

New Directions in 2001

Progress Association Committee

- President: Bob McKillop
- Vice Presidents: David Harrop/
Howard Rubie
- Secretary: Elizabeth Lander
- Treasurer: Diana Jones
- Committee:
Andrew Kirk, Peter Moffitt,
Gay Spies, John Steel,
Kate Westoby

General Meeting

27 February 2001

8pm

Castlecrag Community Centre

AGENDA

- * Warringah Transport Corridor land update
- * Castlecrag Federation Project

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION INC.
MEETING DATES 2001

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY
22 MAY
28 AUGUST
23 OCTOBER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE
NOW DUE- SEE PAGE 4

6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag

The Crag is edited by
Kerry McKillop (9958 4516) and
Elizabeth Lander (9958 5384).
Please send all correspondence and
renewals to above address.

With the new millennium now with us, there are a number of important developments and issue to report.

First, the Progress Association is tackling the new century with several initiatives. As noted elsewhere in this issue (p.3), we plan a follow-up *Castlecrag Community Fair* in May. In addition, we are seeking to provide more interesting and rewarding activities for our members, commencing with our general meetings. Starting with the forthcoming meeting on 27 February, we will hold our general meetings on a quarterly basis, with guest speakers and refreshments, to make a social get-together.

We are also examining ways of improving *The Crag* with better presentation and more local news features.

Castlecrag, along with seven other Progress Associations across the city, sends three delegates to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations. At its recent meeting on 3 February, four senior officers

from the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning (DUAP) attended along with the Mayor, several Councillors and Greg Woodhams, the Director of Environmental Services at Willoughby Council. The recent call by the Mayor, Pat Reilly, for a more co-operative relationship between Council and the State Government over major projects in Willoughby, provided the focus for much of the discussion.

The Federation provides a valuable forum for issues that cut across several Progress Associations, and this meeting brought a lot of constructive discussion. Key issues impressed on Petula Samios, Regional Director Sydney East, and her team were:

- the need for better co-ordination between State Government agencies;
- the need for genuine community consultation on new projects such as the Parramatta Rail Link; and

- strategic planning based on a long-term vision for Sydney.

DUAP is responsible for land use planning in the Sydney metropolitan area to cope with future population increase. This places it in conflict with local interests who wish to retain existing residential amenities. In recent years, Willoughby has met housing strategy targets by allowing large residential developments within Chatswood CBD. Council and DUAP have agreed to cap further residential development in the CBD, which may place greater pressure on other areas in Willoughby. The Progress Association recognises that Castlecrag is not exempt from this process. Arriving at sound planning outcomes in response to these pressures is our major challenge.

Bob McKillop

Behind the Scenes

As a result of community concerns over the future use of the former Warringah Transport Corridor land in Willoughby and Castlecrag, DUAP and Willoughby Council have agreed:

- the sites in Castlecrag will be put 'on hold' pending further assessment of their environmental values; and
- a new community consultation process will be initiated with residents near the 'Willoughby

Paddocks' land, using the process for a LandCom site at North Parramatta as a model.

The Federation meeting of 3 February highlighted concerns by residents across Willoughby that some assessments of Development Applications by Council officers are not sufficiently rigorous in ensuring compliance with planning regulations. Discussions are continuing with Council on this matter.

We can, however, report that Council recently had a significant win in a Land & Environment Court in a case involving unauthorised works at 65 Sunnyside Crescent, Castlecrag. The Court found that the developer had failed to respond to legitimate requests to comply with the approval conditions and awarded costs of \$60,000 to Willoughby Council.

Council news: Getting to know your local creek

As a resident or worker of Castlecrag, you live or work within the Middle Harbour catchment. A catchment is an area of land where all the water from that area drains into one river or harbour. This means that all the stormwater from Castlecrag drains into Middle Harbour. But did you know that if you live in west Castlecrag (near Eastern Valley Way) your stormwater drains into one of two creeks before it reaches the harbour? If your home or business is in west Castlecrag and is north of Edinburgh Road, the stormwater from your street drains into Sugarloaf Creek before entering Middle Harbour. However, if you are in west Castlecrag and are south of Edinburgh Road, the stormwater from your street drains into Sailors Bay Creek before entering Middle Harbour.

What you do at your home and work can have a major impact on your local creek and Middle Harbour. Stormwater pollution affects the health of animals and plants in and near the water and can make it unsafe for us to swim and fish in Middle Harbour.

Here are some ways that you can prevent stormwater pollution and help to protect your local creek and Middle Harbour:

- sweep up leaves and litter from your footpath rather than hosing them into the drain.
- when you take your dog for a walk, pick up its droppings with a plastic bag and put them in the bin.

- clean your paintbrushes and rollers over soil rather than washing them into the gutter or drain.
- wash your car on a grassy area or over gravel and pour any leftover soapy water over the lawn.
- put your litter and cigarette butts in the bin.

Remember, the drain is just for rain!

e.restore snippets

Damaged sections of **sea walls** along Castlecrag's northern escarpment are currently being maintained and repaired. Large rocks have been transported to the site by barge and are being used to repair the walls and control erosion. The walls are being repaired in such a way as to retain their original character.

Control of morning glory vine, a noxious weed, is being undertaken along drainage lines behind houses on the northern escarpment. Works are continuing on **stormwater outlets** behind houses on Cheyne Walk. These outlets are where stormwater from neighbouring streets discharges into the bushland. The stormwater has eroded the soil in the bush and to prevent any further erosion these outlets are being lined with sandstone boulders and rocks.

Council bushland staff are continuing **door knocking in Castlecrag**, providing residents with information on how to identify and remove noxious weeds, how to create a bush-friendly backyard and Bushcare.

These activities are funded by Council's e.restore environmental levy. If you would like more information on these activities please call **Erika Klimpsch, Catchment Education Officer, Willoughby City Council, on 9777-7942.**

Invitation: Bush Poetry Reading

Do you like the idea of enjoying a summer's evening listening to poems of the bush with a cup of billy tea by the camp fire? If you do, then come along to:

**Henry Lawson Cave, Nareburn
on Sunday 18th February 6.30pm-8pm**

Bring a mug and a rug/cushion
and a poem to read if you wish!

To make a booking please call **Dianne Eva,
Council's Interpreting Officer on 9777-7755**

'Willoughby's Wildlife'

Willoughby Environmental Protection Assoc's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm**. Guest speaker will be Dr Arthur White who has recently completed the first-ever fauna survey for Willoughby Council. Everyone welcome. Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street, Artarmon (near station).

Watch the Public Notice Board for details of events/open days during **Sydney Harbour Week 28 April-6 May 2001.**

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The community fair is on again

Last year's inaugural Castlecrag Community Fair was a great success, with well over a thousand people getting together in the car parks near the Griffin Centre on a beautiful day. Children enjoyed the jumping castle, puppet show, face painting and the usual sticky treats. Adults sampled the products of five wine makers, listened to live music and splurged on trash and treasure, books, handicrafts, local plants and homemade goodies. The only complaints heard were that the queues were too long for all of the different types of food on offer.

Because it went so well, the Progress Association has decided to make the Fair an annual event. Planning is underway and the date is soon to be decided. It will probably be in mid to late May this year.

What distinguished our Fair from all of the others in the area was that it was strictly a local effort - there were no itinerant commercial operators selling tacky incense burners. People from each of the suburb's fourteen community groups manned special stalls and it was very pleasing that all but a few of Castlecrag's businesses also pitched in, either by donating items for auction or by sponsoring some of the equipment which had to be rented. The Fair made a very small surplus which has been put aside. This will be used strictly for future community projects.

We learned a lot last year, so this year's Fair will be bigger, brighter and better! Watch for future announcements.

Andrew Kirk, Fair co-ordinator

Seniors' Transport Service Castlecrag/Willoughby

Volunteers wanted for 2001

For the last five years Seniors' Transport has been running every Tuesday and Friday morning, driving frail, aged residents who still live in their own homes to local shops for necessities shopping, or shopping for them if they are too unwell to leave the house. For the clients, (mostly women) it is sometimes their only outing in a week and a good opportunity to chat with old acquaintances they are no longer able to visit, as well as shopping and bill-paying done with the greatest ease. For the volunteer drivers, it is an opportunity to do worthwhile, pleasant community work, develop friendships with independent people of age and courage and to assist them in maintaining that independence as long as possible.

Seniors' Transport Service works under the auspices of Willoughby Community Aid, with whom volunteers register and are indemnified under Willoughby City Council's volunteer insurance. STS volunteers use their own cars and develop abilities of working with the needs of aged people. Driver volunteer rosters are worked out locally in consultation with all volunteers, who are typically asked to commit to three hours work one morning per fortnight, on dates to suit them.

Oddly, in the Year of the Volunteer, volunteers for all causes have never been in such short supply. Now we wonder how much longer we can continue without some new assistance. If there is anyone who is not too busy, we would really like to hear from you. For enquires, please phone Adele Barnett on 9958 6034.

Centenary of Federation

Did you know that Castlecrag has an important link with the establishment of Commonwealth of Australia? The powers that be decided that a capital city would be created and a world-wide competition was held to find an architect to design that *Ideal City*. As we all know, the person who won was Walter Burley Griffin, his winning entry being made even greater by the presentation drawings which were rendered so powerfully and unforgettably by his wife and partner Marion Mahoney Griffin. Time passed ... and in the early 1920s Walter and Marion decided to establish an *Ideal Suburb* ... called Castlecrag. Their vision for Castlecrag was that all building would remain subservient to the "priceless heritage" of the natural environment. Post war development made changes but enough remains, with the walkways and foreshores for Castlecrag to still be a different and interesting suburb. To celebrate, through the Griffins, Castlecrag's real connection with Federation, the Progress Association would like to put forward a Centenary of Federation Project. This memorial would be by way of the further planting of locally indigenous trees along Edinburgh Road so that, in time, it would become a living green sculpture. This plan would give credence to Castlecrag's association with the Griffins and acknowledge the significance of the natural environment. Some discussion as to the implementation of this project has been held with Council but we would like input from you, so do come to our February general meeting to tell us your thoughts.

Elizabeth Lander

Richardson & Wrench Castlecrag 9958 1200

81 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068

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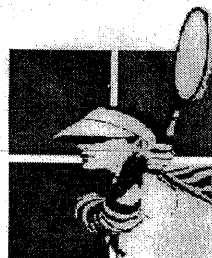
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Development Issues

The interplay between the desire of individuals to develop their land as they see fit and the impact of that development on others has the potential to divide communities. Local government has the difficult task of managing development in its area to ensure that the interests of the wider community and future generations are addressed.

Willoughby City Council has actively upgraded its planning regulations and guidelines to provide the public with clear statements of its policies and procedures. You can find much of this information on Council's newly upgraded Web Page at: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

At this stage material is available on Heritage and Conservation Areas, which includes the Griffin Conservation Area in Castlecrag. You can download DCP19 which sets out the policies and guidelines for heritage and conservation matters. Council's Web Page also provides lots of other useful information such as the Library, bush care and traffic management policies.

The Progress Association is regularly approached by residents seeking its support on development matters. The Committee believes that the Association has an obligation to make constructive comments on development proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

In October 1997, we published a draft policy on our response to DAs (*The Crag* 116). This set out the criteria that identify a particular proposal as being in the community interest, and therefore a matter on which the Progress Association may comment. It does so when residents formally make a request. In making such responses, the Association focuses on compliance with existing Council and State planning instruments, especially in relation to likely impacts on the environment.

Bob McKillop

Vale Bob Kardachi

Following the death of our local newsagent, Bob Kardachi, in November, Beverley and family would like to sincerely thank all those many customers who have been so thoughtful and kind. There are so many that Beverley is unable to list each of you, but she is deeply appreciative to you all.

Castlecrag Conservation Society Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the CCS will be held at the Community Centre
Thursday 15 March 8pm
All welcome!!!

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