

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Seventy three years of community development

January / February 1998

Driving Traffic & Safety issues

Our recent Castlecrag Residents' Survey (*The Christmas Crag*) highlighted traffic issues as a major concern in our community. With a rapidly increasing number of vehicles driving on our roads and needing somewhere to park, the problem is clearly getting worse and, unless we can better manage the numbers of vehicles on the roads, will continue to do so.

A recent serious accident on Edinburgh Road has highlighted the problem. Residents will be considering what the Progress Association can do about our traffic issues.

Edinburgh Road Traffic Calming

Previous issues of *The Crag* have reported on proposals drawn up by the Castlecrag Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Committee in response to residents' request to calm traffic on Edinburgh Road — the speed zone. Drawings of proposals for a wombat crossing at the school and a chicane to slow traffic on the "straight" outside the park were placed on public display in late 1996. With the crossing now in place (we are pleased to note with sandstone walls), Council's Traffic Engineer also advises us that a 40 kph zone has been approved outside the school and that signs for this should be erected soon.

The Progress Association has expressed concern to Council that the pedestrian crossing at the school is located near a blind corner for vehicles travelling east. It was suggested that a roundabout should be considered at Charles Street to slow traffic before the school, but adjacent residents opposed this. As a consequence of the accident on 30 January 1998, the Traffic Engineer has advised that he now considers further traffic calming measures **are** warranted. Council is drawing concept plans for roundabouts to be located both east and west of the pedestrian crossing and these should be available for presentation at the February 24th meeting of the Progress Association.

Eastern Valley Way Study

In 1997, the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) commissioned a study of Eastern Valley Way to investigate bus priority, safety (including pedestrians and cyclists) and local access with a view to recommending short-term improvement options. The Castlecrag Progress Association made a detailed submission to the study team on the issues of concern to our residents, namely:

Access to the Suburb

The Eastern Valley Way-Edinburgh Road intersection serves main entry/exit to the suburb and the section through the shopping centre constitutes a traffic bottleneck, especially during peak periods. Lack of a right turn light from Castlecrag into Eastern Valley Way is a major source of complaint by local residents.

Castlecrag Gateway

Modifications to the *Gateway* into Castlecrag could upgrade the amenity of the shopping centre, with improvements to the streetscape and relocation of parking outside the Eastern Valley Way-Rutland Street section. Suggestions also include conversion of RTA-affected residential properties near the shopping centre into a parking area; introduction of a community-based Neighbourhood Bus Service linking individual homes with the shopping centre; and changes to the street formation through the shopping centre.

Access from Morotai & Sugarloaf Crescents

The residents of Morotai Crescent facilitated a traffic management study of their problems in 1990 and put forward a proposal for traffic islands, to prevent a right hand turn out of the street and a left turn slip lane. Drawings of this proposal were included in our submission.

With the difficult access to and from Sugarloaf Crescent — it was suggested a solution may be the synchronisation of traffic lights at Robert Street and Edinburgh Road and/or a reduction in traffic speed on Eastern Valley Way.

Eastern Valley Way Traffic Study

The results of the study were presented to Council's Traffic Committee on 4 February 1998. The only proposals of direct relevance to Castlecrag are provision of larger and more prominent warning signs at Morotai Crescent, pedestrian refuges near Nos. 73/88 and Nos 123/126 Eastern Valley Way, and banning right turns into Warners Avenue.

Following the Traffic Committee meeting, the RTA Project Manager Gordon Farrelly contacted me to apologise for the lack of response to the CPA submission. He advised that all the points raised in our submission had been 'seriously looked at, but the consultants were unable to incorporate these proposals into their recommendations'. This is disappointing news for Castlecrag.

Anyone requiring further information can contact Mr Farrelly on 9935 7343, fax 9935 7337. (*Note: RTA has responsibility for arterial roads such as Eastern Valley Way and Council has responsibility for internal roads such as Edinburgh Road through Castlecrag.*)

Unfortunately, our appeals to outside funding authorities for action have not brought results — so either we accept increased disruption of our community by traffic or we can become more pro-active in managing the problem.

Solutions to reduce Castlecrag traffic problems would be a good way to bring our community together in 1998. Ideas for such a project will be canvassed at the Progress Association meetings over coming months.

Bob McKillop, President CPA

Seniors' Transport vs Shanks' Pony

The Seniors' Transport Service Castlecrag/Willoughby has been operating two mornings a week for two years, with the aid of a small group of local volunteers. It provides free regular service by private car to medical appointments, assistance with shopping, or shopping done for those who are too unwell to go.

Under the umbrella of Willoughby Community Aid, the STS is one of the integral community services which enable people to continue living in their own homes. The clients who use the service are aged between 80 and 94 years of age and are too frail to climb onto a bus, nor can they afford taxis (if they could find one, once out). They have a plethora of health problems, but greatly desire to continue living at home. Clients enjoy the outings as an opportunity to see the normal ebb and flow of life beyond the front door. They can also have a more substantial diet and better health because they no longer need to carry home the shopping with the aid of a walking stick. They 'don't know what they would do without it'.

The only problem that Seniors' Transport has is that we barely have enough volunteers to keep the service running, let alone expand it to encompass more clients needing to join the list.

We need help


Specifically, we need volunteer drivers willing to join Seniors' Transport, either as a 'regular' — i.e. for 3 mornings only in an 8 week roster period — or as a 'standby', for those unexpected hitches. Our rosters are flexibly organised to accommodate volunteer availability. Drivers use their own cars to take clients to Castlecrag, Northbridge or Willoughby centres. They assist where needed, carry shopping and sometimes do the shopping from a list.

This is ideal community work for those who work part-time, have adult children or who are active retirees.

Here is the crunch: With Seniors' Transport, we are trying to build something that will last. If it folds for lack of support, what will happen when we have to hand in our licences? If Seniors' Transport is established as a local tradition, then we can just book in to STS and remain in the place we love best.

STS is a pilot service in the Willoughby Council area. Ideally, every suburb should have one and it is our hope that the idea will catch on but to do that it has to stay and needs to become more widely supported as a community effort. Our senior citizens should not have to rely on Shanks' pony to do their shopping — especially not in Castlecrag terrain.

If you would like to offer support to keep Seniors' Transport healthy, we would be very glad to hear from you. Please phone Adele Barnett on 9958 6034, evenings; or phone/fax June Raymond (9958 4739, evenings) for more information. (A. Barnett)



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To comment or not to comment...

Progress Association DA Policy

Our Residents' Survey has given us some valuable feedback about DA comment, among other things. "Representing the community on DAs" was one of the top six areas in which it was felt the CPA should "do more", although there was less consensus about "reviewing individual DAs". In response to the attitudinal questions, CPA members strongly agreed (over 80%) that the "Committee mostly acts appropriately", but 46% also agreed that the CPAs should be "more conservative and transparent where issues may affect property values".

Initially, the CPA Committee drew up a interim DA Policy in 1997 and this was published in *The Crag* No. 116 (September/October 1997). The policy seeks to establish criteria for determining if a DA is of community interest and therefore something which the Progress Association should respond to on behalf of its members.

The interim DA Policy was discussed at the General Meeting of 22 October 1997. There was general recognition that the tight time frame for responding to DAs made it impractical for the Committee to consult with the CPA membership before responding in most cases and therefore, there should be an agreed policy to guide the Committee. However, there was a range of opinion about what constitutes "community interest".

Some speakers stated that where any DA "breaks the rules", it is of community interest, while others felt that DAs on private property are outside the interest of the community. As the committee needs to establish acceptable guidelines to assist in deciding if it should comment on a particular DA, members were invited to respond to the interim DA Policy in writing or by phone, but no responses were received.

We see a need for a clear policy statement on the handling of DAs. The next general meeting of the CPA will attempt to achieve this, when your input will be appreciated.

Bob McKillop

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COMMUNITY BYTES

Cleanup Australia Day, Sunday 1st March

Along with thousands of Australians everywhere, Castlecragians will hopefully be doing their bit to alleviate the pressure our rubbish dumps on the landscape.

A CPA group will be cleaning up Sailors Bay Reserve and waterfront, starting from the Leonard Teale Memorial Reserve in Rockley Street: for information on working this area, phone Kerry McKillop on 9958 4516.

Gay and Harold Spies will be supervisors again for Sugarloaf Creek — from the main waterfall down. Turn up at the vacant (flat rock) block approximating No. 65 Sunnyside Crescent or for more information, phone the Spies on 9958 8569.

Don't forget your hat, sunscreen, rubber gloves, thick shoes and a drink.

If you would like to find out which sites will be supervised because you want to help cleanup, phone Nadia Lucato at Willoughby Council, 9777 1000.

If you want to register to supervise a cleanup site, phone Natalie Berger or Jenny Ramsay on 9552 6177.

Australia Day Honours List

Congratulations to Castlecrag resident Professor Carrick Chambers, for his award of Member (AM) in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours. Professor Chambers was awarded the AM for service to the science of botany and its application in horticulture, as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and as a teacher and researcher on conservation issues and botanical concepts.

Carrick Chambers has kindly accepted our invitation to be Guest Speaker at the CPA AGM, Sunday 5 April.

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association

WEPA will hold its AGM on 9 March, 8pm at the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth St., Artarmon. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Mary White, author of *Listen, Our Land is Crying*. Dr. White, known for her excellent presentations, will give an illustrated talk on her recent book, the third in a series which began with *The Greening of Gondwana*. This promises to be an evening of much interest and information about the state of our environment.

NON-MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Griffin weekend in Canberra

Friday 24 April to Sunday 25 April

Organised by Walter Burley Griffin Society, we will be looking at Canberra with Professor James Weirick as tour guide describing Griffin's ideals, his belief in building Canberra as a defining act of nationhood, the political history of the time and how World War 1 derailed Griffin's vision. Stay at the elegant Hyatt Hotel or arrange your own accommodation. Murray's coach will leave Castlecrag at 6pm Friday and return Sunday approximately 8pm.

Please ring Kerry McKillop on 9958 4516 for details. Bookings close Wednesday 25 February.

Community Interest shown in Castlecrag DA

More than 70 Castlecrag residents attended a lively Facilitation Meeting at Council Chambers on 10 December, invited because they had commented on a Development Application for Sugarloaf Crescent. Residents expressed their varied concerns over the proposal and asked for a report to be prepared from the meeting to Council. Mr Greg Woodhams and Mr Jeff Ellis attended on behalf of WCC.



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Next CPA General Meeting

Tuesday 24 February 1998 at 8pm

The Agenda will include

WCC ward boundaries, Residents' Survey results,
Interim DA Policy,
traffic report and program for 1998;

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 98 NOW
TO AVOID QUEUEING AT THE DOOR

CPA Annual General Meeting

Sunday 5 April, 2pm

Election of CPA committee and office bearers;

Guest Speaker, Prof. Carrick Chambers AM,
former Professor of Botany, University of Melbourne,
former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney,
teacher and researcher on conservation
and botanical concepts

Sausage Sizzle before meeting from 1.30pm

THE CPA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS FOR 1998

Meetings 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: _____
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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. The names of the people applying for membership should be supplied with the membership fee. A person who was a member in 1997 will automatically be eligible to vote in 1998 as soon as the 1998 membership is paid (as long as the 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.

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. (C/- Newsagency 6/77 Edinburgh Road) by Kerry McKillop (9958 4516) and Adele Barnett (9958 6034). Contributions and letters received will be considered for publication where space permits. The editors' decision to shorten or otherwise edit copy is final. The deadline for the next issue is 20 March 1998.