

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

This Association has been asked to draw your attention to the appalling condition of the Castlecrag Bus Shelter and adjoining car park. We have had reports of young people deliberately defacing the shelter, and using it as a meeting place during the day and night. We would ask parents of young children and teenagers to help us to stamp out this vandalism.

Much time and effort has been spent to get the area approved as a temporary car park, and to plant it with species indigenous to Castlecrag. It is wrong that the shelter has to be regularly re-painted and the shrubs replaced because of peoples' carelessness. It would be a shame to see the area revert to the rubbish dump it was some years ago, and thus to lose this necessary parking space. This is the doorway to Castlecrag, it can be beautiful, please help us to keep it tidy.

### AN EXHIBITION OF PATCHWORK.

### TO BE PRESENTED BY ELIZABETH BURTON.

A committee has been formed and a date decided on for what promises to be a most exciting exhibition of PATCHWORK. This is to be presented by Elizabeth Burton and is the work of her past and present students. We were all delighted with Elizabeth's exhibition held three years ago, and are now proud to make this the main function to mark the sixtieth birthday of our Association.

Arrangements are now all in hand. It has been decided to serve Devonshire Teas each day of the exhibition, and we are organising a roster of people who would help us with this. We shall need a lot of assistance, so that everything will run smoothly, so do agree to take part in the celebrations, and phone and let us know the times it would best suit you to come along and help. (Phone Dorothy Fraser 95-5851 or Rita Kaye 95-6146.

VENUE OF EXHIBITION :- St. James' Hall, Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag.

DATES :- Official Opening - Thursday evening, 24th October,  
Friday 25th, Saturday 26th,  
Sunday 27th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE - THE POSTERN, ON AUGUST 20TH, 1985 AT 8 p.m.  
PLEASE NOTE THAT DATE HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD BECAUSE OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD IT'S NEXT MEETING AT 70 THE BULWARK ON FRIDAY 30TH AUGUST, 1985 AT 8 P.M.

An article by Anne Thomas in the last copy of CRAG on the history of Castlecrag Free Library which opened in 1948, many years before the Central Library at Chatswood Centre, prompts me to write on SHORELINK. This is the Library Computer Network which will link the Libraries of Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby.

Libraries have fascinated me since as a school boy over 50 years ago I joined the Public Library in the Queen Victoria Building. The old fashioned methods of indexing, accessing information, issuing and recording books hardly changed from the 30's to the 80's. By 1980 the vastly increased use of the Public Libraries had created a critical situation. The Chief Librarians reported to their Councils that the clerical costs of their labour intensive library organisations had risen by nearly 400% in the previous decade. Four of these Councils decided to set up a Joint Committee of Aldermen and Chief Librarians to investigate and report on the feasibility of an Automated Library System. I was elected to that Committee and am still an active member. Statistical data available to us demonstrated that our communities are amongst the highest users of library facilities in the Greater Sydney Area.

The Committee, which was later expanded to include Manly, recommended the adoption of a five library network, the costs to be shared on a pro rata basis. The system adopted has been given the name of SHORELINK. The Processor (computer) and the main centre is located at the Lane Cove Library. Each of the Libraries has a number of terminals where the staff and members of the public can access the computer system. A few of the many facilities offered by the new system are as follows:-

- \* One borrower's card valid at all five libraries.
- \* Access to information on all books in the Network through author, title and subject.
- \* Better control of overdue items, resulting in books being returned more promptly, and therefore being more readily available.
- \* Instant information through terminals as to the location of wanted books whether they are on order, being processed, on the shelves or on loan.
- \* Sharing the network resources more economically by minimising unnecessary duplication of expensive or specialised material.

The system should be fully operational by September this year, and at some future date a terminal will be installed at Castlecrag Community Library.



## *Willoughby Family Fun Fair*

THE FIFTH WILLOUGHBY FUN FAIR will be held in Willoughby Park, Corner McClland Street and Warrane Rd, on Saturday 21st September, from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION will be having a TRASH & TREASURE STALL and would like your assistance to stock the stall with books, records, cloths, china in fact just anything - we will take it.

All treasure (and trash) can be left at the Kaye's 325 Edinburgh Rd., Castlecrag, preferably under cover. For items to be collected, please phone 95 6936 or 95 6059.

We would also urge you to keep the date free, so that you can come along with your family and enjoy the fantastic entertainment planned for you. There will be something interesting happening all day, and this includes some good bands.

We shall be requiring a van to assist us with the transport of goods to the Fair on the day, (Saturday 21st September). We would appreciate anyone who could help us this way phoning 95 6146 (Kaye) or 95 6936 (Marcella), so that we could discuss it with them.

CASTLECRAG KINDERGARTEN:

MARTHE MUNTEN (DIRECTOR)

Local residents should be aware that childrens' names may be placed on the waiting list of Castlecrag Kindergarten (which caters for 80 children per week) when the child turns 2 years old.

Children who are 4 years old and those who will be attending school the following year will be placed in the Kindergarten in order of names on the waiting list. Therefore, if you wish your child to attend your local kindergarten, which is excellent and very highly regarded, it is essential to place his/her name on the waiting list on, or as soon after the second birthday as possible.

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

NEW BOOK LIST.

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| FORESTER, E.M.   | Passage to India.      |
| COOKSON, C       | DINNER OF HERBS.       |
| KAYE, M.M.       | Death in Kashmir.      |
| MacLEAN, A.      | San Andreas            |
| PUZO, MARIO.     | The Sicilian.          |
| BRADFORD, B.T.   | Hold the Dream.        |
| FREEMAN, C       | Illusions of Love.     |
| SHELDON, SIDNEY  | If Tomorrow Comes.     |
| KERY, IBY.       | I've Been Chosen.      |
| SMITH, WILBUR    | The Burning Shore.     |
| MAEVE, BINCEY    | Echoes.                |
| CARY, PETER      | Illywacker             |
| KERVERNA, G.     | A Man Cannot Cry.      |
| MOSS, ROBERT     | MOSCOW RULES           |
| SEYMOIR, GERALD  | Field of Blood.        |
| MURDOCK, ANNA    | In Her Own Image.      |
| NICOLE, C.       | The Crimson Pagoda.    |
| KORDA, MICHAEL   | Queenie.               |
| MASTERTON, G.    | Corroboree             |
| LINDSAY, JACK    | The blood Vote.        |
| DOERR, HARRIETT. | Stones foe Ibarra      |
| SUNYIN, HANS     | ENCHANTRESS.           |
| BATTE, LOIS.     | Southern Women.        |
| CONRAD, SHIRLEY  | Lace 2                 |
| PRIEST, C        | The Glamour            |
| MOSCO, MAISE     | A Sense of Place       |
| GRENVILLE, KATE  | Lillian's Story        |
| MITCHELL, E.     | Discovers of the Snowy |

# CASTLECRAG MEATS

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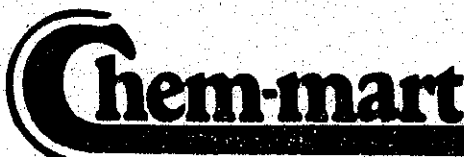
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## CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Most Castlecrag houses are blessed with natural bush reserves at their doorstep. Unfortunately many of these have degenerated through abuse, or well-meaning but sporadic efforts to 'improve and beautify' them by conventional gardening methods e.g., planting and cultivation.

Native plants can be encouraged to re-colonize weed infested areas. With selective weeding a stabilization can be reached, which makes replanting quite unnecessary. To achieve this, patience and a degree of specialized knowledge and training is required. We have this resource in our Conservation Society. (Ring the Secretary, Addie Saltis, 95-6409 for details.)

The aim of these articles is to help you understand your patch of bush and, by observing a few basic principles of Bushland Management, prevent further deterioration of good bushland.

NATIVE GRASSES AND GROUND COVERS are the least noticed and respected plants in our bush. Too often they are mistaken for weeds, and removed, leaving bare disturbed soil which favours weeds and exotics\*. Grasses and ground covers are an integral part of the bushland ecosystem, preventing soil erosion and sharp changes in soil temperature and moisture content. There are 'colonizers', and a boon to the bush regenerator, spreading quickly into areas which have been judiciously weeded, yet giving way to other slower growing natives when the time comes. Many are easily confused with introduced species of the same family. Did you know, for instance, that

- The native *Commelina* looks like *Tradescantia* (Wandering Jew) to the inexperienced. *Commelina* has pointed leaves, a stronger root system and bright blue flowers. *Trad* has white flowers.
- Oxalis corniculata* is often removed as a nasty *Oxalis*. It has greenish-yellow leaves and small yellow flowers, is an excellent creeping ground cover and does not have hundreds of tiny bulbs ready to sprout up if disturbed.
- Microlaena* is a native grass easily confused with *Ehrharta*. Unfortunately the beginner only recognises it by its 'toothbrush' roots after it has been pulled out!
- Oplismenus*, a native grass, is so common in Castlecrag that many assume it is a weed. Admittedly it is rather untidy when in seed, but it spreads quickly to cover bare soil and should be greeted with cries of delight if spotted in a weed infested area.

There are many other beautiful native grasses in Castlecrag, e.g. *Themeda* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Danthonia* (Wallaby Grass). Our bush regenerators will help you identify them. Alternatively visit the dried plant section of the Herbarium building in the Royal Botanic Gardens. The National Trust has also established an herbarium for the use of Regenerators and Bush Regeneration School Students.

(Incidentally - another 'colonizer' coming up like a weed after the recent rains is *Omolanthus* (Bleeding Heart tree). This native shrub has heart-shaped leaves, some of which turn red as it matures. It is quick growing and helps considerably in bush regeneration. Encourage it - it will die off as the bush stabilizes.)

\*An exotic is any plant not indigenous to the area - anything from privet to Western Australia's Kangaroo Paw.

If you need assistance about indigenous plants for your garden or on the removal of weeds, we suggest you phone Beverley Blacklock 95 6994 - she is always happy to help.

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### CASTLECRAG TENNIS COURTS

Geoff HOGAN.

During the last few months, much interest has been displayed in the activities of the Castlecrag Tennis Club, which operates the two courts in Cortelle Reserve, and it now seems appropriate to give you some of the Club's background.

In Walter Burley Griffin's plan for Castlecrag, provision was made for one tennis court, dedicated for use by residents and others accepted by the Club. Griffin himself was one of the original trustees in 1928 and probably used the court himself. In the late 1940's permission was obtained from Willoughby Council to build a second court, and subsequently a club house.

The courts are being used by approximately 200 people, mainly residents of Castlecrag. Fifty of these players belong to the Castlecrag Sports Club, who use the courts on Saturday afternoon and Sunday mornings, and it is this body that, in the terms of the original deed, have the responsibility for maintenance, hiring and administration.

Coaching classes have been conducted every Saturday morning for many years and attended by hundreds of children. Beginners, intermediate and advance classes operate from 7.30, 8.30 and 9.30 respectively. There is a small annual fee; this is subsidised heavily by the club.

Attention is drawn to unauthorised use of the courts. Over \$20,000 has been spent recently in upgrading and resurfacing in synthetic grass, which has resulted in one of the best playing surfaces in this area. It must be emphasised that they are only available for use by members of the various clubs, WHO MUST BE CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS.

Particulars of the various clubs are as follows:-

Castlecrag Sports Club - Saturday afternoons, weekdays, after 3p.m.  
(At present no vacancies - contact Geoff Hogan for waiting list.)

Associate Members - Sunday afternoons, weekdays, after 3p.m.

Midweek clubs - (mainly ladies)

Evening Clubs - (mixed) Two evenings a week during daylight saving time.

Those interested in particulars of any of these groups, should phone Geoff Hogan on 84 3097 or 95 5646 (H)

### NORTHBRIDGE WOMENS' BOWLING CLUB - THE OUTPOST, WARNERS PARK, NORTHBRIDGE

INVITES INQUIRIES FROM LADIES INTERESTED IN PLAYING LAWN BOWLS.  
Other Social Activities at the Club include:-

YOGA CLASSES, ART CLASSES, SOLO & BRIDGE LESSONS, CARD DAYS  
PLAY READINGS, & DINNERS WITH ENTERTAINMENT.

BOWLS COACHING CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH NEW & EXPERIENCED PLAYERS.  
Further inquiries phone:- Club 956322 After hours 953480 or 955505.



## CASTLECRAG'S ARTISTS

Rita Kaye.

Even before the time of Walter Burley Griffin, Castlecrag was known for its artists. I am not sure if the beauty of the area attracted these people, but it surely influenced them. Thinking of this, I feel that it is time we endeavoured to draw up a list of the painters, sculptors, musicians, actors, to name just some of the fields these people worked in, and record it with the history of Castlecrag. Bim Hilder has started the work with a list of over sixty names, and feels sure he will have missed some. It would also be good to have details of the artists themselves, and their particular work.

To ensure that the list is complete, I seek the assistance of those who have known artists in our community. I would appreciate any help I can get, so please contact me on 95 6146. Hopefully this study will be completed by our Bicentenary year.

## AN INVITATION TO LOCAL YOUTH.

Willoughby Community Arts Officer

As part of International Youth Year, a project has been organised to give youth the opportunity to be involved through participation on the basis of interest and commitment, rather than prior experience, with aims of promoting a more positive profile on youth in our Municipality.

This will take the form of a Library Mural, and under the direction of the artist, Malcolm King, local youth will be contributing to the design and its implementation. A series of workshops have been organised and anyone interested should phone me on 412 3333 ext. 106 for particulars of venue, time and dates. Details have also been posted on the Notice Board in the Quadrangle at Castlecrag.

## SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD APPEAL.

Rita Kaye.

We report an outstanding success in Castlecrag residents' response to the Red Shield Appeal this year. Our total was approximately \$3300, 16% up on last year. With some amounts still to come in, Willoughby Municipality has passed the \$40,000 figure, once again topping other municipalities in what the Salvation Army define as the North Area.

I would personally like to thank the collectors, all of whom turned out to help on such an inclement day. Your support is much appreciated and the money collected will enable the Salvation Army to continue their fine work with the ne

## STOP PRESS : -

Have just heard that there will be a miniature F A R M at the Family Fun Fair, Sheep, lambs, shearing and all.

Also, a Talent Quest for the young of our community. For entrance forms, contact Jenny at 412 3333 (Community Arts Officer).

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.



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