

The Mullet Mail

News and Views from Dangar Island

Produced under the sponsorship of the Dangar Island League

February 2001

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS WELCOME

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LEAGUE NOTES

The following items were discussed at the League meeting held on Saturday 16th December 2000. For more information a copy of the minutes is available from Secretary Elizabeth Trevena at or after the next meeting. Some items are covered by articles in the Mullet Mail

- ◇ Bed & Breakfast establishments on the Island
- ◇ Aboriginal Heritage Mapping
- ◇ Fire Brigade Report
- ◇ Water Tank on top of Island
- ◇ Bush Regeneration Report
- ◇ Policing
- ◇ Boat licences
- ◇ McKell Park upgrading
- ◇ Film Society
- ◇ Fencing on the Island
- ◇ Vehicles on the Island
- ◇ Telephone Box
- ◇ Playground equipment
- ◇ Welcome kit
- ◇ Reconciliation

Dangar Island League

President: Michael Bouchier
Secretary: Elizabeth Trevena
Committee: Rod Walker,
Mario Castiglioni, Terry Dorrough,
Susie Goff

NEXT MEETING
SATURDAY 24TH MARCH
ALL WELCOME

If you have a view on these or other issues concerning our Island Community why not come along to the next meeting.

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

Advertise in the next Mullet Mail (April)

Box adds \$10

Classifieds \$2

Copy to Rod Walker via the shop

DANGAR ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL

The Dangar Island Community Hall is available for hire for residents and for the general public. The Hall has kitchen facilities (stove, fridge, urn, limited crockery and cutlery). There is also an upright piano available. You must be 18 to make a booking, under 18's need an adult to book and to supervise the event. Rates for hire vary according to type of event and length of hire required. Local meetings are free, children's parties \$5 for ½ day; local non-profit functions \$20; non-local and profit making functions \$50; a sliding scale is used for commercial community use (such as tai chi classes), and other profit-making functions depending on profit made from the event. Current committee members are:

President: Sarah Galvin Vice-President: Heather Saunders

Secretary: Sue Baxter Bookings: Jenny Shanley

Contact Jenny on 9985 7060 to arrange for hire. Please leave the hall clean and tidy and report any breakages to booking officer or other hall committee members.

TELEVISION BLACK SPOTS PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Government's Television Black Spots Program provides funding for a retransmission facility to improve our TV reception.

The submission must include the following:

- 1 information about the Co-ordinating organisation which could be the Dangar Island League.
- 2 a technical report by an electronics engineer of the TV reception of twenty residences in the area, divided between Brooklyn, Dangar Island and Wobby.
- 3 advice from the engineer regarding potential sites for the retransmission facility and the type of device required.

This and other relevant information will be forwarded to the "Television Black Spots Program" to be assessed and hopefully up to \$25,000 will be allocated to our area to install the retransmission facility. Ideally there will be a number of potential sites identified in the area. The device is bigger than a bread box (probably) and can be mounted on an existing structure like a tower or water reservoir or on its own structure 10-30m in height. The submission has to be lodged before the end of March 2001. There is, (of course) no time frame for the allocation of the funds. At least we know they need to get all the infrastructure in place before the switch to digital transmissions in 2008, so it will probably be this century or even this decade! You didn't know that a government body could move so fast, eh? We are looking for as much community support as possible.

Any questions? You can contact-

"Anne Mahony on 9985 8287, The TV Fund" on 1800 680 841 and ask to speak to Martin or the technical officer Ian Anderson or John Mitchell the electronics engineer who will be doing the surveys and report on 9457 9615 or 0412 340 008

Hawkesbury Gardening
weeding, planting
and bush garden
and maintenance
dna pollak
9985 7707

GONE BUSHI - Dangar Island Bush Care News

What is Bush Regeneration?

Bushcare is an accumulation of techniques used to restore the bio diversity of native bush land areas. Sites are chosen because of their resilience to bounce back to a healthy state. The geology, fauna, vegetation type and surrounding land usage and water drainage are all taken into account. Strategies are formed so that damage is not caused by the eradication of weeds, trying not to leave the soil exposed to erosion and weed re-infestation and loss of habitat for fauna. Bush Regeneration can take a long time sometimes up to 18 months for native vegetation to emerge and stabilise. Propagation and re-vegetation is carried out only on damaged sites that have little or no resilience.

Dangar Island has had a bush regeneration group for many years with a consistent input from the community. The middens site on the western side of "Kiparra Park" is now stable and is a beautiful display of native plants indigenous to the Island. It is so good to see the fruits of many people's labour succeed and appreciated. The wedge shaped block on the corner of Riverview Avenue has a short and long term strategy in progress and other areas of work that will be commenced soon will be the removal of horticultural garden escapes in the reserve, "Kiparra Park" especially along the roadside verges. There will be a policy of informing surrounding residents when work is in progress so they are aware of the strategy for rehabilitation and general education to help overcome problems. All work is overseen by the Environment Dept of Hornsby Council and a supervisor comes out at least 3-4 times a year.

We have our working bees the 1st Saturday of each month and meet at about 9.30am on the bench on the fork of Riverview Avenue. Everyone is welcome. It is a very casual activity just bring water and wear a hat and suitable clothes. Our next session is Saturday March 3rd.

There is a booklet of native plants indigenous to the Island available for \$1.00 just leave a note for me at the shop if anyone would like one.

Fauna

Being an island community we have a limited native fauna population. The small ringtail possum and native duck families are just managing to survive. There will always be environmental conditions that will naturally affect their numbers but they cannot compete with dogs and cats as well. Please remember it is prohibited for dogs to be on the beach reserve and in general should be on a leash. Cats and dogs should be kept in at night as possums are nocturnal and need a large area to travel and forage for food.

Caring for our Heritage Trees

Dangar Island has some beautiful Eucalypt trees that have evolved over time to dry conditions. These large trees provide habitats for a variety of birdlife and possums. Some of these species such as the Eucalyptus ptilularis - Blackbutt, Eucalyptus gummiifera - Red bloodwood and Angophora floribunda - Rough Barked apple thrive on the richer clay soils whereas Eucalyptus robusta - Swamp Mahogany and Angophora costata - Coastal apple grow in the shallow sandy soils. To maintain these trees in a healthy state be careful where you site new drainage and septic trenches and never build up much soil or plant a garden around the base as the roots need to aerate. An increase in the soil level allows pathogens to infect the tree and changes the soil temperature. These trees hate being in constant moist conditions having a garden encircling their base that is routinely watered can cause loss of limbs through stress or death through fungal attack.

For any information please contact Sarah Galvin via a letter left at the shop.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Waterfront, north facing bungalow with style and charm. 3 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, deep water jetty large covered verandah takes in panoramic views of the river.

Phone 0414 874 200 to inspect

Dangar Island Bowling Club News

January saw the successful re-launch of the Saturday Night Bistro. *Tazewells* offers a great range of meals at affordable prices. Chef Lisa Tazewell cooks up a storm with selections such as pancetta & blue cheese meat loaf or beef laksa with coriander. Childrens meals are available also. A 3 course meal is \$20. Bookings are advisable, ring the Club on 99857083. January also saw the annual green renovation. Everything is on track for bowls to recommence on Sunday 18th March with a gala opening day. Bowls Secretary Kevin Raby is organising a great day and new & experienced, men and women, young and old bowlers are all welcome. You can even borrow bowls from the Club. Call Kevin on 998578115 if you would like to join in.



RIVERSIDE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**GARDENING - LAWNS
LANDSCAPING - CLEARING
PAINTING - HOME DETAILING
HOLIDAY LEASING
ROD WALKER 0414 874 200**

Community Calendar

- Fire Brigade meets - First Sunday of the month at Fire Station 9.am
- Bush care - first Saturday of the month 9.30am on the bench Riverview Ave.
- Clean up Aust Sunday 4th March
- Bowls resumes 18th March
- League Meeting Sat 24th March
- Council heavy waste cleanup Thursday 29th March

What's Happening at Mckell Park

I'm sure most residents will be aware that last year Hornsby Council made new plans for "Beautification and improvements" to McKell Park at Brooklyn, based on obtaining a Federation Grant from the Federal Government.

Like most of Councils previous plans for this area, the intention seemed to be to provide facilities for tourists whilst ignoring the needs of the locals, particularly river residents who rely on the area for boat and car access.

The League and other groups made strenuous objections, and 120 people signed the petition at the shop objecting to various aspects of the plan.

Council was required to appoint an outside consultant to assess the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Proposal.

When the consultant's report was published it was gratifying to see that most of our objections had at least been acknowledged and the problems recognised (not necessarily solved of course).

The D.A. proposal came to a council meeting just before Christmas, and was approved, with a very long list of conditions. The ones which particularly interest us are:

- They will try to fit more car spaces into the planned parking area
- They will retain vehicle access to the Co-op moorings
- Do a plan for night lighting
- Reconsider the ridiculously large rock embankment proposed as a sea wall

Two other commitments were:

- To "review the need for the bus turning circle proposed under the Mckell Park Masterplan" (this future proposal would effectively wipe out all the parking in the triangle between the railway and the Fish Co-op)
- To "undertake a detailed feasibility study into the provision of a river Resident parking facility outside the McKell Park area, and in close consultation with residents" (See comments below)

Co-incidently, at its previous meeting, Council had decide to go ahead with an EIS for the earlier, larger scale plan for the Boat Harbour and McKell Park. This plan, which we had previously supported, involves **dredging** the Boat Harbour, **enlarging** the filled area and building a **proper** sea wall. Of course it would cost more but money is available from the State Government. It has the advantages of retaining at least the same number of cars as can park at present and providing more recreation space, and it allows moving the co-op mooring to the west, adjacent to the Marina, which would solve access problems and improve safety and security for people and cars at night.

Well is there any logic in Council's decisions, I hear you ask!

I have some hope now that Council see the "Federation" Project as Stage 1, and that with a bit of luck, and enough money from State Government, we may see the larger Stage2 proceed within the next couple of years.

NOTE: "River residents parking facility" mentioned above

This would doubtless be for people prepared to pay for a more secure parking space.

We will have to form a group – e.g. a subcommittee of the League, to pursue this objective and keep Council to their promise.

Anyone interested in being involved, please contact Michael Bouchier or myself.

Terry Dorrrough

Solar Cruises Pty Ltd
Trading as Dangar Island Ferry Service

9985 7605

*Organising a Party or Function
phone us for a competitive rate*

- ◆ Late night ferry transfers to and from Dangar Island
- ◆ Cruises on the river
- ◆ Fully catered functions Private and Corporate

DID YOU KNOW?

Dangar is an island of 29 hectares, about 900 metres from east to west and 650 metres from north to south. There is 3 kilometres of shoreline. The highest point is over 40 metres above sea level. The waters surrounding the island are less than 20 metres deep. One bank of the river is 870 metres north and the other 330 metres south of the Island.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA!

The Dangar Is Rural Fire Service and NPWS are again cleaning up Spectacle Island - volunteers are needed!

Sunday 4th March for about 2 hours
Transport and morning tea provided
Meet at the fire station 9am

For more information and to register phone
Peter Short 9985 7225
Jonathon Sykes 9985 8334

AROUND THE RIVER - THE TANKS

The Tanks are opposite the Islands north east shore and consist of spring fed fresh water holes of considerable depth. Before motor vessels, sailing ships replenished their water at The Tanks. A pipe conveyed the water downhill from 2 freshwater rock ponds. Early residents of the Island were known to use The Tanks for their washing and for fresh water in times of drought.

DANGAR ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

With the General Store now closing on Tuesdays, we would like to remind you that Broken Bay Liquor stock a large range of grocery items. If you telephone your order through on 985 7906, your items will be placed on the ferry and delivered to the Dangar Island Public Wharf, for your collection. (Small delivery charge applies).

The ferry does carry small items of freight. All freight must be booked in through our office, Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm. Large bulky items will be refused if no prior arrangements have been made.

It has always been this company's policy, not to extend credit. To avoid embarrassment - please do not ask the ferry driver for credit.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very happy New Year to all our passengers.

COME TO TAZEWELLS!

SATURDAY NIGHT BISTRO FROM 6PM

DANGAR ISLAND BOWLING CLUB

3 COURSES FOR \$20

FANCY THE FLICKS?

Saturday 28th October 2000 saw the launch of a film society on Dangar Island calling itself the **Deerubbin Island Film Society**. The feature film at the launch was "Mambo Kings" and society members dressed up and served cocktails as well as providing platefuls of luscious food. Noted film critic Doug Anderson launched the night and introduced "Mambo Kings" in a video of his own making, setting the tone of riotous good humour that went on to characterize the night. Since the launch there have been several nights of film screenings at the Dangar Island Community Hall aimed, respectively, at teenagers, families, and adults only - this being the pattern of film selection that is to be followed throughout the year(s). The teens watched Mad Max II and sang karaoke, the families marvelled at Pippi Longstocking and met Santa who arrived in the Dangar fire truck, and the adults enjoyed a night of films by or about Aborigines: "Jedda", "Night Cries" and "Radiance". For those who haven't yet become members (after which film screenings are free), turning up on any of the nights with \$5 for adults or \$2 for children will entitle you to attend all the film nights remaining in the year after the launch. Refreshments are available for a small donation. The next session is for teens on the 24th of February, 2001, commencing at 7.30am, and most likely screening Baz Luhrmann's 'Romeo and Juliet' and featuring more karaoke. Look for posters appearing on the ferry and at the shop for coming attractions. Further information can be obtained from Ana Pollak on 99857707. Offers to help out with organization would be greatly appreciated.

[Judy Lattas]

MULLET CLASSIFIEDS

\$2 per add - keep em short!

WORK WANTED

BOOKKEEPING: Tax time get you down? Drowning under paperwork? Can't fathom the BAS. FEAR NO MORE MYOB & Quicken experienced bookkeeper can get you organised. Phone Rod Walker on 0414 874 200.

GARDENING: Cheap rates - Anna Pollak 9985 7707

LAWN MOWING: Own equipment, reliable and experienced Phone Rod on 0414 874 200

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS: Needed for Clean Up Australia project. Sunday 4th March. Phone Peter Short 9985 7225

ARCHIVIST: The Historical Society is seeking an experienced archivist on a voluntary basis to collate its historical records. Contact Joanne on 9985 7141

RURAL FIRE SERVICE: new members always welcome. First Sunday of the month 9am Fire Station

FOR SALE

SHIRTS: Dangar Island Bowling Club polo shirts \$35. All sizes available from the Club.

FOR LEASE

HOUSE: Furnished with style, private. Holidays or longer term. Phone 0414 874 200