

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

NO. 48

ISSN 0814-2054

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '86

Dear Residents,

This year's Family Fun Fair held in Willoughby Park on a recent fine Saturday proved to be a real "fun day". Many thanks go to Marcella Cerna and Cathy Burgess for all their time and effort in making our Trash and Treasure Stall so successful; thank you also to their band of helpers.

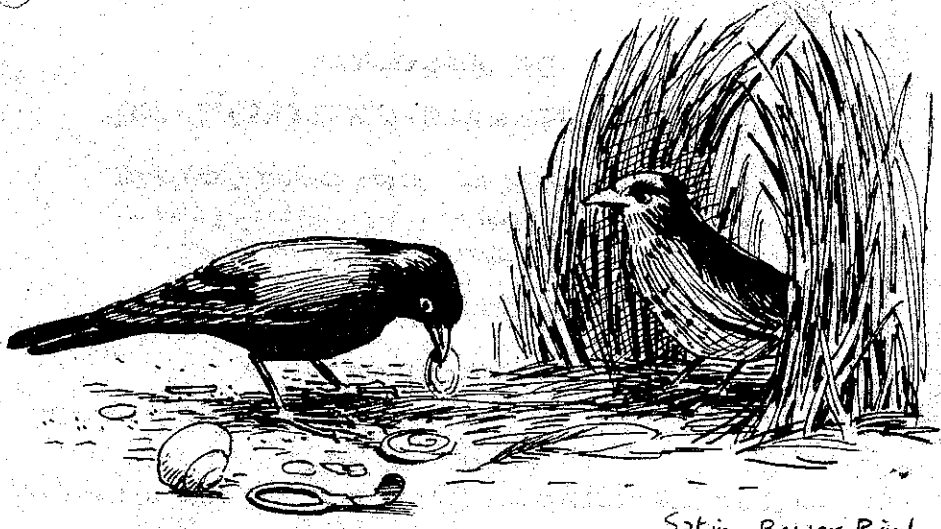
The stall had many interesting items (some were rather unusual) and good bargains were to be found. Thanks to the McKillop's, to Ella Young and to the Kaye's for making space in their garages to store the goods. The Stall made a healthy profit and a donation was made to the very worthwhile charity "The Children's Christmas Hamper". For further information on this organisation please ring Rita Kaye.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the supportive residents of Castlecrag who have given generous donations towards the publishing costs of The Crag.

At our next meeting on Tuesday, 18th November, 1986, Eric Kaye will be discussing the Gore Hill Link to the existing freeway; all interested residents are welcome.

Last year's "Carols by Candlelight" was a great success, and we intend to do even better this year, hopefully on ~~19th~~ December. Details will be included in the November/December issue of The Crag; in the meantime, please keep the date free.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING - THIS WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE POSTERN, AT 8.00 P.M., TUESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME ALONG.



Satin Bower Bird

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT 64 THE BULWARK ON FRIDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Thank you, Kim Gamble, for this drawing!

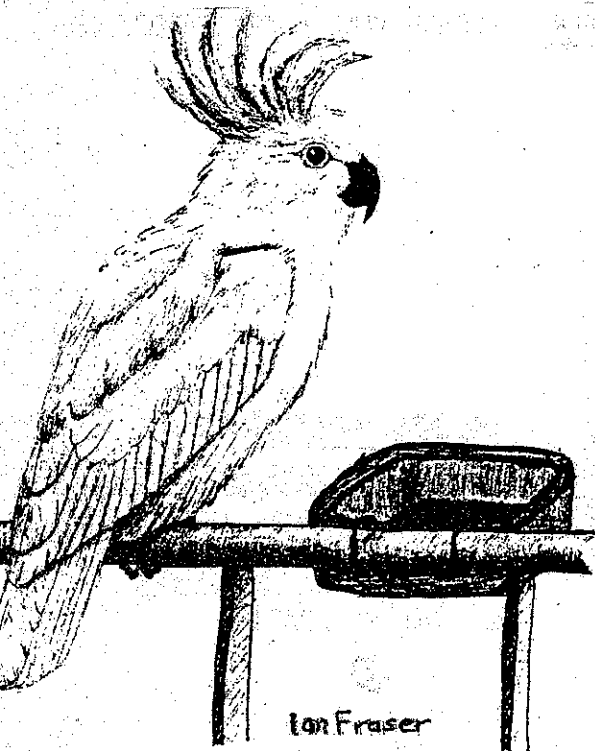
THE BATTLE TO SAVE THE SWIMMING ENCLOSURE AT THE RETREAT RESERVE.

One of Castlecrag's lesser known but nevertheless very attractive local features was the tidal pool on the foreshore at the Retreat Reserve. Of recent years the steel wire mesh fence has become unsafe and the piles constitute a dangerous encouragement to divers. Last year Council invited resident comment on this matter and received a very clear indication supporting its repair and retention. The Progress Association submitted a strong letter of support, six individual families responded and a petition organised by Miss Rowan Fraser was signed by 100 residents. (For interest, earlier this year Council letter box dropped 800 residences in the vicinity of the Bicentennial Park, Hallstrom Park Reserve, and only 7 residents replied.)

One of the problems facing Council today in respect of its recreation areas is the very high cost of public insurance. After an on-site inspection during February it was resolved to seek advice from Councils' Insurance Brokers as to the liability incurred and from its Environmental Consultants on environmental aspects. These have now replied with a recommendation that "the refurbishing of the shark net at the tidal swimming pool should not proceed". I accepted as inevitable that Council would not be prepared to pay the high insurance premium for a rigid type net and fence structure and sought a less costly alternative. I approached the Davidson Park Trust who are responsible for the floating net near Roseville Bridge. This has been in use for a year and has proved very popular and successful. It is considerably larger than the Retreat Reserve and cost \$5000. Similar enclosures are used at Nielson Park, Vaucluse and Manly Vale. The Environmental Consultants were critical of any redevelopment of the area. I consider, however, that their concern stems mainly from a conviction that there would be a greatly increased use requiring modern recreational facilities. I don't see it this way and feel it will be used mainly by local families and those walkers who pass by when using the Bicentenary Walking Trails. I consider barbecues, a toilet block and similar facilities quite inappropriate and unnecessary.

At the September Works, Parks and Gardens meeting, I moved and spoke strongly in support of a motion accepting that the present fence and supporting piles be removed and Council officers bring forward a report on the feasibility and cost of replacing these with a modern floating type. There was considerably more opposition to the motion than I had expected, however I was supported strongly by Charmain Metcalf and the motion was carried on the casting vote of the Chairman, John Squire.

The battle is not lost yet but I must warn our concerned residents that it will be a tough one to win.



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On my most recent trip to New York, I spent a day in the New York Historical Society at 170 Central Park West. In the second floor Manuscripts Department they have the original unpublished 'book' of Marion Burley Griffin, called "The Magic of America". Many of the numerous volumes of this original work deal with correspondence between Marion and Walter Burley Griffin, especially when Marion remained in Castlecrag and Walter went to India. The work also includes correspondence to the couple by Ula Maddocks (The Parapet) and to other Castlecrag residents. Many original photos are also contained in the volumes.

I found "The Magic of America" of enormous interest and recommend it as stimulating reading. I understand that a microfilm copy is in our National Library in Canberra, but there was a special feeling reading the original itself in New York.

(Miss Riley is obviously most interested in the Burley Griffins', as is shown by the sympathetic way she has restored the Griffin cottage, previously used as the nurses quarters, and situated in The Battlement. I phoned Mr. John Flint, Chief Librarian of Willoughby Municipal Library, to pass on the above information. He was most excited, and is acquiring a copy of this microfilm for our Municipal Library where a microfilm reader is available. Mr. Flint said that he will probably have prints made of material of particular interest. Ed.)

A CASTLECRAG AUTHOR.

Rita Kaye.

Mrs. Ivy Kery came to Australia thirty years ago and moved to Castlecrag in 1965. I have recently read her book, "I've Been Chosen", where she tells of her life as a young girl, who at eighteen and separated from family, was taken to Auschwitz concentration camp and later sent to an army camp to work in an armament factory. Because of her Jewish origins, she had been persecuted but she was one of the lucky ones who survived. In this small book Ivy tells her story with great sensitivity, and she is now writing about her life in Australia. She is one of a number of Castlecrag residents who came to Australia with virtually nothing and with hard work, courage and determination, have built themselves new, satisfactory lives. The book "I've Been Chosen", can be purchased from the Castlecrag Newsagency.

A THANK YOU TO RESIDENTS

THE EDITORS

Ann Korner and I would like to thank the residents for their continual interest and financial support of THE CRAG. It is very encouraging to have these donations towards the cost of the printing of the newsletter. Kerry McKillop is now helping with the setting up and a number of residents have helped with drawings which I am sure you will agree makes the paper more attractive. Your support makes the work entailed in producing the paper well worth while. Thank you all.

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At our school we have lots of wild flowers. Of course we have lots of rocks here. I like it because a lot of moss. I like gum trees and the bottle brush trees.

Castlecrag Infants School recently won two separate competitions, the first run by the State Pollution Control Commission who offered a grant of \$100 for planned improvements to school grounds, with the theme "Peace and Quiet" for the Year of Peace. Year 2, under the guidance of their teacher, Miss Whittle, and myself were responsible for the entry which is on display at the Castlecrag Commonwealth Bank. It involved the children in taking measurements of the school grounds, mapping them on a plan and describing the proposed improvements both on the plan and in compositions. These improvements included the removal of weeds from an area adjoining natural bush in the school and planting this with plants indigenous to Castlecrag. The Year 2 children received their award from the Minister of Planning and Environment, Mr. Carr, on 26th September at a ceremony in the Botanical Gardens.

The second competition was organised by the Gould League and the Sydney Morning Herald. Year 1 children under the guidance of their teacher, Miss Constable, a parent Sandra Carrivick and myself were responsible for this entry. It will be on display at the Botanical Gardens' Visitors' Centre Classroom from 20th-24th October. The prize of \$100 will be presented to the class on the 24th October at the Gardens.

The entry took the form of a large board decorated with flowers collected and pressed by the children. They mounted the flowers in categories of "wildflowers" (all indigenous to Castlecrag and from the school grounds), "exotic flowers" and "weeds". Central to the entry was a five page report on past and planned improvements, also compositions by each of the Year 1 children. The report highlighted improvements made to the school grounds over the fifteen years, since the book "Castlecrag" was published, the proceeds of which raised money for the landscaping with native shrubs and trees.

The child's composition at the top of the page was written by a seven year old from Year 1 and was part of the entry. It reflects the children's enthusiasm for their beautiful school grounds and the wonderful educational resource which these school grounds provide. The school's motto is appropriately "Together We Grow".

(Adrienne Kabos is the Garden Co-ordinator for 1985/86 at Castlecrag Infants School. We congratulate all who have been involved in these two projects and wish them well in their continued efforts to beautify our School. Ed.)



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Hand-bag snatching in the Crag? Your car calmly driven out of your carport, ransacked and dumped in Castlecrag? Kids tormenting an elderly resident by stealing his pot-plants?

All these things happened in our community in the last few weeks. It would seem that sadly enough we must not only protect ourselves from criminal elements from 'outside', but also from our own community.

Keep your eyes open, ring 000 regarding ANYTHING suspicious that takes your attention - don't leave it to EVERYBODY ELSE - that's easy. Join NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - that's even easier - RING.....95 6963..... for more information.

The N.R.M.A. have reduced insurance premiums on household contents in areas where NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH is active - we must hang on to that gain, and we can do so by more and more people joining our day and night watch.

CENTRE ART SPACE - CIVIC CENTRE. 409 Victoria Ave., CHATSWOOD.

The Willoughby Municipal Council's unique Centre Art Space is a permanent Exhibition area situated in the foyer of the Civic Centre. This was created by Willoughby Council to support and encourage artists and to further an interest in all forms of visual arts. The aim is to provide the opportunity for artists to gain experience in setting up an exhibition and show their work to a wide cross-section of the community. To date, the majority of exhibitors have been residents of Willoughby Municipality.

The following is a list of exhibitions to be held in the coming weeks:-

20th - 31st October - Northbridge Artgroup - Traditional Oil & Watercolours

3rd - 8th November - Willoughby Municipal Council Third Annual Municipal Art Prize Exhibition.

10th-15th November - Willoughby Park Annual Exhibition of Students and Teacher

24th November -
6th December

- New artworks by three award winning artists -
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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)

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY - NEW BOOK LIST

LA PIERRE, D.	City of Joy
PILGER, J.	Heroes
ARCHER, J.	Matter of Honour
COSBY, Bill	Fatherhood
CHAPCOTT, T.	Hotel Bellevue
MUNSTER, G.	Rupert Murdoch
D'ALPUGET, B.	Winter in Jerusalem
LASSELLE, C.	Breaking the Rules
BINCHY, Maeve,	London Transports
SMITH, Cruz.	Stallion Gate
SILLITOE, Alan	Life Goes On
BROWN, Rita	High & Hearts
BURKE, C.	Kimberley
JOLLEY, Eliz.	The Well
LITTEL, Rob.	The Sisters
HARRISON, S.	Hot Breath
HEALEY, Edna	Wives of Fames
BRADBURY, R.	Death is a Lonely Business
MORTIMER, P.	Queen Elizabeth
HUNTER, Rita	Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie
GRENVILLE, K.	Dream House
HEYERDAHL, T.	The Maldive Mystery

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WILLOUGHBY ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (W.E.P.A.)

R. Kaye

In the last issue of The Crag I spoke of the work being done by W.E.P.A. on the restoration of the northern side of the catchment of the south arm of Sugarloaf Bay, Castlecrag. Eric and I went along to see what is being done and were very impressed. Much of the area near the bottom of the waterfall is now in good condition. Most Lantana has been taken out, cut up into short lengths and piled over the ground as mulch helping protect the area from further weed infestation. A number of small coachwoods have been uncovered in the process. We worked with W.E.P.A. picking up all types of rubbish that had washed down the creek and over the waterfall, and carried large full bags of the rubbish back to the road (Sugarloaf Crescent). We later helped set a number of small plants indigenous to the area. These had been propagated from cuttings taken from plants already growing there.

We congratulate W.E.P.A. on the good job they are doing.

When speaking to Mr. John Loughran, in charge of Willoughby Council Nursery he told me that they are now also propagating from cuttings and seed taken from Flat Creek and the Northern escarpment of Sugarloaf Bay, so that when they plant in Willoughby bushland they will be able to use plants indigenous to these areas.

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