

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INC PRESIDENTS REPORT

On 10 October 2009, the Dangar Island League held its Annual General Meeting. An excellent turn-out provided a great deal of input to the executive committee on what residents think are the important issues for islanders.

The new committee is:

Antony Schinckel (President), Chris Innes (Vice-president), Judith Doyle (Secretary), Hans Pols (Treasurer). In addition there are 4 general committee members – Andy Payne, Yvonne Terkildsen, Judy Nikola and Michael Dean. In addition the meeting elected to add Cllr. Wendy McMurdo as a member, as this helps provide an excellent path for communications from Hornsby Shire Council.

A sub-committee was formed to continue action on the proposal for commuter/public/visitor boat parking facilities on the island. Thanks Ron Barrelle, David Pakes and Chris Innes, plus M. Dean and A.Schinckel for engaging with this challenge for 2010. Cybele Shorter and Jonathan Sykes will continue in their “non-committee” roles of Mullet Mail Editor and Membership Guy.

Thank you, *Antony Schinckel*

ITEMS FROM THE MEETING ...

Dog owner responsibility

- A reminder for residents and visitors

There have been a number of incidents recently resulting from dogs roaming the island out of the control of their owners.

To ensure the comfort, safety and health of the whole community the Companion Animals Act places certain responsibilities on all pet owners.

- *Keeping your dog under effective control*

When you are out with your dog in a public place you must have your dog under effective control at all times. This means your dog must be controlled by an adequate chain leash or cord which must be secured to the dog and held by a competent person (not a child).

- *Picking up after your dog in a public place*

It is an offence if your dog poos in a public place and you do not pick it up and dispose of it in a proper manner. Please ensure you carry a dog poo bag or other means of cleaning up after your dog.

- *Preventing your dog from escaping*

As the owner of a dog you must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from escaping from the property on which it is being kept.

Owners face significant fines for breaching the Act. Did you know the penalty for not picking up after your dog is \$275?

These are very important provisions and are in place to ensure that we can all enjoy Dangar Island's natural beauty without worrying about being surprised or attacked by roaming dogs or stepping in doggy-do.

compiled by Vanessa Johnston on behalf of the League

PS POOP SCOOP Random doggie dumps and ciggie butts on the increase around this beautiful island of ours. I implore all responsible residents and visitors to **DO THE RIGHT THING!**
Judy Nikola

Sculpture by the River

You will probably be familiar with the annual ‘Sculpture by the Sea’ exhibition at Bondi. There’s a chance to have ten of these sculptures on Dangar Island.

The Balnaves Foundation is offering \$60,000 to fund the ‘Balnaves Foundation Sculpture Prize’ for the acquisition of a work from Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, for each of the next ten years. The Balnaves Foundation, est. 2006, by Neil Balnaves provides philanthropic support to charitable enterprises to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts.

The award winning sculptures will be gifted by the Foundation to a “town, city or municipal council or organisation responsible for the management of public land within Australia”. The intention is to create a cultural precinct or sculpture park that will attract visitors all year round, providing benefits for the local community as well as the broader Australian community.

The collection is to be sited in an outdoor location for permanent public display in a distinct location where people can visit, relax and enjoy it. Preliminary contact suggests that the Foundation would consider location on Dangar Island an ‘exciting’ possibility. I imagine the tracks adjacent to the village green might be considered appropriate, for instance, but other suggestions will be welcomed.

Applications close late November. Ancillary costs associated with the transport, storage, installation, signage and maintenance of the sculptures are to be covered by the organisation that is gifted the sculptures. If the Dangar Island League receives indications of broad support from the community it will begin the application process starting with seeking Hornsby Shire Council’s co-operation.

Please email a.partridge@bigpond.com or provide comments to Tony Partridge, mailbox 147 Riverview by Wednesday 10 November.

preliminary information compiled by Tony Partridge on behalf of the League

PARK OR DRIVEWAY?

Recent deep boggy scars and persistent hard earth tyre tracks through the grass attest that drivers still ignore the sanctuary of our park. Between Yalleroi Parade and Baroona Street is a designated public open space equipped with our Community Centre, toilets, play structures, shade trees and picnic table. The main play structure was specifically chosen to facilitate activities for our younger children who are not yet traffic savvy, so it is outrageous to see drivers of vehicles regularly entering the area.

We have a road network to access every property on the island. Properties on Yalleroi Pde and Grantham Cres including the Bowling Club can be accessed without driving through the park.

Each short cut driven through the park accumulates damage to the grass and poses danger to little children. Our roads are deceptively engineered structures: Under the sleepy grassy veneer lie layers of sandstone that can withstand the pressure of regular vehicle traffic. The sides of our streets and the park itself are soft sandy soils held delicately together with a thin layer of grass and prone to be boggy after most rains.

Keep on track!

Cybele Shorter

COMMUNITY CENTRE Committee 2009/10

Wendy McMurdo – chair
Miranda Dines – vice chair
Jane Putt – secretary
Chabela Torres – treasurer
Michele Rumsey – bookings
General members
Joan Merl
Christine Sargeant
Judy Lattas
Jackie Morgan

Thankyou to outgoing members Heather Dorrough and Katherine Kirby for their time on the 2008/9 Committee

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

BUGGY NEWS

A huge thankyou to all our volunteer drivers and welcome aboard Tom, Harry and Laurie.

We are now able to offer even more regular services and often drivers are available for calls outside of rostered hours. This service takes great community effort so we encourage you to make use of it.

Hornsby Council have recently made some repairs to the roads in order to ease the stress on our Little Yellow Taxi and we thank them for that.

Please remember :

- Out of hours bookings dependent on driver availability.
- Use council Ute for bulky items and building materials
- Extra luggage may incur a fee.

Sue Baxter

That notion just crossed my mind

Since arriving on the island many people have asked whether Alice and I have adapted to “island life” yet, which I have since figured really means something like: “Tired of doing your shopping in tiny parcels or bulk hauls?” or “Lost the contents of your freezer after a power blackout?” It could even be translated as “Had to bail your boat in foul weather, eh?”

Whichever one you run with, the answer is yes. But, ad interim, we’re here.

All may be understandable reasons for fleeing. I’ve heard that some people don’t last here—that either of the above, or some other blend of incompatibilities, are justification enough to *get out*, back to the city, to anonymity; to unfamiliar faces, and places where talk of dogs, boats and buggies don’t induce wincing or raise more human hackles.

So it’s clear that it’s not for everyone. But whatever the turnover and whatever the differences of opinion, they obviously haven’t been enough to dissolve the sense of community that makes this place special.

While Dangar Island is no secret, it still somehow feels like one, and after six months here I still like to entertain this notion, slipping back home late at night, that it’s somehow apart from the rest of the world.

For it’s in the crossing that the island takes on the greatest majesty, to my mind. Clear sky, glassy water, impossible green bioluminescence, the wind in your face. It’s the sheer distance of this ritual from work in the city—a small perch from which to assess whatever else is going on in your life. And for those moments, it’s hard not to feel gratitude.

For most here the island is *home*. It’s not that for me, but it’s a beautiful little interlude.

Mike Kermode

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂



0405 909236

RUNNING TIMES

On Call 0405 909 236

Mon 8.30am – 7.30pm

Wed 8.30am – 7.30pm

Thur 3.30pm – 8.30pm

Fri 8.30am – 3.30pm

Sat 9.30am – 5.15pm

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## Buggy meets the ferry

Friday 3.30pm – 7.30pm

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Tuesday and Sunday ~ 24 hour advance bookings dependent on volunteer driver availability.



Birthday Bash

Ros Holland celebrated her 60th birthday in grand style at Peats Bite on Saturday 17th with 32 family and friends – the theme was “Oceans 11” with everyone invited to wear ivory tuxedos and cocktail dresses and they all did her proud, with one couple turning up in white tails!

Friends had come from as far away as the Gold Coast, Byron Bay, Armidale and Canberra to celebrate the momentous occasion and a great time was had by all. Stepdaughter Zoe, performed Ros’ favourite song “Misty” for her and was joined at the microphone by Philip, his other daughter Amy and Zoe’s partner Troy, for a rendition of “Unforgettable”. Philip’s performance was eminently forgettable!

The evening was recorded brilliantly by Melanie Birt (www.melaniebirt.com.au). The staff at Peats Bite (www.peatsbite.com.au) went above and beyond the call of duty to make the evening extra special – particular thanks to Tanya, Tammy and Rod for all their help.

Philip Holland



Photo: Melanie Birt

NEW FERRY TIMES

effective since 11th October 2009
for more information or timetable changes go to
www.hawkesburyriverferries.com.au

Monday to Friday

Trains North	Brooklyn	Wobby	Dangar	Trains South
			6.10	6.31
5.47	W 0.25	0.40	7.00	7.32
6.45	W 7.25	7.40	8.00	
7.45	8.15		8.30	8.40
8.48	9.00		9.15	9.47
9.14	W 9.30 #	9.45		
9.45	9.50		10.05	10.32
10.45	W 10.40	10.50	11.05	11.32
11.45	11.50		12.05	12.32
12.45	12.50		1.05	1.32
1.45	W 1.50	2.20	2.05	2.32
2.45	W 3.15	3.45	3.30	3.51
3.46	4.05		4.20	5.17
4.31	4.40 W	5.15	5.00	5.32
5.32	5.40 W*	6.15	6.00	6.32
6.33	6.40		7.00	
7.01	7.15 W*	7.45	7.30	8.02
7.45	8.00 *		8.15	

DIFS DECADE Blow-In Blitzes Bowl Brew-Off

Can you believe it’s nearly 10 years since The *Mambo Kings* hit the big bedsheet and the mango daiquiris flowed? The *Sydney Morning Herald’s* Doug Anderson recorded a video message for our launch, Dr Lattas provided a controversial short about housewives taking their pleasure where they can, and the second reel of the feature spilled all over the floor. We’ve learnt a lot since then: teenagers prefer mics to movies, everyone loves a musical and a mango daiquiri, and it always rains when you screen outside.

We’ve shown movies from Australia, Belgium, Britain, Czech, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Poland, Sweden and the US; from 1919 to 2008; from Anansi the Spider to Zorro’s Fighting Legion. Four local film-makers have presented their work at DIFS events, and let’s not forget our 5 Kids Film Workshops which have been a fantastic recreational and educational experience for our local kids and a great introduction to our media-savvy world. It fills us with pride to see these alumni making and editing movies for themselves, knowing that our community made it possible.



www.difs.net

Coming soon...

We’ve got a bumper year planned for 2010 to celebrate our decade in movies. As always we’re looking for movie suggestions from our members, but hurry up because the program is filling up fast. For Australia Day we have Adam Elliott’s multi-award-winning *Max and Mary*, a return of the ever-popular Marx Bros, pirate radio romp *The Boat That Rocked*, and all leading up to another massive mango daiquiri do in October. There’s also interest in movie nights in Brooklyn, following the very popular *Gilda* at The Edge Art Space, so we might have to drop the “Island” and become Deerubbin Film Society.

But before all that, our next movie is Wim Wenders’ masterpiece **Paris, Texas (Nov 14th)** programmed by Skye Goold, then Laurie Strommer brings us one for the littlies **Kirikou et la sorcière (Kirikou & the Sorceress)(Dec 5th)** Memberships are available for \$10 on any screening night, and if you’re already a member you’ll remain so until October 2010.

Jonathan Sykes



Notes: On public holidays this service runs on the Sunday timetable. Animals may only be carried if they are leashed and muzzled or caged. # departs Postman Wharf

* service only operates if required

F Fridays only,

W via Wobby

Saturday, Sunday & public holidays

Trains North	Brooklyn	Wobby	Dangar	Trains South
			7.10	7.38
6.48	7.30	7.45	8.05	8.37
7.45	8.30	8.45	9.05	9.37
8.46	9.30	9.45	10.05	10.37
9.47	10.30	10.45	11.05	11.37
10.46	11.30		11.45	12.37
11.45	12.00		12.20	1.37
12.45	1.00	1.35	1.20	2.37
1.45	2.00	2.35	2.20	3.51
2.45	3.00	3.35	3.20	4.37
3.45	4.00	4.35	4.20	5.37
4.45	5.00		5.15	6.37
5.45	6.00	6.35	6.20	7.38
	*7.00		7.15	Direct Services on

The Oktoberfest homebrew comp really got on the boil this year, with a record 9 entries from first-timers to seasoned micro-brewers. A diverse and prolix panel of six didn’t go easy on the novices: “cordial”, “ammonia” and “rubbish” being among the kinder words, but the old hands weren’t spared either. One English Stout flattered to deceive “like a Thai ladyboy”. Reigning champ Jonathan put a little too much of himself into his “immature” Pale Ale, but redeemed himself with a 3rd place for a Strong Dark Ale the panel rated as both “strong” and “dark”.

Second place went to Tumbledowners David and Victoria for a “rounded”, “hoppy” Bitter with “big beer qualities”, and they also received good marks for a Leffe and a Lager, but even they couldn’t match Owen From Canberra’s sensational SMASH (Single Malt Single Hops). Featuring illicit Cascade hops grown in his own garden and expertise from the capital’s Wig and Pen brewery, Owen’s cheeky Pilsener romped home, and had Anil not necked most of it, the vanquished contestants could only have admired a brew the panel fair gushed over: “excellent nose”, “floral”, “lemon citrus”, “nice palate” and a whopping 24 out of 30 points.

Sadly the attractive perpetual trophy “The Warwick” was not awarded this year, being instead stolen and later recovered from the bushes. Homebrewing does indeed bring out the worst in all of us, and 2009’s tussle has inspired a couple of young, impressionable types to sell their souls for The Warwick, so listen out for the pop of over-sugared bottles as next Oktoberfest approaches.

Airlock

AUSTRALIAN HEAT

I love the heat of an Australian summer. The way it crackles so sharp you can almost hear it. The air full of smells. Eucalyptus oil rising in the sun.

The sun is blinding; harsh. Sweat drips from my scalp. My pores feel full to brimming, and my body droops, lazy in the heat. In the shade it is cooler. A light breeze tickles the fine hairs. That hot Australian heat.

I think of wooden verandahs and slouching sofas; brushing away flies and sipping something cool. A *Streets* Lime Splice drips down my hand. The sound of insects throbbing. Yearning for water. To see it trickle over mossy rocks and pooling in between fallen logs; leaping as it arcs wide into a river, sparkling blue under the sun.

The mud between my toes as my feet sink ankle deep. Bending to rinse my hands. The heat fills me up. It gets inside my airways. It’s in my blood. All its smells, and all its sounds. The shapes of the leaves, the snapping of twigs, the twist of a snake.

The air full of mysterious shapes lurking ghost-like behind the trees. Lying under well-worn paths, speaking of long and bloody histories. A Dreaming still crackling in the air.

Monique Ewen

Washington Post’s newest words
Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating.
Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn’t get it.

BRIDGE TO BRIDGE BBQ Breakfast

The 2009 Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic will be held on Sunday 22 November. The racers convene and depart from Bradleys Beach, Dangar Island.

Your Fire Brigade will be in attendance on the day and will be serving a fundraising BBQ breakfast.

In support of the Fire Brigade, why not bring along the family to see the spectacle and enjoy a bacon and egg roll for breakfast on the beach.

Wally and Georgia

Calling All Pump Out Laggards!

As you may be aware Hornsby Council is on our case to finalise the decommissioning of our septic tanks, with a deadline for early next year.

A company called No Fuss did the last ones, and offers a good price of \$400 per tank (compared to \$700 quote I got from someone else) – but that’s before the barge fees (\$308/hour, minimum 4 hours).

“The more the merrier, for a cheaper overall price”, according to Allan at No Fuss “twenty properties would be good” he suggests. This would bring the individual cost of the barge to about \$180. So far I have 5 people interested and Allan has one more, to make six.

Anyone else interested please email me designatopia@optusnet.com.au or you can directly contact allan at allan.no.fuss@bigpond.com. Either way please give a contact number. I am hoping to organise for end November, early December.

Jenny Shanley

ELECTRICITY SPIKES

Surges, as high as 267 Volts, have recently been experienced on the island, causing fatal damage to electrical devices, computer power supplies etc. Sydney Water is rumoured to have replaced electrical equipment at forty properties since the new sewer pump systems were installed due to these surges.

Some local residents have measured the current to find a typical range of 240 – 260V. Responding to residents’ concerns, Energy Australia said they are trying to stabilise the supply to 250V and replacing and upgrading equipment on the island and further up the line.

Islanders experiencing damage to electrical equipment could investigate the possibility of the cause being from this irregularity in our supply.

KIPARRA RESERVE

Join in caring for your nearest bit of the Australian bush with Dangar Island Bushcare. More than just a friendly communal experience, Bushcare sessions help you learn about how to reduce fire risk while maintaining biodiversity for the future.

Second Saturday of the month, 9am at the access track.

**next ASA issue
summer 2010**