

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 24

MAY/JUNE, 1982

HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG

Addie Saltis

The following is an extract from a letter recently sent to Ald Eric Kaye by a long-time resident of Castlecrag, now living overseas, Mr. Wal Trinick.

Just as we were folding up our tent and silently sneaking away from Australia (having overlooked paying the rent) I spied a copy of The Crag No. 16, and sentiment being much stronger than conscience, I pinched it off my son's table, chucked it in the luggage and then forgot all about it until I was unpacking.

Just couldn't be bothered proceeding with the unpacking, but in the ancient tradition of the Castlecragians just sat on the floor amid the debris and read it from cover to cover. I've been in a trance ever since. So many happy memories came flooding back, dreaming of those good old days of long, long ago and the people who created the Crag, most of whom are but Shadows. Marion and Walter Griffin are looking over my shoulder as I read and I can hear them chuckling at what they read.

I personally got a chuckle right on the front page under Historical Notes. My thanks to Addie Saltis. She mentions that Castlecrag actually includes Sunnyside Crescent and the Wireless Estate as part of the Crag in quoting from the biography of William James Bligh.

I was present at those first Auction Sales of the Wireless Estate, and my home was the first one to be built there in Sunnyside Crescent (then only loose blue metal) --- that was over 60 years ago! It was 'knocked down' to me for five shillings deposit (50 cents) and paid off at one pound a month (two dollars). I really didn't intend to buy but liked attending auctions as you had a free ride in a bus "out in the bush" and were given afternoon tea.

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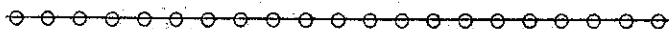
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, 8PM, JUNE 29, 1982, IN THE CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY CENTRE, OFF THE POSTERN, CASTLECRAG, ALL RESIDENTS & FRIENDS MOST WELCOME.

HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG, CONTINUED...

I spent so much time and money building our dream home that it was called "Wally's Folly". Because all the floors were of Jarrah and there were no other houses in sight it was generally thought that I'd overdone it, especially when the price worked out at £1250 (\$2500)!!

The mere half dozen people who lived on the Crag were somewhat snooty that we'd built on the wrong side of Edinburgh Road. It was some time before we became accepted by the Cragians who indeed were not accepted by the Willoughby residents who scathingly referred to us all as "Crazy Cragians." Yes, them were the days when the Crag WAS the bush --- a carpet of wildflowers and trees and very few houses. Though the Garden of Eden visions of Marion and Walter Burley Griffin were not fully realised, and we fought hard for all we had THEN, at least something has been retained.

Thanks for the memory...



ALDERMAN'S REPORT

Eric Kaye

I believe the Warringah Freeway Corridor Inquiry to still be the most important issue facing our Community. As our President, Ann Korner, reports elsewhere, we have spent the first of two days making an oral submission to the Commissioner, Mr. D.S. Kirby. We shall appear again on 15 July.

Mr. Kirby spoke of three major options which the Dept. of Environment & Planning see as being open to the Inquiry. He has asked that we seek our Community's attitude to these options, in particular the second, and advise him at our next hearing. The options are:

- (1) REINSTATEMENT OF A CORRIDOR RESERVATION, EITHER BY A LOCAL OR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN;
- (2) COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF THE CORRIDOR;
- (3) ADOPT A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN THESE EXTREMES, WHICH INVOLVES SECTION 117 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT.

Under this section of the Act, the Minister could give a direction which, broadly speaking, would have the effect of allowing development of the vacant land in the corridor, provided such development was of a type which would not prejudice its later use for road purposes, if that were thought appropriate, say in the next century.

In our discussion with Mr. Kirby we spoke strongly in favour of a complete abandonment of the Corridor, and of course equally as strongly against retaining it.

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We did ask him, however, what type of development he considered the Dept. of Environment & Planning had in mind for their middle course. He said that as he understood it, the land could be used for purposes such as two-storey houses, but not for high-rise buildings, cathedrals etc.

On the face of it, this solution would appear to have merit, and would to some extent obviate the problems of blight which corridors tend to generate. However, the cloud which has hung over the head of Castlecrag residents for 30 years would still remain, to be once again faced 20 years or so from now.

As Mr. Kirby correctly says, this is a very important issue and we urgently seek your attendance at our next meeting to fully discuss these options, so that we may fairly present our Community's attitudes to the Commissioner.

SWIMMING POOL FENCES

A number of owners of pools in our suburb have told me that they consider that Council is being excessively restrictive in its enforcement of the Swimming Pool Fence Code. Council is very strict in this matter and I fully support such a policy to reduce the tragedy of drownings.

We still have a number of unfenced pools, built before the introduction of present safety regulations. Notices are now being issued to bring these to an adequate level of safety.

SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD APPEAL

For the past 5 years Willoughby Council has assisted the Salvation Army in its Annual Red Shield door knock appeal, which this year will be held on July 4. In my view this is a very worthy cause with the Willoughby goal of \$28,000.

We have been asked this year to carry out the collection in our own area, using residents, thus relieving the Army officers for other areas. To achieve this will require at least 24 collectors, prepared to give two hours, preferably on the morning of July 4. So far we have 14 promises, and seek your co-operation to complete our team. If you can help, please phone Marcella Stevens 95 6936 or Rita Kaye, 95 6146. The appeal is being well-publicised, and envelopes are being distributed throughout the area before the collection day, so the actual collecting is not arduous, but supports a worthy charity.



Castlecrag Squash Centre

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NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting to discuss the implications of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board's report on the feasibility of sewerage the unsewered areas of Castlecrag and Northbridge will be held on

SUNDAY, 1st AUGUST

at the

RECREATION RESERVE,
227 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag, at 11a.m.

(In case of rain, at the Castlecrag Community Centre)

The M.W.S. & D.B. have promised their report by mid-1982, and it is anxiously awaited by the residents and by Willoughby Municipal Council. Mr. Paul Landa, Minister for Energy & Water Resources, Mr. Peter Collins, M.L.A., and representatives of the M.W.S. & D.B., the Health Commission and the State Pollution Control Commission will be invited to address the meeting.

Anyone who can help with the task of getting us ALL sewerage is asked to contact the Committee on 95 6059.

(Dr.) N. Korner
Convenor

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ann Korner

At the next meeting of the Progress Association on 29 June 1982, the three options suggested by the Dept. of Planning & Environment as the alternatives to be considered by the Expressway Inquiry for the Warringah Freeway Corridor are to be discussed.

Mr. David Kirby, the Commissioner, has asked for our reaction to these proposals, as detailed in Ald. Kaye's report in this issue of The Crag.

Our representatives at the Inquiry, Eric Kaye, Judy Messer, Christine Rosten and Michael Fogarty, put forward a most convincing case for the people of Castlecrag. Our sincere thanks to them for all the hard work, time and effort they have put into our submission.

**

A sub-committee has been formed to prepare a booklet with information regarding our bushland, walkways, reserves, council facilities and sporting activities etc., which might prove useful to people moving into the area, as well as to older residents who may want to be updated with regard to these facilities.

**

A meeting to discuss the problems of unsewered areas in Castlecrag and Northbridge was recently held under the auspices of Willoughby Council, and was attended by large numbers of residents as well as representatives from the Water Board, State Pollution Control Commission and State Health Dept.

Our thanks to Willoughby Council for making this meeting possible, and for the opportunity to "air" the problem.

The Water Board and Minister for Energy & Water Resources have promised to have the results of the feasibility study regarding the provision of sewerage to the affected areas of Northbridge (and subsequently Castlecrag) available by July 1982, and the Willoughby Council is awaiting this report before making any further decisions.

Your Progress Association Committee feels that an area within five miles of the city should have M.W.S. & D.B. facilities equal to those of the Western Suburbs!!

**

REMEMBER THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING -- TUESDAY 29 JUNE, 8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre... FOR THE FUTURE OF CASTLECRAG, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE ATTENDS TO FORMULATE OUR POLICY.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!!!

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VANDALISM isn't only the destruction of telephone boxes and rude slogans on walls... it is also throwing cigarette packs and empty bottles over front fences, breaking into cars, defecating on the footpath... all this and more has recently occurred to residents near our Shopping Centre. Surely it's not respectable adults doing this, but WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN, and WHO ARE THEY WITH??? If you don't know, shouldn't you??

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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: 12.30PM TO 3.00PM

SATURDAY: 10.00AM TO 12.00 NOON

WEDNESDAY FILMS

If you are shopping in Chatswood on Wednesdays and need a break around lunchtime, why not buy a sandwich and head for the Bailey Hall in the Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue. Here you will find free lunchtime films, which feature a wide variety of topics such as art, history, science, travel, music and nature.

There are two sessions, from 12.05pm and 1.05pm. These films are supplied by the State Film Library of N.S.W. and sponsored by Willoughby Council in request ratepayers' concern for daytime use of the Civic Centre and to provide somewhere for workers and shoppers to retreat over lunch once a week.

Staff of various nursing homes frequently bring residents to the films for an outing, as finding free activities for people on limited incomes is extremely difficult.

A small group of interested people choose the films, and if any readers of The Crag would like to join the selection committee they are welcome to phone Sue Alvarez on 412 3333, extension 110.

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PHONE OUR TREASURER,
JUDY BOWEN, ON 95 1322

HAVE YOUR SAY IN WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOUR SUBURB!!!

THE CRAG is edited on behalf of the
Castlecrag Progress Association
by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag, 2068, phone 958 2124.

Articles of local interest and information
are always welcomed. Deadline for next
issue, July/August, is July 31, 1982.