

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first Mullet Mail of 2012.

It was encouraging to see so many Islanders turn out for the League's Public Meeting and follow on Water Access meeting held on 11 February.

Our Treasurer Hans Pols reported that membership of the League now stands at over 40% of the island's households. This is a strong increase over recent times and is significant compared to other resident's associations around Australia. A strong membership base and attendance/participation at our Public Meetings is critically important when we are seeking to influence off-island agencies such as Hornsby Shire Council as it shows we really are representing our community. If you're not currently a member please consider joining and we'd encourage all members to try and attend our meetings!

Shortly before February's Public Meeting, Sydney Water announced that it had backed down and will no longer be seeking to increase the amount of nutrients released into the river from the Brooklyn Sewerage Treatment Plant. This is a terrific example of just what can be achieved when we unite as a community and join with others on the river to

protect our precious environment. Well done to Bronck Karcz and everyone else who contributed to getting this successful outcome, including our local MP Matt Kean. The media campaign www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/backlash-halts-bid-to-increase-effluent-in-river-20120126-1qjrz.html led by Yvonne Liechti was particularly successful. In case you missed them, you can access some of the high profile news articles on this issue on the 'Dangar in the news' section of our website.

Bronck is keen to get others on board to help with our ongoing response to the proposed Peat Island Development. If you've got some spare time please let me know.

For those who were unable to attend the Public Meeting, the draft minutes of the Public Meeting are on our website.

The Water Access Sub-Committee received some good input in respect of membership / qualification criteria for the 'Dangar Island Mooring Cooperative'. This will be incorporated in to the draft DIMC rules that are currently being assembled. The draft rules will be available on the League Website shortly.

A company is being established to run the DIMC (similar to the arrangement with the Brooklyn coop) and the Board of that company will then take over this initiative from the League Sub-Committee. The League will continue to represent Islanders views in respect of the co-op's activities. For those that missed it, the DIMC newsletter from January 2012 is on our website (League Initiatives section).

Please do use the email address below to let the committee know of issues you have concerns about or new areas you feel the DIL should be involved with. We can only address issues we know about so please let us know of problems, issues or topics you feel we should examine or help with. Similarly, if there are activities we can help with at any level, such as the recent "Know your Island" program created by Ana Pollak, please let us know.

Cheers,
Antony Schinckel, President
Dangar Island League
president@dangarislandleague.net



DIMC UPDATE:

As mentioned in the President's report, the Co-op held another Public Meeting to present to the community the status of the proposed Co-op, interactions with Hornsby Shire Council and Maritime, associated wharf modifications and Co-op options, as well as receive feedback.

Currently, we have opened a bank account and are in the process of finalising the rules for the Co-op to allow us to formally apply to the Dept of Fair Trading to create the Co-op. The criteria for membership is one of the greatest challenges and we appreciate the community input over the past 18 months. A copy of the draft set of membership criteria and Co-op operating rules will be placed on the website soon.

We are currently waiting for Hornsby Shire Council (with assistance from Maritime) to place a design contract for the feasibility study and detailed design of the wharf modifications and coop berthing area. This study is a key step in the process, as the Council will obviously not progress this project further

without professional engineering advice confirming it is feasible and sound.

The subject of running lines on the two beaches and the existing jetty tie-ups comes up regularly at the Commuter Jetty Committee (aka Co-op committee), and our response is that it is not within our control or charter to deal with these activities. We are having ongoing discussions with Hornsby Council regarding the proposed Commuter Jetty and wharf modifications. The subject of running lines and beached boats was raised by Council officers at a recent meeting.

Their advice was that:

- 1 LOCAL RESIDENTS had complained to Council regarding running lines, dumped boats and trailers, on both Bradley's Beach and "North Beach".
- 2 Council Officers had come to the Island to check on the situation, and had spoken to some people, and suggested their boats etc should be taken off the public reserve and put back onto their private land.

3 Council advised it has responsibility only over Bradley's Beach, as this is a Public Reserve. "North Beach" is not a Public Reserve and not Council's responsibility.

4 Consequently, Council intend to photograph the offending boats, trailers etc on Bradleys and exhibit them in the ferry shed with instructions for the owners.

The Jetty Committee has no idea what the timeframe is for this, or what actions may result. We will certainly distribute any information when received.

In the meantime, we will continue to update the community via public meetings, the MM and the website on the status of the Co-op project. Please email us at wharf@dangarislandleague.net.

Thanks
Cheers,
Antony Schinckel, President
Dangar Island League
president@dangarislandleague.net



CAFE UPDATE

The Dangar Island Café & Shop celebrated its third birthday in February. This is quite an achievement and a tribute to the volunteers and staff that have worked to make it happen. We have had a mixed summer and takings have been affected by weather

and fewer holiday bookings. On the positive side we are making a small profit and we are beginning to get a few more day visitor bookings and return visitors. Visitors, with rising costs, are an important source of income.

Our mantra remains the same. The shop needs continued local support both financially and in voluntary help to survive. We need to remind ourselves that \$10-20 spent at the Shop by each Islander each week is the difference between the Shop making the distance and failing. So please continue to use it and even think of it as a venue for

small functions, the barbecue is easily fired up.

We are always looking for more voluntary help, it goes a long way to helping keep costs down, so please if you can help put your best foot forward. In the next year we will be challenged by rising costs, and these are real for small businesses, and our ability to keep staff. Some of this will be met from revenue increases but we need to keep doing better to meet these rising costs.

Please keep coming with your ideas and if we can implement we will but very

often they will need your assistance as well.

Finally, I would like to thank again Graham and Corrynth White. Their unflagging commitment to the Shop is its backbone and I can only admire their selflessness. We are fortunate to have their involvement.

See you at the Shop and please remember, the more it is patronised the better it can be.

Chris Innis
On behalf of the Directors



0405 909236

BUGGY

Hours of operation
Mon - Fri 8:30 - 7:30
and Sat/Sun 9 - 5:30

..... volunteer drivers welcome!



Hawkesbury River Community Directory

Strengthening our Community

A directory of trades, passions, and resources of (and for) residents of the Hawkesbury River is currently being created by locals. A questionnaire will shortly be delivered to all homes by volunteers, and raffle prizes will be offered by local businesses.

Enquiries:

contact@hrcd.org.au or **9985 8243**

DANGAR ISLAND RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

We always welcome the whole community to our AGM, which this year is Saturday 31st March at 2pm in the Hall. This year though is particularly special as I will present the draft plans for our much-needed station upgrade and new fire truck after the election and reports.

Architect David Turner and Council Building Services Coordinator Darren Lister will be on hand to answer your questions, and we will be serving hot drinks and cake.

As you will read in the DIFS News, our **fundraiser film night** is coming up on Easter Saturday April 7th. It's an opportunity to learn some important

winter fire safety tips for the whole family so please come along and join in the fun, and help us raise much-needed funds for our station upgrade.

PREPARE

Prepare your home by cutting any overhanging trees or shrubs and dispose of cuttings appropriately. Clean leaves from the roof, gutters and downpipes.

Store your woodpiles well away from the house and keep covered. For more info on preparing your home 1800 679 737 www.rfs.gov.au

In an emergency ring 000

Jonathan Sykes, Captain
0404 719 997



Own a car, but don't use it much? Having difficulty finding parking? Perhaps a car share through GoGet is an option. With some work we may be able to get a share car in Brooklyn. As Brooklyn is out of GoGet's current network, they have indicated that in addition to expressions of interest, they will need some sort of financial guarantees (from members or from Council) before putting a car here. The first step is to register your interest with GoGet - the more people the better.

For more information about GoGet and how to register look up www.goget.com.au

Dangar Island Bowling Club Report

The best little Club on the Hawkesbury goes from strength to strength!



Hello members and guests. The recent weather has been a challenge to all recently as the club has been attempting to create events for the community and renovate our green. Jazz In The Park has been well received but we do not intend to have events all the time, just every now and then to add some variety. Remember we now have Trivia on the 4th Friday of the month, Mic night 1st Friday of the month and look out for posters for other events. The next Mic night will include a performance by World Matinee launching their album 'Audrey' and as this event is on the 6th of April (Good Friday) no take away alcohol sales will be available from the club.

Much has been happening in making our club even better. I would like to thank some people for their voluntary contributions to our little club. Sharon and Tim Ebbeck for their work making and installing sound proof double back curtains for the club, Felicity Brownrigg and Miss Piggy Barges for donating their big barge free of charge to get the soil truck over for top-dressing the bowls green, Diane Robertson, owner director of Calderwood Valley Golf Course for donating a scarifier, green mower, reconditioning of our old mower, soil analysis consultant and the services of Dave Smithers (Green Keeper) to assist me in getting our green back to competition level. Thanks to Torsten Fisher for his barge and efforts. Thanks to Manfred Merl for assisting with the green as always and the coordination of deliveries.

You will soon have a membership reminder/renewal/join form in your letter box. As we are a registered club any person wishing to use the club facilities who lives within five kilometres must be a member. You can only enter the club as a temporary member if you live further than 5km from the club. This is a requirement of the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing, Registered Clubs Act. More information can be found at http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/reg_clubs_info_clubentry.asp

Please take time to complete the membership form, especially bowling members, as we need to send this information off the Bowls NSW for affiliation purposes and multi-membership for registered bowling requirements.

Thanks also to Josh, Bob and Francois in the restaurant for their work, professionalism and great food, thanks to our wonderful island employees on the bar and kitchen, Ebon for his bar management and role in training new employees. Thanks to our tireless Board, especially the efforts of Peter and Tom in their roles as directors of Bar/Kitchen and Treasurer respectively.

A big thanks to Harry and the ferry drivers for grog deliveries and the helpful hands of the buggy drivers.

Opening times - Thurs from 6pm for Pizza and Pasta, Fri and Sat from 6pm for full a la carte, Sunday from 12-3 for lunch.

Hoping for a summery winter.
Matt Johnson - *President DIBC*

Know your Island Planting to rejuvenate the ageing forest on the island

The Blackbutt seedlings at Hornsby Shire Council's Community Nursery are now ready for planting for all those who registered their interest to plant seedlings at the Tree Forum last year. They will be delivered in time for Autumn planting.

Enquiries contact Ana, 9985 7707

Hornsby Shire Council's community Nursery will have its annual plant giveaway for all Dangar Islanders on **Saturday 21st April from 1 - 3pm.**

**PICK UP 4 FREE PLANTS FROM
28 BRITANNIA ST,
PENNANT HILLS,
CONTACT - 9847 6832**

STALLHOLDERS NEEDED

For an exciting new market in Brooklyn

Arts, Crafts & secondhand goods.
Second Saturday of the Month.
FIRST MARKET MAY 12th

If you are interested in being part of this new initiative in the carpark of 12 Dangar Rd, please contact Michael on **9985 8455** for an application.

Dangar Island



Community Hall

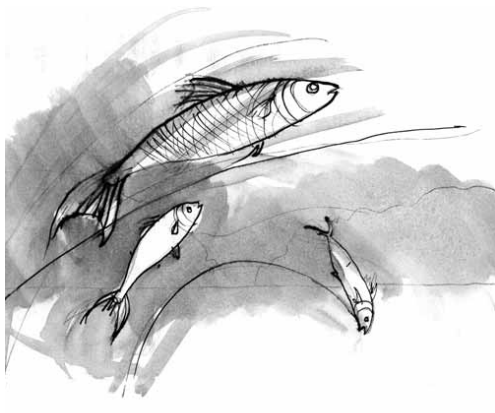
DANGAR ISLAND HALL NEWS

Congratulations to Andy Payne who won the competition for a new Hall Letterhead Logo. His design depicts the island with concentric dots representing the aboriginal symbol for meeting place, and just over 200 dots representing the island's population.

Hiring the hall is easy - contact Michele on 0417 933 519 to confirm the Hall is available on the date(s)/time(s) you would like and to make sure you know which form you need to complete. All relevant forms including the Conditions of Hire and booking forms are available on the League website: <http://www.dangarislandleague.net>

Rubbish Removal. All users of the hall are requested to bag rubbish (bags provided) and place the bag in or next to the bin in the park.

Dangar Island Hall Committee



Gallirallus philippensis

Dangar Island 14th March 2012

Buff-Banded Rail bathing in a rainwater puddle.

Maybe a new addition to our avifauna list.

We are lucky to have rare birds here with the threat of domestic cats. Owners swear the innocence of their pets, yet can birds take the risk to forage for food or raise their young within range of a cat?

more info

<http://birdsinyard.net/species/Gallirallus-philippensis>

BUSHCARE Trad (Wandering Jew) vs Commelina (Scurvy Weed)

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.



Tradescantia fluminesis (www.friendsoflanecovenationalpark.org.au/GardenEscapes/Garden_Escapes.htm)

You can tell 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.



Commelina cyanea (www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library/elibrary/hornsby-online-herbarium)

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.

Jo & Cybele for Dangar Island Bushcare



Stylish and functional women's headwear created from raffia using traditional methods is the signature of the world renowned Helen Kaminsky brand.

And now our resident 'Queen Bee of Bonnets' has branched out to become the 'Doyen of Dustbin Hiders' with this beautiful hand-woven green waste number.

An instant classic and currently (unlike her dustbins) on display on the corner of Riverview and Neotsfield, turning an 'eye-sore' into an 'I-say'!

How do you help beautify the island by keeping your bins off the road and out of sight?

Know your Island - Kids Island Discovery

At the end of December island children were treated to a fun activity where they learnt more about aspects of the place where they live. Once divided into four groups the children moved in their groups from one activity to another. They learnt and experienced interesting facts about Aboriginal culture and customs, termites, trees and birds of the island. Each child had a

map which they used to locate their position on the island and all went home with stories to tell. By all accounts the activity was well received and people are encouraged to look out for the next 'Know your Island' activity. Thanks go to all who were involved in making the day such a success.

For more information contact Ana 9985 7707 or Jo 9985 8694.



photos courtesy Jodi Thiessen and Ana Pollak

twelve

NEW WINTER MENU

Catering | Events
Takeaway | Bookings

9985 8812

OPEN

Tue - Sun 8am-4pm

Dinner Fri - Sat till late

(CLOSED MONDAY)

BYO



COFFEE VOUCHER

entitles you to your first coffee free

FREE!

CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MULLET MAIL TEAM

Interest in the evolving culture of our unique community and place is valuable. We are looking for people to help create the Mullet Mail. Helpful skills could include: publishing, editing, design.

Chat to the current team or email mulletmail@dangarislandleague.net



VINTAGE CLOTHING AND JEWELLERY SALE

Dangar Island Hall
10am-4pm
Easter Monday, 9th April



dangarislandleague.net
- a website for Islanders,
by Islanders

... news, community calendar, photos, historical stuff, mullet mail, league activities, local walks, bushfire tips, forum, bush care and local plants list and much more ...

The website is brought to you by the many groups throughout our community and proudly sponsored by the Dangar Island League. Everyone's welcome, you don't have to be a member of the League and you don't need a password to access the site.

We're always looking for more content to add to the site and are happy to hear your ideas.

For example, Chris Sanderson has suggested we start a Share a Tradesperson page.

It's a real pain to get an electrician or plumber across for a small job, so the idea is for two or three people to do it together and split the extra cost of the callout and/or barge. If it's just word of mouth it can be hard to find someone else who wants a plumber at the same time that you need them, but using the website could work really well. If you've got a job that needs doing let us know and we'll put together a new page.

If you can recommend tradies who have done good work on the island we are also happy to put their details up on the site.

All suggestions or content for the site should be sent to:

website@dangarislandleague.net



next Mullet Mail issue
Winter 2012

Know your Island - Mosaic Map Project

Dangar Island kids are helping to make a mosaic map with inlaid drawings to depict Dangar Island and the life around it. So far two drawing workshops involving twenty three island kids have produced images for the mosaic map. The project builds on the mural and table works based on kids' drawings made for the island cafe.

The mosaic map will be located where the old ferry shed once stood, downhill from the path to the hall. When the concrete slab is remade, older island kids will be invited to install the mosaic.

The project is funded by the Community Services Branch of Hornsby Shire Council and the Dangar Island Historical Society and is a Know Your Island Project.

For enquiries contact Ana - 9985 7707



TALL TALES BUT TRUE

And so, it came to pass, as weather prophets had foretold; the golden skies were filled with grey. The rain did fall for forty days and forty nights upon that soggy ground, and men were ever watchful, lest Dangar Isle did rise and float down to the sea.

That fateful day did come to pass, one wet and windy morn. A wooden ship, the Ark by name, did pass close by the shore. An omen of the darkest hue, it sank outside my door. But daunted not, I soon did bring an idea to the fore.

With firm resolve and trusty knife, I strode the water's edge. Cut from the mooring line of every boat. Five hundred and thirty seven pieces I did now possess, and quickly joined together in one rope.

Then gathered the massive bundle in my more than massive arms, as speedily I climbed the highest peak.

With care and skill did test the rope I had required; as with patience and dexterity undid, the seven thousand six hundred and thirty three knots I had miraculously acquired.

The time did pass till once again my pieces were but one. This one stout line I then made fast to the island's tallest gum. The other end was lashed around the water storage tank, a massive looking structure for the people who still drank.

Though all my strength was summoned, my massive body did deliver, and raised the tank from its supports, and hurled it down into the river.

My massive arms and massive chest proved more massive than my brain. A slight miscalculation caused an error in my aim. The tank did pass above the line instead of down below, and turned high tension wires neatly to a bow.

An impressive fireworks display was seen for miles that night, and from all accounts would seem to be an oft remembered sight.

The tank continued on its way through houses, ten or more; then came to rest quite nicely in the channel near the shore.

The current grew more forceful, the line it grew more taut. The island swung to starboard then to port. The waves that were created were of a type most often sought; by bleached and blond haired experts at a sport.

Now Dangar is the venue, though with danger it is fraught; for boardriders who do seek the perfect wave.

A fact, not one of nature, but of brilliance and forethought, in mooring there; the island I did save.

Bruce Lambert



Coming up on Easter Saturday is our traditional Fire Brigade Fundraiser barbeque. Bring the whole family and a bulging wallet, and enjoy Spielberg's eye-popping **Adventures of TinTin** (PG) via our brand new 2000 mega-watt projector. We'll be selling hot bacon, egg and tofu and salad rolls from the bbq, cakes, soft drinks and spicy mulled wine to raise funds for your hard-working volunteer firies.

Our all-new sleeker 'n' slicker website is online at **www.difs.net** with news of our very varied and slightly mad 2012 program. The dog ate our mailing list, so if you have been missing your difs emails, or getting emails you don't need, drop us a line on our Facebook page or via our contact form at **www.difs.net**

