

# TRAILS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

**NO.32**

January/February 1984

ALDERMANS' REPORT.  
WALKING TRAILS

ERIC KAYE.

One of the important features of the Griffin plan for Castlecrag was the dedication of a considerable amount of land for walks and reserves. Sadly, of recent years (with a few notable exceptions) these have become disused and overgrown. Now, however, as our roads become choked with cars there is a renewed interest in walking as a pleasant and healthful activity. The State Government is encouraging this trend by making funds available for Councils to engage unemployed people on construction of walking tracks.

Willoughby Council has responded to this and is proposing an extensive network of tracks through the whole Municipality. Some of these tracks are connecting ways which link existing attractive roads to form trails many kilometers in length, however some trails are through areas previously seldom used by the public such as the northern escarpment of Castlecrag. For instance, on a pleasant afternoon in the future it will be possible to walk from Northbridge baths to the Northbridge bowling green, onto the amphitheatre at Castlecrag, then to the site of the old jetty at the end of Edinburgh Rd., along the northern escarpment to Willoughby Waterfall, around (or over) Harold Reid Reserve and perhaps terminate the walk at Willis' Castle, a mere eight kilometers.

The total plan will shortly be on public exhibition for a month and Council hopes that both individuals and resident groups, such as progress associations and conservation groups will respond. It will be on view at the Council Chambers, all the libraries and at Chatswood Mall. We shall have a copy for perusal and discussion at our next meeting. Please come along and express your views on this important matter.

### THE COUNCIL AND RESIDENT GROUPS.

Over many years as an enthusiastic member of this Progress Association and more recently as an Alderman, I have noticed a growing tendency by Council to seek the views of resident groups such as progress associations and conservation societies on contentious matters of general concern. I support this trend and see it as complimentary to the increasing notice which State Government is taking of Local Government.

This doesn't, in my view, lessen the right of individuals to full consideration by Council, however I see it as an important input in assisting Council to resolve many complex and contentious problems. The progress associations and other groups are made up of concerned residents, their views and opinions must influence the thinking of aldermen.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL (off the postern) ON 28th FEBRUARY, 1984 AT 8P.M.

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**NIGEL'S QUALITY MEATS**  
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NORTHBRIDGE MARINA

As we go to press, the commissioners report on the marina was not available to the public.

Our President will make a full report on this important decision regarding findings on Sailors Bay and Sugarloaf Bay in the next edition of THE CRAG.

DONT JUST DUMP IT !

We are in touch with an Aboriginal Centre and a church support centre, both needing help for needy people. During the last clean-up, one of our residents reported being too late to rescue various items which could have been used for this purpose. Should you have household goods, in reasonable condition such as blankets, mattresses, crockery, please phone R. Kaye 95 6146, we will guarantee that this is picked up and delivered to someone who really needs it. Also, dont forget the container outside the Church in Edinburgh Road, where goods can be left.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Our next meeting of the CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION will be held at the Community Hall, off the Postern on FEBRUARY 28th, at 8 P.M. This is our annual general meeting and election of officers for 1984. We hope for a big roll up of residents. If you can't get along, we invite you to retain your membership (or become new members) by filling in the following form. We need your support if we are to continue our work in the community.

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Please tear this form off and send with your membership fee to  
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION C/- The Treasurer Mrs. D. Fraser,  
16 The Bulwark.

I WISH TO RENEW / APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.  
AND ENCLOSE MY PAYMENT FOR : \$4 membership or  
\$4 membership plus donation.

NAME:.....  
ADDRESS: .....

SIGNATURE. ....

(Please note : whilst membership has been set at \$4 per household, any extra donation you might be generous enough to offer would be very gratefully received, and would assist in our work, including production of this newsletter).  
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The immediate surroundings of a home are greatly influenced by the local environment. Castlecrag is still to a great extent a bushland suburb and increasing numbers of residents are planting Australian native gardens and/or regenerating the existing bush around their homes so keeping the subtle beauty of the local plant species.

People who favour traditional English plants or exotics from other countries frequently include some of the more popular native plants in their gardens such as *Ceropetalum gummiferum*, the New South Wales Christmas Bush. This plant is indigenous to Castlecrag and grows well in this area. Now is the time to prune it back in order to stimulate new growth and thus ensure a good bushy plant with masses of showy red bract for Christmas 1984. These bracts cling to the tree for many weeks after the comparatively brief appearance of tiny unobtrusive white flowers that are subtended by them, so it is well worth the time and effort to give your Christmas Bush a thorough pruning each year. At the same time examine the ground in the vicinity for tiny seedlings which could appear especially after the recent rain. Pot them in sandy loam or special potting mix to plant out when they are larger or as a gift to a friend.

Other plants which flower in spring or summer should be examined to see whether they could benefit from pruning, particularly as the unusually wet summer has promoted a sudden increase in leaf and stem growth and many normally bushy plants have a lanky appearance. Winter flowering species should be pruned lightly only, for otherwise too many potential flowering shoots will be sacrificed. When pruning always cut on an angle and close to a strong looking leaf bud. Use sharp secateurs to avoid bruising or tearing. (Cutting at a leaf bud is essential for this is where the meristematic cells which create new growth occur). When pruning step back frequently to examine your bush for shape and proportion, remembering the form the plant should take. Many plants will grow from cuttings so if it is a choice specimen save a few good pieces with which to do your own propagation.

Leaves, twigs and such garden refuse, excepting material containing seed, should be either composted or used as mulch on all gardens. Grass cuttings should be composted before applying to the soil, as fresh material could contain seed which will germinate and cause weed problems. Mulch has the effect of retarding or hampering weed growth, it provides nutrients to the soil, making it more friable and aerobic, while at the same time it helps to retain moisture. Here is a way to save on fertiliser and water bills and on the time involved in weeding and moving the hose. It is a complete waste of a valuable resource to burn leaves for they are nature's way of replenishing the soil.



The next meeting of the CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY will be held at the Community Centre on FRIDAY MARCH, 9th at 8p.m. ALL WELCOME!!



### THE BALLET STUDIO School of Classical Dance

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SEWER NEWSNILS KORNER

You will have seen the sewer pipe snaking its way along Edinburgh Road (and part of Tor Walk). When the M.W.S. & D. Board's work is completed (cost estimate \$750 000) it will be up to the residents (c̄ 124 households in Willoughby x say \$6 000 per house = \$744 000 - at a conservative estimate) to connect (uphill) to the Board's lines.

You must form your own view whether this division of the total cost (50% 124 households in Willoughby: 50% the State of New South Wales) is equitable, and whether this is the sewerage system you always wanted.

Perhaps it is not too late to achieve some economies by a collective approach, for example in ordering pumps, holding tanks and work contracts. If you have any ideas on this matter please contact Nils Korner - telephone 95 6059 (a.h.).

CASTLECRAG WELCOMES CAREFUL DRIVERS !!

Cars have been seen speeding along Edinburgh road!. Remember SPEED KILLS.! Small children and animals would not stand a chance.

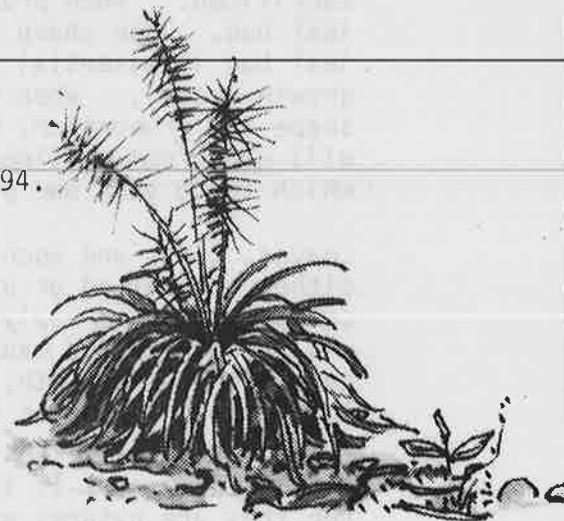
CASTLECRAG UNITING CHURCH.

A welcome is extended to the new Uniting Church Minister, the Reverend Alan Wilson and to his family. The service time is 9a.m. Enquiries 95 1594.

ADVERTISING CORNER.

We were please to note that the Frig. advertised in our last edition was sold on the day of delivery of the paper.

BARBARA IKOWICZ - INDIVIDUAL PATTERN DESIGNER  
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BICENTENNARY CELEBRATIONS

The bicentennial executive committee has invited our association to submit ideas for projects appropriate for the above celebrations. This will be discussed at our next meeting. Any ideas: please come along or phone our representative on this committee John Llewellyn on 95 5518.

# CASTLECRAG CELLARS

122 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECRAG PHONE 95 2682 or 958 1507

## DISCOUNT WINES BEERS & SPIRITS



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GOOD NEWS FOR MOTHERS!

Andrew Simons of Castlecrag Kem-mart wishes to announce a new weekly service commencing on 14th February. (Tuesday).

A fully qualified Sister will be in attendance at his pharmacy to offer free advice on all matters pertaining to you and your baby.

This service will be available each Tuesday from 9.30a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

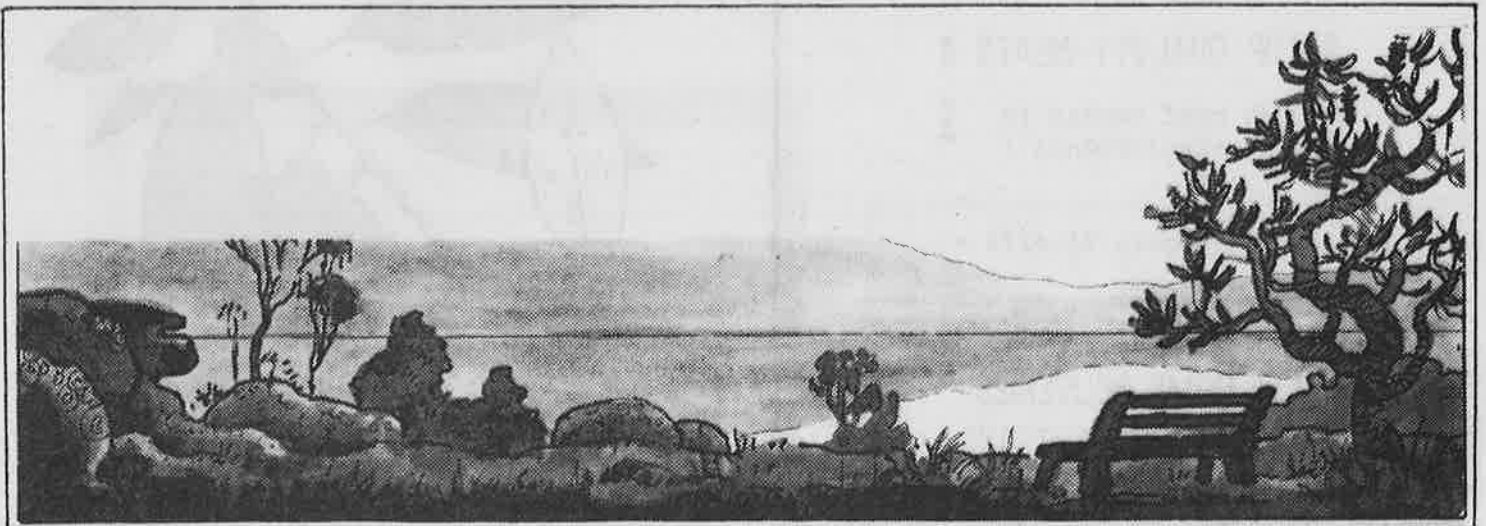
MORNING TEA GROUP

One of the really interesting groups in Castlecrag is the morning tea group for young mothers and preschool children. This was started eighteen years ago in the Bulwark, and soon included mothers and children from most parts of Castlecrag. The group meets monthly and extends a welcome to all, particularly new mums and residents new to our area. For details of times etc, ring Lynn Trumbull 95 5669 or Vivien Whitfield 95 4103.

FRANCIS MARATEA. OBITUARY.

Last edition of the Crag carried portion of the report by the committee who judged the entries to our bus shelter competition, also a reduced copy of the winning entry submitted jointly by Francis Maratea and Mike Burgess. It is with deep regret that we now have to report the sudden death of Francis, aged 31 years. During the few years that he lived in Castlecrag with his wife Kate and daughter Emma, Francis showed deep empathy with the bushland. Much of his time was spent painting, and his was one of the first exhibitions held at the Willoughby Civic Centre Art Display area. We were fortunate in having a sketch by Francis on the cover of our submission to the Kirby Inquiry, this gave it a very professional appearance.

The committee would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Kate and Emma, and to Francis's parents. Francis's untimely death is a great loss to our community.





FURTHER MEMORIES FROM DOUG CHANDLER.

In our August copy of the CRAG we included an article by Doug Chandler, our newsagent until recent years. We would now like to pass on some of his memories of the far end of Edinburgh Road, below the Pinnacle, the area then correctly called Torquay Point.

"Initially residents were picked up twice weekly by launch from a wharf at the end of the road, taken to the Spit where they boarded a tram to Spit Junction to shop and pick up their mail. To bolster business my father instigated a combined grocery and mail delivery to this area. Later on the P.M.G. recognised this service and paid him one pound ten shillings per week which made him a mail contractor and hence eligible to extra petrol coupons during the war. This allowed him to make daily grocery deliveries, a big boost to his business.

I remember a family who lived along Tor Walk, which was then just a narrow bush track. The mother was an enormous red headed kindly woman with a large family of children. Often I delivered groceries to them, and about fifty yards from the house I would be surrounded by the children waiting for the packet of boiled sweets customarily given with grocery orders at that time. The father never worked, and once a month "mum" would make the trek up to the shops, an arduous journey for anyone let alone a person of her bulk, cash her social welfare cheque, pay her account and with the change, if any, buy a few extra luxuries for her brood. A remarkable woman by any standards".

This of course was in the good old days, when you could phone up your grocery order and have it delivered, instead of the present hassle of weekly shopping. Mr. Chandler would also bring our meat and vegetables, and even take us back up to the shopping centre with him. The launch service to the Spit was still available to Torquay Point in 1942. The wharf, sadly, has long since fallen into disrepair and been dismantled.

## **CASTLECRAG MEATS**

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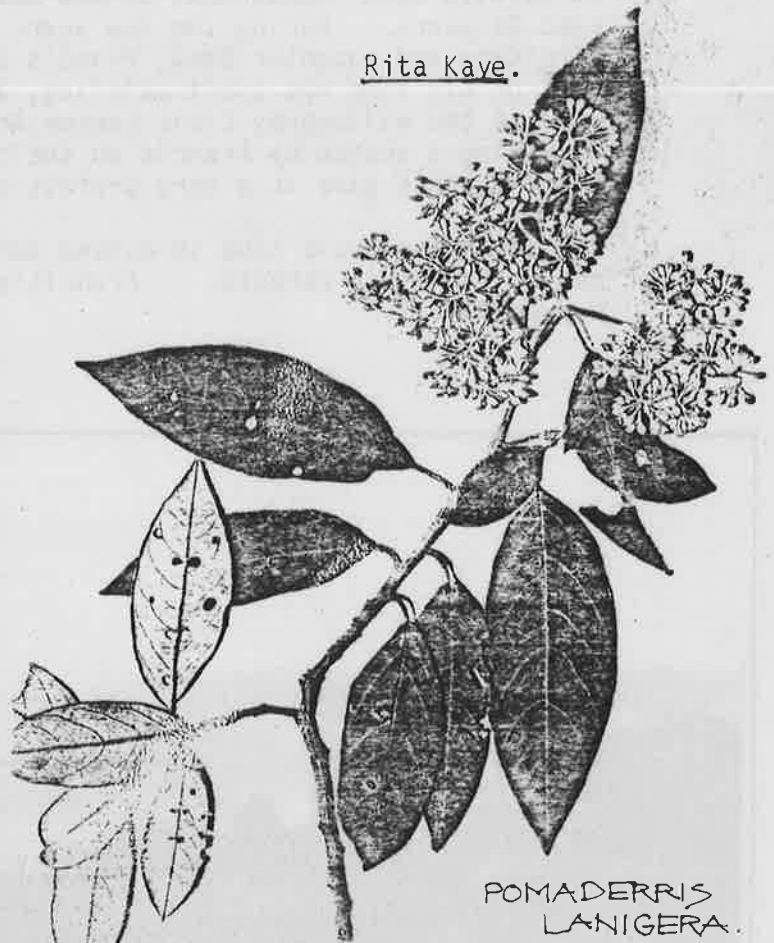
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