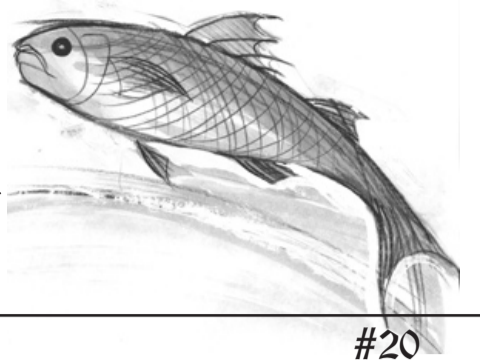


Mullet Mail



NEWS & VIEWS OF DANGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Winter 2007

#20

DANGAR ISLAND LEAGUE President's Report

Members of the League Executive met last week with the Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, Nick Berman, Councillor McMurdo and three senior members of the Council staff – Max Woodward, Bob Stevenson and James Farrington.

We discussed four matters: ongoing collaboration with Council; transport at Brooklyn; the general condition of the Island and the River Settlements Review.

We put to Council our desire for a more comprehensive approach to transport in Brooklyn and to Dangar Island. Council do not share our concerns and wish to approach transport problems on a more incremental basis. In regard to the 4 hour parking trial, it appears that there is no formal plan to evaluate it. Rather, it seems that it will be an ongoing trial. Council indicated that they would be very happy to receive advice from the League as to how the trial could be evaluated. The League Executive will begin discussion regarding a submission at our next meeting.

Our concerns regarding the general condition of the Island were given a sympathetic hearing. We spoke of the park being overgrown and mowed very infrequently, the amount of matter in the gutters and the over-mowing that occurs when the contractors do arrive and the condition of tracks like the Scramble Track. We compared this to the time when there was a council employee here full-time. Max Woodward expressed that there was a possibility of the work being tendered out. This may offer an opportunity to an Island resident to take on the work.

The River Settlements Review was discussed including the possibility of unregulated holiday rental houses or bed and breakfasts and the weakening of development controls on the Island. The Mayor indicated that he favoured regulation of accommodation rather than banning it. He also indicated that the Review process allowed for residents to have input during the exhibition process (now) and when Council makes its final determination. The Executive encourages all residents make their ideas known to Council about this Review. Copies are available from the Council's website.

The meeting was beneficial and I believe we were given a fair hearing.

The AGM will be on in a few months. As usual we will be calling for nominations for positions. If you do have time on your hands please consider putting your hand up for a position. The work is not onerous but it does take a few hours, regularly. Please consider.

The League wishes all Island Year 12 students the best of luck in the exams that are approaching. You have our support.

Enjoy the winter and let us hope that we don't get any more storms for a while.

Sincerely
Dr Peter Short
President

**THE BUGGY SERVICE
IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE**

**MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY
8.30AM - 7.30PM,**

**AND OTHER DAYS
WITH 2 DAYS
ADVANCE NOTICE**

PH. 0405 909 236

BAGUETTES

Thankyou to our eleven volunteer Community Buggy drivers, 'the Baguettes', who have committed themselves from between a few hours a month, to a day a week. Volunteers simply need to be 'on Island' on their rostered day – and carry the phone.

Other people have received training in order to use the Community Buggy independently out of hours. The primary requirement is that rules regarding loads, fees, speed and safety are followed and the phone is carried at all times, in case of emergency call out.

We are still sorting out difficulties with mobile phone reception and a central system to hand over keys and bookings diary. Baguettes are working towards organising their shifts – independently of a coordinator. Yippee!

Police, Firies, SES and Ambulance now have keys and are mighty pleased with their transport choices (as are the patients!).

We need more volunteers to cover people



You may choose not to connect to the sewer; you may have a better system in mind that lets you re-use your water, or you may need extra time to get the money together. Sewer connection costs can be some hundreds to some thousands, and the rate will be around \$100 per quarter.

In many cases, a composting toilet and greywater diversion combination can offer improved performance, independence and sustainability for comparable cost.

Dangar residents have important decisions to make about managing our wastewater responsibly and sustainably. Is my block suitable for onsite re-use? Will the new sewer system be dependable and affordable? Should I wait and see?

Connections to the sewer will begin on Dangar Island in 2008. There will be a two year window during which you can have the pot and pump infrastructure installed free.

What happens next . . .

Under Hornsby Council's Connection Policy, your current *Approval to Operate* will be withdrawn as soon as sewer connection is available. If you do not wish to connect, Council will inspect, and as long as your onsite system is not failing, you will be issued a 12 month *Approval to Operate*.

So what is failing? The policy says:

'A system may be classified as failing for the following reasons:

- An undersized disposal area.
- Soggy ground around or below the disposal area.
- The system or sewerage pipes within the dwelling discharge to the stormwater system, river or through an open pipe to the ground surface.
- The site is limited in disposal area by shallow soils, rocky outcrops and available area.
- The disposal area fails to meet buffer distances in accordance with The Environment & Health Protection Guidelines Onsite Sewage Management for Single Households prepared by the NSW Department of Local Government 1998.
- The system has not been serviced and maintained in good working order and in accordance with the conditions of approval.'

Points d. and e. offer wide scope for negotiation. Relevant sections of the Guidelines in e. and the equally important Australian Standard 1547(2000) are available on the League bulletin board www.dangarislandleague.net

If you fail the inspection, Council will want you to make a commitment to either connect to the sewer or upgrade your onsite system to 'best practice'. If they issue you with a Notice or Order, it will cost you \$320 before you even start work.

Again, you can find info on 'best practice' at www.dangarislandleague.net – it requires a quick registration as some of this info is copyrighted.

While you're there, feel free to join or start an online discussion on any relevant Dangar topic. The site has simple instructions – it's easy.

Jonathon Sykes

who are away, for Mondays 3.30-7.30pm (fortnightly?) and two volunteers who live on the flatlands, for a Friday night 'meet the ferry' service once a month. The current timetable is on a blackboard in the ferry shed.

Fund raising

We are aiming to raise between \$60 and \$70 per week to satisfy the Hornsby Council Funding Agreement which covers maintenance and replacement. Our Friday night 'meet the ferry' service raises a substantial amount of this money – big thanks to the shivering drivers.

Other fundraising is through the Vehicle Permit fees – for bringing vehicles, such as removalist and building vehicles, onto the Island. Not paying this fee makes you liable for a fine of \$110. Permits are \$17 per day or \$55 per week and are available from Jude 9985 7879, Kate 9985 8405 or Miss Piggy Barges 9985 7873.

An absolutely massive thankyou to Miss Piggy Barges who have been a huge supporter of the Buggy and assisted in

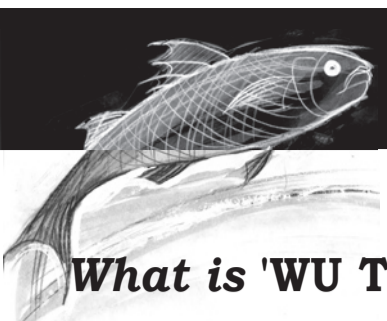
raising approximately \$4,000 by filling out the Permit forms which the Committee then process. We have not so far had support from any other barge company, and Council are now looking at applying fines – so please support Miss Piggy and thank her team.

Illegal Vehicle Use

A reminder that private vehicles garaged and driven on the Island must be RTA registered and have a permit from Hornsby Council for use. The permit is for a person, not general use. By borrowing a private buggy and not the Community Buggy you effectively undermine five years of negotiation and work by many people, some of whom might otherwise enjoy the convenience of their own vehicle – but who don't want to compromise the atmosphere of the Island.

Cheers to all,

The Dangar Island
Vehicle Management Committee



What is 'WU TAO' ?

WU TAO – *The Dancing Way* has its foundations in Oriental medicine which claims that the main requirement for good health is balance in body, mind and spirit, and between all three. This same holistic approach underlies many other complimentary therapies, such as Yoga, Tai Chi and Shiatsu. Wu Tao is a formulation of dances that work on the meridians and embody the elements of Chinese medicine (wood, fire, earth, metal and water) traditionally associated with different aspects of the body and emotions.

It is a path that uses dance, deep breathing and meditation to create harmony and balance within oneself, on the Earth and with the universe in which we live.

I am currently undergoing training to become a licensed Wu Tao teacher and will be commencing beginner and intermediate classes in October.

For more information contact:

Helen Cooke on 02 9985 7267
or see www.wutaodance.com

Bushcare



Miss July on the bushcare calendar is a delightful sedge

Hornsby Bushcare

Caustis Flexulosa. It grows 60-120cm tall, with masses of curly branchlets and brown sheath-like leaves on the southern slope of Kiparra Reserve. Also known as Old Man's Beard, you will see it when taking your constitutional walk along Riverview Ave. Check the picture at the shop to help you spot it in the wild.

Next session at the Hall July 14th – National Tree Day coincides with the Alluvium art exhibition. Each volunteer on the day will take home a genuine Dangar Island native plant. The local seeds have all been propagated and are ready for planting. From about 10am we will be preparing the soil and collecting mulch. Please bring a barrow, rake and shovel on the day.

Cybele Shorter

Alluvium IV

OPENING

7:30PM FRIDAY 13TH

LIVE MUSIC AND WINE EVENT
(BRING A PLATE)

THEN

10AM - 4PM ON
14TH - 15TH JULY 2007

ENTRY PACKS
HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

IF YOU DIDN'T GET ONE PLEASE
GRAB A SPARE ONE
FROM THE SHOP



www.difs.net

Upcoming Saturday night films...

July 7th Don't Look Back

Peter Short celebrates the roots with classic Bob Dylan.

August 11th Last Year at Marienbad

Chosen by Michael Dean.

September 8th The Indian in the Cupboard

Family film night for the strong of heart.

All will screen with a short film in the Hall 7:30pm.

Does your garden need weeding, maintenance, etc? Experienced bush regenerator, reasonable rates . . .

phone
David Collins
9985 7707



CAUSTIS FLEXULOSA

YOGA

Filling in some space – did you know that I am still running yoga classes at the Hall? Nearly 20 years and going strong, with a dynamic bunch of people, some who have been coming for many years, some just starting. Its not too serious, and not too challenging. We just have a relaxing time – everyone works at their own level, and leaves feeling great – and hungry! Anyone is welcome to come – just wear loose comfortable clothing, bring a mat or blanket, and don't eat for a couple of hours beforehand. Cost is by donation, and contributes to the Hall fund for maintenance etc. I do not have formal yoga teaching qualifications, (although I have general training quals) but studied yoga and other related disciplines extensively in the 1980's (the original new-ager!) and have maintained my own practice since then. Tuesdays at 7-8pm, some weekends 9-10am by txt notification.

Jenny Shanley
9985 7060

Next issue Mullet Mail
Spring 2007

Contributions deadline
23rd September – send to
designatopia@optusnet.com.au

Deliveries 29/30th September
– We still need a couple more
delivery volunteers.

Fire Brigade Report

The Brigade responded well to our call-out, after a fire broke out on the northside of Dangar Island, a month or so ago. No one was injured and the ignited boat shed is more or less intact.

Two aspects of this event are especially important. First, people did not wait to call for help. Many residents rang 000. This alerted the Brigade and allowed us to respond quickly. Second, the generosity of the Brigade members with their time meant that 18 members 'turned out' to help at 02:30 in the cold. These volunteers performed an excellent job less than 15 minutes after jumping out of bed. It is the volunteer nature of our work that is the community glue.

Winter is the time when most house fires occur. Please be careful with your electric blankets, radiators and open fires. Change the batteries in your smoke detector, get a fire blanket and an extinguisher.

While it is cold you should also start thinking about cleaning up the vegetation around your house as you prepare your property for the next bushfire season. We have distributed pamphlets and will probably run some street meetings around September to provide more information and assistance.

Enjoy the cold.

Sincerely
Dr Peter Short



What did everyone else do with their pumpkin/s?
Here's my own creation!

Pumpkin soup with Haloumi cheese

by Jenny Shanley

Make your favourite pumpkin soup recipe or try this easy option:

- 1 Skin and chop pumpkin into chunks and put in a saucepan.
- 2 Add plenty of water and some chopped onion and cook till soft.
- 3 Blend and add ground cumin to taste.

Normally I make a miso sauce (just mix miso and water) and swirl on the top. But to celebrate the pumpkin bounty, I came up with this special topping – you need sliced and diced Haloumi cheese, bacon, and chopped garlic.

In case you've never tried it, Haloumi cheese is a blend of cow, goat and sheep's milk. It is a staple in Cyprus and is readily available. It was introduced to me by my very good friend and ex-Dangar Islander, Susie Ives. I am usually sensitive to cow cheese, but this one seems OK.

Fry cheese, bacon and garlic all together in a little olive oil and toss on the soup, once you have served it.

To go with it, I made a herb spelt damper – and served up along with a simple watercress, coriander and cucumber salad, with a squeeze of lime juice. Yum!

Herb Damper

Make a scone mix – self raising flour, add some mixed herbs, rub in some butter, add some water – enough to make a stiff dough – use a knife to mix, to keep the dough fresh. Roughly shape and bake in a moderate to hot oven 20-30 minutes.

More on Pumpkin

My mother always said the only suitable pumpkin for sweet pumpkin pie was a Gramma. Add mixed spice and some lemon juice, plus brown sugar to cooked puree. I also use honey and add some rind. Make a rich shortcrust pastry, using same process as damper, only use plain flour and add an egg yolk mixed in with the water – or milk for extra richness. Use the white to glaze.

Research on the internet advised not to freeze raw pumpkin, but to cook and puree. Freeze in usable portions.

Many thanks

Colin and Jane Putt would like to thank the Dangar Island Fire Brigade and all who came to our assistance recently when the boatshed to the west of our house caught fire in the early hours of the morning. The fire was quickly extinguished and our house was untouched, but without the prompt and professional response of the Fire Brigade it could have been a very different story.

Thank you all very much

Colin and Jane Putt

Adopt-A-Hydrant

Dangar Island Fire Brigade's Adopt-A-Hydrant program is a great way to keep your home safe from fire. By keeping your nearest hydrant cleared and visible you can help the Dangar Island Fire Brigade find it in a hurry.

You'll receive an email every quarter asking you to check the hydrant is clear of debris and well-marked. You don't have to reply, but you can also report work needs doing as well. It takes a few minutes every few months and makes all safer and more firewise.

To join the program email: dangar_rfb@comcen.com.au with "Adopt-A-Hydrant" in the subject line.

Jonathan Sykes