

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE

The AGM of the Dangar Island League was held on the Sunday, 28 September 2008 at 2:00pm, with 25 attendees. After the resignation of several members (including President Peter Short) of the Executive Committee, a new Committee was elected under the terms of the Constitution.

The new Committee is:

Antony Schinckel (President)
Hans Pols (Treasurer)
Michael Dean (committee member)
Terry Dorrrough (committee member)
Judith Doyle (committee member)
Jonathon Sykes (Membership officer)
Cybele Shorter (Mullet Mail)



Vice President and Secretary positions vacant. Anybody interested in these roles please contact the League.
(Ron Barrelle was the returning officer).

On behalf of everyone present, I would like to thank the previous members of the committee for their efforts. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of Peter Short. Peter is well known to all as a tireless worker in our community, who has served as League president and fire brigade captain. Peter was seriously injured the night before the League meeting, and we wish him well for a speedy recovery.

The AGM was followed by a General meeting which included discussion on a number of points that are of interest or concern to the community.

The issues discussed include the following:

- status of the sewer connection for the Community Centre and Bowling Club;
- restoration of the roads and paths after the completion of the sewer connection project;
- issues about using houses on the island for holiday rentals and the "river settlements review";
- questions about cats and dogs on the island, particularly with reference to dogs running free and lack of cleanup of faeces by both some locals and visitors;
- questions about possible upgrades to the playground ;
- maintenance of common areas on the island, such as the grass verges, playground area, etc;
- the future of the shop.

Extensive discussions on all these issues demonstrated the strength of community feeling and involvement in Island activities. The large turnout was very good to see !

I would like to add that I see the League as representing the community of the island – YOU. (Hmmm, this is starting to sound suspiciously like a political speech. Couldn't be further from the truth !).

I have opinions and views but I am also very aware of my status as a newcomer on the island and I am keen to see everyone get involved (or at least express their opinions). I do firmly believe that a small community like Dangar will be more successful in pursuit of our goals if we use a consensus approach – that is, if we present a unified front in our dealings with outside bodies such as Council, Sydney Water, etc.

I would like to ask anyone with views about island community matters to express them – either by writing to me as Dangar Island League President (drop it in the mailbox 141R) or by asking a committee member to bring up a topic at an executive meeting. We will hold periodic meetings to seek input from the community on issues that affect us. (The next executive meeting is Tuesday 28 October).

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in looking after Dangar Island.

Antony Schinckel

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Summer is just around the corner and its now time to focus on preparing your property for the Bush Fire Danger Period, (if you haven't already done so).

For those new to the Island and for the information of everyone

Firewise Meeting

will be held in the Community Hall at
11am Saturday 8th November.

Its important that we all know what to do in the event of a fire on the Island or in the surrounding area and how we can reduce our exposure to such threats. We hope as many of you as possible will attend. It's a light, informal atmosphere and we'll have a cuppa afterwards.

Peter continues to do well following the brutal accident. I'm sure that we all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to having him back on deck in the near future. He is a remarkable man and a much loved "Islander".

Senior Deputy, Russel Taylor

OCEAN

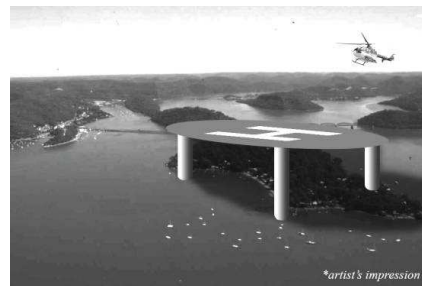
Tumbling in the middle of a wide and empty ocean
The boat tilts and sways like a toy in commotion.
Its cloudy all day, no directions to obey.
No way to get my bearings, I just sit here and sway.
Listening to the ropes as they wear against the rails
And the wind whistles past, gently pulling on the sails.
I'm floating in a sea that I cannot command,
Holding memories of me that slip through my hand.
Sliding in and out of a dream-like state
As the water rushes past; it will not wait.
The sun disappears on the horizon in a slot
Where all the dreams are held, some real and some not.

Monique Ewen

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Recent events on Dangar Island have once again highlighted the pressing need for a helipad on Dangar Island. The Hornsby Advocate has even taken up the call as lives are lost daily for lack of this vital facility.

I present here an artist's impression of the latest helipad proposal. In addition to rendering Dangar residents safe from heart attack, snakebite and hurty ankle, the proposal includes a number of accessory benefits:



- a. Reduced bushfire risk as native vegetation, indeed any vegetation dies off for lack of sunlight
- b. Reduced skin cancer rates among older people
- c. No need for houses to have expensive and inconvenient roofs
- d. Prestigious transport options for VIPs
- e. Tsunami evacuation point
- f. Rainwater collection

The community must unite and welcome any contribution, however witless, to this bold and urgent initiative.

Jonathan Sykes

Editors note: Income from this helipad project will aid us to secede from Australia. Send nominations for King or Queen to the M.M.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTUONS TO
mulletmail@dangarislandleague.net

All contributions welcome.

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLING CLUB

At the recent AGM of the D.I. Bowling Club, discussions centred around the escalating cost of compliance to meet our obligations as a company. Our most significant cost is our Auditor. As there are many new faces on the Island and the many contacts that people have in "Australia" we are hoping that someone knows someone who may do our auditing for free or at a reduced rate. This would help the Club enormously.

A suggestion at the AGM to create an equipment replacement/repair fund was gratefully accepted. Monies donated by members or friends of the Club would be quarantined into this fund rather than consolidated revenue so that we can report on the benefits of the fund directly. If you find that you can assist us with a donation to the fund please see one of the Directors. We would be grateful for any and all donations. Ours is a community Club to be enjoyed by you the Community. It would be a shame to lose another Island amenity.

(For the information of members and guests.)

Carols in the Park Brass Band - Sausage Sizzle Sunday 21st December 2pm onwards

HOME BREW COMP OKTOBERFEST

Controversy has again bedevilled the hotly contested Oktoberfest Homebrew Comp with the panel of Chabela Torres, Manfred Merl and Stuart Dines awarding TWO first prizes.

Whereas in previous years "Freddie" Marshall provided the headlines by giving the judges 20 bucks, this year the Mittagong Mauler snatched the wooden spoon using elbow grease and a brew kit that expired in 2001. No amount of fiduciary emolument could recompense a case of botulism, but judges commended the lightness of his light ale.

Best Dark winner Kevin Smith wasn't sure if the panel meant him or his Millenium Heritage Brew with "balanced flavour and nice body", but

A POSTCARD FROM HYDRA, POROS AND AEGINA

Why do I/we feel at home on islands and hill towns? Perhaps it's the sense of being in a village with shared values and lifestyle or the sense of protection afforded by a wall or shoreline, or the sense that the rest of the world is a long way away. After a week walking in the scrubby plateau above the Dordogne River, staying in fortified hill towns or 'bastides' and visting the Greek islands, I have a theory: Dangar Island is in fact a Greek island that sailed off on its own odyssey and, after many adventures ended up in the great south land. Dangaros (Δανγαρος) perhaps or Mulletarini (Μυλλεταρινι)?

Hydra, Poros and Aegina are close to Athens, each with a small village or two, and have much in common with our little bit of nirvana. The terrain is gentle, the contours slide into the sea, the sun always shines, the breeze always blows, the olive-green vegetation kisses the water and nobody cares about the big city nearby. There is a creaky ferry every so often and timetables haven't been invented yet. Under grape trellises on the edge of tiny harbours time stands still with beer, wine, olives and thick coffee. The people are polite, do as little work as possible, muck about in boats and barbeque their catch. Donkeys do the heavy lifting and stray dogs sleep all day. Planning is random, architecture is simple and the buildings might get finished someday. Visitors are like flies: annoying but gone by sunset.

Sound familiar? Definitely worth a visit. My next postcard will be from Santorini, the cuckoo of the Aegean, a brooding hump of volcanic lava with white, organic villages clinging on by their fingernails. Perhaps 'postcards' from other islands could become a regular part of Mullet Mail? Cheers, David and Jenny Turner

MORE RIVER RECIPES...

continues to welcome contributions - send recipes and sponsorship ASAP to PO Box 2N

Dangar Island or email to indioven@froggy.com.au

More River Recipes is a fundraiser for Hawkesbury River Childcare Centre, it is a sequel to the the very successful River of Recipes (1995).

We need your favourite recipes, comments why you like them, their history, or who you pinched them from, as well as river and boating tips, kids games or activities. Sponsors cover printing costs and will be acknowledged in the recipe book.

Thankyou to everyone who has already sent in their contribution.

WINNING TICKET

Thank you to all the Dangar Islanders who bought tickets for the Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School (KCAHS) raffle. This is an important fund-raiser for the school. We were all very close to winning the first prize - the Mazda 2 Maxx. Marcela (KCAHS Year 7 student) sold the winning ticket to one of my work colleagues.

Chabela Torres

DANGAR ISLAND HALL NEWS

Following the Annual General Meeting in September we have a new committee.

Chairperson - Wendy McMurdo
Secretary - Jane Putt
Booking Officer - Michele Rumsey
Treasurer - Chabela Torres
Committee Members -
Heather Dorrrough,
Kathryn Kirby
and Judy Lattas

Welcome to our new committee members Jane and Kathryn!

Thank you to Georgia Lynn-Robinson, Wynn Webber and Tess McCallum, departing committee members, for your contribution to the management of our Hall!!!

The Hall is a great asset and we would like to continue seeing it well used by our community. The management committee is responsible for the care, control and management of the Hall, and is required to undertake these responsibilities in accordance with Hornsby Council's community centres and halls procedures. Please assist us by booking the Hall in advance of your event and making sure that forms are completed and conditions of hire are met.

THANK YOU!!!

The Hall Committee



11 November

REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was a dark November morn as all the earth lay still. The people slept in innocence for freedom was their will.

A freedom born of suffering from all they had to give. Those who made the sacrifice so others may yet live.

The comrades of such callow youth when first they went to war. Soon brutalised by stench of death were men who reached this shore.

That eleventh day did dawn at last on faces proud, sincere. The fallen we remember for two minutes every year.

Bruce Lambert

Next Bush Care November 8th

MISS OCTOBER

Gompholobium latifolium

Golden Glory Pea

A 1-2m high bush, growing in dappled shade in forests on sandstone.

The leaves consist of 3 leaflets, 3-5cm long and 3-5mm wide, flat or with margins slightly curved under.

Large single bright yellow flowers 3 cm wide, on short stalks usually on the upper branches. The keel of the flower is fringed by tiny white hairs.



next issue

summer 2008/2009