

TRIM

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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MARCH APRIL - 1986

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUE RANDLE.

I am very pleased to have been appointed President of the Castlecrag progress Association at the Annual General Meeting in February. Our newly elected committee are eager to commence assisting you to make our community a safer, better and happier suburb.

The Committee comprises:-

Also -

President - Sue Randle 95 6344
 Vice " - Dee Street 95 5683
 Vice " -
 (ex officio) Eric Kaye 95 6146
 Secretary - Kate Westoby 95 0215

Ted Bowen Dorothy Fraser
 Bev Blacklock Ian Fraser
 Marcella Cerna Bill Iscovitch
 Rita Kaye F. MacIntyre
 Ann Korner Harold Spies.

As I am unknown to some residents, I include a brief resume of my community involvement over the past 8 years, as a resident of Castlecrag.

A member of the Morning Tea Group (still held monthly in homes of Mothers of young pre-school children.)

Willoughby Family Fun Fair 1979-1985. Committee member, co-ordinated by Willoughby Council.

Willoughby Playgroup 1978 - President.

Commencement of Operations Committee 1981-1984. Chatswood Occasional Day Care Centre.

Castlecrag Kindergarten 1980/81 President.

Castlecrag Infants' School Committee 1981-1984. President 1984

Banksia Dreams' Committee 1985

Safety House Co-ordinator (Castlecrag) 1985

Neighbourhood Watch Secretary (Castlecrag) 1985

Castlecrag Progress Association's 60th Anniversary Quilting & Patchwork Exhibition - Publicity Officer 1985

Come along to our next meeting and meet your committee.

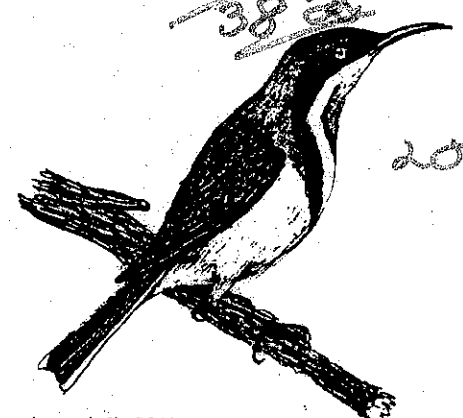
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE POSTERN ON TUESDAY 22ND APRIL AT 8 P.M.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON FRIDAY MAY 2ND 8 P.M.

AT 80 THE BULWARK.

121
60
60
12
12
36
21
54
96
8.6
42
121
38



CASTLECRAG SPINGBILL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE THIRD TIER OF GOVERNMENT.

Recently I was invited to speak to the Willoughby Discussion Group on local Government and have been collecting data to assist me in this. One of the references is a speech presented by our Mayor, Noel Reidy to the Institute of Public Administration Annual Conference last November. The title of this Conference was "Career Service - Crisis or Consolidation. I consider much of what Noel said would interest our readers, and with his permission present the following precis of part of his paper.

"The beginnings of Local Government were complex and hard to understand. By early 1840 it was recognised that the Colonial Governments of Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide were not able to support a quality of life then being demanded by their citizens. Such things as health, commercial services, buildings, roads, lighting and so on, were not being provided and controlled in a satisfactory way and there was a growing reluctance to provide central funds for these services. In 1842 Local Government was established in Sydney and Melbourne, because of the desire of the government to divest itself of these difficult tasks". In 1858 the first Municipalities Act was passed; this gave Municipal Government to various suburbs and towns which were incorporated under it. In N.S.W. it was imposed against the wishes of some who saw it as another means of raising funds through taxes on their land holdings. North Willoughby, as it was then called, was the first Municipality to be proclaimed on the North Shore and the first Council meeting was held on New Years Day, 1866.

In 1919 the act was amended, and abolished local government by voluntary incorporation and established Municipalities and Shires as a State Government regulated form of administration; the same Act took away the power of Local Government to pass its own by-laws and fully placed Local Government under the control of a Minister and the State Government".

Local Government, which we proudly claim to be that government closest to the people, has come a long way since 1919. I speak of Willoughby Council because I have first hand knowledge of this. I believe we are now far more sensitive and responsive to the demands of our residents. All our meetings are now open to the public and the opportunity to participate in the decision making process is becoming more generally available.

In my view we still make mistakes; I do not agree with all decisions reach by Council, but on balance I see the situation improving. I support the right of Progress Associations, Conservation groups, Resident Action groups etc. to put their case to Council as strongly as they wish.

To quote Noel Reidy again "Community values themselves are changing with concern for quality of life issues, environmental protection, recreation facilities, traffic control; and a new level of expectation to cater for these values is being demanded from local representatives".

I believe this is all to the good and support steps in this direction. Only by these means will Local Government really become the arm of Government closest to the people.

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COOKSON, Catherine	HAROLD
MOSCO, Maisie	PRICE OF FAME
FRANCIS, Clare	CRYSTAL
MICHENER, James A.	HAYES, JOHN P.
BARR, Pat	KENJIRO
MOSCO, Maisie	BETWEEN TWO WORLDS
RENAULT, Mary	THE CHARIOTEER
CUSSLER, Clive	ICEBERG
HOLT, Victoria	PRIDE OF PEACOCK
BARBER, Noel	NATIVES WERE FRIENDLY
	THE DOUBLE MAN
COHEN & HART	OUT THREE SELVES
BAKER, Michael	VOICE BEYOND THE TREES,
PHELAN, Nancy	MERYL STREEP
	BILGEWATER
MAYCHIP, Diana	OUT OF AFRICA
GARDAN, Jane	THE ACOLYTE
BLIXEN, Karen	LEGACY
ASHLEY, Thea	THE WINE WIDOW
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MOORE, Brian	
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STOP PRESS - NEWS ITEM!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY BOWEN.

We were proud to see Judy collect her "Citizen of the Year Award" presented by the Mayor of Willoughby Noel Reidy.

Judy was treasurer of the Progress Association for many years, organised two quilting exhibitions which raised over \$5000 for the community, and is very active on the Haven Theatre Committee. Recently Judy returned from England and America following a Churchill Fellowship Award to further her studies in the counselling of cancer patients.

CASTLECRAG CELLARS

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FOR THE MUSIC LOVER

Rita Kaye

I thought our residents would be interested in the following details put out by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra:-

"This year's Subscription Concert Series by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra promises to be the most outstanding ever to be presented at the Concert Hall of the Civic Centre, Chatswood.

An impressive list of conductors will direct the Orchestra - Wilfred Lehmann, David McBride, Myer Fredman, Eric Clapham, all of whom have established enviable reputations in Australia and Overseas. Six distinguished Australian and overseas soloists have been engaged. In the third Subscription Concert, the Willoughby Symphony Choir will perform with the Orchestra in one of Vaughan Williams' rarely performed choral works, Five Tudor Portraits - in the Fourth Concert the Choir will join with the Orchestra in works by Berlioz.

Music lovers are assured of quality entertainment and superb programs of their favourite classical and romantic music for the 1986 Fourteenth Subscription Season."

Eric and I heard a most delightful program presented at Willoughby by the Elizabethan Theatre Orchestra as part of the Willoughby Festival, and we attended the final rehearsal of the Willoughby Band before they flew to Adelaide to compete in the Australasian Band championships. The Chatswood Musical Society and the Willoughby Musical Society will soon be presenting their 1986 shows. There is much good music to be heard in our own municipality; do keep check on our local papers so that you can be sure to see the advertisements in time to book for programs that appeal to you. (Chatswood Booking Office - Phone 412 4828.)

CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL NEWS

Alison Whittle (Principal)

1986 promises to be another busy and productive year. We've recently had a wonderfully successful Grandparents' Picnic and an "Eggstraordinary Easter Egg Egghibition" which demonstrated the creativity abounding in this district.

Years 1 & 2 visited the Halley's Comet Exhibition at the observatory and most of the children have risen early or visited country areas to view the Comet for themselves. Its been an interesting and historic time for us all.

In Term 2 we are hoping to learn more about our area by studying a unit on Castles. Anyone interested in helping us by being a resource person please contact the school.

Mrs. Vaughan has replaced Mrs. Rodgie who is overseas until October.

PLEASE TEAR THIS FORM OFF AND SEND WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION C/- The Treasurer Mrs. D. Fraser,
16 The Bulwark

I WISH TO RENEW/APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AND ENCLOSE MY PAYMENT FOR : \$4.00 Membership or
\$4.00 Membership plus donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please note; whilst membership has been set at \$4 per household any extra donation you may be generous enough to offer will be very gratefully received, and would assist in our work, including production of this newsletter.

(Some years ago a series of short articles on the history of our suburb was featured in the CRAG. These were written by Addie Saltis, our honorary historian. We feel we should repeat these for the benefit of our new residents and hope all will enjoy them. The first appears in this issue Ed.)

Before the White Man

The native tribes who lived on our coastline before us, knew the north side of the harbour as Cam-mer-ay or Cam-ee-ra and its people as Cameragal. "The tribe of Cameragal is of all the most numerous and powerful. Their superiority probably arose from possessing the best fishing ground". They exercised considerable authority, having the "exclusive and extraordinary privilege of extracting a tooth from the natives of other tribes inhabiting the sea-coast... many contests, or decisions of honour have been delayed until the arrival of these people".

Understandably, they were much feared and hated. "Whenever Bennalong recounted his battles..... the most violent exclamations of rage and vengeance against his competitors in arms, those of the tribe called Cam-ee-ra-gal in particular, would burst from him. And he never failed at such times to solicit the Governor to accompany him, with a body of soldiers, in order that he might exterminate this hated name".

His longing has been satisfied. Today very little evidence of their existence remains on our peninsular. In the 1940's there were still many middens (native rubbish heaps) evident along our foreshores, but these are now lost beneath the undergrowth and lantana.

Before Castlecrag

Although the lower North Shore and Middle Harbour were visited by Governor Phillip and carefully surveyed by land and sea within a few months of the landing of the first fleet in 1788, the pressing need for survival of the Colony did not encourage expansion into our inhospitable slopes. It was not until 1856 that the first Land Grants were made on the peninsula which is now Castlecrag. More than half of these, plus a large part of Northbridge, were made to a James William Bligh, who may or may not have been related to Captain Bligh of Mutiny fame. James Bligh was later the first Chairman (or Mayor) of the Municipality of North Willoughby. Incidentally, this was the first Municipality to be proclaimed on the North Shore, in 1865, as a direct result of a petition signed by 67 of the 400 inhabitants within the Municipality's boundaries.

A rough track along the windswept, rocky ridge which is now Edinburgh Road, existed at that time, and the parcels of land were allocated on either side of it. Other land grants on the peninsula (then known as East Willoughby) were to Alfred Bradford, John Stapleton, W.G. Sprig, Jas. Yates, Robert Phenna, J.A. Hunter, E.M. Stephen and G.R. Brown. (If any reader knows their descendants it would be interesting to contact them).

Horse-drawn buses and a branch railway in 1890 gradually opened up Willoughby and Chatswood, but the peninsula remained bushland, subdivided into estates but virtually undeveloped. By 1920 we had the Sunnyside Estate on the north, Torquay Estate on Sugarloaf Point and Farmer & Co's radio transmitter 2FC along Edinburgh Road. Cows from Warner's dairy grazed on what is now Eastern Valley Way and Chinese market gardens lined the road to Northbridge. The southern side of Edinburgh Rd. was bought by the North Sydney Investment and Tramway Co. Ltd., and then by the Association of North Sydney Debenture Holders. In 1921 Walter Burley Griffin and the Greater Sydney Development Association purchased 90 acres of those southern slopes and Castlecrag was born.

Quotes from Watkin Trench "Sydney's first four years" 1973 (available from the Castlecrag Community Library) and David Collins "Account of the English Colony in N.S.W." 1798.

WALKING IN OUR BUSHLAND

For those of you who like to walk through our bushland, may we recommend Harold Reid Reserve, off Rembrandt Drive, Middle Cove. Whilst parking and picnicing facilities are available near the lookout, we suggest you leave your car at the entrance to the reserve. You then walk along the old road which, together with the extensive sandstone cuttings, was constructed by Burley Griffin in the 1920's, with the intention of opening the area for housing. Willoughby Council is reported to have rejected the scheme, thus saving this beautiful bushland for public enjoyment. Join the cliff walk along the way; from here you can look down into both the north and south arms of Sugarloaf Bay.

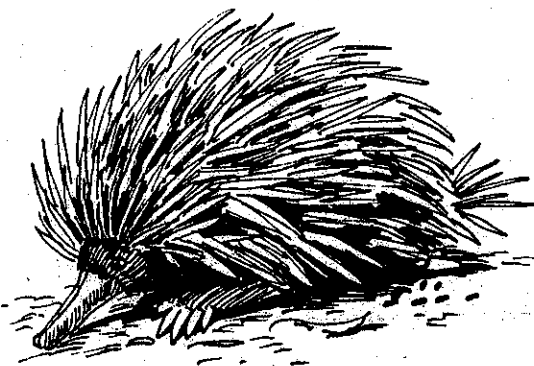
An extensive panorama is obtained from the lookout, with fine views of Middle Harbour, including Castlecrag and Castlecove. You can also see Willis' Castle, and two federation cottages, the remains of a boat building establishment operating until the late 1930's.

It might interest you to know that a number of marriages have been performed in the area around the lookout, a delightful setting for such an occasion.

There is a longer walk around the bottom of the Reserve. This runs from the end of North Arm Drive, along the water to Sugarloaf Crescent. The track has recently been damaged by rains, so take care, and please do not walk on the sides of the track and so do further damage.

The following is taken from a paper prepared by Ted Bowen for the Castlecrag Environment Study:-

"The Geology of the area is interesting. The rocks are Hawkesbury Sandstone, laid down in Triassic times, some 200 million years ago. The land was shaped during the Tertiary Period, 20 million years ago, when the present river, Middle Harbour River, cut a gorge through the sandstone layers. During the ice ages much of the earth's water was frozen as glaciers and polar ice caps and the level of the sea fell to approximately 200m. below its present level. Thus the gorge you now see would have been much deeper. At the end of the last ice age, probably as recently as 6000 years ago, with the melting of the ice, the sea level rose and we now see what is known as a drowned river system. Much of the ancient river gorge has filled with sediment from the sea and silt from the river. These deposits are up to 200m. deep; the water depth is 20m. in places".



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