

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 76

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JULY/AUGUST 1991

* 66 YEARS OF RESOLVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES *

Dear Residents,

Sue Randle 958 6344

I am sad to report that three important people in our community have died recently. We were greatly saddened by the death of Anne Thomas, in June. Anne has been involved in the community affairs of Castlecrag since first coming to live here, and was much loved and admired. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Ken, Elizabeth and family, Megan, Garth and family, and Gavin, Barb and family. A close friend of Anne writes later in the newsletter of her dedication to our community.

For years I lived with my family in No. 107 Edinburgh Road and was lucky to have very good neighbours. Unfortunately, Mr Lin Sawyer and Mrs Chivers have recently died. Mr S (as my sons called him) was a good 'handyman' to have living over our back fence, and helped to maintain our home for many years. Mrs Chivers was very patient in returning many balls that managed to find their way into her flower gardens, and our pet rabbit was a frequent visitor. Both Mr Sawyer and Mrs Chivers are greatly missed by their families, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. They shall be missed by their many friends in the Castlecrag and Willoughby communities as well.

With the support of the Progress Association and, I hope, the residents of the wider community of Castlecrag, I have submitted my nomination for Alderman for the forthcoming Local Government Election on September 14th. I have nominated for Council because I am motivated by a sense of service to our community. I have lived in Castlecrag with my family for the past fourteen years, making

many good friends both here and in Willoughby, and being actively involved in many community organisations such as Geriaction Inc., SOS*CRAG and the Willoughby Fun Fair Committee. I now seek the support of all Castlecrag residents (both old and new!), assuring you that I will bring to Council an awareness of community needs, a deep concern for families and teenagers, and an understanding of the special problems of the elderly in our community. As a mother of two teenage sons and working in Child Studies, I have a clear grasp of the issues confronting families with small children.

Willoughby City Council manages a diverse and developing area and I look forward to the challenge of being your representative there, dealing with the challenges, and working hard in order to ensure that ratepayers get the best possible value for their rate dollars. I would be a most accessible and responsive representative, in the tradition of former Aldermen from our suburb such as John Crew and Eric Kaye, who were widely known for their commitment to community service both within our community and also the municipality of Willoughby as a whole.

This election will be a hotly contested one with some wards (including the Middle Harbour Ward) having up to nine candidates. On the day of the election I would be very grateful for your help, as there are six polling booths in the area. Please ring me 958 6344 if you would be able to lend a hand and encourage our community effort. I look forward to your support on 14th September and the opportunity to work for you in Council.

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION meetings are open to all residents so come to our next one Tuesday 27th August at the Community Centre, corner The Rampart and The Postern, 8pm, and meet some other members of the Castlecrag community.

The Castlecrag **CONSERVATION SOCIETY** will hold its next meeting on Wednesday 28th August 8pm at Castlecrag Infants School. We welcome new members.

Anne Thomas

Anne Thomas' death in June sent a wave of sadness through our community. There are few residents who have not had some association with Anne, whether in the Kindergarten Committee, Castlecrag School Committee, Scouts and Library or as a caring neighbour and friend. Anne was never just a member of any organisation but always an involved and dedicated participant. Even when her health was failing, she refused to give up and continued her work in the Library. Anne will be missed but never forgotten. Memories of her and her spirit will remain forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew her.

Joyce Batterham

A History of Castlecrag

The Suburb of Castlecrag A Community History
by Esther Leslie

We of Castlecrag are greatly indebted to Esther Leslie for the excellent book she has produced on our suburb, and would like to thank her for the many hours she spent researching, interviewing and planning, to achieve this result. We now have a detailed record of our area, including dates and recipients of the first land grants made on our peninsula. We meet the people who were involved in Castlecrag at this time, and learn of their backgrounds and interests. We are taken through the development of our suburb from the time of the first European settlers to the present, and introduced to many interesting people on the way. The author leaves us with a greater understanding of and empathy for our chosen home. It is clear that she has a great love for Castlecrag.

Note: the Progress Association has purchased a number of *The Suburb of Castlecrag A Community History* and will have them at our next meeting. The books are also for sale at **Willoughby City Library** and **Castlecrag Library** for \$5 each, or they can be ordered from Rita Kaye 958 6146.

Storage Need for our Records

The 530A Committee of Castlecrag residents responsible to Council for the management of our **Community Hall** have been successful in persuading Council to increase the size of the existing library. Provision has also been made for the preservation and storage of local records in a fireproof room.

The Progress Association is in need of a metal filing cabinet to take advantage of this facility. Would anyone able to donate such a safe please contact **Rita Kaye (958 6146)**. We are holding records of the Association's meetings etc dating back to 1925, together with a full record of all papers relating to the anti-freeway fight.




Survey

We were delighted with the response to the survey in the last issue of the newsletter, and thank all those who took the time to reply, especially those who gave us brilliant ideas which we shall try to incorporate into coming issues. We invite **Letters to the Editors** on subjects you would like to be explored further, or short comments on local issues if you don't have time to write an article. Those of you who have an article in mind, please put pen to paper, or those who would like to contribute an illustration, please do so. There was an overwhelming response in favour of recycled paper.

We were heartened to note that so many share an interest in the history of Castlecrag and its early residents, and are in sympathy with the ideals of the Griffins. There was keen interest shown in the future character of our suburb and fears were expressed that too much was being lost and spoiled, often with no documentation for future research. Would the philosophers and visionaries please write for future issues? We would also welcome articles or letters with your ideas of how Castlecrag could be improved!

As a result of the survey we have introduced the **Community Noticeboard** which we hope you will use. We would especially like to thank those at **Castlecrag Newsagency** for their very kind assistance in collecting the survey.

Should we have a **Question and Answer** section in the newsletter, concentrating mainly on history, former residents, and perhaps conservation and landscaping issues? Would there be **volunteers amongst residents** who would write regularly on such matters as weed control, bush regeneration techniques, looking after reserves adjoining dwellings, and the street islands which are such an attractive feature of our suburb? Please write to Castlecrag Progress Association Box 6/77 Edinburgh Road, or 10a or 76 The Bulwark.

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Local Government Elections - September 14th 1991

The Issues Involved

Eric Kaye

At almost all Local Government Elections held from the 1950s to 1987, residents of Castlecrag returned to Willoughby Council an Alderman who resided in the suburb of Castlecrag.

In the September/October 1987 issue of *The Crag* newsletter I commented on the reasons underlying our loss of representation at that election. I now add that I am firmly convinced that the interests of our suburb are best served when we are represented by a local resident who is well known and respected. This does not imply criticism of any of the other fifteen Aldermen who comprise Willoughby Council. However, it is my belief that in the three-tiered structure of government which Australia has adopted, **Local Government** means just what its name implies.

In a collective sense, all fifteen Aldermen who comprise Council carry a great responsibility in managing a rapidly growing city. Council's budget now exceeds \$38M and inherent in the growth are problems such as excessive road traffic, lack of adequate public transport, threats of freeway construction, need for management of our bushland areas, provision of recreational areas, and preservation of our built and natural environment.

Of special importance is the responsibility for local social welfare. This includes care for all ages from kindergarten to the elderly. These services are funded from Council rates assisted by grants from the Federal and State Governments.

In an individual sense, each Alderman has a parochial duty to attend to those problems which arise in his or her own area. These may appear to be less important, however they assume great importance to those concerned. It is often possible to resolve these conflicts amicably without them being brought to Council.

I have two further comments on these matters. The first relates to rates. As all will know by now, the Valuer-General has issued current notices of valuation with significant increases in the assessed value of our land. This will mean higher rates for many of our residents. The assessed value provides the basis on which Council, at the beginning of each year, determines the "residential rate" (currently this is 0.7218 cents for each dollar of the rateable value). Approximately half of Council's total income comes from this source. I raise no objection in principle to Council's income being derived in this way, however I consider increases must be kept to a minimum. This is best ensured if we return at the election this September a local resident as our Alderman.

My second comment relates to the disappointing lack of interest and support by some residents for community affairs. At the 1987 elections one-third of those residents of Castlecrag eligible to vote, failed to do so. I do hope that by 14th September next all will have considered the policies and background of each of the candidates. It appears probable that six or more candidates will nominate for our ward (**Middle Harbour Ward**). For the past seventeen years the Castlecrag Progress Association has selected and supported a local resident who in their view has the qualities and dedication necessary for the task. For this election they have chosen **Sue Randle**, a long-time resident and currently our President. I strongly support this choice and urge all residents eligible to vote on 14th September to do so, voting is compulsory. **You should give your first preference to Sue.** It is important to note that under the voting system used for Local Government elections, **the value of all other preferences is heavily discounted.** If you will be away at this time, don't forget to make a postal vote.

Finally, we seek assistance at the booths on election day. If you can help, please contact Sue Randle on 958 6344.

Ethel Chivers, a long time resident, died recently. The Chivers' home was the first house built in Edinburgh Road, between Rutland Avenue and Charles Street, surrounded by bush. Ethel was very musical and played the piano and led the singing in many of our functions and 'get togethers' when we were raising money to build the Community Centre. The brick fence of the house is just the right height to have a 'sit on' and has been appreciated by many tired walkers over the years.

Joyce Batterham

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Recent Land Value Rises

On Wednesday 31st July 1991 thirty residents attended a meeting at Castlecrag Infants School to discuss the high land values that the Valuer General has placed on some Castlecrag properties. The meeting was organised by Wendy Dickson, Kathy Burgess and Meg Nicholson, and chaired by Howard Rubie. Ward Alderman Patrick Reilly attended to hear the views vigorously expressed at the meeting and promised to transmit those views to Council.

The meeting decided on two courses of action:


1. that a petition be drawn up objecting strongly to the rate levy procedure adopted by Willoughby City Council, and that Council approach the Valuer General's Department on behalf of the residents of Willoughby to object to the 1990 land valuation. The final wording of the petition is still to be ratified.
2. as there is no possibility of a class action against the Valuer General's decision, the individual ratepayers will lodge their own objections to the Department.

On 1st August a committee meeting of Castlecrag Progress Association passed the following resolution:

we support the intent of the proposal by residents of the eastern end of Edinburgh Road to petition Willoughby City Council to investigate current rating procedures and look at possible alternatives.

For further information on this matter phone Wendy Dickson 958 6306 or Howard Rubie 958 1729.

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Willoughby Fun Fair

The fair will be held in Willoughby Park on Saturday 7th September, and once again the Progress Association is holding its *Trash and Treasure* stall. We would be very grateful for donations of old books, magazines, records, crockery, cutlery, toys, plants and nick-nacks. This is our main fundraising event and helps to pay for the cost of printing the newsletter. Please leave goods on the verandah near the Principal's office at the Infants' School, or ring Kathy Burgess 958 5103, Sue Randle 958 6344, or Kerry McKillop 958 4516.

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The Community Centre, The Rampart
TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30pm
THURSDAYS 1 - 5pm
SATURDAYS 10am - Noon

NEW BOOKS LIST:

CRAIG, P(ed)	Oxford Book of Detective Stories
COURTNEY, B	Tandia
MAHFOUZ, N	Palace of Desire
MACLEAN, A	Red Alert
GALLAGHER, S	The Boathouse
CLARK, M H	Loves Music, Loves to Dance
ISAACS, S	Magic Hour
HART, J	Damage
YEADON, D	The Back of Beyond
AUEL, J M	The Valley of Horses
SMITH, W	Elephant Song
MAYLE, P	A Year in Provence
FRAME, J	A Year of Siege
ARCHER, J	As the Crow Flies
MICHENER, J A	A Novel
MARR, D	Patrick White - A Life

And numerous paperbacks: Antonia Fraser, Charmian Clift, Colin Forbes, Piers Paul Read, Anthony Grey, Rosamunde Pilcher, James Pollett and many others.

Haven Amphitheatre News

Rumour has it that, ever since *Poetry by Candlelight* was nearly washed out by rain, our Chairman **Howard Rubie** has been in constant dialogue with whoever controls the weather up there. He is not giving away any secrets but obviously he is on to something. The day of the concert, 30 June, was a glorious winter's afternoon – the kind Sydney is reckoned for, that uplifts the spirits and affirms one's faith in nature. The Haven Amphitheatre was at its best, lush after the autumn rain, with the light filtering through the tree ferns.

Somewhat reminiscent of both the Griffin era and the 'flower power' of the sixties, children frolicked in the bush and scrambled over the rocks while parents and friends lazed in the sunshine and enjoyed the music. Now and again, the sound of a popping champagne cork evoked images of a picnic at the Glynebourne Opera and other less plebeian pleasures.

It was the **Willoughby Wind Quartet's** inaugural concert but the players showed little sign of nerves, perhaps because all were seasoned veterans of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. The works they performed ranged from the popular *Petite Symphonie* by Gounod to the somewhat esoteric *Kleine Kammermusik*, appreciated mainly by the *aficionados* of the neo-classical. Unlike the other three pieces, *La Petite Symphonie* was played by a nontet and conducted by **Leonard Spira**, resplendent in his coat of many colours. After a career as an architect in the NSW Department of Planning, Spira is now carving out a name for himself as Australia's eccentric freelance conductor.



La Petite Symphonie among the ferns

For the second half of the program most of the adults in the audience were luxuriating in a warm inner glow induced by a combination of the music, excellent afternoon tea and *gluwein*. Our local organic fruitologist, **Donna Sife**, excelled with the provision of delicious banana and carrot cakes to make us healthy, not fat, whilst **Christine Monch** and **Ella Young** brewed a lethal mixture of warm wines and herbs that was declared a triumph and will become a regular feature of future Haven events.

The Quintet saw our invitation to devise its own program and play at the Haven as a valuable opportunity to perform and experiment free from the artistic constraint imposed by more commercial, conventional venues and this can be recognised as an increasingly important role for the Amphitheatre. The players were impressed with their enthusiastic audience and the unusual setting and have asked to be given another opportunity to appear at the Haven as soon as possible. In the meantime, following their successful launch, they have a number of engagements, including concerts at the Macquarie Galleries and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. We wish them the best of luck.

Lisa Purser for the 530A Committee

Over the years many residents famous in the artistic world have made their homes in Castlecrag. Two stars of the **Australian Opera** living among us are **Amanda Thane** and **Gregory Tomlinson**. Both have heavy singing commitments but still find time for charity appearances. They will be singing together in **Willoughby Civic Centre on Sunday September 1st at 6.30pm**. The Gala Concert presented by Alzheimers Association and entitled *Memories – A Night to Remember in Aid of Those Who Forget* stars top performers in the world of entertainment. Ring **Dorothy Fraser 958 5851** for details.

Amanda will be leaving very soon after the concert to make her debut at Covent Garden. We wish her every success.

Dorothy Fraser 958 5851

m o m o

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Please use this space in future issues to advertise coming events, meetings etc of interest to our community.

Personal advertisements would also be welcome

Small ads \$5, or for members of the Association, \$4. Costs for larger ads would vary according to size. The Editors reserve the right to choose the number and type of personal advertisements in the newsletter. Please send to 76 The Bulwark before the deadline for the next issue (24th September).



~ DONT FORGET ~

THURS 15th AUG - GLASS for RECYCLING
TUES. 20th AUG - PAPER for RECYCLING
TUES. 27th AUG - PROG. ASSOC. MEETING
WED. 28th AUG. CONS. SOC. MEETING
SAT. 14th SEPT. VOTE RANDLE
TUES. 17th SEPT. - PAPER for RECYCLING
THURS. 19th SEPT. - GLASS for RECYCLING

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Neighbourhood Watch

Richard Wheeler 958 6963



It's a fact! Police acknowledge the fact that one of the best crime deterrents is an alert public. Police support of such TV programs as *Crime Stoppers* is evidence of this. Interested and alert neighbours are the backbone of **Neighbourhood Watch**. So why not stand up and be counted as 'one of the good guys' and join? **Charles Reynolds** 958 5945 will be pleased to hear from you and answer any questions. Be an alert neighbour - join **Neighbourhood Watch** today.

I/we wish to become members of/renew our membership of/ the **Castlecrag Progress Association**, for which I/we enclose subscription and/or donation (membership fees are renewable from 1st February each year).
Family \$10; Single \$5; Fixed income/student/concession \$3.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please send to the Treasurer, Diana Jones, Box 6/77, Castlecrag.

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Judy Stone-Herbert (958 7961) and Kerry McKillop (958 4516). Deliveries Donna Sife 958 1841.