



## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAIG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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\* SIXTY FOUR YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT \*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eric Kaye

#### WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL - A QUESTION OF FAIRNESS

Residents expect many qualities of their elected representatives, one of these being fairness. In an ideal world we would expect all aldermen to show 'a firm and continuous desire to render to everyone that which is his due' (Justinian). In the real world we must accept less. Such a situation arose at the Council meeting on 6th March, when a report on the Council-owned waterfront properties on Sugarloaf Bay was under discussion. The issues raised in that report are of concern to all Middle Harbour Ward residents, particularly those of Castlecrag. On the night the report was debated, the only Middle Harbour Ward Alderman present was Pat Reilly. The Mayor, Ald. Noel Reidy and Ald. John Squire were both absent on leave overseas. Ald. Reilly claimed (correctly, in my view) that the report was inaccurate in part and biased.

I am not here debating the content of the report. However, in consideration of its importance, Ald. Reilly moved that Council defer a decision on this matter until such time as the other Ward Aldermen were present (this would have caused a delay of 2-4 weeks). For a matter of such concern and one that has been under debate in Council for over ten years, there is no doubt in my mind that the majority of aldermen would recognise the justice of the request and support the delay. Sadly, this was not so. To those aldermen who supported Ald. Reilly, thank you; in my view you have demonstrated the fairmindedness and impartiality which I and most of our residents would expect of you.

As background to this issue, the properties were transferred to Willoughby Council by the Cumberland County Council during the 1960s under a Deed of Trust, to be held for the construction of a County Road (these days, the Warringah Freeway), in the meantime to be used for a public park, reserve or recreation area. Over the past ten years or so Council has maintained that it has no authority to rent the cottages to individuals. This opinion is challenged by the occupants. 'As the best means of resolving the situation', Council in April 1987 resolved to offer the sites to the Department of Planning, who sought Council's advice on any architectural and heritage significance of the properties. On 6th March 1989, Council considered a report drawn up by a planning officer, which concluded that:

Overall, the majority of the structures are not in good repair, have no architectural or historical significance, are not used by the public and not available to the public at large for their use. I would recommend their demolition.

The circa 1908 cottage owned by Mr and Mrs Hey should be retained. (cont.)

Council's resolution in this matter was as follows:

1. THAT the Department of Planning be advised that all the boatshed/shacks with the exception of the Hey cottage have no architectural merit to prevent demolition and should be demolished and all materials removed from the sites and that all services be cut off at the mains.
2. THAT the Heys be allowed to continue to live in their house during their lifetime and then, subject to the matters raised in this report, it be made available to a suitably approved community group.

The vexed issue of the cottages will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Association, on Tuesday 18th April at 8pm in the Community Hall.

**HERITAGE WEEK 1989**

*Sunday, April 23rd, 10-12 (morning tea), 2-4pm (afternoon tea). Come to the waterfront cottages in Heritage Week. A large sign in the park in Edinburgh Road will direct you to the bushland walk down to the cottages.*

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Presbyterian Church  
cnr High and Laurel Sts, Willoughby  
200m from Edinburgh Road  
**ALL WELCOME!!**

**YOUTH GROUP** in your area (ages 10 and over) meets every Sunday afternoon 4.30 to 6pm, Willoughby Presbyterian Church  
Ring Chris Day on 958 8969 for info.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** at your Local Church  
every Sunday morning 10am  
Creche also available  
Ring Lindsay Fraser 958 5851 for info.

For a relaxed game of bowls in quiet parkland surroundings, all bowlers are welcome at .....

### **NORTHBRIDGE WOMENS BOWLING CLUB**

Warner Park, off Kameruka Rd. N'bridge.

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY 10.0a.m.**  
**SATURDAY 1.0p.m.** Mixed and Ladies Fours, every 4th **SUNDAY 11.30a.m.**

Tel: 958-6322 or  
Hon. Sec. Marie Ward, 958-7800

WALTER  
BURLEY  
GRIFFIN  
SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED

UPDATE: The Duncan House is to be auctioned very shortly on 18 April. Thank you to those people who responded so generously to the request for donations to the Society in the last Crag.

Since the last Crag information leaflets have been printed for distribution and one accompanies this issue. The leaflet has been sent to some architecture schools, libraries, National Trust members, contacts in USA, and the United States Embassy in Canberra.

Time is critical and the situation very urgent. Please help to preserve this unique house for future generations (a donation form is attached to the accompanying leaflet and all donations are tax deductible. Please contact Adrienne Kabos on 958 2060 if you have any business or media contacts who may be able to help.

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COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Rita Kaye

We have received a pamphlet from the Total Environment Centre listing a number of interesting guided tours, walks and dinners, some of which may appeal to our readers. For full details of cost, times, please contact the Centre (274714), or me (958 6146).

Extended Tours

- May 19-26 Lord Howe Island
- May 20-21 Jervis Bay (worth saving?) Camping Trip
- Aug 18-20 Goulburn River Bushwalking and Camping

Day Walks

- May 7 Manly to Spit Bridge 10k Scenic Walkway
- June 4 Parramatta River Ferry and The Observatory
- July 2 Revitalised Sydney - some of Sydney's recent restorations
- Aug 6 Paddington Inspection, including terrace houses, Juniper House, and Victoria Barracks
- Sept 3 Hawkesbury River and Berowra Ferry Trip
- Oct 1 Road/rail Heritage of Glenbrook - bushwalk along eastern escarpment of Blue Mountains.

Dinners

- April 14 Malaya Restaurant, North Sydney - speaker Robin Williams, ABC Science Show host
- June 14 Forbes Restaurant, East Sydney - speaker John Sinclair, Fraser Island defender
- Oct 20 Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre - speaker Helen Caldicott, anti-nuclear campaigner

POLICE CITIZENS COMMITTEE

A committee has been formed in Chatswood to improve communication between police and the public. Consisting of representatives from Willoughby Council, Castlecrag Progress Association, Social Services, the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other concerned citizens' groups, the committee will facilitate the exchange of information, complaints, suggestions and requests concerning neighbourhood security. It will provide two-way communication between Police and citizens. We are pleased to say we have a representative in attendance.

Help us to help you - join NW now. Ring Richard Wheeler, 958 6963, for more information.



enquire  
join  
participate

**Neighbourhood  
watch.**

958 6963



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CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

LIBRARY HOURS:

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

Are you aware that we have a community library in Castlecrag, a branch of the Willoughby Library, and a most appreciated free community service? Our librarians are Castlecrag residents, and have the enviable task of stocking our library with new titles as they become available or are requested. A list of new books appears in most issues of The Crag, for your reference.

CASTLECrag CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
President's Report (abbreviated) to  
AGM, 19th March, 1989

Last year has been one of environmental contradictions. The preservation of Castlecrag's building heritage is highlighted by the newly-formed Walter Burley Griffin Society. The Society's aim to buy Frank Duncan's house needs every support and donations of money are urgently needed. Secondly, the foreshore cottages on Sugarloaf Bay represent an entirely different and earlier type of architecture from the Griffin houses and are an important part of our heritage. The adoption by Council of a report which calls for their demolition is to be deplored. This decision also shows a lack of social responsibility in that three families would be dispossessed. With increasing housing costs and a severe lack of public housing for people on low incomes, Council's decision is morally irresponsible.

An increase in environmental awareness of our community may in part be due to the success of the Sugarloaf Creek Bush Regeneration Project. (However, there are still residents dumping lawn clippings and garden refuse into the reserves. It is hoped that the 'Big Bins' will solve this problem.) WEPA and its Regeneration Team are to be congratulated for the initiation, work done, and the continuation of the project. The 'opening up' of this area and access to the waterfalls will not only increase public appreciation of our native flora and fauna but may also increase opposition to a freeway going through the northern escarpment.

Increasing environmental awareness and concern has also been due to debate and public exposure in the media of major environmental problems/disasters confronting us on a local, state, national and world scale:

ACID RAIN  
SOIL DEGRADATION  
AIR POLLUTION  
OVERPOPULATION  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL  
TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS  
INTRACTABLE WASTES  
NUCLEAR ENERGY - WEAPONS - WASTES

CIGARETTE SMOKING  
SALINITY  
GREENHOUSE EFFECT  
WATER POLLUTION  
DEFORESTATION  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Briefly, what have we done? The Society has supported Council on Innisfallen Castle, the Walking Trails Committee on its proposals in Castlecrag, the 1988 Wilderness Act, the Sugarloaf BR project, a Castle Cove Development Plan, and Mosman Council in retention of military land at Balmoral as open space. We have opposed wood-chipping of SE Forests and renewal of Harris-Daishowa export licence, the findings of the Helsham Inquiry into Tasmanian forests, and food irradiation. Concern was expressed about the separation of DEP into the Dept of Planning separate from the Environment portfolio. A number of members marched on Palm Sunday along with other environment and peace groups. A common concern with the Progress Association and WEPA, is the lack of clear intent by the State Government over the abandonment of the Warringah Freeway Corridor through Castlecrag.

While the Society has met regularly throughout the year our activities programme was only partly achieved. This is because most of our members are also active in a number of organisations either as delegates, members or on subcommittees. We are members of a widespread conservation movement which is concerned for the survival of this planet and all forms of life on it. Hence as a small conservation group we should think globally and act locally.

Harold Spies, President

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Lunch: tues-friday      Dinner: tues-saturday

## FAIR 'CRAG' OF THE WHIP

Lee Davis

The well known Australian expression in the title of this article goes back to the days of the bullock wagon and betokens that if a bullock was not 'pulling its weight' it was natural for the teamster to put its mind back on the job with a 'fair crack of the whip' either above or on its hindquarters. Are you wondering or anticipating what is coming next?

Well, it is an inescapable fact that one cannot find the time to actively belong to everything, be it an organisation concerned with sport, profession, culture, religion, trade union, recreation, hobby, common interest, etc. But, as a resident of Castlecrag, are you just 'of us' or 'with us', speaking from a community point of view? If you do not belong to the Progress Association as a financial member, you can still serve Willoughby Municipality and also your suburb by responsible citizen observance of every aspect of human behaviour which makes for a constantly improving society and environment in your own residence, street, suburb, city, state, and nation. Kindness, tolerance, consideration of others, compliance with the law, a helping hand, are worthy attributes of a 'good citizen'.

Progress Association committees and other members work long hours as required without financial reward and have been doing so throughout the 63 years of the Association's existence to ensure, against the forces of time, change and circumstance, that a way of life is maintained and sustained for the benefit of all in the area. The Association operates in terms of its Constitution, observes the recognised rules for conduct of public meetings, maintains minutes of Committee and General meetings, its finances are received and disbursed under proper accounting procedures, and annual accounts are subject to audit.

If you prefer to remain just 'of us', your observance of 'good citizen' principles is of value to our Municipality. The Association hopes, however, that if your personal commitments do not permit you to attend its regular two-monthly meetings, you will demonstrate that you are 'with us' by becoming a financial member. Membership is \$4 per family, plus any donation you might care to make. Please forward your cheque, made payable to the Castlecrag Progress Association, to the Honorary Treasurer, 72 Linden Way, Castlecrag.

(Editors' note: Mr Davis is a loyal, hardworking member of our Association, a member since the 1940s, and Honorary Auditor for the past 6 years.)

Please accept/renew my membership of the Castlecrag Progress Association, for which I enclose \$4, and/or a donation (\$) to cover costs such as the printing of The Crag.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Castlecrag Progress Association, and send to the Hon. Treasurer, Diana Jones, 72 Linden Way, Castlecrag, 2068.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE RAMPART, TUESDAY 18th APRIL AT 8 PM. ALL WELCOME. Meetings will now be held on the third Tuesday of every second month.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON FRIDAY 19th MAY 8 PM AT 64 THE BULWARK. NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.

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