



Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#82 Winter 2024

www.dangarislandleague.com

*Mullet Mail acknowledges traditional custodians of country. Together we care for our island and river, for the future!
Always was, always will be, indigenous land.*



Water Study 5 | David Collins 2008 | Charcoal on paper



Manfred, Runabout to Reuse

Jeremy English

As you wander past the community garden you could notice a new addition to the fleet of retired boats that, in their dotage, serve as extra garden beds for the incredible organic wonderland that the DIG crew have created. This latest retiree is 'Manfred', a venerable and trusty 'runabout', as Maritime classifies it, meaning a 4 metre DeHavilland tinny. So where did Manfred come from?

Manfred Merl, a Dangar Legend, offered me his boat in 2018. He did this via his son Andrew who was and remains a firm friend as does Manfred, although since he moved off the island I haven't seen much of him. At the time 'Manfred' the boat was equipped with a 2 stroke outboard motor of somewhat dubious reliability, which nevertheless provided an entry to motor boating on Dangar in 2018.

In 2021, after some awkward times with the old 2-stroke, we acquired a new 4-stroke and Manfred continued to fulfill happy recreational and utilitarian tasks, but he was now rather slow, with the new but smaller motor. Furthermore he was still Spartan and a bit shabby in appearance, with virtually no creature comforts such as a bilge pump, lights or bimini. It was then decided to 'do Manfred up' in the time-honoured DIY tradition of 'enthusiastic plans but never really getting around to it'. This led to an extended period of Manfred sitting high out of the water ready for the refurbish that fizzled out. Eventually, we acquired a comfortable 'grown-up boat' with a steering wheel and everything.

The arrival of the newer boat brought the inevitable quandary of what to do with Manfred. Should I pass the boat on to someone else and who? What if the new owner took the boat away? I didn't want this Dangar narrative to end just yet so I canvassed opinions of my Dangardi friends, including of course Manfred the Man via his son Andrew. Eventually, the idea formed in my head that the most appropriate gesture would be to retire him to the DIG Boulevard of Marine Immortals, next to the bowling green. Here he sits waiting for the next illustrious phase in his story. A fitting and respectful legacy to Manfred the Man and the Boat.



Dangar Island
Community
Garden

Through her valiant efforts Mish has secured a grant for the building of a shed for DIG from the Sydney Edible Food Trail. This needs to be completed by July 30th. Yeah! A decent deadline!

The recent Autumn market was also a huge success with treats supplied by many of the Island's gifted chefs, all snaffled up, YUM! AH! DIG's markets have become a thing. It's wonderful to have islanders and estuary creatives coming along to make the markets into a broader community gathering with a distinct festive atmosphere, thanks again largely to Mish and her co-horts, you know who you are. The money from this has given DIG a reasonable buffer to help along the shed project. Bowlers, thank you very much for your generosity and patience in sharing your cave with us, but it's time for us to move on.

The shed will be built where the tumblers, worm farm and compost bins are now, so they are all being moved. New compost bays need to be built; to this end we have emptied and moved the strawberry boat. The tinnies will all be refitted into wicking beds; basically large vessels with water under the soil separated by a permeable membrane so it doesn't need to be watered everyday. This gardening method also reduces evaporation loss, therefore conserving water.

DIG's garden island has also changed its internal design to better use the light and have larger plantings of seedlings. More scrumptious fresh veggies for everyone. Come into the garden, see what is growing and consider what you may like. Come on Sundays, join in on the working bees, turn the composts, do some weeding, catch up on the Sustainability Festival that will be held on the estuary the first week of September.

Marin Cole, Stalwart, DIG



Casuarina Overhang | Martin Cole 2023 | Effects on photo



On the last weekend in April, 7 members of the CFR team – Barry, Liz, Rocky, Chabela, Graham,

Christian, and myself - travelled to the Hunter Valley to spend two nights at the Tocal Agricultural College, and participate in the 2024 Clinical Volunteers Conference. In this lovely rural location, we enjoyed a packed Saturday, participating in simulated scenarios of the kind we have not experienced on Dangar ... to date: a vehicle rollover with multiple casualties; gunshot wound; cattle crush injury; drowning; and anaphylaxis complicated by a snake bite to a bystander. I've been told that our team put in a highly admirable performance :)



Chabela and Barry in rescue helicopter
| Photo: Brenda Hall

On Friday night the team also performed well at relay speed-painting, producing a not-too-bad imitation of Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, which nearly (and we think should have) won the room's popular vote. We fell apart a bit on Saturday night though, faced with a lot of tricky trivia questions ... there was wine on the table, and it had been a long day - so many people to 'rescue'.

We were also privileged with a close inspection of the Westpac Rescue helicopter (see picture), and a demonstration of the equipment the aero-medical team carry.

Brenda Hall, CFR33, Dangar Island, dangarcfr33@gmail.com

Easter Film Night Success Story

Thanks to community members and DIRFB volunteers alike for turning out to a fun night in the hall over Easter. Yummy curries and treats were enjoyed by all, along with a great film.

Lithium Battery Charging Risks & Best Practices

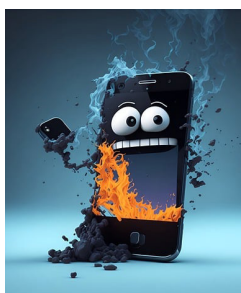
Lithium batteries power our modern lives, from smartphones to electric vehicles, but they also pose potential risks if mishandled, especially during charging or disposal. According to recent ABC reports lithium batteries have been responsible for over 1000 fires in Australia over the last 12 months, sadly including two fatalities in NSW.

To ensure the safety of your home and family, it's crucial to understand and follow best practices when charging lithium batteries.

Firstly, always use chargers specifically designed for the type and size of battery you're charging. Avoid using makeshift

chargers or adapters that may not be compatible, as they can lead to overcharging, overheating, or fires.

Charge lithium batteries on a flat, non-flammable surface and in a well-ventilated area. Avoid charging them near flammable materials or in confined spaces, as heat build-up during charging can be hazardous. Make sure a smoke alarm is working in areas where batteries are charged or stored.



Never leave lithium batteries unattended while charging for extended periods. Most importantly never charge devices in bed. Devices like phones, tablets and vapes can overheat and catch fire when left on blankets, sheets, and clothing.

Regularly inspect batteries for signs of damage or wear, such as swelling, leakage, or overheating during charging. If you notice any abnormalities, stop using the battery immediately dispose of safely.

Never leave lithium batteries unattended while charging for extended periods. Most importantly never charge

Never throw batteries into your regular home waste or recycling bins. When compacted within the garbage truck, or later in the waste handling process, lithium batteries are highly likely to ignite.

Never deposit damaged batteries at battery recycling collection points or sites.

Damaged batteries should be kept outside in a well-ventilated area. Store at least 3 metres from any structures and/or combustible materials.

Small batteries or devices can be placed in a plastic container of water to cool and prevent further ignitions.

Place leaking or damaged (but not overheated or off-gassing) batteries in a clear plastic bag or container and take them to the Thornleigh Recycling Centre.

In an emergency call 000

Josh Ginty, Community Engagement, DIRFB



Leap of faith...

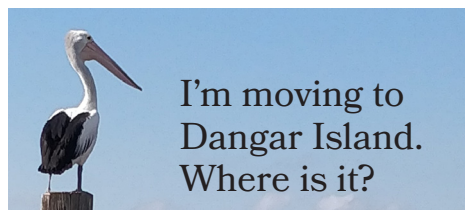
Anna Feord

As a relative 'newbie' (I will have been living on Dangar around 8 months) I thought I would take the opportunity to express my gratitude for the incredible kindness and welcome that I have experienced since the day I moved here. I took a risk moving from a place where I had lived and walked on land for 22 years and watched my children grow, to then leap onto new Country, waters and a community where I knew no-one. Leaps of faith don't always land with the grace that this one did.

'Thank you' seem like trite words but I'll say them anyway.

To this exceptional community in all its colours and diversity... thank you.

Yours in awe of people and place.



When I moved to Dangar, I wish I knew...

To book a meal or pizza at the Bowlo, message the club Facebook page before 5pm, OR call 99857083 after 6pm, when the club is open.

Kylie Burke



Beneath Kiparra

Narrator excerpts from Winter Cabaret 2024

Written by Angela Brinn, Marina Garvey and Kim Wilson

The streets are silent.

The wheelbarrows, now hunched and huddling, form a wood-limping, oil-whinging line down to the slow black, crow black, tinny-boat-bobbing-wharf-lapping river. There by the water's edge a powerful owl calls in response to the café blinking in shadow.

A step or two back the tower house sleeps of days past to the community hall below it seeming forever more tightly shrouded in Council's lock-em-up all seeing eye.

And then there in the muffled middle. There by the bowling green, by the fecund composting glory of the communal garden and by the full-of-promise Telstra Tower, yes, there in the muffled

middle the houses are blind as bats and all the people of our lulled and little lapping Island are sleeping now.

Except for you....

So, hush and listen....

The babies are catnapping, the gardeners, the bowlers, the tradies and pensioners are dozing deeply, the doctors, schoolteachers, painters and writers, postman and licensee are drowsing, fitfully, the two-timer, the fancy-woman and drunkard are snatching their forty winks while they can, the holier-than-thou, the gossips, the croc-wearing dory men and women are all dreaming this black velvet night away.

...

Less than three hundred souls inhabit the four quaint streets and the few narrow goat tracks and scattered boatsheds that constitute this small, decaying watering place which may, indeed, be called a 'backwater of life' without disrespect to its natives who possess, to this day, a salty individuality of their own. The main street, Riverview, consists, for the most part, of humble, million-dollar two-storied houses many of whom say to live there is social suicide as there is little to attract the hill climber. Blink and you will miss the horseshoe-shaped Yallaroi Parade, there are three other half-tarred half-not streets surrounding the houses down



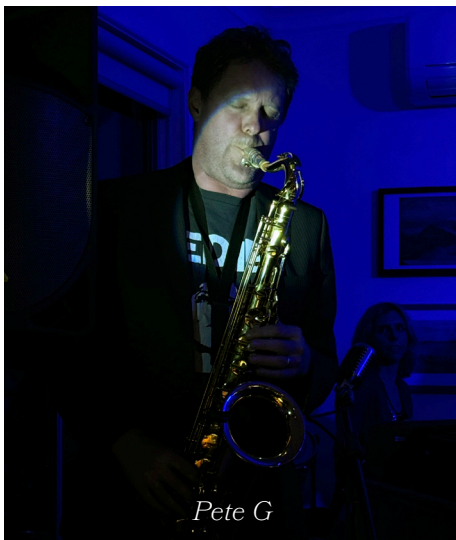
on the flat that is affectionately called the Caravan Park. This little island with its curious customs, and local 'characters', has some of that picturesque sense of the past so frequently lacking in towns and villages which have kept more abreast of the times. The one place of worship (the Bowlo), with its neglected wine list and tasty food, sings its praises on the 1st Friday of the month. The River is said to abound in Mullet but is much poached. Take a ferry there if your wallet can bear the fare.

...

Now behind the eyes and secrets of the dreamers in the streets, rocked to sleep by the lip, lap, lapping water's edge, titbits and topsy turvies, bobs and button tops, bags and bones, keys and phones, ash and rind and dandruff and nail-parings, saliva and phosphorescent droplets and moulted feather of dreams, the wrecks and sprats and shells and fishbones, jelly-blubber juice and moonshine and small salted whiting, are dished up by the ebb and flow of the river and its ceaseless whispering.

...

The rain, the mould, the blooms and spores on shoes and coats, the damp, the cough, the mud. The mist, the moist, the mushrooms – fleshy periscopes from the dark dirt below. The tenacious tenderness of ferns, of flannel flowers and their furred



Pete G

faith. The sun, the warmth, the dazzling diamond sparkle, a blinding bridge across the river. The moon, snared in the spindly twiggy trees like a silver hubcap stranded after a king tide, the silver sheen on bowls-black water, the otherworldly wonder of bioluminescence - filling your chest, filling your heart, filling your thoughts and eyes and veins with the sad-happy-terror-joy of drawing breath. In this moment. In this place.

With these people.

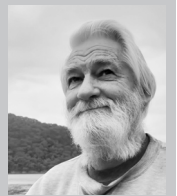
Our bones will rest together, swaddled in silt, ash, sediment. We are this place. This place is us. Our dreams will be heard in the whispering of the She-oaks, the whistling of the kite.

In the poetic style of 'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas.

Some Winter Cabaret performers
[Photos: Genevieve Ginty, Cybele Shorter and Pablo Torres

Chasing Rainbows

Bruce Lambert



A small boy cowers
in the rubble of his home.
What was his great sin
for which he must atone?

Still he has his sisters
though his parents are no more.
Blown into pieces
before they reached the door.

A desperate search for food
was all that saved these pained.
Though little recompense
for the meagre scraps obtained.

Twenty seven now the number
of family members in this
slaughter.

All given unto God
by an enemy that gives no
quarter.

The bombing raids continue,
entire streets in flame.
These poor benighted people
just pawns in a bigger game.

A small boy trembles
uncontrollably in his fright.
If he is very lucky
he might survive the night.

Upcoming events
at our Bowlo →



"I loved it . I want to come again next year!"

Dom

Abby

Pete F

Penny

Wally

Sadie La Salle

I've found an injured native animal. What should I do?

Injured animals are very susceptible to stress, so they have to be handled carefully. To reduce the animal's stress as much as possible, please follow this advice:

Move the animal away from any danger and into a quiet, dark environment.

Contain in a cardboard box with a small towel or blanket inside to provide warmth and comfort.

Do not offer any food, as native animals have very specialised diets, plus feeding an animal suffering from shock could prove to be fatal.

Note the exact location the animal was found most animals are territorial and must be released back at the rescue site.

Keep the animal as quiet and undisturbed as possible.

Please call Sydney Wildlife Rescue immediately, or take the animal to your nearest vet (there will be no charge). It is illegal to keep native animals taken from the wild - they must be passed on to an authorised and licensed wildlife carer.

For injured or entangled flying foxes or bats do **not** handle or attempt to rescue it. Please call Sydney Wildlife immediately.

For snakes - if found on your property, please do **not** handle it. Again, call Sydney Wildlife Rescue immediately.

Sydney Wildlife Rescue is an organisation that is active from the Hawkesbury River in the north, to Picton in the south, and from the foothills of the Blue Mountains to the ocean. Their mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and care for sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife, and to safely release them back into the wild. Sydney Wildlife Rescue is licensed to do the work it does by the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The organisation is a registered charity and is operated entirely by volunteers.

If you need help for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife, please call the **Sydney Wildlife Rescue Line on (02) 9413 4300, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.**

Like people, sometimes animals - even our beautiful wild ones - need a helping hand.

Kim D & Ron B, Wildlife Carers
on Dangar Island for Sydney
Wildlife Rescue

Sydney Wildlife Rescue



Frogmouth & Possum Poison



Sadly, several frogmouths and possums have died recently from unintended poisoning. These birds were taken to the vet, and cause of death was confirmed as paralysis, from poison used in rat or snail baits.

Unfortunately there has been an increase in rat reports on the Island lately. However poison baits put wildlife, pets and small children at risk! Many rat and snail poisons are banned overseas, but are available here. They harm or kill via secondary poisoning, i.e. when wildlife and pets eat the target animals that are sick, or have already died from poisoning.

Island wildlife at risk of direct or indirect poisoning include our magpies, kookaburras, currawongs, butcherbirds, eagles, owls, and also water dragons, bluetongues, snakes and possums.

When birds of prey die from eating poison, it's a double whammy: then there are fewer of these birds to control the rodents.

For help to control rats or snails without using baits read on and follow our QR link for more information.

It's helpful to keep gardens clean of fallen fruits and nuts, and definitely secure compost heaps. Seal holes and other potential entry points for rats into buildings and enclosures and use rat traps. A wide variety of traps are available, position carefully to be both effective and reduce harm to non-target species. Always place all traps (and baits if you have to) out of reach of non-target animals.

For chicken and wild bird lovers, consider investing in a poultry feeder that prevents spillage. Even better, put feed out once a day only, and clean up after, to eliminate leftover food for the rats to feed on at night. This also reduces the spread of urban bird disease if you are visited by many different wild birds.

Regarding slug and snail poisons, kookaburras and frogmouths eat insects, snails and slaters. There is a brand called "Sluggo", that uses an alternative active ingredient, which is safer for wildlife, pets and kids. Encourage magpies, kookaburras, bluetongues, and frogs as they will happily eat your snails and slugs. Avoid Defender or Blitzem snail/slug killers.

Ana Pollak, League Environmental
representative, and Ron Barrelle,
Sydney Wildlife Rescue

Birdlife Australia



**HAPPY WINTER
FROM THE DANGAR ISLAND
COMMUNITY POSTAL AGENCY**

Thank you to our community for your understanding and patience when collecting postal items from the Dangar Island Depot. The Depot helps in making the collection of postal items as smooth as they can for everyone on Dangar Island, whilst also running the café (so sometimes it can be busier than others, and you may have to wait a little bit longer). However, this courtesy, means that available collection time is tripled and seven days a week.

If you are aware of articles arriving, please try and pick them up as soon as possible. This helps greatly with the very limited space that is available for storage. You will receive an awaiting collection slip in

your box if you have a ‘Parcel Awaiting Collection’ at Dangar Island. Sometimes you may get a notification that an item is on its way, rather than ‘Awaiting Collection’, so double check before you pop down to collect.

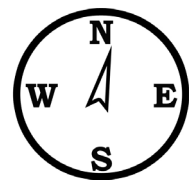
The staff at Dangar Island Depot are only able to give you an article with the corresponding collection slip. That is the extent the Depot Staff can assist you with postal items. For any queries or problems that are related to the post, please call me (Lars) on 04042 280 377. My number is also on the collection slip.

Again, thank you to all for your understanding, cooperation and patience that helps keep the mail service viable and as efficient as possible for the island.

Be warm and well.

**Lars D, Dangar Island
Community Postal Agency**

**BoteTiket
Challenge
#007**



Cybele Shorter

1 What should you do when approaching a large vessel with restricted manoeuvrability?

- A Signal to the larger vessel that you are holding your course
- B Hold your course and let the larger vessel take any necessary avoiding action
- C Keep well clear and, if necessary, pass behind at a safe distance
- D Party like there is no tomorrow

2 You are driving a vessel when your vision is suddenly affected by fog. You should:

- A Put sunglasses on to improve your vision
- B Drive faster to get through the fog more quickly
- C Blow your horn till dawn
- D Slow down and drive with caution

3 What is the minimum safe distance to keep your vessel from a dive flag?

- A 120 metres
- B 60 metres
- C 30 metres
- D 10 metres

4 What should you do if you see a blue and white ‘Alpha’ flag bouyed in the water ahead of you?

- A Look out for divers, keep a safe distance and speed, it’s a dive flag
- B Increase speed to get out of the area quickly, it’s an isolated danger
- C Look out for whales, get ready to take photos, it’s a special mark
- D Tie up your vessel to it, and get out the gear, it’s a fishing mooring



Blue & white Alpha flag | Photo: Jona Sykes

Tea Towels \$20

Keep Mullet Mail coming to your mail box!

Pop into the Riverboat Postman office and buy your tea towels there, or order by email:

mulletmail2020@gmail.com



River Roaming| Anna Feord, 2024, Oil on canvas

Answers: 1C, 2D, 3B, 4A



Cryptic Puzzle #028

Chico

I was delighted to include my beloved Latics, or as they are known in Australia "lower-league Oldham

Athletic", in this issue. But fret not, for Australian icons feature also, and a frisson of controversy at the end. Remember that time I clued FRET with a triple definition? Good times! Chat about the puzzle, give or get help, at the Dangar Island Community Facebook page.

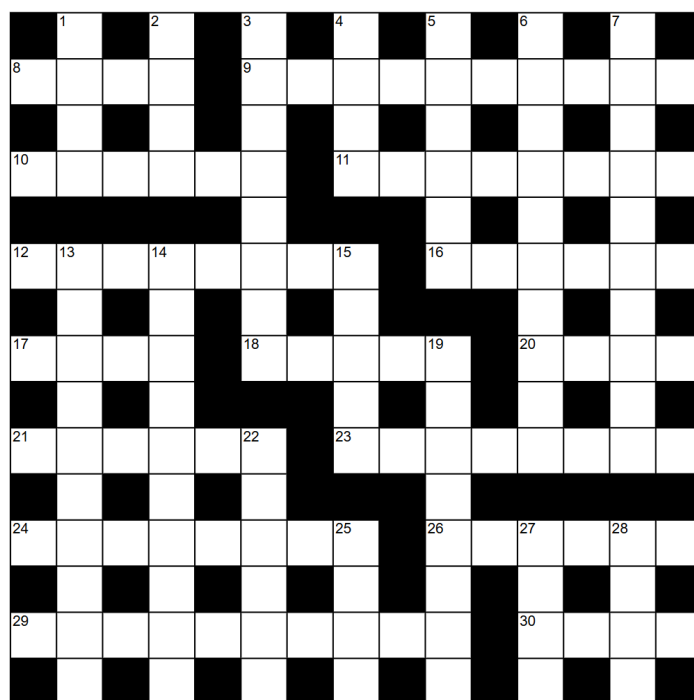
As always, you can follow the QR code to the online puzzle, which also features a scratch pad, an anagram solver, answer reveals if you get stuck, and collaboration features.

Across

- 8 Baby animal's first nation (4)
- 9 Answered without whip doubled (10)
- 10 Casket in plot gets torched (6)
- 11 Vessel does contain hypocrisy (8)
- 12 Tease the insanely arty type (8)
- 16 Has the wrong case (6)
- 17 Some members of Quiet Riot? (4)
- 18 Belonging to them, the next in line, after a time (5)
- 20 Thanks, court diplomacy (4)
- 21 Author's at club (6)
- 23 Upper part of letter or card seen when sorted (8)
- 24 European allowance incorporating note for one settling elsewhere (8)
- 26 Left inside covers of Tchaikovsky score (6)
- 29 Cook cut plurals in three dimensions (10)
- 30 Left harbour (4)

Down

- 1 Two Hebrews heard about African belief system (4)
- 2 Bring in listener before Beethoven's Ninth (4)
- 3 An inclination to stop working in allotment (8)
- 4 Hurried stand-in musicians up (4)
- 5 Tent show crier scouts odd characters (6)
- 6 Nuance lost, somehow, in island city (10)
- 7 Creep around equipment missing printer's key container (10)
- 13 Duo, English, playing intro to Miley Cyrus hit (10)
- 14 Starts to turn hand over, more or less painstakingly (10)
- 15 Medical procedure shown in hygiene manual (5)
- 19 About Latics' horrible performances (8)
- 22 Hand in stupid son's sketches (6)
- 25 JK Rowling allegedly featured in Potter films (4)
- 27 Clock St Kilda institution (4)
- 28 Rent not even two grand (4)



THE RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

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The Mullet Mail team:

Cybele Shorter, Genevieve Ginty, Kathy Merrick, and Jonathan Sykes



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