

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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President's Report to the Association's AGM, 23 February 1993

Howard Rubie

It's been a very busy year for the Castlecrag Progress Association with an unprecedented amount of community activity. The year got off to a good start with the celebration of 50 years of life in the Crag and a great part of it serving the community and this Association, by **Rita and Eric Kaye**. From then on events going down became more serious.

Willoughby City Council requested input from the Association into its Mission Statement and Corporate Plan for the future. The Association presented a well prepared submission. Further requests led to the formation of a subcommittee to advise and assist with revision of the Development Control Plan for Castlecrag. This is vital ongoing work for the Association, as the result will affect personal and community lifestyle of every resident.

During the year the Association became an incorporated body thereby giving the members of the Association and its committees a degree of protection under the law.

From the Traffic Management subcommittee came a proposal for a plan of traffic management in Castlecrag, which was submitted to Council and was very well received, though funds were not available for this year. We await further results.

During the year another request from Council came our way, one we find a little difficult to sit with. Development Applications for construction and alteration in our suburb are now coming to the Progress Association for comment. As an Association we at times feel it is not our province to be looking into such matters. This request went to all Progress Associations in the Willoughby

Council area and in the near future we will all be discussing our feelings and attitudes towards this particular task.

As your president I have on two occasions presented our views at Council inspections of large developments in Castlecrag, namely the Hospital and the Quadrangle Shopping Village. I was aware of the previous widespread concern within the community about the Quadrangle as I was a member of the Association at the time of its building. We requested that there would be no additional height to the building and that the terms of the 1976 Land and Environment Court judgement be adhered to. Realising that the Quadrangle is in danger of becoming a white elephant, the Association agreed to a limited increase in signage to assist in the commercial viability of the project. Unfortunately a degree of development was allowed to happen that was above and beyond the wishes of the Association. We protested of course and I believe that in the future at least native plants will be replanted at the shopping centre.

A major event during the year was the public meeting on the future of the **Infants School**. As you all know, under the auspices of **SOS*CRAG** the fight has been going on since 1989 to save the heart of our community. At this well-attended public meeting I was able to present two resolutions, both of which were adopted. Following that another vital meeting was instigated with the Minister for School Education, Virginia Chadwick. At that meeting the Association was represented by **Sue Randle** and **Andrew Frazer**. Still the matter is unresolved, but the school is still being cared for and used by the community. >>>>>

The next meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association will be held at the Community Centre, corner The Postern and The Rampart, **Wednesday 28 April at 8pm** (the minutes from the previous meeting will be read at 7.30pm). The meeting will be a crisis meeting to discuss the renewed threat of the Warringah tollway. All welcome!

The Castlecrag Conservation Society will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday 19th May at 8pm**, at the **Infants School, Edinburgh Road**. **Harold Spies, President, 958 8569**. (details over >>>>)

During the year, sadly three of our most highly respected residents passed away: Lee Davis who had been the Honorary Auditor of the Association for many years; world famous photographer Max Dupain who had faithfully recorded the natural and built heritage of Castlecrag. Max had donated much of that work to the Walter Burley Griffin Society and therefore back to the residents of this suburb in perpetuity. I had the honour of conducting a memorial service for Beverly Blacklock at the Harold Reid Reserve, in the bushland she had done so much to conserve. The work of these three outstanding citizens will be long remembered with love and affection.

There have been many achievements during the year by the committees of Castlecrag, and my thanks go out to all those people who have given so much of their time and effort. So much so that alderman John Squires was heard to say in Council a short time ago that we have the best resident committees in Australia in the suburb of Castlecrag. Those committees are as follows:

Local Area Traffic Management Committee; the Development Control Plan Committee; Neighbourhood Watch; SOS+CRAG; Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc; Community Centre 530A Committee; Haven Amphitheatre Committee; the Conservation Society; Castlecrag Sports Club Inc; and Kathy Burgess and her team at the Willoughby Fun Fair.

Finally, I'd like to remind you of a number of successful events that happened in the community. Firstly, we were all invited to a church service at St James Church Castlecrag, to give thanks for the environment in which we live. Then, lastly, a success that reflects on our suburb but largely due to the work of Adrienne Kabos, President of the Walter Burley Griffin Society, is the purchase and preservation by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, of the first Griffin house to be built in Castlecrag.

I would like to sincerely thank all the members of our Progress Association who have worked above and beyond the call of duty to make our endeavours successful this past year.

Bush Dance and Barbecue

The Progress Association plans to hold a Bush Dance and Barbecue at the Infants School around mid-year. It is a few years since we last held a Bush Dance, remembered with much pleasure, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend this enjoyable community occasion and bring your children!

Plans include a large marquee, an exciting bush band to play, a maypole to be danced by our younger residents, while salads and damper will be provided. Tables, chairs and BBQ facilities will be available. All we ask you to bring are your meat and drinks.

We look forward to your company!!

Elizabeth Lander, Secretary 958 5384

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Willoughby Consolidating Local Environmental Plan

On Wednesday 21 April from 7-10pm there will be a **Public Forum** at the Willoughby City Council on the Willoughby Consolidating Instrument Plan. This has been developed by the Town Planning Department to bring a large number of planning instruments and residential zones together in a simplified scheme. For Castlecrag, the 2(a2) zone will be extended for protection of foreshore areas, and additional heritage controls will be introduced. The Mayor, Aldermen and Council Officers will be in attendance to give further explanation of the draft plan and to answer questions by residents, prior to the draft plan being forwarded to Department of Planning for examination.

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Castlecrag Conservation Society

President's Report AGM 3 March 1993

Harold Spies

The last year has been one of only moderate activity for the Society. However, we did act on a wide range of local, state and national issues including the land at the rear of 233 Edinburgh Road; the Development Control Plan for 1 The Scarp; the Northern Escarpment; the Foreshore Cottages; the Waterside Park; the Duncan House; biological diversity; SE forests; ecologically sustainable population; the Natural Resources package; feral animals; the Local Government Act; Threatened Species legislation; the Tree Register.

Community affairs included the prompting of Willoughby City Council to fix the Bim Hilder fountain (for which many thanks to WCC); attempts to stop the removal of the large fig tree at 292 Edinburgh Road; objection to the planting of exotic plants in *The Quadrangle* beds; Thanksgiving for the Environment in which we Live, at St James Church; a very successful working bee to weed The Citadel garden; the highly successful *Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens* walk through the Harold Reid Reserve, the Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project, the Griffin houses and the Foreshores Cottages; the Significant Trees Register; the continuing discussions on a DCP formulated by the Progress Association, WEPA, and the Haven Amphitheatre 530A Committee to protect the Amphitheatre from development proposed on the adjacent land.

We have continued our support, in line with our aims, for the retention and opening of the Infants School; the retention of the Foreshores Cottages; for the Walter Burley Griffin Society in its efforts to preserve the heritage of Walter Burley Griffin.

Special thanks to Secretary **Mark Crew** and Treasurer **Margaret Chambers** for their efficiency and to **Sylvia Taylor, Addie Saltis, Gay Spies and Chris Hopwood** for their continued support and to **Kate Cooney** for the typing of the minutes. **Sue Randle**, our local alderman, is to be congratulated on her caring attitude for the community, her willingness to consult with and act on behalf of the community - thanks Sue.

As your representative on the Bushland Management Review Committee, I can report that the objectives of the Management Plan of this hard working committee have been adopted. Consultants' reports on Bushland Urban Runoff, Fire Management and Vegetation Mapping are to be discussed at the first meeting for 1993. A report on signage for bushland prepared by **John Vonwiller** and **Adrienne Kabos** was presented to Council but unfortunately no funds are available until next year.

There is no doubt that in the last decade there has been a greater developing concern for the environment and the need to care for it by the community. This is also reflected in Council even though it still has a long way to go before it becomes green.

When one looks at the world scene - pollution, land degradation, deforestation, loss of habitat, extinction of species, etc, still continue at a rapid pace. So there is much to be done even at a local level. We owe it to ourselves, other species which occupy the planet with us and especially to our children and their children's children, to do as much as possible to prevent the slide to disaster. It can be done if we have the will and determination.



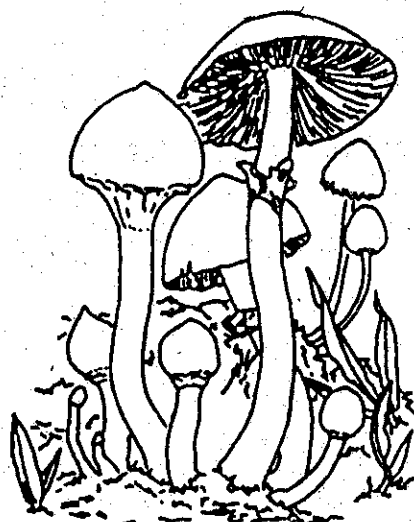
CASTLECRAG
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

invites you to a fun-gi night

Tiptoe through the Toadstools

Wednesday 19th May 8pm
Infants School, Edinburgh Road

A slide and specimen presentation by Harold Spies. Harold is a member of the Sydney Fungal Studies Group. He will speak about the fungi of Castlecrag and its environs - Fairy Rings, Flame Fungus, Cloud Ears and many more. All welcome!



Memorial Planting for Edgar Deans

To commemorate the life of **Edgar Deans** and his remarkable devotion to the community, the Walter Burley Griffin Society and the Castlecrag Progress Association have jointly organised a memorial planting on **Saturday 19th June 11.30 am** on the island at the corner of The Sortie Port and The Battlement, Castlecrag.

About 60 native plants indigenous to Castlecrag, including grevilleas, epacris, banksias and acacias have been propagated by Willoughby City Council for the occasion. The Castlecrag community and Society members are invited to participate in the planting. All you need to bring is a pair of gloves. Refreshments will be supplied. The Mayor of Willoughby, Ald. Bartels, will officiate and unveil a small bronze plaque appropriately adorned with a banksia sculptured by the late Bim Hilder.

Edgar Deans was Secretary of Griffin's company, the Greater Sydney Development Association, for 17 years from 1927 to 1944, and it was his skilful management that steered the company through the Depression, after Griffin's death in 1937, and the Second World War.

As a resident of Castlecrag he served as Secretary of the Castlecrag Progress Association for thirteen years and President for four years. Then he served as Secretary of the Willoughby Federated Progress Associations for eight years, two of these as Mayor.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society was greatly honoured when in 1989 Mr Deans became the Society's Patron and remained Patron until his death in October 1991 at the age of 89.

We invite all residents and friends to commemorate this truly remarkable man who was so devoted to serving the community.

A big **THANK YOU** to the *Men's Auxiliary* of the Castlecrag Infants School (**Mark Crew, Bob Herring and Chris Hopwood**) for their hard work in keeping the school grounds looking beautiful!

WEPA Inc. Meeting Monday 10th May 8pm

A talk with a difference
Energy Efficiency in Housing

by **Bob Samuels**,
Environmental Psychologist, Univ. NSW.
Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street, Artarmon
Further information: **Kerry Ottaway**,
Publicity Officer 958 0133.
All welcome!

Griffin's No.1 Dwelling

Historic Houses Trust (HHT), who recently acquired the Walter Burley Griffin house at 136 Edinburgh Road (GSDA No.1 Dwelling), have put on display the **Draft Conservation Plan for the house and grounds**. It was exhibited in the house itself on the weekend of 3-4 April when nearly 500 people viewed it on just that one weekend, and at Willoughby City Library Chatswood until April 18th.

In this document HHT also put forward a number of development options on which they seeking public comment. Financial restraints meant that HHT could only temporarily acquire the house (they own 11 other properties including Vauluse House, Hyde Park Barracks and Elizabeth Farm), and are necessitated to sell the house in approximately 18 months time after restoration and appropriate protective covenants and a conservation order have been placed on the house. This is a new initiative for HHT and one which is hoped will assist greatly in the preservation of heritage properties generally.

There are several development options put forward by HHT and the Walter Burley Griffin Society commends them for seeking public comment. Further open days are planned as conservation and restoration proceeds.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society has offered to assist HHT with the gardening. A **gardening bee** is planned for **Sunday 13th June 10am - 12 noon** and we would be very grateful for any assistance from the Castlecrag community on that day. Just bring your gardening gloves. Cool drinks will be provided and the house will be open for inspection for a half hour period.

m o m o

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Guided Walk through the Walkways of Castlecrag

Sunday 16 May: assemble at Haven Amphitheatre 8.30am with comfortable walking shoes, sunhat, and drink. All welcome!

Freeway Blues (again)

Bob McKillop

Castlecrag residents awoke to the news on 2nd April that the NSW Government is to call for expressions of interest from the private sector to build the Warringah Freeway as a tollway. The fact that this news release was made on 1st April may place the matter in more rational light.

While an *April Fools Joke* is the kindest response to this quality of thinking in Government circles, our community needs to keep in touch with the political manoeuvring which passes for "planning" these days. On 2nd April, the Minister for Transport responded with a statement that the Government is calling for expressions of interest for building the *Transit North* light rail system to the Warringah Peninsula. Obviously both initiatives cannot proceed, for one will cancel out the viability of the other. The decision on which form of transport should be supported as a solution to the problems of the Warringah area is vital both the the future quality of life in our city and the survival of our community in Castlecrag.

It is understood that the *Transit North* Group have received several expressions of interest for construction of a light rail system. One of these would utilise the Warringah Transport Corridor through Castlecrag by means of a tunnel along the northern Castlecrag escarpment and a bridge to Seaforth. Were this proposal to be the favoured option by *Transit North*, it would present us with some difficult issues to consider in the coming months.

It is not necessary here to reiterate the negative impacts on our community which would be expected from the construction of the Freeway. However, the following facts may be of interest:

- * internationally, investment in light rail has successfully attracted patronage to public transport and increased land values along its routes;
- * diversion of rail travellers to Sydney's CBD to car travel would require 100 additional ten-storey car parks (each floor one half a football field in size);
- * motor vehicles in Sydney produce 2.32 tonnes of carbon dioxide per capita per year, compared with 0.78 tonnes in Vienna and 0.65 tonnes in Singapore;
- * car journeys in Sydney use 2.88 MJ of energy per passenger-km compared with 0.44 MJ for rail journeys;
- * 1.55 million people in Sydney (43% of the population) are adversely affected by traffic noise which may directly contribute to health

problems; and

- * the RTA's *Road Transport Future Directions* policy document of 1991 identifies the strategic steps required to achieve desirable urban visions through "integrated demand management". This involves the co-ordinated management of transport pricing, transport network development and land use to orientate transport demand away from road use toward more efficient public transport systems.

The *Transit North* and Warringah Freeway proposals will be discussed at the Castlecrag Progress Association meeting on 28 April. Come along and catch up with the latest developments.

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The Castlecrag community is in a state of profound shock and grief with the news of Beverly Blacklock's untimely death.

Many of us will remember the nursery she ran, from her home in the Tor Walk. It was her headquarters, from which she spread her extraordinary enthusiasm for bush regeneration - inspiring us with her knowledge, commitment and vitality. It is not possible to overstate the influence Beverly had on the face of Castlecrag. Her influence spread exponentially - Castlecrag can boast larger numbers of bush regenerators than any other suburb. The benefits of her inspiration are evident just outside our windows.

I can still see her, secateurs slung low on her hips, resembling an earthy freedom fighter; talking a hundred words a minute - with suggestions, advice, encouragement, and love. Often one of my babies would be on her hip, while the other hand was transforming a misshapen banksia into a proud tree. Before she had even driven away, Danny and I would be sprinting up the back, totally inspired by her ideas and energy.

I know I am not alone when I hear the treetops whisper Beverly's name. They are paying homage to their great friend and champion. And when I walk through the wonderful bush of Castlecrag she is with me - our beloved Bev - a guardian angel - at one with the spirit of the trees - and still inspiring.

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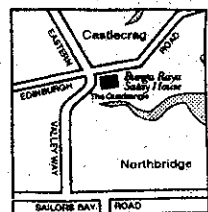
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The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association Incorporated (Box 6/77 Edinburgh Road) by Judy Stone - Herbert 958 7961 and Kerry McKillop 958 4516. Deliveries: Donna Sife 958 1841.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CASTLECRAG RESIDENTS

THE NEXT CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING
WILL BE HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, corner THE POSTERN and THE RAMPART,
8pm WEDNESDAY 28th April.

TWO MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED THAT ARE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN
TO RESIDENTS OF CASTLECRAG:

1. WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT CONSOLIDATING INSTRUMENT:

AN OFFICER FROM COUNCIL HAS BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK ON THIS
SUBJECT, AND WILL ANSWER RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS (*this part of the
meeting will be completed by 9pm*)

2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR BY THE STATE
GOVERNMENT FOR THE WARRINGAH FREEWAY/TOLLWAY:

COME ALONG AND CATCH UP ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS!

THESE MATTERS WILL BE ADDRESSED AS MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE
MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

HOWARD RUBIE, PRESIDENT