

Council Elections '99 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Local government elections will be held on Saturday 11th September. We have new ward boundaries this time around, with four wards represented by three councillors each, plus a popularly-elected mayor. Castlecrag is in Sailors Bay Ward, along with Northbridge and the South Willoughby area.

Councillor Sue Randle, who has represented Middle Harbour Ward and was supported by the Castlecrag Progress Association for her election in 1991, is retiring. I take this opportunity to thank Sue Randle for her efforts at Council on behalf of Castlecrag over the last eight years. It is a most demanding task in the best of circumstances and few constituents appreciate the tremendous demands that the role of councillor makes on those who give their time to community affairs. Over the past four years that task has been doubly difficult on Willoughby Council. Sue was generally in a minority in seeking to conserve our quality of life and pursuing the interests of Castlecrag. I know she found the short-sighted political games of many of her colleagues very frustrating.

The Progress Association will not be endorsing individual candidates, but urges its members to support candidates who will uphold our objectives. This means support for policies to conserve the natural and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations.

A Network of Community Independents has nominated candidates in all four Willoughby wards. They are working together to try to achieve a more people-friendly and environmentally sustainable Willoughby City. They support policies that are closely aligned with the objectives of the Progress Association.

In Sailors Bay Ward, you have a choice of two Network of Community Independent groups. Elizabeth Lander, life-long Castlecrag resident, former President of the Progress Association and currently our hard-working Secretary, heads one group, with Tony Johnson of Northbridge and John Moratelli of Castlecrag as her running partners. The second Network of Community Independent groups is headed by Chris Komor of Northbridge, with well-known Castlecrag conservationist Gay Spies as his running partner. There are six other candidates, including the three existing Northbridge Councillors.

Castlecrag resident Ann Korner is running as No. 2 to Councillor Mary Johnston, and they are Independents. See Information on the Castlecrag candidates and their policies on page 3.

Voting is compulsory and for this election, "Above the Line" voting is being introduced for political parties and registered groups.

This makes it important that you check out the credentials and policies of each party, group or individual before the election and make your decision in terms of people who will support your interests on Council over the next four years.

Bob McKillop, President

Candidate Groups for Sailors Bay Ward

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • (1) Elizabeth Lander
Castlecrag | Independent |
| (2) Tony Johnson
Northbridge | Independent |
| (3) John Moratelli
Castlecrag | Independent |
| • (1) Christopher Komor
Northbridge | Independent |
| (2) Gay Spies
Castlecrag | Independent |
| • (1) Cr Mary Johnston
Northbridge | Independent |
| (2) Ann Korner
Castlecrag | Independent |
| • (1) Cr Martin McCurrich
Northbridge | Liberal |
| (2) Cr Eunice Raymond
Northbridge | Liberal |
| • (1) Trevor Morgan
Chatswood | Independent |
| (2) Di Burcham
(husband and wife team with
a business in Northbridge Plaza) | Independent |

Sailors' Bay Ward comprises all of Castlecrag, all of Northbridge, Willoughby South, viz: Eastern Valley Way from Covelee Cresc., Edinburgh Rd from Eastern Valley Way to High St, then along Mowbray Rd to Sydney St and down to Chelmsford Ave, across the northern side of Flat Rock Gully (including Flat Rock Drive) continuing east to Lower Cliff Ave, Northbridge.

Towards Regeneration

EXTRACTED FROM AN ADDRESS BY LOUISE BRODIE, BUSHLAND MANAGER FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST, AT CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY, 23 JUNE 1999

Louise Brodie admits to being addicted to bush regeneration. She has spent twenty years working at it, many of them with The National Trust, to re-establish urban bushland remnants all over Sydney. She also lectures in regeneration for the courses run by The National Trust, which was the forerunner in regeneration training and acts as contractor to many Councils and Government agencies.

Louise begins by remarking that Bush Regeneration is the sort of topic where the more you learn, the more you realise you don't know. Regeneration started as a grass roots movement and has always been community based in its push forward.

She asks what we think bushland is? "Some people's concept of bushland is not the same as mine, for instance. When we live in urban areas where there is not much bushland, a lot of people will think anything green that is not a manicured garden, is bushland. What we're looking at is native bushland that has been on that site for eons. In Australia, we are lucky to have native bushland that has not had an interventionist approach on it. The Sydney red gum is like looking at your 'family tree'."

Hawkesbury sandstone is very inhospitable — left behind because nobody could think of what else to do at the time. It was not suitable for orchards, for example. As we move further out past Parramatta, there is still a lot of bushland left, but it is subject to development and is not actually protected very well. If people don't start retaining some of those pieces of urban bushland, we'll lose a lot of it.

"We have all those dreadful impacts on bushland — stormwater runoff and land clearing. Where there were long blocks where once you had a house and a lot of land, we now put two houses on it with no bushland left. It's a very incremental creep; gradually the environment in your area is lost".

Compromise:

Louise talks about being asked to be reasonable and *compromise*. But compromise is never a one-off situation. "We were asked to compromise on an area 40 years ago, then ten years later we were asked to compromise again, and ten years after that. So what you have is an area that was 60% bushland is now 1% bushland".

Encroachment damage:

She talked of other activities that degrade bushland, like putting services through it, mainly sewerlines. Just about every creekline has a sewer line through it. In Castlecrag, the septic tank increased nutrient runoff in the surrounding bushland. People would then start

encroaching into the bushland with their exotic plantings, put in a barbeque and then maybe build a table and seats to make the area more comfortable. Children build cubbies and cut down small trees. So there are all these little things we do. "Personally, I'm not averse to letting kids play in bushland and wrecking it a bit, because from my experience, people who now regenerate the bushland all played in it as children".

Badly carried out weed control:

It still exists today. What would happen was that people would slash down a weedy area. All the weeds would regrow again and be slashed again. "Bush regeneration is trying to reduce the results we've had on bushland over time and reinstating the natural process of growth. Bush regeneration has become a 'popular term'. We're talking about trying to reinstate the natural processes so it can recover on its own".

Remove weed growth:

You might see regenerated bushland today that ten or twenty years ago was weeds. It could now handle a bushfire on its own, recovering again. Sometimes people think that when you've weeded an area, the weeds won't grow again. New growth includes some natives, some weeds which have to be re-weeded to allow the native room to grow. It's like a garden — you're always going to have weed. So the idea that once you've got bushland that is healthy, you can walk away from it — it's not exactly so (although our bushland can be surprisingly resistant to weed invasion). The really exciting thing about regeneration is that you can go into a 'hopeless' area, work on it and watch it change over a period of time, as native seed sprouts and grows.

You learn to read the site, looking at the history of it and can predict what will happen to it as far as natural regeneration goes. If you have weeds and natives mixed, you have to go in and hand weed it. Natives don't grow as quickly as weeds, but when you start to look more closely at a spot, the natives are *there* amongst the weeds. For this reason you should not spray the weeds, or the native regrowth will die as well. Quite often using herbicide indiscriminately causes a lot of damage. Focus on natives, not 'these awful weeds'.

Changed conditions:

Sometimes people have ideas about changing conditions in a given area. Where you have stormwater runoff creating moisture areas, people have said "let's plant rainforest trees!" Then we go into an El Nino period, all the rainforest trees died and the natives that had dropped their seed survived instead. When you don't get weeds, but no plants either on a site; when you can remove the negative impact that has caused this condition, the bushland will return. You can close tracks, stop vehicles entering, to help.

Bushland vegetation has integrated patterns — it depends which direction it faces, soil types, etc. Even small pocket reserves, trees on the edges of streets are indicative of what originally the area was. Change of bushland over a time period. To prevent stormwater damage, make diversions with rocks so that it will run down in small rivulets instead of gushing into an area.

Mulch will inhibit some regeneration. It stops natural regeneration as well. Forward weeding can prevent much damage and work for you later, when you move into that section of bushland.

"It is important that in the future we retain enough of those bushland remnants so we retain the *pictures* of what the bushland was like before we came along and intervened. This is why regeneration must take prior place over replanting an area, because it is the only way to recreate what should be there, naturally and historically".

Editor With thanks to Harold Spies, President C.C.S.

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CANDIDATES FROM CASTLECRAG

The following Candidates from Castlecrag have advised *The Crag* of their background and reasons for seeking election to Council.

Elizabeth Lander

Elizabeth has lived in Castlecrag all her life and has a deep respect for the environment of the suburb and the values of the local community. Her four children were brought up in Castlecrag. She has been a successful businesswoman until her retirement in 1997. Elizabeth believes it is important that Castlecrag has a voice on Council so that its special needs are represented, and has agreed to nominate to achieve this.

Elizabeth has long maintained a close interest in Council issues which affect the residents of this community and Willoughby City as a whole. She was President of the Progress Association from 1994 to 1997 and Secretary since then. She is a Castlecrag delegate to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations; has served as its Vice-President and Secretary and is on its sub-committee to review Council's Chatswood City Centre Strategy. She was a Council-appointed member of its committee inquiring into the FBL and currently works on the Council-appointed committees for the Castlecrag Community Centre and the Griffin Reserves Advisory Group.

Other community work on committees and executive date from 1966 to the present and include the Castlecrag Pre-School Kindergarten, the Castlecrag Infants' School, Walter Burley Griffin Society, WEPA and the Castlecrag Conservation Society.

If elected, Elizabeth will be working to:

- Listen to concerns of residents and provide them with an independent voice on Council
- Better manage development through integration of land use planning that clearly defines development; approvals which adequately address infrastructure, transport, social and environmental issues;
- Achieve open and accountable government;
- Protect and maintain public open spaces, particularly those that contribute to our natural environment and our public amenity;
- Tame the 'traffic tiger' that threatens our communities across the City. Implementation of the Castlecrag Traffic Management Study as a priority and chronic problems of Northbridge and South Willoughby needing urgent attention;
- Conserve the built and natural heritage.

The Network of Community Independents urges you to "Vote for People, not Parties".

John Moratelli

John is a resident of Sunnyside Crescent, where he lives with his wife and young son. He works as a lawyer in civil litigation for the Legal Aid Commission of NSW, after working for five years for the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Prior to moving to Castlecrag 4 years ago, John was prominent in the campaign to have progressive community Independents elected to Marrickville Council. He is currently Treasurer for the Middle Harbour Foreshore Coalition.

John is strongly committed to:

- Protection of the natural environment;
- Proper traffic control measures to maintain residential amenity and pedestrian safety;
- A rigorous development control process to ensure the interests of residents are properly considered and unsympathetic development avoided;
- The Mitchell McCotter Foreshore Building Line;
- Recycling program to cover plastic and steel waste.

Gay Spies

Gay and her husband moved to Castlecrag in 1978 and since retiring from a teaching career in Microbiology, she has devoted most of her time to environmental protection, also working as a National Trust trained Bush Regenerator in local bushland for WEPA.

Gay works on committees for: Castlecrag Progress Association; the Castlecrag Conservation Society and Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (President). She has represented WEPA on Council's review of its Bushland Plan of Management and Council's Heritage Information Advisory Committee. She is a member of Council's Griffin Reserves & Walkways Advisory Committee; member of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and the Middle Harbour Catchment Management Committee. She is a former Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Domain Trust.

If elected to Council, Gay's priorities would be:

- Open and accountable decision making;
- Commitment to Catchment protection entailing sound land use, protection of bushland and foreshores, improved water quality and stormwater management;
- A strong Foreshore Building Line (Mitchell McCotter);
- Protection/ management of Willoughby's built & natural heritage;
- Controlled development to maintain the character of the area with Council regulations adhered to;
- Traffic management for safe residential environment.

Ann Korner

I have been involved in local activities throughout the 30 years I have lived in Castlecrag: as the first female President of the Castlecrag Progress Association; as a founding committee member of the Castlecrag Conservation Society (with Beverley Blacklock, Addie Saltis, Warwick Jonas and others); as Co-editor of *The Crag* (with Rita Kaye as Editor); as Treasurer of the Castlecrag Infants' School P&C; I worked with the team which uncovered the Haven Amphitheatre; and lastly I have been President of the Castlecrag Sports Club and was very involved with obtaining a new lease from Council for the Tennis Courts. This experience helped me decide to stand for election as a Councillor.

My three children went to the local kindergarten and the Castlecrag Infants' School. Until my second grandchild arrived I was a Meals on Wheels volunteer and I work as a volunteer telephone counsellor for ARAFMI.

If elected to Council I will work for:

- Human Beings first! Fairness and Consistency for everybody, not just a selected few, in Council policies and decisions.
- Council spending and management of your Rates to be publicised more frequently, scrutinised and understood. More community consultation.
- A Middle Harbour National Park along the northern escarpment, connecting with the Harold Reid Reserve and extending to Castle Cove, open to all to use and enjoy.
- A brake on unrestrained and huge development along the waterfront, which will get worse with the sale of the RTA land!

Mary Johnston and I are running as Independents on Saturday 11th September 1999 because we believe that Party Politics should not enter into local government. When voting please place No.1 above the line for us. Independents: Mary Johnston and Ann Korner.

Network of Community Independents for Willoughby

Much of Willoughby Council's constituency has been regarding Council's performance over the last term of office with interest and conjecture. Interests stirred over Council's position on issues which determine where the different suburbs of Willoughby are heading in the next decade; on individual D.A.s, zoning matters, traffic planning and particularly, major issues like the future direction of the CBD, the FBLs and what it means for Willoughby's future development.

People attending Council meetings wonder why anyone would want to be a Councillor. A good question. What's in it for them? We hear what they say in debate and muse over their reasonings. Are they well-informed on the issue at hand? Or have they just taken a position from somewhere, full stop. Is their line of thinking in line with today's perceptions of what is needed and desirable, or some previous decade? No shire is an element unto itself, but part of the whole, sharing responsibility for the way Sydney grows and changes. Read any North Shore Times and you could assume north shore councils tend to forget that bigger picture.

This election will feature 40 candidates — 31 of whom are not Councillors seeking re-election — and many of whom are candidates only because they are worried about the direction Council is taking with the area they live in and care strongly for. They want to see a Council composed of people who are capable of creating clearer, more people-friendly strategies for the future.

Fourteen candidates across the four wards are have agreed they share similar principles and aims and hope some of them will work together on Council. Although each is an Independent, they are working with a network of community-minded independents for the same principles, as they have been working in community groups over the years.

The Network of Community Independents stands for:

- Controlled development
- Safe and healthy environment
- Open and accountable government
- Community strategy for the future
- Humanising our city centre
- Heritage
- Protection of our open spaces
- Conservation of the natural environment
- Taming the traffic tiger
- Creative spaces for Kids

Check out Council Candidates

The Northbridge Progress Association is holding an Open Forum, and is inviting all Sailors Bay Ward Council Election candidates to address the Forum. Residents from Castlecrag and South Willoughby are welcome to attend. It will be held at St Marks Church Hall, Malacoota Rd, Northbridge on Wednesday 8 September, 8pm. (Adele Barnett)

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Chris Komor, Northbridge

Chris was born in the United States but has spent all his adult life in Australia. After graduating in law, he worked with a major Sydney law firm for several years before moving to investment banking and was also a founder of a 'smart card' development company. Chris' early involvement with community work was as a long term evening volunteer with the Redfern Legal Centre. He is married, with two children. Chris believes his experience in investment banking coupled with legal work would contribute to the financial and strategic management of Willoughby Council.

If elected, Chris will work towards:

- Preservation of all open spaces in Willoughby, in particular the harbour foreshores
- Further controls for new development
- Open and accountable local government;
- Improved play areas for young children plus meeting needs of teenagers and young adults to occupy their time constructively, with pertinent after-school and community centres.

Tony Johnson, Northbridge

Tony has lived in Northbridge for 17 years with his wife and 4 children and works as an Asset Manager with an Australian company. Active in the Northbridge Progress Association (past Vice President/Chairman), Tony is a Council representative on the Northbridge Baths committee.

For 5 years he has been actively involved in preservation of foreshore bushland and the positive aspects of the Willoughby area and is strongly committed to:

- Foreshore preservation and strong FBLs;
- Clean waterways;
- Land use with community emphasis;
- Safe traffic management.

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COMMUNITY BYTES

RTA land in Castlecrag

To keep you updated on the fate of prime bushland owned by RTA and DUAP because of the abandoned Warringah Freeway: As you probably know, Council and the above departments are investigating handover/purchase of some of these sites in Edinburgh Road. The report will be complete by end November this year.

In the meantime, The Castlecrag Conservation Society has convened a public meeting on Wednesday 25 August at the Community Centre. Guest speaker will be Mr. Greg Woodhams, Director, Environmental Services, WCC. This will be a good opportunity to update your knowledge of this issue, another one important to Castlecrag's future environmental landscape.

Griffin Federation Track

The Walter Burley Griffin Society has received a Federation grant of \$29,000 to create the Griffin Federation Track, a public walking track which will link Castlecrag via Northbridge to the Bicentennial Reserve, Willoughby. Willoughby City Council also received a grant which will enhance work on the track.

Improvements for Stoker Playground

Stoker playground being primarily for very young children, the CPA committee is working with Council with the aim of upgrading amenities, fencing and better gates along its Edinburgh Road boundary. An extra table and seating has already been added. For local parents with young children, the playground is a regular stopover, so improvements will be welcome.

Conservation Area Review

Just completed is the review of the eleven Conservation Areas in Willoughby. New areas recommended by the National Trust are being investigated. In the Castlecrag Conservation Area a few changes have been made - to the Conservation Area boundaries at the eastern end of The Bulwark and The Scarp. Traffic calming, rather than high fences along Edinburgh Road was recommended. The rest of Castlecrag and the shops on the northern side of Edinburgh Road are classified as 'Between the Wars' areas. The Heritage Advisory Committee will hold meetings to consider this report.

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FAIRS, PLEASE

St James Church Garden Fair

will be held on Saturday 11 September from 10am-3pm. There will be plenty of home-made goodies for sale, plus the usual white elephant and handcraft stalls. Morning and afternoon teas and a sausage sizzle will be on the front lawn.

Donations of pre-loved goods, (no books, please) plants, cakes and jam would be especially welcome. Please phone Joan Gunz on 9958 1364 to donate items.

The Castlecrag Wine and Food Fair

Planned by Castlecrag businesses, this fair has been re-scheduled to Sunday 17 October to take advantage of the warmer weather. Community groups are still welcome to participate in the community stall at this Fair, which will be advertised closer to the date.

Environmental Wednesdays in October

World Habitat Day, Wednesday 6 October:

A look at the variety of local wildlife, their requirements for food and shelter to sustain a healthy existence, sharing the area with humans. Illustrations, leaflets, advice and assistance.

Weedbusters' Week, Wednesday 13 October:

Got weeds? Don't know what they are? Can't get rid of them? 'Weedbusters' can help. Handout information and helpful advice. Bring along samples of unknowns for identification.

Water Week, Wednesday 20 October:

An unusual illustrated display looking at the health of our strams and waterways. The impact of weed spread, pollution and soil erosion on water flow and how these factors can affect residential properties and the bushland. Information and answers given.

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Environmental Wednesdays are presented by WCC Bushland Officers.

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NEXT CPA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 24 August 1999

at the Community Centre, Castlecrag 8pm

Agenda to include:

DAs, Community Fair, DUAP/RTA land
fund-raising, Residents' Kit

CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Wednesday 25 August at 8pm
at the Community Centre, Castlecrag

PUBLIC MEETING • GUEST SPEAKER
Greg Woodhams

Director, Environmental Services, Willoughby City Council
will speak on DUAP / RTA land

on the abandoned Warringah Freeway corridor

ALL WELCOME

Where do your Election Preferences go?

Recent elections show they can go far indeed and can make the difference between a candidate missing out or being successful. If you want to know who will inherit a candidate's preferences after they have been 'knocked out', ask to inspect the list at your local booth on polling day.

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FBL Update: Minister replies to Council

On 4 August 1999, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning, Andrew Refshauge, advised Willoughby Council that he will not proceed with the draft LEP incorporating Council's proposed changes to the FBL under section 70(1)(c) of the Local Government Act.

Mr Refshauge said that he was concerned about the resultant impact of the development that would possibly occur on certain parts of Willoughby's foreshore, namely some properties along Edinburgh Road and Sugarloaf Crescent, if the FBL changes proposed by Council were implemented. Such an impact would seriously affect the aims and objectives of State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)56 and Sydney regional Environmental Plan (SREP).23.

The Minister stated that the changed FBL, if implemented, could have major detrimental effects in the long term on the environmental and visual catchment of the Harbour. He also considered that the changes recommended by Council are a significant departure from the report prepared by Council's own staff, but without justification. Mr Refshauge indicated that Council could reconsider its decision, using the line suggested by Council staff of October 1998.

Council debated the Minister's letter at its meeting of 9 August. While Cr. Kate Lamb noted that the Minister had set out clearly the reasons for his decision and said Council should address these issues, other Councillors claimed that the Minister should have provided a more detailed explanation of his decision.

Council voted by 9 to 6 to seek legal advice on the position of Council in regard to the Minister's decision.

Bob McKillop

momo

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