



The DANGAR DATASHEET



Newsletter of
The Dangar Island League
(Founded in 1953)

May 97

A public meeting of the League was held on Saturday 19 April. Some of the issues discussed include:

- . Correspondence received
- . Island truck issue - Hire cost for residents
- Keeping the truck near wharf
- . Small boat pontoon at wharf
- . Public notice board
- . Car-parking at Brooklyn
- . Sea wall erosion at McKell Park
- . Possible public shower/tap at beach.

Attendance was a little disappointing, however it is hoped for a better turn-out for the meeting set down for 4.00pm Saturday, 14 June 1997. (Please note this is 4.00pm real time and not Dangar time, which can be half an hour later).



The League is earnestly seeking community views on a number of initiatives. While it is never possible to have total agreement on all proposals, the present Management Committee wants to engage in activities that have broad community support. It would be very helpful if residents (not just League members) took the trouble to fill in the questionnaire and return it ASAP. All views are of course respected, and a major objective of the June 14 meeting will be to prioritise the issues the League should be addressing. It will be seen there is space available to raise other suggestions.



There has been considerable debate in recent times regarding a private carpark initiated by up-river residents. (See news clippings). While this matter does not directly affect Dangar Island people, it does illustrate the difficulties one can expect when asking the Hornsby Council for something a little unique or out of the ordinary. There may also be lessons here for Dangar Island in regard to car parking issues at McKell Park.



Are you an owner and/or a resident of Dangar Island? If so, we would like to encourage you to join the League. Everyone will be made welcome. Cost is \$3 for singles and \$5 for families. (Much cheaper than health insurance) If nothing else it is a chance to meet other Islanders and get to know your neighbours better.



Neighbourhood watch newsletter attached. The Brooklyn group are quite active should anyone wish to become involved. (Bill Lyle 9985 7467).



There is a St John First Aid course beginning Thursday 29 May. It starts at 7.00pm at the Community Hall and goes for 3-4 weeks. Contact Manfred for details on x419.



Our roving reporter has learned the General Store has switched to its winter menu. The cappuccino's are marked high by Sydney's premier coffee expert, and water comes free with it. Congratulations to the "Shop owners" for improving their premises over the last year or so. Its a joy spending time there after a busy week in that concrete jungle.



ISLAND BUSH REGENERATION

Every first Saturday of each month people interested in protecting the nature reserve on top of the island come together to remove weeds.

Come and join in, we meet at the bench on the corner of Riverview and Riverview at 10.00 am.



This year we have begun to weed and plant beneath the cave and midden under the power poles on the western side.



We shall be using the plant study made on the island reserve last year by the botanist Jacqui Volmer. The study will help the bush regeneration to maintain plant diversity in the reserve. It was jointly funded by the Dangar Island bush regeneration group and by Hornsby Shire Council.



Over the last few weeks we have been cleaning around areas of good plant diversity and trees of high value in the reserve. This will help to prevent these areas from being burnt when the Dangar Island fire Brigade with other brigades come to do their control burn. Thankyou to everyone who came to help - Mario, Valerie, Chabela, Cecily, Keith and Alison.



If you'd like to know a bit more about bush regeneration activities or about plants local to the Island, you can ring Ana x707.



BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Heavy rain has not helped our fire brigade volunteers in their hazard reduction program this year. (Two false starts already). However the team remains keen and on standby, and would appreciate any help in the form of new recruits to the organisation.



Residents are reminded that winter is traditionally a bad time for house fires, and should take all the precautions while trying to keep warm. Friendly advice can always be sought from Russell Taylor x 760 and Peter Short x 225. Russell promises to write an enlightening article for the next newsletter.



Sparks fly as council rejects car park plan

by PETER GLADWELL

EMOTIONS ran high during Hornsby Council debate about the future of two Brooklyn properties used as car parks for riverside residents.

Hornsby Council rejected a proposal to use the properties for parking on the sites after the year's most confusing council debate.

It also decided to take legal action against the residents for illegal use of the properties.

Councillors had rejected on April 2 a proposal for Brooklyn residents to park their cars on properties at 3 and 7 Brooklyn Rd.

A motion at last Wednesday's meeting was successful in overturning the rejection 5-4, but council then rejected a motion to approve the car park 6-3 and later voted 5-4 to reject the car park proposal.

Confused? So was everyone else, including councillors. Debate turned nasty on several occasions with constant interjections from the public gallery and councillors launching verbal attacks on each other and the crowd.

The dispute pitted Hawkesbury River residents wanting a safe place to park their cars against a family worried that their quality of life was being affected by the constant movement of cars and boats to the neighboring properties.

Representative of the 3 Brooklyn Rd property used for parking Alan Wadham said council's failure to provide any parking alternatives in Brooklyn had prompted residents to buy the property and provide their own parking.

"If council cannot provide alternative properties then it shouldn't stop us parking there," he said.

Marilyn Smith of 5 Brooklyn Rd property told the meeting her life had been ruined by the constant movement of cars and boats.

"I live in Brooklyn for a reason which is the environment I want to live in and not somewhere that feels like Kmart," she said.

Residents whose properties can only be accessed by water use the site to park their cars. They have boats moored in a channel which leads to the property. The channel was created without council approval several years ago.

Mrs Smith's comment drew a stinging response from councillor Steven Vandertouw. He called her hypocritical for having a jetty in the illegal channel she was complaining about. "Isn't it a bit hypocritical for you to say this when you have a jetty into the illegal channel you are complaining about?" Mr Vandertouw said, prompting angry cat-calls from the gallery.

It was later revealed Mrs Smith had bought the property after the jetty had been built in the channel.

Mr Vandertouw was angry a Brooklyn residents' meeting last year asked for the properties to be rezoned to allow parking and now some councillors were going back on their word to legalise it.

Councillor Graham Orr, who had dropped his previous support for the car park, said the properties were not the safest places for parking.

"Although we understand there is a parking problem in Brooklyn and the water settlements area, the solution or solutions to the problem should be within the planning instruments that council has developed," he said.

Residents demand car park solution

by PETER GLADWELL

PEOPLE power seemed to pay at least temporary dividends when angry Hawkesbury River residents invaded Hornsby Council Chambers last Wednesday night demanding a solution to car parking problems.

Council decided to suspend legal action against the owners of two Brooklyn Rd properties illegally used for resident boat mooring and car parking.

A compromise motion from councillor Graham Orr to stop legal action got bogged down in procedural problems which meant a new motion could not be made for three months.

The straight-talking river residents made catcalls from the gallery as councillors argued whether or not they could overturn their

previous decision to take legal action.

Eventually, Mayor John Muirhead overruled Mr Orr's motion until council could get advice on whether it was correct procedure.

Councillors decided not to pursue legal action until the legality of Mr Orr's motion had been determined.

"These people at the centre of this have been in Brooklyn for three generations and they've never had any problems so why do you get rid of this parking now?" one irate resident told councillors.

River residents without road access had been using properties at 3 and 7 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn for car parking and boat mooring before council ruled this was illegal because of the area's residential zoning.

Backflip confusion

A UNIQUE community on the Hawkesbury River is struggling for survival.

These people have only water access to their homes and property.

The council provides nothing to help them commute to work or shopping, so 10 of the residents banded together to buy a waterfront block of land in Brooklyn to give safe off-road parking and mooring for their small commuter boats.

Council gave approval for a riverfront wall and steps on the basis it was to be a non-commercial operation. At a public meeting in Brooklyn no objections were raised.

Twelve months later, council has not only refused appropriate zoning, but is threatening legal action against the 10 owners because a married couple who own a house and land next door is objecting to a nearby commercial operation.

This has devastated the community of Milson's Passage who only want to continue their peaceful use of the land, which inconveniences no-one and helps Brooklyn with its horrendous parking problem.

Peter O'Brien, Brooklyn

Advocate

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Promises broken

CYNICS would say that promises were made to be broken.

And, it seems some Hornsby Councillors prescribe to that view.

A number of Hawkesbury River residents with water access only to their homes took the initiative to solve their car parking dilemma.

Some bought land with the intention of creating a private car park, a place where residents could moor their boats and park their cars.

Some approached a land owner to use his property. Several councillors supported their plan and gave assurances at a public meeting that council would authorise the use of the land as a car park. It now appears a number of councillors have changed their mind.

Residents have been left high and dry. Promises have been broken.

The residents understand it was their choice to buy homes that could only be accessed by water.

What they don't understand is how some councillors could go back on their word.

**LIST OF POSSIBLE
IMPROVEMENTS TO DANGAR ISLAND
AND AREAS OF INTEREST TO RESIDENTS**

A = Very important
B = Important
C = Not Important

*Please mark
A, B or C in box*

- Dedicated car parking at Brooklyn for Islanders -----
- Small boat pontoons at wharf
- Sea wall at McKell Park
- Improve railway station stairs
- Guidelines for future sewage systems
- Improve park facilities on Island
- Protection of Aboriginal carvings
- Public seating on beach
- Erosion of unpaved roads
- Seal road at top of Island
- Possible water taps and open showers at beach (At either end near pathways)
- Decrease fire hazards on Island -----
- Erosion control on beach
- Public table and seats in vicinity of wharf
- Possible yearly social function sponsored by League (Easter might be a good time to coincide with Dangar Derby)
- Tourist map showing public amenities and areas of interest on a large board
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Please fold and return to the Dangar Island League by the June Long Weekend
C/o 'The General Store'