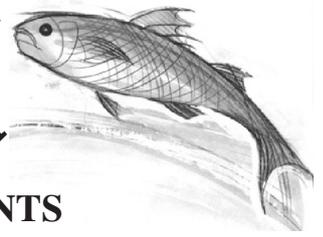


# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

VOL. #45

www.dangarisland.net

SUMMER 2014

## Science in Action at Brooklyn Public School

Jon Brock

As Jacob Bronowski once said, “The hand is the cutting edge of the mind”. We learn not so much by detached thinking but by observing the consequences of our own actions. Science is nothing more than the formalisation of this process: act, observe, and update your ideas accordingly.

lunar eclipse. Theo’s pinhole camera. India and Ava’s magnificent hot air balloon and Ella and Audrey’s disgusting taste challenge. There were exploding volcanoes, rockets, and soda bottles. And there was my personal favourite: Lisa’s study of canine intelligence or, as she called it, “Dognition”.

science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not ‘Eureka!’ but ‘That’s funny...’” Progress comes when our expectations are confounded, when the consequences of our actions are not what were originally predicted. We learn by being wrong. And perhaps it’s this openness to experimentation, this fearlessness of failure that makes kids such natural scientists.

One of my fondest memories of the past few years came when, after swimming lessons one Saturday, Elliott and I spent a happy hour or so throwing things into the river at Bobbin Head in order to test his evolving theories of why some things float whereas others don’t. By the time we left for home, we’d progressed from “heavy things sink” to “things that you can break will probably float”. Given the materials available, it was a reasonable working hypothesis, not too far removed from the scientific concept of “density”.

In fact, I like that we left the experiment hanging. To be continued... Science after all is a journey not a destination. More a verb than a noun. As the children of Brooklyn Public School so ably demonstrated, it really is the taking part that counts.



These principles were much in evidence this October at the Extraordinary Science Fair at Brooklyn Public School. In the weeks beforehand, the kids had each come up with a question and then designed and carried out an experiment at home to try and answer it.

On the big day, everyone brought their experiment into school. We had Leif and Luka with their bubbling bath salts. Maggie’s comprehensive study of height to foot-length ratios. Alex’s experimental biscuit bake-off. Mia’s botanical investigation of Dangar’s most prevalent flower colour. Elliott’s recreation of the

After the excitement of their experimental demonstrations, the children were treated to a guest talk from Dr Andrew Weatherall - a paramedic working with the Careflight Air Ambulance Team. Wearing his full flight gear and helmet, he explained the scientific principles of optics and aviation – and how they have come together in his own research, using infra red light to check for brain damage in the patients he’s called out to assist.

Andrew left the kids with an important message, courtesy of Isaac Asimov. “The most exciting phrase to hear in

### PRIMARY SCHOOL ETHICS TEACHERS

Jackie Nickolls

Brooklyn Public School is seeking volunteers to become Primary Ethics teachers in our established program. Parents and members of the community are welcome to join our friendly team. We offer an alternative to religious scripture in the School on Monday mornings for half an hour. Volunteers complete a two day training course and a Working With Children Police check. The training course is available either weekdays or weekends at a variety of locations to suit you. You will be provided with a comprehensive curriculum that is available online, and lots of support from our other friendly volunteers. The position is available as job share if you are unable to commit to every Monday. Class sizes are small and based on age. If you are interested in helping our kids develop an enquiring, ethical mind (and perhaps discovering new things yourself!) please contact Jackie Nickolls on 0416 527 744 or check out [primaryethics.com.au](http://primaryethics.com.au) and join our wonderful team!

### MULLET MAIL BACK ISSUES Archived online

A selection of back issues of the Mullet Mail are available on our Community website. You can access the site at either [dangarislandleague.net](http://dangarislandleague.net) or [dangarisland.net](http://dangarisland.net).



# End of our first year as Community First Responders

Chris Sanderson

About this time last year an intrepid band of islanders were signing on the dotted line to join the NSW Ambulance service and set up a brand new community group on the island – the Community First Responders. A year later we are well and truly up and running – trained, with our own (small but perfectly formed) base right next to our comrades in the fire brigade, well-equipped, and providing an emergency response in very good time when we are needed. There is still plenty more to do as we grow and develop this new organisation – but we have had positive feedback so far from fellow-islanders and the NSW Ambulance about our work. As we come to the end of this very big first year, I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge the wonderful team of CFRs who have been on the roster since July, covering the island 24 hours a day, seven days a week for medical emergencies. You know who you are! (Angela, Charlie, Cynthia, Kim, Michelle, Manfred, and Mark, – and Charlie – who we will soon be seeing in uniform.)

Now we are recruiting once again. If you are interested in joining this great team, or would like to know more, we would *really* love to talk to you. There will be another training program in the new year. Think about it, people!



Scott Dries, Paramedic Educator, tries out the SKED for size. This stretcher is for carrying patients over rough terrain, and yes, it fits on the buggy.

## Fundraiser

We will be providing some Piratical Refreshments at the pantomime. Whilst we are well supported by NSW Ambulance, there are a few important things that are not covered, and one of them is the EpiPens that we keep for those with severe allergic reactions. So - come and enjoy the show, have something to eat, and you will be supporting us as well!

## Medical emergencies – Asthma

Asthma is a common and potentially life-threatening problem, which can affect children as well as older people. Most people with asthma have a plan for managing it, and over time they get to know their symptoms, what triggers them, and what to do. But the reality of being on an island can make that harder, because if an asthma attack is not responding to the usual treatment, then it is important to get to hospital. In the past people may have felt their best option was to take themselves or their sick child across the river by boat - often in the middle of the night, which is when asthma tends to become worse.

Now that we have the Dangar Island CFR Unit, if you call Triple Zero for someone with asthma we can provide you with a rapid response at any time of the night or day, providing nebulised ventolin plus oxygen, and other emergency care as needed. If you or your child have a severe asthma attack we will ensure the *fastest possible response* from the ambulance service, working with them to co-ordinate the retrieval process. For an asthmatic who is very sick, who could deteriorate quickly, and who needs to have care straight away to make sure they don't get worse, this is a far safer and better option than getting into a boat.

## Transporting Patients

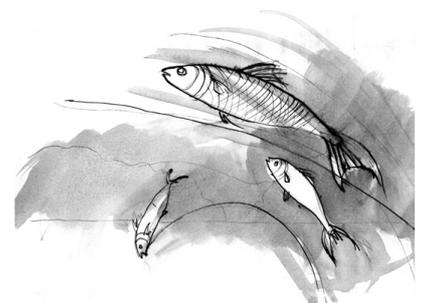
### – “On Water Matters”

A number of jobs that we have done so far have involved either the Water Police or Marine Rescue in providing transport for our patients. Our shared protocols and arrangements are evolving well. I would like to thank our colleagues in these organisations – because on all of the occasions that they have attended, the process has gone really professionally, quickly and smoothly. So if you are wondering about the likely speed of the response, or what is the best thing to do if you are becoming sick and are feeling worried about how to get medical help, the answer now is really really simple – just dial triple zero. Have a happy Christmas everyone. We are here if you need us (although we hope you don't)

– JUST DIAL

**TRIPLE ZERO.**

christinersanderson  
@gmail.com / 15N



# Dangar Island League

Peter Wolfe

Since the AGM in September the League Executive has followed a variety of projects despite the positions of President and Secretary being vacant. These roles are rotated within the Executive team which isn't ideal but we have managed. So the first message is-please consider joining the executive for the remaining part of the year. Speak to any of the League Exec about participating and maybe come along to our meeting as an observer to see how it works.

Important matters for Dangar will come into the Brooklyn Master Plan, being progressed by Hornsby Shire Council (HSC). Other than the on line survey (which we hope everybody filled in), there has been not much action. This is probably since the development at Peat Island is under scrutiny-a preliminary ruling from Gosford Council about the direction of this development is expected early December and it then enters years of Government process. What happens at Peat Island and what happens in Brooklyn are connected. On both of these subjects the River Communities are combining into a River Coalition for lobbying. The first meeting of this Group was end November and, at our request, Bronek acted as our representative. As the work progresses, Dangar interests will be represented through the League by Bronek and another member of the Exec. We will keep everybody up to date as this gathers momentum in 2015.

It has been that time of year for the iPart review of Private Ferry Operations, and this includes the Brooklyn-Dangar service. This time the iPart review took a different approach. Rather than to consider only cost inflation, they went back to basics and calculated for each route a fare required to ensure long term sustainability based on likely traffic and efficient operation. In the case of our service, the operations were found to be efficient but the fare level below the economic level. Consequently the fare increase

proposed is 30c of which 20c is covering increasing costs and 10c towards reaching the long term level needed. Unfortunately, this increase will still leave fares below the economic level calculated by iPart. After review of all this and discussions with Rick, the league has commented to iPart on this increase, especially favoring the study in 2015 of applying the so called "Bus model" where future increases are moderated by increased subsidy reflecting environmental and social benefits. Sorry this is all a bit technical for your Christmas reading, but the bottom line is that fares are likely to increase by 30c in January. Concession fares will still apply. We need to work with iPart in 2015 to minimise future increases.

HSC have also come back to the League following our comments on the Wharf rebuild and we facilitated a meeting between island stakeholders and HSC to review some new proposals. The good news is that there is a serious attempt to address some of the concerns about their earlier proposals. However they are still a way away from a working solution and more study and design is in hand, preparing for a public consultation early February.

Remember the wildlife signs? Well it seems they are now in production and we can expect them to appear soon. Happy Christmas, Birds! Remember the number signs for your jetties? Lots of you still have them waiting to be put up. Be assured that Santa will not visit any house with an unplaced jetty sign.

Staying on the Christmas theme, we were pleased to donate \$300 towards the Christmas Panto and hope that this event kicks off the best ever Island Christmas and New Year.

Happy Christmas

**Dangar Island League Executive**

*Vanessa O'Keefe, Hans Pol, Judith Doyle, Judy Nikola, Trevor Kanaley, Tony Isgrove, Peter Wolfe.*

## Science in Action at Brooklyn Public School



# An Elvis Wedding in Las Vegas

Therese Rutledge

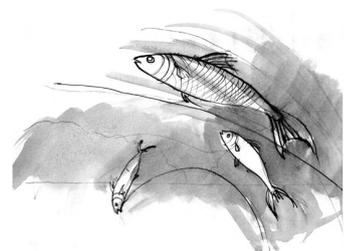
Guess who went and got married?

A big congratulations to Therese and Andy who were married at the **Graceland Wedding Chapel**, Las Vegas in November this year.

As Andy celebrated his 50th birthday and with the bride given away by Elvis it was a double celebration!



*Christmas*  
*Carols Cruise*  
Brought to you by the  
**Riverboat Postman**  
*Sunday 14 Dec*  
*Departs Brooklyn at 3.45pm*  
*and Dangar Island at 4pm*  
*Resep essential, first in best dressed*  
**0400 600 111 or [info@riverboatpostman.com.au](mailto:info@riverboatpostman.com.au)**  
Drinks available for purchase on board  
Byo snacks. Cruise for free



# Orangutan seen on Dangar Island

Peter and Lynda

Islanders and visitors gathered on Saturday 1st November at a cocktail party fundraiser for The Orangutan Project (TOP).

The event was hosted by us at the Bali House on Bradleys Beach. In true Dangar fashion no sooner had we started we were hit by the fierce storm but we carried on regardless.

Over 60 guests heard from Gail Browning, NSW Volunteer Co-Ordinator about the role that TOP plays in protecting the rain forest to provide habitat for orangutans and other threatened species, and in rehabilitating orangutans displaced through the spread of palm oil plantations.

Gail informed guests about the importance of avoiding products containing palm oil. The expansion of palm oil plantations is the main cause of deforestation in Borneo and Sumatra, and often leads to adult orangutans being killed and their babies orphaned. TOP funds orphanages and protects areas of remaining rainforest.

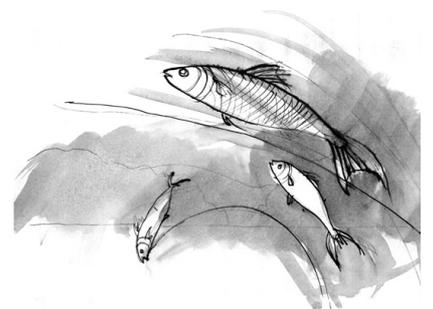
A guest orangutan came along to reinforce the message and was pleased to find that all the canapés and cocktails prepared by Lynda and her team were palm oil free.

Peter and Lynda encourage Islanders to safeguard an area of rainforest the size of Dangar Island for \$35 a year. Many have taken up the challenge already and donations are still coming in. We have passed the \$4000 mark already.

For more details on the visit or the work done by TOP go to [orangutan.org.au](http://orangutan.org.au) or call Peter or Lynda 0420 303 414.



*Photographs by Bill Robinson, Dangar Island.*



# EXTRAORDINARY AGM Dangar Island Bowling Club

Matthew Johnson, President

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 AT 11 AM

Due to new work commitments Matt Johnson and Tom Garvey are stepping down from their respective roles as President and Treasurer/Licensee of the Bowling Club. An Extraordinary AGM will be held on the above date to elect a new Board and then for the new board to elect office bearers. Applications to join the Board need to be made in writing and delivered to the Club before the start of the meeting. We love our Club but unfortunately with Tom in a new role in central NSW and Matt working from Brisbane we can't manage the work of the Club long distance. We need YOU to step up with the day-to-day running of the best little club on the river. Many hands make these roles much easier. Neither Tom or myself are selling or moving out as we love the island and hope that others can continue the good work to keep the club open and viable. Once our contracts are up we shall return!!!

## DIMC

The DIMC Executive

(Ant Schinckel, Sue Merricks, Stuart Allen, Dave Pakes, Tom Weddin)

A quick summary of The Dangar Island Mooring Cooperative status and activities:

- the Coop is a fully incorporated Cooperative with the NSW Department of Fair Trading
- it has a bank account and executive committee
- it has a full set of approved rules and by-laws
- it has a business plan
- it has over 40 expressions of interest for spots it has indicative cost estimates of the construction costs from 2 wharf builders
- these estimates are consistently in the \$15 – 20,000 category per spot
- extensive interaction with Hornsby Shire Council over the past year, and recent discussions including other stakeholders
- interaction with over Government agencies such as RMS, State Planning
- discussions with insurance brokers

Next activities include:

- completion of the application for membership form
- update to the business plan
- finalisation of the Development Application (DA) and submission
- web site updates

- other statutory processes as needed including Gateway Determination if required

We will soon open the Cooperative to members. This process will involve calling for membership applications, which need to be submitted with either a cheque or deposit into DIMC's account for the deposit amount. Note that submitting an application for membership does NOT automatically entitle you to membership. You must meet the criteria on the membership form, and as detailed on our web site:

<http://www.dangarislandmooringcoop.net>

In summary, recall the primary consideration for membership is associated with a) your status on the island (i.e. that you have some status as a resident or homeowner), b) confirmation that you do not have your own permanent, deep water jetty (except for "angel investors" – see the web site and application form for details).

Note: the deposit money will be "at risk" meaning it will be used to pay for some of the costs in the next stages of creating the facility such as the Development Application, legal fees, and any other activity required such as work around a rezoning application etc. If the coop

does not go ahead, only the balance of funds not expended at that point can be refunded.

A business plan for the Coop will also be available.

We will be providing a series of meetings at the Hall for people wishing to hear details of the application and membership process. Copies of our Business Plan and Membership Application Form will be available at the meetings. These will be advertised in advance but tentative dates are:

**4pm, Saturday 20th December;**  
**4pm Saturday 17 January 2015;**  
**8pm Wednesday 28 January 2015**

Applications for membership of the Dangar Island Mooring Cooperative will be received, only, by way of the approved application form. Receipt of the form at the registered address of the cooperative and receipt the full deposit amount into the designated bank account by 5pm on Friday 6 February 2015 will constitute an approved application but cannot guarantee membership. Successful applicants will be notified by email or island letter box by 8th February 2015.

**Hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year break !**

# Dangar Island Rural Fire Brigade

Kathy Merrick and Cybele Shorter

On 19th October we celebrated the official opening of the newly rebuilt Station, and our new fire truck. Dangar 7 Bravo is custom-built for the island, and together with the new station facilities, promises to be a great boost to our emergency response capacity on and around Dangar Island.

We have recently responded to fires caused by lightning at Sandy Bay. These incidents provide good practice working with other local brigades, and rock climbing!

In spring the brigade successfully completed two hazard reductions in Kiparra Reserve - a broad area burn in the Northern section, and a series of pile burns in the North-East section. Strategic burn planning is ongoing, however please remember, the most effective fire risk reduction is clearing fine fuels near to your buildings

## Get your home and family ready

You will have seen the NSW RFS ads on tv – ‘planning to make a plan is not a plan’. Now is the time to think about what you and your family will do if there is a bush fire in the area.

Your best protection is preparation:

- Prepare your family
- Prepare your property
- Prepare your leave early plan
- Prepare your stay and defend plan
- Understand the fire ratings and stay informed

Talk about your plans with family, friends and neighbours before an emergency happens. Think about neighbours who might need some extra assistance and how you can help them.

There is heaps of helpful information on the NSW RFS website <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au> where you can download a copy of the Bush Fire Survival Plan, or get the ‘MyFirePlan’ mobile phone app.

## 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice

Changes were made to the eligibility area on 27 November, effective immediately. Re-confirm your eligibility using the online tool before taking any action. The area covered by the code has been reduced and further review of the code is underway.

## Join Us

The Brigade is always on the look-out for new members. You will receive training, a stylish yellow uniform, and you can tell your friends that you are a fireman. You will also be doing something for your community. If you would like further information, just talk to one of the brigade members.

*Photograph by Bill Robinson, Dangar Island.*



# Ray Witchard

Phillip Holland

It is with regret that I inform the island of the passing of Ray Witchard.

Ray was a Life Member of the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade and Captain from 1973 to 1992, when he left the brigade. He was the island caretaker and mowed the streets and tended to details for council until he retired.

Our condolences and thoughts are with his family and friends.

# Christmas Day Ferry Times

Matt and Tyrone

There will be two services leaving Dangar and Brooklyn in the morning and afternoon on Christmas Day. Bookings are essential and payment must be made prior to the day.

**Dangar Island 10am**  
**Brooklyn 10:15am**  
(via Wobby if required)

**Dangar Island 11am**  
**Brooklyn 11:15am**  
(via Wobby if required)

**Dangar Island 5:30pm**  
**Brooklyn 6pm**  
(via Wobby if required)

**Dangar Island 6:30pm**  
**Brooklyn 7pm**  
(via Wobby if required)

Matt will run the morning services and Tyrone will run the afternoon services. For enquiries call 0448 101 016.

## FARES

\$15 adult  
\$10 concession  
\$5 primary school child

## Family

2 adults/2 children \$30  
2 adults/1 child \$25  
2 adults \$25

**FREE**

Dangar Dramatics presents  
**DANGEROUS ISLE**



**THE PIRATES ARE COMING**

**6PM 13TH DECEMBER**

**DANGAR ISLAND HALL**

FOOD AVAILABLE AS FUNDRAISING FOR THE FIRST RESPONDERS  
• SAUCY PIRATE HOT DOGS • HIDDEN TREASURE LUCKY DIP • MERMAID FANCY FRUIT PUNCH

*\* Pirate may vary from photo*

# Dangar Island Café

Fiona Mullen

Some of you may have noticed **changes to the shop**, both in the layout and the menu. We are getting a positive reception for the new items introduced.

We are also, slowly, releasing some **house made goodies** to take home. Frozen meals have become very popular, the range will vary but currently includes: **Thai Green Chicken Curry with Rice, Beef Stroganoff with Pasta and Vegetable Curry with Basmati Rice.** The handmade ice cream is fabulous, so far we have had **Salted Caramel, Strawberry Swirl and Raspberry Ripple.** These foods are all made with pure ingredients, no nasty additives!

Art Exhibitions coming up: Textile artist **Niki McDonald** will be opening **January the 10th** 4pm to 6pm. Niki has had well deserved success with her urban pop art style paintings.

**Dangar photography on the 28th of February.** 4 local photographers will show our world through their eyes. Opening is from 4pm to 6pm.

**Matt Glendenning** will be exhibiting his popular work of this unique environment. Date to be set.

As always, we are open **9am – 5pm every day** except for Christmas day, kitchen closes at 4pm. **Public Holiday** hours are **10am – 4pm.**

Many thanks are due to some fabulous people that assist in keeping the wheels going around.

These are the staff, volunteers and customers that do lovely things quietly in the background. I am very, very grateful. May you all have relaxing and enjoyable holidays.

# Trad (Wandering Jew) vs Commelina

Cybele Shorter

Most of us know the invasive weed ‘wandering Jew’ (these days it is referred to as Trad which reflects its botanic name *Tradescantia fluminesis*). This prolific groundcover has the qualities of a succulent and can regrow from the smallest stem given the right conditions. It can cause hayfever or itchiness and has allopathic qualities that weaken nearby plants until it is the dominant ground cover. You can tell



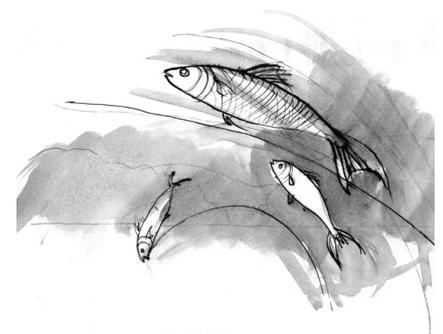
*Commelina cyanea* (Hornsby Online Herbarium)

the difference between Trad and its native ‘look-alike’ *Commelina cyanea* by looking at the leaf. The *Commelina* leaf arises from an enclosed sheath which is not found in Trad. *Commelina* has iridescent cyan or blue flowers which are seen from spring to summer. Trad on the other hand has white flowers. The preferred way to remove Trad is by hand as it is resistant to herbicide.

It is important to remove all parts of stems to prevent regrowth. The weed can be composted but if you have chooks, you may know that they enjoy eating it! Take care planning your weeding as sometimes it may be better to leave Trad in place rather than leave bare soil and disturb the protective habitat of frogs and lizards.



*Tradescantia fluminesis* (Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc)



# Dangar Island Playtime Playgroup

Vanessa Payne



Dangar Island Playtime has wrapped up another year. We've had a lovely year with the kids doing craft, playing with goo and lots of playdough and many hours (and metres) of train track building. We will celebrate our Christmas party this Friday 12th December with a visit from Santa.

In 2015 two of our founding members, Edie Di Dato and Ollie Armstrong (Little Wobby), will start big school at Brooklyn public. We wish them all the best for their new adventures.

*Dangar Playtime will resume at the beginning of term 1, 2015, Friday 30th January.*

**Dangar Island hall Fridays 9:30-11:30am. \$4/child. Morning tea for kids and carers.**

**CONTACT :: VANESSA PAYNE 0414 317 260**

# Gone But Not Forgotten

Judy Nikola

On Saturday 6th December, a group of islanders got together at the Community Hall to remember our effervescent friend *Sue Baxter*, who died in March 2013. Sue was an amazingly creative person and we welcomed back to the island her ‘Water Cascade’ sculpture which was originally displayed at the 2013 Sculpture Walk where it won third prize. It has been lovingly restored to Sue’s original idea in January 2013 to have the cascade in mosaic by *Mary Lazaroo* (long term friend of Sue’s and ex-islander) and *Natalie Maras* (upcoming sculptor - google her!!) Some of the mosaic tiles on the sculpture came from Sue’s personal craft collection. You would have noticed recent works going on at the Community Hall including drainage repairs. The sculpture will be placed in the garden outside the hall which is a work in progress.

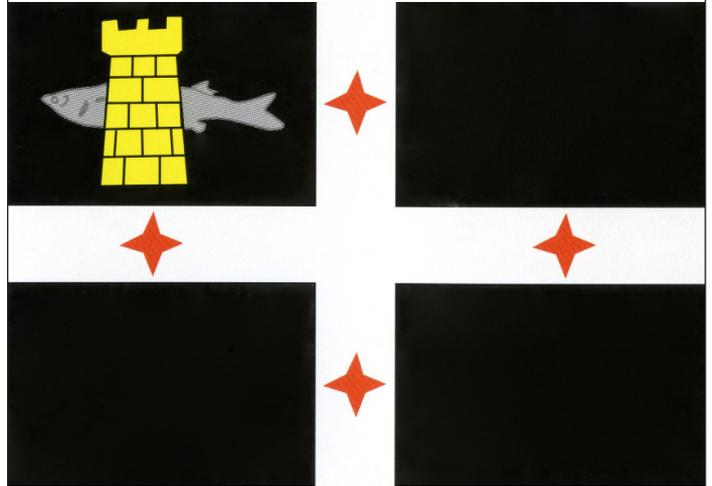


Photographs by Bill Robinson, Dangar Island.



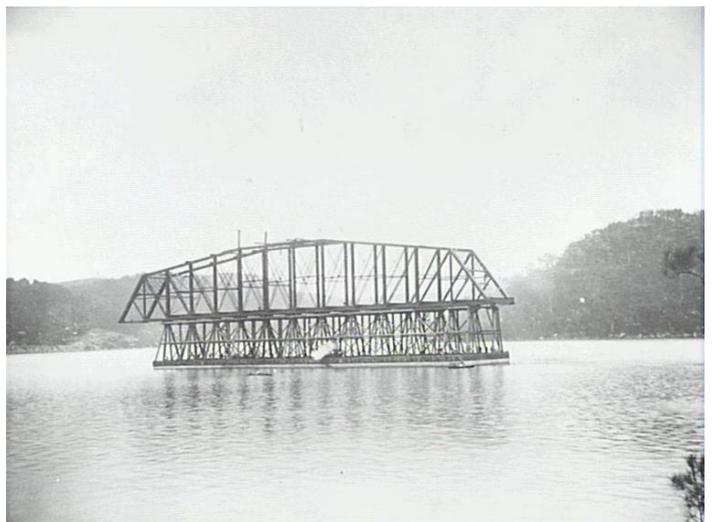
# Dangar Island Historical Society

Peter Wolfe, President



## WINNERS OF THE 2014 OWEN NANNELLI MEMORIAL AWARD

We are receiving the award on December 10th for “Outstanding contribution to the education and promotion of Hornsby Shire’s heritage”. The award is for the 125th Celebrations of the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge, and once again thanks to everybody who contributed to the event. Well done Dangar!



The first completed span of the original Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge is floated out to the piers. A 6 inch manila rope was stretched from the Dangar wharf to the piers and the pontoon attached to it so the tide and wind wouldn’t push the massive pontoon in the wrong direction.

# The Elf Who Came In From The Cold

Bruce Lambert

Malcolm Mugglesworth was angry. He tipped over the dolls 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 over-worked 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.

## Halloween

Tony Partridge

Having lived in Canada in a previous life I was familiar with the 'trick or treat' Halloween tradition - but had forgotten that Montreal temperatures in late October are considerably lower than in Sydney, so pumpkins last for days. Not here! Sue and I put this sad pumpkin out, lit up and in perfect condition, the day before the event so that it would be noticed, not expecting the poor thing to turn so quickly to a mush. Did the job, though, as four groups of hob-goblins, witches and other horrifying apparitions followed the lights up our steps, the first Halloween visitors we have had here on the island. Fortunately we were armed with appropriate treats so we didn't experience any tricks, but we did receive many thanks and smiles. Very rewarding.



# Dangar Island Fire Brigade Opening

photographs by Mel Anderson



## Pav's Pantry

### Christmas Goodies

Ross Higgins

### Salted Butterscotch Squares

- 250 gm granulated sugar
- 1 cup double cream
- 30 gm butter
- 60 gm liquid glucose
- 3 teaspoons sea salt

1. Combine ingredients in heavy based saucepan.
2. Stir over medium heat until the sugar dissolves.
3. Increase heat to medium high and boil until mixture reaches firm ball stage. Test by dropping a teaspoonful in iced water—the mixture should be firm enough to shape into a ball.
4. Pour the syrup into a 20 cm square baking paper lined tray and cool to room temperature.
5. Cut into 3 cm squares.

*Salted butterscotch squares will keep in an airtight container for up to 5 days.*

### Rum Balls

(Uncooked)

- 125 gm drained cherries
- Brown underproof rum  
(if you really want a kick, use overproof)

1. Soak cherries in rum overnight.
2. Make a stiff chocolate icing.
3. Dip each cherry in icing and roll in chocolate sprinkles or coconut and chill.

### Icing

- 1 1/2 cups icing sugar
- 1 tablespoon Cocoa
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

1. Cream butter and sugar.
2. Add other ingredients.
3. Icing must be very still.