

TRARAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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* SIXTY THREE YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

Dear Residents,

Sue Randle, Acting President

I am writing this report in Eric Kaye's absence; we have heard from the Kayes in Central Australia and they are enjoying their long overdue holiday.

Susie Davison, the new administrator of Castlecrag Private Hospital, will be addressing our next meeting; we look forward to hearing her report and to giving residents the opportunity ask questions about the future of the hospital.

At a committee meeting the Progress Association proposed to distribute The Crag into Middle Cove, a suburb with common problems and interests to ours. I would like to extend a warm invitation to the residents of Middle Cove to come along to our meetings and to contribute articles for our newsletter.

A community committee is being formed by Susie McIntosh, President of Castlecrag Infants' School and a member of the Progress Association's committee, to commence the campaign against the possible closure of our local school. The school is part of our children's social and educational development and the playground is a source of pride to all in our community. It would be a tragedy to lose this asset. It is necessary for enrolments to be at a minimum of 70 to maintain the viability of the school. Benefits to children in small schools are numerous. It would be a great support to the committee and the school for residents to attend the Special Meeting on 15th August, 1988, 8pm at the school. I look forward to seeing the old school community there.

Blatant encroachments of fences, gardens and rubbish onto public land has been brought to the attention of the Progress Association and the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association. It is unfortunate that some residents feel the need to extend their boundaries and to carelessly dispose of rubbish. At our August meeting this issue will be on the agenda for discussion.

NEXT MEETINGS : All Welcome

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION:

To be held in the COMMUNITY HALL, The Rampart, Castlecrag.
ON TUESDAY, 30TH AUGUST at 8.0p.m.

CONSERVATION SOCIETY:

For place of meeting please ring Mrs. Addie Saltis, Ph: 958-6409.
The meeting will take place ON FRIDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, at 8.0p.m.

IS OUR SCHOOL TO BE CLOSED ??!!

Susie McIntosh, President P&C Assoc.

Many of you may have heard the rumours flying regarding the closure of Castlecrag Infants School. It is definitely part of the current Government's policy to amalgamate schools, thus eliminating the often expensive to run, small schools. However, this overlooks the special advantages of a small school, where each child is an individual with a name known to all and a heightened responsibility to classmates and self.

Castlecrag Infants School is just a tiny part of our vast Education Department, but it is at the heart of our Castlecrag peninsula. It is a central part of Castlecrag community life and forms a focus for people to meet other local families through schooling and community get-togethers.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 27 July 1988 where current Education Department changes were discussed with local principals and P&C associations. The Department's representative, Inspector Trevor Anderson, stated that the continuation of small schools like Castlecrag, Naremburn, Milsons Point and Balmoral Beach is 'under review'. He noted that the Willoughby School had a population of 450, but had a capacity for 700. In his view, there were economies in closing small schools and shifting children to 'larger better-resourced schools'. He emphasised that there would be no 'instant decisions' at regional level. Mr Anderson undertook that there would be full and complete consultation with all affected parties before any recommendation was sent to the Department or the Minister.

Thanks to special research by our local real estate agents Jim Young and Terry Lambert (Patons), it is clear that Castlecrag's child population is growing, and that classes will continue to be full in the foreseeable future. But will we still have a school, or will our children be bussed out to fill temporary vacancies elsewhere? And what development will occur on the 12-house block site?

YOU CAN HELP!!

1. COME TO THE P&C MEETING at the School, MONDAY 15 AUGUST 8PM, to share facts and opinions and help develop a comprehensive strategy. Write it in your calendar now! Long ago, both Premier Greiner and Minister Metherell promised extensive consultation on community issues. It may be wise to seek specific assurances that their promises will be kept in this instance.
2. ENROL YOUR CHILD aged 0 to 5 at the School to help indicate likely enrolments to 1994. It would help if you could inform the school of any expected family additions!
3. Write to Hon Terry Metherell, MP, Parliament House, Sydney and Regional Director, Mr R Nicholls, Department of Education, 45 Hunter St, Hornsby 2077. In your letter, request an undertaking that the details of any study on school amalgamation be fully available to school principals and the affected community before any decision is made by the Regional Director, the Director General, or the Minister.

PS. PER PREMIER GREINER: 'SILENT PEOPLE DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH'.

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**PRESSURE FOR WARRINGAH FREEWAY
CONSTRUCTION** Gai Spies

Readers of The Crag will have noticed a spate of letters to local papers in support of extension of the Warringah Freeway through Castlecrag. There has been comment also on ways of upgrading public transport and on the folly of ignoring the experience of other countries where urban freeways have proved not to be the solution to transport problems.

Mr Bruce Baird, the Minister for Transport (a portfolio which now includes roads) appears to think that more and more roads are the solution to transport problems. At a meeting of the Northern Suburbs Shires Assembly on 10 June 1988 at Hornsby Council Chambers, he outlined a huge programme of urban road and freeway construction.

In regard to the Warringah Freeway, Mr Baird stated that the government was retaining the land and, although the dates were not well defined as for some other roads, there was a definite government commitment that it would go ahead.

Mr Baird regards Transit North (tunnel and light rail to Warriewood) as an interesting proposal but queried whether there was the population base to justify it, a statement which seems at odds with a commitment to the Freeway.

A freeway through the last undisturbed bay on the Sydney Harbour foreshore, an area listed by the National Trust (Upper Middle Harbour Landscape Conservation Area) and nominated for the Register of the National Estate should present insurmountable environmental problems. We must make sure that it does.

CUTS (the Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity), a group of engineers and environmentalists which meets at the Environment Centre of NSW, recommends that agitation for sound urban transport planning must commence now.

We note that at its meeting of 23 May 1988, Willoughby Council supported the proposal that a road link from Willoughby to Warringah be constructed across Middle Harbour at Castlecrag, and that such a link be made by tunnel or other suitable means.

WEPA Native Plant Stall, Willoughby Fair 17 September.

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association is happy to take orders for your garden. To make sure of that special plant please contact Christine Lawrence (419 6656) as soon as possible, latest 31 August.

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NOTES FROM WANDERERS IN 'THE CENTRE'
Rita Kaye

We have been 'on the road' for seven weeks, and have long since learned the art of relaxing. Though we do have an overall plan, we are not making a great effort to stick to it. The whole trip has gone very well so far, and reasonably trouble-free. Though the majority of travellers are either towing a caravan or driving a campervan, we are very pleased that we decided to 'tent' it. The tent has proved a great success, just the right size, and a real home to us.

We just love the Centre. The recent rains have meant that around Alice Springs and Ayers Rock, it is green with lots of flowers to be seen, instead of red and dry. This apparently is most unusual, and we are not sure if we are pleased or not. We have been delighted with the beauty of it all, and have done much walking.

Kakadu was wonderful, billabongs covered with waterlilies, and such a lot of birds. We found the rock paintings most interesting and saw one claimed to be 20,000 years old.

We are just not ready to leave yet. Still, the urge to move on will come eventually, we expect.

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CASTLECRAG'S HERITAGE GETS NATIONAL PROMOTION
Bob McKillop

The current issue (June-August 1988) of Australasia's prestigious geographical magazine, **GEO**, features the article "Walter Burley Griffin: the man who designed Canberra" by Stephen McKenna. It describes Griffin's design concept for Canberra and the key role of Marion Griffin in showing the scenic possibilities of her husband's plan to the judges.

A significant portion of the article is devoted to Griffin's role in designing and promoting Castlecrag. The Griffins devoted 15 years to their vision of a 'model' community to take advantage of the natural habitat and superb water views. McKenna describes the project as 'the first unified example of community planning in Australia'. A fine portrait of long-time resident Frank Duncan outside his Griffin home gains a double-page spread, while McKenna gives emphasis to Griffin's appreciation of nature, particularly the gum tree - crediting the 'landscape architect' with planting over 1,000 in Castlecrag.

The presentation of Castlecrag as a symbol of Griffin's organic architecture and love of nature sets a theme for this issue of **GEO**, which also features an outstanding photographic essay on eucalyptus, titled "Up! The Gum Tree", by Rae Henson and Philip Green. Available from newsagents at \$5.95.

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

LIBRARY HOURS:

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST:

- GRENVILLE, K Joan Makes History
 - MASTERS, O The Rose Fancier
 - BILLINGTON, R Loving Attitudes
 - DUNNETT, D Spring of the Ram
 - VAN LUSTBADER Zero
 - WOOD, E Mothers and Lovers
 - GOODWIN, G A Southern Family
 - TUROW, S Presumed Innocent
 - NEWBY, E Round Ireland 910
 - KING, S The Tommy-Knockers
 - OATES, J You Must Remember This
 - RABAN, J For Love and Money
 - ALLENDE, E Of Love and Shadows
 - RENDELL, R The Veiled One
 - BORODIN, L Partings
 - PETERSEN, B Tiger Man 355
 - ADAMS, G Dancing on Coral
 - KYLE, D The Honey Ant
 - STALKER, J Stalker 920
 - TANENBAUM, R No Lesser Plea
- & numerous other paperbacks:
 P Wentworth, P Corris, D Kyle, G Heyer,
 M Hocking, C Stead, O Masters, P Ellis.

*Willoughby
 Fun Fair.
 at
 Willoughby Park
 17th September
 9.30AM - 4PM.*

Our Association will be running a trash and treasure stall and would like to receive items such as china, glassware, books, toys, records or anything we could sell. Funds raised will go towards printing The Crag and other community projects; 25% will go to our Conservation Society for their work. We look forward to your support. Goods can be left at the McKillops, 10a The Bulwark or collected by Dorothy Fraser 958 5851, or Sue Randle 958 6344. The Fun Fair committee has arranged many special features to entertain you and your children throughout the day.



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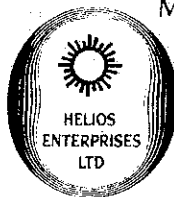
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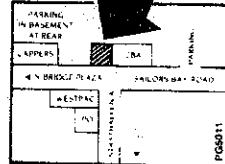
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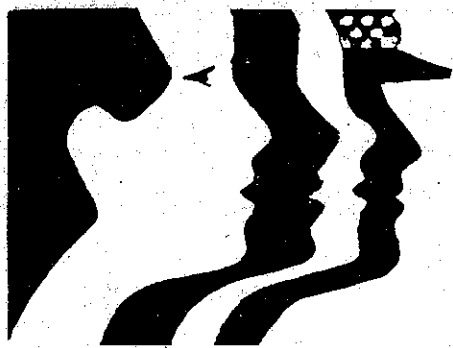


WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL ART PRIZE

Chris Burton, Community Arts Officer

The Willoughby Municipal Art Prize is on again this year, 14-17 November in the Civic Centre in Chatswood. There are ten categories this year including watercolour and works on paper, oil or acrylics, prints (serigraphy, etching, lithography, woodcuts), drawing, photography (colour and black and white), and special categories for youth, people with disabilities, Bicentennial and North Shore Heritage. There is also to be a one-off acquisitive prize this year called the Willoughby Landscape Acquisitive Prize.

Entries close on 21 October and forms are available from the Community Arts Officer on 412 9109.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Wheeler

The annual Neighbourhood Watch State Seminar has been held in the Sydney Town Hall, complete with a statewide telecast. We can report that whilst there was much good news, such as increased police numbers, new anti-crime laws, 'regionalisation' of police areas so as to have the 'cop on the beat' a more local identity, there were also negative facts. 18% of house thefts were found to have been facilitated by owners leaving doors or windows unlocked, and after two and a half years of Neighbourhood Watch, thefts from houses have again

started to rise after an initial big drop. So, once again, lock up!! Be an active Neighbourhood Watcher - keep friendly contact with your neighbours, and observe what happens in your street.

THE CASTLEHAVEN RESERVE 530A COMMITTEE presents the Haven Theatre's SPRING FESTIVAL '88

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2pm: URBAN MYTHS, original pieces from young performing artists and musicians around Sydney. Among them are Willoughby Youth Theatre, Mycap (Marrickville Youth), Eleanora Youth Theatre and some very talented acoustic musicians. An inspiring afternoon's entertainment.

Saturday 22 October 8pm, Sunday 23 October 3pm: La Troupe Theatre presents SOUNDJATA - An African Story: a legend vividly conveyed employing exciting mime, music and voice skills. The show displays some of the wealth of African culture and the strength of dramatic storytelling.

Afternoon, Saturday 19 November: A 32 member choir 'Uncovering the Voice' will perform a programme of international folk songs and madrigals, using a new approach to singing, based on the work of Rudolph Steiner. More details later.

Parking is not available at the Theatre. Free buses will leave Castlecrag Infants School at regular intervals for those who do not wish to walk.

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The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Mary Baker 958 5518 and Kerry McKillop 958 4516.