

THE RAMPART

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAIG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

No. 104

Seventy one years of community development
ISSN 0814 - 2054

Sept/Oct 1995

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday 31st October 7.15pm at the Community Centre (corner The Rampart and The Postern). Cllr Eunice Raymond, the new Mayor of Willoughby, has accepted our invitation to be Guest Speaker. She will give a short address and answer any questions you may wish to put. At the conclusion of the meeting she will join us for supper.



This occasion will provide a rare opportunity to meet the Mayor on our "home ground". We are very privileged that in her busy Mayoral life she is "delighted to attend". An extremely interesting and pleasant social evening is promised and your presence will be most welcome. The Mayor looks forward to meeting and hearing from the citizens of Castlecrag.

The Mayor will attend at 8.15pm, and in an effort to complete the business the meeting will commence at 7.15pm. To enable the minutes of the previous meeting "to be taken as read", they will be available from 6.45pm at the Community Centre. If any member has a motion or item of business he or she wishes to have discussed, it would be appreciated in terms of the shorter time available, if the Secretary Kate Westoby, could be telephoned 9958 0215 before the meeting.

President's Report

On behalf of the Association I would like yet again to thank Kathy Rosenmeyer, Katie Cooney and their helpers for all their efforts in organising our **Trash and Treasure** stall for the Willoughby Community Festival. Wonderful donations were received and all looked set for a spectacular success, but the heavens opened and washed away all our bright hopes. Amazingly and despite that, we were able to make approx. \$550. Many thanks to all those who gave their trash, treasure and assistance on the day.

Since the last issue of The Crag elections have been held in Willoughby City. In Middle Harbour Ward, we congratulate Clrs Randle, Rutherford, and Reilly on having been elected. Clr Eunice Raymond of Northbridge Ward has been elected Mayor and she has become, indeed, our first lady. John Squire has retired after 23 years in local government. He always took a keen interest in the activities of Castlecrag, to the extent that his and Anne's two children attended both our pre-school kindergarten and the now, sadly closed, Infants' School. The Progress Association sends best wishes to him on his retirement and thanks him for his years of honourable community service.

WCC has appointed Meredith Walker, a heritage planning consultant, to prepare a Plan of Management for the Griffin Reserves of Castlecrag. The study will involve site investigation, community consultation and resolution of management issues. Some meetings will be scheduled for either Saturday mornings or weekday evenings to facilitate contact with residents. The Association is pleased with Council's recognition of the Griffin heritage.

Elizabeth Lander

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Chatswood Customer Council Committee

This committee under its previous title of Community Consultative Committee has been in existence now for eight years. For most of this time the chairman has been Walter Spratt who has done a fine job. I joined the committee first as an Alderman of Council and for the next six years as a representative of our Progress Association. Until recently a member of Castlecrag Neighbourhood Watch has also attended (five meetings are held per year). Although attendance has dwindled over recent years, it has been reactivated under its new title Customer Council Committee by Supt G Morgan of Chatswood Police Station.

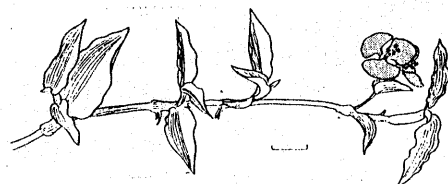
What is a Customer Council? I quote from the Chatswood Police Newsletter: *A Customer Council is a forum, made up of members of the local community, by which those representatives can provide police with feedback to enhance operations and customer satisfaction can be gauged, providing the local community with the opportunity to participate in Community-based Policing.*

The meetings are attended by representatives of a wide spectrum of our community eg Neighbourhood Watch, religious groups, Apex, Lions, Rotary, Progress Associations, youth workers, school groups, Council, Chamber of Commerce and many others. Over the past few years the representatives of these groups have raised funds to purchase and fit out a Mobile Police Van, which is being actively used by Chatswood Police. It can frequently be seen at the Mall and provides a comfortable area where residents can discuss matters of concern to them with police officers.

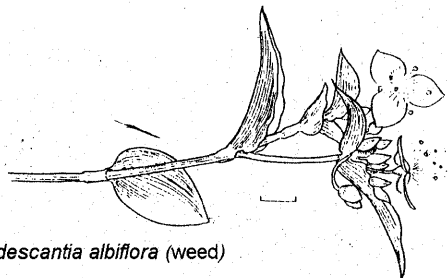
While I have enjoyed working on this committee, I can no longer attend the meetings, and suggested at the last meeting of the Progress Association that new representatives might be found from our community. I hope that this matter can be finalised at the next meeting of the Association.

Eric Kaye

Castlecrag Conservation Society
Next meeting Wednesday 15th November 8pm
Castlecrag Community Centre



Commelina cyanea (native creeper) (see next page)



Tradescantia albiflora (weed)

from Robinson, N *Field Guide to the Native Plants of the Sydney Region*. 1991 Kangaroo Press

Do You Have Noxious Environmental Weeds In Your Garden?

With a few exceptions such as the Rhustree, Pampas Grass and Pellitory (allergy or Sticky Weed), noxious weeds have been agricultural weeds, posing a problem to stock or crops. Lobbying to include some of the serious weeds which threaten bushland has been resisted until recently.

Many people refer to a range of vigorous weeds as noxious. However to be called noxious a plant must be listed/declared under the Noxious Weeds Act. A new Noxious Weeds Act came into force in 1993 replacing earlier legislation from the Local Government Act 1919. The new act places noxious weeds into categories according to the action required for their control. Also, it recognises 17 "environmental weeds" which already pose a threat to bushland.

The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 No.11 has four control categories for noxious weeds. These are W1, W2, W3 and W4, where the number does not indicate increasing severity or priority.

W1 means that any occurrence is notifiable to the local control authority and the weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

W2 weeds must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. Notification is not mandatory though it normally helps. eg Rhus (*Toxicodendron succedaneum*), Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia spp*) pink and redflowered Lantana (*L. camara*), Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).

W3 weeds have already become widespread. The aim is to halt their spread and to reduce their numbers and distribution. Eradication from selected areas is feasible eg Pellitory (*Parietaria judaica*).

W4 weeds require that specific action is taken. eg they cannot be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed, or shall not be permitted to grow within 3m of a boundary fence, or they must be pruned to prevent fruiting. Action can be more or less stringent than those for W1, W2, or W3 control categories.

The following list of weeds classified as Noxious Weeds 4 applies to Willoughby as well as to Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove and Ryde Council areas. They already threaten bushland and are a pest for neighbouring properties. There are four controls or conditions applying to W4 weeds:

1. states "not to be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed". It applies to all weeds listed. Conditions 2, 3 and 4 apply as follows:
2. **Not to be grown inside 3m of boundary fence:** Bamboo (*Bambusa spp*), Bamboo (*rhizomatous*) (*Phyllostachys spp*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*).
3. **Established plantings must be prevented from flowering and fruiting.** Broadleaf privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Narrowleaf Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*) or *pannosus*), Cassia (*Senna pendula*), formerly (*Cassia coluteoides*), Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*).

4. **Landowner (including public authorities) must prevent spread to adjoining property:** Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica/cairica*), Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Balloon Vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*) Cat's Claw Creeper (*McFadyena unguis-cati*), Bridal Creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*), Asparagus Fern Protasparagus aethiopicus (*sprengeri*), Climbing Asparagus (*Protasparagus plumosus*)(*setaceus*), Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia albiflora*).

In addition, Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and Bitou Bush/Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) have been reclassified from W2 to W4.

If you have any of these weeds in your garden you now have a responsibility to control or remove them.

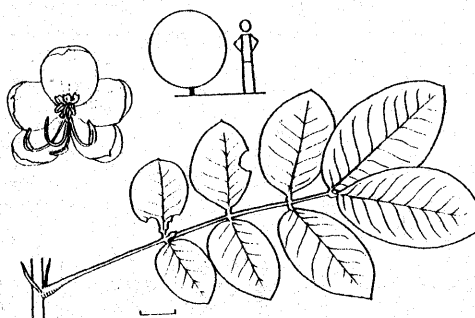
So bamboo must be kept at least 3m from boundaries, berry producers Privet and Cotoneaster and seed-podded Cassia and the Brooms must be pruned to prevent flowering and fruiting, some vigorous vines like Morning Glory, Cape Ivy, Madeira and Balloon Vines must be kept from spreading onto neighbouring land, as must Asparagus Fern and Wandering Jew.

In most cases trimming or pruning is a losing battle and it is better to get rid of them altogether. But before you remove any of the listed plants it's important to be sure of their identification. Some have native look-alikes eg Lilly Pilly and Cheese Tree have been mistaken for Broadleaf Privet (opposite leaves with a greyish underside) and native *Breynia oblongifolia* for Cassia (or Senna) which has opposite leaflets very similar to Breynias' alternate leaves. The blue-flowered native *Commelina cyanea* is very similar to white-flowered Wandering Jew.

Burnum Burnum's **WILDthings** has good photographs of all the listed species in its Weeds Section (except for bamboo and *Arundo donax* which are listed under Grasses).

Recognition of Environmental Weeds is welcome and long overdue as many have spread from the suburban garden to become bushland invaders. They are also a menace to neighbouring gardens.

In future other weeds may be added to the W4 list eg Crofton Weed, Ochna and some of the invasive native plants such as Cootamundra Wattle and the Western Australian *Acacia saligna*. For further information or advice about identification or removal of the listed environmental weeds contact Willoughby Council's Technical Services Division.



Gay Spies

Senna pendula

From the desk of SOS*Crag

***** INVITATION *****

To: Glenaeon
Frm: Castlecrag Community

On 20th July 1993 you gave an undertaking to Mike Croker, representing the Valuer General of NSW, "to provide SOS*Crag, rent free, with a suitable building on-site to accommodate current play school and after school community uses".

Your reward for that promise was \$400,000.

You are hereby invited to honour your promise by allocating funds and space on this site which is so valued by the people of Castlecrag.



*You may be interested in this Information obtained by SOS*Crag
(earlier this year) under Freedom of Information Provisions:*

*Extract from minutes of a meeting between Tom Hartigan and Graeme Harvey representing
Glenaeon, and Mike Croker representing the Valuer-General of NSW, 12 May 1993*

*"He (Tom Hartigan) is to approach SOS*Crag through one or more of these parents to explore SOS*Crag's attitude to Glenaeon's purchase and development of an Infants School (Years K-3). In particular, Glenaeon is prepared to provide SOS*Crag, rent free, with a suitable building on-site to accommodate current play school and after school 'community uses'. Mr Hartigan will get back to me 'shortly' with the reaction to this proposal. He feels that, if SOS*Crag opposition is completely overcome, some abatement of the sale price should follow. The Minister (Chadwick) and the Government would avoid further poor publicity, but the school would have to provide a suitable building and maintain it, rent free, for SOS*Crag's use."*

On 2nd June 1993 Tom Hartigan and others met with representatives of SOS*Crag and asked "What could Glenaeon do for SOS*Crag in return for gaining acceptance onto the campus?". SOS*Crag's response, unaware of Glenaeon's deal with the Valuer-General, was that the re-opening of the public school was SOS*Crag's preferred option.

Hartigan requested that the parties not disclose the matters discussed at the meeting.

We learn from the documents that on 20th July 1993, Hartigan telephoned Mike Croker the conversation recorded by Croker as "The Glenaeon Board has reached such agreement with the SOS*Crag group that it sees no further real opposition from this group".

On 18th August 1993 Mike Croker met with Tom Hartigan at Glenaeon School, Middle Cove. Croker's notes were: "Discussion with Tom Hartigan and a teacher (female) as witness. Agreed to recommend \$825,000 to Board".

Mike Croker's valuation of \$825,000 for the site (12 building blocks) was calculated as follows:

Valuation (1989) on a single dwelling basis	\$2,150,000
Less 15% reduction in market value 1989-1993	-322,500
	\$1,827,500
But say	\$1,825,000
Less for overcoming green bans and obtaining vacant possession from SOS*Crag	
Amount of \$1,825,000 deferred 3 years @ 15%:	
multiplier = 0.657 (ie, less \$1,825,000 x .343)	\$ - 625,975
	\$1,199,025
But say	\$1,200,000
Less cost to provide rent-free accommodation on site - building in grounds - say \$800 per week in perpetuity at 10%	\$ - 400,000
	\$ 800,000

Range \$800,000 to \$900,000

STOP PRESS

Less than a year after moving to the school site, Glenaeon submitted a Development Application to Council seeking approval for another classroom and amenities for 30 more children. The following motion was passed at the on-site inspection by Council on 7th October 1995:

- (a) That the application be refused due to unresolved traffic issues.
- (b) That the Mayor convene a special meeting to consider resolving issues relating to community access to the site through mediation. (Proposed Pat Reilly, seconded Sue Randle)



GRIFFIN FESTIVAL 27TH AUGUST 1995

This was a highly successful day, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Greater Sydney Development Association, when our suburb was "on show" to those interested in Griffin architecture and heritage. Many former Castlecrag residents were among the large crowd who enjoyed inspections of some of the Griffin houses, an exhibition of the photographs by Max Dupain of the Griffin houses, a procession led by the giant puppets of Walter and Marion Griffin, and a talk by Professor James Weirick on the early shareholders of the company. The Progress Association congratulates the Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. who organised the Festival.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY INC. WILL BE HELD AT THE HAVEN AMPHITHEATRE, CORNER THE SCARP AND THE BARRICADE, CASTLECRAG, ON SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER AT 2.30PM. FOLLOWING THE FORMAL PART OF THE MEETING, GUEST SPEAKER PROFESSOR CARRICK CHAMBERS, DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS (AND RESIDENT OF CASTLECRAG) WILL TALK AT 3.15PM ON WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN: BUSHLAND LEGACY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALL WELCOME!!!

What's in a Name?

Bull's Walk, Buh Walk, Bullnose, Bulwack, Bulrush - as mere nine-year residents in The Bulwark we are constantly amazed and delighted at such diverse renderings of our address.

Two new versions were received on envelopes delivered last week: The Bulnark, from the Council of Agriculture Executive Yuan, Taiwan, in response to a postcard sent by us in support of the World Wide Fund for Nature's *Taskforce Tiger*, and The Bulward, from Time-Life Australia offering a 'free gift' of an introductory volume to *The Art of Woodworking* - though why I should be considered worthy of such a gift or how I was identified, escapes me. The most imaginative to date was the listing of our street as Duck Bulwaik by American Airlines in an abortive Frequent Flyer program! Congratulations to our postman in identifying us!

What has been the experience of the other 197 Bulwark households? And how have correspondents interpreted The Bartizan, The Barbican, The Bastion, The Barbette, The Citadel, The Rampart, The Redoubt, The Postern, The Parapet and Sortie Port, all familiar to residents of Castlecrag, but to others a quandary? Walter and Marion Burley Griffin must be chuckling in their graves!!

Margaret Chambers

St James Castlecrag is here to serve the community and if anyone (members of our congregation or not) would like us to pray for a problem in their life, please call the Parish Office at 9958 4279 - leave your name and number and someone will get back to you.

Opening by David Moore of the Exhibition of Max Dupain Photographs GRIFFIN FESTIVAL 27TH AUGUST

I think what we are looking at here is a convergence of talents: the visionary talent of Walter Burley Griffin and the talent of Max Dupain who forty years later photographed the Griffin houses - the bringing together of two great creative artists.

Griffin set up the Greater Sydney Development Association to preserve the landscape of Castlecrag. This was done in a clever way - shares were issued to members, but Griffin held controlling shares and was a benign dictator. Griffin imported a United States design philosophy to Castlecrag - he was adventurous, influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, but his buildings retained a human scale which is so important for domestic architecture, sometimes lost sight of today when buildings are too grand for the individual. Also, his buildings have a fortress quality which is fascinating to me. Griffin had looked at the rocks which we have around this area of Sydney, and the flatness of the rocks had importance to him. This was reflected in his hatred of pitched tiled roofs which were the Sydney norm in the 1920s. However, flat roofs put him in conflict with the authorities of the time, as they have done for later architects.

These photographs possess the Dupain style or signature. Having had the privilege of working with Max in the 1940s, I am conscious that no-one does pictures of architecture as stylistic and beautiful and relevant as Dupain did in his time. Architecture was one of his great loves. That came from understanding and mastery of light combined with understanding of what architecture is. It is interesting to me that photographs are often seen as documentary evidence but are in fact a process of abstraction - by taking a 3-dimensional subject and making it two-dimensional, then by taking out colour, further abstracting.

In this exhibition they go further than this. Two of the pictures in this exhibition are quite surreal - using the human figure. Why did he pose the human figures in the way he did? It is almost as though the house has just finished a great sea voyage and land is in sight! Max had immense technical virtuosity plus graphic precision. He was very concerned with the architectural drawing of any building and would respect that highly, whether using straight elevation or perspective eg the picture looking through the window to the fireplace. Contrast this with the pictures of the Capitol Theatre in Melbourne, which are almost like looking into a minute crystal, seeing the complexity of the interior as designed by Griffin and as expressed by Dupain.

This collection is a most important group of images and will become more important for future generations. I think the State Library of NSW is the perfect place for the photographs to be housed, as is planned by the Society - to have these pictures kept in archival conditions is of such importance to all of us. It is a privilege and a joy for me to open this exhibition as part of the Griffin Festival, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the beginnings of Castlecrag.



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Membership of the Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

Our Constitution stipulates that a member of the Association must be a natural person who is a resident or ratepayer of the area (designated in Rule 1.3) being over the age of 18 years and has been approved for membership of the Association by the Committee. Two months membership is obligatory for a member to be eligible to vote; but since approval by the Committee usually occurs one month after receipt of application for membership, voting eligibility usually takes three months. The names of the people applying for membership should be supplied with the membership fee.

Membership fee is for the calendar year. A person who was a member in 1995 will automatically be eligible to vote in 1996 as soon as the 1996 membership is paid (as long as the 2 or 3 months qualifying period has elapsed).

A "family" cannot be a member because a "family" is not a real person. If a company owns a property in Castlecrag, then the directors of the company do not qualify for membership of the Association if they live outside Castlecrag.

Membership fee is \$5 per person (\$3 for students and those on a fixed income). Membership is for the calendar year and is renewable from 1st January. Members must be at least 18 years of age.

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

NEW BOOKS LIST

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BRADFORD, B T	Dangerous to Know
THOMAS, C	A Wild Justice
COOKSON, C	A Ruthless Need
FYFIELD, F	A Clear Conscience
TYLER, A	Ladder of Years
HARRISON, S	Both Your Houses
MOYAL, A	Breakfast with Beaverbrook
TROLLOPE, J	The Best of Friends
CONROY, P	Beach Music
FORBES, B	Partly Cloudy
COUGHLIN, W	The Heart of Justice
LUSTBADER, E	Second Skin
DOBBS, M	The Final Cut
O'CONNELL, C	Man Who Lied to Women
MASON, D	Shadow over Babylon
HARVEY, C	Parson Harding's Daughter
PROULX, A	The Shipping News
VINE, B	King Solomon's Carpet
MACAULAY, R	The Towers of Trebizond
HOEG, P	Smilla's Feeling for Snow
SELBY, B	Pilgrim's Road
DEXTER, C	The Daughters of Cain
LEWIS, N	An Empire of the East
BRONSON, P	Bombardiers
GUTHERSOM, D	Snow Falling on Cedars

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Newspapers have been missing from The Rampart and The Bulwark recently. This has been causing considerable annoyance to the customer and the newsagent. Please be aware and on the lookout for someone perhaps a jogger or dog walker carrying a plastic-wrapped newspaper.

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The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association (Box 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag) by Kerry McKillop (958 4516) and Helen Levett (958 3510). Contributions and letters are most welcome. All contributions and letters received will be considered for publication. The editors' decision to shorten or otherwise edit copy is final. The deadline for the next issue is 30 November.

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