

# THE CRAG

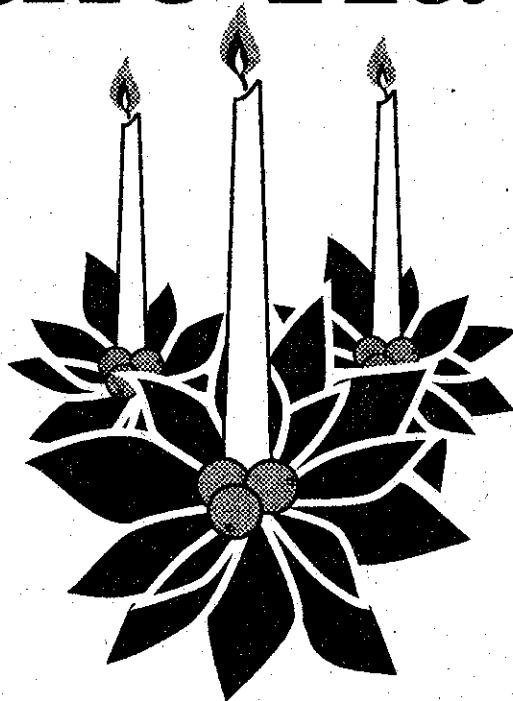
NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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November/December 1992

# Carols at the Haven



7.30 p.m. Christmas Eve

No parking at the amphitheatre.

Free shuttle bus from the shops and school from 7.00 onwards.  
Candles available for purchase. Bring your own mozzie repellent.

# Christmas is Coming - but when?

My first memories of Christmas were of very grand affairs with my Grandfather sitting at the head of the table mopping the sweat from his noble forehead now and then with a pure white linen handkerchief. On either side of him were laid out a whole armoury of knives and forks, and in front several great steaming dishes and he carving and dishing and resting his implements on the two knife rests that were in the form of tennis courts with crossed racquets, lifting the lids off the steaming dishes, asking politely what each would have (in their order of precedence, of course) in a slightly condescending but gracious way, and I waiting until everyone else was served and grace was said before being able to start on all the good food. Then came the pudding stirred up with pagan charms and brought to the table with flames flickering all round - part of an old sacrificial rite and my first realisation of grown-ups' duplicity when I saw my Grandfather pushing extra silver coins into the children's slices.

Then a few years later came the days of short hair and long cigarette holders and free thought - the turkey and pork were served cold ("So silly to have a hot meal in this stifling hot weather!") and the Christmas pudding became a cold jelly stuffed with currants and raisins .... terrible!

After some years of this free thought and bright ideas we seem to be back to the old ways with roast turkey, pork and apple sauce and Christmas pudding all hot but with this difference - it is now served in the kitchen and now it's really hot. The children are still fed on sly coins garnished with innumerable slices of pudding.

And now free thought seems to be starting over again with lots of bright ideas from the young and although no longer young, I also have an idea on Xmas and other movable feasts and fasts.

That Christ was born I think we almost all agree, and that He had a terrific impact on the world is obvious. But when He was born is a very different matter, even the year He was born is questioned. Originally the 6th January was the date celebrated as Christmas. In fact it still is in Armenia. St Clement calculated that Christ was born between March and April which was better than leaving those poor shepherds watching their flocks by night in the cold midwinter weather, soaked to the skin and shivering in Judea.

Now there is a definite time link between Christmas and Easter. Because Christ was the perfect man he had to live a perfectly even number of years from conception to crucifixion so that when Easter is moved forward by the experts it is liable to make Him a little premature, as this

moves His conception in relation to His birth. Not until the year 336 was the 25th December marked in the Philocalian calendar as Christmas. This was done because the church could not stamp out the Roman Midwinter (25th December according to them) pagan festival *Sol Invictus*, the sun's birthday, so they called it the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness.

Moving north the church absorbed the Norsemen's great Yule feast, with the Xmas tree and Yule log. The English then absorbed Santa Claus which really belongs to 6th December, the day of Saint Nicholas.

All this only goes to show that these times of religious celebrations were fixed by season and not dates and if these same people had lived down under, they would have celebrated Christmas in June and Easter in September.

Should not we then follow their ways and celebrate Christmas in the winter and the conception as well as the death of Christ in the Spring? This would make Christmas dinner fit the climate and quite seriously this would give us a better understanding of the connection of these events with the movements of earth and sun, and help keep us more in touch with the seasons of birth, growth, death and decay, with which we city dwellers have all but lost touch.

*Bim*

*(This article written by the late Bim Hilder first appeared in a Castlecrag Newsletter 1959)*

## Gregory's

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# MY CURIOSITY SATISFIED (OR IS IT?)

As a new Castlecrag resident (only 3 years) with more than just a passing interest in the history and formation of our unique suburb, I knew there was a connection between Castlecrag and Glenaeon (The Rudolf Steiner School, not the Retirement Village), but what was it?

When hearing about Castlecrag founders, the word "Anthroposophy" kept coming up - I could hardly pronounce it, let alone fully understand it, but this was the connection. I then read the following by Evelyn Mason in Glenaeon's school magazine which put into a nutshell what I had been curious about.....

## "An Historical Perspective

Who but a person of vision and inspiration would have formed a company, The Greater Sydney Development Association Limited in 1920, long before the opening of the Sydney Harbour bridge in 1932 to build homes in Castlecrag, Middle Cove, and Castle Cove?

Walter Burley Griffin, architect, landscape architect and designer of our capital city Canberra was such a man. When Marion and Walter Burley Griffin moved to Castlecrag in 1924 he envisaged the creation of a **community based on an appreciation of and respect for the natural environment.**

Marion and Walter were both active members of the Anthroposophical Society of Australia and, in addition to Marion's interest in the performing arts, she also organised study groups and monthly community meetings in the Griffin's own home.

On the invitation of Walter Burley Griffin, Eric Nicholls, another architect and partner of Mr Griffin, moved into Castlecrag in 1930. He too developed an interest in Anthroposophy and began to promote the idea of establishing an appropriate school for this community - a Rudolf Steiner School.

The purchase of the land for this school was made possible largely due to a bequest left by Thomas McDowell, the famous Sydney retailer. The stone house and land he left at Belrose called "Glenaeon", now the site of the Glenaeon Retirement Village, was sold and in 1954 Eric Nicholls, in his capacity as General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society of Australia, purchased four and a half hectares of uncleared land at Middle Cove for £2,750.

The school opened in Pymble in 1957 in an

existing Kindergarten called "Dalcross". Sylvia Brose was the first teacher and began the school year with three pupils. In 1961 the eldest students moved to the site of the present school at Middle Cove. The name "Glenaeon" was taken to the new site as a token of appreciation for the Thomas McDowell bequest.

Eric Nicholls, also the school's Chairman, designed the first building on the site using local stone as one of the main building materials, as did Griffin in Castlecrag.

Mr Nicholls envisaged a school built on a "village concept" with a cluster of buildings blending into the natural bushland setting. Over the years this design concept has been preserved and the additional buildings look out onto trees and natural rock, creating the school's unique learning environment for city children....."

## Curiosity is a curious thing.

For me, it does not disappear when satisfied, but goes off in other directions to ask more questions like....."What about Anthroposophy?"

I've always been interested and am now, more than ever, keen to find out about a philosophy which appreciates and respects the natural environment and views the human being not just in its physical and mental forms, but as a vast entity intertwined with the natural environment.

....."Would we have our unique Haven Amphitheatre today if not for the Anthroposophical views of its creators?" - Ask any one of the 400 or so Castlecrag residents who attended last year's Carols By Candlelight about the magical atmosphere there!

Judy Stone-Herbert

*(The Anthroposophical Society promotes the study of Rudolf Steiner's works and holds informal introductory talks every Tuesday evening at Rudolf Steiner House, 307 Sussex Street, Sydney. Enquiries 264.5169).*

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## CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

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TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS 1 - 5pm

SATURDAYS 10am - Noon

### NEW BOOKS LIST:

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| LUSTBADER, E van | Black Blade           |
| CUSSLER, C       | Sahara                |
| KRANTZ, J        | Scruples Two          |
| MICHENER, J A    | The World is my Home  |
| CLARK, M H       | All Around the Town   |
| PEARSON, D       | Voices of Summer      |
| MORTIMER, J      | Dunster               |
| SMITH, M C       | Red Square            |
| AMIS, K          | The Russian Girl      |
| O'BRIEN, E       | Time and Tide         |
| HOSPITAL, J T    | The Last Magician     |
| JOLLEY, E        | Central Mischief      |
| BINCHY, M        | The Copper Beech      |
| SEYMOUR, G       | The Journeyman Tailor |
| ALLEBURY, T      | Show Me a Hero        |
| BRAGG, M         | Crystal Rooms         |
| DEIGHTON, L      | City of Gold          |
| FRANCIS, D       | Driving Force         |
| CORNWELL, B      | Scoundrel             |
| TYLER, A         | Four Complete Novels  |
| HIGGINS, J       | Eye of the Storm      |
| JAMES, P D       | The Children of Men   |
| SHELDON, S       | The Stars Shine Down  |
| HARRIS, R        | Fatherland            |
| ONDAATJE, M      | The English Patient   |

and numerous paperbacks, mysteries, travel, historical, environmental, photographical, and other interesting books.

## LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP

Would you like to learn how to make a beautiful paper lantern from cane and rice paper?

Learn the technique; create your own shape. All materials provided. We invite you to make one for the community and one for yourself.

Illuminated by candle, the lanterns will first glow together on Christmas Eve at the Haven. Come and join in the making.

**A FREE WORKSHOP**  
will be held on  
**SATURDAY, 19th DECEMBER**  
from 10 a.m.  
at **Castlecrag Infants School**

Further information 958.2127 Lindy Batterham  
for the Haven Amphitheatre Committee.

## PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is held each MONDAY morning 9.30am to 11.30am at Castlecrag Infants School in Edinburgh Road. Lots of toys, activities and play equipment provided. All ages welcome and that includes Grandparents with young charges, Nannies as well as Parents.

The Playgroup will meet each Monday until 21st December

**1993 playgroup starts 11th January**  
**All Welcome.**

For further information contact Therese Gillies  
958 5459

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Each year NRMA Insurance, with the assistance of the Police Department, analyse burglary statistics for various NSW areas. Herewith are some pertinent facts concerning our Willoughby area.

Most burglaries occur on:  
Day of week - Friday, Saturday  
Time of day - daytime (8am - 6.59 pm)  
Point of entry - forced window, forced door  
Most popular items - jewellery, stereos/electrical

Overall, Willoughby is rated as a "medium risk area". We would draw your attention to the fact that more burglaries occur in daylight hours than at night. So if you're out in the backyard doing a spot of gardening, be sure your front doors/windows are secured!!

## CASTLECRAG MEATS

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# WEEKLY RECYCLING SERVICE



In January 1993, Willoughby Council will replace its current monthly kerbside recycling service with a weekly service. The service will be conducted on the same day as garbage day.

A recycling container will be delivered to each household during December together with a brochure to outline the new service. The materials which will be collected include paper and cardboard, glass containers, PET bottles and aluminium cans.

Council is keen to incorporate the collection of other materials such as mixed plastics and liquidpaperboard cartons into the service. Further investigations will be carried out in this area following the commencement of the new weekly service.

## Composting.

Up to 50% of domestic waste comprises organic material such as food scraps and garden clippings. By composting, this material can be diverted from the waste stream and made into a valuable product for your garden. A composting brochure is available from Council's Health and Building Department. Two types of compost bins are also sold by Council. For further information contact the Department on 412 9100.

## The Green Paper.

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Chris Hartcher, recently released the "Waste Management Green Paper", a discussion paper which presents the Government's preferred waste management options for NSW and a range of options for consideration. The Minister invites the community to comment on the paper, so to take advantage of this opportunity and **have your say** influence the future management of waste in NSW. Copies of the Green Paper may be obtained from the Minister's Office (Telephone 368 2888). Submissions close 1 February 1993.

## No Mega Tip.

The decision not to proceed with the Lucas Heights mega tip means that Sydney's landfill capacity will be exhausted within five to seven years. Once the existing landfill sites in Sydney are exhausted, waste will need to be transported by long haul to other regions for disposal. To residents this could result in an **increase in garbage fees up to as much as 500%**

Consequently, waste management is one of the most challenging tasks facing Local Councils. However, whilst Councils can introduce measures to address the waste problem, it is ultimately **up to you**, the residents, to support these measures and make them a success.

## "The Three R's"

You are probably aware of the "three R's"; reduce, reuse, recycle, but do you put them in practice? In 1991 **20,000 tonnes** of domestic solid waste was collected for disposal from within the Willoughby City Council area. By having implemented the 3R's, **up to 80%** of this waste could have been diverted from entering the landfill waste stream.

### 1. REDUCE

The most effective way of reducing the amount of waste you generate is not to generate it in the first place. An easy way of achieving this is by being a more environmentally conscious shopper.

- Have you considered?.....
- limiting your use of disposable products such as nappies, tissues, razors, batteries,
  - buying only in quantities you know will be used,
  - avoiding overpackaged products,
  - purchasing products with recyclable packaging, i.e. packaging which is currently recycled either through Council kerbside recycling services or drop off centres,
  - buying in bulk (wherever possible),
  - using string shopping bags rather than plastic,
  - purchasing quality goods that will last,
  - lobbying manufacturers whose products are overpackaged and/or whose packaging is nonrecyclable,
  - buying products which are packaged in refillable containers.

### 2. REUSE.

Do you.....?

- repair rather than replace,
- donate unwanted goods such as clothes, furniture, books etc to local charities,
- consider using second hand goods such as sound building materials,
- use reusable containers such as jars and bottles.

### 3. RECYCLE.

Numerous environmental and economic benefits arise from recycling such as the conservation of our natural resources and energy, pollution reduction, saving of landfill space and employment generation.

Glass containers, aluminium cans, PET bottles, paper and cardboard may be recycled through Council's kerbside recycling service.

**momo**

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Neighbourhood Watch is a proven community based crime prevention programme (aimed at housebreaking in particular) operated in conjunction with the local police.

Essentially, neighbourhood watch is a "hands on" process whereby, on a mutual basis, we keep a watchful eye on our neighbours' properties (and our street) and report any suspicious happenings to our local police.

We organise ourselves into convenient "watch" areas (e.g. Castlecrag) to encourage participation on a community basis and to facilitate distribution of information (e.g. Newsletters, Wall Plaques, etc.) and enable us to liaise with the local police.

#### The Committee.

To represent and serve more than a thousand households in the Castlecrag community watch area, the residents have elected a committee and have volunteered as Street Co-ordinators (one or more for each and every street in Castlecrag) in an intermediary role between committee and household (e.g. distributing newsletters, collecting information, etc.)

The Committee is elected annually (in February). It comprises an Area Co-ordinator, a Treasurer, a Secretary and three or four others.

The Committee organises **bi-monthly meetings (with guest speakers)**, liaises with the police, receives correspondence and donations, writes, prints and distributes the newsletters and holds stocks of "kit" items (e.g. engravers) for distribution as required.

**Street Co-ordinators** usually attend the bi-monthly meetings to which **all interested residents are invited.**

So Neighbourhood Watch is simply an inter reaction of the residents of our community. But we are presently losing steam, running out of interest, faltering, in danger of dying out all together.

To **revitalise Neighbourhood Watch** and prevent it from disappearing from our community, you might consider taking a slightly more active role. Please come to our meetings, maybe become a street co-ordinator or even a committee member.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3rd February 1993 at a venue to be announced.

For any information, speak to a street co-ordinator or any committee member, or.....ask a neighbour!

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OF CASTLECRAG

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*The Crag* is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association (Box 6/77 Castlecrag) by Judy Stone-Herbert (958 7961) and Kerry McKillop (958 4516). Contributions and letters are most welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 20th January 1993. Deliveries: Donna Sife (958 1841).