

NEWSLETTER

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

No. 43

ISSN 0814-2054

NOVEMBER, / DECEMBER 1985

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dianne Street.

Dear Residents,

This month marks the completion of sixty years of continual service to the community by members of the Castlecrag Progress Association, a group of caring residents who give their time and money to improve the amenities and safety of all people who live and work in Castlecrag.

Of late, due to some noticable changes made around Castlecrag, for example on the corner of Edinburgh Rd. and the Citadel, there has been extensive criticism from residents effected by the change. I would like to say that since as long as fifteen years ago there have been repeated requests to have that particular blind corner improved, made safer, because of accidents that have occured there. The decision to make the change was taken by the Willoughby Traffic Committee, which has representation from the Police Dept.

This Association is not, as stated in a letter sent to Council, "a self centred tiny minority group representing less than one percent of Castlecrag residents". Everyone in Castlecrag is welcomed and encouraged to attend our open public meetings and take part in decisions that could effect our Community. If anyone is upset or concerned with anything the Progress Assoc. is supposed to have done, or not done, please contact me or any of our Committee members, rather than relying on gossip, and we will be happy to help.

Our party which preceeded the very outstanding patchwork, quilting exhibition was a very happy one, and on behalf of our community I would like to thank all the residents who joined in and helped to celebrate our birthday.

The the Elders and Parishioners of St. James Church, a very special thank you for the use of your hall for those four days last month.

Continued next page



continued.

To Elizabeth Burton and her students, we thank you for showing us such original and artistic work, and a thank you to Judy Bowen and her Committee for all their planning which achieved such successful results.

This has been a very busy year for most of us, but I do hope you will find time to support and help the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be effective in eliminating crime and vandalism in our community.

Our next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, to elect office bearers will take place in February 1986. Only financial members may vote, so we invite you to join or come along to the meeting, and help ensure that Castlecrag is a safe and happy suburb to live in.

I have enjoyed meeting many new and friendly residents and our Committee join me in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and successful New Year,

OUR SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

The 60th birthday of our Progress Association was appropriately celebrated on the opening night of our quilting exhibition. The walls of St. James Church hall were covered with beautiful quilts and jackets finely executed and imaginatively displayed. This was complemented by huge bowls of Australian native flowers and ferns. Supper was set out on a long table down the centre of the hall; the food had been prepared by Castlecrag residents and was up to their usual high standard. On the centre of the table was our birthday cake, with a large "60" outlined in coloured candles.

Many members and friends of our association attended to help us with our celebrations, these include some of our oldest residents. We were very pleased to welcome Phyl and Michael Stocker, Frank Duncan and Bim Hilder, all of whom came to live in Castlecrag over 50 years ago. For these four guests the night also proved to be a pleasant reunion and a chance to catch up on all the news.

We were disappointed that Dick Crebbin was unable to open the exhibition. Guests were welcomed by our president Dianne Street and the opening performed by our alderman Eric Kaye.

During the weekend quilters from all over Sydney and from the country came to view the exhibition and were delighted with the quality and variety of the work. Refreshments in the form of devonshire tea gave viewers the opportunity to sit and think about the exhibition before taking a second trip around the hall.

Despite our lavish preparations, which we felt were warranted on our 60th birthday, we made \$1800 and this is to be used as follows:-

Donation to:-	Bus Shelter Fund	- \$750
	Maintenance of Haven Theatre	- \$750

and

Equipment for the Chatswood Occasional Day Care
as chosen by that organisation.



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ALDERMAN'S REPORT

Eric Kaye.

In the last copy of the CRAG I wrote of some aspects of the Local Government Act and the powers on one hand and the limitations on the other, which this Act imposes on council. A few people have discussed the article with me and some have queried the authority which council confers on residents to manage some of its facilities. I feel from these questions that this is sometimes not fully understood, so for my last contribution to the CRAG this year, I will attempt if not to set the record straight, to straighten it just a little.

Basically, some responsibilities and duties of council are considered to require such local knowledge and be of such a detailed nature that they would be more competently and sympathetically handled by the residents themselves. Two such examples in Castlecrag are the management of the Community Centre and the Haven Theatre. Another example, close to us, is the management of the Willoughby Park Centre. As most would know, the Community Centre was built by the efforts and the donations of our residents on land bequeathed by Walter Burley Griffin. Further, the residents started the kindergarten and the library. At a later stage it was transferred to the care, control and management of Willoughby Council. The Haven Theatre was built by Griffin in the 1920's and after nearly 50 years of neglect restored by local residents. The Chowne Hall at Willoughby Park was built in the 1950's as the result of resident initiative and imagination and has since then been constantly improved. In all of these cases council has exercised its power under clause 530A of the Local Government Act to appoint committees of residents to manage these facilities on its behalf. These are generally known as 530A committees.

The members of the committees are selected by council from people known to have local knowledge and interest in the particular activity. The committees generally comprise 6 to 8 members and may include aldermen living in the district. John Squire and I are members of two of these, I am an ex officio member of the other.

The committees meet as required and are bound by the Local Government Act and by resolutions of Willoughby Council. They are in fact a Committee of Council under Section 530A of the Act.

A Happy Christmas to you all, and Best Wishes for 1986.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The first function is being organised by Willoughby Park Centre in conjunction with members of St. John's Church and St. Thomas's Church and is to be held in Willoughby Park on Saturday 14th December, 7 pm. All are welcome.

The Castlecrag Haven Theatre 530A Committee will hold Carols by Candlelight this year. Mark Howarth, Minister of the Willoughby Presbyterian Church has undertaken to organise this and is attempting to involve other churches in the area: everyone will be made most welcome.

No parking is available at the Theatre, but free buses will leave the Castlecrag Shopping Centre every few minutes from 6.30pm. and return after the function. Residents who live nearby are asked to walk. Should it be wet, the function will be held at the Community Hall.

Date. Sunday, 22nd December Time 7 pm.

Place. Haven Theatre, corner The Scarp and The Baricade.

Come with your candle a small donation to defray costs, a cushion and rug. Singing will be accompanied by an organ and it should be an enjoyable Christmassy evening.



Another important rule in bushland management is minimal disturbance of the understorey. In natural bush, seeds are stored in the topsoil waiting for a chance to germinate and grow. Sympathetic, skilled weeding frees and encourages them. This results in self-perpetuating, natural regeneration which requires very little maintenance and ensures a rich diversity of native plants.

Dig, slash, rake, burn and replant methods, besides destroying the habitat of native creatures, need continuous intensive cultivation if weed growth is to be controlled. Weeds love bare disturbed soil. Frustrate them - keep all forms of disturbance minimal.

* Use the smallest tool possible. A sharp sheath knife, a long but narrow trowel and secateurs are usually sufficient. For larger pests, (e.g. privet and lantana) loppers, a bush saw or hatchet and a small crowbar are useful to help you deal with the root system. "Mattock" is a dirty word - to be used sparingly, and with a feeling of guilt. Pampas grass and bamboo are the only weeds which really need it.

* Replace the mulch wherever you remove a weed and expose the soil. Add to it if possible. The weeds themselves make suitable mulch once they have dried out, rather than burning or carting them away. Exceptions are seed heads, bulbs, tubers and plants which root at the nodes, e.g. Wandering Jew (Tradescantia). These should be bagged and removed from the site - supermarket bags are ideal.

* Watch your feet. Remember you are walking in a seed bed. Don't tramp. Avoid treading on seedlings, especially when you step backwards. Try not to scuff the mulch. If you do, replace it, otherwise there will probably be a weed growing in the bare patch later on.

When a trained bush regeneration team leaves an area they have worked, there is no sign of disturbance in the understorey - just weed-free bushland covered by leaf litter, twigs, fallen logs etc. The give-away is up higher where native shrubs are festooned with uprooted weeds drying out, or where a canopy of wilting lantana indicates that its roots have been removed.

(Different weeds respond to different weeding techniques. These will be explained in later issues).

FAMILY FUN FAIR.

Rita Kaye.

As reported in our last newsletter, heavy rains prevented us setting up a stall at the Willoughby Fair. We have since sold most of the goods on a stall at Forestway Market and held a book and pottery stall outside of the Quadrangle. These activities have netted a total of \$440 and goods which we cannot store until next year have been donated to charity. The money will be used to help defray the costs of printing the Crag Newsletter and for other community projects.



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WE HAVE A GREAT VARIETY
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ABOUT DOGS AND RUBBISH BINS AGAIN!

Our request made sometime ago, asking residents to keep their dogs locked up at night, particularly Monday and ~~THURS.~~ nights (rubbish collection nights) proved a great success and resulted in fewer bins being knocked over and less rubbish scattered on the roads. Several people have asked that we repeat this request; their main complaint is about an elderly Golden Labrador who has been caught in the act, but whose address they don't know. So, particularly if you own such a dog, could you please remember to lock your dogs up on collection nights, and help us keep our suburb tidy, and save the people whose bins are being knocked over the problem of cleaning up the rubbish. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Putting a stick over the bin lid and through the handles is a good way to stop rubbish being scattered from overturned bins.

Northbridge Women's Bowling Club

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1985 has been a very successful year for us, both as a bowling club and as a social club and we felt very proud when we were presented the Willoughby Municipal Bicentenary Women's Bowling Shield. We finished the year with a most rewarding art show: the paintings were the work of members attending our art classes.

We will be commencing the 1986 programme on Tuesday 4th February and wish to extend a welcome to any ladies interested in joining us as a bowler or as a social member. For further information please phone 958 3480.



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16 The Bulwark

I WISH TO RENEW/APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
AND ENCLOSE MY PAYMENT FOR : \$4.00 Membership or
\$4.00 Membership plus donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please note; whilst membership has been set at \$4 per household any extra donation you may be generous enough to offer will be very gratefully received, and would assist in our work, including production of this newsletter.

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY - NEW BOOK LIST

BUJOL, Jual	Gabo
BRISKIN, J.	Too much Too soon
VAN LUSTBADER, E.	Juan
WOUK, Herman	Inside, Outside
HANFF, Helene	Q's Legacy
IACOCCA, L.	IACOCCA
KING, Stephen	Skeleton Crew
LESSING, Doris	The Good Terrorist
JOLLEY, Elizabeth	Milk & Honey
" "	Foxbaby
INNES, Hammond	High Stand
MALOUF, David	12 Edmondstone St.
FERRIER, Noel	There goes Whatsisname
CLEARY, Jon	City of Fading Light
WAKE, Nancy	The White Mouse
CARR, Phillipa	Return of the Gypsy
MacLAINE, Shirley	Dancing in Light
TRIACA, Maria	Amelia, Long Journey
DOWRICK, S.	Running Backwards over Sand
ADAMS, Alice	Superior Women
KYLE, Duncan	The Dancing Men
SPELLMAN, Cathy C.	An Excess of Love
" "	So Many Partings
CLANCY, Tom	Hunt for Red October

Over the Christmas period, the library will be open as usual, except for Boxing Day, Thursday 26th January.

AS FROM 2nd. JANUARY LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN AS FOLLOWS:
TUESDAYS - 3.30 - 4.40. THURSDAYS - 12.30 - 4pm. SATURDAYS - 10am - 12 noon.

WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Willoughby Council's Holiday Activities Co-ordinator, Liz Ellean, has organised a full programme for school children for the Christmas school holidays. This includes Drama, Pottery & Ceramics Workshops, Cricket Coaching, Computer Courses and many other activities, which will be held at Willoughby Park Centre. Holiday Activity Centres will also be open December 15th. to January 24th. Monday to Friday, in a number of areas, and there will be a junior programme, "Play in the Park" for 3-6 years old.

This could be a help to working mothers, a way to introduce a new interest to your child, or a way to provide companionship when your child's friends are away from Sydney on holidays.

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