

### **NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

No. 23

MARCH/APRIL, 1982

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ann Korner

The Castleerag Progress Association at its Annual General Meeting on February 23, 1982, elected a new Committee for 1982. The members are:

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

"Crag" Editor:

Ann Korner

Marcella Stevens

Timothy Trumbull

Judy Bowen

Bob Ronai

"Crag" Distributor: Megan Nicholson

Committee: Beverly Blacklock

Ted Burke

Dorothy Frazer

Christine Rosten

Howard Rubie

Addie Saltis John Steele

Gavin Thomas

Eunice Worrall

prieral Meetings of the Progress Association will be held on the last Tuesday of every second month: April 27, June 29, August 31, October 26, and if any important business arises, December 28. Reminders will be published in each issue of the "Craq".

Committee meetings are held on the alternate months. We would welcome suggestions for discussion at the Association meetings and we plan to have a quest speaker on some of

The year has started with the Warringah Transport Corridor Inquiry. The Castlecrag Progress Association and the Total Environment Centre's submissions are now with Mr. David Kirby. This was all made possible by the generous support we have received from some local residents and the tremendous amount of time and effort devoted by our Alderman Mr. Eric Kaye. Mr. Kaye, Mr. Ken Thomas, Dr. Garth Nicholson, Mr. John Crew. Mrs. Chris Rosten and others will represent us at the hearing currently being held.

As this is the "Year of the Tree" the Progress Association would like to work with, and support, the Conservation Society. The work of restoring Bim Hilder's fountain outside the hospital is already under discussion with the sculptor and Council.

Three well-known and respected members of the community recently died: Mrs. Ernestine Claridge, Mr. Adi Tausig, and Mr. Joe Northey. The Progress Association would like to plant trees in their honour. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.

The Castlecrag Environmental Study is progressing well, as reported elsewhere this "Crag", but it should be noted that on completion, Government approval cannot be given until a decision is made on the future of the Warringah Transport Corridor.

As everyone in Castlecrag knows, we would be more adversely affected by a decision to re-instate the freeway corridor than any other suburb in Sydney. Consequently, the recommendations which will be made by Mr. Kirby are vital to us. Oral submissions to the Inquiry are now being heard and strong representations are being made by our Progress Association, our Conservation Society and other groups of residents.

Fortunately our case has been given great support by the Dept. of Planning & Environment, who in their submission made the following recommendation:
"Genstruction of a major transport facility in the former corridor cannot be economically justified in the absence of major population growth. This is likely to put the project into the late nineties or beyond. Imposition of a statutory reservation has major costs, which cannot be justified given the likely duration of the 'no build' period. It is RECOMMENDED that the County Road Reservation NOT be reinstated."

Changing subjects, I would like to inform you of Willoughby Council's involvement in the Arts, which continues to expand and attempts to reach all sectors of the community.

Council's support for the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and the Municipal Band has increased this year, by the provision of a first class rehearsal room, just completed on the 5th floor of the Council Chambers. This excellent facility for both Orchestra and Band frees the Civic Centre halls for public lettings, at times which previously were set aside for rehearsals. Support for both these groups from the community is high.

More unusual encouragement of the Arts is Council's support and financial assistance for the Mural, ar present being painted in the Artarmon Railway Station subway. This Mural, which is transforming a previously dreary and depressing area into one of colour and excitement, was commissioned to help celebrate the 10th Annual Willoughby Festival.

In June, Council will be presented with the Willoughby Wonderbus, fondly called "Willy", by the Chatswood Rotaract Club, who have raised the money to purchase this multi-purpose bus. The bus will be used by various community groups to provide arts and crafts activities in parks, as an information agent in shopping centres, and provide specialised activities in nursing homes, schools and other institutions. Community groups interested in manning the bus should contact the Head of Community Services Dept. at Willoughby Council, Mrs. Gillian McFee, on 412 3333 ext. 177.

Other programmes being planned are the Theatre Experience Fornight during the May School Holidays, which aims to give schoolchildren insight and skills in all aspects of Theatre. Enquiries to the Community Arts Officer, Mrs. Sue Alvarez on 412 3333, ext. 110.

Free lunch-time films are shown every Wednesday in the Bailey Hall, Victoria Avenue, from 12.05pm to 1.00pm and 1.05pm to 2.00pm.

By supporting Arts activities in the Municipality, Council actively works towards building a vigorous cultural heritage.

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, 8pm, APRIL 27, 1982, in the Castlecrag Community Centre, off The Postern, Castlecrag, ALL RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS ARE MOST WELCOME.

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#### HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG -- RICHARD HAYES HARNETT

-Addie Saltis

Richard Hayes Harnett interests us because he owned about 65 acres of Castlecrag in the late 1800's. These were the land grants which later became the Torquay Estate, Sailor's by Estate and Warner's Dairy.

Born in Ireland, he came to Sydney in 1840. A legacy in 1871 launched him into land development. It has been estimated that by 1888 he held 1685 acres on the North Shore -- in Mosman, North Sydney, Gore Hill, Longueville, Willoughby, Chatswood and Pymble.

He is best known as the Father of Mosman, which suburb he opened up for development by providing horse-bus and ferry transport.

Harnett was Mayor of Willoughby in 1871. His residence, later known as Valetta, was a

North Shore landmark in the 1880's. It stood in 30 acres of exotic garden on the site now occupied by the North Sydney Technical College.

The story I like best about him concerns his second wife, Charlotte, generally known as Chattie. She reputedly had a favourite picnic spot which the family named Chat's wood. When the land was veloped and subdivided, the name remained.

#### UTILITY SERVICES SURVEY

Peter Armour, a member of the Castlecrag Environmental Study Committee, is preparing a report for that Committee on services such as Water, Sewerage, Drainage, Telephone, Mails, TV reception, Electricity, Gas, etc.

He is interested in learning of any longterm unresolved problems which might have a bearing on the Environmental Study, so that they can be considered and hopefully acted upon.

If you can help, please contact Peter Armour on 95 6498.

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#### CONSERVATION SOCIETY REPORT

Chris Rosten

As you know, Willoughby Council in association with the National Trust of Australia, by employing teams of workers trained in the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration, is taking positive action to ensure that a diversity of native plants survives in reserves in Castlecrag. 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 growth.

The National Trust Bush Regeneration teams working in Castlecray are comprised of residents from the suburb trained as regenerators and led by Bev Blacklock as supervisor. The success to date in two reserves -- Mills Point Lookout Reserve and Tower Reserve -- has been very encouraging. The Council has now commissioned a team to commence work in Burley Griffin's Newhaven Theatre, off the Barricade. Combined with Council and resident work on the stage and seats of the theatre, the upgrading and stabilising of the theatre's bush surroundings will provide a unique and beautiful amphitheatre for small occasional performances for the benefit of the community.

The National Trust and the Castlecrag Conservation Society seek resident assistance in protecting local bushland reserves. You can help by:

- # 1. COMPOSTING GARDEN AND LAWN CLIPPINGS rather than dumping them in bushland where they will promote weed infestation.
- # 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. DISCOURAGE LAWN GRASSES AND GARDEN PLANTS from spreading to bushland from your garden. Due to disturbance of the soil, bushland areas adjoining houses are often...



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## KEEP FIT - PLAY SQUASH

CONSERVATION SOCIETY REPORT, CONTINUED...

densely infested with unsightly weeds, such as Privet and Lantana. Attempts to eradicate these weeds using general clearing techniques will lead to an ever denser weed regrowth.

For further information regarding the Castlecrag Conservation Society or Bush Regeneration please contact Ted Bowen on 95 1322, Bev Blacklock on 95 6994, or Chris Rosten on 95 3000.

#### BIKEWAYS PLAN FOR CASTLECRAG

-Garth Nicholson

As you may have read, the Northside Councils have produced a Regional Bikeways Plan. The network of bikeways connects with Castlecrag at Edinburgh Road, but there is no detailed plan for Castlecrag.

Willoughby Council is providing expert assistance to develop a bikeways plan for Castlecrag which would connect with the regional bikeways network. Possible bicycle routes will be considered at the next Progress Association meeting.

It is hoped that a safe bikeway suitable for under-12-year-olds can be provided along Edinburgh Road to the School. This route would connect with less-protected bike routes on Castlecrag's secondary roads. These roads present greater difficulties to the provision of separate bikeways. Possible routes connecting with Northbridge and Harold Reid Reserve will be examined.

A construction subsidy is available for bikeways from the NSW State Government to Councils. Interested people should contact me or members of the Environmental Study Committee or attend the next Progress Association meeting on April 27.

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#### THEATRE EXPERIENCE FORTNIGHT

Theatre Experience Fortnight is the title of a program to be held in the Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, during the two weeks of the May School Holidays.

The aim of the project is to provide theatre performance and skills for junior and secondary school students. The performances will be open to all children and adults, and the workshops to follow will be for 25 senior students and 12-16 in the first week, and 25 junior students aged 8-12 in the second week. Cost for the workshop is \$35 for the week.

Admission costs for the performances are \$2 for children and \$3 for adults. Performances are at 10am to 11am, and include the following:

Monday 10 May:

"Nonno's Luck" - Side-Track Theatre for kindergarten to year 4;

Tuesday 11 May:

"Magic and Movement Show" - all ages;

Wednesday 12 May: Thursday & Friday,

"Oh Crumbs" - a zany clown show with Jan Hamilton; Students Workshops culminating in student production on Friday

13 and 14 May:

afternoon 2pm to 4pm:

Monday 17 May:

"Richard Bradshaw's Shadow Puppets" - all ages. Marionette Theatre

of Australia:

Tuesday 18 May:

"Clowns Galore Show" - all ages. Drama Action Centre; "I've Got a Name" - 8-16 years. Toe-Truck Theatre Co.;

Wednesday 19 May: Thursday 20 May:

"Mime Spectrum" - all ages. Corporeal Mime Co.;

Friday 21 May:

"Emperor Chin & the Moon Goddess" all ages. One Extra Dance Co.

For further details of both performances and student workshops please contact Sue Alvarez Community Arts Officer, Willoughby Council, on 412 3333 ext. 110.

DRIVE SAFELY - especially in Castlecrag... the person you nearly hit crossing the road might be your next-door neighbour!

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#### CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

Located in the Castlecrag Community Centre, off The Postern, the Library is open on:

TUESDAY:

3.30pm to 4.30pm

THURSDAY:

12.20pm to 3.00pm

SATURDAY: 10.00am to 12.00noon

THE CRAG is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068, phone 95 4247. Articles of local interest and information are always welcomed.



## · CASTLECRAG

## STUDY

# NEWS SHEET

## March'82

# What progress?

Since I last reported to you on the Castlecrag Study, Council's Advisory Committee, in conjunction with Council's Town Planning staff, has been meeting on a regular basis to consider the topics comprising the Study programme.

The Committee has now adopted a Works Programme of topics for the completion of the Study which is as follows:

January - open space

February - built environment

March - physical environment & landscape/

visual analysis

April - commercial development, history

and services

May - population characteristics,

community facilities, traffic,

government and statutory authorities.

June - planning objectives and development

control guidelines

July - exhibition of Environmental Study

Draft reports have now been tabled and considered in respect of open space and the built environment while further reports on the physical environment and landscape/visual analysis are currently under consideration.

In summary the draft open space report follows the following format:

- identification and classification of existing open space;
- identification of "threats" and "potential" of open space areas;
- prepraration of draft
- works programme
- policy statements

It is envisaged that the draft open space works programme will be submitted to Council upon completion of the study for consideration with the annual Municipal wide programme, while the policy issues will generally be incorporated as planning objectives and/or rezoning proposals.

The draft report on the built environment identifies the existing character of Castlecrag and seeks as an objective to preserve this character by the introduction of controls in respect of building height, size and bulk. Under the definition of building the report recognises the visual significance of "non-habitable" development such as swimming pools, driveways, elevated basement structures and retaining walls as additional elements in need of consideration and possible control. The report then proceeds to recommend specific minimum standards to be adopted as a means of achieving the overall objectives.

As you are no doubt aware, full meetings of the Committee are held once a month with Council's officers at the Castlecrag Community Centre and are open for public attendance.

Should you have any comments to make in respect of the Study, please do not hesitate to attend, or should you be unable to attend, feel free to contact Council's Town Planning Department, or members of the Committee which comprises the following persons:

John Davies
Ross Maclean
Peter Armour
John Llewellyn
Tim Trumbull
Ted Bowen
Ann Korner
Addie Saltis
Ald Eric Kaye

L.J. WOODWARD

lesoous

TOWN CLERK