

## The Freeway Land: The Final Chapter

**The Final Chapter in the saga of the Warringah Freeway is being written. Residents won the battle twice over to prevent the freeway crossing the water from Seaforth and scything through bushland along the northern side of the peninsula below Edinburgh Road. Now we are trying to retain those lots still owned by the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning (DUAP) and the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA). They want the money and we want to keep the precious assets in public ownership. The alternative is private development.**

A team of consultants has been engaged by DUAP, RTA and Willoughby City Council to prepare the planning strategy for the surplus lands of the abandoned Warringah Freeway Corridor. The preparation of the strategy will involve a traffic study, environmental assessment of individual sites, a community consultation program and land valuation assessment. It is anticipated that this strategy will be completed by March 2000, to be followed by orderly disposal of the sites.

Much of this surplus land has already been disposed of, but sites which remain are of great planning significance. The sites fall into three main precincts; those around the Willoughby Leisure Centre, Naremburn, those between Mowbray, Alpha Roads and Eastern Valley Way and the peninsula sites along Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag.

As a result of direct action by our community in the 1970s, an inquiry into the feasibility of the freeway was set up by the Wran Government. This resulted in the Kirby Report, the Warringah Freeway plan was disbanded and the bushland given permanent protection. The Kirby Report is of the opinion that the bushland over which the freeway corridor was planned should remain in its pristine state. Mr. Carr lent his imprimatur to the concept of preserving this very significant urban bushland when as Minister for the Environment in the Wran/Insworth Government, he launched SEPP19 on the adjacent Harold Reid Reserve. In 1994, the Greiner Government tried to resuscitate the freeway proposal but was again thwarted by immediate and massive local protest.

Approval was given to sell these sites in 1994. It was decided that strategic planning issues associated with these sites, together with some adjacent parcels of Council-owned land should be examined prior to their sale. The process provides an opportunity for the State Government and Council working together to consider important planning outcomes for this land. Proceeds from the sale of surplus DUAP land will go to the Sydney Regional Development Fund, used to purchase other land acquisitions around Sydney. Proceeds from the sale of RTA sites return to the RTA for funding programs.

Of course, it is the Edinburgh Road land which is of most relevance to Castlecrag. These lots are: nos. 311, 313, 317-323, 327, 333, 296-302, 219, 223, 241-243, 245, 289 and 295, either *on* or as separate parcels *below* Edinburgh Road.

### It is important this land is protected because:

- it contains sites of aboriginal heritage;
- it provides habitat for endangered species, e.g. the powerful owl and the native quoll;
- it gives foreshore protection, preserving scenic foreshore values;
- it awaits determination of the location of the FBL;

- it gives continuity of vegetation along the ridge and down to the foreshore,
- it has difficult topography involving drainage & slippage problems;
- it allows public access along the Edinburgh Road foreshore and to heritage cottages on the foreshore;
- it provides real access should fire occur to cottages or bushland;
- the area is of regional significance because it is on the National Trust Register and the land is affected by a number of State Environmental Planning Policies, including SEPP56.

The Progress Association has corresponded with the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, with copies of the letter sent to the Premier, the Minister for Transport and to Willoughby Council, to ask that these sites *not* be sold and that they be retained as part of the now pitifully small amount of all that remains of the once vast green foreshores of Sydney's harbour. We also asked that the management of this land be passed in perpetuity to the Willoughby City Council. It would be a tragedy if these sites, which were bought from 1951 for such small expenditure and on which no rates have been paid, should now because of their greatly increased value, be rendered to Mammon.

So far as the sale on numbers 298-302 Edinburgh Road is concerned, we asked that the expansive visual views of Middle Harbour be retained and that some formal public access to the waterway be created to maintain the current usage. In an ideal world this land should also be saved, but perhaps it is the bargaining point upon which the more outstanding environmental qualities of the Northern Escarpment can be preserved.

The consultants are providing opportunities for community input to its planning strategy at forthcoming workshops and Reference Group (involving stakeholder community groups) meetings. The Progress Association is represented on the Reference Group and would be pleased to put any concerns you may have before it.

### Editors

## carols at the haven

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# Fifteenth of December 1989

Something within seems to make many of us remember anniversaries even when they are not celebratory. The anniversary of the death of a loved one is often remembered, as is the case with this story, which is not about a person but about the local school.....

Ten years ago on the fifteenth December, 1989, the NSW Government closed the doors of Castlecrag Infants School. It had been the heart of the community for forty years; an exemplary learning environment for young children, with lots of community input and where social networks for both kids and parents were formed. The reason given for all the closures was that enrolments were declining, which was easily refuted by the Castlecrag community by looking at the figures which showed near full enrolments. The argument then changed to there being three surplus classrooms at Willoughby Public School, but in fact, these classrooms were being used as a computer room, music room and double classroom for Kindergarten and were improving the facilities at that school rather than being surplus.

In fact, the closure was part of a proposal by the Greiner Government to sell off over seventy NSW public schools. Castlecrag Infants was catapulted to the 'First Fifteen' of this list in 1988, after a space was created by Dr Metherell withdrawing two schools from the neighbouring North Shore electorate where a By-election was imminent. As it turned out, all schools deemed for closure the following year were allowed a proper review, which is what the Castlecrag P & C had been desperately seeking, but never received. In fact, it was the protests about the political actions and short-term financial gain driving these school closures, which led to new legislation being implemented in NSW Parliament regarding the process of public school closures. This legislation is a legacy of Castlecrag Infants and the other closed schools.

Amid meetings, a local census, submissions (falling on deaf ears) and excellent proposals for maximising the use of the site, the school was closed. A public meeting unanimously agreed to continue to fight the closure and SOS\*CRAG (Save our School\*Community Residents Action Group) was born.

It was at this point that the rumblings at Castlecrag began a new chapter in the history of the Green Bans movement in Australia. Meetings had been held with the NSW Labour Council, who agreed it was in the public's best interest to retain the public school based on social, educational and environmental grounds. They agreed to place green bans on the site, the purpose of which was to stop the demolition of the school buildings, **on the condition that the community showed their commitment by maintaining a picket.** Work bans were also in place by the Federated Storeman & Packers Union & the Transport Workers Union — so furniture & equipment could not be packed or removed from the classrooms.

The community realised this action would make the site highly unattractive to developers and agreed to maintain a permanent presence, to enable more negotiation time with the Government. A caravan was moved on site on the last day of school in 1989 and a picket roster system was introduced involving over 80 families, in 4 hourly shifts, apart from the 'overnighters' who had ten or twelve hour shifts. A telephone was installed as the line to plug into people power and a 'telephone tree' was designed to get a message to 80 households in 10 minutes. **Despite hundreds of submissions opposing it, in 1990 the site was rezoned to allow medium density housing: up to 64 townhouses, for which it is still zoned.**

The closure of the local school brought the community together in a remarkable way — soon the caravan had an annexe, outside seating, then a barbeque, a stray kitten and a compost. Kids would ride their bikes and play in the grounds, have birthday parties there and week-end community BBQ's were frequent. The picket quickly evolved into a community learning centre and apart from the daily playgroup, classes in yoga, singing, life drawing, Bridge and Mandarin gave life to the classrooms. Negotiations continued with the Government, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Glenaeon School expressed an interest in the site. Whilst negotiating with the government, they had talks with SOS\*CRAG who made it very clear the site was needed for this community. There was discussion about the possibility of running a Steiner-based public infants school. However, it was later revealed that this was never on Glenaeon's agenda, merely a way of 'getting a foot in the door'. In February '93, a tiny notice appeared hidden deep in the classifieds of the Sydney Morning Herald, inviting expressions of interest in the Castlecrag school site. Luckily, a local spotted it and the Castlecrag Progress Association applied. Glenaeon was the only other tender (the ad was extremely well hidden).

The site was awarded to the private school over the community seemingly for political reasons — the Government had apparently decided it could not let Castlecrag win at any cost. Not based on educational, social, environmental, planning or even (the original) economic grounds but mere 'political face saving.'

The Government eventually sold the highly valued public asset for \$825,000 which included the entire contents — computers, videos, TVs, furniture, books, stationery etc. To compare, a nearby Griffin house sold for over \$700,000 around the same time. The community immediately offered Glenaeon \$1 million to retrieve the site, but its School Council refused. Documents relating to the sale were sought under the Freedom of Information Act, revealing how the community was betrayed by not only the Liberal Government but also Glenaeon School Council — which stung even more since its philosophy takes a high moral & spiritual ground.

On the tenth anniversary of the school closure, there is still unfinished business. Firstly, the present zoning is of concern. Secondly, assessing the value of the site, the NSW Valuer General drastically reduced the cost, based on Glenaeon providing Castlecrag with a rent-free community facility, valued at "say \$800 per week in perpetuity at 10% equalling \$400,000" (reduction in purchase price). This 'community facility' has still not materialised and perhaps the time has come to pursue it. The documentation is available to anyone interested, particularly legal people interested in seeking a better deal for our community. ●

Editors

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# The *Bush-Friendly* Backyard

BY LOCAL NATIVE GARDENER, PAT STARCH

The 'bush-friendly backyard' has been a catchphrase all over the Sydney region since its introduction five years ago. Taken up by many councils north and south of the harbour, it has been an important innovation. Now well established and rapidly expanding throughout many suburbs, the 'bush-friendly backyard' is proving a success. Here we give an outline of the concept and how it works.

Although most homeowners appreciate a garden to enhance their property, many find its maintenance an endless, time consuming chore for many reasons: a busy lifestyle, maybe it's too physically strenuous or gardening is not a favourite pastime. A bush-friendly garden or nature strip can overcome problems with maintenance, because once established, it develops into a self-sustaining, self-recycling area of low maintenance. It can be a garden which not only gives a distinctive character to the property, but is enhanced by nearby bushland reserves.

## The maintenance factor

No constant watering, no fertilisers, no insecticides or snail bait are needed (broadly speaking, insects and snails do not seem to fancy a 'native meal'). Weeding becomes minimal. No laborious annual pruning or raking up dead leaves. No replanting of 'annuals'. Little or no mowing if it is chosen to reduce lawn area or to do away with lawns altogether, planting instead native shrubs and/or spreading native grasses over those areas.

Many people believe that a native garden would be visually dull, boring, colourless and unattractive, which is certainly not the case. With a little planning and advice from those with experience in local native species, a variety of colour in flowers and leaves can be anticipated each month. Add to that the many varying contrasts in shape and size, both in plants and leaf formations and you can achieve a very pleasant, eye-catching garden.

## Enjoy watching native birds in the garden

Part from the benefits of a low maintenance, vibrant, year-round garden, there are three additional interacting factors of equal importance in the 'bush-friendly' concept. Firstly, the bush-friendly garden becomes a favoured haunt for local wildlife who will be attracted to the area as a safe haven for shelter and preferred food source, the 'resident wildlife' being a valuable component, within the self-sustaining annual cycle of the bush-friendly garden. When did you last see any little birds like the Blue Helmeted Wren or a Willy Wagtail in your area?

Secondly, native wildlife need protective bush corridors to move from one bushland area to another. The bush-friendly backyard assists in creating a link between one bushland reserve and another, thus helping these animals and birds to survive, in their endeavours to search for food and shelter as they move through the area.

## Preventing loss of bushland

Thirdly, the native garden assists in preventing the degradation and destruction of adjoining and/or surrounding bushland reserves. This is presently occurring rapidly by the 'escape' of standard exotic plants into the reserves where they quickly propagate, spread and choke bushland. It is often not realised that this state of affairs not only kills mature native plant species, but more importantly, prevents the germination and regrowth of new seedlings to replace the dead parent plant. The result is progressive loss of bushland.

Weeds escape from household gardens in a number of ways: seed can be spread by the wind (e.g. Crofton weed, Pampas grass) via birds and other animals who eat the fruit and later drop seed into bushland (e.g. Privet, Camphor laurel, Lantana, Cotoneaster) or by rainwater washing seed from the stormwater drains into natural creek systems and bushland reserves.

## Towards a bush-friendly backyard

The main requirements to consider are four separate layers of habitat to accommodate the needs of many different types of wildlife. Many properties already have some of the fundamental components established, e.g. tall trees, such as eucalypts or angophoras. Possums and larger birds such as parrots and kookaburras use this layer.

The middle layer consists of shrubs and bushes: *Acacias*, *Hakeas*, *Banksias*, to name a few from a long list. This layer is used by possums, wrens and other small birds. Shrubs provide nesting habitats and most importantly, the thicket effect provides a safe haven for the smaller birds from predators such as larger birds and cats.

Ground layer comprises ground-hugging or dwarf species of plants, small native ferns, native grasses, small reed-like plants, e.g. *Blue Flax Lily* (*Dianella Caerulea*) or *Lomandra* and a mulch of leaf litter. The low vegetation is used by a variety of animals, such as lizards, skinks and small birds (if they feel safe) and small mammals, for shelter and protection from predators.

Ground level includes rocks large or small, old tree trunks, clay pipes or any similar item placed on the ground, under bushes and shrubs. Strategically positioned in an open space, some of these can make an eye-catching feature. Any item not considered attractive can be enhanced by growing native climbing plants over them. There are a number of flowering 'climbers' ideally suited for this purpose. A welcome home created for lizards, skinks and other small ground-dwelling animals.

## Planning

Look at your property overall, to consider where and how the garden could be made more bush-friendly. Perhaps the property adjoins bushland reserves. Properties which do not adjoin reserves may still be not too distant from them. Whether it is a full scale make-over or a small renovation, all homeowners have an opportunity to create a bush-friendly backyard which will attract the local wildlife. The obvious suggestion is to plant native species around the boundaries, which can provide a safe haven entrance into the property, encouraging wildlife to discover, sample and linger in appreciation.

However, to cater for the roaming disposition of wildlife, consideration should also be given to creating a number of native shrubbery 'islands', strategically placed throughout the garden. This can be

CONTINUED PAGE 4

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## The Bush-Friendly Garden (continued)

achieved amongst those non-native plants which do not require frequent watering and fertilisation. Native plants (if given the right conditions) and non-native plants can co-exist quite well in this type of contained situation, where the exotics are not permitted to spread.

### In conclusion

It is recommended and important to use *local* native plants. The benefits are that these plants have adapted themselves to the local soil and climatic conditions and thrive. Consequently, they do not require much maintenance once established. Castlecrag soil is classified as Hawkesbury sandstone. The area is also divided into a number of climatic/soil variations:

1. Ridge top and upper slopes (sunnier, warmer, dryer)
2. Open forest, lightly treed, north facing (sunnier, warmer dryer)
3. Open forest, lightly treed, south facing (less sun, cooler, retains more moisture)

Overall, the majority of all local plant species can be grown in all zones. The exception is the south facing zone, where other varieties of the same species will be more 'at home', e.g. the graceful Black Wattle, *Callicoma serratifolia*. As with an exotic garden, native plants also have certain requirements in relation to the amount of sun, filtered sun, shade and moisture.

Before purchasing any native plants, take a look at our local varieties. Ask specifically for *Hawkesbury sandstone region plants*, adding whether the location is ridgetop or upper slopes, north or south facing open forest and whether the proposed position of plants will be in full sun or shaded. There are a number of plant nurseries in the Terry Hills, Ingleside, Mona Vale area who carry the specific Hawkesbury sandstone region species and would be happy to give advice.

The local native species or the hybrid variety? A preference should be given to the local native plants, as they are best suited. Genetically, they are a 'match' for their cousins growing in nearby bushland. They genuinely belong to the area, whereas the hybrid cannot lay claim to any of these characteristics, having been developed through manipulated cross breeding, the hybrid is an intermix of species. It does not occur spontaneously in bushland and is out of place environmentally.

Mulching is the final element in a native garden, greatly assisting in eliminating weed growth, fertilising the soil naturally with the correct elements and conserving moisture, keeping roots cool. It also gives a natural appearance. With time, as the plants shed their leaves, twigs etc. the mulch will be replenished to a certain extent, but may require a top-up every couple of years. Finally, native mulch may assist in natural regeneration of plants after seeds drop.

In bushland, it can be seen that naturally occurring mulch consists of leaves, twigs, rotted branches (wood chips) and eucalyptus bark. These are the most user-friendly ingredients for any native plants.

Mulch of grass clippings or compost are too nutrient-rich, which natives do not tolerate well; they will either die suddenly or look sickly, with a greatly reduced lifespan. When first creating a native garden — when no suitable mulch is available on the property — a special 'bushland native blend mulch' is sold in small quantity bags at Australian Native Landscapes, Terrey Hills.

Whatever the requirements there is an appropriate local native plant to suit every individual need. The result will be an attractive, colourful and easycare property. The bonus will be attracting the wildlife into the yard.

For further information, phone Willoughby City Council's Bushcare division on 9777 7756. They will consult with residents and help you determine the best way to transform your garden. ●

### References

1. *Bush Friendly Backyard kits*  
Ku-Ring-Gai Council, Manly Council, Pittwater Council, North Sydney Council, Willoughby Council
2. *Field Guide to Native Plants of Sydney*  
Les Robinson
3. *Native Plants of the Sydney District*  
Fairley & Moore
4. *Wildlife Habitat & the Bush Friendly Backyard Workshop notes*  
Danie Ondinea, North Sydney Council Bushland Department.

## Vale Robin Bowra

The Castlecrag community was greatly saddened by the death in London last September of our St James Church warden, Robin Bowra. We are comforted by the knowledge that she and husband Ron had just completed a wonderful tour of Europe and that her daughters, Sue and Margaret, were able to reach London in time.

She will be greatly missed but will remain in the hearts of many people. Her memorial service was held at St Stephen's Willoughby, so as to accommodate more than 500 people who attended that wonderful thanksgiving service. Our condolences to Ron and his Family.

**June Raymond**

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# a Big Fish story

**Peter Gill** has been involved in whale research since 1983, studying Humpback and Southern Right whales, doing whale surveys in Antarctic waters and being a guide on Antarctic expeditions. The author of several books and many papers on whales, Peter is now writing a PhD thesis on the ecology of Blue Whales. Here we extract from a talk Peter gave to the Castlecrag Conservation Society on 20 October.

Blue whales are the largest animal ever to have existed. Bigger than any dinosaur was, they are over 30 metres long. The heaviest known Blue whale weighed 198 tonnes — equivalent to 6 or 7 semi-trailers. The average weight for Blue whales is 150 tonnes plus; Southern Right Whales, weigh up to 80 tonnes and Humpback Whales weigh around 40 tonnes. There are 83 different species between whales and dolphins, who really are small whales.

## ABOUT BLUE WHALES

Cape Portland, Victoria is the heart of the feeding ground for Blue whales because of a unique disposition of coastal currents giving a plume of cold water laden with mineral salts. This allows huge blooms of plankton to occur, which in turn attracts krill, the major whale diet. The cold water upswelling from the 200 metre continental shelf to the 100 metre shelf provides a place where krill can feed on the plankton. Australia generally has a poor marine environment in terms of rich fisheries, so plumes like this are few, which is why Blue whales travel here. In this area, there are fur seals, New Zealand sea lions from Kangaroo Island, hordes of dolphins, thousands of albatross and shearwater. The largest gannet rookery exists in Portland. Squid, rock lobster and giant crab are fished off the coastal shelf.

Most of the whale feeding occurs on the shelf which is no more than 200 metres deep. Peter Gill and his colleagues have been observing Blue whales from a 54 foot yacht, which can cruise quietly and scientists can keep a lookout from the rigging. They observed one Blue whale as it popped up close, busy feeding, roaring along on its side, mouth wide open, scooping up krill. Its throat a huge expandable balloon, gulping 40 to 50 tonnes of water, which is then filtered out in around one minute, to retain the mass of krill which have been sucked in by the pressure.

Fast-moving, they sprint along at around 20 knots. Whales need to find patches of krill and try to hoe into them without scattering the shoals. Half of the sightings will be of one whale working alone, the other half will be 2 whales working together. If there are too many whales they would end up competing with each other for the patches

of krill, but 2 whales can help each other to spot patches. Normally, they would not feed less than 8 kilometres from the coastline, but Peter has seen a Blue whale feeding 1 kilometre from the coast. Fur seals like to swim on top of the whale's head while it is feeding — 'for fun'.

Peter claims it is impossible to see the whole Blue whale at once above the water, there will always be part of the body submerged, but looking at part whale/part wake is an awesome sight. They have a dorsal fin way down the back. They have a blue-grey colouring which can vary from silvery to black, with a subtle speckling pattern along the body, unique to the individual, therefore the identifying factor to whale watchers. They are called 'Blue' whales because if you are looking down at them submerged just under the water, their colour assumes the bright aqua of a swimming pool, very much brighter than what is visible above the water. It is not known what causes the difference in colouration; possibly it is a refraction of light and the texture of their skin. Blue whales wean their calves very early, at seven months and a weaned calf becomes independent and is classified as a 'juvenile'. Peter says 'we don't have a clue where Blue whales go to breed.'

The scientists throw a hydrophone in the water to record the Blue whale sounds; sometimes a high-pitched call, but their normal sounds are pitched below the human hearing threshold. With this, they are communicating over thousands of kilometres of ocean to other whales and it is known that as well, they use these sounds to make a 'sound map' of the ocean. So if a whale lives for a hundred years, they have an excellent mental oceanographic map and know exactly where they are. It is now thought that 'beaching' happens when the 'sound map' fails, the sound lost in the breakers. The Blue whale is not a particularly deep diver, whereas Sperm whales will dive down nearly 3 kilometres.

The best way to find out where the whales are is with a twin engined plane flying along the continental shelf in a pattern repeated every month. Recently, Peter saw a pod of 200 dolphins and has also seen hundreds of massed Giant jellyfish about 2 metres across.

However, a plane is a disturbance to the whales, the degree of which has been noted by researchers. A cow hid her calf when the plane passed over her 3 times. Peter attests that whales are always telling you things and you have the responsibility to regard the message. He uses a network of five crayfishermen to spot whales because they must continually keep their eyes on the water looking for their cray pots. Peter Gill is trying to understand how the Portland area supports the only feeding population of Blue whales between Antarctica and Chile, their migration distance. Where the krill is, is where the whales are. He is also studying records of 150 years of *El Nino* patterns, because effects from changing weather patterns, warming ocean currents means that krill can't breed and whales can't feed.

Unfortunately, the Portland feeding ground is on a shipping lane and ships sometimes hit whales, their vibratory noise disturbs them. Because Portland is the only Blue whale feeding ground in the area, Peter Gill is trying to create co-operation from various Government departments. Another problem is created by seismic testing for gas, which is very loud. Peter is having some success in his negotiations with the oil company, so they fly over the area when they are about to conduct seismic testing to ensure there are no whales in the area. Helicopters cause the worst disturbance.

The lighthouse at Portland will become a backpackers' whale watching base, creating eco-tourism for the area that is ideally placed to watch Blue whales and being land-based, does not affect them at all. It is a very encouraging situation to have the largest animals that ever lived on our coastline.

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# COMMUNITY BYTES

## Castlecrag Community Fair

**Bargains...Fun....Food....Wine: New local event for May 2000**

Next year Castlecrag is to have its own Community Fair. Planning is underway for the first of what is expected to be a big annual fun-day for all residents. The Progress Association is organising the fair because many residents feel that something is needed to help keep alive the community spirit which has always been a distinctive part of Castlecrag life. This is especially true since the Castlecrag Infants' School was closed.

Representatives of 14 community groups have already met and there is much interest in the event, which will also link up with local businesses to make a top fair. Expect a variety of market stalls, special attractions for adults and children, good food and wine and delectables at local shops. More details in the next *Crag*.

## Operation Caring Christmas: Christmas visits

Each year a St. James' Church care team set aside one day to visit the sick, elderly and shut-in people of Castlecrag and Willoughby, to celebrate the festive season. Home-made cakes, pots of jam or a bunch of flowers are distributed to these wonderful people. Their reaction to our visits has been very rewarding, knowing we care about them. A little happiness is spread throughout the community.

What a pity our Council are not able to supply us with some names and addresses of people they know of who could do with a visit and a Christmas cake. Does this mean our privacy laws are carried just a bit too far?

June Raymond

## New Years Eve: Big for some, lonely for others

In all the hype about *The Night*, I don't recall any mention of the people who have contributed most to the historically unprecedented peace and prosperity many Australians now enjoy. While we're trying to figure out how to get to the party-of-the-century (and home again), spare a thought for the many Seniors who have lived for most of this century, whose celebrations will probably consist of having a painkiller and a cup of tea by themselves in front of the 9pm televised fireworks. Sure, you can't imagine partying hard with Grandma and she wouldn't want to anyway. A visit to a Senior you know before setting out on your night could give much pleasure all round, and maybe some interesting perspectives to take with you into the new millenium.

Adele Barnett

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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. The names of the people applying for membership should be supplied with the membership fee. A person who was a member in 1999 will automatically be eligible to vote in 2000 as soon as year 2000 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.