

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF
THE CASTLECRAG
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION

No. 15 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1980

.....
NEXT MEETING: 8PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME!!

CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE
(OFF THE POSTERN, CASTLECRAG)

.....
CONSERVATION

by John Lee

THE MENACE OF BAMBOO

Bamboo has a particularly invasive and uncontrollable nature. Bamboo lifts paths and drives, penetrates foundations and drains, and endangers the bushland in Castlecrag reserves. The Castlecrag Conservation Society strongly recommends that bamboo should never be planted in the open ground.

Where bamboo exists, the following comments are made on removal methods:

a) *SPRAYS* -- The spraying of 245T has now been banned by Councils. The Department of Agriculture warns of the danger to humans of 245T, which can cause cancer in animals. Furthermore, 245T is ineffective in the eradication of bamboo since there is no evidence that it kills bamboo rhizomes, for though the plant is defoliated, the roots remain in the ground and reshoot unless dug out. Spraying is a useless and dangerous practice. Where areas sprayed with 245T are subsequently burnt by burning off or bushfires, the heat produces dioxin which is even more dangerous to humans.

There is no viability in the use of other herbicides to control bamboo, since to date there is no product that has been proven effective in the complete eradication of this pest.

b) *DIGGING OUT ROOTS* -- Ultimately, whether sprayed or unsprayed, dead or alive, bamboo roots must be lifted out of the ground. Even dead bamboo takes years to rot in the ground making replanting impossible.

The digging of bamboo is not easy. Although the root systems are thickly matted, they do not extend to a great depth. The first step is to cut the canes. Soaking the ground seems to make the mattocking-out of the roots an easier task. Generally a single digging will take the bulk of the roots, but further minor reshooting will require follow-up action.

Lifting bamboo roots is very disruptive to the soil surface. When tackling a large patch of bamboo, a good practice is to dig a small area, wait a few weeks for any regrowth that might occur, then follow-up in areas of reshooting. When there is reasonable certainty that all roots are removed, fertilise the cleared area (bamboo is a hungry feeder and may have impoverished the soil), mulch with leaf litter to provide protection and nutrients, and plant to stabilise the area before moving to the next patch. Avoid over-clearing initially because the ground so disturbed by mattocking will invite weed infestation.

It appears that in some cases bamboo was planted as a screen plant. The Castlecrag Conservation Society will willingly advise on screen plants which do not have the invasive roots of bamboo.

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HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG

by Addie Saltis

CASTLECRAG HOSPITAL -- condensed from Ronald Rivett's contribution to the "Castlecrag" book

Castlecrag Private Hospital was originally a Walter Burley Griffin designed stone cottage, built for King O'Malley. It was converted to a 5-bed nursing home by Dr. Edward Rivett in 1927. Additional land was purchased and with Griffin's help the cottage became a 20-bed hospital.

Edward Rivett called his hospital "Cabarisha" after a legendary American Indian healer. His vision was to provide a hospital which was less an institution than a home, in which people could be nursed back to health in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The grounds were laid out with lawns, gardens, ponds, fountains, and a tennis court -- the latter used by staff, the more mobile patients, and also by local residents as an extension to the community courts in the Courtielle Reserve. For years the hospital was very much a family affair, with Dr. Rivett's sister, and later his two sons, working with him.

Further additions were made both before and after the war, but the Topsy-like growth resulted in a somewhat rambling geography and a consequent high staff/patient ratio. Although the hospital was opened to other G.P.'s and specialists, financial losses accrued as rapid scientific and medical developments meant a constant need for new equipment and techniques.

Edward Rivett and his sister died in 1962. In the 1970 the two remaining Rivetts reluctantly decided to sell to a company with capital to develop the hospital adequately. Before selling, the Rivetts changed the name to Castlecrag Private Hospital. "Cabarisha" and its symbol of a Red Indian, while accepted in the first half of the century, were apparently misunderstood by some, who felt a slight eeriness -- even without seeing the place -- which deterred them from going there.

CASTLECRAG SQUASH NEWS

by Ron Foxon

Spring Pennant Competition - A few of Castlecrag's teams have slipped from grace over the past weeks, but the majority are still well in the running for berths in the Semi-Finals and Finals. Teams doing particularly well are: Ladies A6(2nd) and C5(1st); Mens A8, C6, D7, E1 - all 3rd. On the Thursday nights, 20 and 27 November and 4 December, Castlecrag plays host to the Semis, Finals and Grand Finals of the A1 Men's Division. These three nights should provide great Squash entertainment as the A1 Pennant is always keenly contested. Anyone wishing to watch will be most welcome, but be early. Matches start at 8 p.m.

1981 Autumn Pennant Competition - Persons interested in playing in the next Competition are invited to the team try-outs, Tuesday and Thursday nights from the beginning of December.

Social Squash - We are now approaching the final stages of our Weekend Round Robin. All Divisions have had some very competitive matches. Semi-Finals start the week-end of 16 November, Sunday mornings, about 9 a.m. Well worth watching!!!



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CASTLECRAG INFANTS' SCHOOL

by Alison Whittle (Principal)

Third term is generally very busy and this year is no exception! Thanks to the efforts of our hard-working parents we have purchased a lot of much-needed equipment. The staff and children equally have been delighted with the goods as they have arrived and are being introduced in the rooms.

We've had a screening of "The Little Convict"; year 2 visited Castle Cove School to see the Leonine Consort and we are also hoping to have the Kinetic Energy Dance Company here soon.

Our recently-held Spellathon/Numberathon was a tremendous success, enabling us to sponsor our Lace Goanna at Taronga for another 2 years, and to send a very substantial donation to Stewart House. We also sent a box of groceries to "Sunnyfield" for their fete. Now we are eagerly awaiting our "pictureplates" which should be here before the end of term. They certainly created a lot of interest and fun.

In November the three teachers will join the Castle Cove teachers and a curriculum consultancy team looking at particular aspects of reading. This should be of great interest and benefit to all concerned.

During term 2 we had two students from North Sydney Girls' High for a week's work experience, and in November we'll be having a student from Willoughby Girls' High for a fortnight's work experience. We hope she will benefit from her time with us.

On Wednesday, 3 December, year 2 will be singing at Chatswood as part of the Lemon Grove opening promotion. If you're in that vicinity, you might like to come & listen.

Friday, 5 December we plan to hold a "Carols by Candlelight" in the school grounds, with Leonard Teale as our special guest. Details will be available closer to that date for anyone interested in joining us.



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OFFICE
NETWORK

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

by Eric Kaye

To my many good friends who worked so hard in support of my election to Council and to the 1382 people who voted for me, my sincere thanks. In the next three years I shall work to improve the lifestyle of our Municipality and to provide good liaison between Council and the residents of Castlecrag.

I have enjoyed my first month in Council, and in this time a number of items of importance to Castlecrag have been raised, some of which are as follows:

OPEN GOVERNMENT: Council has determined that its previous seven committees will now be merged into two. These will be held in conjunction with the fortnightly Council meetings. With the exception of the Building Committee, all are now open to the public. It is hoped that this will encourage more residents to attend Council meetings, to which they are welcome on the first, second, third and fourth Monday nights of the month.

CASTLECRAG PRIVATE HOSPITAL: The proprietors of the hospital have applied to Council for permission to subdivide their grounds, thereby making available four blocks for residential development. One of these is the block on Edinburgh Road, currently used for parking; the remaining three are in the Battlement, east of Sortie Port. The Town Clerk has invited the views of both the Progress Association and residents in the immediate vicinity of the hospital. As submissions were required by 24 October, your Committee held a special meeting and has forwarded their opinions to the Council. We shall discuss this matter further at the next General meeting of the Association on November 25, and possibly submit additional comments.

PARKLAND AT 223-233 EDINBURGH ROAD AND PROPOSAL TO ALTER CARRIAGEWAY KERB LINE: About 4 years ago the Castlecrag Progress Association submitted a plan to Council aimed at reducing the speed of the traffic in Edinburgh Road, between the shops and the Pinnacle.

This plan envisaged narrowing the carriageway and making deviations from the present unimaginative alignment. Council rejected the plan at the time on the grounds that:

- a) the Police Department has doubts as to its efficacy;
- b) It would cost too much (approx. \$33,000 in 1975);
- c) The cost of maintenance of the nature strips along the new alignment.

A Council decision has now been taken to improve the park at 223-233 Edinburgh Road. The 530A Committee has now requested Council consider extending the park to the south approximately 20 feet into the carriageway of Edinburgh Road so as to:

- a) Increase the flat area of the park available to children; and
- b) Slow down the traffic in Edinburgh Road to improve safety.

continued next page...

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The 530A proposal was discussed by Council and a decision taken to continue with the work already started. On the question of the amended road alignment, Council has agreed to invite representatives of the Progress Association, the 530A Committee and interested residents to state their views on this matter to the Aldermen of the Council in the near future.

NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETING: We hope for a large attendance at our next Progress Association meeting on November 25, so that the matters raised above can be fully discussed, thus enabling us to present a view fully representative of Castlecrag residents.

I shall speak further of other matters concerning us and the Municipality in general at this meeting.

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"THE CRAG" is edited by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068, phone 95 4247, and published by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

We welcome articles from local residents or groups which are of interest to the residents of Castlecrag. Items of a political nature, other than those of Local Government matters directly affecting this area, will not be accepted.

It is the intention of this newsletter, published every two months, to promote amongst the residents of Castlecrag, a pride in their unique suburb, and through this a bond of friendship amongst neighbours and all who live here.

We hope that this newsletter will regularly be of three or four sheets, and will provide interesting reading.

Bob Ronai

R.W'S MENSWEAR

QUADRANGLE — CASTLECRAG

For Smart Clothing and Accessories.



CAROLS BY TORCHLIGHT

at the Amphitheatre
The Scarp, Castlecrag
Friday 19 December 1980
7.00 pm

- Bring your own torch
- Everyone invited to join in
- Bring your own cushion
- Donations for songsheets

As parking is very restricted, nearby residents are requested to walk. Transport will be provided from the shopping centre where plenty of parking is available.



Live Music with Lunch and Dinner

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Dinner: Wednesday—Sunday

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(between The Bottle Shop and Squash Courts)

BRIEF DETAILS OF LAST CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES

Correspondence: Received from Council regarding establishment of a Resident Advisory Committee to work in conjunction with officers of Council's Town Planning Department.

Sent to Telecom on relocation of present public phonebox from Edinburgh Road & Sunnyside Crescent corner to the park in Edinburgh Road, and requesting instalation at the bus terminus near Linden Way.

Sent to Council on reconstitution of Haven Theatre Committee.

Presentation to Di Street: Eric Kaye thanked Di Street for her concern and effort as our Alderman for past three years, and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Association.

New Alderman: Eric Kaye reported on his election as Alderman, the tensions of the elections, and the need to examine the unofficial boundaries of Castlecrag as agreed to many years ago between the various Progress Associations in this Ward.

Conservation Society: Bev Blacklock reported on the work being done in the Mills Point and Harold Reid Reserves.

Guest Speaker: We welcomed Helen Peterson of the South Turramurra Environmental Protection Committee, who spoke on how she became involved, bushland management and bushfire protection.

Warringah Freeway: Eric Kaye reported that our submission was ready, only awaiting refinement and the opportunity to see opposing argument of the various Councils.



Castlecrag Squash Centre

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