

THE CASTLECRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Our D.A. policy a framework for comment on Development Applications

It is the practice of Willoughby Council to send copies of Development Applications (DAs) to each Progress Association. On average, the CPA receives about 100 DAs each year relating to Castlecrag. The decision of whether or not to respond to DAs has generated controversy. While the Committee is requested to comment on DAs by individual members there is rarely the opportunity to consult with members before the deadline for submissions.

Our current policy is to comment on those DAs which are brought to the Committee as a matter of concern by members in terms of compliance against a check list of the planning instruments which Willoughby City Council is required to uphold. The CPA Committee recognises the need to further refine its policy guidelines to improve transparency and consistency.

The Committee proposes a dialogue with members over the next six months to define policy guidelines for DA responses. As a first step, we have prepared the following interim policy. This should be read recognising that the Committee cannot exhaustively consider all DAs notified. Therefore, for the Progress Association to play an effective role in upholding its objectives, the Committee welcomes comment and endorsement by members.

Central to the policy is the principle that the CPA will comment on a DA only if it is of clear **community interest** according to a set of criteria endorsed by members at a general meeting. The Committee's comment will be lodged with Council only after a clear process has been followed, including: receipt of a formal request in writing by a member; review of the DA against Council and State Government planning instruments; assessment against potential impacts on the community (see below); and a conclusion that the DA is of clear *community interest*. A proposed development may be considered to be of concern to the wider community (ie, where the development is of *community*, not just private interest) where it has one or more of the following potential effects:

- direct impacts on a listed heritage item or impacts on such an item by the development of a neighbouring property;
- direct impacts on vegetation and urban bushland, including the removal of significant trees,

significant reduction in vegetative cover or impacts on other natural landscape features (eg, rock faces);

- impact on adjacent urban bushland through changes to vegetative cover, wildlife corridors, runoff or changes in groundwater;
- impeding the movement and/or safety of Castlecrag residents through generating significant increases in traffic movements;
- generation of significant noise impacts, either by on-site activities or from additional traffic;
- potential air and water-based discharges from the site, particularly hazardous substances or discharges into bushland;
- reduction of access to and amenity of public open space (eg, Griffin Reserves and walkways);
- change to the aesthetic and heritage character of the suburb (eg, aerial cabling and significant changes to the streetscape by dominant buildings, particularly in the Castlecrag Conservation Area);
- contribution to the range of services and community amenities in the shopping centre;
- potential impact on health where scientific knowledge is uncertain (eg, electro-magnetic radiation from mobile phone towers); and
- potential light pollution (eg, tennis court lights).

The interim policy also implies the Committee will seek a range of community views on the potential impacts of the development and provide a balanced assessment of the concerns expressed by individuals where it is determined that a particular DA is of community interest. Submissions will be framed within existing Council and State Government planning instruments and the overall objectives of the Association, namely *to conserve the natural and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations*. Constructive suggestions should be put forward to ameliorate potential impacts of the development which are of concern to the wider Castlecrag community.

Should sufficient time be available at the October meeting following consideration of the Constitution, then these draft criteria will be discussed. The interim DA policy will be further discussed at the first meeting in 1998.

Bob McKillop

Phyl Stoker (1906-1997)

Phyl Stoker, an 'old' Castlecrag resident, passed away in Walcha Hospital on 16 April this year, at the age of 92.

After she married in 1935, Phyl and her husband Michael came to live at *The Pinnacle*. In 1942 they moved along Edinburgh Road to *Bayview* where they lived until 1972. Castlecrag was their home for most of their lives together, the place they loved and in which they worked, committed to the community - the suburb, its history, the evolution of Walter Burley Griffin's vision. Phyl's forte was caring for children and she established a kindergarten in her own home with the help of two trained teachers, Olive Mason and Naomi Long.

The kindergarten continued to grow and in 1946 moved to the Castlecrag Community Centre where it still is. (NB *The Crag 109* ran Joyce Batterham's story on the building of the kindergarten/community centre by local parents.) In 1950, with her continuing dedication, Phyl Stoker established under the Child Welfare Department what became known as the *Castlecrag Children's Nursery*. She continued her wonderful work for the next 20 years and cared for more than 2000 children. Phyl remained till her death, the founder and patron of the kindergarten.

In 1974 Phyl and Michael moved to Tamworth where Michael established *Co-Care*, a project designed for aged community care, with Phyl's support. In 1982, they returned to Sydney until Michael's death in October 1987. Phyl spent her last 9 years in Walcha Hospital. She leaves two daughters, Annette and Kathleen, five grandchildren and one great grandson. She will be remembered by many long-term Castlecrag residents as a good neighbour and friend, and for what she accomplished.

Madeleine St John, one of the six authors short-listed for this year's Booker Prize, is an old Castlecrag girl. She and her family lived in The Rampart during the 1950s. Her father, Ted, was the well-known politician and lawyer. We wish her success.

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Ken Thomas (1913- 1997)

Ken Thomas lived in Castlecrag for over 50 years. A book could be written about the life and achievements of the country boy who founded Thomas National Transport (TNT). He was widely known and respected nationally, but in Castlecrag we knew him as Anne's husband, father of Elizabeth, Rhody, Megan, Gavin and Andrew, and a good neighbour.

Ken was always involved in community affairs. He was on the board of the Co-op Society which organised the building of the Community Centre and his voice was raised in protest when our Infants School was closed. Ken did not 'go gently' when concerned with injustice, but was gentle in his personal associations and many stories are told of his generosity and kindness.

Goodbye, Ken! We'll miss your jokes and chuckles and your pertinent comments.

Joyce Batterham

Ken Thomas, a cap and gown man, always said he was *just a truckie* but what he began with one truck in 1946 evolved into an international business empire moving freight on four continents. An astute and fearless innovator, Ken became one of the outstanding captains of post-war Australian industry. His business involvements included shipping, farming, mining, pearling and other concerns integral to Australian industry. A month before his sudden death at 84, Ken had 'retired' but developing a rural retreat, not lawn bowls, was to be his agenda.

Ken was a man of strong convictions and a willingness to express them publicly. Time has proved the correctness of the stand he took against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam conflict. A modest man who would not accept awards for his services to the community or the wider world, he was widely respected as a wise corporate manager, a caring employer, and a man of integrity and warmth.

Ken Thomas was a great Australian of whom it could be said: *They don't make them like that any more.*

Dylan Thomas, a favourite poet, said it all:

*Do not go gentle into that good night
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

(Ed.)



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COMMUNITY BYTES

Telstra Tower Topped

Telstra will not be able to build its tower proposed for *The Quadrangle* shopping centre. Council ruled that such a tower contravenes the rules and regulations of WCC due to its being 'a prohibited use' in the zoning. Special thanks are due to the owners of *The Quadrangle* who agreed not to support the tower if it contravened regulations, our Ward Councillor, Sue Randle and in particular, Peter Meares, who has tirelessly campaigned for its exclusion since its announcement, on behalf of us all.

CPA Membership Fees

While the move of the Willoughby Fair to Chatswood Mall was deemed successful by Council, it created a problem for the Progress Association which traditionally has raised funds with its *Trash and Treasure* stall, and which is not suitable for the new venue. The funds raised were the only funding apart from Membership Fees the Association has, helping to pay for *The Crag* and stationery, postage and photocopying.

The committee would like to pursue other avenues of fund-raising such as social functions, but given the amount of time it spends on administration, meetings and community projects, has a problem with finding time to run a bush dance or make pots of jam to sell. It would be good to have a fund-raising sub-committee if members would like to volunteer.

However, since we have not raised our membership fees in some years, we have a motion to raise annual membership fees from \$5 per person to \$10 per person, with concessions from \$3 to \$5. We also propose a voluntary donation of \$10 per person (pensioners excluded). These will be put to the next General Meeting.

Our new Wombat

While some residents might be less than delighted with the placement of the wombat crossing outside the Glenside School and the narrowed entry to Edinburgh Road from Sortie Port, these safety problem areas.

One resident reports she was driving at 40k (school safety zone speed) past the school recently and signalling to turn right into Sortie Port, when some idiot tail-gating her car first attempted to overtake across the double lines, then unable to do that, overtook on the left hand side instead — speeding over the pedestrian crossing.

Before the new road narrowing, while one car waited to enter Edinburgh Road from Sortie Port, another appeared between it and the island, then cut across its front to the crossing.

Having to slow down at the wombat may enable 'lost' taxis and other vehicles to note that traffic is supposed to go around the Griffin island to turn right into Sortie Port, instead of wandering down the *out* road, risking a collision.

Not to do with wombats, but with cars parked in odd places; it is terrific when householders and agents conducting 'for sale' inspections provide prospective viewers with information on where they can safely park. It has been noted by residents that 'lookers', unused to our non-conforming roads, sometimes get desperate and leave the car anywhere they can — at one time parked wide on the dangerous bend from The Bastion to The Bulwark!

50th Anniversary of our Community Centre Sunday 2 November 10am

Come to the celebration. There will be a sausage sizzle, cake stall, exhibition of old photos (please phone Tracey 9958 8308 if you would lend photos for the morning), a jumping castle and face-painting for children. Tree planting, tea and coffee, memories, fun!! All welcome!!

You're kidding

There is a plan to maroon the Dougherty Centre at Chatswood for six months by cutting off all vehicular access to Victor Street between Albert and Johnson Streets except for trucks servicing the Grace Bros building site fronting Albert Street.

The Dougherty Centre is the base for Meals on Wheels (with some aged and physically-impaired volunteers) and as Willoughby's headquarters for Aged Services, it is visited by hundreds of senior citizens every week. Surely Council will not allow Victor Street to be cut off to senior's cars, will it? Encourage Council to find a less restrictive solution by writing to the Community Services Division. For more information, phone the Dougherty Centre (9777 7830).

Cable Wars

You've been reading about it...now that deregulation has occurred, electronic communications companies are pushing hard for customers. Optus, losing cable TV market share to Foxtel, will now offer customers cheaper local calls. Only there's a catch: *you have to have the cable installed to your house*. If tempted, remember that many Castlecrag residents have signed a petition promising not to install personal Optus cabling, even if the street has been cabled.

(Editor)

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HELP TO STOP SUICIDE

In Australia more people die from suicide than motor vehicle accidents — over 2,600 suicides a year and 91,000 attempts. Over 400 young Australians ended their lives last year. People who suicide see it not so much as death, but as a release from pain — usually emotional.

The local Rotary Clubs have united to provide a special public meeting designed to provide practical information for all sectors of the community, especially those dealing with young people. The night will address not only the *don'ts* — like common statements such as 'you have everything to live for' or 'what would your friends think' — but the things that are most effective in helping someone come to the realisation that life is better than suicide.

With guest speaker Robert Dunlop, National Head of the LifeForce Suicide Prevention Program, the meeting will give information on identifying a suicidal person and what can be done to help; assessing the risks; resources and local support groups.

The public meeting will be held at

**Chatswood High School Auditorium
Centennial Avenue, Chatswood
7.30pm., Friday 24 October.**

Next CPA General Meeting

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 1997, 8pm

Please note the day and date in your diary.

Agenda includes two special resolutions on amendments to the Constitution and membership fees (advised to all members by letter on 26 September 1997);

Discussion on the draft Development Application policy;

The agenda will also cover correspondence and reports on community events.

Meeting to be held at the Community Centre, Castlecrag.

HAVEN AMPHITHEATRE COMING EVENTS

THE ROAD TO MILKWOOD

A journey through the life of poet Dylan Thomas, finishing with songs and voice of *Under Milkwood*.

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER AT 8PM

Presented by the Dylan Thomas Society.
Wet weather window, Sunday 16 November

EVENSONG AT THE HAVEN

Sunday 30 November at 7pm

a special Community Service with the Rev. Jason Page and the Youth Music Group

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

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 1 January 1997. Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Name: _____	\$	Signature: _____
Name: _____	\$	Signature: _____
Name: _____	\$	Signature: _____
Address: _____		Donation: _____ \$

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 1996 will automatically be eligible to vote in 1997 as soon as the 1997 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.