

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF
THE CASTLECRAG
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION

No. 16

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1981

HISTORICAL NOTES

by Addie Saltis

JAMES WILLIAM BLIGH (mainly from a biography in the Willoughby Library, compiled by L.C. Forsyth)

James Bligh purchased about 400 acres of the 1856 land grants in the Willoughby district. These included approximately 100 acres on the northern side of Edinburgh Road, from Second Avenue to well past Sunnyside Crescent (later the Sunnybank, Sunnyside and Wireless Estates) and approximately 100 acres on the southern side of Edinburgh Road between the Castlecrag shops and Linden Way (Sailor's Bay subdivision and parts of the Castlecrag and Haven Estates).

James was born in Cornwall, England, in 1810, migrated to Australia in 1839, and set up practice as a solicitor in Bathurst in 1841. Ten years later he sold his practice, became a Member of the Legislative Council in 1856, at which time he bought his 400 acres in the Willoughby district although he lived at Cooks River and later at Milson's Point.

In 1865 he was appointed Chairman of the newly incorporated Municipality of Willoughby and served in this capacity for three years. During his last term, the fact that he was Mayor yet lived outside the Municipality was queried but, as his Doctor's Certificate frankly put it, he had "*long been a sufferer from bodily infirmity and ill health which renders his residence in North Sydney (ie Willoughby) most objectionable.*" Actually by 1867 his health was so bad (a spinal disease which resulted in paralysis) that some Council meetings were held in his home. He did not contest the 1868 municipal elections and died in 1869.

His holdings in the Municipality were inherited by his much younger brother Henry, who married the grand-daughter of James Milson, pioneer of Milson's Point. Henry was Mayor of Willoughby Council in 1869 and 1870.

James' biographer, L.C. Forsyth, suggests that he could be given the title "Father of the Municipality" for he guided it through its formative years and laid a sound basis for its administration.

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 1981

WILL BE HELD AT THE CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE, OFF THE POSTERN,
AT 8PM, TUESDAY EVENING, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1981.

PLEASE ATTEND, AND HELP IN ELECTING YOUR NEXT COMMITTEE.



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33
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1980 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Eric Kaye

As our Association starts its 56th year, it's appropriate to look back at the results we have achieved in 1980. In my view it was one of our more successful years - not highlighted by any of the great struggles or crises which we sometimes have had to fight, but one in which we patiently went about our sole aim of making our suburb and Willoughby a better community in which to live.

All meetings held during the year were well attended and our membership continues to grow. Our Committees, which these days carry out much of the work involved in determining our policies were particularly busy. All these are comprised of dedicated members, and much of the credit for our success is due to them.

The increasing number of young people involved is particularly pleasing.

Of special note are the Conservation Society and Traffic Committee. These two very active groups continue to do a fine job of work on our behalf. The Conservation Society, ably led throughout the year by Bev Blacklock, has built for itself a reputation as an important authority on the preservation of our native plants & trees.

A great deal of credit for the continuing and increasing importance of our Association in the community must go to Bob Ronai for his efforts in producing and publishing our newsletter. In the 30 years that I have been a member of the Association there have been many attempts to produce a regular newsletter. A few have been good but all have been short-lived. The Crag is now in its 16th edition, is an excellent paper, well distributed and as I know from my own door-knocking experience last September, widely read and respected.

continued next page

Please tear this form off here and send with your membership payment, to
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION, c/- 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag (cnr. Rutland Ave.)

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(Please note: While membership has been set at \$4 per household, any extra donation you might be generous enough to offer would be very gratefully received, and assist us in our work.)



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Our members on the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Committee continue to ably represent us in an area which is of growing concern to us, and the Haven Theatre Group, the Fund Raising Group and the Freeway Committee have all played their part in continuing our work, and all deserve our thanks.

A very satisfying tendency which I have noticed over the past few years but which has become more apparent to me in the period during which I have represented you as Alderman, is the increasing importance which Willoughby Council shows to Progress Associations in its Wards.

A growing number of contentious discussions raised in Council are now referred to the Associations for comment prior to final decisions. I believe that this is an important democratic principle which should be encouraged. It is also a reason why residents concerned with the welfare and advancement of our suburb should become members of our Association, and voice their opinions at our meetings. In fact, a special welcome is made to new residents.

It is with considerable regret that I have decided that I should not seek re-election this year as your President, whilst I represent you as Alderman. In my long involvement with the Association, and particularly in the last ten years, I have frequently held office either as President or Secretary, and despite the work involved, have found the task most satisfying.

Whilst our constitution does not specifically preclude an Alderman from being President, the constitutions of many Northside Progress Associations do. I offered to stand down when elected to Council last September, and was honoured by your decision to invite me to continue in office until our 1981 Annual General Meeting. After four months experience as an Alderman I realise that conflicts of opinion or duty must occasionally arise, and I believe that our interests as residents are better served by two separately elected representatives, namely an independent Association President, and a sympathetic Alderman.



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CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY

by Ted Bowen, Hon. President

This society is affiliated with the Progress Association and consists of a small but active group of members. Meetings are held a number of times a year, and new faces are particularly welcome. Meeting dates are notified largely by word-of-mouth, but in future the date and venue will be posted on the notice-board at the entrance to the Hardware shop.

The basic principle of the Conservation Society is: *"The preservation and conservation of all aspects of the natural and social environment that contribute to the quality of life in Castlecrag, not only for the benefit of the residents of Castlecrag, but as a contribution to Australia's historic heritage."*

In particular, the Society has a commitment to the Burley Griffin Landscape concept and the preservation and regeneration of all natural bushland areas around the harbour foreshores and in the various reserves. The conservation of the natural landscape and the integrity of the native flora in turn preserves the habitat of the local birds, mammals and insects.

The task of weeding and regeneration in Castlecrag's bushland is a long term one, and is being undertaken by a number of Society members and other concerned residents. But as this work proceeds it is heartbreaking to witness the continued deprivation of the natural landscape through:

- a) the ill-informed and often unsupervised clearing by Council staff of reserves, leading to the destruction of many native species, and the creation of a future weed problem;
- b) the continuing use of herbicides such as 245T by Council and others;
- c) the totally insensitive actions of some builders and owners of newly constructed housing, in unnecessarily stripping of native flora from building blocks and the scatter of builder's debris onto adjoining property and reserves;
- d) the habit of some residents in dumping garden refuse on adjacent reserves, thereby creating both a weed problem and a fire hazard
- e) the continuing cavalier attitude by some residents to Council's Tree Preservation Order.

However, progress is being made and we are happy to report that, despite numerous setbacks, co-operative efforts between the Society and Council, the National Trust, the Sydney County Council, the Water Board and residents, have led to improvement in some areas. We look forward to consolidating these gains in 1981.

If you are concerned about the environment in which we live in Castlecrag, please come along to our next meeting, or phone me on 95 1322.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

by Chris Rosten

The Progress Association has formed a Traffic Committee to assess traffic problems within our suburb, with a view to improving safety on the roads. The members of the Committee are: Ken Thomas, Ken Wolf, Dorothy Fraser, Marcella Cerna, and Christine Rosten.

Any residents who would like to contribute to the work of this Committee, or present ideas for discussion are welcome to join or visit the bi-monthly meetings - for further information contact me on 95 3000.

The Committee has planned a traffic and safety survey which will be distributed with the next Crag newsletter. The survey is designed to assess resident opinion on problems related to traffic safety on Castlecrag roads. Since these are matters which concern everyone, we are appealing to all residents to participate in answering the questionnaire and leaving the sheet in the collection boxes to be placed in the shopping centre.



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HARBOUR CRUISE - SUNDAY 22 MARCH

An all-day cruise of Sydney Harbour and Middle Harbour is being organised by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Committee on the ferry MS "Royale."

An interesting commentary on the points of interest will be given by experts.

Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the barbecue stop ashore.

Last year's cruise was a great success.

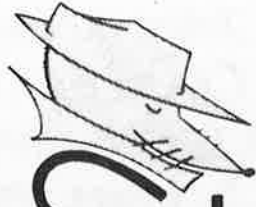
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CASTLECRAG SQUASH NEWS

by Ron Foxon

Round Robin Tournament - 1980 ended on a successful note for several Castlecrag squash players. The Round Robin finished in December with the following results:

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>	<u>Plate Winner</u>
Mens Division 1	Ron Foxon	Chris Miesch	John Reynolds
Mens Division 2	Peter Savage	Don Waller	Greg Hildebrand
Mens Division 3	George Bevan	Adrian Dobrovic	Richard Sheahan
Mens Division 4	Craig McLeod	Dorian Dobrovic	Damian Terakes
Ladies Division 1	Toni Fowler	Lindy Gerke	Margaret O'Connor
Ladies Division 2	Sam Spencer	Sue Drane	Elizabeth Clear

Pennant Competition - Pennant commences soon and we will be bringing you news of its progress in the next issue. The Club Championship Trophy, which goes to the players with the best scores in the Pennant Competition, was won by Greg Francis (Men) and Anne Watkins (Women). Congratulations.

Ladies Morning - Wondering what to do now the kids are back at school? Come along Monday mornings at 10am for 2 hours of squash/spa/sauna. Great fun. If you've got very young children, bring them along too.

R.W'S MENSWEAR

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Remember...

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 8PM,
AT THE
CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE,
OFF THE POSTERN.

This Association supports Willoughby Council's Tree Preservation Order, and we remind residents that it is illegal to cut down trees without Council's written permission.

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068.