

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAIG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

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CASTLECRAIG COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Issue No. 5

19th August, 1978

Looks like we might finally issue our newsletter on a two-monthly basis, as originally intended. Two major items of interest to report in this issue have occurred in the past couple of months.

Firstly, there was the Castlecrag Progress Association general meeting on June 20, attended by well over seventy residents. Ald. D1 Street was present, but the other two alderman representing our area, including the Mayor of Willoughby, were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Essentially, the business of the evening revolved around Mr. Ken Thomas' motions as detailed in our previous issue of "The Crag." There was very considerable discussion on the several points, during which three of the motions were either withdrawn or lapsed for want of a seconder.

The meeting agreed by show of hands that each tenant of the proposed complex, should it go ahead, be advised of this Association's opposition to this project. The motion regarding seceding from Willoughby Council was voted upon by division to either side of the hall, with the result of 34 members in favour, 38 members against, the motion thus being lost.

The other matter of great interest is that the Local Government Appeals Tribunal has handed down its "Instrument of Decision." This is a rather lengthy document, as is subject to copyright reserved to the Crown, and cannot be reproduced in this newsletter. Suffice to say, that the Tribunal has approved the Development by granting consent subject to twenty-eight conditions.

It is interesting to read in the section headed "Reasons for Board's Decision" that the Board decided that the developer had incorrectly interpreted the Board's "notice" of 10th May (given at the close of the hearing) and that Willoughby Council had more correctly interpreted it. Interesting indeed, when one considers that after the hearing, Willoughby Council asked this Association to comment on the amended plans subsequently presented, and that virtually every point raised by us in a five-page submission to the Council, plus several other matters raised by Council, are included in the twenty-eight conditions laid down by the Tribunal's Board.

The Tribunal, in one of the conditions, recognises the fact that our Castlecrag is a "distinctive residential suburb" and requires the external presentation of the proposed shopping centre to be of a high standard and in character with the established amenity of the area.

At our next general meeting, on Tuesday evening, 8pm, 29th August, at the Community Centre (Kindergarten) off The Postern, we will detail all the points and discuss them in full. So, if you are at all interested in what is happening in your suburb, please come along.

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We have been asked if anyone in Castlecrag knows the whereabouts of Boris or Gloria Kinsky, whose father built the Willoughby incinerator. If you can help, please contact Addie Saltis on 95 6409.

The School held its Open Day to celebrate Education Week on Tuesday morning, 15th August. Parents and friends were welcomed to visit the School to hear the children sing and to view their work. The theme for Education Week 1978 is "Your School Needs You."

Castlecrag Infants School Club is working enthusiastically to provide Adventure Playground equipment for the children. Help by fathers in the installation of this equipment early in Term 3 would be much appreciated.

Parents who have not completed "Application for Enrolment" forms for Kindergarten class children of 1979 are requested to do so now.

G. Coopman

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THE 2FC TRANSMITTER
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Residents suggested such widely different locations for the 2FC transmitter that I checked with Philip Geeves, Archivist for AWA, and John Flint at Willoughby Council. They kindly supplied me with copies of photographs and notes on the transmitter and the early history of radio in general. I will pass these on to the Castlecrag Community Library (useful for school projects).

I found that there were two steel towers, each 200 feet high, built in a lattice fashion. They were 575 feet apart and the aerial system was suspended between them. Directly beneath the aerial, midway between these two masts were the associated buildings.

The original building application places one tower about 200 feet behind the shops on the north side of Edinburgh Road, and the other about a quarter of the way down Rutland Avenue. A bare patch and deep hole in Mrs. Coxon's backyard in Eastern Valley Way, and a concrete slab behind the Worrall's in Charles Street substantiates this - they were probably foundations for the guy wires. But I have no explanation yet for the concrete slab in the School grounds and that near the junction of Edinburgh Road and Sunnyside Crescent. (Do they indicate what remains of an earlier civilisation??)

2FC commenced transmission on 5th December, 1923, three weeks after station 2SB - later 2BL. The studios were on the roof garden of Farmers' store in Pitt Street. A landline carried the sound to Castlecrag for broadcasting to the crystal sets with their fragile "cat's whiskers." The transmitter was claimed to be the largest, most powerful and most modern station in the Southern Hemisphere. Mr. Geeves tells me it attracted many weekend sight-seers, come to wonder at the source of the modern miracle - radio. They probably stared too at the peculiar stone houses going up on the other side of Edinburgh Road. I wonder how Griffin felt about it.

Beam wireless history was made here in February 1924, with the short wave breakthrough, when Eric Burbury (late of the Rampart) received Marconi's experimental and unbelievably clear signals from Cornwall on 90 metres wavelength.

The transmitter, which was also used by the Police Department and by 2ME, Cam and Son Trawlers, was dismantled in 1929. Apparently transmitters work better with their feet in salt water, and the salty marshes at Homebush Bay were a better location.

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ART CLASSES
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Castlecrag artist, Judy Lowe, has been persuaded to take students - both beginners and those of us who've tried on our own, but who have progressed enough to need some expert help.

Working out of the Brown Barn at Mosman, in a super studio atmosphere, students will be taught painting, sketching and drawing. For anything else you might want to know, please ring Judy on 95 4791.

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NEXT MEETING, AUGUST 29, 8pm, CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE