

# NEWSLETTER

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 19

JULY/AUGUST 1981

### ALDERMAN'S REPORT

*Ald. Eric Kaye*

Shortly after my last report (May/June Crag) I was prevented from speaking on your behalf in Council on matters relating to the Warringah Freeway Corridor. This was because, as a resident owning my home in the Corridor, I was deemed to have a pecuniary interest in the outcome of the Corridor Enquiry.

I am pleased to report that unanimous support in petitions came from Willoughby Council and our own Castlecrag Progress Association. In addition, over 426 Castlecrag residents signed a joint petition requesting the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Jensen, to exercise his authority under Section 30A, sub-section 8, of the Local Government Act, thus acknowledging that *"it is in the interest of the electors of the area that the disability be removed."*

In his reply, Mr. Jensen said: *"After close consideration of the particular circumstances of the request, and the support expressed in other representations, I am pleased to advise that, while virtually without precedent, I have decided to grant the request."*

I would like to express my thanks to you all for the confidence and support you gave me.

CONTROLLED BURNING OF BUSHLAND. This matter, relating to Middle Harbour Ward, has been the most controversial with which Council has dealt for a long while.

Some residents in Korinya Road and Deepwater Road, Castlecove, had expressed concern at the possibility of a bushfire damaging their properties. The Board of Fire Commissioners offered to carry out a "slow burn" of the area's bush, as part of their hazard reduction programme, subject to Council's approval.

continued next page....

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CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, 8PM, AUGUST 25, 1981, IN THE CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE, OFF THE POSTERN, CASTLECRAG. ALL RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS WELCOME.



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OFFICE  
NETWORK

## ALDERMAN's REPORT continued

Extreme indignation to this plan was expressed by the National Trust of Australia, the National Parks Association of N.S.W., Castlecrag Conservation Society, and other concerned environmental groups.

All of these considered that slow burns caused irreparable damage to the ecology, and that hand-clearing methods are preferable.

At a very well-attended meeting on July 6, representatives for the residents concerned, the Board of Fire Commissioners, and the various groups mentioned before, all addressed Council.

After questions and discussion, Council decided to carry out a slow burn programme as a trial in the Castlecove area, and to seek the assistance of the National Trust of Australia "to provide Council with a package deal on a total 'contractor basis' for control clearance of bushland adjacent to residential properties in an area to be selected by the Municipal Engineer."

## CASTLECRAG MEATS

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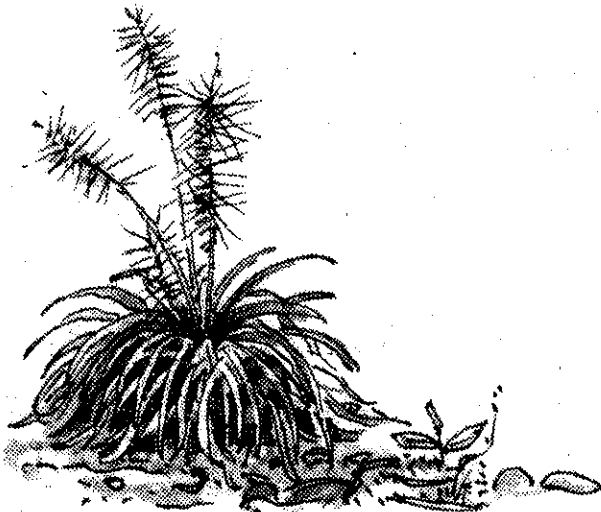
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## CASTLECRAG KINDERGARTEN *Sue Randle*

A first aid talk and demonstration by a member of the Red Cross will take place in September.

Group work is being encouraged at kinder, so that ideas are shared and the children learn to accept rules governing group living. This is being done through art projects, drama projects, outdoor and indoor musical experiences.

A meeting was held recently at the kindergarten/Community Centre, and attended by representatives of the Kindergarten Parents, Kindergarten Union, Castlecrag Community Centre Committee, Dept. of Youth and Community Services, and Willoughby Council, to try and find a solution to the long waiting list for the Kindergarten. Work on this is continuing.

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A.H. 93 2553

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gavin Thomas

During the last two months, most of the Progress Association's effort was centred on finalising our submission to the Warringah Freeway Corridor Inquiry. Further research was able to be carried out, especially on the northern escarpment area, as the closing date for submissions was extended to August 10.

Preparation of various submissions by or for the Progress Association have resulted in substantial expenses, leaving our bank balance with a deficit once more. Fund-raising activities have already commenced to try and rectify the matter, but several thousand dollars need to be raised. We are planning to have a community stall later in the year and require as many useful "throwouts" as possible. If these items could be saved for a month or two we will let you know where they can be dropped off in the next issue of the Crag.

To assist us in our fund-raising, we would be grateful for any donations. The sooner we discharge our debts, the sooner the Castlecrag Progress Association can represent the community on future matters of importance.

With the Warringah Freeway Corridor submission completed, there will now be time to turn our attention to other problems in the community. We have one of the finest bushland suburbs in Sydney, and, I think, the best one close to the city. We must retain the bushland aspect of our suburb regardless of all other considerations. The Conservation Society is very active in this area and several new proposals will probably have developed by the next issue of the Crag.

A review of our membership lists indicates several residents who have overlooked this year's subscription. For those who have forgotten to join, or residents who would like to join for the first time, please fill out the following form and send it off, to: Castlecrag Progress Association, c/- 60 The Bulwark, Castlecrag 2068.

I WISH TO RENEW/ APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOC.,

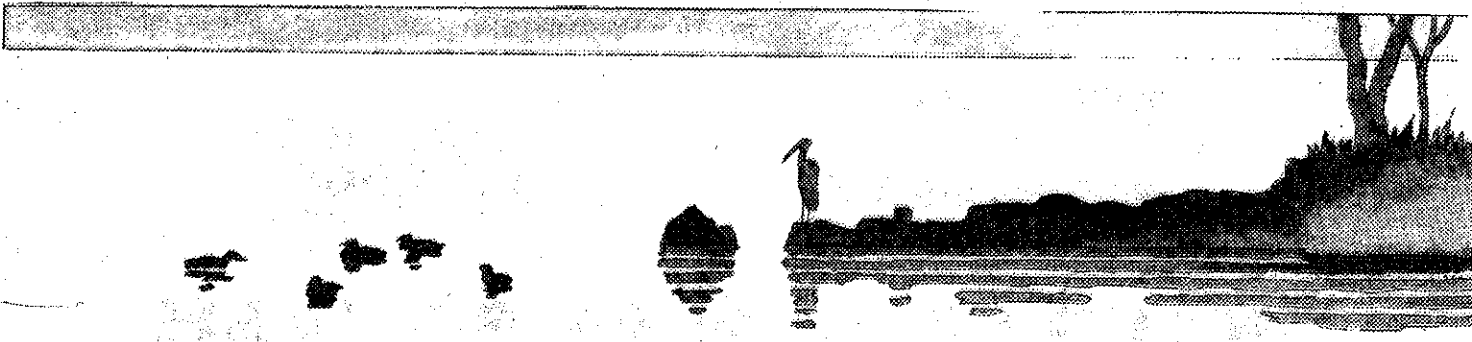
AND ENCLOSE MY PAYMENT FOR: \$4 membership + donation of \$6, total \$10   
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please  
tick

NAME:  
ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

(Please note: While membership has been set at \$4 per household, any extra donation you might be generous enough to offer would be very gratefully received.)



STALLS.....STALLS.....STALLS.....STALLS.....STALLS....

WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DAY -- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1981  
AT WILLOUGHBY PARK, FROM 10AM TO 4PM

CASTLECrag PROGRESS ASSOCIATION will be manning 6 stalls to raise funds for our submission to the Warringah Freeway Corridor Enquiry.

NEEDED: all types of bric-a-brac, books, clothing, records, cakes, jams, sweets, etc.

PLEASE HELP by checking through your old unused junk!!

PLEASE PHONE ANY OF THE COMMITTEE LISTED BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE ARTICLES COLLECTED:

Mrs. C. Burgess	95 5103
Mrs. Marcella Stevens	95 6936
Mrs. A. Luusema	958 1717
Mrs. Anne Korner	95 6059
Mrs. Addie Saltis	95 6409
Mrs. Meg Nicholson	95 6249

The impromptu stalls in the Quadrangle on July 24 raised \$300 with little effort. Please help to make Saturday September 19 a great financial success!!!



**The Quadrangle :: Telephone: 95 2196**

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## CONSERVATION SOCIETY NOTES

*Sylvia Taylor*

### BEWARE "THE BURN" !!

Although there is a serious lack of research into the ecological effects of fire on Australian bushland communities, control burning is still frequently advocated for "hazard reduction" in small areas of urban bushland.

Recently, Willoughby Council resolved that an area of bushland in Castle Cove should be burned by bushfire authorities when the conditions became favourable. This decision was taken despite advice provided by the National Trust, National Parks Association, and South Turrumurra Environment Protection, that an alternative was available which would provide a good measure of safety without scarring and destroying bushland and wildlife.

The provision of a firebreak by selective hand clearing, the method being employed in South Turrumurra, ensures safety for nearby residents while preserving the integrity of the bushland. It has the additional advantage of not encouraging weed growth. The "control burn" on the other hand stimulates weed growth and thus creates an environment which requires increasingly frequent and regular burning.

The Castlecrag Conservation Society is strongly opposed to control burns, believing no residents wish to look continually at burnt-out bush, but would prefer alternative safety methods which ensure maximum landscape preservation without permanent ecological damage.

The following steps are taken to create a graded firebreak.....

After a careful evaluation of the closeness of the house to the bush, the aspect, the quality of the bush, its type and the weed infestation, two zones are selectively cleared.

Zone 1: This is nearest the property boundary and is cleared intensively of flammable materials, almost to ground level, for a minimum width of 6 metres.

Zone 2: This should be progressively thinned towards Zone 1 with discretion applied to preserve the aesthetic nature of the area. The thinning is gradually decreased for another 12 metres. This method enables the selection and preservation of choice individual plants and does infinitely less damage to the ecology of an area than the winter "control burn" while at the same time providing the essential protection of life and property.

The next meeting of the CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY will be held at the Castlecrag Community Centre, at 8pm, on Wednesday, September 2, 1981. Everyone welcome.



## HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG

*Addie Saltis*

Well, I was wrong about "Maintop" (built in 1905) being the first house in Castlecrag. It was certainly the first Council-approved residence, but I now know that there was a whole community living the good life down on the foreshores of Sugarloaf Bay, out of sight and sound of Willoughby Municipal Council and the Sydney Harbour Trust.

The Trust's Annual Report of 1905/6 lists "unauthorised occupation" in Sugarloaf Bay by a boat-building establishment, two swimming pools "constructed and in use", and a number of boat sheds.

John Crew has a photo of Horsley's boat yard (since demolished) with a stone hut (still there) behind it. And an article in the Sydney Evening News in 1904 mentions excursions to Sugarloaf Bay where boats could be hired from Horsley's son and others.

The two "Australian vernacular" weatherboard cottages still standing on reclaimed land on the waterfront also began life as weekenders about this time, but we have no way of dating them exactly.

There's a good view of this tranquil bay and its old houses from the Harold Reid Reserve. There were weekenders and a picnic ground along the foreshores of this Reserve too, but all that remains now are a few stone steps - part of the picnic grounds I'm told.



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## HEALTH SERVICES IN CASTLECRAG

For the benefit of Castlecrag residents, we list the doctors and dentists who, to the best of the Editor's knowledge, operate practices in our immediate area:

### Medical

DR. GAVIN CARNEY            phone 958 1119  
27 The Quadrangle, 100 Edinburgh Road

DR. GLENN MACKINTOSH    phone 95 1081  
119 Eastern Valley Way

### Dental

DR. BARRY CAROLAN        phone 95 4557  
105 Edinburgh Road

DR. JEAN FOLEY            phone 95 6458  
61 Edinburgh Road

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.

Attached to this issue of THE CRAG is a report on Willoughby Council's Resident Advisory Committee for the Castlecrag Environmental Plan. This is provided by the Castlecrag Progress Association as a community service, but we stress that the Advisory Committee is in no way connected with the Castlecrag Progress Association, though by way of being residents of Castlecrag, there may be some common membership.

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RESIDENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CASTLECRAG LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN  
+++++

Subsequent to the Public Meeting called on April 30, 1981, by Willoughby Council, and chaired by the Mayor, Ald. Jack Donnelly, nominations were invited for a Residents Advisory Committee.

Council considered the nominations received, and appointed the following residents to the Committee: Peter Armour, Edward Bowen, John Davies, John Llewellyn, Ross MacLean, Robert Ronai, Dianne Street, Timothy Trumbull.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on June 30, 1981, in the Mayor's office, and included Ald. Jack Donnelly (Mayor) and Ald. Eric Kaye (Middle Harbour Ward, including Castlecrag), David McGowan and Deborah Sutherland (Council's Town Planning Office), and Elizabeth Thomson (Consultant Town Planner).

The Mayor explained the role of the Committee as an advisory body to make recommendations to Council on the needs of the Castlecrag Community, as a basis for the preparation of a Local Environmental Study, and later, a Local Environmental Plan.

The requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act were outlined. Various documents were distributed to members of the Committee, and included statistical data, maps, etc. Various other data was then requested.

It was agreed by the Committee members that Ald. Eric Kaye serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Discussion then turned to topics such as Foreshores areas, Open Space and Walkways, etc, to be dealt with at the next meeting with Council's officers, on August 5.

During discussions, it was explained that as a result of the nominations received, only one woman was selected to the Advisory Committee.

Subsequent to the June 30 meeting, the Committee met privately on July 8 and 15.

At the first meeting the Committee selected John Davies as Chairman, Ross MacLean Deputy Chairman, John Llewellyn Information Officer, and Peter Armour as Note Taker/Secretary.

Other resolutions agreed were:

1. Information, activities, resolutions and forward planning programmes of the Committee to be distributed to residents in the Castlecrag Study Area;
2. The Committee, at its discretion, will hold Public Meetings in a public place in Castlecrag on particular topics within its remit, and will provide adequate notice of such meetings to residents of the area.

The July 15 meeting was largely taken up by discussion on the formulation of a list of topics and the order in which they would be approached.

These two private meetings were also used as a means of the members getting to know a little of the personalities of the other members.

The meeting on August 5, at the Castlecrag Community Centre, was attended by Peter Armour, Ted Bowen, John Davies, Ross MacLean, Bob Ronai & Di Street, Eric Kaye, and David McGowan and Elizabeth Thomson representing Council.

Points raised at the meeting included dissemination of information about the workings and progress of the Committee (resulting in this report format); the unfortunate impossibility of all members being able to attend all meetings; the co-opting of people from outside the Committee to address the Committee on specific topics; the holding of regular monthly meetings with Council's officers at the Castlecrag Community Centre, open to the public to attend but not to participate in, as with Council meetings; and mainly, discussion of a highly detailed list of headings and sub-headings for the Committee's future work.

In consultation with Council's officers, this list was slightly modified and then accepted.

Meetings of the Committee with Council's officers have been scheduled for Wednesday 2nd September and 7th October, at 8pm. Residents are welcome to attend, and when requested by the Chairman, join in discussions.

For the benefit of residents, a brief biography of each of the members follows:

*Peter Armour: 36 The Scarp; Chemical Engineer aged 33; married with one four-year old child; resident in Castlecrag just under 2 years.*

*Ted Bowen: 60 The Bulwark; Geologist & Geophysicist; resident of Castlecrag for about 30 years; President of Castlecrag Conservation Society; Committee Member of Castlecrag Progress Association.*

*John Davies: 27 Sugarloaf Crescent; Solicitor; resident of Castlecrag for about 21 years; member of Law Society of NSW; former Director, Castlecrag Community Centre; member of Castlecrag Progress Association & formerly Middle Harbour Progress Association.*

*John Llewellyn: Director of environmental planning firm, and first year design tutor in architecture at Sydney University; holds B.Sc (architecture) Syd. and certificate in Horticulture from Ryde; lived in Castlecrag since 1977; main interests are landscape planning and rational management of natural resources; Lives in the "Glasshouse", 80 The Bulwark.*

*Ross MacLean: 343 Edinburgh Road; 34 years old, married with 6 month old daughter; moved into Castlecrag about 1½ years ago; Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Town & Country Planning; own Architecture & Town Planning practice, lecturer in Architecture, Planning & Design; specialist consultant to Australian Industrial Design Council; member of National Convocation on Rehabilitation Engineering.*

*Bob Ronai: 103 Edinburgh Road; 35, married with two small children; lived in Castlecrag 32 years; Shipping Manager for large textile company; Diploma, Aust. Institute of Export; Committee member & Editor, Castlecrag Progress Association; President, Castlecrag Community Centre Committee.*

*Di Street: 9 The Barbican; resident in Castlecrag 24 years; International Tour Director; past committee member Castlecrag Kindergarten & Castlecrag Infants School; Vice-President, Castlecrag Progress Association; member, National Trust, Willoughby Historical Society; Alderman, Willoughby Council 1977-1980; member, Sydney Harbour Foreshores Committee; co-ordinator, Castlecrag Festival, 1976.*

*Tim Trumbull: 16 Sugarloaf Crescent; 35, married with two young children; Chartered Accountant; Secretary of Willoughby Rugby Union Club, & coach of under 9's; believes in open government, and government responsible to the electorate not the elected. Lived in Castlecrag about 3 years.*