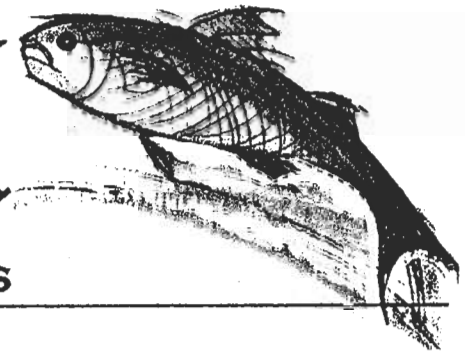


# Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

#9

April 2002

## Dangar Island League

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on Sunday 5 May at 2pm  
in the Community Hall

**Motion on Notice: That the Dangar Island League become a nonprofit incorporated association under the Associations Incorporated Act 1984. Its name would then be the Dangar Island League Inc.**

*Moved:* Peter Gurney  
*Seconded:* Ron Barrelle

This is the chance for members to either accept or reject incorporation for the League. Speakers for and against the motion will be called for from the floor so if you have an opinion one way or the other then come along and have your say. As the Seconder of the motion, Ron Barelle (aka "Ron from the shop") will speak last. This is the only business that the Special General Meeting will address so after the motion is put, whatever the outcome, there will be an ordinary League meeting. Agendas for this ordinary meeting will be posted about the place two weeks before.

**T**his newsletter is produced under the auspices of the Dangar Island League in order to inform the community of the issues in which the League are involved on behalf of the community. The Dangar Island

If you are unsure about incorporation and would like to know more there are pamphlets about it and a discussion paper at the shop. Feel free to contact Cath Phillips 99857201 or Leyla Moncelet 99857 384 with questions.

## Alluvium

Thank you for everyone who participated in and patronised the inaugural Alluvium exhibition. Due to an enthusiastic expression of interest by most people who I have talked to, we will be doing this again.

If you had something to contribute to the show and I did not involve you, I am sorry. Please bring yourself to my attention and I'll add you to the growing list of Islanders who are making, doing and creating many amazing works.

I feel the success of the weekend was the participation of so many people so that we can appreciate and be proud of ourselves and each other. Keep up the creative spirit and work towards next year. Conceptual contributions and technical contributions would be a welcome addition.

Cybele

T H I N K I N G  
S T I N K I N G

from  
Ron Barrelle at the shop

Unless you have a new model septic system, Envirocycle, Biocycle, etc, your septic will probably need pumping out.

What happens is that your septic tank is sized (or should have been) in capacity in accordance with the number of people using it. Therefore the capacity is critical for it to work - the bacteria and enzymes all chomping away to make it pure, clear water for your absorption trenches.

However over time, the tank gradually fills with non-organic matter - hair pins, plastic, coins but mostly sand and grit from people showering, dirty feet and from washing grubby clothes. This grit doesn't break down biologically and get pumped off to the trenches, it just accumulates in the bottom of the tank AND THIS REDUCES the capacity of the tank, which means the waste doesn't properly break down before going to the trenches which, in turn, means the trenches get trashed too.

Therefore the grit needs to be cleared out (generally every 5 to 7 years) and thus the...

### OUR ISLAND HOME

To celebrate Heritage Week

An exhibition of material  
from the archives of the

Dangar Island Historical Society

**D**angar Island League in order to inform the community of the issues in which the League are involved on behalf of the community. The Dangar Island League represents the community to Council and other Government bodies, whose decision-making processes affect the quality of life of our community. Resident groups such as the League give structure for these bodies to respond to; ARE listened to, and often give more weight to an issue, than individual contribution. Residents with a community issue that they wish to take action on, can approach the committee with view to form a sub-committee for that reason. Meetings are held in the community hall on a regular basis.

Current positions are held by the following residents:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Cath Phillips
<b>Vice President:</b>	Hendrikus van Hasselt
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leyla Moncelet
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Gurney
<b>Committee:</b>	Jenny Rowe Lindy Horman Claire Quoyle Ron Barrelle
<b>Pedestrian precinct sub-committee:</b>	Ana Pollak Jenny Shanley
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Jenny S & Heather D

Contributions to the Mullet Mail are very welcome and can be left at the shop post office facility. If possible, please include digital word or text document on floppy disk. Alternatively, email to [jshanley@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jshanley@ozemail.com.au). All contributions will be considered and published depending on available space.

paper at the shop. Feel free to contact Cath Phillips 99857201 or Leyla Moncelet 99857 384 with questions.

## PUBLIC MOORING FACILITY FOR THE ISLAND

We thought we'd have another go at trying to get some kind of public mooring facilities for islanders at the wharf. Yes, it's been tried before but just like Robert the Bruce, we are going to have another stab at it. In late May the league will call a public meeting to look at current rules and regulations, discuss options and take a creative approach to problem solving.

If you're interested have a think about it and come along. Notices for the meeting will be posted as soon as we can agree on a date (that's the hard part).



An exhibition of material from the archives of the Dangar Island Historical Society

will be presented  
At the Community Hall  
On Saturday 27th April  
and Sunday 28th April  
10am - 3pm

There will be a section and quiz for Budding Young Dangar Island Historians (No prizes, just the fun of hunting down the answers)

**FIRE ANTS** - last issues report of ants on DI was thankfully, not confirmed. A pamphlet is included in this issue for your information, courtesy of Dept of Ag.

- ed.

Therefore the grit needs to be cleared out (generally every 5 to 7 years) and thus the...

### ISLAND PUMP OUT WAS BORN!

Likely to be on a weekend in May

- Likely to cost \$700 - \$800 (???) - Prices will depend on how many sign up
- Need to be paid by cheque in advance per property and cheque handed over on completion
- Contractor has previously done Mackerel Beach and Scotland Island
- Lids will have to be unscrewed off fibreglass tanks prior to the pump out truck arriving (a small industry lurks here).

There is a list at the shop of about 24 houses so far - make sure your name is on it as it will cost you about double this to have it done as a one off job with barging, etc.

Council's current "licensing" arrangement for septics may well ask for this to be done in it's next round of licensing as the tank capacity is critical to its operation particularly since dishwashers and washing machines tend to overload old systems.

P.S The exception for the Envirocycle, etc systems is because they have to be certified annually through a maintenance contract - which costs \$350 or so per year. So \$700 +/- every 5 to 7 years isn't so bad

Rubbish collected by Bill and Georgla from the South Beach over a 4 week period, including a heap of dog poo, plastic bottles etc. Yuk - Please help keep our Island clean .

# Blast from the Past

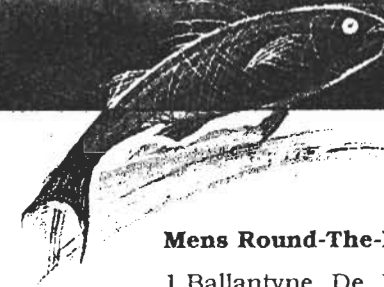
From the Dangar Island Historical Society's files

The following letter, from Bruce Stewart, was received by the DIHS in April 2001 :

"Dear Sir - I have just received a copy of the Guide to Historic Dangar Island, sent to me by my brother who lives in Sydney, and I thought I would write about my recollections of living on the Island with my parents and five brothers and sisters. We lived there from approx 1943 to approx 1953. I hope some of these stories may be of interest.

- Present shop was built on site (not shifted) by my father B.F. Stewart, approx 1948-1950.
- My father was the first Captain of the Fire Brigade, after he built the first fire station.
- He also built the house at the stone water tower (Tower House).
- The horse and cart was owned by Bill Mason (not Tom) and the horse's name was "Heather", a blue roan.
- The first vehicle was a truck owned by Mr Compton.
- My father, B.F. Stewart, built many houses after WWII on the island, including shop and house for Emanuel
- Kassmatis\*, plus house opposite the shop, in which we lived.
- My father had the adjoining boatsheds and ran a boat hiring business, which I looked after when I was just a boy about 12 years old.
- Once during WWII the ferry boat was late coming back after the last train was delayed at Brooklyn. No boat was allowed on the water after 6pm. It was dark and as the ferry neared the Island wharf, the Army fired a shot across its bows - Mannie stood on the bow shouting "Don't shoot, it's the Dangar Island ferry." I think they fired again - just for the sport!
- Another story which involved Mannie. One day he left the wharf to go the mainland with no passengers - setting the boat on course, he proceeded to walk around the side with two cream cans in his hands. He fell into the water - the boat proceeded to travel by itself, it reached the roadbridge before the river boat the "Surprise", skippered by Johnny Shakeshaft, came alongside. Johnny jumped aboard and stopped the motor - Mannie swam ashore! (Note: There are a number of versions of this story in the DIHS files)
- My father built three houses for Noel Monkman, just up the hill from the store - "Rivervlew", "Tower House" and one other. He also built for Mr & Mrs Schiebel on the beach. He did most of the work on Norm French's house, before he made the tennis courts.
- One family on the Island lived in a cave at the back of their block while the house was built. Their name was Steele

## SPORTS



### DDDD RESULTS

#### Girls U16 Sprint

1. Monique Ewen
2. Richenda Ewen
3. Amrit Dean

It was Clay v. Liston all over again as the Ewen sisters faced off on the beach and had to be separated by security staff. Height clinched it for Ewen Senior, who is now as tall as most adults, in her last year in this category.

#### Boys U16 Sprint

1. Ebon Baxter
2. Milo Curtis
3. Guy Saunders

Curtis was the revelation of the day, easily beating a confident Saunders twice and falling only to the superior experience of Baxter. A huge prospect for the future and has already snapped up by the DIS (Dangar Institute of Sport).

#### 12 Apostles

2 boats sank, winner being Steven and Mish Boyle's Rowing Thing.

#### Womens Sprint

1. Cybele Shorter
2. Louisa Murray
3. Chabela Torres

#### Mens Sprint

1. Ballantyne De Wolf
2. Cdr John Murray
3. Ian Cameron

#### Womens Round-The-Island

1. Cybele Shorter 19:17:37
2. Lilla (USA/Caledonia) 19:45:45
3. Louisa Murray 20:39:30

A strong field this year, including a rare shirt-on dory entry from the Oldest Competitor Turner. Shorter's famous gallantry was plucked by the threat of the American, who beat an out-of-sorts

#### Mens Round-The-Island

1. Ballantyne De Wolf 17:40
2. Rodney Bryson 18:00
3. Cdr John Murray 18:00

One of the classics, with the surprise return of Bryson, the hitherto unbeaten 3-time champion from Patonga, De Wolf challenging for his treble and fancied youngster Reese, all in with a chance. In the end a clear win for the still-unbeaten De Wolf, with Reese's youthful enthusiasm not quite matching his tactics in blustery conditions. A thrilling battle for second won by Bryson over the seasoned campaigner Murray, who had looked in control all the way to Coolongookook. Saunders and Reese attempted to start facing backwards (which in rowing is forwards), a tactic unlikely to be re-tried.

#### Putt Putts

1. Wendy McMurdo/Airy Mouse 25:09
2. Warren Van Drunen/Seeker 25:15
3. Rick/? 25:26

#### Sailors

1. Ballantyne De Wolf FA20 36mins
2. Jed the Ferry Driver/Hoby Cat 35mins
3. Josh&Lillia/Caledonia 30mins

A short shambles this year rather than the usual long shambles. De Wolf failed to cross either the start or the finish line, the sou-westerly breeze throwing a deep shadow on the north side, and the handicapping system allowed him to come first with the slowest time. At least they got back before dark!

Thanks to Evan and Helen for safety boat duties, Ron and Jan for the barbie, and everyone who turned up to make another

beach. He did most of the work on Norm French's house, before he made the tennis courts.

- One family on the Island lived in a cave at the back of their block while the house was built – their name was Steele.
- One of the Norfolk Island pines growing up through the boatshed near the wharf was hit by lightning, tearing a huge piece out of the middle. It fell down and just missed my Dad and me as we rushed to secure the boats. I later had to dig it out of the ground with a spade – it was 3m long with 1m buried.
- My father worked on the "new" bridge as a leading hand in charge of building the superstructures. This occurred after he moved from the Island to live in Sydney. He worked on the bridge with Harold Deaves, a champion axeman, who lived in Brooklyn. In 1987, my father painted a picture of the bridge being constructed. He donated it to the State Rail Authority.
- As a boy growing up on the Island and having access to boats from our boatshed, I used to row a boatload of kids to the pictures on a Saturday night in Brooklyn. I was only about 10-11 years old. At times the boat was very much overloaded. Mannie was asked most Saturdays would he take us over, his standard reply was "Only if you get enough people to go and make it worth my while." Needless to say we never could make up the numbers as the oldies were not much interested in Hopalong Cassidy, etc.

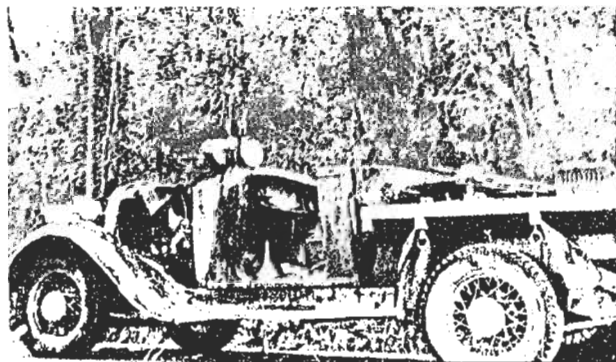
I have a lot of very fond memories of Dangar Island, I learnt to swim, row a boat, catch fish, all about boats and spent some of the best times of my life there. I have been back a couple of times in the last 20 years, and hope to return in the not too distant future. Have many more stories to tell, and events of interest, like the naming of Petticoat Rock, etc., but this will do for now. I am compiling a list of the permanent residents who lived on the Island while we lived there.

*Yours sincerely, Bruce Stewart. Armadale, WA"*

Note: Bruce Stewart and other family members visited the Island in January of this year and spent some time with Phyllis Gilbert recalling those earlier days on Dangar.

• Emanuel (Mannie) Kassimatis lived on Dangar Island from 1928 to 1965. He established the first ferry service – a rowboat! But that's another story.

There are many fascinating stories, myths, and recollections in the Dangar Island Historical Society archives. Discover them for yourself by becoming a member. Annual membership to the DIHS is open to everyone – \$5 per family or \$3 per individual.



shirt-on dory entry from the Oldest Competitor Turner. Shorter's famous gallantry was piqued by the threat of the American, who beat an out-of-sorts Murray into third. Torres, aboard Hill's notorious Banana, rowed mostly one-handed for an impressive 45 minutes.

## Bush Regeneration

Yes we're still out there doing our bit to beat back the weeds in the reserve. There is a calendar of dates in the window outside the shop for weeding sessions. All of the community are welcome to participate.

We would dearly love to eradicate camphor laurel from the Island, they are a classed as an invasive plant [to be avoided or removed]. They can be removed without permission, but contact Council if you have any concerns, prior to removal. We have recently control poisoned a number of small camphor laurels in the reserve and the roadside. If you have any on your land we'd be happy to help you with the process of removing them.

Contact Terry on 729 for more information.

## Pedestrian Precinct

A meeting/workshop facilitated by Hornsby Council will be held at the Hall in the near future. Please attend this important event – all opinions are relevant. A copy of the survey results will be available at the shop [many thanks Jan and Ron] prior to the meeting.

*Jenny and Ana*

Photograph of early Island community vehicle from 'Where People were People' by Gwyneth Long

Thanks to Evan and Helen for safety boat duties, Ron and Jan for the barbie, and everyone who turned up to make another great day. Next year is the 20th anniversary!

## CLASSIFIEDS

### CLEANER REQUIRED

Cleaner needed for rental property on a casual basis throughout the year (mainly holidays). 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge/dining, kitchen and a small amount of outside sweeping.

Contact Buff on 98683694.

### NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE

Most indigenous to Dangar, for sale to residents, cheap @ 3 tubes for \$2 – now in stock – *Banksia serrata* [old man banksia], *Hovias* [medium shrub with purple pea flowers], *Kennedia rubicunda* [running postman, climber] – come and have a look!, *Rushes* [great for soaking up septic damp] plus more. Phone Heather Dorrough 9985 7729 [seeds propagated on requested]

### YOGA CLASSES

Tuesday night 7pm-8pm by donation [50% to hall funds] Bring a mat. Wear loose clothing. [ph 9985 7060]

Classifieds for private or commercial postings which are relevant to the community such as cleaning are invited for the next Mullet Mail. Commercial classifieds are \$10 for a display ad, \$5 for a listing; private by donation. [will be spent on production of MM]