



Aug 97

The DANGAR DATASHEET



Newsletter of
The Dangar Island League
(Founded in 1953)

1997 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ray Toman, President
Brian Carey, Vice President
Terry Darrrough, Past President
Cybelle Shorter, Secretary
Sherry Stumm, Treasurer
Barry Porter
Dennis Cooke
Manfred Alerl

All League Correspondence
C/o General Store

ISLAND QUESTIONNAIRE

One of the objectives of our May newsletter was to determine the feelings of the community on a number of issues pertaining to Dangar Island. Therefore a questionnaire was put to Islanders. It was felt this would help the League to determine priorities on matters that should be addressed. Unfortunately because of a breakdown in our distribution system, not all households received a copy of the newsletter and questionnaire. The League regrets that occurrence and is taking steps to improve the situation for later newsletter drops.

Anyway the majority of Islanders received the form, and the response to the survey was encouraging with approximately a third of the forms being returned. (Many thanks to those who went to the trouble).

FINAL RESULTS OF SURVEY

May 97

A = Very Important

D = Hell No

B = Important

E = No Comment

C = Not Important

Subject Raised	RESULT	A	B	A+B	C	D	C+D	E
Dedicated car parking at Brooklyn for Islanders	A1	86%	10%	96%	2%		2%	2%
Decrease fire hazards on Island	A2	63%	27%	90%	3%		3%	7%
Erosion control on beach	A3	59%	27%	86%	6%		6%	8%
Small boat pontoons at wharf	A4	54%	27%	81%	13%		14%	5%
Improve railway station stairs	B1	48%	41%	89%	9%		9%	2%
Protection of Aboriginal carvings	B2	49%	35%	84%	14%		14%	2%
Guidelines for future sewage systems	B3	43%	35%	78%	18%		18%	4%
Sea wall at McKell Park	B4	40%	38%	78%	17%		17%	5%
Erosion of unpaved roads		10%	56%	66%	27%		27%	7%
Possible yearly social function sponsored by League (Easter might be a good time to coincide with Dangar Derby)		10%	37%	47%	46%		46%	7%
Tourist map showing public amenities and areas of interest on a large board		13%	22%	35%	59%	3%	62%	3%
Improve park facilities on Island		2%	31%	33%	56%		56%	11%
Seal road at top of Island		8%	19%	27%	57%	8%	65%	8%
Possible water taps and open showers at beach (At either end near pathways)		2%	19%	21%	67%	10%	77%	2%
Public table and seats in vicinity of wharf		6%	22%	28%	70%		70%	2%
Public seating on beach		6%	10%	16%	70%	10%	80%	4%

As > 50% said very important (A), and > than 75% said important or better (A + B)

Bs Total vote > 75% on the important scale (A + B)

OTHER MATTERS RAISED DURING THE SURVEY (Sometimes more than once)

In addition to the questions posed in the survey, Islanders were encouraged to suggest other matters worthy of consideration. The following list details the response to that invitation.

1. Natural Gas line to the Island.
2. Underground Power.
3. League owned vehicle for Members.
- 1/2 hour Rental on truck.
- Keep vehicle at wharf.
4. Protect the Island in it's natural state, but cater for needs of residents.
5. Guard against Island becoming a tourist attraction.
6. Management of impact of tourism on Island.
7. Implementing 25 feet Foreshore Protection Plan.
8. Copies of tourist map available at Store.
9. Removal of obstructions and improve collections of debris from public footpaths and walkways.
10. A phone directory of Island residents who to contact in case of fire, medical emergency or other services such as the Shop and the Club. This would be particularly useful for newcomers.
11. Education of pet owners and control of dogs and cats.
12. Dog control - pick up droppings.
13. Code of Conduct for dogs on the Island.
14. Cat control - desexed.
15. Dogs on leads.
16. Council to draw up clear guidelines for maintenance and planting out of nature strip in front of individual properties - needs to be consistent.
17. Need emphasis on preservation of Island's natural features rather than improvements.
18. Improve children's bike racks at Public Wharf.
19. Public Notice Board in lieu of phone box.
20. Tunnel or lift access to railway station.
21. Promoters of tourism on Dangar Island to put a percentage of profits towards facilities of Island.
22. Obstructions of recognised walkways.



CONCLUSIONS OF THE EDITOR ON THE SURVEY RESULTS

1. There can be little doubt about the very strong positive and negative views on some of the issues raised. The dedicated parking in Brooklyn for Islanders received almost unanimous support and needs action. Other matters that clearly need attention include the decrease of fire hazards, erosion control on beach, small boat pontoons at the wharf, and improving the railway station stairs. Some other issues also polled strongly.

2. There appears to be a strong 'anti-tourist' theme running through the survey. While the nuisance aspects of Island tourism is understandable, (extra rubbish, and sometimes poor behaviour etc), it perhaps should be pointed out that Island visitors do subsidise to some extent the General Store and Ferry Service. They also leave the Island by late afternoon as a rule. We as a community seem fairly content to deny ourselves conveniences, if it also discourages tourists from coming back. (Hmm!)

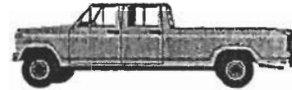


3. The matter of a possible yearly social function sponsored by the League was evenly divided.
4. Given the result of the survey, the current League Management Committee quite obviously will not pursue any matter that polled poorly.

TRANSPORT ISSUES FROM WHARF

There was quite a lively debate at the last League general meeting (14/6/97) regarding the possible introduction of an electric buggy to the Island. The matter had been brought to a head with the refusal of the Hornsby Council to make the Ute rental fee more affordable (presently \$25/hour or part thereof). The case for the Dangar Island League to purchase an electric buggy could be summarised as follows:

1. Substantial hill to negotiate from wharf (For some residents).
2. Many residents have difficulty with :
 - (a) Groceries
 - (b) Elderly relatives
 - (c) Health issues
3. Council Truck rental:
 - (a) Prohibitive cost (\$25 per hire and going to \$30 shortly)
 - (b) Not totally convenient where parked
 - (c) Inconvenient for "Shop" to manage where parked
 - (d) Safety issue for some drivers
4. Electric Buggy Alternative (Golf buggies)
 - (a) What does it look like?
 - (b) Battery driven
 - (c) No pollution
 - (d) Quiet operation
 - (e) Slow speed
 - (f) Safe for roads on the Island
 - (g) User friendly
 - (h) How could it work?
 - (i) Stored at wharf (under cover of tasteful design)
 - (ii) Owned by League for League members
 - (iii) Regular user with key
 - (iv) Spasmodic users - Pay Shop
 - (v) Booking board at Wharf



The opposing case centred around the fear of some members that the introduction of a buggy would sanction a lot more vehicles being introduced to the Island, which was viewed as being undesirable. In a close vote at the meeting, the proposal for the League to purchase an electric buggy was defeated.

A subsequent motion to further investigate the Island transport needs was however carried. A small group including John Heron, Valerie Lee and Heather Saunders have worked hard to put together a report. It is quite extensive and the contents include the following sections:

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Looking at the Past | - How Can Transport be Managed on Dangar Island? |
| - The Current Picture | - Proposed Time Tabling |
| - What Could Happen in the Future? | - Legal and Insurance Considerations |
| - Current and Future Resident Needs | - Suggested Vehicles |
| - Recent Events | - Outline of Costs |
| - What Transport is Appropriate, Affordable and Practical? | - Illustrations of Potential Vehicles and Accessories |

It is planned to discuss the findings at the 20th September League meeting and Islanders are encouraged to attend. This will be an information session only, the Management Committee will not be looking for any decisions to be made. Copies of the report will be made available at the meeting.

NEWS OF THE DANGAR ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Besides acting as custodian of its treasures (photos, memorabilia) the Society is collecting as much new information as it can for the next edition of the "History of Dangar Island", hopefully to be published in 1998. Some members have been interviewing long term residents about the more recent history of the Island, while others have been researching in the State Land Titles Office in an effort to find the history of the ownership of each block on the Island.

If any person has access to their title deeds it would really save us a great deal of work if they would copy out previous owners names, occupations, place of residence and date of purchase from their deeds.

Throughout the book we hope to include (humorous) anecdotes or stories about Island (River) life. Have you heard the one about the bloke who had a bit too much at the Anglers Restaurant at Brooklyn..... *'decided to swim home was picked up about 3 am clinging to the navigation posts off the south end of Dangar'*. Do you remember any similarly stories? Please write them out for us.



Anybody who has been a long term resident and would like their oral history recorded for our files should also make contact.

Our meetings are advertised in the ferry or phone box but are usually held once every 2 months.

President: Pat Wallace x619

Vice President: Manfred Meale x419

Secretary: Jane Putt x329

Treasurer: Rod Walker x352



BUSH REGENERATION

Did you know that our local Bush Regeneration group meets once a month to eradicate noxious weeds (mainly Lantana and Asparagus ferns) and to plant and maintain indigenous species on the Island's Reserve. If you are interested in helping us to preserve our unique flora, why not come along and join us at our present working site - area around the Midden, underneath the power poles, on the western side of the Island on the first Saturday of each month at 10.00am. The work is not as hard as it sounds and every one is most welcome.



For more information, please contact Ana (x707) or Sarah (x767)



VALE BILL LYLE

It is with greatest regret that we advise Islanders that Bill Lyle passed away on Saturday 16th August 1997. Bill lived in Brooklyn and did wonderful work for the local community. He was extremely active in the Neighbourhood Watch and his last newsletter for that organisation is attached. Bill's integrity, clear thinking, and genuine friendship will be sadly missed.



FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

From the 1 September 1997 our brigade will have a new name to bring us in line with the newly created Rural Fire Service. The Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade will not change from its day to day operation. The change in name simply represents the fact that as a fire service we are involved in many types of incidents other than bush fires.

As the recent survey of residents indicates, the majority is concerned with the reduction of fire hazards on the Island, your brigade has appointed a Fire Risk Assessment Officer, Deputy Captain Pauline Foote. It will be the role of this officer to assess all fire risks on the Island and not simply in Kipara Reserve.

The Brigade will be seeking your assistance to list items of potential hazard in a questionnaire.

The Fire Mitigation Officer for Hornsby Rural Fire Service, Terry Jackson is investigating alternate methods of reducing bush fire hazards on the island. We expect to hear from Terry shortly.

Fire safety is everybody's responsibility. All home and land owners need to carry out fire safety and preparation measures annually prior to the onset of the Bush Fire Danger Season.



The Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade has continued to be upgraded with equipment and through training. The Brigade's ability to respond to any emergency, principally fires, is governed by the number of trained firefighters present at any particular time on the day. This is a particular problem during weekdays as many members work off the Island. To join the brigade you simply come along to the next meeting. Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at 9 am. There are many tasks that need to be undertaken on a regular basis, which does not require firefighter training. You may feel that you would like to contribute to the brigade in a non-firefighting capacity. If, however, you are available for firefighting you will need to undertake training. The Training Officer Boaz Harde can advise you about times and duration.

For further information please call: Captain Russell Taylor: 9985 7760
Senior Deputy Captain Peter Short: 9985 7225
President Pauline Foote: 9985 7225

Or simply ask one of the members that you know. Everyone is welcome!!

Datasheet Advertising

Do you wish to advertise in the Datasheet? "Island Tradespeople" and "Wanted to Sell" sections will be run in the December Newsletter. Simply send your Business Card and/or information to the League C/o The General Store. (Deadline 16th November 1997 and its free).

Wanted: Articles of interest to Islanders for publication in Datasheet. Subject matter unlimited.

Wanted: Dedicated Islanders who are interested in becoming "Local Government Pollies"

The Problem: Dangar Island is not represented adequately in HSC. We need a voice that is not ignored.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF LEAGUE

Saturday, 20 September 1997
Community Hall

- . Island Transportation Study
- . Way ahead on
 - Brooklyn Car Parking
 - Fire Hazards
 - Beach Erosion
 - Wharf Boat Pontoon
- Chit Chat and Afternoon tea begins 3.30pm and Meeting 4.00pm

ALL WELCOME!

Dangar Island Ferry Service

Phone-9985 7605 Fax-9985 7601 August 1997

NOW OPEN

Brooklyn Books & Bits

Dangar Island Ferry Service take great pleasure in announcing the opening of their new office, situated at No.1 Bridge Street Brooklyn. Open from Tuesday through to Sunday. (9.00am to 5.00pm).

Islanders should be pleased to know that courier packages can now be delivered during office hours to the address above (\$2.00 per package) - no more having to meet ferries.

Just missed the ferry - why not drop into our office for a cuppa and a chat - purchase your ferry ticket and wait for the next ferry.

Younger school children may miss the ferry - instruct the children to come to the office. If your child doesn't arrive home on time telephone the office and hopefully they will be here and we will assure they are on the next ferry.

Telephone numbers remain the same as on our timetables.



Looking for that special gift - drop in have a browse - we carry an extensive range of books on the river and surrounds - maps, local art work etc. All at reasonable prices.

Copies of the new ferry timetable are available from the ferry, General Store and our office.

TOPIC

Christmas Treat

From October to December we conduct many ferry transfers to Peats Bite Restaurant. Keep your eyes fixed to the ferry notice board - dates of intended trips will be posted monthly. We can arrange a booking for you and or your group. It is essential to book to avoid disappointment.

New Ferry Timetable

Feedback has been good - so far. The new 6.05pm ferry from Brooklyn (Mon- Fri) has given islanders the option of not rushing home from work and has been well received.

7.30pm on Friday nights operates all year - Dangar Island first stop.

Please note that all ferries departing Dangar Island on weekends now go straight to Brooklyn and meet the trains.

DEPARTS BROOKLYN

MON - FRI	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6.35am*	7.45amWR	8.45amWR
7.20amWR	8.45amWR	9.45amWR
8.15am*	10.00am*	10.45amWR
9.00am*	10.45amWR	12.00 noon*
11.00amW	12.00 noon*	1.45pmWR
2.00pm*	1.45pmWR	2.45pmWR
3.15pmR	2.45pmWR	3.45pmWR
4.30pmR	3.45pmWR	5.00pm*
5.30pm*	4.45pm*	(Summer only 6.00pm*)
6.05pm*	5.15pm*	
6.40pm*		
(Friday only - 7.30pm)		

DEPARTS DANGAR ISLAND

MON - FRI	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6.10am	7.15am	8.20am
7.00am	8.15am	9.15am
8.00am	9.15am	10.15am
8.30am	10.15am	11.15am
10.00amW	11.15am	1.15pm
1.15pm	1.15pm	2.15pm
2.45pm	2.15pm	3.15pm
3.30pmW	3.15pm	4.15pm
4.45pmW	4.15pm	(Summer only 5.15pm)
5.45pm	5.00pm	
6.20pm		
(Friday only - 7.00pm)		