

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Dangar Island League continues to work on a number of issues impacting islanders and our special way of life.

Excellent progress continues to be made in relation to improving water access for those without their own jetty. We are obtaining detailed estimates from suppliers for discussion with Hornsby Shire Council and Maritime. While we have received useful advice from the Brooklyn Co-op, a follow up questionnaire will shortly be issued to all

residents to gain input on appropriate usage rules of any island co-op, including ownership rights, on-selling etc.

You should have received a letter from the League outlining responsibilities and recommendations for all Islanders with companion animals. Residents regularly raise problems arising from off-leash dogs (including dog poo and attacks on wildlife/domestic chickens etc) to me privately as well as at our public meetings. Few topics seem to arouse such passion! We hope that the reminder has made a difference. Council has also been asked to provide dog poo bag dispensers at strategic locations around the island. All islanders appreciate those companion owners who do the right thing.

With a large number of islanders currently upgrading TV and computer equipment, the League recently organised an 'e-waste' collection. A significant amount of e-waste was delivered to council minimizing the loss of otherwise recyclable materials, as well as ensuring that hazardous materials such as lead and mercury didn't leach into the environment at the landfill site. We hope to have

further collections around the time of future general council clean-ups. This important initiative would not have been possible without the help of Geoff Gausla, Cath Phillips and members of the League committee – thank you!

While on the topic of recycling this is a polite reminder that toxic chemicals and paints or other hazardous materials (including prescription medicines) and general rubbish should not be left in recycling area of the ferry shed. A number of

our younger residents rifle through the items there and may injure themselves. Please take this into account and respect the common-sense rules set out in the notices above the shelf.

Finally many of you will be interested in the future development of crown land on and around Peat Island. Public consultation on proposed usage is underway and we hope to have more information to hand for discussion at our next public meeting on Saturday 4 May 2011 at 10am in the Community Hall. Please come along and participate – the more people who get involved the stronger our voice when seeking to influence council.

We would like to significantly lift our membership numbers by encouraging people whose memberships have lapsed to renew, and to engage islanders who have not been involved with the League in the past. More information on the League and how to join is provided overleaf. Note that convenient 2 and 5 year membership options are now available.

Cheers, Antony Schinckel,
President Dangar Island League
president@dangarislandleague.net



GOOD NEWS - We Retain Management of the Hall!!

You may remember that last year Hornsby Shire Council was considering centralising the management of all community halls and centres in the shire. We disagreed with that proposal as it would hinder the flexibility and spontaneity of hall use that are so characteristic of our community.

In addition to expressing our views about the management of the hall at the various meetings to which hall management committees were invited, we consulted extensively with the community, commissioned the preparation of a proposal for the management of our hall and collected signatures in support of this proposal. At the Council workshop meeting on 24 November 2010, Council unanimously voted in favour of maintaining management of halls by committees elected by their communities if this was the wish of the communities. Council also agreed to a reduction in the minimum number of committee members (from 7 to 5) and in the number of inspections to be conducted by committees (from monthly to quarterly). The minutes of the workshop meeting, including all

the points in the Council's resolution, can be found in the Council's website.

Thank you again to all the members of the community who supported the committee over this period, to those who signed the petition, contributed to the Dangar Hall proposal, and to all who continue to support and use the hall.

Please remember that if you'd like to use the hall you have to book it - contact Michele on 0417 933 519 who will advise you about availability, conditions of hire, fees, etc. Council monitors utilisation of the hall regularly, so it is very important that you complete the forms and record your use of the hall every time (in the orange book) as this is a council requirement.

We recently received from council the proposed fees and charges for 2011-2012. No increases to the 2010-2011 fees and charges have been proposed for our hall.

Fees and charges Dangar Island Hall (current and for 2011-2012)

Thank you and please continue to use the hall!

The Hall Committee

	DESCRIPTION	FEE/CHARGE	GST APPLIED (Y/N)
HIRE	Regular Hire - per hour	\$5.50	Y
	Occasional Hire - per hour	\$12.50	Y
	Corporate Hire - per hour	\$25.00	Y
	Community meetings and community health	-	Y
FACILITIES	Use of crockery	\$26.00	Y
	Use of garden chairs	\$26.00	Y
	Use of Hall furniture	\$26.00	Y
	Use of PA system (at the hall)	\$26.00	Y
DAILY RATES	Regular hirers	\$27.00	Y
	Occasional hirers	\$60.00	Y
	Corporate hirers	\$120.00	Y
DEPOSITS	Security deposit - Functions	\$200.00	N
	Security deposit - PA system	\$200.00	N

DANGAR ISLAND RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

FIREWISE SURVEY - Household Safety Assessment Sheets

We have received a terrific response from residents and home owners. Fifty percent of regular house occupants responded. Thanks everyone for your assistance. If you want to complete a safety assessment but have lost your sheet, contact our president Wally Bower, or see us at one of our meetings 9am 1st Sunday of every month.

Being FireWise is about appreciating your bush fire risk and doing something about it. Did completing our assessment sheet raise awareness of hazards around

your house? While a variety of factors influence risk, ultimately the safety of you, your family and your home comes down to you.

We recommend you check out the RFS website for helpful information on minimising risk and preparing your home. We are happy to talk through concerns you find hard to resolve, see you at our **Easter Saturday BBQ and Film Night**.

Cybele Shorter



EASTER SATURDAY
23RD APRIL 2011
at the Hall: Fire Brigade Fundraiser
BBQ and movie



with Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi.
Support your local fires and enjoy a fantastic movie on the big screen. BBQ rolls, cake and drinks on sale from 6pm.

For more info visit our website www.difs.net

"Please bring in your bins."

Environmentally & logistically we have to have two bins and two collections.

This is a friendly call to neighbours, that we might all make a concerted effort to put our bins off the road between the Monday and Friday collections.

We are privileged to live in such a pristine and unique place.

Lets not let the bins spoil it!

Judith D @ 143R





Want a Dangar Island Flag for the boat or house ?

Featuring the Cornish colours of the black and white cross of St Piran, this flag honours the ancestry of Henry Dangar, after whom the island on the Hawkesbury River is named.

The upper hoist of the flag features a stone tower which was built by the Dangar family in 1886.

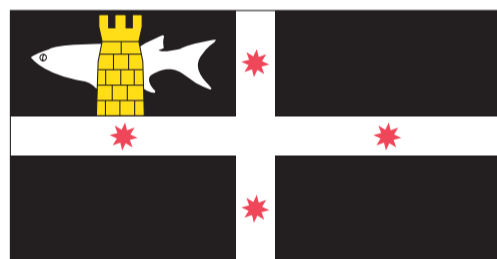
A mullet also appears in the canton, recognising the first name given to the island by Governor Arthur Phillip when he explored the area in 1788.

Four eight-pointed stars represent the distinctive pattern of the New South Wales Southern Cross.

The flag is 1' x 2' (that's feet), screen dyed on woven defence force quality bunting cloth.

An order of 20 will cost approximately \$50 each. More than 20 and the price will reduce!

Email Judith Doyle before the end of March to place your order: jd@judithdoyle.com



E-waste Collection - 11th March

Judy Nikola is a star for turning the e-waste idea into action. I'm still sweaty from the morning's activities. On behalf of the community I raise a glass to Judy, she handles a truck like a skateboard and pulled us volunteers together without fuss. With the aid of Cath Philip's rather cool and rather large truck and further help from Geoff Gausla and his garbage barge plus his competent deckhand "hangover" Taylor we removed four ute loads of rubbish to Thornleigh for recycling.

A great help and dose of enthusiasm came from Tony Partridge, helping

Judy on Thursday afternoon and all day today, and this morning with the help of Tony Tutaki and myself. We doubted we would fit it all in the truck when we arrived in Parsley Bay. Where there's a will and a Maori there's a way. Earl the depot attendant nearly had a fit when he saw us arrive in his yard. Luckily the lovely Jenny was there to guide us as we laid to rest your once loved entertainment and office items.

A few items that were not e-waste were left on the road and others were rejected at the depot. The confusion is in the detail. Please put these items back out

again for the hard waste collection, 24 March.



The e-waste deposit centre at 31 Sefton Rd Thornleigh is now open for public use. Google it. *Cybele Shorter*



Student Code of Conduct aboard the Dangar Island Ferry

To ensure the safety and comfort of other passengers

STUDENTS WILL:

- Behave safely at all times. Including boarding the ferry and sitting quietly at the back until the ferry has reached it's destination.
- Leave the ferry when the driver directs you to.
- Respect the needs and comforts of other passengers.
- Respect ferry property by not marking or damaging it in any way.
- Always follow directions of the driver at all time especially in terms of safety.
- Carry the ferry pass at all times and display it to the driver upon boarding the ferry and when requested by one of the ferry staff.

STUDENTS WILL NOT:

- Distract the driver unless it is an emergency.
- Smoke, eat or drink on the ferry.
- Allow any part of their body to protrude from the ferry especially when approaching and departing a wharf.
- Fight, spit, use offensive language or place their feet on the seats.
- Throw any article inside or outside the ferry.
- Alter, deface, misuse, or fraudulently obtain a ferry pass or ticket.
- Give, lend or transfer their ferry pass to another student.

Penalties may lead to suspension of free travel privileges and possible police prosecution!

Hawkesbury River Tourist Services



CASH AVAILABLE ON DANGAR ISLAND!

We are pleased to be able to offer a cash out facility in conjunction with any purchase in excess of \$10 as long as withdrawals are in multiples of \$50 and subject to there being sufficient \$50 notes available.

The staff members have been instructed to retain the smaller denomination notes for change. We feel sure that you will understand the unique requirements of trading on the Island.

On another note (ha): We have just celebrated our 2nd Anniversary at the shop. Saturday the 26th saw a sausage sizzle and relaxed gathering enjoying the event.

The shop has reached this milestone by the continued support of the volunteers and your patronage. Thank you and here's to the 3rd year of our community shop trading!

.Dangar Island Café & Shop

Dangar Island Bowling Club Report



Hello members and guests.

Renewal continues to be a key feature of the Dangar Island Bowling Club with more significant change since our last update.

New faces on the Board include *Peter DeWolfe*, *Felicity Brownrigg* and *Michele Rumsey* as they have accepted casual vacancies as Directors of the club and we welcome their support and voluntary efforts.

Russell Taylor has stepped down after many years of incredible support of the club. Quite simply, without Russell the island would not have a club today. Due to work and other commitments Russell has very reluctantly decided that he cannot give as much time as he would wish to his role as Deputy President. I would like to publicly thank Russell for everything he has done and our Board has recognised this 30+ year contribution by bestowing life membership. We are all indebted to Russell for the legacy of his voluntary work over so many years.

As a result *Chris Innis* was elected by the Board to fill Russell's role as Deputy President and I thank him for stepping up into the role. Peter has taken on the role as Director responsible for the Kitchen and Bar operations. Michele is assisting *Tom Garvey*, our Treasurer, and Felicity has already brought a great group back to the Club from Wobby and is actively involved in events and operations.

Club **working bees** will continue to be a feature of 2011 and we welcome any assistance with

painting and refurbishments as they occur. Keep and eye out for notices. First Friday **Mic nights** also continue and again I would like to emphasise the volunteering spirit. Aside from all musicians donating their time and talent for your entertainment at no cost, there are many people who have supported me in the logistics on these nights. Special thanks to *Cybele Shorter*, *Jonathan Sykes*, *Philip Doggett* and *Stuart Allan* for all the help with planning, setting up and technical exploration on these nights.

Theme nights will start to be a bigger part of our club and suggestions for these are always welcome. **Sunday Social Bowls** is on from 2:30, all are welcome and it doesn't matter if you haven't bowled before, we'll help you!

Drop in to your club and start the weekend with free nibbles, friends and discount drinks. **HAPPY HOUR! FRIDAY** - 6 to 7pm.

As a reminder to members and guests, directors are not paid in any way and all work is of a voluntary nature and without them we wouldn't have a club.

Thanks to all members and guests and please come and be a part of our club community.

Information for Members and their Guests

*Regards, Matt Johnson
President and Board Chairman,
Dangar Island Bowling Club*

Batteries Not Included

Do you yearn for the days of yore, a time when life ran a slower race? Of manners genteel and a show of respect, whereas now it is all pushed right in your face.

A moment of silence to gather one's thoughts, as put pen to paper and write. Content in the knowledge the value of words, is more than the bits in a byte.

An insatiable need to have one's own page, with profiles and updates aplenty. Does not augur well with privacy needs, as Big Brother installs his own sentry.

The age of electrons is speeding ahead, with old copper wires now cold. New optical fibres or wireless instead, Though maybe I'm just growing old.

Bruce Lambert



Peter Short Memorial

Sadly we said goodbye to Peter Short with a special tree planting behind the Bowling Club.

This was combined with a special lunch to farewell two of our long term residents, Rob Harrison and Helen Whitley.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Choosing The Right Partner

It was the summer of '49 and the members of the Christchurch University Tramping Club were

having their first outing of the year - a trek to the summit of Mt. Herbert, across the harbour from the port of Littleton (the epicenter of the recent earthquake). Young first year student *Jane Watson* was wearing her new hobnailed hiking boots, but halfway up the reasonably gentle grassy slope she kicked them off and continued barefoot to the summit. During the descent, already suffering from blisters, Jane's leg cramped badly and she stopped to recover. "I didn't even have a chance to sit down before he was by my side offering help", recalls Jane, with a twinkle in her eye.

That strapping young man so eager

to feel those slender legs was fellow student and part-time mountaineer *Colin Putt*. Another member of the group thankfully recorded that first meeting for prosperity with a photograph. Over the ensuing months of hiking trips a firm friendship developed and early the next year Colin popped the question. Unfortunately he then accepted a job offer in Australia so their engagement was spent largely apart. A year later Colin returned and they were married on February 17, 1951 in St. Luke's church, Waerenga- A- Hika, near Gisborne. The newlyweds soon travelled to Australia to begin married life.

active and respected members of our local community.



Recently Jane and Colin celebrated the magic milestone of 60 years of wedded bliss at the Bowling Club, together with family and friends. When asked separately what the secret to such a long and happy marriage was, both responded with the same simple message - "Choosing the right partner." One has to wonder how life would have panned out for them had Jane's leg not cramped that day... On behalf of the whole community I'd like to congratulate them on their 60th anniversary and wish two of the most well-loved Dangarites a happy future.

David Reynolds

^ Some tales from Colin's extraordinary life of mountaineering and exploration will be revealed in our next MM issue.



Their first contact with Dangar Island was in 1975 when Colin helped fellow Antarctic explorer David Lewis move here^ . After many visits they decided the island was the perfect place to retire and in 1979 they purchased a run-down cottage on the south side, adjacent to the submarine cable (for \$17,000!!!). Raising children and work commitments kept them from spending much time here, but in 1984 they bought another cottage on the north side, site of their present house. Since then both Jane and Colin have been two of the most



Nightjar owlet

Bill Lynn-Robinson captured this wonderful photo of a **Baby Nightjar Owlet** rescued by Manfred Merl in November 2010. It must have fallen from the nest and was found on the top of the Island. Manfred hand reared it, catching moths, butterflies and other insects to feed it. After a few weeks it was able to fly and Manfred released him back on the top of the Island. Another success story from Manfred!

Georgia Lynn-Robinson

AUSTRALIA'S TINIEST MAMMALS ON DANGAR ISLAND

Last October I almost stepped on a tiny dead creature on the bitumen strip just below the bottom of the scramble track. If it hadn't been for a few flies buzzing around the carcass I would never have noticed it. It was so small that at first I thought it was a large beetle, but then realized it was covered in soggy fur and in fact was a tiny bat in the early stages of decay.

Dr Harry Recher took the specimen to the Australian Museum on the following day where it was readily identified as either a *Southern Forest Bat* or a *Little Forest Bat*. Absence of male genitalia made a definite determination impossible.

Both of these forest bats are among Australia's smallest mammals, with

the male *Little Forest Bat* weighing as little as 2.5g, or the weight of a dry tea bag.

As I am sure many people are aware, microbats can readily be



A fully grown Little Forest Bat

seen flitting around at dusk, as though too hungry to wait for the full onset of darkness. A good place to see them is on Grantham Crescent just below the bowling club. What

is particularly interesting is that although they all look much the same to the naked eye, they are not all the same species. In fact the 3 specimens that have been handed in to the Australian Museum have turned out to be all different. One was a *Gould's Wattled Bat* (average weight 13.8g), another was an *Eastern Falsistrelle* (20.5g), plus the current specimen. Together with the *Common or Noisy Grey Headed Flying Fox* this makes 4 bat species living here. Perhaps there are more, so if you find a dead microbat wrap it up in a plastic bag and put it in the deep freeze. Harry or myself will get it properly identified.

Ben Miller

BUSHCARE

Check out the great new displays by local artists in the Bushcare window outside the shop.

Remember, participation in bushcare activities is as simple as turning up at 9am on the second Saturday of the month at the Kiparra Reserve access track (149 Riverview Ave).

We have gloves and tools for everyone. More info contact Cybele -7142



displays by Ana Pollack, Skye Goold and Fay Wolfe

Children's Photography

SKYE GOOLD

I can photograph your little darlings and make a book of 'em for a keepsake... for mum to cherish on mothers day and forever more. View portfolio of work at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1929158> or google: kids skye goold

FOR ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS
PHONE 0404 330 397

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS ON DANGAR



About The Dangar Island League ...

The Dangar Island League is an association of islanders who wish to:

- champion the common interests of islanders on issues affecting our special way of life; and
- safeguard and promote the enhancement of our natural environment, water-access, residential amenity and recreational resources of the island.

We do this by:

- holding regular public meetings to allow community views on particular issues to be aired and discussed;
- representing the collective views of members and influencing external bodies such as Hornsby Shire Council, Sydney Water, Electricity and other utility providers, Maritime, NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service etc; and
- regularly communicating through the **Mullet Mail** and **Mullet Express**. A new Communiqué providing more detailed updates on initiatives including who is working on what, and a refreshed League website will be launched shortly.

The League elects a committee each year to coordinate and lead activities, supported in some cases by issue-specific sub-committees (such as the **Water Access Sub-Committee**). My fellow current main committee members are *Judith Doyle* (Secretary), *Judy Nikola*, *Hans Pols* (Treasurer), *Michael Dean*, *Tony Partridge*, *Bronek Karcz* and *Andy Payne*. Each is happy to discuss the positive contribution the League makes to island life – stop them in the street next time you see them and ask them all about it!

Maximising the membership of the League (and active participation) ensures that a broader consensus on important matters is better established, and our collective voice is stronger when seeking to influence external authorities to take into account island-specific concerns that may otherwise have been missed.

Joining or renewing membership of the League has never been easier and costs only \$5 per financial year. Two and five year memberships are also now available for \$10 and \$25 respectively.

Membership fees are used to fund the League's annual expenses, including publication of the Mullet Mail, maintenance of the website, surveys and other professional costs. Committee Membership is purely honorary and no committee member receives any financial reward for their involvement with the League.

You can join or renew your membership in person at one of our Public Meetings, or by completing a membership application form (available from *Andy Payne* - payniac@me.com) and posting it to or leaving it in the League's mailbox at the Shop & Café. We are also working on a facility to all memberships to be renewed via the League's website which we hope to have in place for the next financial year.

I hope to see you at our next public meeting!

Antony Schinckel,
President Dangar Island League



**next M&M issue
winter 2011**