

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Dangar Island League (DIL) has had a busy few months, representing the views of the island community to Hornsby Shire Council and Sydney Water on how best to restore the roads on the island to their "previous" state.

It is of course in the interpretation of that phrase that much of the issue rests. What is "previous" – measured at what point? And were the access tracks/roads/paths better as they were – or do we want something else? This is complicated by the different roles – Sydney Water's requirement is to restore damage they did in the course of the sewer work.

There are naturally some constraints on this and Sydney Water and the Council have been very cooperative about discussing this issue. In the most simple terms, all roads will be returned to a "new" version of their previous state. So for example, on the "lower" roads such as Grantham and Baroona, which are a combination of crushed sandstone and grass, they will have these aspects repaired where needed in this style. On Neotsfield from the ferry wharf up to Riverview, then up Riverview to the hairpin bend, the road will be repaved (i.e. fresh blacktop or asphalt) to the widths marked on the road.

On the "top" loop section of Riverview, they will repave those sections that are currently paved and repair gravel sections with gravel as needed. There will also be some small additions to the asphalted areas – for example, at the ferry wharf end, they will add a little more asphalt material to prevent the "mud bath" that occurs in the truck turning area.

The largest issue was how to treat Neotsfield from just below the fire shed along to the southwest towards the beach (where it meets Grantham). This currently has an approximately 1 meter wide paved section next to a gravel component.

As of this newsletter, we do not know the outcome of these interactions. Thank you to those who have expressed a view. We are trying to do everything we can to represent the views of the islanders to the Council.

Note that we now have a mailbox in the bank of mailboxes outside the shop – please feel free to drop us a note there anytime on topics you

feel are of relevance. The League will be looking at a number of other issues this year.

On **Sunday, 29 March 2009 at 4:00 pm**, the DIL will be holding its next **Public Meeting** at the Community Hall. We welcome all residents to come and chat. We'll also be having brief presentations from other groups on the island who organise aspects of our life here – about their role/activities – I'm sure both new residents and some longer term residents will learn something about these different organizations. We are inviting all the relevant groups :

- Buggy Committee
- Hall Committee
- Bushcare
- Film Society
- Historical Society
- Bowling Club
- Rural Fire Service
- The Shop

Please come along – the DIL will supply some snacks. This is a great time for you to express your thoughts about the island and what the League can do.

Cheers
Antony Schinckel
DIL President



HIRE THE HALL

Fee Schedule

Regular Hire

- \$5.00/hour
- \$24.00/day
- \$24.00/night

Children's Party

- \$24.00 /day (under 11)
- \$24.00 /night (under 11)

Occasional Hire

- \$12.00/hour
- \$57.00/day
- \$57.00/night + bond

Corporate Hire

- \$115.00/day
- \$115.00/night + bond

Community Meetings & Health

No Charge

- Equipment hire \$24.00/day
- PA Music bond \$200
- Event bond \$200

Before the date of hire, please collect and complete a form and return it to Michele Rumsey, . Post Box N15, Dangar Island 2083, Enquiries call 9985 8331 Email: michele.rumsey@uts.edu.au Mobile 0417 933 519 ABN 20706 996 972



BROOKLYN PLAYTIME

Tues 10am-2pm and now Fri 11am-1pm @ Baden Powell Hall, Baden Powell Rd, Brooklyn

Come along with your **baby/toddler/pre-schooler**. Try out the toys and play equipment, join in the games, morning tea, craft and more.

For more info contact
Kate 9985 8650
Annemo 0433 900 915
or Leonie 9985 8438
Or just drop in!

STOP TOXIC WASTE OF MONEY ON THE HAWKESBURY RIVER RAILWAY STEPS

The NSW Government's Department of Transport is about to blow more money on the wrong thing at the wrong place. It's the wrong time.

On 4 February, the Hon David Campbell, Minister for Transport announced that tenders had been called for improvements to the Hawkesbury River Railway Station was not in accordance with community wishes nor its own policies of Easy Access. The decision was made using the wrong assumptions.

We say stop, rethink, and listen to the community. Put a fresh set of eyes to it. Access to public transport will be worse after Rail Corp blows taxpayers' money on more steps to the train station. The current 73 steep steps are to be replaced with 99 steps.

The community wants a ramp and tunnel, not new-for-old steps. Three years ago, local architect Mr Les Reedman, former Deputy Director of Public Works NSW (1975-1982) put forward a our preferred plan as part of his winning entry into the Make Brooklyn More Perfect prize in 2006.

A message to Mr Campbell and RailCorp: the community doesn't want new steps. It doesn't want money spent on short-term patches. It is not too late to stop and reconsider.

Issued by the Brooklyn Mooney Mooney Branch of the Australian Labor Party.

THE SHOP IS BACK!

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the company, the response was overwhelming and we eventually raised approximately \$20,000. It really has been a community effort and a passionate one from everyone involved – we should all be proud! Please be a little patient with us while we are learning how to run the business effectively. We aim to make an innovative and interesting place that you and your friends want to visit. It is after all a shop for the community.

Kim's breakfast puddings are back and Kate Hudson has introduced a delicious waygu burger. On Friday night's we have Cath Philip's 100% organic home-made chicken or beef pies, individual and family size. The grocery service will take time to organise suppliers and ordering system.

Opening Hours

We aim to keep the shop open as many hours/days as is commercially sensible, so the more it is used the more it will be open. At the moment we are trialing hours and have been open seven days a week.

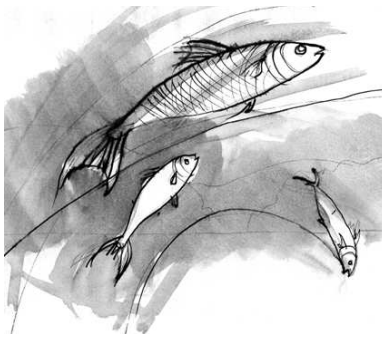
Special mention of thanks to those who have contributed their time, expertise and services : Margaret and Wally Bower, Cath Philips, Sue Baxter, Ron and Cath Murrell, Ben Miller, Stuart and Miranda Dines , Jackie Morgan, Ross Higgins, Fiona and Courtney Mullen, Harry Putt, Liz and John Kersey, Hans Pols, David Pakes, Corrynth and Graham White and Judith Doyle, who gave and continue to give of hours.

Our thanks also go to the Barelle and Dahl families, our new landlords as their efforts have made the transition so much easier. Lastly a big thank you to Kate Hudson (and husband John) the shop's new manager.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed. We have a shop! Please use it, your custom ensures its existence, and please give us you ideas to improve it.

Chris Innis, for and on behalf of The Dangar Island Café & Shop

Looking for artists from Dangar Island who wish to exhibit at the Cafe. Contact YVONNE on 0403771413, or leave your name with Kate at the Cafe.



SEAGRASS INFO

Hornsby Council has nearly finished their introductory education program about our seagrass protected area south of the island, with the hanging of a colourful sign in the ferry wharf. This habitat is very important to fish and the health of our beautiful Hawkesbury River.

For more information about this protected area contact Hornsby Council.

ISLAND WALKS AND VIEWS

Whilst enjoying our dawn treks around this beautiful island of ours, we have noticed an increasing number of cigarette butts tossed carelessly on the road. We can only hope the perpetrators extinguish their cigs before dropping them but it can't be difficult to carry some sort of portable ashtray, can it???

Thankyou for the reduction in random dog droppings, we notice and appreciate your efforts.
Anonymous

A FEW REGRETS

By Bruce Lambert

Cloud on the horizon,
but no, perhaps not.
Strange shape for a cloud though,
and it is so unbearably hot.

Now the colour seems to change,
from white to sickly yellow.
Mixing brown and grey as well,
and the colour is burning tallow.

The wind does seem quite strong,
and why do leaves fall sideways?
Funny that I didn't notice it before,
all the cars are in their driveways.

Odd that it has started to snow,
but snow that does not melt.
With that acrid smell of burning,
sick is how I felt.

A nervous glance at gutters,
full to overflow.
Is all I need to realise,
urgent property protection is now the go.

TEA CAKE & FIRE

The **Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting Sunday 4th April** in the Community Centre (Hall).

Come and meet your local brigade volunteers and help us eat cake.
OR

Join in our BBQ film night at the shed Easter Saturday 11th April. (see difs 4 details)

Fire shed blackboard...
Thank you Sue Baxter for repainting the chalk board. It looks gorgeous!

THANKS...

As most residents would know I had a serious accident involving a tree in late September 2008. Thankfully, despite 13 broken ribs, a lacerated liver, three broken vertebrae and a punctured lung, I survived with (apparently) no significant ill-effects.

Despite the story in the *Advocate*, after a rigorous investigation by the Rural Fire Service it was determined that what happened was an unavoidable accident.

I would like to sincerely thank those residents who assisted at the site and thereafter. I would especially like to thank members of the Fire Brigade who cared for me prior to my helicopter retrieval, and members of the Ambulance Service and NSW Police who attended. Most of all I thank Pauline Foote who by her example taught me more about being loved by someone, and loving someone, than I ever would have known.

I would like to offer my thanks to the residents who kindly invited me for coffee and cake and chats during my convalescence, and those who delivered home made goodies to me. Your generosity was warmly and gratefully received.

I have returned (rather tentatively) to fire fighting and look forward to continuing to serve the community along with the other volunteers.

Sincerely,
Peter Short



Sat 21st Mar 2009: *The Band's Visit*. The charming festival hit of last year is a comic and touching story of an Egyptian police band that catches the wrong bus. Forced on the hospitality of a remote Israeli village, they re-discover the universal bonds of music, love and life. The film has won 35 international film awards and its message of peace has become all the more poignant since Israel's recent attack on Gaza.

Sat 11th Apr 2008: *Fire Brigade Fundraiser Film and BBQ - Mamma Mia!* Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan star in a joyous musical romp through the ABBA catalogue. A hit in the West End and Broadway, it's a guaranteed Swedish sing-a-long smash in aid of your hard working Firies.

Sat 9th May 2009: Sex Madness!

For more info visit our website www.difs.net

HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM

by Nardia
Hippies & geeks let us unite for the **Autumn Equinox Friday 20th March** when equal day & night signal the start of Autumn. Meet at **Club at 8 pm** for astronomy talk, viewing (weather permitting) & astronomy storytelling. **Twinkle twinkle little star.. but planets don't.**

In the pre dawn look for in March 23: crescent moon to left of Jupiter
24:crescent moon above left of Mars
At night Saturn is rising in east end of March

ARE YOU HAPPY?

During a recent worldwide study on happiness, the first one ever of its kind, researchers interviewed more than 10 000 people between the ages of 15 and 85 to find out what makes them happy.

The overall result of the survey contained no real surprises. Most people who consider themselves to be happy attribute their happiness to good health, stable relationships, strong family ties, friends, job satisfaction and hobbies. What did surprise the team of researchers was the fact that people who did voluntary work were on average 30% happier than those who didn't.

Now, if you want to increase your current level of happiness by 30% you can do so without having to leave the Island. How? Simply by signing up to become a volunteer driver for our yellow community buggy. Don't miss this great opportunity, it could help you to a happier life!
Manfred Merl (happy buggy driver)

DO YOU HAVE SPARE DRIVE?

We are in need of more volunteer drivers. How about joining us in providing this valuable service to our community.

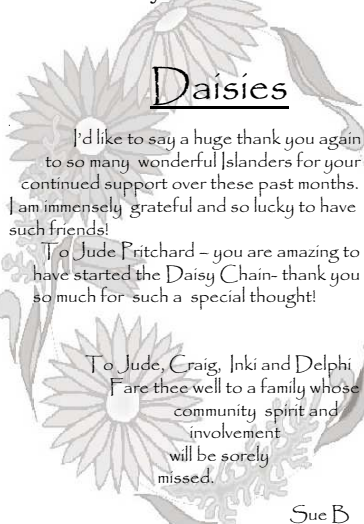
Some of our dedicated regular drivers will be unavailable for some time over the next few months so we'd like to fill the spots with some new talent!



0405 909236

WHAT'S NEEDED? A half to one day once a month or more, current drivers licence, time to give and a willing spirit.

Training available and lots of appreciation in return. Please contact the coordinator Sue on 9985 7803 anytime.



I'd like to say a huge thank you again to so many wonderful Islanders for your continued support over these past months. I am immensely grateful and so lucky to have such friends!

To Jude Pritchard - you are amazing to have started the Daisy Chain- thank you so much for such a special thought!

To Jude, Craig, Inki and Delphi
fare thee well to a family whose community spirit and involvement will be sorely missed.

Sue B

HARRY CARRY

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

I will shortly be commencing a home delivery service on Dangar Island, delivering orders from the Shop or goods from the ferry wharf direct to your door. Other orders could be negotiated.

Prices will be moderate, but will vary according to difficulty of access. This service will commence as soon as the necessary equipment has been obtained. Notices will be put up and flyers placed in letterboxes.

It would be helpful to have some idea of the numbers who would like to take advantage of this service. If you would like to use it would you please put your name on a list in the Shop.
Harry Putt

HEY SHIMMY PANTS! Autumn Warmers for Everyone

Pls register your interest with Nardia for the following possible classes with your preferred days/times Txt 040 116 5541 or nardijane@gmail.com

Lassies-female all ages

Belly Dance w guest appearance by Cindy; Flamenco
Sassies- Ladies 18+
Street Latin; Burlesque
Two's Company - on your own or with partner
Salsa & mini fiesta; Argentinian Tango; Viennese Waltz
Bacchata; Lambada zouk (18+)
Club Cred

Popping/funk/hip-hop
2 Left Feet (no cred)
Zorba the Greek, Line Dancing
Littlies - age about 3+
Harem parties: Belly Dance & Drum to Arabian stories
Faerie/Angel/Mermaid: Dance, music, games, storytelling, acting, dressups
Science 101: Interactive Experiments & Games in Physics, Astronomy & Kitchen Chemistry
Wanted - Guest musos any level for Drumming: Arabic, Brazilian, African or Guitar: Spanish

Miss March

Scaevola ramosissima

Snake Flower

Common herbaceous climber, found all over the island in dry sites in woodland or open heath on sandstone.

The stalkless thickish leaves are toothed, 2-5cm long and covered in stiff hairs, as is the straggling stem, 50-100cm long.

The fan-shaped mauve-purple flowers have 5 lobes.

Nov
to
Feb



more excellent plant info available at friendsofanecovenationalpark.org.au

next issue
winter 2009