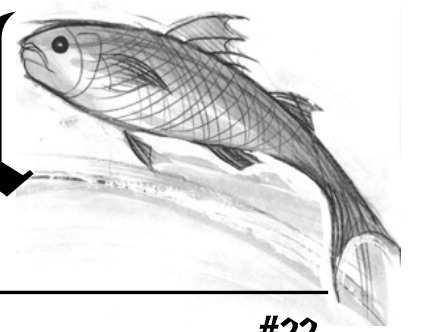




# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

www.dangarislandleague.net

Summer 2008

#22

## SCHOOL COMPETES TO SAVE SEAGRASS

Students from Brooklyn Public School were awarded with prizes and certificates for their outstanding entries in a competition to help raise awareness of Dangar Island's endangered seagrass bed.

The competition, My Favourite Seagrass Animal, was part of a joint program between Hornsby Council and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, called the Dangar Island Seagrass Protection and Education program. The program aims to protect an area of seagrass found off the southern side of Dangar Island.

To enter the competition, children drew their favourite seagrass animal and described how people could help to protect the seagrass bed.

Council's Environmental Scientist, Kristy Guise, said, "The children produced some fantastic artwork, and the winning entries had three simple messages that everyone can follow. These were; don't dig boat propellers or anchors into the seagrass bed; look for buoys that surround the seagrass and keep away; and tell other people about the importance of the seagrass bed."

"A wealth of talent was demonstrated in the students' entries, as well as an impressive knowledge of the Hawkesbury River," Kirsty said.

Third place in the primary section went to Bronwyn Peddley from Dangar Island.

Seagrass beds are unique habitats that provide a haven for animals such as juvenile fish, sea horses, pipefish and turtles. The Dangar Island seagrass bed is in danger from motor boats which are anchoring and using propellers within the area.

The NSW Maritime Authority has placed nine yellow marker buoys around the area to help locals and visitors identify where the seagrass bed is located.

The Dangar Island Seagrass Protection and Education program is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust through the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

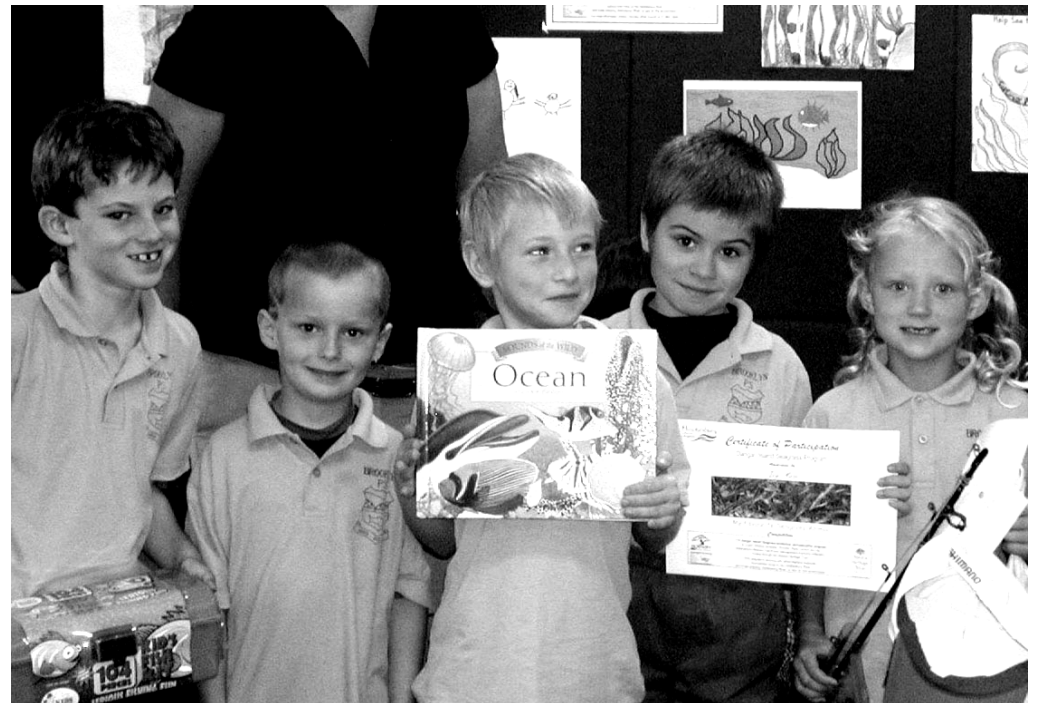
Do you want to learn more about the unique seagrass habitat and the animals that live within it? **Come to council's free seagrass workshops in January 2008. Workshops will be held at Bradley's Beach, Dangar Island at 3.00pm Sunday 6 and Monday 21 January 2008.**

For more information contact Kristy Guise on 9847 6899.

### PUMP-OUTS FOR SEPTIC TANKS

Able Liquid	YES	Interested in work, no quote forth coming.
Berowra Waters	NO	Too small to quote.
Brandster Services	YES	Manager away but requested details to quote on. No follow up to date.
Premier Pumps	YES	Quote based on four (4) properties serviced on the same day. Fixed prices regardless of litres. Barooka, Grantham, Yallaroi and Neotsfield serviced from the road at \$810/home. Riverview Ave properties serviced from the water \$1,105/home. Further disinfections of inside of septic tank charge will be \$280, incld. GST *Note - disinfections does not make the tank suitable of potable storage of water. (Emailed quote available).
No Fuss	YES	Quote on single property NOT INCLUDING BARGE FEES Pump out and desludge with septic-\$400.00 with Bio-Septic \$120 /1000L. Disinfections by Plumber Wayne Johnston \$250.00 (detailed fax available)
Tank.Transpacific	YES	Yet to quote.

go to [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net) to join discussion on sewerage



Brooklyn Public School students with prizes and certificates for their outstanding entries in competition to raise awareness of Dangar Island's endangered seagrass bed.

## DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INC

Welcome to our new Executive Committee;  
Secretary - Jenny Pakes, Treasurer - Hans Pols plus Antony Schinckel, Terry Dorrough and Jonathan Sykes.



The Executive has been in contact with the Council in regard to the parking trial at Brooklyn. Council has no plans to evaluate the trial other than the Parking Ranger reporting on space use. Council has told the League that they are open to considering a means of evaluating the trial if one is presented to them. If you are interested in assisting or designing an evaluation strategy for the parking trial please contact the League. We are also waiting for a reply from Council regarding the restoration of the Island roads, post-construction.

The sewer gets closer to completion. As you are probably aware Council now demands that we have our septic tanks pumped out within five days of attachment to the sewer. Joanne Scarsbrick has generously compiled a list of contractors and, where possible, quotes for the work. It will be worth your while to discuss this pump-out with your neighbours so you can get the best price possible.

### [www.dangarislandleague.net](http://www.dangarislandleague.net)

The League website is a publicly accessible bulletin board that has been developed over the last year. We invite you to join this site to access information and communicate with the Executive Committee. The site will soon display a general meeting schedule for 2008.

If you become a financial member of the league you can also request access to online minutes. This is a terrific way to keep up to date with the league activities between meetings and find out what's happened if you missed a general meeting.

If you are not a member, become one. Membership is a material way to demonstrate your involvement in your community. The League, like all grassroots organizations, is only as effective and strong as the members make it

The League Executive wishes all its members a happy and safe 2008.

Dr Peter Short, President



## HALLOWEEN '07

On behalf of all the kids of the island (and their parents!) I'd like to thank the families who went "beyond the call" to make this year's Halloween such a great night. What a magical place the island became with spiders' webs, gravestones, candles and the sound of chainsaws and witches' cackles!

Special mention of the ghost on the swing on Grantham Cres and Jude and Craig's 8 foot giant cockroach and puppet show! Also thanks to the volunteer face-painters and the DIFS for organising a film for the same night. Wow! Another wonderful childhood memory for our island kids to take with them into adulthood.

**Nicola Weddin**

## BUSHCARE

### Fauna Study

The group would like to hear from residents interested in contributing to or participating in a study of Dangar Island Fauna. Over the last couple of years we have gathered some data from locals who have taken a keen interest in the birds, insects and other animals they come across sharing our island.

If you have any observations to contribute please contact Ana 7707 or Guy 8860, so we can compile the information. We are interested in sightings of insects and spiders, birds, reptiles and amphibians marsupials and mammals. We are also interested in introduced species including domestic cats that are allowed out to interact with the local fauna.

### Bush Gardens

Do have a natural bush or regenerated bush garden that needs some TLC to keep out invasive weeds? Are you interested in forming a Bush Garden group. Contact Cybele 7142, Cybele.Shorter@uts.edu.au or Jenny, designatopia@optusnet.com.au for more information and expressions of interest.



*Hornsby Bushcare*

## DANGAR ISLAND RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The (welcome) rain means that despite our best efforts we are unable to complete the hazard reduction planned for the southeastern sector of the Reserve. At the current rate I estimate that it will not be ready until well after Xmas. When it is dry and weather is favorable it will go ahead. Meanwhile, the rain offers residents an opportunity to get their properties ready for the hot dry days of January and February. The brochures that were distributed to every household earlier this year are a good guide to what needs to be done. When the weather is hot, dry and windy it is too late to begin protecting your property! The Brigade has a range of written material that can assist residents plan their clean-up.

Please also be aware that because it is the fire season permits are needed for hazard reduction. Please also be aware that while recreational fires are allowed, residents and visitors need to be aware of the requirements regarding size of fire, extinguishment and who should be in attendance. Short-term renters recently had a recreational fire on the beach that they covered with sand after they had finished. This left a very hot patch of sand that could have burnt the feet of anyone walking on it. Recreational fires must be extinguished with water and must be attended at all times.

The recent Advocate story about a resident who stayed at home after a cardiac event because they had misgivings about the boat trip to Brooklyn, is of concern. The Brigade has a number of highly trained first aid members and we are very skilled in taking sick and injured people to Brooklyn to meet an ambulance or assisting the ambulance to come to the resident. If you think you are having a heart attack or other serious illness we can assist you, but only if we know that you need assistance. Do not be foolhardy and wait the pain out, when assistance is available.

We recently participated in a Rural Fire Service/Rural Fire Service Association Statewide Community Education Meeting held in the Community Hall. Our own Phillip Dogget presented a session about preparing houses for bushfire prevention and the committee was very impressed. They were

very congratulatory about the activity of the Dangar Island Brigade in community education. Two members, Jonathan Sykes and Cybele Shorter recently passed their Advanced Fire Fighter Course. They have worked very hard to pass the course and we congratulate them on it. The Brigade wishes all residents a happy holiday break.

**Peter Short, Captain**



### Australia Day Jan 26th 2008:

*The Man From Snowy River* starring Kirk Douglas, Jack Thompson, Sigrid Thornton.

### March 8th 2008:

*El Espiritu De La Colmena* (The Spirit of the Beehive). A film masterpiece from Spanish director Victor Erice. A travelling cinema rolls into town screening *Frankenstein*, and a young girl stumbles on a mysterious fugitive...

### Easter Sat Mar 22nd 2008:

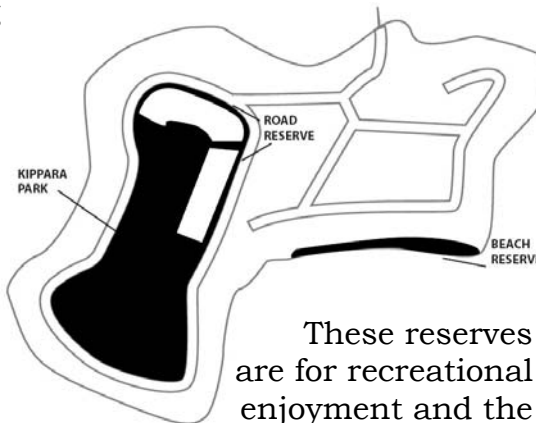
Fire Brigade Fundraiser: feature movie TBA

### April 2008: *Microcosmos*.

Amazing adventures in the extraordinary world at our feet. Programmed by Guy Williams. Visit our website [www.difs.net](http://www.difs.net) to download and share our latest Kids Workshop movie *Message On The Water*. While you're there, check out our awesome poster archive and read all the details about our upcoming screenings.

## DANGAR ISLAND RESERVES

There are three reserve areas on Dangar Island - Beach, Road Reserve on Riverview Avenue, and Kiparra Park.



These reserves are for recreational enjoyment and the preservation of our distinctive plant community. Please do not remove native plants from these areas. For more information contact Hornsby Shire Council.

## IT'S TIME TO GET ON THE GREEN

The Bowling Green has benefited greatly from all the rain we've been having and is in great shape (if a little slow!). To encourage more people to take up the sport (and advantage of the improved surface) all club members may now bowl FREE OF CHARGE. All equipment is provided and any of the regular bowlers are happy to provide a helping hand to beginners. (Non members may bowl for \$5).

Look out for "Twilight Bowls", coming early in the New Year! Looking forward to seeing you all on the Green soon! You can keep track of what's happening at the Club through the website [www.dibc.com.au](http://www.dibc.com.au). If you'd like to be added to the Club's mailing list and receive the bi-monthly email newsletter please email the secretary at [ampmail@gmail.com](mailto:ampmail@gmail.com).

## THE STORM

by **Marcela Torres-Castiglioni**

*It was 9:35 when something happened*

*I was watching TV when the house blackened*

*It was a lightning bolt that made the house go black*

*That same bolt of lightning hit our wood stack*

*I got as many candles as I possibly could*

*But, I accidentally tripped over some wood*

*The winds reached gale force, the lightning cracked open the sky*

*The thunder was really loud and I said Oh My*

*The rain came down buckets at a time,*

*The rain was so loud, you couldn't hear a chime*

*The morning air smelt better than ever*

*I knew why, because I'm so clever*

First published in *Charmed* by Write4fun.

Congratulations Marcela on graduating as Dux of Brooklyn Public School 2007. -Ed.

Send in your news, stories, drawings, poems, recipes, or jokes for the Mullet Mail.

Next issue Mullet Mail  
Autumn 2008

Contributions deadline  
February 29 2008 - send to  
[designatopia@optusnet.com.au](mailto:designatopia@optusnet.com.au)

Deliveries - We still need two  
more delivery volunteers.