

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 18 MAY/JUNE 1981

CASTLECRAG -- REMINISCING...

by Addie Saltis

Guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Willoughby District Historical Society was Jeff Moriarty. His family bought land in Castlecrag in 1935/36 when Jeff was about 6 years old.

They lived for a while in a neighbour's garage and fowl house, and later in "Wee Jean" until their house at 215 Edinburgh Road was built. It beat the Government's war-time freeze on housing construction by the skin of its teeth, as building materials had been delivered to the site on the very morning that the freeze was announced and came into effect.

Most vivid of his memories is the carefree life which the children enjoyed, rambling through the Castlecrag bushland and fishing for silver bream in Sugarloaf Bay. Many of the residents at that time still lived in boatsheds -- everyone knew everybody else and neighbours were just extended family, so to speak. On one occasion he was even lent to a couple for a time so that they could decide if they really wanted children (an old Indian custom??).

The children went to Willoughby school, happily walking there and back along the water's edge, except for one momentous occasion when a "flasher" showed up at the White Hill. Police cars drove the children to and from school for a week until the offender was caught.

Other highlights were Crag parties. To his child's mind everyone had parties - all the time - and everybody came. During the war, with drinks in short supply, home brew came into its own and most households made their own beer or experimented with parsnip or rose wine. Castlecrag's home brews were the subject of a Hesling cartoon in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Mr. Moriarty has fond memories of many residents still living here today. They may be interested to know that a tape recording of his talk is in the Historical Society's files.

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, 8PM, JUNE 23, 1981, IN THE CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE, OFF THE POSTERN, CASTLECRAG. ALL RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS WELCOME.

Our natural bushland is a distinctive and unique landscape and is a valued part of our natural heritage.

Your environment is enriched by the bushland reserves in this area. The bushland provides for you a peaceful atmosphere, a resource for passive recreation and provides a habitat for wildlife, particularly birds, in an urban setting.

Willoughby Council, in association with The National Trust of Australia (NSW) by employing a team of workers trained in the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration, is taking positive action to ensure that a diversity of native plants survives in Mills Point Lookout Reserve, Edinburgh Road, and Lower Reserve. The weeds are removed in a manner which allows the native vegetation to regenerate and when it is stable it will inhibit further excessive weed regrowth.

WE SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING YOUR LOCAL BUSHLAND RESERVES !!

You can help by:

1. **COMPOSTING GARDEN AND LAWN CLIPPINGS** rather than dumping them in bushland where they will promote weed infestations.
2. **PROPERLY DISPOSING OF RUBBISH**, construction material and excavation material. This material encourages weed growth and spoils the appearance of these natural areas.
3. **DO NOT** permit the removal of native plants, stone or leaf litter from the reserves.
4. **DISCOURAGING LAWN GRASSES AND GARDEN PLANTS** from spreading to bushland from your garden. Due to disturbance of the soil, bushland areas adjoining houses are often densely infested with unsightly weeds such as Privet and Lantana. Attempts to eradicate these weeds using general clearing techniques will lead to an even denser weed regrowth.

The Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration is the only successful means of controlling these weeds and encouraging the regrowth of a diversity of native plants.

If bushland adjoining houses is planted with lawn grasses and exotic plants, regeneration will be difficult or even impossible because the soil's native seed bank may be destroyed.

Your assistance will ensure the successful control of unsightly and impenetrable weed infestation and help to protect our natural heritage for scientific study, education and enjoyment.

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ALDERMAN'S REPORT

by Ald. Eric Kaye 95 6146

I have devoted this report to the Warringah Freeway Corridor Inquiry because I believe to be the most important issue we have before us at the present. As you all know by now, Mr. D.S. Kirby will soon conduct this inquiry into the future uses of the corridor.

The Northside Councils, which include our own - Willoughby - have commissioned private consultants to prepare a case and will employ an Advocate Planner and Technical Directors to present their case to the Inquiry.

Willoughby Council will in addition prepare and present an individual submission. There is little reason to believe that this will be significantly different to the Northside case, which is expected to advocate the retention of the corridor for a future expressway.

Our submission is now with the printers and regrettably has been prepared without knowledge of the Northside Councils' case. I believe that the issues at stake are as simple and clear as they were 30 years ago, viz: *why should a suburb be decimated, and one of the most beautiful bays in Sydney be ruined forever for a road which, far from improving the traffic problems of our Municipality, will make them worse.*

No city in the world has successfully coped with its peak hour traffic by inner-city freeways. What evidence is there to show that Sydney would be any better?

The Commissioner, Mr. D.S. Kirby, said in his findings on the Kyeemagh-Chullora Road Inquiry: *"The participation of the public in this Inquiry has been of utmost importance. Public participation is, hopefully, a two-way affair. There was a time when people were satisfied to express their views upon the actions of Government at an election every three years. That time has passed. People demand a say in matters which intimately affect them. And so they ought. The Government and Inquiries are likely to make better decisions if they are made aware of the community's view."*

The message here is clear. Please help your suburb by expressing your view in your own way. A guide to making a submission to the Inquiry may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. K.W. Hardy, 4th floor, A.D.C. Building, 99 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, phone 233 5939.

CONSERVATION SOCIETY, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

If you would like further information do not hesitate to contact:
Ted Bowen, President, Castlecrag Conservation Society, on 95 1322
Bev Blacklock, Bush Regeneration Supervisor, Castlecrag Conservation Society, 95 6994
or Willoughby Council or the National Trust.

Since the last newsletter several important issues have been raised, which effect our community.

Firstly, an initial meeting was held to establish the Local Environmental Plan for Castlecrag, as proposed by Willoughby Council and the State Government. This meeting was well-attended and concerned residents submitted nominations for a co-ordinating committee which, when formed, will report decisions and recommendations to Council. By the time of our next Progress Association meeting on June 23 this Committee should be finalised.

Secondly, a public meeting was held to discuss the Progress Association's submission to the Warringah Freeway Corridor Inquiry. Unfortunately I was absent from Sydney and could therefore not attend the meeting, but over 80 residents were present and were generally in total support of the Progress Association's Expressway Committee's submission.

This was an excellent response with the majority of those attending being new faces. I would encourage these residents to attend future meetings of our Association so they can be fully informed as to new developments on this and other important issues.

As stressed at the Public Meeting, while the Progress Association is making a detailed submission, it urges all residents to make an individual submission if they feel they have any point to make. Remember, all submissions are to be in by July 3, 1981.

Finally, the Traffic Committee of the Progress Association had a very good response to its survey in the last issue of the Crag. The results are presently being assessed but if there are any more forms yet to be handed in, please bring them along to the next Progress Association meeting.

I see an active time ahead in the next few months for final decisions on important matters. The more help the Progress Association and its Committees receive from the community, the more effectively the Association can represent Castlecrag.

THE CRAG is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068, phone 95 4247.

Contributions, by way of articles on matters of interest to Castlecrag residents, are always most welcome. They can be posted to, or left at, the editor's address above.



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NETWORK

CASTLECRAG SPORTS CLUB

by L.A. Davis for B.R. Maley

The Castlecrag Sports Club, as named in its Constitution, has had tennis as its main sport activity since its foundation.

On 18th June, 1928, an Agreement was executed between the Council of the Municipality of Willoughby and the three Trustees of the Castlecrag Tennis Club, viz: David Charles Jenkins, James Faithful Cooney and Walter Burley Griffin; whereby the Council set apart an area of land "for the purpose of a lawful game or sport to wit, Lawn Tennis."

The Council made an advance of £110 available to meet the cost of constructing a court, subject to repayment at the rate of £30 per annum plus interest. Presumably a lawn court was laid down, later converted to a loam hard court, and then in 1977 converted to a stabilised court of loam mixed with 100 bags of cement.

The first club house was a sheet of roofing iron, against a nearby brick fence, and supported by some light timber uprights. In the early 1950's and after a second tennis court had been constructed, the Club with some assistance from Council created the present brick structure, which provides the basic amenities and conveniences.

The Club has successfully managed its affairs since its foundation fifty two years ago. The Club caters for some fifty six members, subject at present to a waiting list. Provision exists for Associate Members enabling them to play on Sunday afternoons and at other specified times. A Junior Club has been in existence for many years under the guidance of a male supervisor, with tennis according to age, in three one-hour sessions beginning at 7.30am, 8.30am and 9.30am on Saturdays.

Five mid-week Ladies' Clubs have been functioning for many years and it is not unusual to see male players also gracing the courts and keeping fit in perhaps the most social of all outdoor active sports.

Two "Daylight Saving" Clubs have recently been formed, tennis commencing round about 5pm and continuing till such time before dark as will enable the courts to be bagged and watered. The opportunity exists for Clubs to be formed on Monday, Thursday and Friday Daylight Saving afternoons.

Well-known local identity, Vic Burgess, now an Honorary Member of the Club, ceased playing regularly after his 80th birthday, but still comes along for an occasional set on Saturday afternoon. Len Chivers, who now graces the greens of Willoughby Bowling Club at age 80+ was a former President of Castlecrag Tennis Club.

Local residents or others who wish to apply for membership on their own behalf or their children, should contact any of the following:

Mr. B.R. MALEY, President, phone 95 0013 (13 The Citadel, Castlecrag)
Mr. J.K. GELL, Secretary, phone 452 2161 (37 Lady Davidson Crescent, Forestville)
Mr. G.P. GOLDSMITH, Treasurer, phone 95 3925 (15 The Parapet, Castlecrag).

NEW ZEALAND GARDEN TOUR

1 - 12 NOVEMBER 1981

Pamela Polglase, Secretary of the Australian Institute of Horticultural Science (NSW Div) is conducting a 12-day GARDEN TOUR in conjunction with HARVEY WORLD TRAVEL, CASTLECRAG. The Whaka State Forest at Rotorua, and the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, are included. It will be Show Week in Christchurch with ample opportunity to visit the Special Floral Shows.

For further details,

telephone Pamela Polglase on 913 9490, or
HARVEY WORLD TRAVEL, CASTLECRAG on 95 5519 /95 6203

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