

THE CRAAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Seventy two years of community development

November/December 1997

THE CPA WISHES A MERRY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS TO ALL

1997: President's note

1997 has been an interesting and lively year for the CPA, fuelled by major issues of Foreshore Building Lines, our Constitution, the process of comment on D.A.s and the Plan of Management for the Griffin Reserves and Walkways.

One important issue that has been resolved is the Plan of Management (POM), with Council adopting the Walker/Lehany recommendations for maintenance, preservation and regeneration. The success of this POM will be largely up to us as residents to ensure — not just by insisting that Council maintains its responsibilities, but by maintaining our own in the way that we use and regard them, especially as neighbouring residents. These reserves, apart from the foreshore bushland, are the most important asset that Castlecrag has. Council is seeking nominations for community representatives to serve on the Griffin Reserves Advisory Group (see back page) and I urge interested eligible residents to consider nomination for this worthy duty.

Bob McKillop



Christmas Carols

at the Haven Amphitheatre
CASTLECRAG

CHRISTMAS EVE 7.30pm

Santa to visit
Castlecrag Choir
childrens' nativity play
candles & songbooks
s available
free bus at
Castlecrag
shops from
6.30pm

THE BIG ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

DEFINITELY
NO PARKING
AT THEATRE

IN OUR BUSH AMPHITHEATRE

The bronze sculpture of Walter Burley Griffin worked by Judith Englert-Shead and donated by the Shead family, was recently unveiled in its Griffin Centre garden setting. Pictured from left are: Cr. Judith Rutherford, Ms. Judith Englert-Shead, 'Walty', Cr. Sue Randle and Mayor Pat Reilly.

CASTLECRAG RESIDENTS' SURVEY inside this issue

Why have a survey?

All organisations benefit from seeking views of members on issues of concern to them. The Committee of the Castlecrag Progress Association would like to make the Association as responsive as possible to the needs of the Castlecrag community and to ensure that its priorities reflect those of residents. We are also interested to know how non-member residents of Castlecrag view the CPA.

So this issue contains a multiple-choice survey and we ask that someone in your household — whether you are a member or not — spend only ten minutes to make your views known.

Our objectives are to promote the interests of Castlecrag, to stimulate a feeling of community amongst residents and to conserve our precious heritage for future generations.

For those of you who are not familiar with the CPA; we hold meetings around six times a year in the Castlecrag Community Centre to discuss and debate a wide variety of local issues and when appropriate, act on behalf of residents.

To fill out the questionnaire, just mark the relevant boxes, add any comments you wish to make and drop the survey into the box placed in Castlecrag Newsagency OR post to: The Secretary, CPA, 113 The Bulwark, Castlecrag, 2068.

The deadline for the survey is 31 December 1997. The survey is only for Castlecrag residents, and is anonymous and confidential.

The results will be analysed and presented by Andrew Kirk in the first quarter of 1998.

Bob McKillop,
President

Santa's Cave

When my Mum was a little girl, my Grandpa told her that the cave on the other side of the Sugarloaf valley was SANTA'S cave. One day when he was walking in the bush, he came to the cave and there was some white fur covering the floor of the cave.

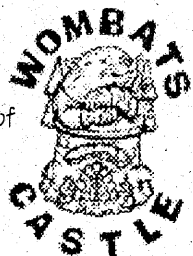
He followed the fur until he got to a tunnel and the fur went through the tunnel, so he went on through. Finally he saw Santa and he realised the fur was Santa's beard! Santa told my Grandpa that every year he grew his beard long and then he would use it for doll's hair, toy stuffing, carpet for doll's house and things like that.

retold by Ruby Batterham, aged 8

(NB: we welcome contributions from local children and teenagers and are happy to include them when we can).

Christmas Gifts

Looking for something unusual & different? We have a wide selection of Australian made & handcrafted gifts available. Many pieces are 'one-offs'.



Kids' Craft Classes

Running from 5th January for 3 weeks:

SILK PAINTING.....CERAMIC PAINTING
 DRAGONS & FAIRIES.....DECORATING BOXES
 POTS OF FUN.....FUNKY FRAMES

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 Please book by Christmas Eve.

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FBL DEFERRAL

Council's decision on the Foreshore Building Line has been delayed due to Councillors Judith Rutherford and Martin McCurrich declaring that they have a conflict of interest in the matter. Subsequently, Mayor Pat Reilly has referred the conflict of interest claim to Local Government Minister, E. Page for his ruling. Since this decision is not expected until late January, Council is unlikely to address the FBL before early February 1998.

Sugarloaf DA for facilitation

There has been much interest by Castlecrag residents in the recent Development Application for a townhouse-style construction of 5 multi-level dwellings in 68-76 Sugarloaf Crescent.

For this reason, Mayor Reilly requested the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre (an independent non-profit organisation) to hold a facilitation meeting on 10 December, to involve the applicants, people who have written letters of objection and other interested parties. The aim of the facilitation was to allow all interested people to discuss their concerns and to try to clarify these issues. A report from that meeting will be presented to WCC.

YOGA CLASSES

at the Castlecrag Community Centre

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COMMUNITY BYTES

'Operation Caring Christmas'

Every member of St. James Church participated in a recent Christmas visiting day to 50 residents in Castlecrag and Willoughby who are housebound, elderly, disabled or ill. Church members baked dozens of cakes and cut flowers to give to every person on their list, who greatly appreciated the chance to sit and chat to a friendly face. Some of those people are visited rarely, other than by Meals on Wheels, so it was a successful community venture, which the church hopes to expand next year.

Haven happenings

Given that the annual Carols are on Christmas Eve as usual, there is still time for vocally-minded residents to join the Carol Choir, stretch some vocal chords and generally feel good. If this is you, contact Patricia Sheldon, producer, on 9958 5782.

The Haven Amphitheatre emerged from its winter hibernation gently this year, on a recent Saturday when the Haven Playreaders held their Christmas dinner party and performance night, organised by Playreaders director, Ella Young.

The next evening, The Haven hosted St. James Church Evensong under the stars. Although it could have been under rain, the combined congregation of 150 people managed to stave it off and enjoy the service with music from Castle Cove School Band, a combined Anglican youth group band and addresses from Rev. Jason Page and visiting speakers from St. Stephens, Willoughby.

Rainbow Serpent Toy Library

This non-profit toy library will lend toys for children in the 0-7 years group in the Willoughby to North Sydney area at minimal cost to borrowers. The aim is to provide:

- A range of educational toys
- The opportunity to borrow a variety of toys for childrens' stimulation and enjoyment
- A contribution to recycling efforts by sharing toys that might otherwise be discarded
- A commitment to supply non-violent toys.

Anyone who would like to donate suitable toys, collect, catalogue or repair toys are will be most welcome at this new venture. If you would like to find out more about the library and how to join, phone Clare Hopkins on 9419 8226.

Council Alert

Changes to the numbers of Willoughby City Councillors and Wards will occur at the WCC 1999 election. There will be 12 Councillors (instead of 15). The number of wards could be 12, 6, 4, 3 or even 2. A public meeting will be held in January or February 1997 to obtain input from Willoughby residents. If interested, watch the *North Shore Times!*

Council Rangers

To contact Willoughby City Council Rangers in an emergency, please phone 9777 1040 (Monday to Friday) or 018 264 496 (after hours).

Poor fella, my community

For some years the annual membership fee of the CPA has been \$5 a member and \$3 for those on a fixed income. While we had an annual means of raising funds at the Willoughby Fair, those fees sufficed, but now CPA funds are shrinking badly because we have had no fund-raising this year and additional costs on member mail-outs, plus of course, *The Crag*.

A motion put to the last general meeting to raise the fees to \$10.00 and \$7.00 was narrowly defeated. Why? One can only wonder why people who live in Castlecrag — who are not generally regarded as being 'on the breadline' — cannot afford to pay \$10.00 per year membership.

Things must be tighter than we thought!

CPA Constitution

In April 1995 a sub-committee was formed to overhaul our Constitution. The result of that work was a new version of the Constitution which was presented to our members in October 1996. When put to the vote, the required approval of a 75% majority was not achieved. The committee felt that the work of the sub-committee had been completed and therefore exercised the responsibility given to it under Rule 20 to revoke the power it had delegated to the sub-committee. The sub-committee was reformed in February 1997 and a further 'middle of the road' version of the Constitution was put to our members in October. This also failed to reach a 75% approval. Therefore, the April 1992 Constitution is the document our members chose to retain.

CASTLECRAG MEATS

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Griffin Reserves Advisory Group

call for nominations

Council is seeking nominations for 6 representatives from the Castlecrag community to participate in the above advisory group, to be established as a result of Council's adoption of the Griffin Reserves Plan of Management on 13 October 1997 (reported in *The Crag* October/November).

Essential requirements for nominees are that they live adjacent or near to the Griffin reserves and access-ways, and that they support in-toto the Plan of Management. Nominees should also outline their interest in joining the advisory group.

Nominations will be received up to Friday 6 February, 1998. All nominations and enquiries should be directed to Open Space Manager, Julie Whitfield, tel. 9777 7751 or write to Willoughby City Council, PO Box 57, Chatswood.

Eastern Valley Way Traffic Study

The plans for Eastern Valley Way recently displayed at Council and Northbridge Plaza do not present relief from the increasing traffic to and from Castlecrag Gateway — ie. the shopping centre. Restricted parking in nearby streets *without* our LATM committee's suggestion of conversion of 2 RTA-affected residential properties north of the shopping centre to public car-parks means more traffic congestion around the shopping centre. Of primary importance was the inclusion of a right-hand turn arrow for Edinburgh Road traffic at Castlecrag shops and entry/exit facilitation at the Sugarloaf Crescent intersection via synchronisation of traffic lights at Robert St. and Edinburgh Rd. Neither of these solutions were offered in the plan.

Seen around the Crag

- The pedestrian bridge just re built in the Bulwark is welcome — saving some trepidation before crossing.
- Big police speed sign outside the school — nothing wrong with the concept, it's just that the awesome size of the thing is more suited to an 8 lane highway than a residential road.
- Glenaeon parents are *still* doing U-turns across double lines outside the school: safe turning around the islands should take all of 30 extra seconds.

Next CPA General Meeting
 Tuesday 24 February 1998 at 8pm
 The Agenda will be published in the next issue
 of *The Crag*
 to be held at the Community Centre, Castlecrag

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MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE FOR 1998

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 1998. 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.