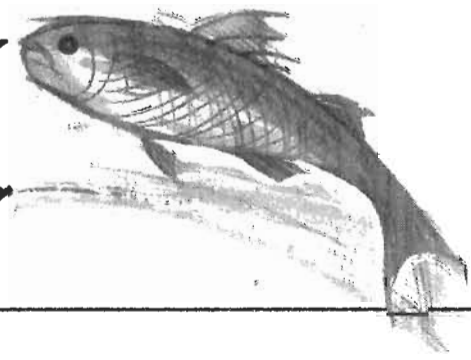


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#14

August 2003

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER NOT STANDING FOR PRESIDENT!

Well you can imagine the excitement amongst all the Dangarian villagers as the news circulates that the League Annual General Meeting is coming up next month – Saturday the 20th September to be exact, at 2.30 at the Hall. There will be exciting elections, cakes, baby kissing, and random acts of kindness all followed by the Spring General Meeting where we try and get things done.

Issues to be canvassed will include Progress Reports on the Roads, Jetty Access, Fire Tank, Sewerage, Community Vehicle, and Island Developments. We also need to decide on a major issue to discuss at the meeting – our dilemma is we have such a choice. Any of the above would do, or perhaps you have further prospects – Permaculture, after dark transport, or secession from NSW in favour of the kingdom of Tonga (a favorite with monarchists). Drop any ideas into the shop, as we have to arrive at an Agenda by the end of the month.

We had a very kind letter arrive at the League from Peter McInerney, a new resident who explained his work commitments as Manager of Hornsby Nissan precluded day to day involvement on the Island, but offered substantial financial assistance to the Island Fire Brigade. There was no way our illustrious Fire Captain was going to miss this, and as a result all the Fire girls and boys now can see in the dark with their new helmet torches, (headlamps?) and with a big saving on carrots.

It must be the season for grants. There is a NSW Clubs funded one going off soon, (Pokie tax pays for it) which may help fund the Community Vehicle.

Yet another is from the NSW Department for Women, for 'developing women's leadership, health, well-being, safety, protection, training and employment opportunities.' You will agree, it sounds very worthy, like motherhood. In any event it's worth \$30,000 and closes 26 September. Perhaps we could get a grant for after dark transport which would satisfy all of the criteria.

Progress on Roads, Jetty, Firetanks, Sewer etc this last three months has been slow and patchy. All topics are in the hands of the various authorities who have priorities other than just ours, and all we can do is keep up the pressure,

What's Cooking?

Residents of Dangar Island may be aware of a current Development Application for 'alterations and additions' to an existing cottage at 82 Riverview Avenue.

What's Proposed?

The existing cottage is built to within 1m of the waterfront. The 'alterations and additions' in reality involve almost total demolition of the existing cottage and, after taking into account the 'workshop' (height 2000mm) that is to be housed in the area under the 'existing dwelling on ground floor', the number of levels of the building will combine to a total of four, with a dwelling height of 12.8 meters from the foreshore to the ceiling on the top floor. The fact that the building is to be stepped back up the block will make little, if any, impact on reducing its overall bulk and scale. The Dangar Island Development Control Plan allows for stepping back to minimise overall bulk. However, this proposal is clearly not in the spirit of the DCP.

it for failing to comply with the Regional Environmental Plan, the Local Environmental Plan and the Development Control Plan for Dangar Island. It is due back before Council around the 8th October.

Please contact the Councillors (particularly Berman, Horne, Browne, Muirhead and White) and tell them how you feel about it, and if possible go along to the Council Meeting when it next comes up to give Council an idea of the extent of opposition to the proposal (we will advise the date of the meeting by a notice on the ferry and the phone box. If you would prefer to be notified by email please forward your details to wendy@ieu.asn.au). Contact details for the Councillors are available on Council's website (<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au>). **Act NOW!**

**Wendy McMurdo
for SHURE**

(Save Hawkesbury's Unique River Environment)

This newsletter is produced under the auspices of the Dangar Island League. The League's role is to create a link between the community and Council or other

grant for after dark transport which would satisfy all of the criteria. Progress on Roads, Jetty, Firetanks, Sewer etc this last three months has been slow and patchy. All topics are in the hands of the various authorities who have priorities other than just ours, and all we can do is keep up the pressure, support, enthusiasm and vigilance to ensure our file doesn't get bumped off the end of the desk. We aim to have some specific results and outcomes to announce at the General Meeting.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of both Jonathan and Wally, at last count the League membership stood at 87, up 22% since June. Both have promised to minimise branch stacking and have targeted 100 members by the AGM.

Having a strong, representative Residents group has positive flow-on effects, as it gives the Island a strong voice in community affairs, to help achieve the wishes of the Islanders rather than the wishes of others.

The idea that Island Residents who are over seventy years of age to be invited annually to be Honorary Members of the League, was passed enthusiastically at the last Winter General Meeting, and will be in operation for the AGM, where those accepting the invitation will be celebrated and distinguished with Certificates, and gift vouchers for Tongan duty free.

In the last ten months, much has happened. The League is now Incorporated so it can apply for grants. The Island roads and cars issue has been clarified and is in progress, a community vehicle is on the drawing board and details are being worked out, new jetty access for disabled (and mums with prams and parcels), is in the pipeline along with some additional berthing 'for the boating public'.

I would like to thank the hard working League Committee for achieving this.

There is still a lot to do -

- complete the above tasks,
- get the best outcome for water and wastewater,
- update the Island's planning code so we don't get inappropriate overdevelopment,
- get that damn fire tank in operation,
- maybe pram and disabled access to the hall,
- _____
- _____

Fill in the last lines with your suggestions and bring them along to the AGM.

Regards all, from Ron B President

PS: the league would like to thank the fire brigade for their continuing dedication to protect life and property on the Island and the River, and to thank both the fb and the bush regen group for the time and effort they have put in over the recent burning on the hill.

However, this proposal is clearly not in the spirit of the DCP.

What's the Problem?

Many aspects of this proposal are of serious concern. However, one of the principal issues is the precedent it will set for foreshore development on Dangar Island and elsewhere on the Lower Hawkesbury, if Council approves it.

The siting of the original dwelling on the foreshore is inconsistent with current policy, an anomaly that extends to most areas of Dangar Island and other River settlements. It reflects the fact that faults within past policies have been recognised and planning policies have been amended accordingly. That fact that there is an existing dwelling should not then allow for a massive structure to be built over that dwelling to a height of nearly four stories, especially when a dwelling of a more appropriate scale could be built further up the block where it would not have the unprecedented visual impact of the current proposal.

What Can You do About it?

It is crucial that Hornsby Councillors are made aware of how much opposition there is to this development within the community. SHURE and the Dangar Island League have both written letters of objection, along with several individuals, and many of you will have signed a petition against the proposal earlier this year. Despite this, and despite everything wrong with it, it looks very much as if this four storey proposal will gain approval by Council. The Councillors have now deferred it twice, rather than simply reject

I under the auspices of the Dangar Island League. The League's role is to create a link between the community and Council or other Government bodies, where decision-making may affect our community. The League gives the community a collective voice, and creates structure for issues to be addressed. Come to meetings to raise an issue and/or form a sub-committee. Meetings are held in the community hall on a regular basis.

Current positions are held by the following residents:

PRESIDENT:	Ron Barrelle
Vice President:	Michael Dean
Secretary:	Wally Bower
Treasurer:	Jonathon Sykes
Committee:	Jenny Shanley Daylan Cameron Bob Dyer
Public officers:	Ron & Michael
Community berthing:	Michael D. [ch] Stephen Boyle Ron, Daylan & Wally
Pedestrian precinct:	Jenny S. [ch] Ana Pollak Manfred Merl Jenny Rowe Terry Dorrough
Community vehicle:	Ron B. [ch] Jonathon
Island utilities:	Bob D. [ch] Jonathon Lars Dahl
Mullet Mail:	Jenny S & Heather D

Contributions to the Mullet Mail are welcome and can be left at the shop. If possible, please include digital word or text document on floppy disk. Alternatively, email to <counterdesign@optusnet.com.au.> Please note that the views of contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the publisher.

FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

New members

The Brigade welcomed and trained 6 new members – some under 40 years old! The training was on the island and undertaken by the very charming Damien (FCO4) from Fire Control. Don't be disheartened if you missed out. There will be other opportunities – see the Captain, Peter Short.

Baptism of fire

One week later the new trainees and old hands were in the Reserve on the hill undertaking a controlled burn in preparation for Summer. Check out around the Tank – those rocks are quite sculptural. A member of the Bush Regeneration Group was present to advise on patches of greatest sensitivity.

Wanted-child minders

Keen on the Brigade but unable to join? Want to contribute in other ways? Are you willing and able to mind young children? Put your name forward to be on the Fire Brigade child minding roster.

The Brigade has many members who have young children. This means that they or their partner is unable to attend fire calls and training. Rather than only relying on friendly favours we are hoping to organise a neighbourly network. Parents can then choose from the list (if necessary) so they can equally participate in Brigade activities. Put your name forward to the this address.

Child minding brigade
c/-DI Rural Fire Service Secretary

Hot tip!

Test your smoke alarm Each alarm has a test button -- give it a push. It should beep and stop when you let it go. If it beeps on command the batteries are working or its simply operational.

Dog food for thought & a Utopian vision – [more of those I say, ed.]

Is the dog situation on Dangar Island just something we have to learn to live with or can it be changed. Over the years I have noticed that there periodic buildups of dogs running loose and wonder to what extent owners of dogs realise that contrary to it being a beautiful place for their dogs to run free, there are very real reasons why this cannot be the case.

I have also come to realise that dogs on leads can be vulnerable to attack – its a case of one dog restrained and the other not, and not being in a position to sort themselves out in relation to the pack and pecking order.

Well, are we to settle for packs of dogs running loose on the Island or are we to settle for dog regulations that Councils' have put in place - *or* are we to settle for something reasonably in between depending on the temperament of each dog, for it is true to say that some dogs do, and have in the past, become Island pets, but probably most dogs are not suited to this most benevolent of all situations – and so, isn't it a case of knowing our own dog without beholding this particular 'family member' through rose-coloured glasses and as a result acting accordingly for the sake of all concerned, including the dog?

This is not without its difficulties – most dogs will occasionally get out – fences are expensive – dogs need to be exercised – rental properties are often without enclosed space for the dog – but the least any of use can do is our best, by our fellow cits and 'man's best friend'.

It stands to reason that us dog owners have no choice but to take full responsibility for any attack by our dog, and ongoing prevention to the best of our ability. During my time of living here [22 years] to the best of my knowledge and memory, there have been two attacks on children, and numerous attacks on dogs, raids on poultry and on wildlife. One of the worst case possibilities is that dogs running loose can gang up and hunt as a pack. I have once seen this happen in Barooka Street where two dogs nipped into a live hen – the deed was done in seconds.

There is one other thing, when a dog is seriously attacked when out walking with its owner, it is shock-horror! for the owner who is then left with an ongoing anxiety of it happening again; which in our own case, has for the third time in as many years, prompting me into writing this letter, which is as much a call for change and improvement on the canine front as it is for anything else.

Suggestion – perhaps we of the dog owners fraternity could meet together to discuss ways and means of overcoming some of these difficulties. Any suggestions gratefully received.

Anne Truman, 9985 7578



Letters to the editor

Dear Sir,

You just have to love dogs don't you? Obviously there's the shitting in the grass, and the picking it out of your shoe soles with a stick, but there's so much more. It's been great lately to sit on the club verandah of Sunday afternoon and soak up the terrified shrieks of spittle-speckled weans flapping vainly at two snarling curs intent on ripping each others' throats out. Also, there's nothing that I like more than to have my plate licked at a beach barbeque. Sure, it's illegal to take dogs on the beach reserve but Dangar Islanders have never worried over such footling legal pettifog and why should they start now?

A really warming sight of late has been the sight of a proper pack of dogs roaming the Island. I've always thought it cruel to keep a dog the solitary family companion – the canine needs a society of its own, with its own pecking order and its own random outbursts of extreme violence.

Sadly, it's come to my attention that some Islanders don't have a dog, and may even object to barking sessions mere hours in duration. Well to you downright un-Australian killjoys I say go and live in China if you don't like it.

Jonathan

Dog Poo

It's not very nice when you're out walking

BROOKLYN SPRING FAIR

This year Spring Fair will be held on Sunday 19th October at Brooklyn School. Once again it promises to musically entertain, have interesting stalls, challenging rides and gastronomic

Where's that hydrant?

Know where your nearest fire hydrant is – it may save your house in the event of fire. The Hydrant is a small square steel plate (300ml) with 'H' on it (handy huh?) and likely to be painted yellow.

Dog Poo

It's not very nice when you're out walking and you are forced onto the side of the road, especially when some careless person has left a big squishy pile of dog poo there.

It stinks and is not nice. It only takes about 15 seconds to pick up dog poo and it could save someone a very annoying surprise. If you don't like the idea of picking it up flick it out of harms way. It isn't every dog owner but some people don't care. It makes us seem lazy to tourists and its just plain DISGUSTING!

Please pick up your dog's pool

Thank you

Milo Curtis

Please note that the views of contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the editor or publisher.

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE

Meeting Calendar

3rd quarter 2003 all held at the Community Hall

SEPTEMBER

Sat 20	2.00	Annual General Meeting
	3.00	Spring General Meeting
Sat 27		School Holidays start

OCTOBER

Wed 1	7.30	Management & Subcommittee Meeting
Mon 6		October Long W/E
Mon 13		School's back

NOVEMBER

Tues 4	3.40	Melbourne Cup
Wed 5	7.30	Management & Subcommittee Meeting

beep and stop when you let it go. If it beeps on command the batteries are working or its simply operational.

Clean your flue

Clean that chimney to avoid chimney fires try. Rob Harrison uses 'Kill soot' available from IGA Berowra. Its a chemical flue cleaner (rather like 'floo powder' but you personally don't get anywhere).



Septic tanks don't work they say. In fact septic tanks are effective, cheap, low-maintenance primary treatment machines, but we often aren't working so well in our absorption trenches. So let's look at some simple ways we can help our absorption fields cope better:

BULLET . .

Your toilet flush. Do you ever have a slash and flush 9 litres down after it? I just fitted a Fluidmaster cistern fill valve (www.fluidmaster.com) for under 20 bucks (Gosford Mitre10) using a shifter, a bucket and a towel.

The Fluidmaster gives maximum control over flush volume and works well with a low pressure pump system. With an ingenious addition of fishing weights to

Rigmor Berg from Cheero Pt Progress Assn would like to report that \$2,000 has been raised towards the tele tower.

the foot of the plunger, I've made my ancient one-press cistern totally controllable by how long I hold down the button. I can flush 500ml or 10L.

BULLET . .

Your roof. Did you know every square metre of roof collects 100L of rainwater a month on average. Every litre you capture in a tank and use is a litre that isn't imported to the island and a litre less for your land to cope with. Rain falls anyway, right? You really should consider getting a tank. I can provide help with sizing and costing if you need it:
globe4@idx.com.au 9985 7142.

BULLET . .

Septic Manual. Hornsby Council's excellent free operation and maintenance manual includes a simple 30 minute septic health check and a list of suitable absorption field plants, along with clear and concise explanations of onsite systems and how to run a good one.

Ring Kellie Walters at council for a copy: 9847 6831

Jonathan

it may save your house in the event of a fire. The Hydrant is a small square steel plate (300ml) with 'H' on it (handy huh?) and likely to be painted yellow, complements of Brigade Member, Bill Robinson. If your hydrant is not yellow but a rather grim and heavily disguised grey - feel free to clean it up and paint it yellow.

Sunday 19th October at Brooklyn School. Once again it promises to musically entertain, have interesting stalls, challenging rides and gastronomic delights. Put the date in your diary now.

For more information contact:

Libby Rawlingson

ph:9985 8380 or 0402 817 524.

CLASSIFIEDS

LESSONS

Available to teach adults and children, individual and in groups, the following: **SINGING** [beginners & intermediate; repertoire & freeing the voice]; **PIANO**, [beginners and grades 1, 2 & 3], **DIDGERIDOO**; **BOTANICAL DRAWING & WATERCOLOUR**.

PLEASE CONTACT: Jo Truman on 9985 8065 or 9985 7578 or email ju_truman@hotmail.com

DANCE CLASSES FOR KIDS

6-12 year olds. 5pm-6pm Mondays, \$5 in Hall with Monique. ph. 0403344489

YOGA

7-8pm Tuesdays in Hall and every second Saturday 9-10am [brekky @ shop after] - bring a mat, wear loose cloths and wait till after for your dinner! Donation, 50% to Hall funds. ph. 9985 7060

AUDITOR NEEDED

The Dangar Island League is looking for the pro-bono services of an auditor for the books. If you have time and would like to offer your skills, please contact Jonathon <globe4@idx.com.au>, Ron or Wally.

DORY 4 SALE

New, beautiful, \$2,300 - Ph Dave 43 77 1500

Classifieds which are relevant to the community are invited for the next **Bullet Mail**. Commercial classifieds are \$10 for a display ad, \$5 for a listing; private by donation. [will be spent on production of MM]

Flush & Forget...?

SUSTAINABLE WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT FOR DANGAR ISLAND & RIVER COMMUNITIES

What's happening?

Under the Priority Sewer Program, Sydney Water is planning to build a centralised reticulated sewerage system for Brooklyn and Dangar Island, with the possible inclusion of neighbouring communities – Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point and Wobby Beach.

What's wrong?

A conventional sewerage option won't deliver the best environmental, social and economic outcomes. The CSIRO dubs these once-through centralised systems '*the epitome of unsustainable practice*' (NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Public Works)

- **Water consumption will increase 30%** (Sydney Water's own estimates)
- **Effluent will be discharged directly to the Hawkesbury River.**
- **Existing wastewater recycling, and opportunities for future recycling, will be problematic.**

The River and the oyster industry need a **clean green solution**

Sewers inherently pollute: they encourage a flush and forget mentality, combine wastewater flows which can be separately optimised, and directly pollute waterways in wet weather. Failure events in a centralised system are far more dramatic and immediate than those in decentralised systems, a fact recognized by ANU Prof. Ian White in his report to the Healthy Rivers Commission, which recommends '*exclude new sewerage discharge or overflows*' and '*stringent management of septics*' to protect oyster farmers. (Oysters – Mar 2003).

Can Sydney Water innovate?

The proposed low pressure sewerage system (LPSS) was canvassed in a 1987 study by Patterson Britten, but the world has moved on. Water restrictions are now a fact of life and potable water a scarce resource of which we drink less than 20%. So far, proposals for Brooklyn and Dangar Island fall

short of Sydney Water's own environmental goals:

- 'Sydney Water must take action...' to reduce per person water use. (SW Operating Licence s.8.1.1)
- Reuse of sewage effluent ... prevention of all dry weather discharges of sewage to waters (SW Act s.27)
- Sydney Water's long term strategy WaterPlan 21 has moved away from sewage-only solutions towards smart growth and wise resource use. Improved wastewater management in

MORE >>

Produced by the **Dangar Island League and Save Hawkesbury's Unique River Environment Inc.** to promote discussion and participation in the community around the issues raised by the Priority Sewerage Program as we believe a standard centralised sewage system is not the answer.



unsewered urban areas now requires smart approaches, including recycling and preventing additional flows and loads to the ocean.

- SW's own research shows robust community support for more sustainable practice, and real benefits for the utility when they deliver. (Sydney Water's presentation to 2002 Thirst! forum).

A fresh approach

Total Water Cycle Management is a blueprint for doing it better. It's an internationally accepted approach that looks at the total picture of water, wastewater and stormwater. Capturing rainwater from our roofs takes the pressure off our stormwater and wastewater systems. Recycling our effluent for garden watering and toilet flushing takes us further.

We can do better...

- **Keep existing septic tanks and secondary tanks and reticulate from them if necessary.**
- **'Properly manage' decentralised systems to 'protect water quality over the long term...at a lower cost than conventional systems'.** (US EPA Report to Congress 1997)

- **Install rainwater tanks, worm farms and water efficient appliances to cut waste generation at source.**
- **Small-scale, high-level treatment solutions for problem onsite systems.**
- **Recycle back to the household for toilet flushing and garden watering.**
- **Keep the Big Tank – don't leave the Dangar Island Fire Brigade high and dry as in 1994 and 2002.**

Neighbourhood-scale won't cost the Earth

In NZ, Rodney City Council priced its Orenco-style decentralised system at HALF the cost of the best centralised option.

New studies of a wide range of options show strong sustainability benefits compared to conventional systems.

[Edmon on Park Feasibility Study (CSIRO+ISF for Sydney Water) Berowra Creek Case Study (LCD+ISF for Hornsby Council)]

In NSW at Hillend, rainwater tanks, existing septic tanks plus low pressure reticulation and local reuse provide an innovative and extremely cost effective solution in

an area of high environmental sensitivity.

We can do it too!

Partnerships

Sydney Water's 'information process' is marginalizing the community and stifling innovation towards sustainability, despite a clear preference for sustainable onsite treatment in the Dangar Island community.

DWOOS (Dealing With Our Own Situation) is an innovative model for community involvement developed in the Clarence River region by Sustainable Futures Australia. DWOOS brings the community together and enables popular, innovative solutions with expert advice from the utilities and local government.

PUMP OUT – EQUITY NOW!

Brooklyn residents on pump out systems are paying thousands of dollars a year while watching some of their neighbours' defective septic systems pollute. This inequity risks fostering a shortsighted, quick-fix approach. State Government and Sydney Water must subsidise pump-out as it does in the Blue Mountains so that cool heads can prevail.

Further reading

SW's Operating Licence Review
http://www.sydneywater.com.au/html/about_us/submissions.cfm

DWOOS - Dealing With Our Own Situation
<http://www.coastal.crc.org.au/coast2coast2002/proceedings.html#theme2>

Healthy Rivers Commission Oysters Report
<http://www.hrc.nsw.gov.au/default2.html?river=oysters>

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