

Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#81 Autumn 2024

www.dangarislandleague.com



Luden and Max | Dangardigras 2024 | Photo Joe McLean

Mullet Mail acknowledges traditional custodians of country. Together we care for our island and river, for the future!
Always was, always will be, indigenous land.



Bright Twisted Moth
Parepisparis lutosaria
| Photo Ana Pollak

Prevent Fire Ants getting to Dangar Island

Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) are endemic in parts of South America. They are one of the worst invasive species to come into Australia. They have never been eradicated from any country they have invaded.

They are reddish brown, 2 - 6mm long and aggressive when disturbed. They were first identified in Brisbane in 2001, and have since spread nearly 100km south of the Queensland border to Ballina. Fire ants can spread long distances; flying up to 5 kms, rafting across water or stowing away in materials such as organic materials, soil, rock and pot plants.

Fire ant colonies feed on animals that live on the ground, including insects, spiders, lizards, frogs and birds. By killing fauna that pollinate native plants, they can cause changes to vegetation and bush lands. They also eat seeds, which stops new growth of vegetation. The ants can kill people, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and stock, damage crops, and rob beehives. Their impact could be devastating for Australia.

Aside from posing a significant environmental threat, fire ants also damage the Australian economy and lifestyle. Their nests hold tens of thousands of ants. As an aggressive species, when these nests are built near parks and sports fields, our ability to enjoy recreational areas is limited.

To help prevent bringing this pest onto the island we can try to avoid bringing earth moving equipment, mulch, soil, hay or straw, manure, quarry products or turf. Make sure that the materials you bring here were processed according to anti fire ant protocols of the National Fire Ant Eradication program. Questions to ask your supplier are; were the materials sourced or loaded inside a fire ant biosecurity zone, and how were the materials produced, processed, treated, transported and stored?

For more information:
<https://www.fireants.org.au>

www.fireants.org

Citizen Science on Dangar

Since the start of the Dangar Island League's Citizen Science project in 2023, sightings have been recorded of owls, hawks, egrets and other birds, lizards, snakes, beetles, moths, possums, seals, spiders, slugs, dogs, bats and even humans, on our online Species List. These sightings have helped to increase our knowledge of who we share this little island with.

Be more involved!

Record a creature that you have seen and photographed, browse to the Species List on the League's Environment page.

League
Citizen
Science
page



It will ask you to write what it is you have photographed, when and where you saw it, and to upload the image you have taken. It's fun and exciting seeing the list grow.

Ana Pollak, Environmental Representative
Dangar Island League Inc (DIL)
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9985 7707

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VALE MARGARET BOWER

19 Apr 1945 - 20 Dec 2023

Margaret passed away after battling multiple myeloma for 3 ½ years. Not a day passed where she was not in constant pain and nausea. She was a lady who always took pride in her appearance no matter how she was feeling and her passion for craft and patchwork extended over 40 years.

She had the ability to make everyone feel welcome and loved, seeing her children and grandchildren achieving their goals in life. One of her wishes was to see someone in her family become involved in her passion for knitting, crochet and sewing. Every grandchild has had tuition under her guidance in these areas but we are still waiting for one of them to become the leader.

Margaret spent many hours making blankets and quilts and knitted garments which she gifted to island kids she'd seen grow up, and who now had their own children. Many items were donated to various charities where she felt there was a need.

As a family we miss her, and now live surrounded by her beautiful quilts which are a constant reminder of the love that she brought as a wife, mother and grandmother.

Rest in peace

Wally Bower and Family



FOREVER ARN

Late in the evening of 30 January 2024, after a happy day spent with family, our friend Arn died peacefully in his sleep. Kath was by his side.

Arn's passing came far too early. He was still full of dreams and plans for the future. However we can take comfort in the knowledge that his life, whilst cut short, was well lived and full of laughter, adventure and love.

In September 2023 he enjoyed a most fabulous and memorable holiday with Kath to celebrate his 60th birthday, traveling to Germany, Italy and Greece.

The following, adapted by Kath's 3 sisters from a 1934 poem *Immortality* by Clare Harner, was read at Arn's farewell in February:

Do not think of me and weep.
I am still here, I do not sleep.
You must not fear or feel alone
For you are never on your own.

I am the gentle tides that flow
I am the water when you row.
I am the wind that sweeps your hair
I am the laughter in the air.

I gently touch you as you sleep
I hold you close and hear you weep.
I feel the beating of your heart
I am beside you in the dark.

As you awake with each new dawn,
I am beside you every morn.
To hear the birds in circling flight,
I am the day transcending night.

So do not think of me and cry
I am still here, I am close by.
You are my love, and love endures
My soul, my Kaf, forever yours.

Such Is Life

Bruce Lambert



Transitory beings for such that we are.
Now merely the blink of an eye near a wandering star.

For a moment in time set in infinite space.
We each get the chance to run our own race.

Whether the life that you have be it long or so short.
To live life itself it surely is fraught.

Some reach for the stars others stare at the ground.
For those resolute there are rewards to be found.

Yet for the many that stare and yearn to go back.
We heartily say give life a crack.

We came in with nothing it ever was so.
The least you can do is give life a go.

Dear Ed

With the sad loss of many well known and long time residents, is it time we establish a place where we record the names of those residents that have spread their ashes either on the Island or near the river?

A simple record of name, year of birth and year of death might suffice. There are several places that might host such a board (ferry shed, outside the community hall, bowling club). Others may/will have better ideas.

This is a simple way of remembering people who lived here and felt sufficiently attached to "remain" here. Hopefully this will become the subject of debate and some sort of memorial in the near future.

MM

Chris Innis



Native Plant *Monotoca elliptica* (Tree Broom-heath)

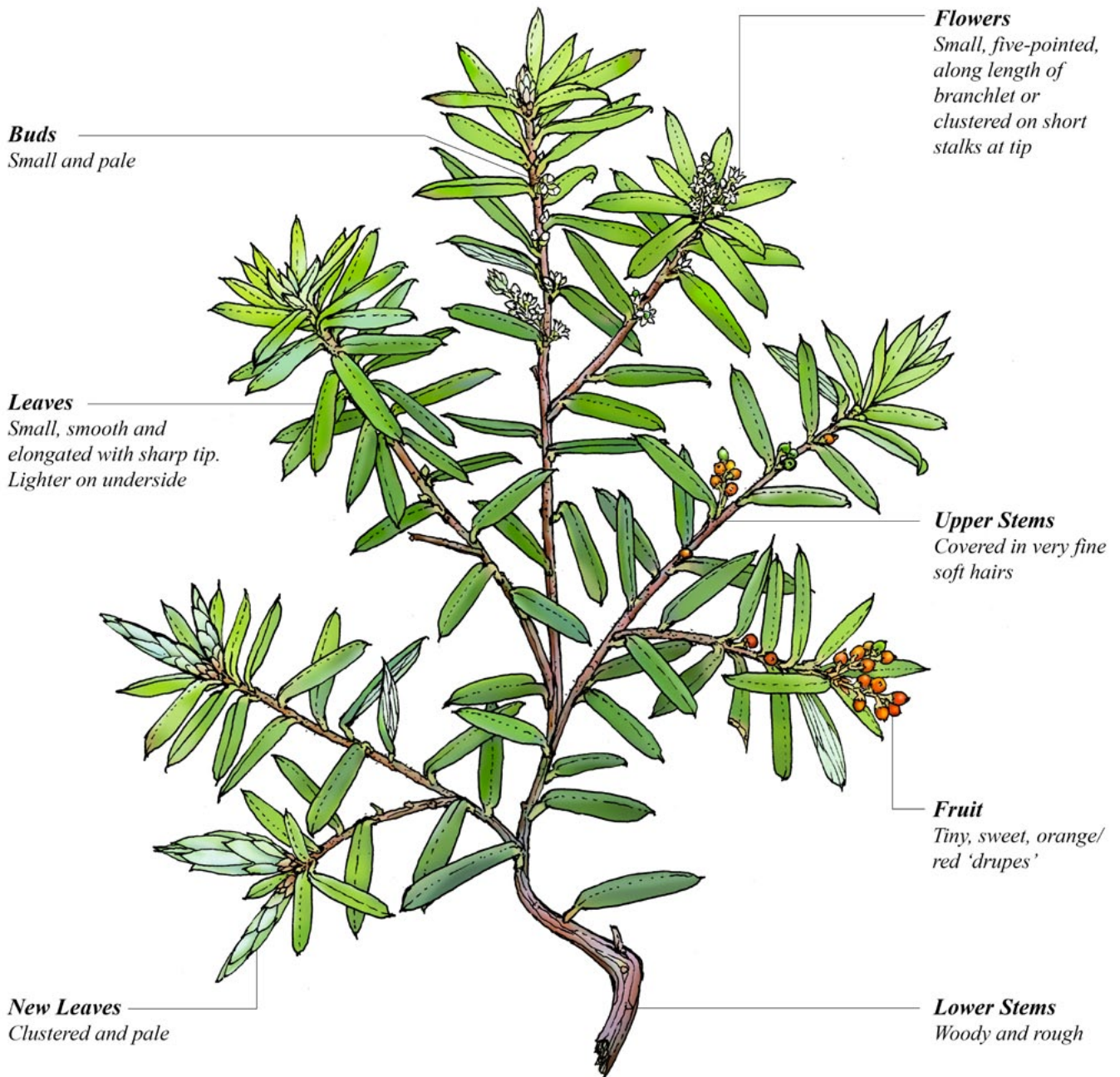
Whenever I see a mature *Monotoca elliptica* tree (especially in windswept coastal scrub country) - with its expressively rough, sculptural branches, small leaves, tiny flowers and minuscule fruit - the same involuntary thought springs to mind. "I wonder if anyone has ever tried to make a *Monotoca* bonsai?"

Indeed, there are those who bonsai local native species with success. But to me, somehow, the thought of subjecting something so wild and free to that controlling and contorting process doesn't seem quite right. Not to mention that this species takes up to a year and a half to germinate from

seed, so you would need to be patient! Time moves slowly for *M. elliptica* (commonly known as Tree Broom-heath), with some trees known to live longer than a hundred years. Typically, growing to around 3m in height, though in ideal conditions have been recorded to reach 10m tall.

They can be found along the east coast of Australia, and there are a number growing up on the Reserve on Dangar Island. They flower from late winter to early spring, and if you look closely you will find clusters of tiny 5-pointed flowers along their downy branches. Once pollinated these turn into bright red little fruit called 'drupes' from spring to summer. Unlike many other endemic species to the Island, they are sensitive to fire, particularly high intensity fire, and so need to be treated with particular care in hazard reduction burns.

Josephine Bridge, Bushcare Illustrator



SCALE 10 20 50

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Bushcare Native Plant Giveaway Friday 19th April

10am - Noon

Come along! Council's Bushcare team have plants to give away.

Seedlings have been grown at Hornsby Council's Warada Ngurang Community Nursery by volunteers and skilled nursery workers. Every resident will be entitled to 3 free native tubestock.

You too can provide food and shelter in your own garden for island critters that have evolved to eat from, and shelter in, Dangar Island plants.

Come to the Community Hall, and meet Council's dedicated bushcare team; they know a lot about bush gardens and teach hundreds of volunteers across Hornsby Shire. If you are interested you can stay back and join in our bushcare workshop (registration preferred, call 9985 7707). It's also a great opportunity to ask them about your own native plants.

Ana Pollak, Bushcare Coordinator



Dangardigras Fairies & Folklore | Photo Bill L-R

Hands in the Soil

Dangarians are repeatedly expressing the desire to help in the garden. So here at DIG we encourage people to come when it suits, spend what precious time you want, as little as 10 minutes or half an hour.



Roam around the garden, pick some greens, cherry tomatoes or eggplants while they last. How do the plants look, are they besieged by bugs, could it be snails or caterpillars or stink bugs? Check out the leaves; their colour, size, vitality. Try putting your hands in the soil, feel the temperature, contemplate how dry it is, consider if it's compacted.

Soil is alive, a handful of soil has more microorganisms than stars you can see at night. Our primary act is to nurture soil health. Bring your food scraps down to the tumblers, there are three, add a handful of straw (provided in the orange lidded bins) give them a tumble. Check out the compost bins regularly, each time you do this you will see changes taking place. Peel back the cardboard and rugs (keeping the compost from drying out) and guess how many slaters, cockroaches, skinks or millipedes you can see.

Over time, the compost develops our sandy, nutrient deficient soils so they absorb water and develop structure that supports root systems.

Our pathways are important to help keep invasive weeds from taking hold. Clover looks lovely but sadly drags a lot of nutrients away from the crops, so it has to go, and be thrown into the green bins. So does cooch grass, if you can, please dig down deep to the source roots. Each time a small area is tended to with care, it is appreciated, and makes a tangible contribution. New members are always welcome.

We have weekly working bees on Sunday mornings from 9.30 to 12 and regular markets.

Martin Cole, DIG



DIG pumpkin | Photo Martin Cole



Fairies & Folklore
Dangardigras Parade 2024
| Photos by Joe McLean (JM)
and Bill Lynn-Robinson (BLR)







There's been a lot of activity at the club in the last few months. There have been some incredible shows and Open Mic sessions, but really,

the jewel in the crown was Dangardigras. Such a joyous outpouring of love and inclusivity, along with an incredible display of the talents of our community, is truly something to be cherished!!

Massive thanks to everyone who helped and everyone who attended.

You will have noticed that the club has also enjoyed a serious spruce up, with a repaint, new historical prints (thanks Brett & Dave!), a new balustrade, and other smaller repairs. There's also been a major upgrade in kitchen equipment. Via a private donation, the club has received a new fridge, oven, dishwasher and pizza oven. Sharon had been working with very old and faulty equipment and this hugely generous gesture will make the kitchen much more efficient.

Since the new year there has been movement on the board of directors. Greg and Fiona have both stepped down and we heartily thank them for their contributions to the board.

Thankfully Fiona will stay on as club bookkeeper. Her decades of tireless work as a volunteer and director have been the heartbeat of the club and we can't thank her enough!

Deb Dubois and Jock Brown have kindly jumped in as interim directors and we welcome them warmly.

We'd like to remind everyone that membership renewals happen on 31st May, so please remember to renew! It's an important way to support the Club and as a member you're eligible to use the \$5 discount code on tickets for most of our shows. It's also a legal requirement for people living within 5kms of the premises to be a member if they are attending the club.

To renew your membership; pop into the club, complete a form and pay at the counter, request a form via mail@dangarislandbowlingclub.com or contact our Membership Manager Karen Jaques direct on 0425 325 742

Don't forget, we have some amazing shows coming up at the club...

**Easter Sunday 31 March
12pm - 6pm
Festival Of Open Mic**

www.trybooking.com/CPZRI



**Sunday 4 May 12pm - 4pm
Queen Porter Stomp**

We're really looking forward to the return of this island favourite! Queen Porter Stomp use their swamp magic to shirk those Prohibition blues – swinging skirts and scuffed shoes for hardwood and concrete dance floors alike.

www.trybooking.com/COJAF



..and put these dates in your diary

Fri 7 & Sat 8 June - WINTER CABARET

This was so popular last year, we have decided to make it a two night season so we can fit everyone in comfortably and no one will miss out.

**Saturday 20 April 12pm - 4pm
The Morrisons**

The Morrisons have cemented their place as the darlings of the Sydney folk scene, blending Australian stories with the sounds of bluegrass and old time music. They have performed with renowned international acts including Justin Townes Earle, Nathaniel Rateliff and Lake Street Dive, been nominated for a Golden Guitar, and won an Australian Songwriting Award.



www.trybooking.com/COSXY

**Sunday 26 May
4.15pm - 6.30pm
The Whitlams Black Stump Duo**

The first show sold out so quickly, we added a second session so Islanders have a chance to see Tim Freedman and Ollie Thorpe's stripped back take on Whitlams classics. Only a few tickets left!

www.trybooking.com/CPISG



Black Stump Duo



Pink Unicorn aka Dangar Island Fire Truck in Dangardigras Parade 2024 | Photo Bill Lynn-Robinson

The past month has been a celebration of diversity across both Dangardigras and International Women's Day. The Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade prides itself on inclusivity and diversity, and this has recently been recognised by the RFS with a short film focusing on the critical role women play in our local brigade. If you have not yet seen the viral social media sensation that is our strong female team, have a look on YouTube via the QR code (inset above).

To quote our current secretary and brigade stalwart Pauline Foote from the film...

“On Dangar Island it doesn't matter what gender you are, or where you come from, we need all hands on deck. We need people trained, active and participating.”

Operationally members receive training to respond to a variety of situations, including bush and house fires, boating emergencies, search and rescue, flood response. We may be called to respond to an on-island incident, or to an event that can only be reached by water. The boat skills that we have as islanders are particularly valuable to the RFS.

We even have brigade members who have joined strike teams actively fighting major fires across NSW, interstate and

overseas. However members can choose to limit their participation to Dangar Island only responses, or even focus on crewing or skippering the boat.

While a critical part of brigade function is operational fire fighting, a large percentage of the roles in the team, as broken down below, are either support or administrative focused. We are keen to hear from islanders of all age groups, genders and backgrounds, permanent and weekend/holiday residents, who wish to give back to the community with whatever skills, and time they have to bring.

Operational Support; nothing brings greater joy to a tired firefighter when returning to the wharf or station from a deployment than to see helping hands carting, cleaning and restocking hoses and equipment. We don't, but honestly could kiss you!

Catering Support; hungry, thirsty work, 'nough said.

Equipment Maintenance; whether it is sharpening a rakehoe, keeping the first aid kits stocked, or regular lubrication to keep the salt water enemy at bay on the boat, your practical skills will be put to good use.

Administration Support; like any bureaucracy the RFS demands process, procedure and



paperwork. If you like a good set of minutes and form submission is your thing, we have an opportunity for you.

Community Fire Unit (CFU); we are also in the process of establishing a CFU on the island. CFU members, whilst not participating in regular Brigade activities, have access to RFS issued equipment and are trained to defend their home and neighbouring properties.

The brigade is the island's first line of defence in a number of emergency situations, but if you are keen to get involved don't let preconceptions of what our volunteer roles entail hold you back. There is always something to do across a range of disciplines and at different times of year, to keep the machine humming.

Join us at the Dangar fire shed from 9am on the first Sunday of each month or reach-out to one of our brigade members for further information.

Josh Ginty, Community Engagement, Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade



Did you know that the call-out fee for an ambulance (road or air) is \$428, plus \$3.87 per km travelled

from the ambulance station, to the pickup location, on to the hospital and back to the ambulance station? Thankfully, the maximum charge is \$7023. Or \$0 if you are a pensioner/health card holder; or it's a workers' comp claim; or (unlikely on Dangar) you have been in a car accident ... and there are a number of other

criteria which may mean you escape the bill. You can study-up on these criteria on the NSW Ambulance factsheet via this link:



If you don't fit those criteria, then you really do need to have private health insurance that at least provides ambulance cover. You can get ambulance-only cover for about \$4 per month.

If you have a leg or foot injury, or wobbly knees, and need a little support instead of a quick-drive to hospital, we have a few donated mobility aids in the CFR shed: a boot for sprained ankles; a knee brace; a walking stick; crutches of various sorts; a sit-on scooter and a walking-support chair – check the photo. These are available free of charge for as long as you need them. Ask a CFR, or drop us a line.

Brenda Hall
CFR33, Dangar Island
dangar.cfr@gmail.com



CFR Mobility aids
| Photo Brenda Hall

Dangar Island



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BotEtiket Challenge #007

Cybele Shorter

1 What is the marine alphabet word for B?

- A Beta
- B Billy
- C Bob
- D Bravo

2 Why do we reduce speed when less than 30m from another vessel?

- A To say hello and have a friendly chat.
- B Slowing down half way only, you make the biggest waves from your hull, which ensures other boaters notice you and remember you!
- C To reduce the wash from your boat and ensure time and distance to avoid collisions. The faster you are going, the

greater change from tiny adjustments at the helm.
D Because we have all day to cross the river and are never running late.

3 When do you align the red lateral mark with the port side of your vessel?

- A When travelling into port, up river, upstream.
- B When travelling downstream, down river, towards the sea.
- C When you are colour blind.
- D When you want to stop.

4 What is the general rule when anchoring in windy conditions?

- A Use all chain ground tackle.
- B Allow 3 times as much line as the depth of water.
- C Allow 5 times as much line as the depth of the water and ensure the anchor has taken hold by watching for drag.
- D Go home.



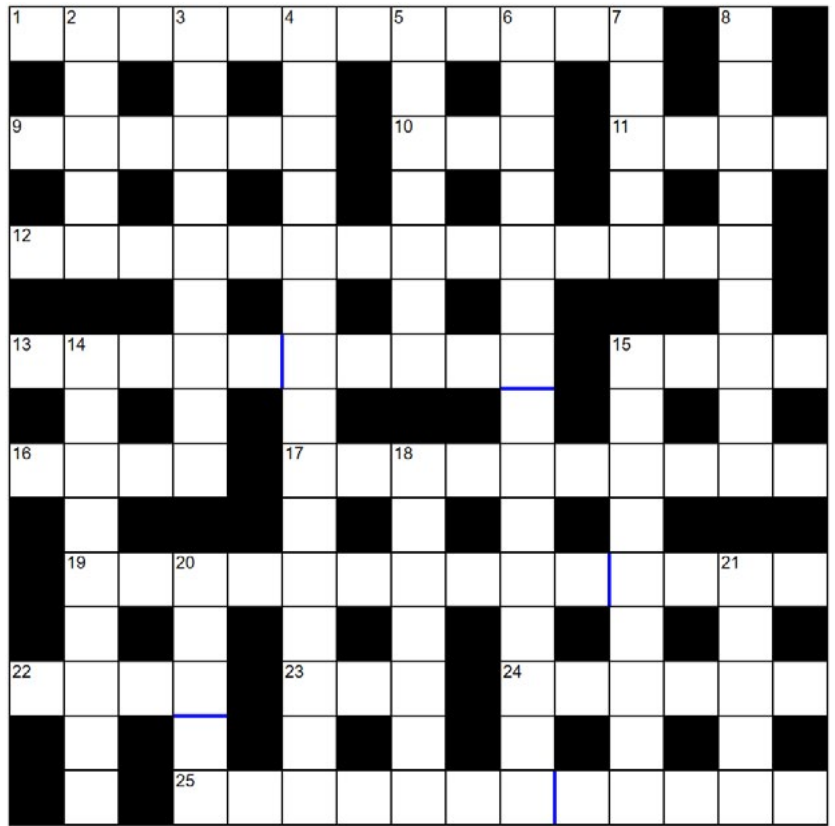
Cryptic Crossword #027

Chico & Zygote

Quite anagram heavy this issue, not something we're proud of, but we came up with/stole some quite neat ones, so hopefully you will enjoy.

Anagrams are composed of the "fodder" - the letters that make up the answer, and the "anagrind" - the word or phrase that indicates an anagram, eg. resort, madcap, upset, change, there's hundreds of them. Crossworders will tell you different things but for me I tend to have a nose for the fodder rather than the anagrind; that collection of words looks fodderly, count the letters, yes it's the right number. You however might have a nose for the anagrind.

Give or get help on the Dangar Island Community Facebook page.



Across

- 1 Groovy grandad's back to endlessly entertain pachyderm (12)
- 9 Bisect original subdivision? (6)
- 10 Come-on mostly French, not! (3)
- 11 Blue service (4)
- 12 Fashion tends to occur in critical theory (14)
- 13 Confusing me with so-called proportional representation (5,5)
- 15 It could be guilty enjoyment – not certain (4)
- 16 Left in hospital, perhaps, and applied leeches (4)
- 17 Arena lacks theatre and forbids one held in pond life (10)
- 19 Side One's ending - McCartney's hit playing (10,4)
- 22 Perfect time after time (4)
- 23 Drink ascribed initially to East Asia? (3)
- 24 Bent coin of ancient times (6)
- 25 Lecture was an otherwise spent fuel (7,5)

Down

- 2 Desire never admits she was sung "Goodnight" (5)
- 3 Secretary provoked with lifeguards on duty (9)
- 4 Pattie's pharmacy ordered "rest and digest" system (15)
- 5 Bureaucracy's first to last narrowing (7)
- 6 Rent Gillian Armstrong's band leader (7,8)
- 7 Nun is mistaken for Muslim (5)
- 8 Number watched gripping episode (9)
- 14 Pablo Escobar perhaps faces charge without you, Ian (9)
- 15 Siri all PC about desert queen (9)
- 18 10's wise journey (7)
- 20 Either way it's unacceptable! (3,2)
- 21 Key principle of energy intent (5)



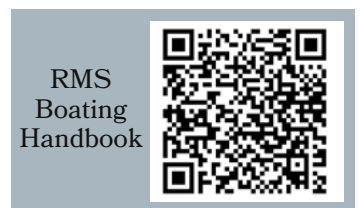
Botetiket - Top Tips from Ty Backhouse

Unlike a car on the road, in boats we stick to the right. We call it keeping to starboard. This way boats will pass each other with their port side to port side, at night seeing each other's red lights. This is Rule 9 of the ColRegs and is used to avoid head-on incidents by always turning to starboard to avoid an oncoming vessel.

What fuel do you need in your outboard? Four-stroke engines run on petrol with separate oil to lubricate the engine, but two-strokes need oil mixed into the fuel. You must measure and mix, often 50:1, where you add 20ml oil for every litre fuel in your tank. Keep the oil onboard and have a measuring cup handy.

If you are new to the river and boats, it's better to ask than learn the hard way. There are plenty of approachable ferry captains working here, with years of experience and helpful advice on hand. Or go back to the RMS handbook, which is a great easy to access online resource.

Botetiket Answers:
1D, 2C, 3A, 4C



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