a part of the second exhibition and extra special thanks to all those who helped with the set up and take down and workshops. Next year we'll do more workshops. To those who missed out we look forward to your joining us next time.

Film Society

Following our first outdoor screening, a very well received Metropolis, DIFS brings you next:

Sat 26th April (Anzac Weekend)

Harry Potter and The Chamber Of Secrets

Sat 24th May

Ana and Trish programming

Sat 28th June

Fire Brigade Social Night

Check out our all new web address for more details www.difs.net.

Jonathon & Cybele

CLASSIFIEDS

LESSONS

Available to teach adults and children, individual and in groups, the following: **SINGING** [beginners & intermediate; repertoire & freeing the voice]; **PIANO**. [beginners and grades 1, 2 & 3], **DIDGERIDOO**; **BOTANICAL DRAWING & WATERCOLOUR**.

PLEASE CONTACT: Jo Truman on 9985 8065 or 9985 7578 or email ju_truman@hotmail.com

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

ROAD CLOSURE TIMEFRAME

2003 April	May	July	2004 Jan	July
Advertising period		Council close roads	TRIAL PERIOD	Report to Council
RTA notified	Traffic committee meeting	Impelement restrictions	Fully implemented	Fully implemented
377 c'tee set up		Notification to relevant parties	Compliance required	
Restrictions documented		TRANSITION PERIOD		
Community vehicle obtained				



TV RECEPTION FOR RIVER RESIDENTS

The Mooney~Cheero Progress Association (MCPA) is close to receiving a TV Black Spots grant from the Federal Government worth \$125,000 - \$150,000, to fund a television relay station on Long Island, which should improve reception for most residents of surrounding river communities including Brooklyn, Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point, Dangar Island, Little Wobby Beach, Cogra Bay, Milson's Passage and possibly even Bar Point.

Securing this grant, plus equipment maintenance support from TXAustralia and use of the tower controlled by Argus Communications for State Rail Authority, has taken several years of persistent effort from members of the Mooney~Cheero Progress Association

(and valuable work by Dangar Island League in the early stages). Negotiating a lease for the tower has reached a critical stage, and the community now needs to raise \$3,000 to cover an initial payment to Argus, legal advice and other expenses.

Residents from River communities who will benefit from this initiative are asked to share in the cost by sending donations, even as little as \$10, (cheque or money order) payable to the Mooney~Cheero Progress Association, to PO Box 141 Brooklyn NSW 2083. All donations will be receipted by the Treasurer, Sallyann Field. For more information, please call MCPA Secretary, John Andrews (9985 9073) or your local resident group. If we can't raise this amount, this great chance to improve local TV reception will be lost for the foreseeable future.

Rigmor Berg, MCPA

Pedestrian Precinct a goer

Following the last workshop held by Hornsby Shire Council on Feb. 12, it was resolved in March, by the elected Council, to close the roads on Dangar Island. Ron Barrelle, Helen Jones and myself addressed Councillors on the issue; the majority decided to add in a trial period, so that a report could be presented to Council for consideration, to ensure that the closure is proceeding smoothly.

As per advice at the workshop, Council officers will be the issuing body for permits for any proposed residential vehicles for disability [larger than a mobility scooter, which are automatically exempt from restriction]; and a 377 committee [like the Hall one] will be set up for issuing permits for short-stay vehicles and to oversee the community vehicle hire. Invitations to apply for this committee will be advertised by Council before July.

The community vehicle is 'on track' for arrival when the roads close.

Wharf Upgrade Update

Solid progress is being made with moves to improve access to Dangar Island with improvements to the wharf.

Michael Dean, convener of the Dangar Island League's community berthing sub-committee, reports that, "Thanks to the help of Cllr Graham Orr, Hornsby Council allocated \$40,000 to the project at a recent budget meeting".

Michael said "Council is very impressed with the amount of work the sub-committee has undertaken and the strong case it put forward regarding the need for the upgrade".

Michael said that he is extremely pleased with the progress made so far, and that "When taking into account the other contributions (in-kind) from Council staff and Dangar Island residents, the total contributions now available is approx \$80,000."

These funds can be used to seek matching funding from the NSW Government under its Waterways program.

If you are interested in helping out with this sub-committee or commenting on design options, please contact Michael Dean on (02) 9985 8273.

TECH SUPPORT

The following is the enthralling response to last MM's enquiry regarding upgrading programs.

Dear Desperate:

First keep in mind: Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try entering the command C:\I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME and download Tears 6.2 to install Guilt 3.0.

If all works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Flowers 3.5 and Jewelry 1.0.

But remember overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will create SnoringLoudly.wav files.

In summary Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have a limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider additional software to improve memory and performance. I personally recommend Lingerie 6.9 and Hot Food 3.0.

Tech Support

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE

Meeting Calendar

2nd quarter 2003 all held at the Community Hall

APRIL

Wed 2 7.30 P.M. Management & Subcommittee Meeting
 Sat 12 School hols to 27 April
 Fri 18 Good Friday
 Fri 25 Anzac Day (Long W/E)

MAY

Wed 7 7.30 P.M. Management & Subcommittee Meeting
 Sun 11 Mothers Day

JUNE

Wed 4 7.30 P.M. Management & Subcommittee Meeting
 Mon 9 Queens birthday long weekend
Sat 14 2.00 P.M. Winter General Meeting
 Mon 30 Tax time (and League Memberships due)

Please note that the views of contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the publisher.