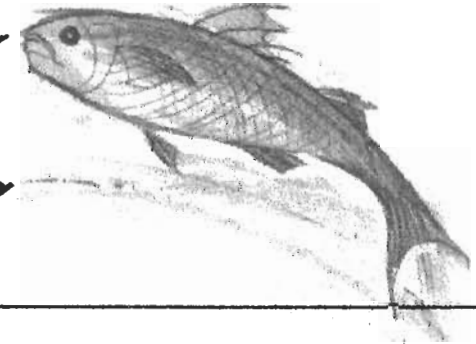


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#17

Summer 2006

On Earth, as it is in Heaven

There's a lot of issues that the print, tv and radio media use to stampede us into stress these days – climate change, tsunamis, terrorism, job security, illegal wars, health, hospitals, electricity, pollution, sedition, water, air, food—thank goodness for the Mullet Mail. The League has had another annual election, and some new faces are there to help coordinate matters civic – welcome Chez Gough as the new Secretary after Wally's heroic stint for two years.

Progress is slow but sure regarding the Island's Community Vehicle. The vehicle has now been funded, preliminary driver rosters established, and the vehicle ordered.

Council's Roads Engineer Kyle Wells is on the case and dedicated to making it happen. We're hoping to have it on the Island in February.

Progress is slower and less sure regarding the new public jetty. It was submitted to Waterways for grant funding last year by Council, with two other projects, and one of the other ones (Kangaroo Point) got the money.

The grant has been resubmitted again this year – we will have to wait and see.

In our negotiations with Sydney Water, the League has always taken the position that the Island offered to Sydney Water a rare opportunity to establish a showcase of responsible water and waste management, resulting in a higher purity standard but lower volume of runoff into the river.

Dangar Island Community Buggy

➔ STOP PRESS ➔

We are expecting to berth/launch the buggy mid February.

If you have volunteered as a driver you will receive a phone call regarding training, around that time.

The management manual is drafted, fees advertised (as per Hornsby Council Statutory requirements) and an initial roster proposed based on volunteer driver availability. Here's an update.

Fees

Charges for the use of the Buggy have been very carefully considered by the committee who have attempted to balance community need, ambience and sentiment with costs recovery and anti-discrimination legislation.

The fees can be changed through a Council process of publication and then adoption.

Fees per single journey

\$5.50 including GST per trip per person.
\$2.20 including GST for people with mobility assistance needs – a single assistant may accompany them for \$2.20 per trip.

There is no charge for accompanied children, 4 years and under.

Loads beyond 20kg (a decent shovels

be accompanied. They must fit within the Buggy cargo tray. Substantial loads and any likely to damage the buggy must use the Ute.

All Garbage must use the Ute. *(had to leave this unedited, :-)* but absolutely no-one is to take it personally! ed.)

Hours of operation

The provisional roster is

Monday 8.30am to 6pm - on call
Wednesday 8.30am to 6pm - on call
Thursday 8.30am to 6pm - on call

(Advance bookings always appreciated)

Friday evening 3.30pm to 7.30pm – a meet the Ferry service.

There is currently no rostered service on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday – however with 7 days advance notice we would hope to find a driver from a pool of volunteers who cannot commit to a regular time. This will involve a lot of ringing around so . . .

More volunteer drivers sought, half a day a month, or more, especially for weekends.

Phone Jude 9985 7879

Queries comments or thoughts can be sent to dangar_vmc@hotmail.com or left

In our negotiations with Sydney Water, the League has always taken the position that the Island offered to Sydney Water a rare opportunity to establish a showcase of responsible water and waste management, resulting in a higher purity standard but lower volume of runoff into the river.

The long struggle by the League with Sydney Water has resulted in a better standard of technology being adopted in the current proposal. However it's a real pity it is not up to world's best practice, and totally ignores any notion of total water management, which would address water recycling and minimize the profligate water waste that is such a money spinner for SW.

The world's best technology exists and is currently in use in other sensitive environments such as the Great Barrier Reef.

The Island could have been totally self sufficient for it's water and waste management, with less pollution of the River, and at less cost. It breaks your heart.

Sydney Water are still confident that the sewer reticulation to the Island will be starting this year following a final tick-off by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Finally, have a safe and happy New Year.

A strong community voice can only be heard if there is a strong membership, so JOIN NOW – fill in the form adjacent – there's more at the shop – and only \$5 per person.

Ron Barelle

League Committee 05-06

President	Ron Barrelle
Vice President	Michael Dean
Secretary	Chez Gough
Treasurer	Jonathan Sykes
Committee	Anne Mahoney
	Wally Bower
	Terry Dorrrough

Public General Meetings every three months

Next general meeting will be Saturday 18 February @ 2pm at the Hall.

per trip.

There is no charge for accompanied children, 4 years and under.

Loads beyond 20kg (a decent shops worth) are payable separately and must

REMINDER

All Roads on Dangar Island are closed to the public.

Permits are required to operate vehicles on Dangar Island.

Permits are available from the Dangar Island Vehicle Committee, Miss Piggy Barges, and Council.

Council's Rangers will be conducting Random Patrols.

Unauthorised vehicles will be infringed.

Thank you

Kyle Wells

Assistant Traffic Engineer

Hornsby Shire Council

Ph 9847 6856

Fax 9847 6559

FOR WEEKENDS.

Phone Jude 9985 7879

Queries comments or thoughts can be sent to dangar_vmc@hotmail.com or left for DIVMC at the shop.

Mariners

We have a brand new professional football team within half an hour's drive of here in the form of the Central Coast Mariners. Having already won the pre-season cup, Mariners are riding high in the new A-League. To our utmost delight, we travelled to Aussie Stadium recently to see the Yellow defeat Sydney Glamour 3-2 with a 92nd minute winner.

The Mariners are cheered on by the noisiest supporters in the League, Bay 16's Marinators. The Dangar Island chapter of the Marinators is somewhat small (me, Pablo and Riley!) so if you fancy joining us at Gosford Stadium we'll introduce you. Find the Marinators online at www.marinators.net and for a fixture list www.ccm Mariners.com.au

Jonathan Sykes

Join the Dangar Island League!

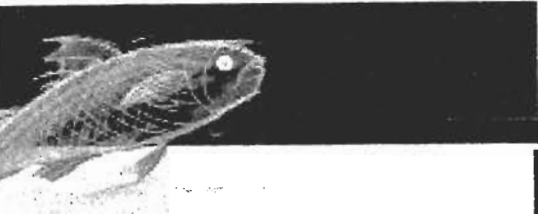
Name

Address

Telephone

I include \$5 membership fee for the period to June 30 2006.

Please place in an envelope and leave at shop for the the League Treasurer.



Alluvium 2005

The exhibition opened with live entertainment including Zac Boyle playing piano and live portraits by Leon Curtis.

A dance was choreographed and performed by Maddie Thornton, Marcela Torres, Caitlyn Sallam, and Isabelle Pritchard (aged 8 to 10).

Jenny Brown provided strawberry and beetroot sandwiches and Ross Marshall brought homemade apple cider.

"It was a huge relief to see everything hung and see everybody smiling," said organiser and curator Cybele Shorter.

The year's focus was on the HSC works from 2004.

"They have done so much work," Cybele said. "It's not fair to just leave it sitting in a box. It really needs to be appreciated."

Art, design and drama projects from four of last year's HSC students- Amrit Dean, Monique Ewen, Beatrice Harrison, and Luke Farquhar were exhibited.

"It felt pretty good to actually put it up somewhere as opposed to having it rolled up and never seeing it," Luke said.

The exhibition will be useful for his application to art school in 2006.

VALE, Anne

written by Jo Truman 18/09/05

A year ago today, islanders, friends and relatives celebrated my mother Anne Truman's 80th birthday at the DI Bowling Club with her. It was a wonderful occasion and Anne was overwhelmed by the love and kindness many had for her. That day few of us would have projected a year into the future envisioned that she would no longer be with us.

As an island elder that had notched up a high respect rating in the community. Anne had well deserved the accolades. A trained nurse, she came to the island to start a new life, With her two dogs and a cat, at the age of 55. She soon formed firm friendships and became involved in community activities and worked for the Community Centre in Brooklyn.

Despite many tragedies and difficulties in her life she maintained her integrity and thoughtful compassion for people and creatures throughout her life-this was expressed in her work as a wildlife carer, a role she relished and shared with Manfred Merl. Through this association they developed a long and affectionate friendship as they consulted with each other over the issues of caring and nurturing injured wildlife. More often than not the sick and injured creatures under Anne's care flourished and she found great pleasure in seeing them return to their natural habitat and ways.

Anne was sad to see many of her old brigade of friends gradually leave the island, but she maintained contact with many and was sustained by her island friends with whom she would regularly meet and loved the friendly contact that the D.I. pedestrian precinct allows-the chats in the streets and friendly smiles and waves.

I would like to thank the islanders for the wonderful generosity in the donations towards Anne's 80th birthday holiday-without this she would not have been able to experience the wonderful week in Canberra, the last time she was able to spend in this city with so much family history and significance for her as the place where she undertook and completed her nursing training. It was not just a holiday but also a time in which she attended the launch of a book about her grandmother (the research of which she had contributed to) and donated the recently received UN post hummus award to her father, Papekoanar Gen. Harold Nimmo, to the Museum at Duntroon



Snakes on Dangar Island

Tourists and new residents occasionally ask me whether there are any snakes on Dangar Island, to which I reply 'odd ones, which have probably swum ashore'. But over the past 18 months I've seen five snakes on Dangar Island, probably as many as over the previous 20 or so years and at least one type certainly breeds here. Residents who adjoin the bushland reserve on top of the Island sometimes tell me they sight snakes in their gardens.

The first species living on the Island is the Diamond Python. Some months ago now, Greg Hormann who lives on the west side of Dangar, drew my attention to a substantial individual curled up in a clump of Bromeliads just above the shoreline (facing Long Island). I didn't disturb it but would estimate it to be 1.2m long. A couple of months before, a Diamond Python - probably the same one - had been sighted on Hormann's jetty by Ray Toman, and at about the same time a snake with 'a patterned back' was also seen in the area. Several houses to the north of Greg and Ray, Rosie Boylan has reported seeing a Diamond Python at her place sometimes.

Whether these are all the same individual or whether there is more than one I couldn't say. As most people know, Diamond Pythons are harmless to humans.

Blind snakes are usually less than 30cm long, and whilst excavating at Hormann's, I have unearthed three of them. They live

up and never seeing it," Luke said.

The exhibition will be useful for his application to art school in 2006.

"It made me feel like my work wasn't just an exercise to achieve a mark that no-one cares about anymore," Monique said.

Alluvium is an opportunity for everyone to express his or her creative talents in whatever medium.

It is not commercial or competitive. It aims to validate all the different ways that people appreciate and make art, Cybele said.

"It's a chance for people to feel proud of what they do."

Works exhibited this year included Jo Truman's audio project, Anna Pollak's carrot bench (made with her father), friendship quilts from the Island's craft group and paintings by Julia Castiglioni.

A lot of children's work was exhibited including Ebon Baxter's wooden pendulum clock, Ariel Smith's ceramics, Richenda Ewen's textiles and Fin Boyle's photographs.

Richenda said: "I think it's really cool that I can say I've been in an exhibition."

"Everyone loved it and got a chance to show off their creative side and all that," Luke said.

"It wasn't just art it was the craft people, the kids, the grown ups- everyone was involved."

The next Alluvium will be in two years time. "The focus again will be to get everybody involved," Cybele said.

"Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm."

Monique Ewen

city with so much family history that she undertook and completed her nursing training. It was not just a holiday but also a time in which she attended the launch of a book about her grandmother (the research of which she had contributed to) and donated the recently received UN post hummus award to her father, Peacekeeper Gen. Harold Nimmo, to the Museum at Duntroon College, where he had been a student.

I would also like to thank the islanders for their ongoing support shown for my mother- the many who managed to help her, without intruding on her dignity, when I was unable, with her shopping up the hill, shopping errands and those such as Helen Wakeman who brought delicious home made soups to Anne at home, with such gentleness and grace, when I was away. Manfred and Joan maintained a vigilant eye on Anne when she was ailing (and when I was unable, fed the pets) and Wally and Manfred conducted the difficult and heart wrenching task of getting my mother into emergency care in hospital when I was away -a journey from her home to which she would never return. I would also like to thank all the islanders who brought comfort and support, many cards and flowers and a little of the island she so missed, (indeed, Anne was thought by the staff to have the biggest fan club in the hospital!) as well as the friends -such as Jane Putt who helped my mother come to terms with her fate. In the last days of her life, Anne Howard and Mum managed a good laugh about their memories of "the dogs birthday party" on the island years ago.

The island presence at Anne's funeral was strong and a testimony to the love and respect in which she was held- there were some truly captivating moments, such as Robert Bickerstaff's somewhat last minute song about friendship for Mum and Manfred's eulogy which was spontaneous and heartfelt.

I also would like the friends and neighbours who have offered kind words and gestures of support during this most difficult of times for me. It is all these things that make Dangar Island a truly special community. A generous donation toward a memorial seat for Anne - hopefully to manifest some time soon in the future-was also made by the D.I. League, Islanders and family. (The image of Anne regularly taking a breather on the seat half way up the hill from the ferry is one that is etched on the memories of many of us, so a seat is a fitting tribute).

Now she is gone. I, we, miss her, but the legacy of her kindness will live on, on Dangar and in the hearts of her friends and far flung family.

to humans.


Blind snakes are usually less than 30cm long, and whilst excavating at Hormann's, I have unearthed three of them. They live underground, hence the absence of eyes. They are uniformly brown and flick a typical forked tongue in and out. This makes them easily distinguishable from the common 'legless lizards' which I think are actually three-toed skinks, and have little vestigial legs and squirm away like large worms when you turn over a log or rock. Blind snakes must be a breeding resident species here. I have previously seen only two others despite years of landscaping and gardening in almost all corners of the Island. One was some twelve years ago at 6 Riverview Avenue, squirming across a wet concrete path at night; the other, a very dead, relatively large one terrorising a tenant, on a property facing east, above Riverview Avenue.

Some time ago, at about 9pm, I encountered a small snake (40cm) crossing Riverview Avenue on the north side of the Island. It was readily identifiable as a Gold-crowned Snake - a small, nocturnal snake which is venomous but not considered harmful to humans because of its small size. It is hard to imagine such a small, relatively feeble creature swimming to the Island. I suspect Gold-crowned Snakes may be resident here, but are very rarely observed because they are nocturnal.

Not long after the above sighting, Michael Moore disturbed a metre long red-bellied black snake, sunning itself on the concrete doorstep of his north side, waterfront abode. These are not an aggressive snake and it quickly slithered off, into an adjacent property.

Ben Miller

Philip Holland cmc
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