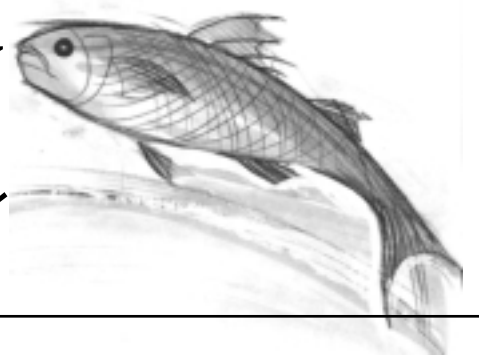


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#12

January 2003

New Brooms

League: *vb*, associate, combine, unite

Happy New Year and Peace to all. (Someone tell George W.) There's much to do.

Before we go any further, on behalf of the Island community, the Island Fire Brigade should be publicly thanked for their tireless work before Christmas keeping the Island safe in the Bushfires.

For those who were too tied up in the Christmas rush to have a chance to notice, at the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the League the previous executive all stood down, and did not stand for re-election.

There may be a silver lining in this, as perhaps now Cath will be able to have time to get her teeth into her beloved 'Big Do', but in any event we all owe the outgoing committee our sincere thanks for holding the fort on the Ship of State, if you can do all that on an island.

There's a lot on the plate for this year, including:

- INCORPORATION** Completing the process;
- WATER TANK** Getting it sorted out before the little minds in town take it away; plus
- ISLAND ROADS** Resolving with Council the ongoing process of the road closures;
- COMMUNITY VEHICLE** Get one;
- UTE RENTAL RATES** Convincing Council to rejig the rates to make it fairer;
- DISABLED ACCESS** Getting a timeframe on at Brooklyn as well as our wharf; Commuter berthing; integrating the wharf exercise;
- with
- PARK BUBBLER** Repairing and relocating it;
- THE SEWER** Seeing what's happening with it (yes/no/maybe?).

Then in our spare time, we need to **update and strengthen the Island's building code (The DCP)**, as continual abuse and watering it down by pressured proposals push the limits and makes it easier to create a built environment which is not the **one agreed to by the community** in the first place.

This has implications on the whole Island, including the birdlife, as it becomes easier and easier to knock a tree down for views, for fire safety, for future pools, etc etc, and then kill what's left with overloaded septic runoff.

As the Island vision is clearly not "Yagoona-by-the-sea", (nor Potts Point), with token landscaping then we had better start protecting what's left.

That brings us to the **Council's Implementation Workshop** coming up Feb 8th at the Hall to progress the Options Survey just completed.

We are plotting to get an **Island Directory** also up and running, more details later.

Lastly, the **youth on the Island are revolting**, which is to say, they are in revolt. They are actually part of the community but have no effective voice or influence over matters that affect them. We're looking into that too. A Junior League is coming.

In order to **achieve these things**, we need to have demonstrable support from the community. This simply means **joining the League**, (which is very cheap this week). Then we can maximise our influence with Council, as they will clearly be dealing with an Association which truly represents the Community. Also check the Calendar of meetings this issue if you would like to join and join in.

Ron Barrelle
PRES

A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to say 'thank you' to the Dangar Island Rural Fire Service for the fantastic job they did, working day and night up the River and around our Island to protect us during the recent bush fires.

It was great to see this little community swing into action when the need arises. The Shop and Bowling Club were also focal points, somehow managing to keep functioning under extremely difficult circumstances. Thanks to everyone who shared what they had - radios, hot water, food and comfort - someone lent me a telephone. It was all freely given. At one stage, without power and getting dark, I decided to go out for a walk. Everyone seemed to have the same idea! Others were on the streets, cheerful and chatting to any passers by. It took me nearly an hour to walk round the block, as on route I was invited in for a cup of tea and some Christmas cake and a chat.

Thanks also to those in the emergency services who responded so promptly to our needs. Many thanks for the ice, it saved the contents of my fridge and freezer.

One thing is certain - it is great to see this little community all pull together in a time of need, and I for one feel very privileged to live on Dangar Island.

Georgia Lynn-Robinson

[and so say all of us]

And another one . .

A sincere thank you to Ron [from the shop] for organising the recent septic pumpout. Thankfully, the true fragrance of the bush and flowers has once again returned to the Island. Well done Ron.

Leonie Toman

[ditto]

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 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 Dorough
- 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 jshanley@ozemail.com.au. Please note that the views of contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the publisher.



Membership form for Dangar Island League

[soon to be incorporated]

Name

Address

Telephone

I include \$5 membership fee for the period to June 30 2003.

Please place in an envelope and leave at shop for the Treasurer or address to PO Dangar Island. Any enquiries, phone Jonathon 7142. A receipt will be issued.



Letters to the editor

Every morning when I go down to the wharf I usually find the bikes fallen over and not put spacewise. I usually fix the problem before the ferry comes to take me to school. Also, some people leave their bikes down at the wharf for so long, they have their tyres punctured or let down. PLEASE TAKE YOUR BIKES HOME OR DON'T LEAVE THEM AT THE WHARF FOR TOO LONG!. And now to make matters worse SOME CHILDREN ARE CRITICIZING ME FOR IT.

Please keep the bikes tidy!

Thank you, Milo Curtis

CHOIR

A good start for the choir in 2002 culminated in the 'carols in the park' performance. In 2003 we will proceed with a diverse and adventurous repertoire.

Please come along! Anyone's welcome to join regardless of warbling ability. Contact Jo [7578, 8065], Mish or Cybele.

Mooring update

Regular readers will know that we are investigating options to obtain funding to improve commuter mooring and access to the Island near the public wharf ... so here is a brief note to let people know how we are progressing. We have made inquiries with the Department of Land and Water Conservation and confirmed that a community commuter facility is permitted in this area. We have also received advice from Waterways Funding Asset Development and Management Program that a facility which improves public access may be eligible for funding. Next we will be liaising with Hornsby Council as their support will be necessary to progress with an application for funding. We will also seek to have the Brooklyn Estuary Management Committee support the project. We may need your help as the project progresses so feel free to inquire and 'watch this space'.

Stephen Boyle 9985 7002

GROWN YOUR OWN ON DI [PART 2]

The promised, but belated conclusion to this popular item:

4: RECORDS

As this is a relatively new venture for me - (First seeds planted Autumn 1999) I decided to keep quite detailed records of what I planted, when, and where and how it grew. These have proved most useful (back up with photographs) and I would strongly recommend anybody setting out to grow vegies to keep track of what they do - it's amazing how one forgets which part of the bed had the carrots two years ago! And if you are going to practice crop rotation, that's important.

5: SUCCESSES AND FAILURES

My best success so far is in the salad department. We have cut and come again lettuce of various sorts, all year round, plus endless supplies of 'rocket' and parsley.

I leave the most healthy plants to go to seed then collect these seeds for replanting (heirloom seeds have the best viability).

Peas and beans have been pretty good too. Tomatoes - variable - lots of 'yellow pears' but only one 'Black Russian'!

So far root vegies - particularly parsnip and potato have been huge failures - or rather, spectacularly small failures! But not withstanding that, it is great fun, and one only feels more determined to do better next year.

And there is no thrill like being able to serve your own home grown produce for dinner!

Heather Dorrough

There has been some requests for more gardening tips - so send them in!

Jen



What is this contraption? One of Rob Harrison's favourite people and goods mover, he says. Rob was impressed with these multi-purpose vehicles on his travels through rural southern Europe a few years back. He was particularly fond of seeing the family, including Grandma standing in the tray, on their way to town. Also used for hay etc.

Jona plays with water

Dangar Islander Jonathan Sykes unveils revolutionary wastewater technology at his home in Neotsfield Ave.

"It's a low-tech, high return pollution solution, and a punch in the nose for the drought as well" says Jonathan who says that many island houses could copy him for as little as a hundred dollars, or even less using parts salvaged from throw-outs.

"I've got no plumbing expertise at all, says Jonathan, but I picked up bits and pieces of plastic pipe here and there because it looked kind of like Lego, and I thought how hard can it be?"

Using a toolkit of a hacksaw, two rags and a file, Jonathan installed the system in a day, and what's more designed in the capacity to revert to the old plumbing system in minutes.

"It's breathtakingly simple really," says Jonathan, "the shower and bathwater are diverted out the side of the house into a garden bed. The pipes sit on top of the soil, so roots won't grow in, but beneath a thick layer of mulch to avoid any grossness. The mulch improves the soil, inhibits evaporation and makes the soil surface soft and absorbent, so it can cope easily with big loads of water"

Jonathan has already planted banana trees to sop up his daily shower water, and plans to add custard apple and star fruit.

The Message:

"Call me up and let me show you how to turn wastewater into a free feed. Anyone can do this and our beautiful island environment will be the big winner. My number's 9985 8334"

[you might have better luck reaching Jonathon at 7142]

Alluvium Two

Do you remember in March 2002 we had a fantastic exhibition of art and craft called Alluvium. By popular demand we'll do it again. Are you interested in being part of this event? Please do.

Now is the time for planning and thinking about what you can make or do. All contributions will be welcome.

It will be in March 2003

Cybele

TECH SUPPORT

Send your queries and answers in!

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slow down in the overall performance particularly in the flower and jewellery applications that had operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 un-installed many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, but installed undesirable programs such as NFL 5.0 and World Cup 3.0.

And now Conversation 8.0 no longer runs and House Cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems but to no avail. What can I do?

Desperate

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE

Meeting Calendar

first quarter 2003 all held at the Community Hall

JAN

Wed 8 7.30 Management & Subcommittee Meeting
Mon 27 Australia Day holiday [long w/e]
Wed 29 School holidays over

FEB

Wed 5 7.30 Management & Subcommittee Meeting
Sat 8 2.00 Council's Roads Implementation W'shop

MAR

Wed 5 7.30 Management & Subcommittee Meeting
Sat 8 2.00 Autumn General Meeting

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

YOGA

Tuesday nights at the Hall, during school terms, 7pm-8pm [by donation, 50% to hall funds] Bring a mat. Wear loose clothing. Save dinner till after. [ph 9985 7060]

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

YOGA

Keeps chugging on due to popular demand, Tuesday nights at 7pm. Drawn from Iyengar style plus other forms. Strictly non-competitive. All welcome. Classes will recommence first week in February.

Jen

a
Portrait Project
to draw
and paint
the many
residents on
Dangar Island
will run till
December 2003.
To
complete
this venture
a portrait
exhibition
will be held
on the
island.
Enquiries:
Ana Pollak
9985 7707