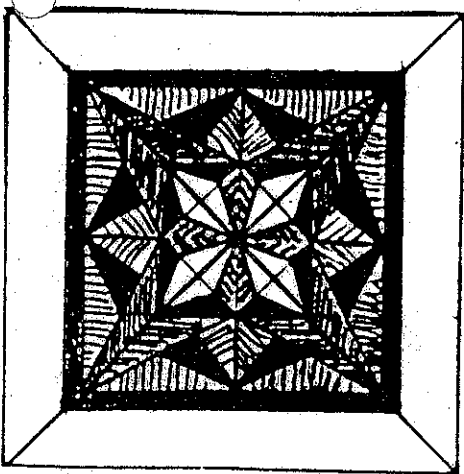


**NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
1925 - 1985. * SIXTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT***

NO. 42 ISSN 0814-2054 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1985

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY EDITION



**CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
& ELIZABETH BURTON Present a
PATCHWORK QUILTING
EXHIBITION**

by Elizabeth's past and present students

FOR OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY

**At ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL - 184 Edinburgh Rd.,
Opening : THURSDAY OCTOBER 24th 7-30 - 9-30pm
CHAMPAGNE SUPPER \$6**

**also FRIDAY 25th, SATURDAY 26th, SUNDAY 27th OCT.
10 - 4pm. Admission \$3 & \$2 concession
includes Devonshire Tea**

**Proceeds donated to Castlecrag's Edinburgh Rd Bus Shelter
and Haven Amphitheatre , and to Chatswood Occasional Day
Centre for equipment .**

Inquiries : R. KAYE 956146 D.FRASER 955851

**The next Progress Association meeting will be held at the
Community Centre, The Postern, on Tuesday 22nd October 1985.
at 8p.m.**

**The Conservation Society will hold its next meeting at 48 The
Bulwark on Friday 1st November 1985. at 8p.m.**

Can you picture Castlecrag sixty years ago? A scattering of houses in the bush and some fisherman's shacks on the waterfront; no Post Office or mail delivery; no garbage collection, sewerage disposal system, kindergarten or school; unsealed roads, and just two little shops (since demolished).

Understandably, Progress Associations are formed to battle?, lobby?, for such mundane things. But Community involvement in Castlecrag goes deeper than this, and not necessarily always through the Progress Association.

"Artists and eccentrics created the centre of our community psyche" writes John Gun in the "Castlecrag" book. These early residents sought more than the mundane. Social and cultural activities flourished in the 20's. The Community Christmas party on a vacant block was an annual event (Bim Hilder did a Puppet show), and residents built a Tennis Court and the Haven open-air theatre. Voluntary rangers guarded the bush from vandals and firewood seekers.

The buildings of the Community Centre, in 1943, was a tremendous achievement for what was then still a small community. Financed on a 50/50 basis with Willoughby Municipal Council, it took four years of fund raising and frustration to construct the building which houses the Kindergarten and Library.

Some things take time. The Progress Association started lobbying for a Primary School in 1926. It eventuated in 1954 - one generation later!

By this time too, the possibility of an expressway through our bushland had become a serious threat. This is an ongoing battle, fought by successive Committees, which we must continue to fight and win.

The construction of Eastern Valley Way, in 1939, opened up the suburb, and Castlecrag became a highly desirable residential area. It was time for residents to start campaigning against further progress. Some proposals which have been bitterly fought against by residents include:-

- * An Hotel on the corner of Edinburgh Rd. and Eastern Valley Way.
- * A home unit development on Sugarloaf Bay - four 20-storey tower buildings and nine 6-storey apartment buildings complete with shops, marina etc.
- * A shopping mall of 17 shops with 8 floors of flats above.
- * Three-storey extensions to the Castlecrag hospital.

and, of course, most residents will remember the community pressure (and money) forced the Quadrangle development plans to go to the Local Government Appeals tribunal. The fast-food outlet and half-case market were abandoned, and the tribunal's amendments to plans resulted in the attractive complex we have today.

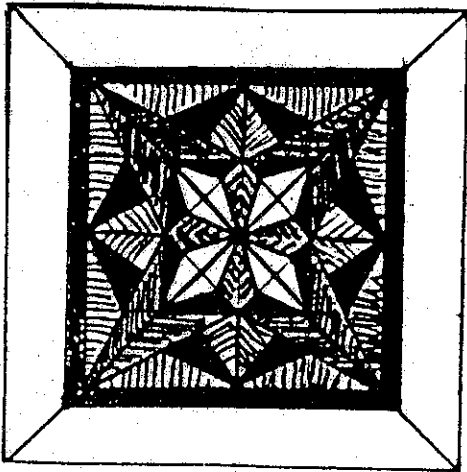
Other achievement which various sections of the community can look back on with pride include:-

- * Construction of the two local churches and the St. James Church Hall.
- * The Walter Burley Griffin Memorial fountain, commissioned for the Willoughby Municipality's Centenary (designed by the resident Bim Hilder). The building fund was oversubscribed by 400, much of which was later donated to the Infant's school for landscaping.
- * The "Castlecrag" book - a fund raising project for the Infant's school, yet with most contributions and expertise donated by residents and ex-residents, some of whom had never had any connection with the school.
- * The "Archeological dig" to restore and reconstruct the amphitheatre.
- * The setting up and continued management of the Community Library.

And which of us remember:-

- * The St. James Church Art Shows - a highlight of the Sydney art scene.
- * The Griffin Centenary/Aust. American Bicentennial celebrations with the whole community involved - Griffin Houses, vintage cars, yacht cruises, "Salome", afternoon teas, etc.
- * The family Bar-b-ques and the Bush Dances at the Community centre.
- * The regular Tuesday trips to Woolloomooloo where the Castlecrag group delivered Meals on Wheels for many years.

Our community has fought many campaigns and worked for many goals, since the 1920's, and the Castlecrag Progress Association, whose inaugural meeting was held on 10th November 1925, is proud to be part of that SIXTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.



ELIZABETH BURTON

OFFICIAL OPENING BY MR. DICK CREBBIN

THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER, 7.30 - 9.30

Those of you who saw our exhibition 3 years ago know how exciting Patchwork can be. My students have been encouraged to develop their own sense of design, rather than simply reproduce designs of the past. The synthesis of old techniques and modern or personal statement can be quite beautiful. This show promises to be as pleasing and varied as the last. We shall have more garments this time, as well as quilts and hangings. However, as this is students' work rather than professionals' we shall not have work for sale. Albeit, in certain cases commissions might be arranged.

I hope you will all come along and enjoy the patchwork and the community festivities.

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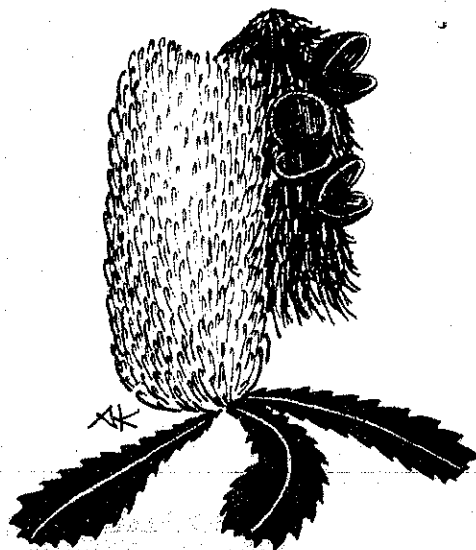
To commemorate the Bicentenary the parents of Castlecrag Kindergarten are restoring the bush in an area of reserve immediately behind the Castlecrag Community Centre.

The area being restored includes a beautiful waterfall with a 6 metre drop, and a very large rock monolith. Both are of great natural beauty but they have been severely denigrated by builders' rubble and rubbish that has been dumped there in previous years and by the dense weed growth that has ensued. This includes large privets, bamboo, lantana and a great variety of densely growing weeds which, until the plan got under way about 12 months ago, made the area almost inaccessible.

It is intended to restore the area to its original beauty by removing the rubble, rubbish and weed growth and setting local native plants.

The project has the support of the Willoughby Bicentennial Environmental Projects Sub-Committee which will look at ways of including the area in the Willoughby Walking Trails (another bicentenary project). It would be ideally located as part of a trail to link Northbridge to Castlecrag. Thus, it is anticipated that, by the bicentenary year, both the Kindergarten children and the general public will be able to take full advantage of the restored area for walks and picnics.

All work on the restoration has been done voluntarily by the kindergarten parents. Any assistance that could be given by Castlecrag residents would be greatly appreciated since it is such a worthwhile project. The next working bee will be on Sunday 3rd November, 1985 from 10a.m. till 12 noon, and everyone is welcome. Further enquiries phone Adrienne Kabos, 958 2060.



Willoughby Environment Protection Association(W.E.P.A.) is organising a walk along Flat Rock Valley on Sunday October, 20th and anyone interested in joining the group will be very welcome. Meet at 10 a.m. at the main Small St., Car Park (next to Flat Rock Drive underpass). For further information ring 95 25691.

FAMILY FUN FAIR

We would like to thank everyone who so kindly assisted us with stock for our stall, by donating a wide variety of goods. We were very disappointed that the day was so wet, and decided not to risk damaging the goods in the rain, but to store them and sell them at a later date at one of the northshore markets. We will report further on this later.



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Take a good look at stable, weed-free bush. The soil is covered with a thick layer of mulch - decaying leaves, twigs, fallen branches etc. In the mulch grow the ground covers - grasses, creepers and brachens, and above is the canopy of taller shrubs and trees which filter light and air. This is the environment to which our native plants, and our native ferns have adapted, undisturbed over thousands of years.

Weeds, on the other hand, may survive under these conditions, but they prefer cultivated, bare soil and lots of light and air. They thrive where the bush meets man-made disturbances; road verges and earthworks (sewers are notorious) or along the sides of bush tracks where feet have scuffed the mulch and ground cover and hands have cut down the canopy of overhanging branches. Once established they will gradually invade and degrade the bush behind them.

Bushland management seeks to reverse this process. It aims, firstly, to prevent further deterioration of good bush and then to encourage re-colonization of weed infested areas by restoring the conditions which favour indigenous species. This is achieved by always weeding where the strongest bush meets the weakest weeds taking great care to disturb the topsoil and native seedlings as little as possible. Progress is slow and unspectacular, but the natives will respond and gradually stabilize into good bush.

This 'minimal disturbance' method of Bush Regeneration was pioneered by Joan and Eileen Bradley, working at Ashton Park, Mosman. A copy of Joans' pamphlet, 'Bush Regeneration' is available at the Castlecrag Library. Her 'Weeds and their removal' is out of print. A further publication completed after her death will soon be available from the National Trust.

Choosing the areas in which to commence work is the essence of Bushland Management. Often it is better to leave weeds in and make them work for you. Keep mulch, ground cover and canopy in mind. For example, a large unsightly lantana in a degraded area is providing canopy and inhibiting weed growth beneath it. Its removal will seem a dramatic improvement at the time, but it will only encourage the surrounding, harder to remove, weeds to pounce into the area that has been cleared. Better to wait until native ground covers have been brought up to it ready to compete for the exposed surface.

Similarly, a bad patch of annual weeds is at least smothering some weed seedling. To remove only results in a fresh crop of the same weed - plus a few new ones. Weeding from good to bad encourages natives to spread, and, if weed growth is controlled, gradually replace heavy weed infestation.

Think of it as a military manoeuvre:-

The native colony is threatened by aliens with territorial ambitions. The strategy would be*

1. Destroy isolated enemy units which have infiltrated into the colony.
2. Attack the enemy at its weakest points.
3. Stop. Do some mopping up - wait for native reinforcements to strengthen your position.
4. Drive wedges into the enemy lines - always where they are weakest and where you have strong reinforcements to back you.
5. Enlarge wedges as the natives build up strength.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RAWDON MILLER!

Mr. Miller of 10 The Battlement, this year for the fourth time, won the prize for the BEST PRIVATE GARDEN IN WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPALITY and was also highly commended for the BEST FRONT GARDEN.- Our community is very proud of Rawdon's achievements.

I attempt in this column to make a small contribution to better communications between our Progress Association, our residents and Council. I do this by reporting Council activities which directly relate to Castlecrag. Whilst contemplating a suitable subject on which to write for our 60th Anniversary, I read the excellent contribution by Addie Saltis to this copy of the Crag, and felt I should add a few observations of my own on the roles of Progress Associations and Council in local affairs. Addie, in my view, is correct when she says "Progress Associations are formed to Battle" for issues which their members consider important. I see nothing basically wrong with this approach and as is pointed out in the article our Association has initiated many important community projects in the past 60 years. I am privileged to have played a part in a number of these.

Many of the initiatives require action by Council and in my experience delays or opposition to them invariably causes resentment. Some of this is justified, however some is inherent in the limitations under which a Council and its aldermen work. I feel that this aspect is not always clearly understood by some of our residents, perhaps the following comments may make the position more clear.

From the early years of this century Willoughby Municipality has been divided into five wards, three aldermen are elected from each ward. Since 1948 when Edgar Deans was elected, one of the three Middle Harbour ward aldermen has resided in Castlecrag, and has come to be regarded as the "Castlecrag alderman". Despite this, there is no place in Local Government for sectional interests, as stated in the Local Govt. Handbook "every alderman occupies his position as a representative of the whole Municipality with equal responsibility and on equal terms with his colleagues". Thus, whilst local aldermen have the responsibility of bringing the needs of their area to Council, their overriding concern must be the advancement of the whole of the Municipality. Progress Associations do not have such constraints, and as such can make demands on Council for priority to be given to their projects.

Council affairs are governed mainly by the Local Government Act 1919 and by ordinances which are similar to by-laws. Councils have administrative functions only, they do not make the law; further, in a very practical way the work they can carry out is constrained by income (or lack of it). Specific grants are made by both the Australian and the N.S.W. Governments, however the main source of funds is raised by rates and these days the maximum which can be levied are set by the N.S.W. Government.

It is inevitable that many requests for Council to carry out work additional to that already planned, can only be acceded to by involving financial outlay not previously budgeted for. Unless very urgent, such requests must wait consideration until the following financial year.

Finally, I would say to residents making requests which may be costly or controversial, they should make these in writing to the Town Clerk, and if they wish their alderman to speak in Council for them on the matter, or take follow up action, they should send their alderman a copy of that letter.

CASTLECrag CELLARS

122 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECrag PHONE 95 2682 or 958 1507

DISCOUNT WINES BEERS & SPIRITS

A WORD FROM THE PATCHWORK COMMITTEE

When considering a function to celebrate our sixtieth birthday, we welcomed Elizabeth Burton's offer to hold another exhibition in Castlecrag. Once again, Mr. Crebbin will perform the official opening. Dick has been a resident of Castlecrag for many years, and has been very supportive of our Association. You will recall that he opened the grounds of his home overlooking the harbour to us last year, giving us the opportunity to view the many fine sculptures set in his beautiful gardens, and at the same time to raise funds for our Association.

We will be serving a Champagne Supper at the official opening on Thursday evening of 24th October, and Devonshire Teas on the following days, Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October. We still need helpers to serve these refreshments and to assist in various other ways. Please phone Dorothy Fraser 95 5851 or Rita Kaye 95 6146 if you can possibly help.

The proceeds of the exhibition will be donated to Castlecrag's bus shelter, to the Haven Theatre towards its ongoing maintenance, and to purchase equipment for the Chatswood Occasional Care Centre.

Sometime ago we held a competition for a design for a bus shelter to be constructed at the corner of Linden Way and Edinburgh Road where many children wait in the rain for their school bus. The competition was won by Francis Maratea, a young architect and a resident, who has since died. This design is more in keeping with Castlecrag than the usual bus shelter provided by the Transport Authority and we have agreed to meet part of the cost; we do already have some money in hand towards this. Council has promised that the shelter will be built by our birthday date of 10th November.



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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.

SAFETY HOUSES PROGRAMME

Castlecrag Infant School Committee

This programme is now under way.

Identification plaques have been placed on all safety houses.

The children's education to familiarise them with the position of the Safety Houses has started.

Those children whose homes are directly involved have been made known to the children in class, so that they can easily relate to them.

The Police are instructing the children in STRANGER DANGER.

For further information, or if you would be prepared to become involved with the scheme, please phone the school, 95 4035.



**Neighbourhood
watch** PROGRAMME

Committee Report

This is progressing as new people join the scheme. Each co-ordinator now has an engraver to enable licence numbers to be marked on valuable equipment. This makes police identification possible in a few minutes should the article be stolen and later recovered by the police. It also discourages theft as the goods are no longer easily saleable.

Our thanks to the co-ordinators for their enthusiasm and to those residents who are co-operating. If you have not already joined, and wish to do so, please phone Sue, 95 6344, or your area co-ordinator, for full information and for a kit provided by the police department. We still need a few co-ordinators for areas not yet fully covered.

Northbridge Women's Bowling Club

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