

# CASTLECrag

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECrag PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

NO. 53

\* SIXTY TWO YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT \*  
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May/June 1987

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUE RANDLE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking members of Willoughby Environmental Protection Association who are in the process of regenerating and restoring the Sugarloaf Creek and Camp Creek Catchments. It has been difficult, but when finished the reward for residents will be superb.

The fate of the three waterfront cottages on Sugarloaf Bay is still not resolved. In December of last year the Department of Environment and Planning recommended that Council initiate action to obtain vacant possession of the properties. At its meeting of 13 April last, Council rejected this action because of legal difficulties and passed responsibility back to the Department.

A petition signed by 465 residents supporting retention of the cottages, together with letters from individuals and associations, was submitted to Council prior to the meeting. Our Ward Aldermen moved and spoke strongly in support of the motion that Council handle and resolve the matter in its own right'. This was defeated by a small majority.

### RED SHIELD APPEAL 1987 SUNDAY 21 JUNE



Once again we will be supporting the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. We are hoping to call on every home in Castlecrag and that you will be generous with your donations to assist the Army to continue their work with the needy families of Australia. We still need a number of collectors for our team, and would appreciate your co-operation. For details, please phone Rita Kaye 95 6146.



THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE POSTERN, ON TUESDAY 23 JUNE AT 8 PM.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING AT 1 TOWER RESERVE, 17 JULY AT 8 PM.

RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS WELCOME AT BOTH MEETINGS.

THE Crag IS EDITED ON BEHALF OF THE CASTLECrag PROGRESS ASSOCIATION BY RITA KAYE 95 6146 AND KERRY MCKILLOP 958 4516. QUERIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME.

A few weeks ago the Total Environment Centre invited me to address the 'Urban Environment in New South Wales Policies and Politics Conference'. I was asked to speak on the subject of 'Urban Groups - what are they and where are they going?'. The main address was made by Mr Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment. Excellent papers were also read by Professor Ross Blunden (Traffic Management, University of NSW) and others.

I spoke of the Castlecrag Progress Association as an example of a resident group involved in the community participation process. I referred briefly to its beginning 62 years ago, of one of its foundation members, Walter Burley Griffin, of the heritage he has left and the influence he has had on our suburb. I detailed the major campaigns in which we have been involved over the years and the results we have achieved. I spoke at greater length of our successful struggle against the construction of the Warringah Freeway through Castlecrag. I concluded my address with an outline of my opinion on the future of Urban Action Groups. I report this in greater detail:

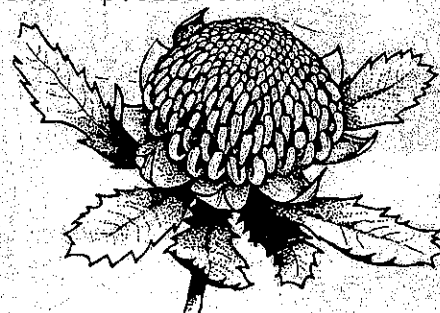
'Where are urban groups going? From my experience with such groups, I feel that their support and memberships will follow a fluctuating but overall slow increase. The fluctuations will depend on the problems facing a community at the time. I say this because I sincerely believe that the message being preached by Total Environment Centre and many conservation and environment groups is at last getting through, and an increasing number of people are becoming aware of the need to protect our environment. Improvements in communication, particularly the electronic media, are also making people more aware and critical of developments which affect their amenity of life. Open government, which of course includes local government, has become an accepted right, people now demand greater involvement in the decision-making process. They will no longer accept change without question. There is also a growing awareness that organised groups wield more power than individuals.'

Even in fully developed areas, excessive redevelopment and urban consolidation (dual occupancy, granny flats, townhouses etc), raise potential threats to the existing amenity. Urban groups such as Progress Associations provide an established structure through which residents can more effectively participate in local planning. Such groups will generally take a local and sometimes narrow view of problems which arise. This nevertheless is an important input to Council in its deliberations of complex problems.'

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### STOP PRESS !!!

GUEST SPEAKER At our meeting Tuesday 23 June Jim Donovan, member of Action for Public Transport, will give a half hour presentation with slides on 'What Sydney Harbour Tunnel will mean to you.' The issues are very relevant to residents of Castlecrag. All are welcome - please come.



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THE MENACE IN YOUR GARDEN

There are two types of privet which infest many areas of eastern NSW - broadleaf (Ligustrum lucidum) and small-leaf privet (Ligustrum sinense). They were introduced from China and Japan. They thrive in this climate and have no serious animal or insect predators, or diseases to keep them in check. Their numerous berries may be eaten by birds and the seeds excreted in parks, gardens or bushland, or they may be carried via stormwater drains into bushland gullies where they germinate and take over the native bush. Once established, privet grows rapidly and aggressively into large shrubs (small-leaf privet) or large trees (broadleaf privet), with dense foliage, dense roots and shade preventing the growth of other plants.

IDENTIFYING PRIVET (see back page)

Small-leaf privet has small yellow-green to green closely spaced leaves with a wavy edge. Broadleaf privet has large green leaves with smooth edges. Bark on large specimens is grey and smooth with raised pores. Broadleaf privet can be confused with native trees - Pittosporum and Lillypilly. However, Pittosporum leaves are larger and brighter green and glossy and its white flowers are larger and sweeter smelling. Lillypilly berries are large, fleshy and pinky white with a purplish tinge and its new growth is pinky bronze. Privet has prolific and strong large clusters of purplish-black berries which stay on the tree from late summer to late winter.

For the sake of your own garden, and for our reserves, and for the survival of our small remnants of bushland, please remove your privet.

METHODS OF REMOVAL

Cut as close to the ground as possible. If the root cannot be taken out, immediately paint the surface with 'Round Up' or 'Zero' - use according to the manufacturers' instructions. If the stump is not going to be poisoned, cut the roots at least 15 cm below ground level, remove the stump and fill the hole so that no cut roots are left exposed. Surface roots of the small-leaf privet must also be removed, otherwise these exposed and surface roots will sucker. Young seedlings can be easily pulled out, but be careful not to confuse them with seedlings of native plants.

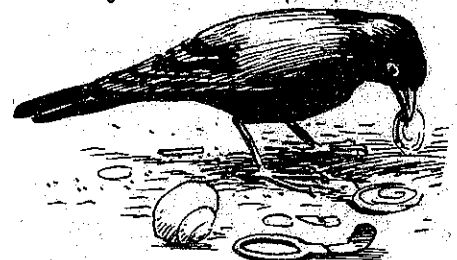
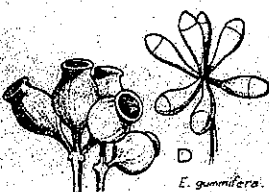
NEED HELP?

Please remember that you need permission from Council to remove large trees. If in doubt, contact the Tree Preservation Officer (419 4498 or 412 9154) at Willoughby Council. If you need assistance in identification or advice on removal, contact Castlecrag Conservation Society (95 2569 or 95 6409).

Acknowledgement: Most of the text of this article was taken from Lane Cove 'Project Environment' pamphlet, 'The Time Bomb in your Garden'.

WALKING TRAILS

Castlecrag Walking Trails sub-committee will be meeting in June and July to discuss possible walking trail routes and priorities and to draft preliminary recommendations to Willoughby Council. We would greatly appreciate ideas and suggestions from residents interested in this project. If you can help, please write to Adrienne Kabos, 12 The Parapet.



### THREE CASTLECRAG BIRTHDAYS

1987 is quite important for Castlecrag. This year three different groups celebrate anniversaries of the opening of buildings they dreamed of, planned for, and finally after much hard work and determination, achieved.

#### 1 NORTHBRIDGE WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB

In 1940 part of Castlecrag was actually a dairy farm. Cows grazed on the area south of Edinburgh Road, going towards Northbridge. This is now mostly covered with homes, the remaining open space, right in the dip, is the home of Northbridge Women's Bowling Club. In 1957 when women were not accepted into mens' organisations, the women of the area decided to build their own clubroom. With the help of 'Friends of the Club', the building was constructed with voluntary labour, the greens area was surveyed, and the original green was surfaced. During the weekends, the area was a hive of activity; tea, with the inevitable homemade scones, was made in a copper boiler over an open fire.

The incredible enthusiasm of NWBC has carried on over the years. By choice they have no liquor licence or poker machines, but do have a friendly membership who enjoy art and yoga classes, solo, bridge and mah jong lessons, card days and play readings. The club fields No.1 and No.3 pennant teams, and with the inflow of new members coached by national coach Shirley Francis, will have a No.4 pennant team next year.

For four years as an extension of the club's sociable policies, the girls of Willoughby Girls' High School have been invited to play bowls during the winter term. (This year the Department of Education has made lawn bowls a grade sport among schools.) Our congratulations to the club, and a very happy birthday to you all, including the many Castlecrag members.

#### ST JAMES CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Jack O'Conner

The congregation of St James Church will be celebrating forty years of worship this year, and a special service of Consecration and of Confirmation will be held on Sunday 28 June at 7.15 pm to celebrate the occasion. Bishop Donald Cameron is to conduct the service, and visitors are very welcome.

St James Church has been an integral part of Castlecrag, with many local people being actively involved. Castlecrag is part of the parish of East Willoughby and in 1947 it was decided to hold services in our suburb in addition to those at St Johns, Willoughby. These were held in the home of Mr and Mrs O'Conner in Edith Street for the next seven years, and Sunday School took place in the home of Mr and Mrs Hill in Edinburgh Road.

A fund was opened and land purchased in Edinburgh Road, with a view to erecting a permanent church building. Architect John Brindley, a resident of Castlecrag, designed and supervised the construction of the complex and the two lower stories of the church were opened by Archbishop Mowel in July 1954. Four years later the top storey, the present church, was built; the hall at the rear of the church was added in November 1969. The mural on the church porch is the work of Castlecrag artist, Bim Hilder.

#### THE CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE

In 1943 Castlecrag was a small suburb with barely 800 residents. Developing on a peninsula, with little public transport and few residents who owned cars, we looked for most of our entertainment in our own district. We needed a permanent meeting place for the organisations that had sprung up here. More pressing still, the kindergarten had outgrown its premises in Edinburgh Road. So it was decided to build a community centre to meet these needs.

Continued opposite.....



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR LAWNS? LAWN MOWING AND EDGING BY NICHOLAS  
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CONTINUED

The centre was constructed in one of the reserves set aside by W B Griffin for public use. The building, designed by Mr Eric Nicholls, colleague of Griffin and a Castlecrag resident, was completed in 1947 at a cost of £2540. This was financed by the residents through fundraising functions and by a grant of £1000 from Willoughby Council. Four years later it was extended to include a community library. A committee was appointed to set and run this facility. Willoughby has four local libraries, Castlecrag is the only one still run by local residents. Our librarians are Mrs. Billie Hume & Mrs. Anne Thomas who are helped by twelve volunteers. The community is indebted to these people for the fine work they do on our behalf. The numbers of borrowers are increasing, and a good selection of books is added to the shelves regularly.

Willoughby Council has recently given approval and allocated finance to extend the kindergarten play area on the eastern end of the Community Centre. This will significantly increase the available play space. The area will be left open for public use when not being used by the kindergarten. The director is Marthe Munton, who is supported by another teacher and two assistants. They care for 80 children, forty 3-4 year olds attending two days a week, and forty 4-5 year old children attending 3 days. Since 1943 when the kindergarten commenced it has been highly regarded. There is a waiting list, and a child's name may be included from the age of two.

The Progress Association and Neighbourhood Watch hold regular meetings at the Community Centre, and early this year we held a very successful and enjoyable bush dance there. A 530A committee, appointed by Willoughby Council and including representatives of the various local organisations, manages the centre. It is keen to see the hall used for local functions. For particulars, please phone the chairman of the committee, Mr John Kabos 958 2060, or Eric Kaye 956146.

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COMPANION WANTED .....

Casual companion wanted (preferably from Castlecrag or Northbridge,) for elderly lady. RING 958 2121 for details.

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# CASTLECrag MEATS

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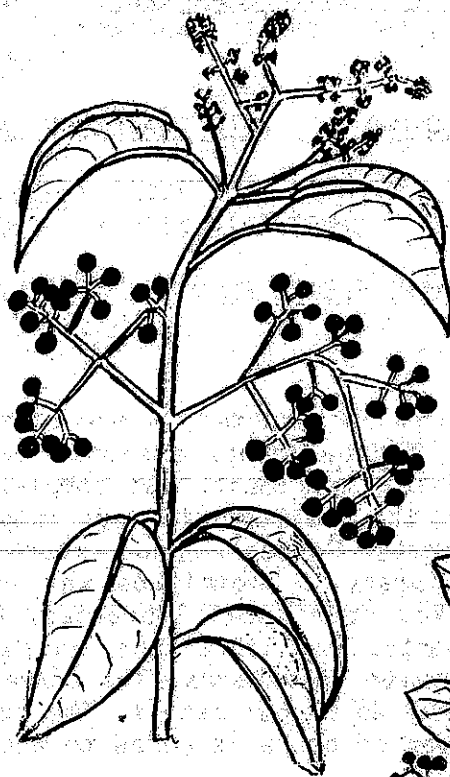
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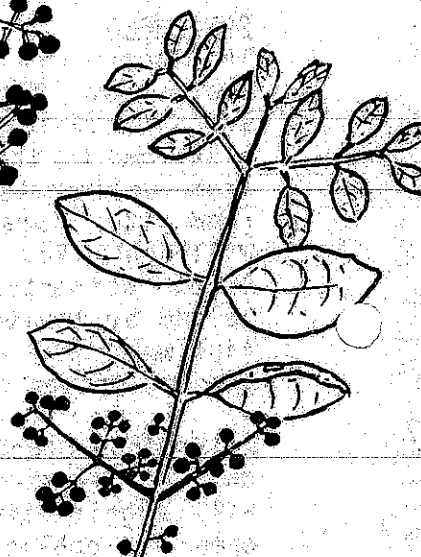
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FREE HOME DELIVERIES  
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS



Large leaf  
Privet  
(1/4 size)



Small leaf Privet (1/2 size)

## WILLOUGHBY COMMUNITY SWITCHBOARD

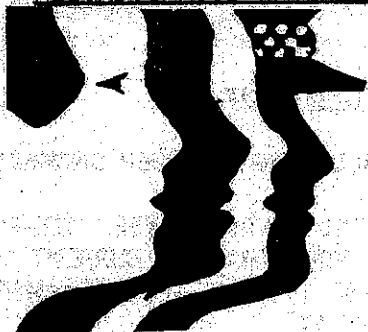
A study conducted by Willoughby Council has revealed concern among elderly and disabled residents living alone about what to do in case of accident or sudden illness. This need has been met by the establishment of a Community Switchboard which provides call service to summon assistance in cases of emergency, together with access to a comprehensive range of council-based community services. The service is available to residents of Willoughby on a needs basis.

In an effort to keep costs down, Council is calling for volunteers to staff the central control units and to contact clients on a regular basis. This will be a highly rewarding experience, knowing that the service will enable elderly and disabled residents to remain in their own homes longer.

For further information please phone 419 2555 ext.33, or pick up a pamphlet from Willoughby Council.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT



The police inform us that during February there were four break-ins in The Bulwark, and one theft from a motor vehicle, and one break-in in The Parapet in March. The Rampart, The Bastion, Linden Way, High Tor and Edinburgh Road, each suffered one. We note from these and from past break-ins that many targets are two-storeyed homes; lock your first-floor areas as you would the ground floor. It is also advisable to lock cars and garages at all times.

Whether you belong to Neighbourhood Watch or not, please inform us of any problem you have. Join now, before you wish you had. Phone 95 6963.