

CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No.58

* SIXTY THREE YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

MARCH/APRIL 1988

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ERIC KAYE

The Annual General Meeting and election of officers of the Association was held on February 23rd, with our President Sue Randle and Secretary Kate Westoby, both of whom are now involved with advanced studies, declining re-election. The following office bearers were elected for 1988:

President: Eric Kaye Vice presidents: Sue Randle, Erne Pope
Secretary: Adrienne Kabos Treasurer: Diana Jones
Auditor: Lee Davis Editors of Crag: Mary Baker, Kerry McKillop
Committee: M. Cerna, N Fleming, D Fraser, I Johnstone, R Kaye, J Lewellyn,
S MacIntosh, H Rubie, H Spies, K Westoby.

Both Sue and Kate have for the past two years worked very hard and competently for our Association, and we are most appreciative of their efforts and wish them every success in their studies.

I thank our members for the confidence they have shown by electing me as president and will do all I can to continue the fine work which others have done since I was president 8 or 9 years ago. Rita and I will be away from Sydney for six months of this year, and Sue will conduct the meetings and manage affairs during this time.

It is appropriate here to state the aims and objectives of the Association. The broad policy is stated in our Constitution as follows:

The objects of the Association shall be to do everything possible to promote and further the interests of the district of Castlecrag.

Detailed policy, however, is democratically determined by resolutions passed during our meetings. The Committee usually makes a significant input during the debate. We have very close ties with both the Castlecrag Conservation Society and the Willoughby Environmental Protection Society. For all practical purposes our view on the restoration and preservation of our natural environment is identical with that held by those bodies.

This year got off to a flying start when we adopted a resolution

(a) to invite Mr Peter Collins our local member, and Ms Marilyn Dodkin, ALP candidate, to a meeting to explain and answer questions on their party's policies regarding the Warringah Freeway Corridor and the alternative light rail proposal, Transit North; and

(b) to ask all candidates for the Legislative Council whether they were in favour of the construction of the freeway through Castlecrag. (see over)

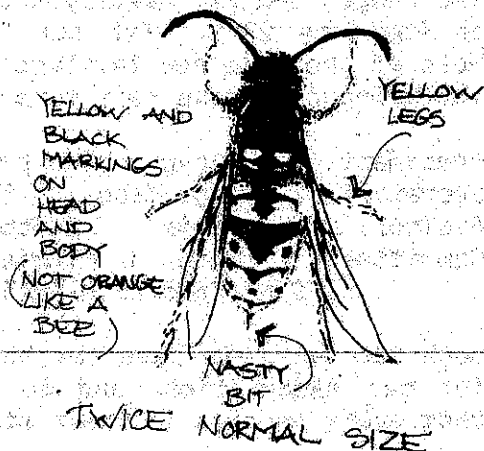
By now you will have received special editions of The Crag briefly outlining the results of the meeting and summarising the replies of the candidates. To the extent that the meeting was attended by more than 150 residents and left the candidates in no doubt as to our views on these matters, I consider it to have been a great success. We appreciate that our guest speakers made themselves available to visit us at such a busy time. My disappointment was that one and a half hours did not permit all those with questions to be heard.

At the next meeting on 26 April the agenda will include an item for discussion on the Transit North proposal. In early 1987 I attended a presentation at Warringah Council as one of the Willoughby Council representatives, to hear the consultants for this project, Enersol Consulting Engineers and BHP, explain details of the study they had undertaken. I will report on this meeting, and if the Association wishes, will attempt to arrange later in the year for an engineer from Enersol to address a special meeting with all concerned residents. It is hoped that our new government when it re-examines the Harbour Tunnel Project also gives serious consideration to the Transit North proposals.

B E W A R E !

Vespula germanica - The EUROPEAN WASP is aggressive, with a painful sting. Papery nests range from 5 cm to about a metre in length, commonly concealed in the ground, tree trunks or rock walls. More aggressive in spring and summer, they will swarm to attack anyone coming too near the nest. The sting can be used again and again and if you kill one near the nest they release a scent attracting the others to come and get you! (nasty, nasty). At the end of summer they need sugars and are attracted to sweets, drinks, cakes etc. and can spoil a B.B.Q better than our most recent rain.

If you have noticed this wasp lately, (there are nests now in Castlecrag) try and locate the nest and call the Department of Agriculture - 6839777. They can be trapped in a jar with food (jam or such) smeared inside, covered with paper with a single hole in the top. Good luck! Keep an eye out especially in opened cans of soft drink.



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REPORT OF RETIRING PRESIDENT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

I would like to open my report by making a special and sincere mention of an outstanding member of our community - Eric Kaye. It was a great setback for Castlecrag when our dedicated and long-serving alderman, Eric, was not re-elected to Willoughby Council in the local government elections. He is an energetic and enthusiastic worker for the betterment of our environment and community. Thank you Eric for your fine contribution in assisting to make Castlecrag such a happy suburb in which to reside.

Rita Kaye is not seeking re-election as editor of The Crag. Her expertise and creativity will be sadly missed. However, we now have a wonderful collection of many interesting past and present events and information recorded in the newsletter, and we thank her for her continuing work in our community.

There are also many other members of the community with a wide variety of skills and expertise who give time, valuable advice and knowledge to our Association and its sub-committees. This year we have lost a number of active community residents who have moved outside the municipality. Di Street has been president of our Association and representative on Council. The quiet and efficient support of John and Addie Lee will be missed, as will Florence McIntyre's contribution to the Committee. The Blacklock family, who have contributed so much to the conservation movement in Castlecrag, have also moved. We wish these families well and hope that they will remain in contact with our organisation.

I would like to congratulate organisations which make major contributions to our quality of life in Castlecrag:

Conservation Society	WEPA
The Sugarloaf Regeneration Project Team	Safety House Committee
Castlecrag Kindergarten Committee	530A Committee
Local Church Committees	Castlecrag Library
Castlecrag Infants' School P&C Committee	C'crag Walking Trails Committee
Neighbourhood Watch Committee and Co-ordinators.	

I would like to highlight some of the matters brought to the attention of the Association during the year. Early in 1987 Willoughby Council asked community organisations to suggest an appropriate name for the planned 25 metre swimming pool and leisure complex at Hallstrom Park. Our Association after much discussion, suggested that the complex be called 'Griffin Bicentennial Park'. This motion was lost along with the suggestion that the pool be extended to 50 metres. The complex is now to be called the Willoughby Bicentennial Reserve.

Council has been forced to close the swimming pool in the Retreat Reserve because of the prohibitively high liability insurance on public tidal pools. Repairs were carried out to the Haven Theatre stage support structures following agreement on methods of repair by Council and the 530A Committee.

Eric Kaye has represented our Association and the Conservation Society opposing the proposed development of the Innisfallen Castle, and addressed the Land and Environment Court on the construction of eight dwellings on the castle grounds.

The Association is awaiting a Heritage Study of Willoughby Municipality (including Castlecrag) which will allow decisions on the fate of the waterfront cottages in Sugarloaf Bay. We support the retention of these cottages and believe they are of local and historical importance.

Early records of the Association, dating back to 1925, are being restored and bound by Willoughby Library. Those with an interest in the history of this area will find the records at the Library. Other matters of interest such as the safe location of pedestrian crossings, the Pinnacle traffic problems, traffic congestion in Chatswood, were drawn to the attention of relevant authorities.

SUE RANDLE, retiring President

CAN YOU HELP THE SALVATION ARMY?

Rita Kaye

For the past six years I have organised the Red Shield Appeal in Castlecrag. Over this period we have collected a total of at least \$10,000 which has been used to help the needy. With winter coming, the same help will be needed this year.

I will be away this year, so I am looking for someone who would be prepared to take over the organisation of the collection. I have a list of people who have helped in previous years, and I am sure most of them would again do so. If you feel you could, would you please phone me on 958 6146.

My name is Victoria Beresford, 18 years, and I have just completed my HSC at Forster High School on the mid North Coast. My grandparents Phyll and Michael Stoker (deceased), lived for 30 years in Castlecrag and their memories and those of my mother Kathleen, will always be a part of me too. I am at present looking for private board in the Chatswood, Willoughby or Castlecrag areas for probably 8-10 months. If you know of a family who would be able to assist me, please ring or leave a message on 958 7315.

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Postern

LIBRARY HOURS:

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST:

Ackroyd, P	Chatterton	King, S	Eyes of the Dragon
Brayfield, C	Pearls	Llewellyn, R	Down Where the Moon is Small
Buchan, J	Davey Chadwick		Up into the Singing Mountain
Caldwell, T	Sound of Thunder	Lovell, M	Straight on till Morning
Carey, P	Oscar & Lucinda	Marsh, N	Final Curtain
Corris, P	January Zone		False Scent
	Greenwich Apartments	Morris, J	Manhattan '45
Deighton, L	Twinkle Little Spy	Moss, R	Carnival of Spies
Forbes, C	Year of Golden Ape	Murdoch, I	Black Prince
Hughes, R	Fatal Shore		The Bell
Innes, H	Lonely Skier	Piercy, M	Braided Lives
	Trojan Horse		Gone to Soldiers
Ireland, D	Bloodfather	Plaidy, J	Courts of Love
James, C	Remake	Plain, B	Evergreen
Keesing, N	Riding the Elephant	Seymour, G	At Close Quarters
		Tracey, S	Tragic Idol (Bill Davidson)
		Weldon, F	Shrapnel Academy
			Rules of Life
		Wolfe, T	Bonfire of Vanities

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Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*



These cockatoos have become a common sight in our leafy suburb and seem to be flourishing. They are both beautiful and intelligent, and can become tame and trusting, sometimes feeding from the hand or from bird tables stocked with sunflower seeds.

The birds often have quite clear habits and routines. They generally feed till mid-morning, foraging for grass seeds, bulbous roots, berries and leaf buds. In country grain-growing areas they are especially fond of oats and maize, but repay for some of their damage by destroying the seeds of troublesome weeds, and some insects and their larvae including the plague grasshopper.

In the hottest part of the day, they fly to nearby trees and roost. They return to the same feeding area in the afternoon and will visit the same area until the food supply is exhausted. In the evening the flock returns to the same tree. During the day some birds remain at the roosting site, seemingly on guard, and when the flock returns the cacophony of screeching continues till after sunset as the birds jostle for a roosting position.

Breeding occurs between August and January and a nest hollow is selected up high, usually in a eucalypt near water. If an intruder approaches the nest site, the wary sitting bird silently leaves the nest, later screeching loudly, distracting the intruder. Two or three eggs are laid and both sexes share incubation for about 30 days. The young leave the nest after six weeks. (From Foliage Birds, by George Martin Adams, Popular Books 1981).

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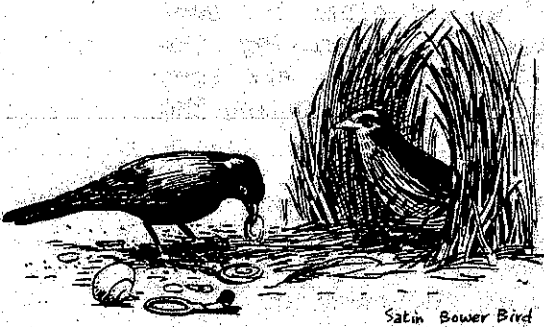
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NOTES FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Our Police Reports for January and February show 6 breakins, 3 thefts from cars, and one theft by a person who 'talked his way in' to a house. Gaining entry to your home by telling a sad story is an old trick - don't let any stranger in until you're absolutely satisfied with their credentials.

If you are interested in maintaining our comparatively crime-free way of life, support Neighbourhood Watch. Subscriptions for 1988 are due now - don't let 'the other fellow' pay for your benefit.



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We regret that we were unable to include the report of the President of the Conservation Society, Harold Spies, to the AGM of the Society, in this issue, because of lack of space; it will follow in the next Crag.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE RAMPART, TUESDAY 26 APRIL 8PM. ALL WELCOME.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT 48 THE BULWARK, HOME OF JENNY JONAS 958 5623, ON FRIDAY 6 MAY 8PM.

THE CRAG is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Mary Baker 958 5518 and Kerry McKillop 958 4516. Queries, ideas and contributions are most welcome.

PLEASE CUT OFF THIS FORM AND SEND WITH YOUR \$4 MEMBERSHIP FEE (or donation) TO:
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION c/o The Treasurer, Diana Jones, 72 Linden Way.

I wish to renew/apply for membership of the Progress Association:

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____