

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dianne Street.

As another year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the work and activities achieved by the committee during the past nine months. Since we were elected in February, the responsibilities of the Castlecrag Progress Association have not diminished. There have been contentious court cases between neighbours and Council that we have tried to defuse and hopefully most of them will be resolved to the advantage of the suburb. We await decisions still to be made by the Local Planning and Environment Minister and Willoughby Council.

The film night in July brought together old friends and memories.

Generous donations and willing workers helped make our day at the Willoughby Family Fair a financial success.

The response to our Neighbourhood Watch meeting was excellent and that project is now under way.

On behalf of our committee I would like to thank most sincerely Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Crebbin for opening their garden to the public last month. We were very privileged to have the opportunity to view magnificent sculptures displayed in delightful surroundings. Although it rained just as the gates opened, it did not prevent many of us from enjoying a very happy and successful afternoon.

To date we have raised over \$1400 including donations and subscriptions, which will help to cover our ever increasing expenses to work in Castlecrag. With the pressure of work and family commitments on most of us, it is a relief to know that there are still enough residents prepared to make the time to assist the community.

To those who have given their time and money to work voluntarily on behalf of Castlecrag I would like to say thank you, and to wish you all a very Special Christmas and New Year.

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION IN DECEMBER.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26th AT 8P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE - THE RAMPART CASTLECRAG.

.....
THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS GENERAL MEETING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MARCH 8th 1985 and 8p.m.

The decision by Willoughby Council at its meeting on 26th November, to support and implement the recommendations of Allen Fox & Associates for the management of our Bushland areas is good news and a recognition of the importance of this rich resource, strategically placed so close to the city. To my mind, the decision represents a sound approach by Council to resolve a difficult problem, particularly difficult at present when funds available for such work are very limited.

Residents will no doubt be aware of the conflicting points of view which have developed over the past few years between the conservation groups and Council. The views of Aldermen on this matter also differed widely, particularly in regard to fire protection measures. Faced with this complex problem the Council Urban Bushland Management Committee considered the matter and recommended that a study be undertaken by professional consultants to advise Council on a course of action. A number of very competent groups tendered for the task which was finally awarded to Allen Fox, who carried out the work in association with Roger Good. The Management Plan is the outcome of more than a year's very competent and detailed work by this group. Its adoption by Willoughby Council makes us the first Local Government area in Australia to have a Plan of Management for our Bushland Reserves.

High on the list will be the adoption of a modern programme of fire management.

A recognition of the outdoor recreation potential of our reserves and the rehabilitation and preservation of the heritage values of the Middle Harbour Landscape and its conservation in perpetuity is an action of which I feel we can be proud. This report will be made available to the public at \$10 per copy to help defray the cost of the study. It is an excellent document which I am sure many will wish to own.

Anthony Maestri

HAIRDRESSER

I HAVE JUST DECORATED MY NEW SALON. COME IN AND ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE I HAVE ACHIEVED WITH A BEAUTIFUL NATIVE GARDEN, OR GIVE ME A CALL ON 95 5527.

161 Eastern Valley Way, MIDDLE COVE Telephone 95 5527.



THE CRAG is edited on behalf of
THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
by Rita Kaye & Ann Korner.
(phone 95 6146 or 95 6059).
Queries or idea's welcome.

CASTLECRAG

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WE HAVE A SUPERB RANGE
OF XMAS GIFTS
IDEAS TO SUIT EVERYONE

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Edgar Herbert, pioneer of physical education in Australia. He graduated as Bachelor of Physical Education of 1912 at Springfield College, Massachusetts, U.S.A., and after a period on the staff of that college and of Columbia University, he returned to Australia determined to establish modern physical education here. He applied this forward thinking to his work with the Y.M.C.A., the Kindergarten Union Training College, the supervision of the Municipal playgrounds of the City of Sydney and North Sydney and to student leadership training. Springfield college posthumously recognised the work of this outstanding man, when they conferred upon him the Honorary Degree of Master of Physical Education.

Edgar's daughter, Ronda Spathopoulos writes of her father:-

"Edgar and Grace Herbert first established a friendship with Walter and Marion Griffin during their stay in Melbourne. Edgar had been very impressed by various aspects of life in the U.S.A. and their mutual enthusiasm for the American dream transferred to the Australian scene, their liberal idealism and vision formed the basis of the relationship between the two couples. It was, moreover, this sharing of similar philosophies that led Edgar after his transfer to Sydney to settle with his family in Castlecrag around 1924.

One of the legacies of that Castlecrag era has been its community spirit and identity. Given his belief in the importance of the Community as a social and cultural entity, as evidenced by his work in the slums of East-side New York at the Prince Henry Settlement and later in the then slums of the Surry Hills area of Sydney at Moore Park, along with the value he attached to the individual's development within the group, it is not surprising that Edgar Herbert from the outset promoted and participated in community activities; raising his familiar voice in discussion at any of the numerous gatherings of the Neighbourhood Circle, of which he was one of the initiators; being God's voice issuing from behind a gum tree in the Haven Scenic Theatre; fighting bushfires just to save the bush even beyond threat to habitation. (They were, after all, among Australia's first environmentalists.)

While no longer an adherent to any established church, he rejected a completely materialistic interpretation of man and the universe. In later years he sought spiritual enlightenment in some of the theories of Rudolf Steiner, to whose ideas he was introduced at the regular Castlecrag anthroposophical festivals, he was never content to accept the views of the converted. He died still doubting, still believing, still searching for the universal philosophy of life.

Indeed, Edgar Herbert was as far removed from the then conventional physical-jerks man concept of Physical Education as one could find. Ask anybody who didn't know him who waited with him on a bus seat or parried arguments in a debate, and he might guess philosopher, historian, educationalist and still question as the net cast wider.

Widely read from the Ancient Greeks through to his contemporaries, despite his own eclecticism and originality, Herbert was unmistakably an educated product of his times within the American experience. There was the flaw that created the anachronism; America was not Australia.

Both Griffin and Herbert had the persistence and at the beginning some of the naivety of the visionaries. Inevitably each in his own way and according to his own scale suffered the same frustration in the face of the parochialism, the petty obscurantism, the bureaucracy of the country they came to pioneer. Neither was able to elevate the damper mentality of the mass of Australians. But both achieved something of their goals. Both left some mark. In the end, both lived with the pain of disillusionment. After their end, it was their women, Marion and Grace, who were left with the lonely aftertaste."

We of Castlecrag feel very proud to include Edgar William Herbert in our own personal "Roll of Honour". Ed.

The proposed walkway master plan does not go before Council until January, 1985, and if approved, work will not commence in Castlecrag for another two years at the earliest.

If there are to be "walkways" established in Castlecrag we would like to clarify what priorities there are for what will surely have limited funding. Some suggestions have been for circular walkways linking to adequate parking areas (many established parking areas badly need some attention, e.g. Rockley Street); connecting walkways with the proposed bikeway system; access and repair of the historic Griffin walkways, especially those presently used and needing attention. None of these issues have been addressed in the proposal, but there is still time to state our priorities.

Consideration was given to a "native walk" along one proposed route south of the Rampart and Rockley Street. However we have abandoned the walk through this area because of the difficulty of the terrain and the almost impenetrable nature of the flora, especially the vine "Native Sarsparilla" (*Smilax glaphylla*). Even though there are some outstanding natural features, not to mention two fine examples of sewerage "blow out" valves that had certainly blown out a lot of raw sewage into the bushland and Sailors Bay during the recent heavy rain, we feel that this walk may be a more suitable "Tricentennial" walkway.

Future walks however will be organised and advertised in THE CRAG as soon as we can establish some feasible family routes with a limited degree of difficulty.

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CASTLECRAG MEATS

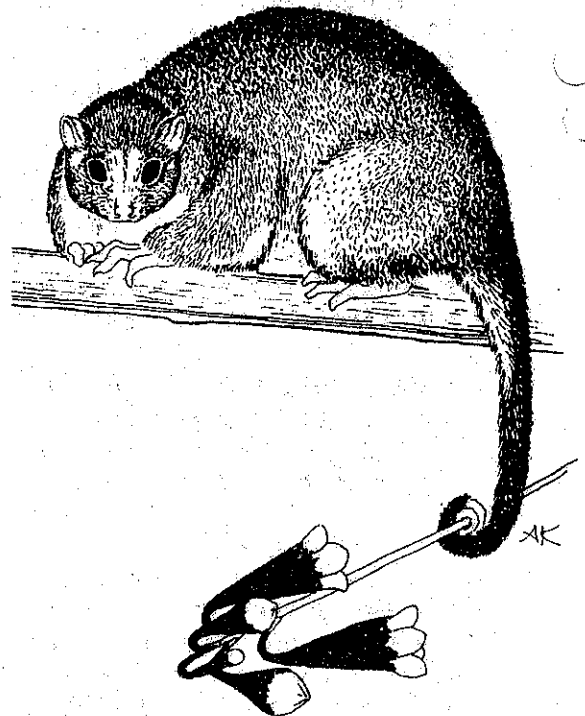
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CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL NEWS

We've had a very successful year, culminating in our usual Christmas activities of carols, plays, parties etc. Once again we'd like to thank all our parents for their enthusiastic support.

Do enjoy your children during this long holiday break and take care when travelling.

School resumes for years 1 and 2 on Wednesday 30th January, 1985. Kindergarten enrolments are by appointment on Thursday 31st January, 1985.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR 1985!.....Alison Whittle (Principal).

ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK.

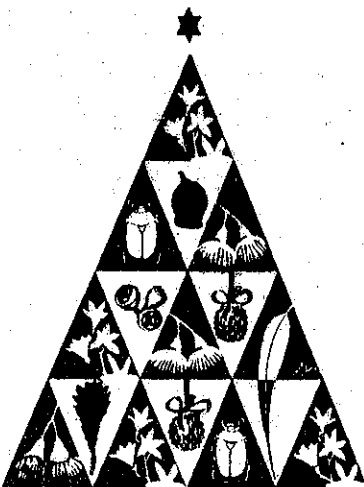
On the afternoons of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th of February next, there will be a Castlecrag Festival that takes as its starting point the ideas of Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion. This will consist of a play which interprets the characters of the Griffins and their concept of Castlecrag; screenings of films; talks on the Griffins' design concept for Canberra and an exhibition. There will also be the chance to taste some gastronomical delights prepared by the restaurants of Castlecrag.

Following these activities, members of the Conservation Society will conduct a guided walking tour which will wind its way through Castlecrag, ending at the Haven Theatre in time for an afternoon performance.

The play itself looks at the feeling that founded the suburb, the attachment that a group of people develop for a place they know well and the effect that an unexpected change has upon them. Performances will be outdoors, in the Haven theatre and will last for a little over an hour. It is quite lighthearted in style, even though it has some serious moments, and is suitable for children and adults.

The concept for this festival, which promises to be an exciting experience, is mainly the work of Michael Bate, who has a grant from the Australian Arts Council. His support comes from Willoughby Council, from a group of musicians and from people interested in the theatre. These include residents of Castlecrag.

Howard Rubie.



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GOODBYE ANGELA.

Rita Kaye.

We are very sorry to hear that Angela Jeffreys, director of the Castlecrag Kindergarten, is leaving us at the end of the School year. Angela's husband has been transferred to Melbourne.

Our first director, Miss Olive Mason, who joined us when the Kindergarten was first opened in the early 1940's, set a high standard. Since then we have had a number of directors in charge of our children, and we have been very fortunate that this high standard has always been maintained. Thank you, Angela for all you have done for the Castlecrag Kindergarten children during the years they have been under your care. We will be sad to see you go, and wish you well in your new home.

Yours Beautifully
Beautician

Shop 11, The Quadrangle, Edinburgh Rd., Castlecrag Phone 95 0546

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STOP PRESS - Holiday Programs organised by Willoughby Council.

Holiday Activities Centres for children aged 5 - 12 will be operating from December 14th to January 25th (ex. Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st). Activities include typing, pottery, rap, dancing, "speak well" courses, drama workshop, cricket coaching etc.

A number of holiday camps have been arranged. For further particulars phone Mrs. Val Dixon 412.3333 ext. 108.

CASTLECrag CELLARS

122 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECrag PHONE 95 2682 or 958 1507

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WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY XMAS & NEW YEAR.