

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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* SIXTY FIVE YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The campaign being fought by Castlecrag residents to retain our school is reminiscent of the bitter struggles 15 years ago to prevent the building of a freeway through the suburb. On that occasion, this Association led the campaign. This time the Save Our School (SOS) Committee has taken the lead and is doing a magnificent job. The Progress Association, the School P&C Association and the majority of our residents fully support their efforts.

As most residents will know, Green Bans, which effectively prevent demolition of the school, have been applied by the Storemen & Packers Union, Transport Workers Union of Australia and the Building Trades Group of NSW. A roster of residents is maintaining a 24 hour, seven days a week, picket of the school site from a caravan.

A number of very well attended public meetings have been held at the school and the issues involved have been fully discussed. The views expressed by residents at these meetings, and supported by the majority, can be summarised as follows:

- * For more than 40 years, Castlecrag School has provided our community with a centre of excellence in education through our children's initial school years. In this time, most of our children and many of our grandchildren have started their school careers in an environment close to home where they felt secure and enjoyed the companionship of friends.
- * Most residents expected that the following statement by the Premier prior to the elections, would define Government policy on these matters - "local planning is a function of local government and there is no place for the State Government to override or second guess the decisions of the community." (SMH 11/11/89).
- * Despite this, the Government is now proposing to rezone Castlecrag School and a number of

OUR SCHOOL

other areas of public land for medium-density housing. This is against the clear wishes of the community and Willoughby City Council, which recently resolved on planning grounds not to rezone Castlecrag School.

- * This is a local planning matter. There is no outstanding State or regional environmental issue which should enable the State to overrule local planning on land use.
- * There is a regional plan now on display defining the proposed amendments to the environmental plan. The Progress Association has lodged an objection to the State's overriding of what should be a local decision on the best use of the land.
- * The Education Department's demographic study, which indicated declining enrolments for the school, was based on inadequate information. Independent local demographic studies reveal that enrolments are in fact rising.

At the last public meeting where these matters were discussed, it was resolved to ask Willoughby City Council to legally appeal against the overriding of local planning for no regional or state purpose. In this regard, Council has recently applied for an exemption to the imposition of medium density housing on the grounds that land use is correctly planned at local level.

The organisational work involved in a task of this magnitude is immense. The SOS Committee recently resolved to employ one of its dedicated members on a part-time basis as organiser. To defray costs, the Committee needs more funds. To those residents who have donated most generously, we extend our sincere thanks. The alternative to donations is fund raising activities, which unfortunately divert effort from the main cause.

Eric Kaye

Doom and Gloom - or, Peace of Mind?



There has been some 'doom and gloom news' about Neighbourhood Watch in some districts - great news for thieves but sad for most people. In 'the Crag' we are fortunate in that our Neighbourhood Watch is alive and well. NW is a community effort, neighbour helping neighbour, and to enjoy the undoubted benefits of NW we all must actively support it. Make sure you talk NW to your neighbour - exchange phone numbers,

volunteer to keep an eye on their place when they go away, collect the mail from their letterbox, etc. Then, when it's your turn to go on holidays, you'll enjoy the peace of mind of knowing someone is keeping tab on your home.

Support Neighbourhood Watch - be an active Neighbourhood Watcher! Richard Wheeler (958 6963) welcomes enquiries re membership.



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The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST

DEIGHTON, L	Spy Line
HAYWORTH, R	If This Was Happiness
MORLEY, S	Odd Man Out
JAMES, PD	Devices and Desires
CLANCY, T	Clear and Present Danger
HOWATCH, S	Ultimate Prizes
EASTON, C	Jacqueline du Pre
STUART LONG, W	The Nationalists
HOWE, J	Murder by the Book
BARBER, N	Daughters of the Prince
MOSCO, M	Out of the Ashes
MASTERTON, G	Solitaire
STEEL, D	Summer's End
MORGAN, S	Wanamuraganya
CORNWALL, B	Sea Lord
FRANCIS, D	Straight
KENEALLY, T	Towards Asmara
RICE DAVIES, M	The Scarlet Thread
COUGHLIN, W J	In Presence of Enemies
PRICE, A	The Memory Trap

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WEPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Willoughby Environmental Protection Association will hold its AGM Monday 12 February 1990 8pm in the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street, Artarmon. Ted Mack, Independent candidate for the Federal seat of North Sydney and former mayor of North Sydney Council will speak on the sale of public land in New South Wales. Supper provided.

All welcome. Contact Gay Spies 958 8569

Gregory's

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FILM FOOTAGE AND PHOTOS

We have had an offer from an independent film producer to make a film on the Castlecrag school. She would like to see any old photos or film footage of the school or the suburb. If you have anything, please ring Mary Baker, 958 5518.

THE

Gulzar

RESTAURANT

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WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY UPDATE

The Walter Burley Griffin Society was established over a year ago. At the Society's first AGM last August, Edgar Deans was elected as patron. Edgar Deans was Secretary/Accountant for the Greater Sydney Development Association, the company that Walter Burley Griffin established to develop Castlecrag, as well as being an Alderman and Mayor of Willoughby for many years.

The objectives of the Society relate principally to the setting up of a museum and a library commemorating the life and works of Walter Burley Griffin and the acquisition or administration of a building designed by or connected with him, for the public benefit.

The Society is concerned to promote the preservation of Griffin architecture and in the near future hopes to raise sufficient funds to publish a book on Griffin's unique architecture and streetscape at Castlecrag. Such a publication would generate a greater awareness of the uniqueness of Griffin's work at Castlecrag and his creative vision for the future and also in the long term generate funds to assist in the acquisition of Griffin architecture as a museum.

Present members will be receiving subscription form renewals in their letterboxes. But for those who wish to become new members, a subscription form is included below.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Individual
- Community Organizations
- Business Organizations

\$10.00 PA
\$100.00 PA
\$500.00 PA

[Applicants agree to accept the objects and rules of the Society]

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE DATE

DONATIONS [Tax Deductible]

- \$
- \$50
- \$100
- \$200
- \$

Please make cheques payable to : Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated
Send to: The Secretary, 12 The Parapet, CASTLECRAG, NSW, 2068, AUSTRALIA

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CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL

Lindy Batterham

SAVE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

PUBLIC MEETING

A very positive Public Meeting was held at the school on Wednesday 24 January. This meeting was very ably chaired by Sue Randle and attended by Alderman Pat Reilly, Ted Mack, John Spender and well over 100 concerned residents. The meeting expressed the view that retention of the school should remain the paramount focus of the Committee. The differences between the various planning instruments used to zone or rezone sites were considered in detail. The meeting passed the following resolutions:

This meeting regards the proposed Draft Amendment No.4 to the Sydney Regional Environment Plan No.7 as totally inappropriate to that area covered by the Willoughby Local Environment Plan No.25 (Castlecrag School). We request that the Minister exercise his power under the Act to delete this area from the plan for the reasons set out on paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive of our Newsletter dated 24 January 1990. (Paragraph 5 of this newsletter, which gave notice of the Public Meeting, was amended by the deletion of the last three lines and the words "and there are".)

This meeting urges Willoughby City Council to challenge the Regional Environment Plan No.4, Draft Amendment No.4 and take every legal action possible, and such action should be taken in association with adjacent Councils and the Local Government Association if necessary.

This Public Meeting calls on Willoughby City Council to immediately lodge a formal objection to the Department of Planning with regard to the proposed usage of the Castlecrag School site.

A new SOS CRAG Committee was elected for 1990.

PICKET DUTY - COMMUNITY USE

The caravan has acted as a community drop-in centre over the holidays. Support has been wonderful, and the picket diary has become a valuable piece of local history. The Committee has decided to co-ordinate a number of events at the school as a way of keeping the picket line going.

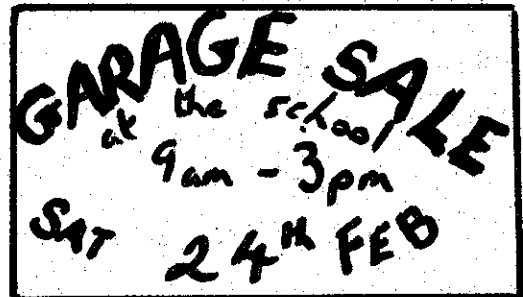
Mon - Fri: 9am - 12.30pm Playgroup
12.30 - 4pm Playgroup
4pm - 6pm Afterschool Care Centre

This will provide a service to parents and children as well as making the point that this community needs this site to carry out its affairs. Parents interested should ring Tracy Gilling 958 4884. We will still need to be on duty for the rest of the 24

hour period, and weekends. As one of our distinguished fathers commented, 'it's a privilege to do a shift on the picket'. Don't be shy! Put your name on the roster in the caravan. Plans are also underway to start running general interest classes. Please fill in the form on the next page and return to the caravan if you would be interested in this venture.

MONSTER GARAGE SALE

Please donate items by taking to the school on week beginning 19 Feb. or phone Burgess 958 5103 if you want your goods picked up. We'll take anything that's sellable! Volunteers also needed to help with the stalls.



FEDERAL INQUIRY

SOS CRAG has written to Mr Hawke asking for a Federal Inquiry into the NSW schools rationalisation program, highlighting the political interference surrounding the listing of Castlecrag School. It is felt that every effort should be made to block Mr Greiner and his government and make them accountable to our community for an act which would have serious long term social and environmental effects.

DONATIONS

This campaign is taking longer than we thought. If you can't give your time to this fight, please give a donation. Cheques can be made out to The Trustees SOS CRAG. We need funds now. Please help.

SECOND EDITION OF CASTLECRAG BOOK

We have recently been given the copyright to publish a second edition of this book which was first published about eighteen years ago, as a way of raising funds to landscape and plant out the school grounds. Anyone in the printing business or people interested in assisting with contributions of articles, photos or drawings, please contact Lindy Batterham 958 2127.

Notice of Meetings

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE RAMPART ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1990 AT 8pm. ALL WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS ESPECIALLY SO.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16 MARCH 1990. FOR DETAILS PLEASE RING PRESIDENT HAROLD SPIES 958 8569.

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I/we wish to become members of/renew our membership of the Castlecrag Progress Association, for which we enclose subscription of \$10 and/or donation.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please send to the Treasurer, Diana Jones, 72 Linden Way, Castlecrag.

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Save Our School Community Residents Action Group

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES/WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD AT THE SCHOOL?

To assist us in gauging levels of interest, please tick any Class(es) you would consider doing:

ASTRONOMY		BUSH REGENERATION	
CHILDREN'S DRAMA GROUP (4-7 years)		YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRAMA GROUP (8-14 years)	
COLOUR PAINTING		VOICE/SINGING	
FIBRE CRAFTS (eg Spinning and Weaving)		HOME GARDEN DESIGN AND RENOVATION	
YOGA (Child)		YOGA (Adult)	
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT GROUP			

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE OFFERED:

.....

NAME:

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For more information contact: Marcella Cerna, on 958 6936