



Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#11

October extra 2002

Good news

[now that's a change]

The League's book sale raised just under \$1300. A huge thank you to everyone who donated, purchased or just turned up for a chat. The money means that the Mullet Mail is paid for and the bank balance stays healthy.

In the last couple of weeks, two people have asked when the next League meeting is going to be – gosh, meetings by popular demand! The next League meeting shall be on Sunday October 27 at 2pm. We currently have three major issues on the go:

Completing the **INCORPORATION** process and adopting a new constitution. There will be a constitutional workshop at 12 noon prior to the League meeting on the 27th October so if this sort of thing gets your blood racing, come along.

THE WHARF and facilities thereon. We plan to establish a Wharf Working Party at the next meeting. I know that a number of citizens have strong feelings, good ideas, work already done . . . so we would like to try and pull everything together and see if we can't get moving on this one.

ACCESS TO THE RAILWAY STATION. The committee had a very excited discussion about disabled access, tunnels, moving the train lines, the historic value of the station and all manner of things at the last meeting. Regardless of all the other issues, the stairs are horrendous for anyone not at the peak of their fitness, so let's give the Railways a hard time until they find the \$\$ to do the promised tunnel.

The current committee will be signing off at the next AGM (Sunday 24 November) and volunteers are always needed. Think about it – League work is not arduous and can be rewarding.

Lots to talk about and lots to do so come along to the next meeting.

Cath Phillips

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROPOSAL

We could have, on Dangar Island, a passenger community vehicle, similar in principle to community vehicles in other communities.

I put an outline of this proposal in the shop last May/June, and there has been quiet but strong support for the proposal. It's time to go into more detail so every one can see the feasibility of it.

It works like this.

Financial issues

As an 'isolated community' we qualify for a grant under the Community Transport Program. These grants are assessed annually every May/June. This year's grants are set, but there could be a window of opportunity next April-ish, if other grants are underspent.

The grant covers leasing, running costs etc. A proper budget has to be cast, including depreciation etc. There are other related funding sources, which may assist, and these are coordinated through the same Head Office.

Organisational issues

The application has to come from an incorporated community group [like the League will shortly be] and represent the agreed needs of the community. Issues like occasional disability access, elderly relatives, appropriate medical evacuation, access/topography are addressed.

Operational issues

The vehicle is sourced through the Council with their support, and this covers insurance. A daily roster of drivers is established, with hours something like 8am-9pm, with extra availability as agreed [eg can you collect me off the last ferry tomorrow?]. There is a mobile phone which is also part of the funding, and belongs to the car, being passed on from driver to driver. The driver essentially keeps the fare for their time [this provides a bit of pocket money for the drivers] and on other islands this equates to providing free trips for emergencies, the sick etc. on a humanitarian basis.

Freight issues

As the vehicle is essentially a passenger vehicle, its easy and hygienic for the frail to get into. No more carting old people around in garbage trucks. Groceries etc can be put in the back. A fold down seat can provide emergency stretcher facilities. A trailer tow ball can be added for dirty and/or heavy freight.

Costs

Probably about a third of the current charges for the ute. ie between \$5 and \$10 per trip, and you can be picked up and driven. No more racing up and down between the fire shed, shop and home.

Conclusion

It's possible, achievable, environmentally and economically sensible. More details at the workshop [on November 16 at the DI Hall 2.30pm-4pm.]

Ron Barrelle

Management of our roads

For all those of us who care about the future character of Dangar Island, the proposal to change the Island's roads to pedestrian precincts is a great opportunity.

This should not be just an argument about whether a few people can drive around in Golf buggies or not. It is a chance for the whole community to have some real control over all aspects of the roads and pathways – and devise ways to communally solve our transport problems.

When the League organised the Management Plan for Dangar Island in 1992/93 [which many of you contributed to] the intention was not only to get Council to adopt sensible controls on building and development [which we largely achieved]. We also hoped in the future to formulate more detailed plans for wider environmental issues such as a plan for parks and reserves, a plan for roads and traffic management, and a plan for effluent and waste disposal.

These intentions are in fact enshrined on the first page of Council's Development Control Plan, where it clearly states that 'these future plans will be developed in partnership with the Island's community.'

Well now is the time to start. The forthcoming workshop on November 16 at the Hall could be the springboard to the Island community taking real control of our public places. I doubt that this has been done anywhere in Australia before – a truly 'unique opportunity'.

Terry Dorrough

PUBLIC VEHICLE ACCESS TO MCKELL PARK

Residents of Dangar Island should be aware that Hornsby Council is seeking community feedback on options to increase safety on the roadway leading to the BMC jetties at the end of McKell Park car park. A case has been put that the vehicles endanger children using the playground adjacent to the access roadway, and behind the interpretive display. Purely based on an economic argument that it will cost \$7000(?) to extend the existing fence around the playground, it will be much cheaper to put a gate across the roadway at the roundabout.

There has been a quite misleading statement made to council on vehicles not being able to turn and hence reversing down the road, endangering the kids and possibly vehicles driving off into the water!

This situation arises from and will now be exasperated by a poorly conceived design for the upgrade of McKell Park wherein the interests and representations of DI

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:	Cath Phillips
Vice President:	Hendrikus van Hasselt
Secretary:	Leyla Moncelet
Treasurer:	Peter Gurney
Committee:	Jenny Rowe Lindy Horman Claire Quoye Ron Barrelle
Pedestrian precinct sub-committee:	Ana Pollak Jenny Shanley Manfred Merl
Newsletter:	Jenny S & Heather D

From the editor

What an overwhelming amount of material has come in for the MM over the last month or so! – because of this and other topical issues at hand, we are running this extra edition – another issue will be out shortly with the second instalment of Heather's forays into the garden, the rest of the new League constitution and other pieces we just couldn't fit in this time 'round.

jshanley@ozemail.com.au

commuters and particularly BMC members were largely ignored.

You are strongly urged to comment as the Council Officer concerned needs to hear your situation which perhaps is more substantial than 'carrying a couple of shopping bags a few metres from the roundabout where you can park freely on a weekend'!

Please send feedback/comment/subs to Council by Monday November 11th, 2002 at either of the following:

Email to:
jmorton@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Or in writing to:

Public Vehicle Access to McKell Park

c/- The General Manager

Hornsby Shire Council

PO Box 37

Hornsby NSW 1630

Submitted by:

Greig Horman

Director

Brooklyn Mooring Co-Operative

Tel: 9985 8687



Letters to the editor

I am concerned at the increasingly hysterical nature of the buggy debate. I believe also that it was a mistake to involve the media in the argument.

The press is not actually interested in 'truth' or 'justice'. All they crave is a good story. A number of mainlanders have commented to me that the whole affair appears to be an amusing squabble between privileged and pampered people. As some of you may have noticed, there are many evils at work in the world today.

I hold no brief for the Buggy or the No Buggy lobbies, I'm certain I have friends on both sides of the debate. Life on this Island has the potential to be relaxed, tolerant and rational. You don't often get those values with Sydney real estate.

The island is made up of 'individuals', the place attracts interesting and independent people. On a good day this can be seen as a beautiful diversity, on a bad day it looks like there are a lot of bullies here.

The Dangar Island 'community' is actually a whole series of overlapping communities, eg. bowlers, kayakers, old folks & kids. There are overlapping circles of friendship and a large number of common interest groups. I had hoped that these connections could have solved this problem in an amicable and equitable way.

Anonymous denunciations and covert violence do not belong here. They are also a surefire way of 'ruining the Island forever'. They will poison our atmosphere more effectively than any chemical.

I cannot support a community that tolerates such behaviour. I find the idea that we harbour a clandestine thought police in our midst totally abhorrent.

There are processes for community consultation and change. They seem to be in train. Meanwhile, I hope that we can get some common sense into the debate.

Peter Horsam

On the subject of vehicles could we not concentrate on structuring a balanced process for developing community guidelines in conjunction with Council? This situation does raise a perfectly legitimate question and by looking at the whole rather than from one side or another relevant points can begin to emerge.

Is it to be a divided community, resulting in winners and losers or can we hope for a community in which each individual is recognised as having a rightful place and purpose within it? A quality of environment that means so much to us all; there is more to lose here than 'meets the eye'.

In her clarifying address, League president, Cath Phillips refers to 'the common ground' – a good starting point.

Guidelines for the environment and for community must surely both deserve their rightful place in the overall scheme of things for Dangar Island and its inhabitants, furred, feathered, or otherwise!

Anne Truman

Deerubin Island Film Society

Become a part of the Screen Scene. Join us with your energy and vitality, and choose the films you want to see.

We are two years old this October and have really enjoyed bringing entertainment opportunities to the island community. Thankyou everyone for coming along.

The next films are; Cool Runnings, My Life As A Dog and Blade Runner. For dates refer to the flier that comes with your Mullet Mail.

For those who just want to come to watch, please don't hesitate, we love a crowd. We promise another infamous fundraiser party is coming soon too.

<http://jonathan.sykes.idx.com.au/difsoc> is our web address.

[says Milo – could we please have more people at the family film night. For the few adults who came, thankyou, (we would like to see more!)]

Bushcare news

It's been a busy winter for our group preparing the reserve for the hazard reduction burn and negotiating with the fire brigade, while maintaining a regular weeding schedule.

Our next sessions are Saturday November the 9th and Sunday December the 8th. If you would like to help or learn, we meet at 9:30am at the corner bench, Riverview Rd. We supply tools and are guided by Hornsby Council. Just bring a hat.

Watch for info in the display window at the shop.

Cybele

As for Helen Jones' hysterical letter to the Editor, I think she needs to take a pill and have a good lie down! Her suggestion that the League should disassociate itself from the Pedestrian Precinct Committee because it had not taken steps to distance itself from the "criminal actions against private vehicle owners" implies that the PPC in some way sanctioned those actions. What utter rubbish! If anything, the PPC has been the only part of the League that has maintained their representation (of an overwhelming majority of Island residents) with dignity, courage and equity in the face of constant accusation and attack from the BOG.

Wendy McMurdo

I have lived on this Island all my life, and until the middle of this year everyone was very good with sharing the road, now we resort to vandalizing buggies and losing friendships because of selfish road hogging. Its not everyone, but here's an example.

Yesterday I was riding my bike home from school when I saw the community ute coming round the corner, I slowed down and kept to one side but the driver showed no sign of slowing or keeping to one side of the road.

I immediately slammed on my brakes and got off the road just in time. The driver showed no signs of sympathy for me, and passed with only a whistle and a murderous smile.

Please have consideration for people's rights and use of the road. Thankyou.

Milo Curtis

LAST CHANCE TO PUMP!

The pumpout is scheduled for the weekend of the 9th-10th November. If you haven't already committed let me know asap, as you may still be able to participate.

To total price works out at \$670 per house, with an extra \$300 for a second tank if you have one.

Payment is to be left at the shop [receipts will be issued] and have to be in at the latest by October 25. Please make your cheques out to 'Ron Barrelle-Septic Pumpout'.

Tanks have to have their lids off, unscrewed and accessible by 7am on Saturday 9th November. if you need assistance doing this, let me know, as we have a volunteer troupe of lid lifters.

Ron Barrelle

Community Choir

A meeting will be held to discuss the formation (and naming) of what is so far the Dangar Island Community Choir, on Nov 2 at 3pm in the Community Hall.

Bring your ideas and of course, your voices . . . we will have a hearty sing at the end!

For more info contact **Jo Truman** (8065) or **Mish Moore** (7002)

FUZZY PICTURE?

The Mooney-Cheero Progress Association sends greetings to our friends on Dangar. We have recently overcome a couple of hurdles which were holding up progress towards a television repeater which will improve television reception for many river communities in the Lower Hawkesbury (that's us). The capital works will be funded by the Federal Government (DOCITA) under their TV Black Spots Program and located on an existing tower on Long Island owned by the State Government. TXAustralia are providing technical assistance and helping to fund ongoing costs.

Rigmor Berg

CLASSIFIEDS

SINGING LESSONS

Free your voice, learn that favourite song you've always wanted to sing, self healing help with the transforming power of singing. Technical and musical guidance with Jo Truman. Very reasonable Island rates – I am also available to teach piano and didjeridu for beginners. Contact: 9985 8065.

YOGA CLASSES

Still on Tuesday nights at the Hall, during school terms, 7pm-8pm [by donation, 50% to hall funds] Bring a mat. Wear loose clothing. [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]

Forest Friendly Building Timbers

"Listen Bill, Helen and me have been thinking ... aah ... we want to use ... environmentally-friendly timbers for the extension ..."

"Oh, yeah ... like, what did you have in mind?"

"Well ... I dunno, but I thought, you being a builder, you'd know the best ones to use."

"In my experience, there's no point trying to use INFERIOR timbers if you want a good job. Anyway the stumps and decking have to be Redgum and Jarrah, and Canadian Oregon's the only option for your veranda posts and rafters."

"Oh ... are you sure? Aren't there any plantation alternatives?"

"Nope."

"Right ... Well, I suppose it's not a huge amount of timber?"

"Nah mate. Believe me, I've been building extensions and verandas like this for 30 years. I know what I'm talking about, okay?"

"Sure, Bill."

Later at a dinner party.

"God, you know we searched EVERYWHERE for environmentally-friendly timbers, but they're just NOT AVAILABLE. It's really discouraging when you start out with GOOD INTENTIONS. Besides, our builder Bill – he knows ALL about timbers – he explained that

structurally you NEED these really strong timbers like Redgum and Brushbox. At least they'll be there for a hundred years... "

This is the introduction to a book called Forest Friendly Building Timbers. It is available from the Building Centre Bookshop in Surry Hills for \$9.95 and is well worth it if you are planning to do any building.

Did you know that:

"... Australia's forests have been cleared at an average rate of around 480,000 hectares a year. That's an area of forest 87 times the size of Sydney Harbour cleared – every year."

Using engineered lumber means 40% less timber used.

There are 6 different Cypress Pines and all of them are native timbers. White Cypress is the one commonly used in building and forests of it once covered much of the wheat growing country in NSW and Queensland. It is not a plantation timber.

Oregon's real name is Douglas Fir (*Psuedotsuga menziesii*) and it is a native of North America growing on the west coast from Mexico to British Columbia. Most of the original Douglas Fir forests have now been clear felled. In New Zealand it is being grown as a plantation timber, (there are small areas in Australia) but most Oregon available here is imported from Canada and the USA.

Get the book, it doesn't take long to read and you'll be able to tell your builder exactly what you want.

Cath Phillips