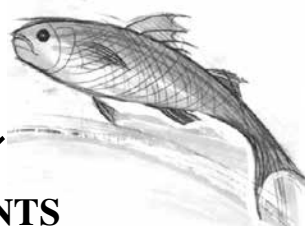


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

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www.dangarisland.net

Winter 2018

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A Buzz in the Air

Jo Karcz interviewed her neighbour Lindee Horman and discovered a hive of creative industry.



I have known my good friend, Lindee Horman for over thirty years. When we both lived in Melbourne, I used to visit her each Tuesday with my new baby. We would plant and propagate the herbs that she sold at a local market. Those were special days.

Today, Lindee has a different hobby here on Dangar Island. She is a beekeeper and when she has honey to spare sells jars of honey on her honey stand. Her house is often referred to as “The Bee House”.

It was always in the back of her mind that one day she might keep bees. When the flow hive, designed by a father and son team from the Northern Rivers of NSW started to attract attention, Lindee decided that it was time she got serious.

I sit with Lindee in the warm sunny corner of her indoor veranda listening to the story of how she came to start bee keeping and learning some of the intricacies of the hobby. It's not long before she stands up and beckons me to “come, I'll show you”.

Any spare space in the house is used to store the paraphernalia of beekeeping. We go from one cupboard to another where various hive frames on which the bees build their honeycomb (which stores the honey) or brood comb (where the eggs are laid and develop into larvae,

pupae and bees). A strong smell of honey fills the air as she removes first one frame and then another.

Lindee keeps three types of hives. There's the more conventional hive with wooden frames, the new modern flow hive and a hybrid hive – with both flow frames and conventional wooden frames. She tells me that “the bees don't like the plastic frames of the Flow Hive”. Waxing these frames thoroughly before use makes them more appealing to her bees.

When starting out, her first step was to buy the outfit. The white jump suit (bees don't like dark colours), with a veil is essential. Lindee says it was really funny trying on the suit for the first time with her husband Greig. She felt like a fool and a fake. These days wearing the suit is just part and parcel of her beekeeping. Greig dons his suit too – while the bees are mainly Lindee's hobby, she needs Greig “to do the heavy lifting”.

The temptation to “just have a look” at the hives without getting kitted up is sometimes too great. That's how Lindee found out that she's allergic to bee stings. One bee really didn't like being disturbed and stung her face which blew up like a balloon.

Lindee says that while she hasn't yet lost a hive to disease, this more is due to luck than anything else. But she is vigilant and adds that “even our bee club has had disease. It's like nits – the diseases don't discriminate they attack anyone and everyone”.

Bees get their nutrition from the nectar, the honey and the pollen. They also need water. When bees come back to the hive laden with nectar and honey, they are very funny to watch. They can't control their flight properly and often drop down too far or bump into the hive as they try to enter.

We go outside to look at the hives. I learn that in summer a hive can house about 60 000 bees and that bees only live about six weeks. They wear themselves and their wings out with all the flying they do (they can go as far as 5km).

As winter is approaching, Lindee has locked her hives down and won't be opening them for a while. The bees keep their brood box at 33°C. Opening the hives now would cause them to lose heat and the bees would have to work extra hard to return the temperature to 33°C.

(cont. Pg 2)

A Buzz in the Air

Being a beekeeper has opened Lindee's eyes to the native bees in her garden. She tells me that if I stand still near abush covered in flowers, I'll see the tiny little native bees hovering and dashing here and there, working side by side with the honey bees. I may even see the 11mm long blue banded native bee.

You and I might enjoy the water dragons in our gardens, but for Lindee this reptile is a pest. She says "the water dragon loves my bees. He sucks them up like a vacuum until I chase him away".

The roadside honey stall is certainly not a money-making venture. It just about pays for the jars, lids and labels, but Lindee gets a great deal of fun out of it. She gets so much joy from selling a jar or two of honey at her stall and finding that the money in the box tallies with her sales at the end of the day. Only once has a bottle gone missing without being paid for. This happened on the one and only time the honey was left out at night. Lindee wonders if the



thieves were emboldened by the cover of darkness.

Lindee loves that her hobby is very creative, that she is constantly learning and that there are so many unknowns. She says that "there are so many directions you can go in and there's such depth to keeping bees from simply harvesting the honey to having native bees and a stall and even developing the wax wraps and lip balm"

Back inside Lindee brings out two jars of honey. The honey in each jar is very different. One is a rich dark golden brown, the other a light lemony yellow. I can hardly believe that they were taken from the same hive at the same time. We taste them. The first is heavy and rich. The second light and lemony. So, don't be surprised when you next get honey from "The Honey House". It may taste quite different from the last jar you bought.

You can follow Lindee's Sticky Lips Honey on Instagram where you can see videos of her bees in action: [stickylips_honey](https://www.instagram.com/stickylips_honey)

Jo Karcz

Dangar Island League Presidents Report Winter 2018

Dear Residents,

If you are reading the first electronic edition of the Mullet Mail, I hope you like how it looks on your screen!

If you would prefer to read a hard copy, they will be available at the café and club for a gold coin donation.

By offering the Mullet Mail electronically, we hope to be more environmentally friendly while still catering to readers who prefer a paper version.

If you are not on our email distribution list, please send us a message and we will add you for the Spring edition, due in October: secretary@dangarislandleague.net.au

Hawkesbury River Station Lift Access

Our State Member of Parliament, Matt Kean, has announced that our station will be getting lift access with funding in the forthcoming State Government budget. Our community, with Brooklyn and all the river communities, has been lobbying for lift access for many years and this announcement is a big win for our communities. It will be particularly appreciated by all with mobility issues including young families with

babies and those a tad older. Matt Kean has pushed hard and gone out on a limb for this result and the League is very appreciative of his efforts. Thanks Matt.

Dangar Island Wharf

Since my March update, the Dangar community now has a new island wharf. The League has spent the past few years in consultation with Council to ensure the end product met our resident's needs. DIL played a key role during the design, consultation, construction and post-build stages. This contribution began well before I took over as President 3 years ago, and continues as we iron out teething problems, such as boat mooring.

I have asked many residents, and there is resounding agreement that the wharf does meet our needs: it is easier and safer to get on and off the ferry, it is well lit, and the benches and awning ensure a comfortable wait for the ferry regardless of weather conditions.

Hornsby Council

In early February, we met with the Mayor, Phillip Ruddock and our three Ward A Councillors (Nathan

Tilbury, Warren Waddell and Mick Marr). During this meeting, we asked Council to action outstanding waste-related issues, and we talked at length about the ute and Brooklyn Masterplan.

As mentioned in the last Mullet Mail, outcomes include commitment from Council to:

- Respond to our suggestions for improved waste management
- Support the ongoing availability of the ute as an essential service to residents with appropriate cost recovery
- Work with state authorities to negotiate increased storage space for the CFR
- Facilitate a meeting of the League with the Brooklyn Masterplan consultants
- Consider improvement of the Scramble in the new HSC Walking Path Strategy.

Council have since provided an update on these issues, and their letter is published on our website.

Island Ute

The League continues to work with the Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee and Council to ensure the ute is made available to residents.

Recent achievements include the commitment by Council to pay the hire fee when they use the ute, and their confirmation that we can charge State Government utilities for usage.

So that we can continue to demonstrate the importance of the vehicle to island residents, I encourage you to make use of this service whenever you have the need.

Community Hall

The League is aware of the challenges when residents wish to hire the hall. A particular problem is the small size of our community and the high third party insurance costs for entities such as the League, the historical society and the film society.

We have lobbied Council to simplify this process and we will discuss these challenges with residents in more detail at our 27 June meeting.

In the interim, if you have any questions or feedback

please email us, or better still, come to our public meeting, in the bowling club on 27 June at 7.30pm!

Lower Hawkesbury Coalition (LHC) Meeting with Steven Head, General Manager, HSC

The LHC is an informal grouping of the Lower Hawkesbury community associations with representatives of Dangar Island, Brooklyn, Milsons Passage, Mooney Mooney, Bar Point, and Little Wobby, Cogra Bay, Mullet Creek. On 14th June the LHC held a “get to know you” with the new General Manager of Hornsby Shire Council, Steven Head. The meeting provided the opportunity to hear of his professional background and to brief him on the different river communities and the many issues they have in common.

The communities emphasised that while only Brooklyn, Dangar Island and Milsons Passage are within Hornsby Shire, all the river communities are interdependent and need to be consulted on matters affecting these communities such as the Brooklyn Master Plan (being undertaken by HSC) and the Peat Island Redevelopment (NSW Government and Central Coast Council). Mr Head indicated that he recognised this interdependence and had already had an initial meeting with his counterpart at Central Coast Council. He saw these discussions continuing.

As regards the Brooklyn Master Plan, Mr Head said that it definitely would be completed and that work was now being undertaken within HSC on the Master Plan. While he could not be specific on timing he hoped a draft would go to Councillors over the next few months for approval for further community consultations. All the communities emphasised the importance of these consultations particularly as past efforts by the consultants had unnecessarily opened divisions and suspicions within the communities. He said he would advise the river communities of progress and timing.

Mr Head indicated that HSC had lost about \$160 million in net revenues over the next ten years due to losing rateable land in the failed State Government push for council amalgamations. He noted that while HSC was not in financial difficulty it would mean less new initiatives and capital works than would otherwise

(cont. Pg 4)

have been the case, possibly including the slowing of any new initiatives in the Brooklyn Master Plan. The Council and the community need to continue to press the case for State Government compensation with Ministers and our local Member of Parliament.

The issue of the declining use of community halls by local community groups was discussed. Mr Head indicated that HSC was aware of the problem with insurance and was working to address this issue – new guidelines would be coming out shortly. He said that the problem of “incorporated entities” for insurance could not be overcome and that community groups would need to reassess their need for incorporated status and keep it only if it brought essential benefits. They should get advice and assess whether any benefits outweighed the costs.

27 June Public Meeting - New day, New time, New venue!

At our February Public Meeting, we discussed how to make the League more visible to residents. Attendance at the last meeting was quite low, so we committed to more proactive promotion and a rethink of our approach.

This has resulted in our trialling the June meeting in a new venue - the bowling club, a new day - Wednesday 27th June, and a new time - 730pm. Our thinking is as follows:

New venue - we hope that given the colder weather, it might be more comfortable to meet in a cosier venue where you can also enjoy a drink.

New day - rather than holding the meeting on Saturdays when many residents are off island doing weekend activities such as school sport, we are shifting to Wednesday night.

New time - we have scheduled the meeting at a time when most residents - including commuters - can hopefully attend. The start time corresponds with arrival of the 7.15pm ferry, so it can work for islanders coming from Central on the 6pm train

We have also invited each of the other island community groups, so that they can contribute to the discussion, provide an update and join an informal catch up after the meeting is over.

Sophia Walsh,
Dangar Island League President



Dangar Island Community First Responders

For medical emergencies on the Island

...Call Triple Zero...

•We run a 24/7 roster that provides emergency medical response for islanders and visitors

•We provide emergency care, and we liaise with the paramedics so they can get to you quickly.

•In an emergency, please don't call individual CFRs on our mobile numbers – this is unreliable and slows us down

•At the same time an ambulance is being dispatched for you, the CFRs on duty are called up by the NSW Ambulance control centre.

•Pensioners and those with health insurance are covered

•If you're not covered, consider taking out "ambulance only" health insurance



DIBC Update

The chill of winter is upon us! The misty mornings and cold evenings some welcome, relishing the crisp air, winter jackets, scarves and the company of friends around open fires. Others count down the days until the full sun and heat returns to our little island paradise, sheltering in the comfort of home.

Either way, it's good to know there are always a few social places on the island where you can still connect with your friends, neighbours and the general river community over some winter fare and great entertainment.

The island recently welcomed with open arms the incredible talent from Belize - The Garafuna Collective who absolutely smashed it on a Thursday night in April. The club was at capacity and the crowd was raucous! An incredible time was had by all who attended.

Our Open Mic nights continue to be a cornerstone in the community calendar. Even with the winter chill, our dedicated muso's turn up to play, to practice and to perform! Last OMN we danced and drank around our first winter fire in a fire pit generously provided by our neighbour Jimmy Ray. Thanks Jimmy! If you're planning to come on an OMN during winter and you have some spare timber in the yard, please bring it along to throw on.

There have been a few changes in the kitchen of late which has been quite disruptive and unsettling to some in our community. The board implores you to stick with us, to keep coming and trying our menu and to provide us feedback, either directly to the kitchen staff or to myself (leigh@catapultdesign.net.au).

As we are uniquely placed as a venue, it is a unique opportunity for people who join our team and given our challenging location and the hours of the club, it is not an easy task to find people that will fit well.

The club recently employed a vibrant and culinarily skilled young man by the name of Blake. He is the new face of our kitchen and he comes with significant experience, however we run a skeleton crew and it will take some time for him to adjust to island life and running a kitchen on his own. His duties range from planning the menu, through to ordering, prepping and even cleaning the kitchen, so his burden is great. Please support him during his adjustment and feel free to politely offer him and us some suggestions on his menu etc.

As a small community venue, we need to be tight on our ordering to ensure minimal wastage and a control on costs, so if you are considering coming to the club with a large group, please provide us with at least a week's notice or more. Recently a group of 30 and 20 booked with a days notice and naturally, the club ran out of some of our normal items (YES CHIPS). We hope that our local community will understand and take these situations in your stride - and know that we will endeavour to do our best to overcome these issues in the future.

The club needs your support the most during the winter months, we now employ up to 6 casual staff at a time in addition to Fiona (THANKS FIONA) who ensures we have enough oil to keep the engine running. So turn out and support your community club who is directly employing our members of the community and providing a venue for you.

See you at the July OMN for a dance around the fire and later in the month we have the wonderful and community spirited Black Tie Christmas in July.

Thank you for your continued support. Leigh

**Leigh Johnson
President**

Coming Events:

Jeff Lang, August 12



Island Live is proud to present Jeff Lang, performing at the Bowlo on the **12th of August**. Jeff has earned worldwide acclaim as a virtuosic guitarist, a dynamic songwriter and a startlingly unique live performer. With a back catalogue of 16 studio albums, Jeff has been featured at major festivals and venues internationally for the past 17 years.

Blending rock, roots, folk, blues, ballads, instrumentals, improvisation and a devastatingly high level of musicality. Jeff is a singularly unique performer in our world and this is a performance not to be missed!

Please note that although this is a non-ticketed event funded entirely by our community ran club, we strongly encourage patrons to pay what they can by donation when we 'pass the hat' during the show. This means we will be able to continue to present the very high standard of performers that visit our little club.

Black Tie Christmas in July - July 28th from 7pm



This year the Bowlo would like to cordially invite you to the event of the season - our Black Tie, Christmas in July! Only 75 people are able to attend at a bargain price of \$77 per ticket (including booking fee).

Our talented chef Blake will be putting on an extravaganza of a Christmas feast with three delicious courses and Pav has also already put his hand up to do the ham and we all know how wonderful that will be!

Compliment your culinary winter experience with a toasty cup of mulled white or red wine, a secret recipe from one of our resident wino's that has always delighted the crowds.

We are yet to receive confirmation from the North Pole, but we hear that Santa may also be making an appearance

Book now to ensure your seat. It is a communal table so please get there early if you are in a group and all want to sit together. Genuine limited seats. Please check out the event on the Dangar Island Bowling Club Facebook page to purchase your tickets or through the Eventbrite site or email leigh@catapultdesign.net.au if you have having trouble.

Australian Brush Turkey



The Australian brush turkey belongs to the family of birds known as megapods. They construct large mounds to incubate their eggs. The brush turkey can be found in NSW and Queensland. It lives in humid forests along the eastern seaboard and inland to the wetter ranges, though it is most often seen in rainforest and neighbouring eucalypt forest areas. It remains in a particular locality throughout the year, where it breeds and forages in the forest leaf litter for fruits, seeds and small animals.

This fascinating bird is abundant in favourable habitats. However, since European colonisation its numbers have declined, particularly near cities. In places where it shares its breeding and foraging

grounds with humans, the survival of the species depends largely on the goodwill of householders.

Using vegetation gathered from the forest floor around them, male brush turkeys build a large and distinctive incubation mound, which can be up to 4 metres wide and up to 2 metres high. A female will then lay 18-24 white eggs in the mound, with intervals of 2 to 3 days between the laying of each egg.

Female brush turkeys will 'shop around' before adopting a mound to lay their eggs in. They do this by assessing the quality of the mound, which reflects the quality (attentiveness and experience) of the male who made it. A good quality mound will have several females laying in it, while poorer quality mounds may have only one or no females laying. Females may also lay in more than 1 mound each season to spread the risk.

As the vegetation in the mound decomposes, it gives off heat which warms the eggs. The optimum incubation temperature is 33-35°C which the male brush turkey maintains by removing and adding layers to the mound. Temperature regulation is the only assistance the parents provide to their offspring.

The young brush turkeys hatch after about 7 weeks, fully feathered and able to run. They dig their way through the layers of the mound and into the open air.

Living with the brush turkey.....

Once a male brush turkey has started to build its mound, he will not stop. Spring is mound-building season, so be prepared earlier:

- pruning any tree shading the mound (mounds require over 85% cent shade)
- spreading a heavy tarpaulin over the mound and weighing it down
- placing chicken-wire just below your mulch to discourage the bird from raking
- protecting plants with tree guards
- placing pebbles or river gravel around trees to protect their roots
- removing open compost heaps (keep any compost in closed containers)
- laying palm fronds over vegetable gardens - brush turkeys do not like them
- building a scarecrow - an effigy of a human, cat or bird of prey
- placing some large mirrors around the mound - they will think it is a territory challenger
- diverting the bird's attention to a less attractive or valuable area of your garden by building a compost mound in a very shady location

If these methods fail and you cannot adapt to the situation, you can contact your nearest NPWS office for further detailed advice.

Dangar Island Community Garden



I guess when it comes to growing veggies and edible plants I'd probably describe myself as an "aspirational gardener" or super keen rank amateur. Mine is a passion born of a nostalgic yearning for the verdant leafy spaces of my New Zealand childhood but coupled with a lack of any real, tangible knowledge. I realize this hardly makes me qualified to try and organise a community garden but then...what does? I think this should be a shared experience, a gentle low-key coming together of those interested in the idea of being involved in creating an organic edible garden, a space to hopefully learn from one another and to share skills, knowledge and food. Having moved back to the island recently from time spent in city apartments and semi's with tiny courtyards and even tinier gardening spaces, it's been a particularly lovely re-ignition of that early childhood impulse to pick stuff from the backyard and re-acquaint myself with the natural world again. Like many island blocks ours is one dominated by beautiful large eucalypts and tree's which although magnificent are incompatible with growing veggies.

A community garden is a unique chance to come together and have fun, get dirt under our fingernails and have the "satisfaction of nurturing growth over time" by creating something of beauty that you can also eat! What could be better than being able to eat veggies you've grown yourself!

If participating in a community garden here on Dangar appeals then join the Dangar Island Community Garden Facebook page and lets work together on getting this happening!

"From little things big things grow!"

Winter tip: Pull out the dead stuff...

Mish Moore

Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade Winter Fire Safety Message

With summer now behind us, it is time to think about winter fire safety.

There are a few precautions you can take around your home to reduce your risk of fire over winter:

- Do you have smoke alarms? Every home should have smoke alarms fitted. Change the batteries and test them.
- Have a small fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the home. Keep them in the kitchen in case of a cooking fire.
- Make sure your chimney is clean and place a screen in front of open fires.
- Keep bedding and curtains away from heaters.
- Don't place wet clothes too close or on the heater.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Extinguish open flames, including candles, before going to sleep.

You should also think about what you would do if there is a fire in the home. Will your family be safe?

Now is the time to prepare a home escape plan, and then practise it with the whole family.

Try it by day and by night. Time yourself.

- ★ Identify two escape routes out of each room.
- ★ Agree on a meeting point outside the home.
- ★ Keep low when escaping a smoky house.
- ★ Get out and stay out.
- ★ Call 000

And of course – the cooler months are a great time to prepare your home for next bush fire season.

Talk to your brigade members about what you can do around the home – or visit our facebook page for a link to the ***MyFirePlan***.

Kathy Merrick



And A Burning reminder.....

Please bear in mind that the burning of any form of treated timber in a wood stove, be it painted, treated landscaping material or rail sleepers is not only a dangerous practice for members of the household but also for neighbours down-stream of the smoke plume and particularly for those with respiratory problems such as asthma. Burning of this material is strictly prohibited at any time.

Further information is available from Hornsby Shire Council

and Firewood Association of Australia

Bill Lynne-Robinson

HEALTH ALERT!

BURNING RAILWAY SLEEPERS



The Firewood Association of Australia Inc. (FAA) is the peak body for the Australian firewood industry, has long banned the sale of old rail sleepers by its members for the following reasons:

Used railway sleepers contain asbestos

Even though asbestos train brake linings were phased out in the mid 1980's, many old sleepers pre-date this time. As long as they are not disturbed they do not present a hazard, but if the sleepers are burnt, the deadly asbestos fibres will be released. These fibres will collect and concentrate in the ash in the bottom of a fireplace, heater or wood oven and they can easily become airborne and inhaled. There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres. The impact of inhaling these asbestos fibres, which can result in the asbestos specific lung cancer mesothelioma, may not be known for *many years after exposure*.

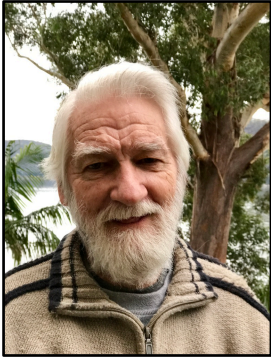
Used railway sleepers often contain herbicides, lead/other heavy metals, grease & oil

When used railway sleepers are heated, these toxic substances are vaporised, releasing odours and toxic fumes. These fumes will be absorbed by any food cooked with the wood, for example in pizza ovens, barbecues etc. When these noxious fumes escape from the heater/fire into the room they have been known to cause respiratory health problems such as asthma, bronchial inflammation eye irritation and rhinitis. Foul odours from fires burning old sleepers are commonly reported by wood fire users themselves as well as their neighbours.

Used sleepers usually contain small stones from the track ballast

When heated in a fire these small stones can explode

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the FAA on
1300 131 481 or by email info@firewood.asn.au**



Sitting Out On A Linguistic Limb

“I’ll see you later.” A casual statement or a literal promise?

How many times do we say something that we do not mean? For instance: “Did you make your bed?” It is most likely that

you bought it from a furniture store.

Just as when making the exclamation: “I’ll be bugged.” Is that what really happened? I hope not.

The use of slang can be particularly confusing to the newcomer. Just think of poor Nino Culotta in “They’re a Weird Mob”. A shout in a pub is definitely not something to vocalize.

An invitation to tea could be a problem. Does that mean a friendly cuppa or a sit down meal?

A state of un-being means that people don’t die anymore. They pass on. But no one ever says where they pass on to. The usual homily is that they have gone to a better place. What about those who thought this place was just fine?

Then there is the Hatch, Match and Dispatch category in the local paper. The euphemisms for these are everywhere.

“I wouldn’t be dead for quids” has a distinct resonance that is sadly lacking in the more recent metric conversion.

“Done like a dinner” has a certain eloquence that “soundly beaten” could never achieve.

“Pull your finger out” is certainly more expressive than the milder: “Get a move on”. Then again where is one expected to move on to?

This lack of clarity in our use of language can often result in unexpected situations.

A formal occasion could be quite an embarrassment. “Dress: Jacket and Tie”. My naked nether region raised a few eyebrows, I can say.

Now, at this point I seem to have left myself somewhat exposed although I think I have the cheek to carry it off.

On the other hand, my lexicon seems to have led myself down a dead end, stuck like a shag on a rock, tied up in knots and left to hang precariously out on the edge.

It is at this juncture I feel that I am drowning in clichés and that I have no choice but to leave myself sitting out on that aforementioned limb.

Bruce Lambert

An Ode to Island Dogs

Dangar Island’s a place where dogs have a home
And these island dogs, they are free to roam.
They deposit smelly parcels everywhere
And their owners. Well they don’t seem to care.
Their dogs are allowed to run free
Doing their thing where their owner can’t see
Or “I’ll come back later” is the refrain
But then they forget to come back again.
Or they say “he does his poo early each morning”
And carrying a bag – well that’d be boring
A request from the heart to the owners out there
Please keep an eye on your dog and show some care
Pick up after your dog and don’t let it roam
Because all of us call Dangar Island home.

With apologies to “Dangar Island: Birds, Barrows a Ferry and Me”

Jo Karzc



Dangar Apocalypse – Chapter 1

Gus Walsh a budding young Dangar Island writer has submitted the first chapter of his novel for us to enjoy.....

I gripped my wooden spear tightly. The splinters dug into my skin. I had to get some food for my dog and me. My prey was scratching around in the dirt. It was a bush turkey. It had a scruffy black body and a floppy yellow goggle hanging from its head. It had a bright red head and looked as if it was covered in blood, which unfortunately it soon would be.

It pecked furiously away at the dirt. I readied my spear and aimed, but the crackle of dead leaves under my light shuffling, alerted the turkey. **Game over.**

Its head spun around. All eyes on me. But by the time it realized what was going on, my spear was already soaring through the air, unrecognized and had a target aimed for the turkey. **Impact was inevitable.**

The turkey squawked nervously and edged backwards. The spear plummeted down further. A sudden rustle from the bush made the turkey cock its head and consider investigating it. My spear came closer. **It rushed off.**

I hesitated and whistled. The turkey instantly turned around, so I plucked some berries from a tree and offered them to the turkey. It took the opportunity of food and waddled towards me, just as my spear hit the ground, landing on the turkey. **Touchdown.**

Astounding Facts

During my readings, largely in the fields of social justice and the environment, occasionally I encounter statements which stagger me. Here are several of them:

1. 'If all the ice on earth melts, sea levels will rise by 67 metres'. This is about the height above sea level of the summit of Dangar Island. Sourced from Tim Flannery's 'The Weather Makers', where he is discussing the consequences of continuing pollution of the atmosphere with carbon dioxide leading to further global warming. This is one of the excellent books I have picked up in the Dangar Island jetty shed.
2. 'Until the age of 16 I was classified as fauna'. A statement uttered by Linda Burney, an intelligent and articulate aboriginal woman who is currently shadow Federal Human Services Minister.
3. 'The wealthiest 80 people in the world have the same amount of money as the world's poorest half – 3.5 billion people'. Sourced from Noam Chomsky. An Australian take on this was given by Stephen Jones in Federal Parliament recently. He said 'the 10 richest families in Australia have the same amount of money as the poorest 4 million Australians'.
4. And finally a less divisive fact – 'Humans carry 1.5kg of bacteria in their bodies' – making me feel as though I have been colonised by aliens.

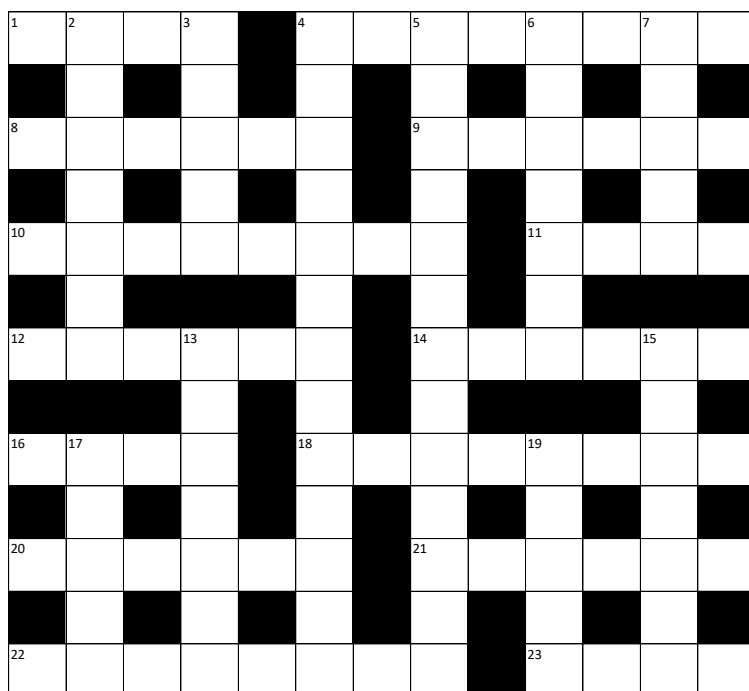
Ben Miller

CRYPTIC XWORD

007 by Chico

Winter 2018

This puzzle is really difficult, so I've italicised the definition part of each clue to help with your parsing. This means that for *double defs* the whole clue is italicised. A "double definition" or *double def* is a staple of cryptic crosswords (there are even some rare *triple defs*). There is no wordplay section in the clue, just two to five words, forming two synonyms or definitions of the answer. The definitions will usually be quite obscure ones, and/or their juxtaposition misdirects you. Conversely, a ? at the end of the clue means that the wordplay and definition are mixed together, so there is nothing to italicise. A ! means other, usually corny, shenanigans.

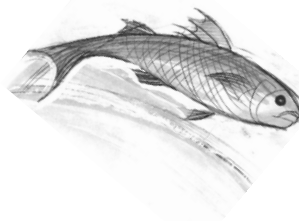
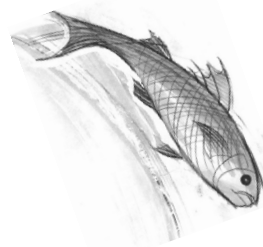
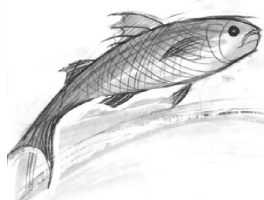


Down

2. *Stubborn, dandy highwayman!* (7)
3. Hill tops note's *trunk* (5)
4. *Rumsfeld's second* famous council before familiar point (5,8)
5. Moon around gate matches helper *ontologically* (2,3,2,6)
6. *Ribbed* fool lurked around pole (7)
7. *Taxes* leaderless buccaneers (5)
13. Ali is no interchange? (7)
15. Way around sink *dish* (7)
17. Mantras turn up outside fair *break* (5)
19. PUA gambit starts every *Levantine desert* (5)

Across

1. *Side piece* (4)
4. Breeches lose strong ale, hesitation *can get in a twist* (8)
8. Exclude Spanish flower in *Diego's neighbourhood* (6)
9. *Sharpness*, initially avid, comes unstuck in two years (6)
10. *Lost* blemish loves Edward (8)
11. *Lower* the French boat (4)
12. *Hot* German cake without plate (6)
14. *Rim* monkey (6)
16. Mostly as I am *to the North* (4)
18. Nothing without Roy's partner work is *unemployed* (3,2,3)
20. Greet with old saying *for trittering* (6)
21. *Meet* plum after third (6)
- 22,23. Inspect after scores of *perspectives* (5,2,4)



Dangar Island Mullet Mail

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