



Mullet Mail

NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

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

The Mullet Mail

has been in print for 20 years.

In the year 2000, Michael Bouchier was president of the DI League, when the title Mullet Mail (MM) first appeared on our community newsletters.

In 2001, Jenny Shanley was approached to bring her enduring visual design style to the publication. Jenny approached renowned artist resident Heather Dorrough to create our lively masthead mullets. Heather was in charge of printing and deliveries. With no postboxes at the shop, each MM found the way to your front door via bush bashing volunteers. Face to face delivery was an opportunity to interact with each other and residents were always delighted to see what news the MM contained.

The creator role passed from Jenny Shanley to Cybele Shorter to Mel Anderson and then most recently Marina Garvey. The editions have continued to evolve over the years, reaching the growing community with our news and views.

With concern that printing was becoming unaffordable last year, our little publication came under threat of going fully digital. However with some financial support from community groups, as well as a few of our favourite tradies, we are going to stay in print.

Taking the MM forward we have a big team of diversely skilled and enthusiastic members. Thank you especially to Marina for her delightful touch in her time holding the MM baton; we are really glad you are staying on as part of the team.

We have a new email address: **mulletmail2020@gmail.com**. Keep an eye out for more interactive and digital content to compliment the printed MM. Tell us your ideas for stories and content we could explore next year. Mostly, please continue to send in your writings and photographs to express our unique community and share this beautiful place.

It is our Mullet Mail. We make it together.

Cybele Shorter, Editor in Chief



Vol. #68 - Summer 2020

www.dangarislandleague.com

This publication was sponsored by the Dangar Island League and Rural Fire Brigade.

All stories can be found at dangarislandleague.com/mullet-mail.

After reading, please place your copy at the Depot or Bowlo for redistribution.

Please send contributions for the next Mullet Mail to: mulletmail2020@gmail.com.

Deadline for next issue: February 26



Join the
challenge!

How many words or phrases can you make from Jo Karcz' scrabble tiles? Email us your words, or go up to Riverview and display them. We'll publish a list in our next edition!

These wooden tiles have amused passers-by since 2013. Original tiles made for the inaugural Michael Leibenberg sculpture walk on display in Dangar Depot. Original story in archive MM#38.



DANGAR ISLAND DEPOT

**Closed: Christmas & Boxing Days
Open 8am-4pm every other day**

EXHIBITIONS:

13th Dec - 23rd Jan David Collins
24th Jan - 6th Mar Nicole Matthews
7th Mar - 17th Apr Mel Anderson
18th Apr - 29th May Peter Boonaerts
30th May - 10th Jul Angus Fisher

Well thank goodness 2020 is almost done! While there have been difficulties with fires and pandemic there have also been some positive changes.

The club is reopening with music and film, the garden is booming, the café is humming and the river just keeps flowing. The NBN is up and running and for most, but not all, it's been a positive experience. For those of you who have not been in touch with the league to let us know if you have issues, please do so if you have a problem. We can try to help but some of the technical issues are only able to be solved by the NBN. Please note that the NBN is required to provide 20MBps download speed and we are aware for some that is not happening.

The Telstra public meeting was informative and Telstra have just responded to our request for an

update to let us know that they are negotiating with Hornsby Shire Council to place a 25 metre tower at the back of the club. See their message on the League website. Once they submit a Development Application then there will be a further opportunity for community feedback.

Council's Draft Car Parking Management Strategy is nowhere near the final position of council or any implementation of an actual policy. We have been in communication with the Brooklyn Community Association and other River community organisations and the local business network and hope to get council on side to facilitate a process for the affected communities to sort out the parking situation in Brooklyn. This is an issue that's been going for 30 odd years and has only become more urgent with the increased number of people permanently living on the river and the surge in day visitors. It is our view

that without a consensus between all the affected communities, we will continue to struggle to get any resolution to the problem. Parking is without doubt a tricky issue with multiple stakeholders many of whom have different wants and needs. We think a process that brings the various groups together to understand each other's perspectives and each other's needs stands a far better chance of reaching the kind of solutions that we want and need.

Again, when we are in a position to let you know what is happening we will do so by e-mail and on the website.

We wish you and your families a happy and safe festive season.

The
D.I.League
Team



The Elf Who Came In From The Cold

By Bruce Lambert

Malcolm Mugglesworth was angry. He tipped over the doll's house and began to kick the dolls as they fell to the ground.

The other elves in Santa's workshop hid behind their benches as they watched this very un-elfish display of temper. The North pole had never been the same since Malcolm had been given a promotion in Santa's workshop.

As the number one elf, Malcolm could now look back upon his climb up through the heady heights of elfdom; back to that first cry of glee that he had given as he pushed Grey Goblin off the magic toadstool and told the assembled elves, "a goblin not an elf could be; the magic toadstool rightfully belongs to me".

Those wise old elves, impressed were not. They chose instead a gnome with a flair for figures, a head like a top and ears which caused sniggers.

Now Masterful Malcolm, though livid with rage, was quickly aware that he must set the stage, so with plotting and intrigue, he quietly dispatched, all of his rivals as the power he snatched.

Of all these events poor Santa was spared. A workshop for toys was for all that he cared. A production line system, where his helpers the elves, could diligently work whilst filling the shelves.

Till letters to Santa from all over the globe began to flood in for presents still owed. "There must be a breakdown somewhere in the system," an overworked Santa did mutter at last, then walked to the workshop and looked in with a gasp.

The presents for children were spread everywhere, with monopoly money piled high in the air. The tinsel and paper were strewn all around and there in the centre raised up from the ground, sat masterful Malcolm; alone on the stool. The sides of the toadstool were slippery and steep, and all the old goblins slid down in a heap.

One look was enough, and Santa did act, for through all the chaos there still showed one fact. Though Malcolm was selfish and ruthless and cruel, he hungered for power and was nobody's fool. Thus, if power for Malcolm would bring peace to the elves, then power for Malcolm would soon fill the shelves.

With logic as this then old Santa did act, as Santa and Malcolm then drew up a pact.

The Goblins were outraged and stood to a man.

Grey Goblin stood with them as a free-thinker can.

Now elfin time passes, though some with dismay can clearly look back and remember the day. The day when the goblins were put to the test, by one Malcolm Mugglesworth; forget all the rest. The goblins were beaten, both hobgob and grey which led to a state of some moral decay.

The nub of this story in as far as it goes, is as easily seen as The Emperor's New Clothes. The essence of substance was seen somewhat lacking, as Malcolm so kindly arranged Santa's packing. The tempo of work did not keep quite apace, as Malcolm so blatantly turned about-face. The wind 'cross the North Pole now turned somewhat chill, a perfect barometer of its economic ill.

Now each elf in the workshop as he crept up to bed, could feel in his heart with the utmost dread. The terrible tales he had heard of old were surely the tales of the elf who came in from the cold.

Make My Own Journey

Sarah Jaggs tells Marcela Torres-Castiglioni about her premiership-winning season with Terrigal United W12A. United finished the season in top spot with 10 wins and 2 losses, jagged a semi-final with a golden goal, only to fall 2-3 to the odious Kanwal Warnervale in the grand final at Central Coast Stadium.

Tell us about your season: It has been my favourite season so far. At Terrigal you have to try out for your spot and get graded. I'm in the A-team, so yeah, it's really cool cause it's really big, there's a canteen and I've got really cool friends. [Teammates] Coco and Heidi really welcomed me to Terrigal and made me want to stay when I was new there and I felt I was kind of alone. They told me all the good things about Terrigal and now they are like my second family.

What position do you play? Left-midfield. I like to do a lot of running and get the ball and work together with everyone else. The coach told me I might do a good job running up the line, and that's been happening every time I play. I've scored quite a bit doing that.

How many? Six or seven. Malea Carpenter [scorer of both United's grand final goals] scored maybe 32. We were a really strong team. We only lost 3 games. Whenever we lost, our coach said what we needed to improve. For five weeks, pretty much the whole time, we did fitness for training. So we did like 3km running, then burpees, pushups then we did those goalie dives... so yeah. Our coaches encourage us in a way that won't make us, like, suffer. And they will do it in a way to make us lift our spirits and say "this will be fun, we can do this, if we just do this and this and that."

How was it playing at Central Coast Stadium? It felt like I was already a professional soccer player! It's the Mariners' stadium and I've watched so many games there, it felt like I was one of them. We got to use the change rooms, walk through the tunnel. And we had a commentator. But he said



pretty much everyone's names wrong except for mine!

Do you have a funniest moment of the season? Ok, so what happened was we were playing Umina and I was in goal. I slipped over backwards when I was trying to kick the ball, and then, so I kicked the ball and it hit the um, whats it called...

The post? Yeah the post! And then it came back and I'm like "where'd it go", then it hit my head in the back and then what happened was my friend was behind me and she kicked the ball and it hit me again. And then she finally kicked it again and it went across the whole field, all the way, cause she's got the best boot in our team. And a girl called Lacey on the other end, she headed it into the goal and we got a goal. My coach, she dropped to her knees and she was laughing so hard. Because my face, it was like "what happened??" *laughs*.

Do you have any pre-game routines or rituals? I like to eat scrambled eggs in the morning, but I don't want to get too full or I don't play properly. Our team warm-up is the FIFA warm up, if you've heard of that? [Search FIFA warm-up for more info] Me and my friend on my team pass the ball to each other, like so we juggle it and then we knee it to each other. And then our coach blows a whistle, then we drop to our hands and do 20 push-ups. And then we do burpees 20 times and then it's time to go onto the field and play.

What other training techniques do you use? You have an hour and a bit of practice, when you separate into your midfielder groups, or you separate into one striker, one midfielder, one back and your set goalie. So it's like a... it's a sharing team. They consider everything and all your abilities.

We have to pass the ball because we have a rule of pass three times before you pass halfway. We play possession in a small square so we can pass quicker.

What are your hopes for next season? I want to try and get in the rep team [a grade above]. I've heard there are some really good players coming next year and I feel that my skills will rise and I'll be able to play professionally one day. I used to dream I might be like Sam Kerr, but I don't want to be like someone, I want to make my own journey.

Thanks Sarah, we'll be sure to follow you next season.

Central Coast W12A Girls Premiers Terrigal United P12 W10 L3 (unverified). Grand Final runners-up Kanwal 3 – 2 Terrigal United 1st Nov 2020 Central Coast Stadium.

Dangar Island native Marcela Torres-Castiglioni plays for Normanhurst Eagles and is a strength coach at Central Coast Mariners. She co-authored the paper "Maturity-related developmental inequalities in age-group swimming: The testing of 'Mat-CAPs' for their removal" and won the Sydney University Medal in Exercise and Sport Science. She volunteers for the Mariners on A-League matchdays and has attended every Mariners A-League grand final, including the one they won. She once offered Central Coast Mariners reserves coach Nick Montgomery a wooden spoon, causing him to visibly recoil.



Need any last minute Christmas presents? All entirely hand-made with love

* Indigo and naturally dyed organic cotton shawls, ideal for summer evenings when the southerly arrives;

* Lavendar eye pillows in organic linen, ideal for yoga or relaxing;

* Christmas tree decorations in hand-made felt with hand-stitching embellishment.

Contact: Lisa Hayes on 0405 005 745 or lisa@riverfelt.com

@ the Bowlo

The last few months have been a challenging – but largely positive – period for the Club. We continued to stage our fantastic ‘tasting’ events, with Gin, Tequila and Sake tastings accompanied by some super food. All of these events have sold out and were a credit to our chef Sharon’s skills in the kitchen, Leanne’s bartending, and tireless help from new director Michelle Ramage.

We have definitely felt the love from our community through the entire period and your support has kept the Club afloat.

The September AGM saw our illustrious President Tom Garvey step down after many years of dedicated service over several stints on the board. Tom has been a fantastic board member and President; always good humoured, always there to help and just an all-round good sort – from all of us, thanks Tom!!!

It now falls to me to fill those large, unique shoes, so I’ve got my game face on.

We’ve cautiously started running music events outdoors again, with two of our most successful shows ever and a film screening

in November. Both music events attracted in the region of 180 people and it’s a credit to all of our volunteers and friends of the club that these were run so smoothly – and completely Covid safe!

Sharon is about to introduce her Summer Menu, with some new dishes and the return of some favourites from last Summer. We’d love to thank DIG yet again for working so hard with Sharon to ensure that the Club is serving Dangar grown vegetables, salad and herbs on every plate that is served.

In January, we plan to bring back Open Mic. Capacity restrictions mean we’ll need to run this outdoors on the afternoon of Saturday 9th January from 2.30pm. It will be slightly different in that performers will need to book a spot in advance, but we hope that all of the talented groups and soloists on the island will perform.

Please email me to register: dangarsunsplash@gmail.com

We’ll be announcing our music program for the first half of 2021 very soon, so please keep an eye on your emails, letterbox and/or our FB page.

Our opening hours through the holiday period are as follows:



Thur 24 Dec: Open for pizza

Fri 25: Closed

Sat 26: Closed

Sun 27: Open for lunch, dinner & film

Mon 28: Outdoor film (Bowlo closed)

Wed 30: Open for pizza

Thur 31: 6pm-8pm Bottle Shop only

Fri 1 Jan: Closed

Sat 2: Open lunch & dinner

Sun 3: Open for lunch

We look forward to seeing you all at the club very soon over the holiday season!

Steve Griffiths

President

Dangar Island Bowling Club

A Gecko

The slow tempo, an enlightening melody as heavy rain falls on this cheap, tin roof. The only discomfort, the calm, cold pinch of the breeze coming through the window I forgot to close. But I don’t want to close it now. The hypnotising fall of every wave, a small reminder of how the time is passing. Trying to follow the blades of the ceiling fan above my head, with no success.

I admire good writers. Not because they see the world differently, which they may do, but the way they can communicate it. They don’t just look at the stars and feel alone like the rest of us; they look and they write. They have the deafening and unpleasant thoughts we all have, except they feel the need to describe them so beautifully that they don’t seem that bad. Everyone is different. Some people use religion to numb their demons, some drink until the wave in front of them becomes their only problem. Some see the world so objectively that they don’t believe in problems, just reality. Some people just don’t see at all. A good writer sees.

Even whilst on holiday it consumes me. I laugh at the irony in that. I suppose I will never have a break. I notice a small gecko still on the warm wooden wall. It seems to be waiting, or maybe sleeping. Anticipating predators at all times. I laid patiently trying to look into the mind of that gecko. I concluded quite quickly that it didn’t worry as I did, as much as I wanted it

to. It simply waited by the lamp hungry for the insects attracted to the light. And in the morning it would go to the rock outside that got the most sunlight. It would repeat this cycle over and over until an agile bird got the best of him, or he would die on that rock, or that wall.

Maybe it was the silence of the air that night, or the lack of music from the party nearby. But a part of me wondered what specifically made geckos different to humans. We feel hungry as geckos do, we seek warmth. I wish I could be a gecko, to not be able to contemplate contentment. To fill my belly with warm insects every night and then in the morning walk ritually to a warm cosy rock. To always be in the present. Never feel regret or guilt. If you do the same thing everyone does then no one can not be proud of you.

A substantial gust of wind bends the trees over my shack and interrupts my train of thought. I suppose being a gecko wouldn’t be as good as I’m making it out to be. I think it’s the ignorance I envy. I close my eyes and silently wish the gecko a warm life, full of bugs and sunlight. And even if it was nonsense I believed that he wished the same for me.

Max Doggett

Boatsheds on the Western Side

Some of them are gone now, the old boatsheds or the people who built them. Some boatsheds have been revitalised, transformed and given over to new generations. Some have been neglected, some replaced entirely; all of them are part of our Dangar Island history.

Boatsheds and their inhabitants carry stories worth hearing. They've been lined with 'fibro' and filled with fun, clad with timber and draped with colourful fabric. They've stood steadfast as the tides have come and gone. In boatsheds along the sandy foreshores people are dancing still to the rhythms of the river.

On the west side, in the 50s, several waterfronts were already established or holiday abodes. As shown on the 1951 map prepared for the Bush Fire Brigade, only 3 of 25 lots housed permanent residents in 1956, only 6 properties had jetties and 3 had baths out front, for swimming safe from sharks it's been claimed.

A lot could be purchased in 1959 for £200, yes, before Australia adopted decimal currency in 1966. Dangar was referred to as 'the poorman's Scotland Island' at a time when a fisherman's weekender might be affordable to Sydney families looking for a retreat. About that time, the List family (lot # 127) was selling some lots they'd acquired, so the foreshore neighbourhood began to stretch southward.



Max and Molly Spence (lot # 126) had been putting up guests in their boatshed for a while. Visitors slept above the lapping water and were only slightly disturbed as a few morning commuters marched through the quarters onto the jetty to wait for Manuel's ferry pick up. Once lots were secured down the way, the visitors began setting up a tent camp, clearing the beach of rocks and mangroves and preparing a seawall. By the early 1960's building was underway, with the Hartleys (lot # 205), the Meads (lot # 203), and the Gillams (lot # 202) joining together to transport materials and share carpentry skills. The combined effort, apparently, didn't result in a single 'blue'.

Asbestos cement sheets, red lead paint (both Council approved), corrugated iron, timber and a mixer to prepare foundations were moved to the Island by 'tinny', a weekend at a time. In the case of 76 Riverview (lot #203), the Mead's Quintrex with a 9hp Johnson on the back, needed a shed and Hazel Mead needed solid walls and a roof for shade on hot summer days; a tent wouldn't do. A sand floor would suffice in the 'lounge room' that could be raked clean at low tide.

"Charlie's place" is perhaps the only boatshed with a sandy beach for its flooring. Sitting on benches for a long afternoon party meant the run-in tide would wash your feet, come up to your knees when high, and recede to reveal a perfect dance floor at sunset. A jetty soon seemed a necessity for casting out for bream or deep water dives.



Boatsheds, simple or sophisticated, emerged over the early years. With them stories unfolded of flathead fishing, visiting oystermen bearing hessian bags with river gifts to be shucked, deliberate ferry delays as 'Mannie' joined the party when (nearly) at the end of the last run on Friday night, and waiting passengers on board adjusting to Dangar time before the final dropoff at the public wharf. Neighbours wandered the foreshore, no doubt following the scent of frying mullet and sounds of sing-alongs - war tunes and 'Red River Valley' among the favorites. Everyone knew the lyrics.

Some myths persist in boatshed oral history, but the tenor of the times grew around indisputable facts of hard work, relaxed escape from city life, years of laughs and love of the river.

The boatsheds pictured are of (Lots # 203, Mead and # 204, Metz), on the west side of Dangar, facing the bridge.

We would love to locate more photos and local history, particularly of boatsheds, before all the stories are lost. Please take time to rummage through your memories and family albums to find what's been passed along to you. If you'll share your finds with the DIHS, we'll appreciate and carefully compile an island record.

dangarislandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Prepare for Summer

During last year's fire season, the acrid smoke from the Gospers Mountain "mega fire" was a constant and uncomfortable reminder of the bushfire threat we face in our beautiful bush bound river community. Whilst we are all hoping for a La Niña reprieve from last year's extreme conditions, we will undoubtedly see days, and possibly weeks, of Extreme Fire Risk and Total Fire Bans.

Last year many islanders took advantage of our Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade information nights to seek advice on their individual circumstances and Bushfire Survival Plans. Community members took great comfort in putting together simple, structured plans to address the following key points.

How do I prepare my property?

Even if you plan to LEAVE EARLY in an emergency, you should prepare your home NOW. A well prepared home is more easily defended by emergency services if fire does threaten the island.

This is YOUR responsibility:

- ☑ Have at least 1-2m of cleared area around your home
- ☑ Trim trees and shrubs that are next to or overhanging your home
- ☑ Clear all leaf litter & debris from under and around your home
- ☑ Remove flammable materials (mats, outdoor door furniture, gas bottles, chemicals, paint cans)
- ☑ Clean out your roof and gutters
- ☑ Make sure the house can be accessed from all sides

Should I stay or should I go?

You need to decide WELL BEFORE a bushfire threat what you'll do if one arrives. Identify and agree on your triggers for action. Everyone in the household needs to know the plan and be ready to act. If your plan is to leave, you must LEAVE EARLY, before Brooklyn Rd is closed or the train line is shut.

- ☑ Anyone with mobility, health issues or small children should LEAVE VERY EARLY
- ☑ You should LEAVE EARLY if you are not properly equipped and / or your home is not prepared
- ☑ If your decision is to STAY you must have a detailed plan.
- ☑ To make your plan use the MyFirePlan resources kits available online or from the Fire Shed.

When should I leave?

Download the FiresNearMe app on your smart phone or tablet.

» www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/apps.

Set a 20km watch zone. Understand the alert levels. Heed any alerts you receive. Some fires start & spread quickly. If you get a Bush Fire Alert, take it seriously. Waiting too long to act may put you at risk.

Staying informed during an emergency.

To stay in touch with what's happening on the island and in the surrounding areas during an emergency, watch for messages on the Brigade's Facebook page:

» <https://www.facebook.com/dangarislandruralfirebrigade>

Check your FiresNearMe app, read any notices on the Fire Shed blackboard, listen to the ABC, check on your neighbours.

Is the river the safest place to be during an emergency?

We are often asked whether the best plan is to get onto your boat and head into the river? The answer is 'probably no'. If the island is surrounded by fire the river will be smoky and visibility will be limited. You can easily lose your bearings. Emergency vehicles on the water may also be traveling fast and an accident could occur.

What to take?

Even if you plan to STAY in an emergency, you should prepare your 'go bag'. Don't forget to plan for your pet's transport and food requirements. Your go bag should include:

- ☑ Portable battery-operated radio
- ☑ Waterproof torch
- ☑ Spare batteries
- ☑ First aid kit with manual
- ☑ Woollen blankets
- ☑ Important documents (passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, insurance policy)
- ☑ Other valuables and photos
- ☑ Emergency contact numbers
- ☑ Drinking water
- ☑ Cash, ATM cards, credit cards
- ☑ Medications, toiletries and sanitary supplies
- ☑ Special requirements for infants, elderly, injured, disabled
- ☑ Mobile phone and charger
- ☑ Change of clothes for everyone

- a message from the Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade



Make your plan and discuss it!

If you don't have a Bushfire Survival Plan, prepare one this weekend:

- Download and complete the online MyFirePlan:
» <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>
- Email the Dangar Island Brigade team for a MyFirePlan kit and to set up a meeting to discuss your specific circumstances:
» dangarislandrffb.ceo@gmail.com
- Drop into the Fire Shed after 9.30am on any first Sunday of the month to collect a MyFirePlan kit and speak to a Brigade member directly.



The NEW RFS Alert levels:

Yellow – Advice. A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Orange – Watch & Act. Heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing. If you plan to LEAVE EARLY then NOW is the time.

Red – Emergency. You may be in danger. You must act immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk. If you plan to leave now, make sure Brooklyn Rd is open or the trains are still running. They may be closed.

As RFS volunteers we are proud and honoured to serve the community. We are also acutely aware of how quickly a bushfire threat can arise or change. We need your assistance in being PREPARED so that in the event of an emergency all community members can safely execute their own plans.

Graduations from the CFR shed

Our team of active CFRs has tripled in size thanks to the addition of 8 new recruits, pictured at their graduation day on 8th November.

In the row behind the graduates you can see most of the faces of our team of NSW Ambulance educators who coached the trainees through four successive weekends of arduous training towards examination passes for all. Some of these educators have been working with us since the very beginning of the CFR unit in 2014. They are all fabulous, dedicated people and we greatly appreciate the support they give us, not just in training our new members but in maintaining our skills with a 3-hour session every month.

Judy has posted more photos on Facebook. [@dangarislandCFR](#).

Over the longer summer evenings, you may see us out and about around the park, the wharf or the CFR shed running practice scenarios to ease our new graduates into the peculiarities of operation on Dangar Island. There are some things they just don't prepare us for at the Point Clare Ambulance Station ... like starting MERV in the dark or being attacked by mosquitos. Which is why rechargeable head torches and Rid insect spray were included in every new graduate's welcome bag!

Apart from the mozzies, beware summer snakes, spiders and sting-rays. Stay well.

Brenda Hall



One of the fun things about restoring what's left of the original Dangar 'cottage' (as he jokingly called it) for

posterity, is that when I'm digging I often find treasures, because this was a very busy part of the household, where they mended boats, carried out maintenance, preserved food and so on. Helen Osborne, of the Queensland Osbornes, frequent visitors, told me that as a child she had to sit up at the main part of the house with her hands in her lap, waiting to be spoken to. She was so bored in the stuffy sitting room, dressed in her thick stockings and petticoats, she used to escape to The Pavilion, where the staff were chatting and singing and joking. Somebody would be sent down through the conservatory and she would be hauled back to sit in a chair with her hands in her lap again! Last week, I turned up on my spade this pretty hook, which is brass and obviously dated back to circa 1890 when the Dangar place was built. It looks like it is the part of a sundial that casts a shadow, called a gnomon.

Anne Howard



Graduates from left: Matt, Natalie, David, Helen, Sofan, Richenda and Liz. Adair (not pictured) was unable to attend the ceremony.

If trees could talk, what would they say?

With the help of Environmental scientists this letter has been written on their behalf.

Dear Humans,

Living in the middle of a river corridor where the winds can blow at full force our interlocked branches provide a wind break to the island interior. If you remove us from around the island edges our wind break will go.

Many of us have been cut down because of the fear of falling branches. We do not wish to cause harm. In fact, as much as possible, we use our lower limbs to catch falling branches from above. It would be good if you could read "A review of deaths in Australia from accidental tree failures" by Mark A Hartley and Jessica J Chalk May 2019. This document clearly states that we pose a very small risk.

For your peace of mind here's a comparative list of risks:

Death rate from Melanoma is 1 in 13,500

Death rate from driving cars is 1 in 20,000

Death rate from falling from a chair is 1 in 1,000,000

Death rate from trees is 1 in 5,000,000

Chances of winning Tatts Lotto is 1 in 8,000,000

Death rate from trees inside a house is 1 in 189,000,000

The cost of inspections and removal of us ignores the benefits that we provide for you at no cost. Each year, every large one of us can remove the same amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that you emit from driving 17,000 kms. We then convert this carbon dioxide into enough oxygen to supply one family for a whole year.

Research has also shown that we can reduce your energy bills by up to \$800 a year and that on a sunny day, a single one of us can have the cooling power of more than ten air-conditioning units. Trees and vegetation can lower local land temperatures by up to 5 -6° C on days of extreme heat.

To top this, we give you shelter from wind and our blossoms, leaves, branches, bark, hollows and roots provide food and shelter for all the feathery, furry, slippery and scaly islanders.

So please think about what legacy you would like to leave for the human and non human residents in the future. Humans need to start thinking and planting for the next generation.

In the meantime, please take care around our trunks and roots as this is very important. Any compacting, trench digging or soil filling can damage these sensitive areas. See the Dangar Island Tree Care Form on your Dangar Island Bushcare page of the League website for maintenance tips. If you are concerned about diseased or injured limbs get a professional tree doctor to advise on whether to trim or prune.

Over millions of years we have evolved an intricate coexistence with Dianella, Lomandra, Hardenbergia and Themeda, to name a few, so please continue to plant these around us as they are our friends and understand our microbial needs.

We stress that we are here for each other and look forward to continuing our conversation in the future.

Yours Leaffully, President Blackbutt, Prof Angophora, Mr and Mrs Allocasaurina, Dr Bloodwood, Honourable Swamp Mahogany and Ambassador Cheesetree

P.S. There are plans for a walk and talk and question session with tree specialists in 2021 when COVID restrictions are lifted. So we'll be asking you to get your questions ready about the trees in your gardens.

Dangar Marine

This video goes through how to tie up a small boat to a pontoon and to a wharf in a tidal area. This includes tying to a cleat, leaving enough slack in a rope or line to account for the tide and dropping an anchor. We also briefly go through using a spring line to stop a boat moving and to spring off a wharf when leaving. (<https://youtu.be/nzuhiepU-bk>)



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE
DANGAR ISLAND
COMMUNITY POSTAL AGENCY**



is available for storage, especially coming up to Christmas. Conversely, if you receive an electronic notification that you have received a package, please ensure that it does say 'Awaiting Collection Dangar Island'. You will need to check your mailbox for the collection slip. The staff at The Depot need this collection slip to give you your parcel/s. If you have any queries or problems that are related to the post, please speak to me (Lars) on 0402 280 377, not the staff at The Depot. My number is also on the collection slip.

Again, a thanks to everyone that helps make the continued mail service viable and as efficient as possible for the island. Wishing everyone a really safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful new year...looking forward to 2021!

A big shout out to our fabulously fantastic postie, Jann (give her a big thanks the next time you see her!) and everyone on the Riverboat Post who always deliver our mail with a smile.

The Dangar Island CPA would like to thank The Dangar Island Depot for their help in making the collection of articles so much easier for everyone on Dangar. We would also like to thank customers for your understanding and patience when collecting parcels from The Depot and particularly when they are busy.

If you are aware that you have or are expecting parcels, please pick them up as soon as you can. This helps greatly with the very limited space that

Dangar Island Community Postal Agency

The Dangar Island Buggy - the way we move



Volunteer drivers always needed to fill the roster, it's a great way to meet people if you're new to the island - phone Judy Nikola 0415488606.

Please consider the safety of others on the community vehicle! If you have any cold or flu symptoms, or have been for a Covid-19 test, wear a face mask and sit on the back of the buggy. – Thanks, Judy

The Dangar Island Vehicle Management Committee (DIVMC) are currently working together with Hornsby Shire Council to set up a tap & go style cashless payment system. Initially this will be used for payment of hire fees for the utility only. Hopefully, once



we get that working well, it could be extended to the payment of buggy fares. Watch this space. – Marg



Deerubbin Island Film Society presents...

**At the Bowlo, 8:30pm
Sun 27 & Mon 28 Dec**

Bring mozzie repellent

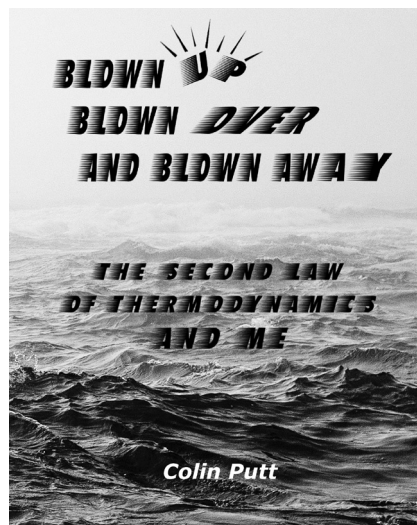


BLOWN UP, BLOWN OVER AND BLOWN AWAY The Second Law of Thermodynamics and Me.

The Autobiography of Colin Putt, Engineer, Explorer, Mountaineer and Sailor.

Edited by his niece, Jill Kenny.

Available now for \$35.



Foreword by Iain Dillon

"I remember him prowling the deck in his home-made sailing suit, itself as bulky as a modest bergy bit. I remember a lightweight shelter we developed for alpine camps – too much like a spinnaker at first, but modified and just right in Greenland ...

But most of all, I remember words. Wise words, kind words, cautionary words, words that drew on hard-won experience blended with fine scholarship's first principles. Words that rearranged preconceived ideas and often, laced with humour, caused great belly laughs. Words

that so generously allowed his friends to access the inexhaustible reservoir that was Colin's life experience."

An excerpt from the book:

"I was born and educated in New Zealand where my family were addicted to engineering, sailing, tramping or bushwalking, skiing and mountaineering. On leaving school I worked as surveyor's helper making military topo maps of the hitherto unmapped parts of New Zealand. At university I started tramping and mountaineering in unvisited country and on virgin peaks. On graduation I went to a good engineering job in Sydney, went back to NZ after a year, married Jane and brought her back to Sydney....

I had studied chemistry and chemical engineering because I thought it might be exciting and indeed it was: almost too exciting at times. We worked hard on safety and environment but it was early days and we had not yet got on top of the problems. I was thoroughly blown up for the first time and had to stay in there with my ears ringing and my hair on end while I supervised damage control, for 48 hours continuous....

In 1960, all the top New Zealand mountaineers were off to the Himalaya for the "Snow Man" expeditions. They changed planes at Mascot airport and I went there to see them. To my great surprise, Hillary of Everest and Hardie of Kangchenjunga took me aside and asked

me "Do you want to lead an expedition?" For once, I gave the right answer which was, "Yes, where's it going to?" It was going to the Carstensz Pyramid in Dutch New Guinea (Now known as Irian Jaya), an unclimbed peak of some 16,000 feet in remote, difficult, unexplored country...

...there was a letter from Warwick Deacock asking would I go with him to attempt Big Ben, the mountain on Heard Island. Jane had pencilled in on the margin "Yes, you can go."

So I came to go on the best prepared (by Warwick and Grahame Budd)and most successful voyage and climb of my life... "



Bushcare

Dangar Island Bushcare meet every second Saturday of the month, 9 am at the access track (149 R). Next sessions are December 12th, January 9th, February 13th and March 13th. Call Cybele on ~ 7142 for more information about joining or just turn up in your gardening clothes and we'll find you some tools to use.

As an introduction to some of the special plants we care for, we share with you a beautiful botanical drawing from one of our new members, Josephine, who has focused this month on a significant species to the Hornsby Shire, *P. formosum*.

Native Plant Profile by Josephine Bridge

'Handsome Flat Pea' - *Platylobium formosum*

This lovely small bush is indigenous to Dangar Island; look out for its rich yellow and red flowers when you're next walking around Riverview Avenue or up in the Reserve. Its main flowering season is from September to November, but plants often have a sprinkling of flowers throughout the year.

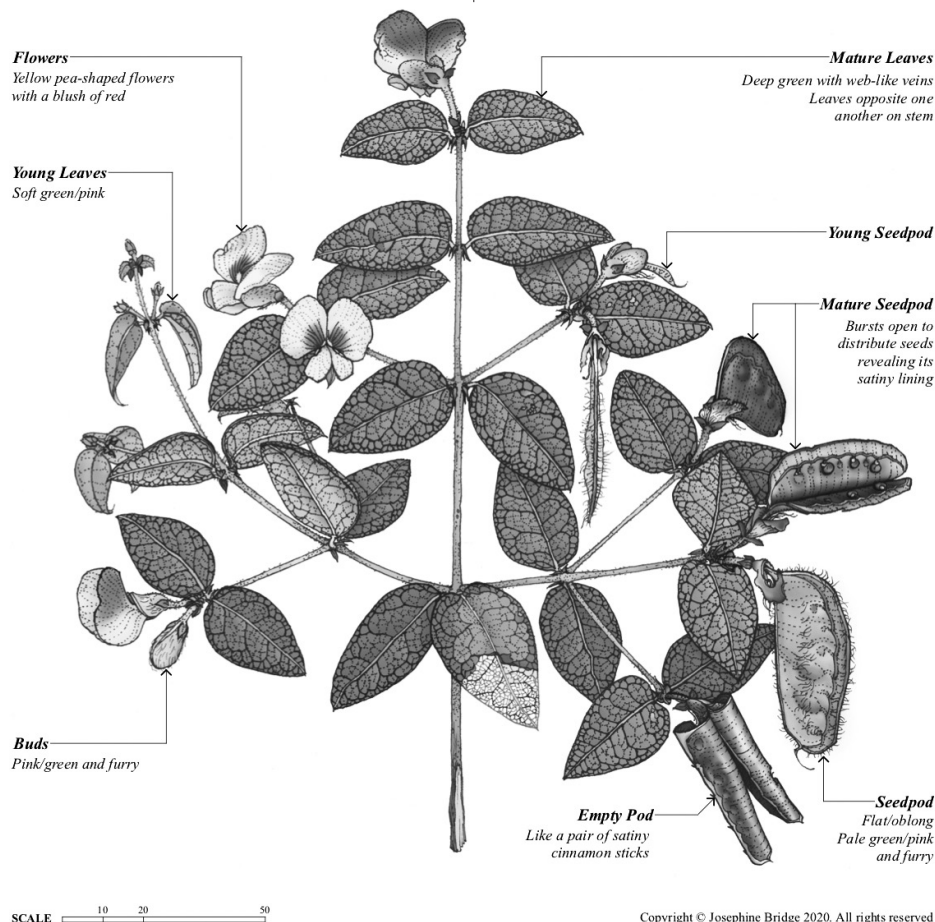
The Handsome Flat Pea has a broad native range along the east coast of Australia, from New South Wales up to southern Queensland. It can reach 1.5m tall, but bushes

on the Island are generally 1m or less, either growing upright or with a more straggling habit along the ground.

The flowers' nectar attracts native bees, wasps and butterflies - however, pea flowers such as these are mostly self-pollinating. Once fertilised, the petals drop off and the characteristic seed pod emerges - oblong, very flat, and an attractive green/pink colour (hence

its scientific name, from the Greek *platys* meaning 'flat/broad', *lobus* meaning 'pod' and from the Latin *formosus* meaning 'beautiful'.)

The seed pod hardens and turns brown as it matures, each half flicking outwards to disperse the seeds. A good way to identify *Platylobium formosum* is by its empty seed pods, which somewhat resemble pairs of shiny hanging cinnamon sticks.



Blue Crab Thinking

A young girl and I are walking on South Beach, on the mud flats at low tide. Swarms of little blue soldier crab running before us. They bury myriad little feet, slipping into wet tidal sand. They disappear. Gone in a trice.

'Look', she said. 'When they grow up, those blue crabs will be thoughts in somebody's brain'.

'How is that?'

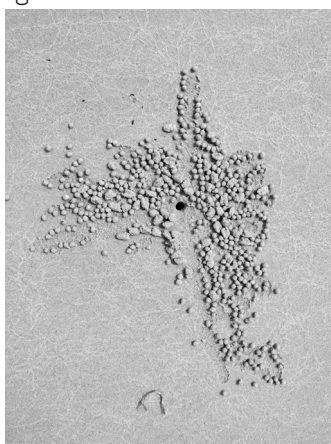
'Those little blue crabs are making somebody's brain in the future. Millions of thinking running along together'

'You mean, the beach is thinking'.

'Yes, then the thoughts bury in the sand. All gone. But don't worry; thoughts come up again when the beach is quiet'.

'What would happen if this beach and all the crabs died?'

'Well', she said, 'There'd be no more brains in the future'.



From the movement of creatures we learn patterns of creation. The pattering of crab feet in the sand print stories. Blue crabs writing on the book of tides.

Observation of pattern builds the repertoire of human thought. A human body holds the history of our long becoming. Acts of nature observed are woven in long story lines; the breathing of life and death; a weaving net of facts of life, interlaced throughout the waves and lands of the world. Such stories must interlace this river. Mangroves might be the custodians; mangroves speak a language of their own; they keep secrets.

This long river must be wrapped in many languages. Languages are cradles of civilisation. South Beach is a cradle of civilization. The blue crabs are thinking.

Craig San Roque (edited extract from 'Persephone's Suicide' in 'The Green Book - Depth Psychology and Climate Change', 2020, Routledge)



Dear Community members,

Spring is here and our community garden is flourishing. Our garden is currently alive with more bees, butterflies, worms and insects than we've ever seen before. Within seconds of a poppy springing open, it is covered with busy little bees collecting pollen. Each Sunday 8.30 till 12.30, we welcome a wonderful crew of DIGstars to the garden to tend the vegetables, plant out new seedlings, nurture seeds to life, care for the worm farm, create compost, improve the soil, chat, relax and connect with the community. Our garden is a space for everyone to enjoy. Feel free to join us anytime.



The DIGstars are currently busy raising money to install a tank before the heat of summer is upon us. The tank will hold water runoff from the club roof and provide water for the garden and also to the RFS when required. If you drop by you will see the roped off area indicating the places where tanks will be installed. A big shout out to local community

members who have donated to our Go Fund Me page too. You know who you are and we are humbled by your generosity.

Raffles and Mini Market -

Remember to pop over each Sunday to our mini market and buy a few tickets. They are great prizes! Our raffle is running through to the end of January with weekly draws. Thank you to our amazing island community of artists, writers, ceramicists, musicians, cooks and homeowners who have so generously donated spectacular prizes. We greatly appreciate your generosity. Our mini market has a great range of "goodies" for sale- anything from chai, slices, muffins, fermented pickles, mustards, recycled wallets or biscuits for sale. We even have special stalls from local artists selling beautiful wares.



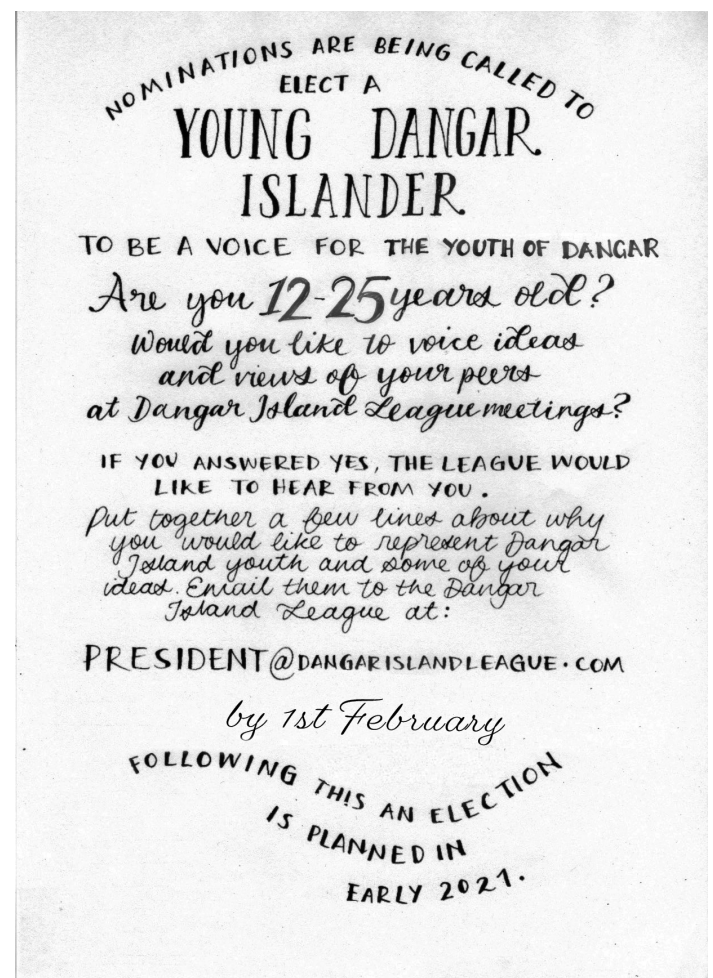
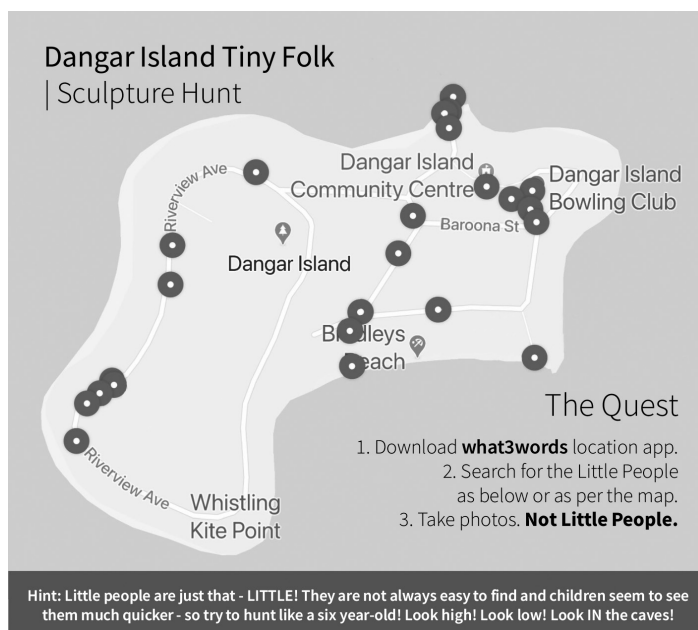
scan for water tank story

Garden fun facts: Turmeric - Its origin is ancient and its use dates back nearly 4000 years to the Vedic culture in India. From that time only it was used as a culinary spice and also had some religious significance.

Garden quote - *"The glory of gardening; hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Happy gardening all!

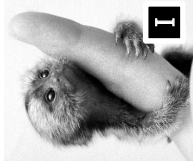
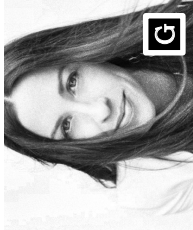
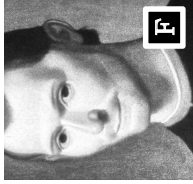
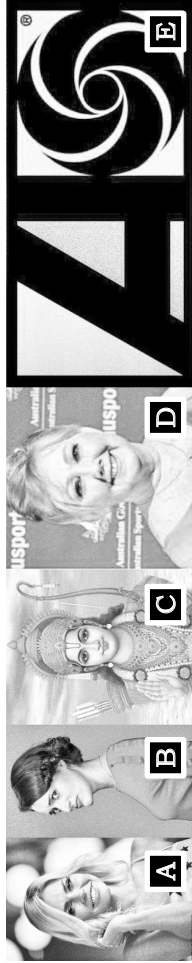
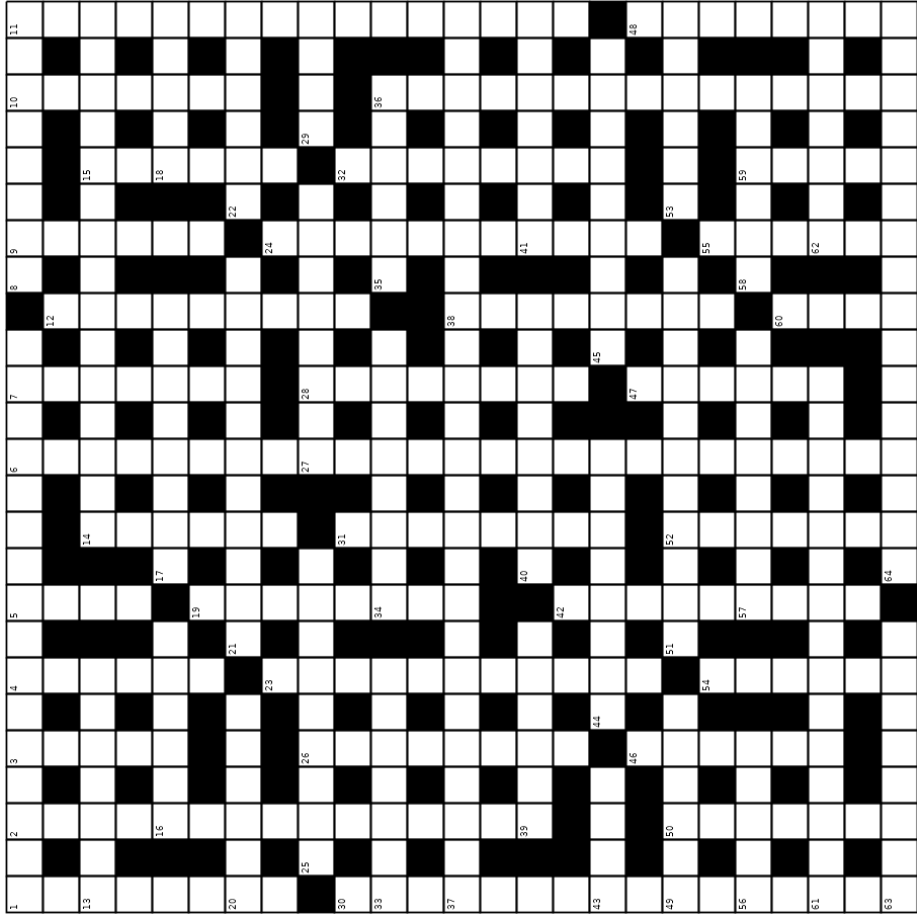


HOLIDAY XWORD

0104 by Chico

Summer 2020

Bring the whole crew together to test your general knowledge, cryptic wordplays and vocabulary. You can also do the puzzle online, with added features like colour photos, answer checking, answer revealing with annotations and a scratchpad for anagrams. Just head to dangarislandleague.com, where you can also get a pdf copy if you stuff this one up.



Across

- 1 Waffle evasively (4,5,3,4)
8 Geological period (8)
14 Dictatorship (15)
16 © Cheque writer compartment (6)
17 Practise (8)
18 © Nice boredom! (5)
20 First name of Love Island host, Pic A (6)
21 Illustrative example (4,2,5)
22 & 55d, 46d British TV writer, Pic B (6,6-6)
25 Valuable objects passed down through families (9)
27 African country, capital Yaounde (8)
29 Hindu deity, Pic C (4)
33 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (7)
34 Sports reporter Debbie, Pic D (8)
35 © Tribute, perhaps flourine by mouth (6)
37 Maya Angelou's 1969 autobiography (1,5,3,3,5,4,5)
39 Publicise (6)
40 see 15D
41 Supervise (7)
43 Send raunchy SMS (4)
44 Legendary R&B record label, Pic E (8)
45 © Riotous genre fare uncaged (4-5)
49 Agreement (6)
51 Father of the concept of ends justifying means, Pic F (11)
53 Bloke from marketing who inspired a nation by assembling a chicken coop (6)
56 Getafix, for example (5)
57 © Expose misleading of untypical data (8)
58 Her "Little Pill", Pic G (6)
61 Sydney's *atraz robustus* (6-3,5)
62 Game of chance (7)
63 Unrealistically depicted (8)
64 © Hypothesists mixed with pairs can treat injuries (16)

Down

- 1 Home of the 1000 (8)
2 Prozac, Zoloft, Lexapro etc (15)
3 © Paean disturbed sleep! (5)
4 © Some of Woy Woy's terrible shellfish (6)
5 Popular Asian food, literally 'sour beans' (4)
6 "Between a rock and a hard place" in Greek mythology (7,6,3,9)
7 This Italian province and city was a strategically important port in Greco-Roman times (7)
9 © Happy to shag and pull out (6)
10 Systematic study of the physical world through observation and experiment (7)
11 Plant that reaps, threshes and cleans a crop (7,9)
12 Patron saint of alpine sports since 1923 (2,7)
14 Motifs (6)
15 & 40a "Queen of Soul" gained success when she signed to 44A in 1966, Pic H (6,8)
19 Tiny, primitive primate native to South America, Pic I (8)
23 Hindus, for example (11)
24 Clavicles (6-5)
26 © Highway opus can cause traffic delays (8)
28 Liza, Pic J (8)
30 © Stalemates for Zapata or Kahlo, perhaps, and Getz takes off (7,9)
31 Lower Hawkesbury local (5-3)
32 Trilogy of tragedies from 5th century BC (8)
36 Hypermetropia (4-11)
38 © Invest in list twice (8)
42 Subterranean tomb galleries (9)
46 see 22A (6)
47 Jay won 3 Tony and 3 Academy Awards for musical libretti, Pic K (6)
48 Quick crossword clues (8)
50 Indian condiment (7)
52 Supreme self-confidence (7)
54 © Surf crest, two points (6)
55 see 22A (6)
59 Independent Australian political activist group formed in 2005! (5)
60 Comic Thomas who invented his own accent, Pic L (4)

