

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 90

Sixty nine years of community involvement
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September/October 1993

President's Report

Since the last issue of *The Crag* members of the various resident committees of Castlecrag have again been freely and generously giving their time for the benefit of the community. As President and on behalf of the Progress Association, I offer our sincere thanks and congratulations to two groups of residents who have served us well.

Firstly, to **Cathy Burgess, Katie Cooney, Kate Westoby, Marcella Cerna** and the team of helpers who ran the *trash and treasure* stall at the Willoughby Fun Fair. The organisation and collection of goods for this is an ongoing job and the money raised is a major source of income for the Progress Association, without which our newsletter could not be published. We very much appreciate the many and varied donations of interesting goods which made the stall such a big success.

Over the same weekend another group of residents were hard at work at the Haven Amphitheatre, graciously giving of their time and effort renovating the sandstone seats of this unique and wonderful community facility. Many thanks to all those who took part.

Another important event that is of interest to residents is the election of **Councillor John Squire** of Middle Harbour Ward as the new Mayor of the City of Willoughby. **Councillor Eunice Raymond** was elected deputy Mayor. Congratulations to them both. The Progress Association looks forward to a forthright and productive relationship with the new office bearers of Council.

In Castlecrag issues that affect your lifestyle, public amenities and property values, keep arising. The Progress Association tries to represent the collective will of residents in all such matters. The Progress Association is your forum, and we value the interest and input of all residents. You are most welcome to come along to our meetings, advertised in each issue of the newsletter. The next meeting will be an opportunity to meet John Squire, as he has kindly accepted the invitation of the Association to address the meeting and answer questions.

The committee of your Association looks forward to meeting you there.

Howard Rubie, President

The next meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association will be held at the Community Centre, corner The Postern and The Rampart, Wednesday 20th October at 8pm. This will be a special meeting with guest speaker Councillor John Squire, Mayor of Willoughby. Please note the change from the usual Tuesday night meeting.

The Castlecrag Conservation Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday 17 November at 8pm at the Infants School, Edinburgh Road. For details ring Harold Spies, President, 958 8569.

Councillor Sue Randle's Column

Willoughby Fun Fair was held on September 18th, it was a huge success (including the weather), thanks must go to the staff of Council, the community members of the Fair Committee and the Community Groups in Willoughby with their many and varied stalls. The Fair had a great atmosphere and I believe it was one of the best attended and enjoyed for many years. Well done!!

Council is/has been undergoing many changes including Councillor John Squire (Middle Harbour) being elected as Mayor and Councillor Eunice Raymond (Northbridge Ward) as Deputy Mayor - hearty congratulations - I have every confidence they will carry out their duties admirably.

By the end of October there will be some new faces at Willoughby Council, under the able leadership of the General Manager, Michael Beilby. Corporate Services Director (Management Information Systems, Property Management, Ordinance Inspectors, Financial and Administrative Services): Robert Hale

Environment Services Director (Health & Building, Statutory and Strategic Planning): Greg Woodhams

Technical Services Director (Traffic and Engineering Services, Works, Design, Parks and Gardens, Property Management): John Owen

Community Services Director (Library, Recreational and Community Services encompassing Chatswood Mall, Zenith Centre, Dougherty Centre, Children's Services and Community Development): John Flint

Council has adopted an innovative policy with *Condition of Consent - Landscaping Maintenance* which states: *The landscaped areas are to be maintained to the satisfaction of the Manager, Parks and Gardens Department. In this respect the landscaped areas will be regularly monitored by Council, after the Certificate of Classification has been granted, for an establishment period of two years. This is to ensure that the planting is established as proposed and approved.*

The principle behind the above condition is that Council's officers can inspect the required landscaping several times a year and require re-establishment, if appropriate. After two years, the landscaping should be established and relatively safe. I firmly believe in this condition of consent, and know and feel confident that residents of Castlecrag/Middle Harbour Ward will gladly welcome and carry out this condition when landscaping their homes after building is completed.

Finally, I urge all families to attend the visionary performance of *Marion's Gift* 4pm on 14 November at the Haven Theatre see you there!!!

Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations

Bob McKillop

Increased public concern for a stronger voice in the future of our urban landscape has brought the ten Progress Associations in Willoughby together as the Federation of Progress Associations of the City of Willoughby. Several meetings have been held at the Castlecrag Community Centre which have established common interest over a number of issues relating to the social and environmental impacts of overdevelopment and traffic on the amenity of residential neighbourhoods. Concerns have been most vocal over the impact of traffic from the Gore Hill Freeway on suburban streets and negative impacts of the blanket dual occupancy provisions of SREP12.

A public meeting on dual occupancy at Chatswood Town Hall on 13 July 1993 brought some 700 members of the public together, most of whom were against dual occupancy provisions. The meeting passed a resolution moved by the Federation spokesperson, Dr Peter Kenny, condemning SREP12 as unacceptable in its present form. As follow-up to this meeting, a five member delegation from the Federation met with the Minister for Planning, Mr Robert Webster, on 23 September. The delegation stressed the strong opposition to unplanned dual occupancy which has

emerged in the community. However, we acknowledged the need to reduce Sydney's urban sprawl through sound and realistic proposals for urban consolidation. We put forward a strategic concept for areas of Willoughby with good access to public transport and services to be developed as *neighbourhood hubs* with medium-density housing, shops, services and amenities, provided sensitive areas are protected. The contribution was welcomed by the Minister as a constructive contribution by resident groups.

Mr Webster acknowledged that the *ad hoc* nature of dual occupancy is generating problems of inappropriate development, particularly in Willoughby and Hornsby. He announced his intention to exempt individual councils from dual occupancy provisions, provided they meet the State Government's density targets. The Castlecrag Progress Association is to meet with the new Mayor and Town Planner to discuss a cooperative approach to an integrated land use and transport strategy for Willoughby City. We have indicated our willingness to explore the potential for some medium-density housing on RTA land with good access to the shops and public transport, with particular emphasis on housing for older people.

School Update

As SOS*Crag enters its fifth and potentially final year of fighting for our school, we are cautiously hopeful that the odds are firming in our favour. In conjunction with the recent reaffirmation of Union Green Ban arrangements, we have the ongoing support of the State Opposition, Ted Mack MP, Richard Jones MLC, the Teachers' Federation and the Parents and Citizens' Association, for maintaining the site in public hands.

Our confidence has also been bolstered significantly by the involvement of South Coast Independent John Hatton MP. Despite his enormous work load, Mr Hatton has made time to consider our case and shares our concern with the alienation of public land, the increase in school-age populations from medium density and dual occupancy developments, and the importance of public school education. We await with interest Minister Chadwick's response to Mr Hatton's request for her views on the Castlecrag Infants' School saga, and the now solidly proven increase in the 0-8 age group in the area.

David Rowland, Director of Properties (Department of School Education) and the officer in charge of disposal of the site, stated recently that governments are not at liberty to close or sell schools just because they have low enrolments. *Touché*; it brings to mind Terry Metherell's statement, on becoming a father and an ex-politician, that young children and politics don't mix. Now if only we can change the mistaken belief of some officials in the Department that because Castlecrag shared an architect with Canberra, we don't have an open space problem!

We acknowledge the generous support of fellow Castlecrag residents in our quest to maintain the site in public hands and re-open the Infants School. It has become a bustling and vibrant centre for community activities and until we get our school back, we are dependent on it for our community's wellbeing.

Andrew Frazer for SOS*Crag

Tai Chi classes at Castlecrag Infants School on Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30 with international expert from China, Xie Shoude. Beginners welcome. Classes start 12th October.

Contact Victoria 956 6156 ASAP

Bodyscape classes at Castlecrag Infants School Wednesday mornings at 11am. Toning, stretching, relaxation. Phone Barbara 968 2766.

Streetwise

Trees in a Built Environment

In a recent seminar I attended at the Royal Botanic Gardens I was most impressed and pleased to hear that Australian native trees are making their mark at local council level.

There were many very professional and dedicated speakers. Professor James Weirick, Head of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of NSW, was the co-ordinator of the seminar. Most speakers were specialists in their area of management. Dr Peter Martin spoke on *Heritage Status for Trees* and Dr Jane Tarran of the University of Technology, Sydney, spoke on *The Use of Tree Inventories as a Tool of Management*. This inventory would store information as to the height and width of trees, the trees that grow best, root habit, branches, diseases that could affect them and many other characteristics of the individual tree. The management of trees for public areas, parks, streets etc is most important for our environment. I hope that Willoughby Council had a representative at this seminar as it seemed that many of the professional people there were representing their councils. Professor Carrick Chambers, Director of the Botanic Gardens, spoke on the services that the Gardens offers to the public. It seems that the future could see the Botanic Gardens offer their services to help in establishing this very needed inventory. It would help local councils and also any organisation that would be connected to the computer. In my years of being an arborist and consultant to industry and lecturing in *Discovering Native Plants*, it had always been debatable about the height and width to which some native trees grow. This inventory would be most helpful for people in my profession.

Willoughby Council have been growing and planting Australian native plants and trees for some years and I hope they will be able to tap into this inventory.

Helen Levett

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association
(WEPA)

Next meeting: Monday 8th November 1993

Dr Shelley Burgin of University of Western Sydney, will discuss her Vegetation Survey, part of the recent study on the Impact of Urban Runoff on bushland in Willoughby.

Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street, Artarmon 8pm
For further information phone 958 0133



A HISTORY OF 3 PRIVATE ROADS IN CASTLECRAG

More than thirty years ago The Bulwark did not extend past house now numbered 28, (which was then Number 2). Similarly, The Scarp did not extend to its current length. Large blocks of land ran from Edinburgh Road to the Harbour. The only access to these was from Edinburgh Road.

Two owners co-operated to create a very steep combined access lane directly from Edinburgh Road to quite large parcels of land which later became a private road off the eastern end of The Bulwark. They also built the access roads to the newly created blocks of land on which homes were subsequently built. Later, Willoughby Council extended The Bulwark to join these private roads, and re-numbered all the existing houses.

The properties created at this time were:- Nos 1 & 3 on the high side, and numbers 2 to 18 on the low side, as well as Nos 242 & 244 in Edinburgh Road. To the west of these blocks, the land was subdivided to provide blocks in Edinburgh Rd, in The Bulwark, in The Scarp, and along another private road off the end of The Scarp. To the east of these blocks Knight Place was created from another large block. The new properties on the Private Road created off The Scarp, and on Knight Place did not have access over the steep lane to The Bulwark from Edinburgh Road.

These private access roads at the end of The Bulwark were in later years offered to Willoughby Council to become public roads. Council refused to accept them. They have remained private access roads, and the cost of their maintenance is the responsibility of the residents. For example, in the last year the residents on the private road off the end of The Bulwark have together spent more than \$40,000 on road maintenance & up-grading, and in re-building their (necessarily private) electricity supply.

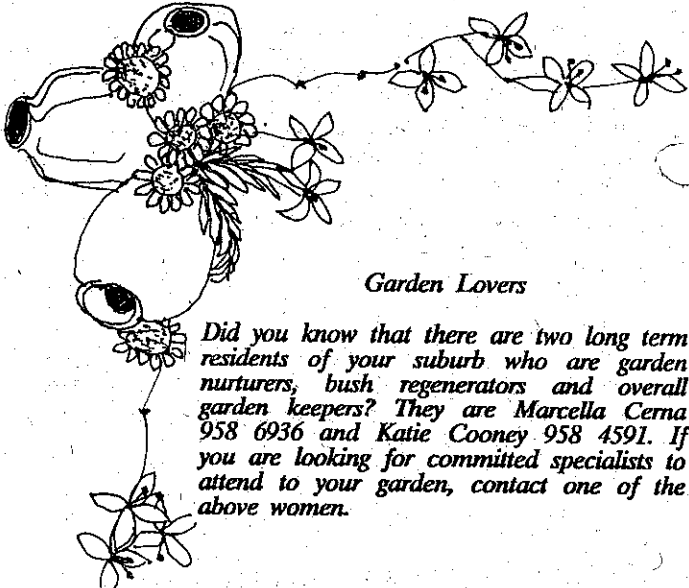
A FURTHER PROBLEM PERSISTS. The biggest problem of The Bulwark Private Road residents is the extremely steep access lane to Edinburgh Road. It is only one car width, so of course if a car enters when another car is already in transit, one car has to reverse. It is a difficult enough road to drive going forward, but many vehicles have come to grief in backing on this difficult road, and residents have suffered much property damage over the years.

In approving the subdivision, Council placed a covenant that no other residents would be allowed access over the steep lane to Edinburgh Road because of the obvious difficulty of manoeuvring by more than one vehicle at a time. This access way is available only to the properties in The Bulwark listed above, and is so marked on their land titles.

These residents have no objection to use of the hill and of all of the access ways by pedestrians (at their own risk), but they ask for respect of their rights to the enjoyment of their homes by unauthorised vehicles refraining from using the lane from/to Edinburgh Road. As well as being illegal, the noise from these vehicles on the very steep lane is disturbing to several of the surrounding houses. We realise that it is a tempting short cut, but after all, it takes only a few minutes more to travel legally on the public road when in a vehicle. Your liability in case of an accident whilst trespassing should also be considered. Insurance Companies are being advised of the private nature of the lane, & of the new NO TRESPASSING signs. Please understand that the hill is a dangerous access way, made more so by additional unauthorised traffic, and the numbers of small children who use it as pedestrians. Please also notify delivery people.

In conclusion, please introduce yourself to any residents who are about when you come by as pedestrians. We would all like to be acquainted with our neighbours, and it would be excellent to have no more of the tension which often exists between unauthorised and authorised users of this very steep hill. **THANK YOU !!**

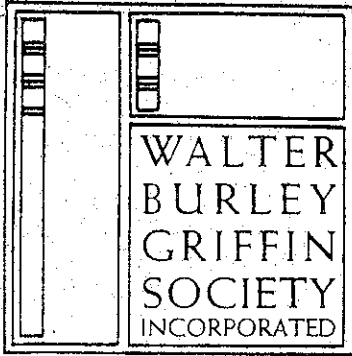
Queries: The Bulwark Private Road Association
C/O PO Box 108 Cammeray 2062.



Garden Lovers

Did you know that there are two long term residents of your suburb who are garden nurturers, bush regenerators and overall garden keepers? They are Marcella Cerna 958 6936 and Katie Cooney 958 4591. If you are looking for committed specialists to attend to your garden, contact one of the above women.

Original paintings and bronzes by distinguished Castlecrag resident, the late Bim Hilder, are for sale. Contact Sally Hopkinson 558 2042



The Walter Burley Griffin Society invites all Castlecrag residents to its fifth Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17th October 2.30pm at the Winter Residence, 34 Adderton Road (corner of Adderton Road), Telopea.

The Winter Residence was designed by Walter Burley Griffin and built in 1935 for the Winter family. The house is still owned by the same family and the Society is very grateful to them for allowing us to hold the AGM in the garden of their home.

Parking is best in Winter Street, a nearby cul-de-sac. Please bring your own chair and cushion. Afternoon tea will be provided. If the weather is wet, the meeting will be held at the Castlecrag Community Centre, corner The Postern and The Rampart. If the weather is doubtful please ring Adrienne Kabos 958 2060 or Kerry McKillop 958 4516.

Willoughby's Heritage Future - A Seminar

This evening seminar will examine the conservation needs of the built, natural and aboriginal heritage in Willoughby City. It is being jointly organised by the Walter Burley Griffin Society, the Art Deco Society, WEPA, the Federation of Progress Associations, and Willoughby Historical Society. Heritage Consultant Meredith Walker will chair the meeting and speakers will include Prof. James Weirick, Head of the School of Landscape Architecture at University of NSW who will speak on the heritage of Walter Burley Griffin; David Logan, Manager of Urban Development and Conservation with Sydney City Council, who will speak about the heritage of Artarmon; Dr Judy Messer, Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council who will speak on natural heritage; Dr Val Attenbrow from the Australian Museum who will speak on Willoughby's aboriginal heritage; and Muriel Ryan, formerly a senior planner with the Department of Planning, who will speak on planning controls.

Willoughby is entering an exciting new era. The new Local Government Act places increased responsibilities on local councils to preserve both the natural and built environment. Willoughby Council is moving to meet this challenge. The Draft Consolidating Instrument, which will be on display for comment shortly in Willoughby Library, will replace all present Local Environment Plans in Willoughby. The display period is the opportunity for the community to influence the fine tuning of the document before it is finalised.

The seminar will be held at the Dougherty Centre, Victor Street, Chatswood, on Tuesday 9th November 7.45pm (depending on the availability of the Draft Consolidating Instrument). Please confirm the date with Adrienne Kabos 958 2060, Gay Spies 958 5698 or Kerry McKillop 958 4516.

Congratulations to Laurence Natale, local architect and committee member of the Progress Association, for being awarded the RALA 1993 Sir Edmund Blackett commendation for outstanding design for the reconstruction of Taree Railway Station. The award was presented by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects NSW Country Division as part of the 1993 Annual Convention held in Coffs Harbour. Well done and best wishes from the Progress Association!

Dear Editors,

Madge and I have lived in the delightful suburb of Castlecrag for 43 years, and regard it as a privilege to enjoy the bushland, the tree-lined streets, the fresh air, the freedom from highrise and lowrise units, the flora and fauna AND the friendliness of Castlecrag residents.

However, regrettably, enjoyment of our beautiful area is marred by the proliferation of dog faeces on the footpaths, streets, roads grass areas, and indeed everywhere in Castlecrag. Apparently, SOME dog owners/keepers are unaware of the regulations binding them to dispose of dog droppings hygienically.

Suggestion to our Progress Association! Would it be feasible to have printed notices politely pointing out to dog owners that it is their CIVIC duty to dispose of dog droppings? These notices could be letterboxed in Castlecrag by volunteers, I would gladly be one. The cost of printing the notices would be met by Madge and myself.

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association (Box 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag) by Helen Levett (958 3510) and Kerry McKillop (958 4516). Contributions and letters are most welcome.