

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Dangar Island League hits a century.**

Our Dangar Island League has just passed the 100 paid up member mark, a significant milestone and what we believe is an all time record. This signifies strong community involvement and certainly helps when we as a Community negotiate with our local Council, Government Authorities or Utilities such as Sydney Water and Telstra. In 2013 the League is aiming to further canvass new membership particularly targeting the part time residents on the Island.



Looking forward, 2013 is shaping up as a very busy year for the League with some key issues and projects that need to be resolved to improve our way of life on Dangar. These include: improved road maintenance, completion of the Dangar Mooring Co-op, addressing parking at Brooklyn, saving Peat Island, tackling fire safety issues at the boundary of Kilparra Park, improving phone and internet services, as well as many others.

Please pen in your diary the following key dates for our League meetings in 2013. We would like to see you there giving voice to the matters that the League should be addressing, on your and the Community's behalf.

**DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Meeting No. 1: Date & Time: 2pm Saturday 9th February 2013  
Meeting No. 2: Date & Time: 2pm Saturday 15th June 2013  
Venue: Dangar Community Hall
- **Dangar Island League Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
Date & time: 2.00pm Saturday 28th September 2013  
Venue: Dangar Community Hall

We wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

*Bronek Karcz and the Executive Committee of the Dangar Island League, president@dangarislandleague.net.*



Dangar Island Cafe & Shop would like to wish all of our customers and supporters a very Happy Christmas!

We will be trading regular hours over the festive season with the exception of being closed on Christmas day.

There will be a Christmas Share Release coming up so keep a watch out for that. A wonderful opportunity to be a part of a unique community effort.

**DANGAR ISLAND RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

**A quick word from the firies....**

The holidays are a time for relaxing and enjoying the island. It's also a great time to continue preparing your property for fire season; reducing fire fuels, cleaning your gutters and trimming away overhanging branches.

Please remember that on days of Total Fire Ban **NO fire may be lit in the open** and fire permits are suspended. Please see [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

Most of all we'd like to wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and a happy new year.

*Vanessa Payne*

**INTERNET SURVEY**

A number of residents are experiencing problems getting connected to broadband internet as a result of the Brooklyn exchange being at capacity.

To get a better understanding of the issue and internet usage on the Island the League is running a survey through until the end of January. The survey results will be used to support arguments to improve internet availability for the island with relevant authorities or to inform other possible solutions.

Obviously the more people who participate the better the results and

the stronger our case, so even if you're happy with your internet connection please complete the survey.

The survey can be accessed on the Community Website at:

<http://dangarislandleague.net/League/Surveys/index.php>

Completing the survey on-line will make collation of the results much easier, but for those without access to the internet (on or off island) hard copies will be available at the Shop and Club or by calling **Andy Payne** on **9985 7488** who can put one in your mailbox. Any questions please speak to Andy.



**0405 909236**

**BUGGY NEWS**

DANGAR ISLAND VEHICLE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE would like to thank the valued and tireless buggy drivers for their efforts over this past year to keep the buggy running. Without these volunteers we would all find it more difficult to get our shopping home after a long day or help an elderly or disabled person get where they want to go.

The new buggy is nearing completion, we are just waiting for council to sign off on delivery.

Usual running times are expected over Christmas.

**Please give some thought to becoming a driver, even half a day each month helps.**

For training phone Charles (9985 7750) or Judy (9985 8308)

**BUGGY**

Hours of operation  
Mon - Fri 8:30 - 7:30  
and Sat/Sun 9 - 5:30

..... volunteer drivers welcome!



**Hawkesbury River Community Directory**

*Strengthening our Community*

The Hawkesbury River Community Directory was launched on Thursday the 29th of November at **Broken Spines Bookhop**. It was a well attended event with great community participation.

Pick up your copy from Broken Spines in Brooklyn now!



## GREAT DANGAR ISLAND DISASTERS (and what to do about them ....)

Open Mic night dancing injuries? Fell out of a dory? Run over by the buggy? Overdosed on the island brew? Life is full of excitement when you live on this island – but sometimes it can be a bit more challenging than your average suburb. If you are a parent with small children, if you have a health problem, or if you simply don't ever want to have to move from the island come hell or high water, you may occasionally have thought about what happens in a medical emergency.

Yes – we are served by an ambulance service, and you should dial 000 in an emergency – but there are some obvious logistics involved in getting people to hospital, which are part and parcel of living on an island. First the paramedics have to get here – and then they have to find their patient and get them out. Not quite as straightforward as in the suburbs. Whilst we are not a remote area, by any stretch, some of the same issues apply. So we need to take a bit of responsibility for ourselves if we choose to live here. Here are two very easy things you can do...

- The last edition of the Mullet Mail had an article by Vanessa Payne, which suggested putting together an emergency plan for yourself and your family. JUST DO IT. And think about your neighbours – do any of them need your phone number in case of emergency? Swap phone numbers. Make a phone tree. Think about the practicalities.

- Another important way of looking after yourself, your family, and potentially someone else in your community, is to do a first aid course. You may never need it – but if you do, you could save a life ... or maybe someone else on the island will save yours ...

*The League is wanting to support part of the cost of a first aid course for islanders. We are looking for people who would be interested. If you are on the buggy roster, in the fire brigade, a parent, or involved in such high risk activities as barefoot bowling or attending functions at the Bowlo, you should consider this. It would be a one day course on the island, if there is sufficient interest, and attendees will get a proper certificate, which is useful for many workplaces.*

Also, for over 55's, there is a free one hour course called **Life ... Live It, Save It**. This involves, amongst other things, learning to resuscitate a pillow ... but heck, it's a start. And yes, you do have to be over 55. ID will be checked.

Even if you have done a bit of first aid or CPR training in the past, it is worthwhile to brush up on it, and get up to date information - as advice has changed a little in recent years.

**Contact me if you are interested in either of these opportunities. My mobile number is 0487 325 366 or you can email me at christinersanderson@gmail.com.**

*Christine Sanderson*



Call 000



Commence CPR if casualty not breathing



Send for defibrillator

## Public defibrillator

A community initiative.

Dangar Island's own defibrillator is now installed at the Bowling Club.

Surviving sudden cardiac arrest is about quick access to CPR and defibrillator.



Call 000, start CPR, and send for the defibrillator. It's located in well-marked cabinet on the Bowlo verandah, just above the sign-in book.

**Even novice rescuers can save a life!**

The AEDPlus defibrillator guides you with voice and visual prompts. You can practice at home with Zoll's Step-By-Step guide, and watch a demo video at [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net)



Jonathan Sykes  
Captain  
Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade



With thanks to the generous residents who donated the defibrillator, Dangar Island RFB, Dangar Island Bowling Club and Dangar Island League

## AUSTRALIA DAY ON DANGAR ISLAND SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY FROM 10AM TO 4PM.

This year we are again a feature destination within Hornsby Shire for Australia Day celebrations, so the island and visitors can enjoy this FAMILY DAY with a program of events and food offerings.

**Dangar Island Cafe & Shop** will serve light meals and snacks, great cappuccinos, ice creams, juices and soft drinks. An 'All Day BBQ Breakfast' will be cooked by one of our fabulous volunteers, come and say hi! Fresh fruit and sweet treats are also available. We are offering an Australia Day special: Aussie Beef Pie and a can of Soft Drink for \$8. Great value and a classic combo!

**Dangar Island Bowling Club** is hosting Live Music from 12 to 3, barefoot bowling and providing a full range of eating options including barbeque with seafood, chicken and beef skewers, lamb rolls, baked potatoes and oyster and seafood bar plus a blackboard menu restaurant. Coffees, teas and sweet tooth station. There is a fully licensed bar and all soft drink and waters are 2 for 1 all day. Free glass of champagne with your oysters. There is a children's play centre in the park conveniently overlooked by the club verandah.

**Flag Raising** is at the Bowling club at 2pm and will be led by the Hornsby Mayor Steve Russell.

A **Sculpture trail** can be followed round the island. Local residents have erected their own sculptures in front of their houses and visitors are invited to judge them on the day.

**Historical trail** - explore our fascinating history with a self or guided tour. Hear about the indigenous history, arrival of Arthur Phillips in 1788 and recent history shaping the island. Guided tours are \$5 per head, all proceeds to the Historical society. Starting on the hour from the Ferry wharf. History is also on display in the Community Hall, along with information about living on Dangar today.

There will be face painting for the kids, a quilt exhibition, palmistry and neck and shoulder massage tent for the adults and Bradleys Beach and our lovely walks for all.

The buggy will operate for island residents, emergencies and to assist the less able.

Most of these events are already in the planning but we will be inviting more volunteers on the day especially as hosts to meet and greet and to support the various events.

Any ideas or to volunteer contact Peter at [peterdwolfe@bigpond.com](mailto:peterdwolfe@bigpond.com).

## Dangar Island Bowling Club Report

*The best little Club on the Hawkesbury goes from strength to strength!*



### Celebrations at the Bowlo.

Join us during this holiday season to relax over a meal and a drink, or work off the calories with a game of bowls.



All are welcome to CAROLS in the PARK on *Sunday 23rd December* from 6pm. Santa is coming!

The bar is open again with a simple food service on *Boxing Day 26th December* from 1pm to 4pm. We are then open as usual from Thursday evening through to Sunday 30th.

As last year we are open 6 to 9:30pm on *New Year's Eve* for pre-party fuelling.

Why not bring your friends and family with a group booking for that special celebration. We now do a package from \$35 for a 2 course meal plus 2 drinks for any group of 12 or more pre-booked and paid for on one bill. Ask any member of the club team.

Available any day anytime by arrangement.

Need a last minute gift idea? Buy a club gift voucher from \$10 value.

All January we have a special feature on oysters - a free glass of Craigmoor sparkling with any plate of 12.

Calling all Bondsters. Put *Saturday 12th January* in your diary for a Bond themed disco evening. Come dressed (or undressed) as any character from any Bond Movie.

Congratulations to our new Life members, Ross (Pavarotti) Higgins and Manfred (The Treasurer) Merl who received their awards at the Special lunch 24th November.

**Mat Johnson**  
President





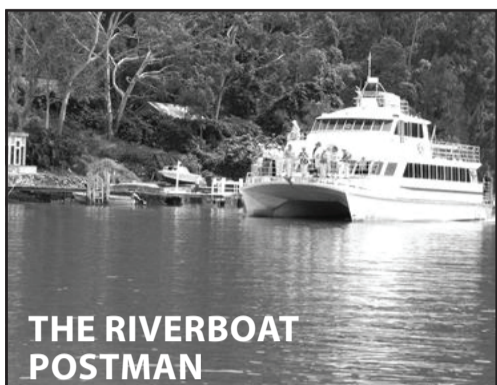
## RELOCATABLE SINGLE

Mid 2009 Council mentioned upgrading the picnic furniture in the park. It was mentioned that they “do not purchase moveable tables or seats because they could be vandalised or stolen.” Further discussion led to replacing a missing bench from the road side. At the March 2010 League meeting public opinion was divided about where the roadside seat would be best installed. Then suddenly on Friday 30th April Council workers arrived with a single bench chair, second hand, wooden, so we trialled it at the start of Riverview Ave.

For the first year it was relocated backwards and forwards between Baroona St and Riverview Ave. Then enthusiastic vandals stole it and experimented with radical locations, while antisocial youths proudly blessed it with their colourful vocabulary. Lately the seat has been seen painted with a subtle wispy pattern, sitting serenely looking southwards on Bradleys Beach (west-end). Nice work everyone. Where to next?

*Cybele Shorter*

*Top; installed on the roadside 30th April 2010, Bottom; now on the beach.*



## THE RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

Cruise with the Riverboat Postman along the lower Hawkesbury River as we deliver the mail and other essentials to the river-access-only settlements upriver from Brooklyn.

For more information:

[www.riverboatpostman.com.au](http://www.riverboatpostman.com.au)

Phone: 0400 600 111.

**Gift Vouchers available ONLINE**

## CAPTAIN BLACKBUTT

Recently Ana and I planted some bush seedlings under the esteemed Captain Philip Blackbutt on Grantham Crescent. Hornsby council germinated seeds collected from Kiparra Reserve and a local team helped us put them in the ground (thank you Rochman, Sofan, wwoofer Eric, Manfred and Sarah). This is a part of the project to discourage pedestrians from walking under

the tree without the use of alarming warning signs. The ring of plants will aid the ecology and aeration of the soil around the magnificent old Eucalyptus pilularis. Hopefully very soon we will remove the orange plastic barricade and continue living in awe of this icon that was here before us white fellas arrived on the island.

*Cybele Shorter*



*Grantham Cres, looking North (left), and south (right) at new seedlings and brush edging.*

## ONCE UPON A TIME ON DANGAR ISLAND .... THE GRASS STREETS

*This is hopefully the first of a series of articles for the Mullet Mail about “how things used to be” that celebrate our unique island, and help newcomers (ie those of us who have been here less than ten years!) understand and appreciate some of the Island’s wonderful quirks.*

London has its cobbled streets, Venice has its canals and ... Dangar Island has heritage-listed pedestrian grass streets. Just in case you are wondering, it is claimed that these are the only gazetted streets in the Sydney metropolitan area that are grassed and ungruttered. The circle of streets at the flat end of the island – Grantham Crescent, Baroona and the end of Neotsfield Avenue - were not so long ago just grass tracks. The detailed description in the Heritage Register – which can be obtained (with some difficulty!) from Hornsby Council – dates the pedestrian streets back to the 1920’s. The listing was based on a heritage survey done in 1993, and it describes them as:

*Rare example of streets (standard 20m width) used by pedestrians*



**January 1980**

*Joanne Daly on way to ferry for school, Grantham Crescent*

*and generally covered in mown grass ...*

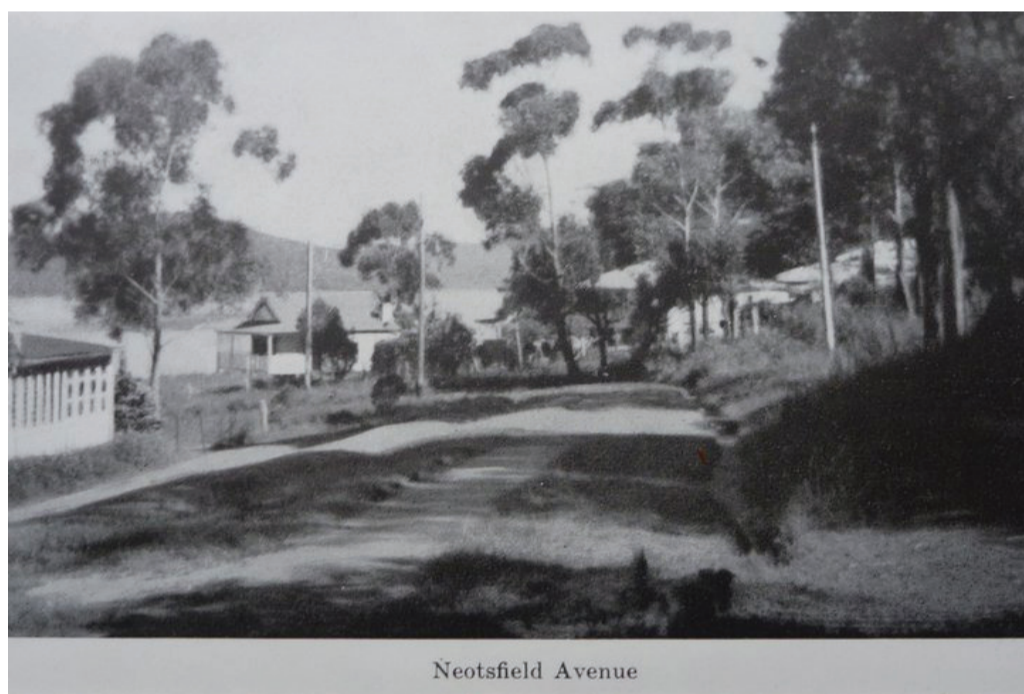
For people seeing the island for the first time, these grass streets made a very special impression. Dave Reynolds recalls Grantham Crescent as being particularly beautiful - a real avenue. Sarah Galvin has lived on Dangar Island for 28 years and remembers playing soccer, volleyball and badminton on the grass of Grantham Crescent. “Once you started kicking a ball around everyone just joined in,” she said. According to Sarah the grass was sometimes re-seeded if there had been a drought period. She remembers it as being lovely to walk on, and not at all difficult for the occasional vehicles using the island streets.

Some seasonal changes are normal for such streets, but after all the drought in the past decade the grass in the centre of the road has died back. Also the road was surfaced with an inappropriate material in the 1990’s, and the resulting large rubble that has come to the surface recently makes the



**October 1977**

*Tony Daly mowing Grantham Crescent.*



Neotsfield Avenue

roads quite rough, so some sensitive maintenance is now planned.

To those who feel the idea of grass streets is a little impractical, Sarah points out that these are pedestrian streets – and they are an integral part of the charm and uniqueness of the island. Our streets are designed first and foremost for walking. Vehicles are occasional - not primary - road users, which is different from elsewhere in Sydney (and our new buggy will also be a more practical community vehicle, with off-road tyres, which will be able to cope well with the surface.)

Maybe we can get our grass streets back to their former beauty? Sarah and other longterm residents hope so - she says that the grass streets are very hardy and easy to maintain. Some people may have noticed Sarah at work raking and watering the street in front of her house, and Hornsby Council

are planning to roll the streets at the bottom of the island and remove the stones to give us a better surface, and a chance for the grass to regrow. And with a little bit of water and TLC ... maybe we will be playing soccer on the roads again soon.

*Chris Sanderson*



Baroona St



## The March of Time

The Barbarians are at the gate,  
What does thy covet?

Then guard it well.  
Impressive gardens did once dictate  
A higher learning where they did dwell.

A cradle where two rivers flowed,  
Of tablets clay and cuneiform.  
Such knowledge gained and debt is owed.  
'Tis swept aside, embrace reform.

Of artefacts and treasures lost,  
The weasel words and cant is flat,  
That is until those sounds accost,  
"I'll have a Big Mac and Fries with that".

Bruce Lambert

## CHRISTMAS CAROL BOAT CRUISE



**Sunday 23rd December,  
4:30 pm from the Dangar Wharf, returning to the Dangar Wharf between 5:30 and 6 pm**

It's on once again!  
With *Hawkesbury Cruises* donating the boat and *Tyrone* donating his time to drive, we are once again blessed to have a Christmas Carol Cruise.  
Carol Sheets supplied.

**The bar will be open on the boat. Absolutely NO BYO on board.**

Bookings essential.  
Numbers are limited.  
Please contact Laurie on  
**9985 8084 or 0400 894 333**

## HANG

Nicole Ruiz Gallery

**\$100 AND UNDER EXHIBITION**

It was the week before Christmas and all through HANG were last minute Christmas present ideas ...

**Open 7 days a week, 9am - 5pm**  
Closed Christmas Day

212 Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn NSW  
Open 7 days, 9-5pm  
Ph: 0414 765 033

## Broken Spines Bookshop

Invites you to

### A Victorian Christmas

Wednesday 19th December, 7:30pm

A night of ghost stories.  
Adults only. Please bring refreshments and a seat.

Bookings essential, limited places.  
1 Bridge Street, Brooklyn  
Phone: 0448 813 753  
<http://www.facebook.com/BrokenSpines>

## OPEN MIC CD's OUT NOW!

Dangar Island Bowling Club  
Open Mic Night 2012 Sampler  
CDs Volumes 1 & 2

30 tracks featuring performances from 2012, all recorded LIVE at the Bowlo. Local talent including Matt, Dan, Tom, Stu and guests including Bee and Mikey, Gavin, Donny's Mum and Steve, and many, many more!! Each volume can be yours for a "Blue Note" donation - \$10.

All donations go toward new sound gear: microphones, mike stands, mic cables, DI boxes, guitar stands, music stands and a house keyboard. CDs are available at the club or contact **PDog mob: 0401 275 326**  
**email: pdog.prod@gmail.com.**

Letters to the Editor...



### DOG POO!

Yes, all dog owners are now aware that dog droppings must be picked up at the time of the crime!

Why is it then that the said dog walkers on the Island (and I'm referring to residents and property owners) are capable of carrying the leads somewhere on their body but not on the dog. They also have doggy poo bag containers attached to the lead but yet they seem unable to pick up after their dogs. In fact they walk along as if they can't see what their dogs are doing - completely oblivious. Or is it just pure ignorance?

Do they think they are exempt from the law?

### PROPERTY OWNERS BEWARE OF THEFT

On the weekend of the 1st December I was chatting to a long term property owner on the Island. He said building materials had been stolen from under his house. They were taken over the last couple of months. Boats stored under the house had to be moved out to gain access to these items. Whoever took them would have been checking the residence or seen the owner them put under the house as they could not be seen via any boundary. One would have thought that the Island was free of theft - but obviously not!

## CHRISTMAS PROCESSION

**Drumming performance. Santa.**

WEAR CHRISTMAS DRESSUPS ~ BYO PICNIC on THE BEACH

**Celebrate Christmas with your neighbours and friends**

3pm saturday december 22nd  
from the ferry shed to the beach



**clips**  
Presents ...

Cinema under the stars returns for our traditional Australia Day movie night. This year we're joining with the Bowlo's Australia Day Food Market and screening in the Park. ALL WELCOME.



**SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY 2013. The Park, Dangar Island. 8.30 pm**



## DANGAR SCULPTURE WALK

Don't forget to register your roadside sculpture for the Australia Day Sculpture Trail

Contact Michael on 9985 8455

Have your sculpture installed by January 12th (or earlier) for the sculpture walk on AUSTRALIA DAY, 26th January.

**1st, 2nd and 3rd PRIZES**  
People's Choice Award

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



**next MAM issue**  
**Autumn 2013**