

# THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

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CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY LIBRARY

April, 1978.

We're bringing you our second issue a couple of weeks earlier than planned, to tell you about our fund-raising AUCTION. As mentioned last issue, we must raise several thousand dollars to cover legal expenses in our fight against the shopping development, and we are most gratified by the marvellous response to our little membership/donation form.

If you'd like to join the Castlecrag Progress Association, just send your cheque for say \$10 or \$20 or more (\$4 membership plus donation) to us at c/- 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag.

Bob Ronai - Secretary

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## A U C T I O N

A C O M M U N I T Y A F F A I R  
S A T U R D A Y , 2 9 A P R I L  
1 1 a.m. (on view from 9 a.m.)  
C A R P A R K (outside cellars)

Check your attic!

Clear your garage!

Clean your cupboards!

"One man's junk is another man's joy"

### WANTED URGENTLY

Old or new paintings, jewellery, furniture, bric-a-brac, books, toys, records, tools, antiques, unwanted gifts - new or in good condition. WE WILL COLLECT ONE WEEK BEFORE THE AUCTION. Just contact:

Mrs. J. Wright	95 5400	Mrs. H. Wright	95 4703
Mrs. A. Saltis	95 6409	Mrs. B. Blacklock	95 6994
Mrs. A. Korner	95 6059		

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## C O N S E R V A T I O N S O C I E T Y N O T E S

April is an ideal time to plant, particularly local (indigenous) Australian species. Angophora costata - sometimes called Sydney Red Gum - is fast disappearing from Castlecrag and in fact, from of all Sydney Harbour. It can be planted as a garden or street tree.

Autumn is also banksia flowering time. Common local varieties include Banksia ericifolia (the huge orange-bronze flowers provide food for more species of birds than any other native shrub in Sydney). Banksia integrifolia, with beautiful lemon-yellow brushes, and of course Banksia serrata, the "Old Man Banksia" of Snugglepot & Cuddlepie fame.

NOT so abundant anymore, and smaller-growing varieties, are the Banksia spinulosa (Hairpin Banksia) with orange flowers, and Banksia asplenifolia with beautiful velvety rust coloured new leaves.

Autumn flowering eucalypts suitable for the garden are the pink flowering ironbark, Eucalyptus sideroxylon-rosea, the magenta flowering leucoxylon-rosea. As they are not indigenous they should not be planted in public reserves or natural bushland areas.

If you would like assistance with advice on how to select the most suitable plants, or help with obtaining them, phone 95 6994. If you are interested in regenerating the public areas adjoining your property, Council will provide the appropriate plants if arranged by the Castlecrag Conservation Society.

Beverley Blacklock

HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG  
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1. Before the White Man

The native tribes who lived on our coastline before us knew the north side of the harbour as Cam-mer-ay or Cam-ee-ra and its people as Cameragal. "The tribe of Cameragal is of all the most numerous and powerful. Their superiority probably arose from possessing the best fishing ground." They exercised considerable authority, having the "exclusive and extraordinary privilege of exacting a tooth from the natives of other tribes inhabiting the sea-coast.... many contests, or decisions of honour have been delayed until the arrival of these people."

Understandably, they were much feared and hated. "Whenever Bennelong recounted his battles... the most violent exclamations of rage and vengeance against his competitors in arms, those of the tribe called Cam-ee-ra-gal in particular, would burst from him. And he never failed at such times to solicit the Governor to accompany him, with a body of soldiers, in order that he might exterminate this hated name."

His longing has been satisfied. Today very little evidence of their existence remains on our peninsular. In the 1940's there were still many middens (native rubbish heaps) evident along our foreshores, but these are now lost beneath the undergrowth and lantana. If you feel like exploring, I'm told there is a 100 foot long cave behind Sunnyside Crescent, which had a 6 foot high midden beside it. Bim Hilder also remembers a cave on our northern slopes decorated with blown stencil paintings of hands. The site now seems to be occupied by a swimming pool!

A.S.

Quotes are from Watkin Tench: "Sydney's first four years" 1793 (available from the Castlecrag Community Library) and David Collins: "Account of the English Colony in N.S.W." 1798.

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A L D E R M A N ' S R E P O R T  
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Now that it is autumn, we could have an all-out drive to put our gardens and bush reserves in order, just a little love and attention would work wonders. Particularly some of the nature strips could be attended to - I know it's Council's job, but we do it so much better!

If your neighbour is no longer able to maintain the front of their nature strip, maybe the younger members of the community could assist with mowing lawns etc.

Sadly, many of our attractive shady tree-lined streets are showing visible signs of neglect. Several residents show total disinterest for their suburb and the voluntary work done here, by continually dumping their rubbish on the reserves, by the roadside or in the bush. This does more to destroy our environment than anything else, and continuing this abuse lowers the value of your property.

If you cannot physically help to do a little for your suburb, a donation to the Progress Association would be very much appreciated, so that others may help you.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE: Preliminary documentation of Castlecrag as a Historical Suburb has now been completed and submitted to the National Trust for their consideration.

We would like to thank Mrs. Addie Saltis for her efforts in compiling the detailed information... it is very time-consuming work. Mrs. Saltis would appreciate any relevant information about the early history of the suburb.

(Ald.) Dianne Street,  
9 The Barbican,  
Castlecrag.