

History of Castlecrag Part 13

1981 The Progress Association's new committee, headed by Gavin Thomas as president, sought to develop a comprehensive plan for **improved traffic management** in Castlecrag. A Traffic Committee was formed which conducted a survey of problems. There was a strong response to the survey, with the need for a safe right-turn at Eastern Valley Way lights, a dominant concern.

1981 Willoughby Municipal Council established the Castlecrag Advisory Committee of eleven residents in June to prepare the **Castlecrag Local Environment Study**. Issues of concern for the committee were the number of unsympathetic developments in the suburb, changes to the streetscape through replacement of the original stone kerbing and the need for stronger measures to preserve foreshore bushland.

1981 The **Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)** was established with Castlecrag residents Gay and Harold Spies playing a prominent role. WEPA pursues conservation of the natural bushland and landscape. It has opposed encroachments on reserves and public space, unsympathetic Development Applications adjoining bushland, sale of open space and community land, and lowering of the Foreshore Building Line. WEPA successfully lobbied WCC for the establishment of the Bushland Advisory Committee in 1990. It nominated the Middle Harbour Landscape Conservation Area for the Register of the National Estate and the Register of the National Trust. Gay Spies received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2005 Australia Day Honours list for her work with WEPA.

1982 The Progress Association, led by Eric Kaye, made a number of presentations to the **Kirby Inquiry on the future use of the Warringah Freeway Corridor**, backed by a report by the Total Environment Centre commissioned by the Progress Association. 67 Castlecrag residents also made submissions. The recommendations of the Inquiry supported the Progress Association's position that the corridor not be reinstated, and that the Northern Escarpment be preserved as open space, with property being disposed of.

1983 **Rita Kaye** took over as editor of *The Crag* with Ann Korner as her assistant.

1984 Consultant landscape architect, John Butterworth prepared a **'Walking Trails Development Plan'** for Willoughby Council. As a result of Council's inaction on the above plan, the Progress Association formed the Castlecrag Walking Trails Subcommittee. It undertook numerous site inspections and prepared a report, 'Recommendations for Walking Trails in Castlecrag', for the restoration of walkways. The report was submitted to Council in November 1987.

1985 WEPA initiated the **Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project**, which continues to the present day with the assistance of grants.



Castlecrag residents Bim Hilder (left) and Frank Duncan at the CPA quilting exhibition in 1985.
Photo: Rita Kaye

1985 The Progress Association celebrated its **60th birthday** with a quilting exhibition at St James Church. The event attracted several early residents, including Frank Duncan, Bim Hilder and Phyl and Michael Stoker. The president, Dianne Street, welcomed the guests and Alderman Eric Kaye opened the exhibition. Quilters from all over the State were represented and \$1800 was raised, which was donated to the bus shelter funds and maintenance of the Haven Amphitheatre.

Bob McKillop, Elizabeth Lander and James Weirick

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