

TRAMP

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 31,

November - December 1983.

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

E. KAYE.

By now the new Council has settled in and I am confident we will work well together. An important task which this new Council has just completed was consideration of the estimates for 1984. You will be aware by now that our rates and consequently the funds available to Council will not exceed an 8% increase on 1983. A number of projects which we had hoped to start in 1984 will have to be deferred; this is a disappointment, however it is one we must live with.

Council goes into recess from 12th December, 1983 until our first meeting of the new year on Monday, 16th January, 1984. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the year, and to wish you all the compliments of the season.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS!

BUSH DANCE

Once again we are able to report on a very successful Bush Dance. The weather was just right, the band was excellent, the meat was superbly cooked and we had a good roll up of people out to enjoy themselves. The night proved a real "Family affair" with all ages, from young children to grandparents, joining in the dancing.

For the overall organisation we thank Tim & Lyn Trumbull and for the cooking of the meat (large rumps and sausages purchased locally from Graham & Nigel), our thanks go to Rhody and Gaven Thomas.

The evening also proved a real community affair, with chairs on loan from St. James Church and the salads provided by members of the Progress Association. We would like to thank our many helpers for their part in making the Bush Dance such a worth while event. This includes Vanessa and John Francis, who acted as our ticket office.

The profit we made (about \$400), will go towards the printing of the "CRAG" and various projects we have in mind.

THE HAVEN THEATRE.

Our bush regenerators have now restored the theatre so it is once again a place of real interest to you and your visitors. A visit to this area (corner Bulwark and Scarp) will prove very rewarding. Why not take your lunch one day and enjoy the beauty of it all. If members of our local Community have a genuine interest in using the theatre they should contact Judy Bowen (95 1322) or Sylvia Taylor (95 5997) of the 530A Committee.

On behalf of the PROGRESS ASSOCIATION the editorial committee, would like to wish you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS, and all the best for 1984.

Our next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, will be held on 28th February, 1984.

le'Crag.

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WILLOUGHBY FAIR.

This event was not printed in the last edition of "THE CRAG", but we would like to thank all those who raided their cupboards and brought bric -a-brac to the fair. Our thanks to Marcella, Cathy and Mark for all their help.

CASTLECRAG KINDERGARTEN - BABYSITTING CLUB.

Consider joining our club, a few vacancies now exist; babysitting is on a reciprocal no charge basis. For further details phone Vivian 95 4103.

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

OUR ADDS SECTION:

Is there something you want to sell, to buy or just advertise?? If so why not help yourself by using our paper which is distributed throughout Castlecrag, and at the same time help us to cover the cost of THE CRAG.

THE CRAG is delivered during the second half of February, April, June, August, October and December, and closing date is the end of the month before that date. Cost of advertising 10c per word.

PHONE 95 6146 or write 351 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag 2068.

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CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Conservation Society will meet 2nd monthly on a Friday night, at the Community Centre. The next meeting will be Friday March 9th, at 8P.M.
(see next issue of CRAG)



CASTLECRAG CELLARS

122 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECRAG PHONE 95 2682 or 958 1507

DISCOUNT WINES BEERS & SPIRITS

FACTS ABOUT FIRE.

Now that the Bushfire Season is with us again it is timely to talk about fire. Willoughby Municipality has a very low fire history. Willoughby Environmental Protection association, in preparing its submission to the Federal Parliamentary Enquiry into Bushfire was unable to find evidence of a single house or life lost as a result of fire. In Castlecrag a fire in 1950 burnt from the west along the base of the Northern Escarpment. In October 1957 there was another fire in Harold Reid Reserve, the southern border of which is in Castlecrag. That fire burnt from the west along the ridge top to the end where it burnt itself out. At that time the natural area was much more extensive than now with much less road access.

Consistent with this low incidence of fire has been the absence of fuel reduction programmes. The extensive programmes of control burning by the Board of Fire Commissioners at the invitation of Council, were initiated by the request of a single individual in 1980. In 1981 & 1982 a number of sites in Castlecove were control burnt. This year Harold Reid Reserve and the Escarpment were to have been burnt also, but this was prevented by timely rain.

CONTROL BURNING

Many people think - well, what's wrong with Control burning (otherwise called prescription burning, hazard reduction burning, or more accurately, intentional burning). They argue that our plants are adapted to fire and even justify the exercise trotting out that old myth, "fire is good for the bush." The point is - what fire, in what season, of what intensity and perhaps most importantly, how often? It is true that our bushland has adapted to a regime of fire (in Sydney Sandstone Vegetation this means at intervals probably in excess of 20-25 years) and these fires are hot fires (i.e. high intensity) occurring in late spring or early summer.

Burning more frequently will be harmful to the bush, since many plants are killed by fire. Even the ability of plants such as eucalypts and banksias to resprout after a fire will be weakened by frequent burning and they will eventually die.

Control burning results in increased leaf fall and leaves behind a lot of dead material. Succeeding vegetation is often more flammable - bladey grass and bracken. By implication the burning must be repeated at 3-5 year intervals to remove the dead material which is then a fire hazard. This method thus actually creates its own fire hazard, as well as producing other very undesirable environmental effects. It is carried out in autumn, winter or spring, i.e. out of season, at a time when birds are nesting, destroys their winter food (Banksias) and kills plants before they have flowered and produced seed. Small mammals can probably find refuge in nearby unburnt areas. Unfortunately reptiles will not be sufficiently "awake" to escape.

Selected Hand Clearing is a much less destructive method of fuel reduction if a hazard is deemed to exist or fuel needs to be reduced.

IS THERE A HAZARD?

Because of the controversy over control burning and its implications for bushland management, Council finally decided to appoint Allan Fox & Assocs. consultants in environmental planning, management & education, to carry out a comprehensive survey of all the bushland in the Municipality. One aspect of this survey is an independent assessment of fire hazard. The consultants of this survey have already spent a lot of time looking at our bushland and are extremely impressed with its quality, variety and potential for education. Their opinion, to date, is that the fire hazard in this municipality is "virtually non-existent."

cont. over

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WHAT CAN WE DO?

So, can we afford to become complacent? Obviously this would be stupid. There are many actions we can take to make fire less likely. One of the most important is not to dump garden refuse and other rubbish in the bush. This, together with the dumpers themselves, is one of the greatest fire hazards. Remember, dead vegetation burns much better than that which is alive and green. If you can't compost your garden refuse or use it as mulch, then take it to the transfer station in Artarmon and continue to press Council for a garden refuse pick-up service.

The protective measures you take around your house and on your property are the ones which will be most effective in saving your house in the event of fire. CSIRO Division of Building Research in Victoria, investigating the Ash Wednesday fires, have found that 'most of the building fires began with ember-induced ignition, that is, small fires that could be extinguished easily if found in time' (S.M.H. 26.11.83.) Therefore any measures which will keep out sparks, embers or flying brands are important, remembering these could come from a fire several kilometres away.

- * Remove leaves regularly from roofs and gutters. (Monier now make a leaf-proof gutter.)
- * Close off unprotected vents, eaves, skylights, ridge caps, partially enclosed spaces under houses and fit wire (not plastic) screens to windows, doors and vents. Screens will also prevent windows from cracking.
- * Consider whether tree branches overhanging the house should be removed.
- * Intall taps and long hoses to reach all parts of your garden. Maintain the hoses and leave them in place.
- * If you have a swimming pool, consider installing a pump and sprinkler system. The pump must be petrol driven as the electricity supply may fail on a fire day.
- * Have one or more rake-hoes (McLeod tools) to stamp out small fires which may ignite in your garden
- * Don't store fuel under or close to the house.

Our reserves are small and fragmented. They are not large expanses, like the Blue Mts., which would allow a fire to build up momentum. Our houses are on formed roads, and are supplied with town water. If we choose and are fortunate enough to live in a beautiful environment such as this we must take care not to destroy the very thing which attracted us in the first place. We must accept some degree of risk and responsibility if we are to enjoy the many delights of living near bushland.

We need to understand our environment and live with it and not respond in fear based on ignorance.

NOTICE BOARD FOR CASTLECRAG COMPETITION.

As yet we have not heard from anyone wishing to submit an entry to this competition.!

CASTLECRAG

Chem-mart

The Quadrangle :: Telephone: 95 2196

*** MERRY XMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO ALL! *
from Andrew Simons & Staff**

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED OVER THE XMAS PERIOD FROM 24/12/83 to 31/12/83 INCLUSIVE

REGULAR LIBRARY HOURS:

Tuesdays 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm.
Thursdays 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm.
Saturdays 10.00 am to 12 noon.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY NOVEMBER 1983

COOKSON, Catherine	HAMILTON
FLEMING, Thomas	DREAMS OF GLORY
" "	OFFICERS' WIVES
GRAHAM, Winston	FORTUNE IS A WOMAN
DE SILVA, Colin	THE WINDS OF SINHALA
WEST, Morris	THE WORLD IS MADE OF GLASS
LOCKE ELLIOTT, Sumner	CAREFUL HE MIGHT HEAR YOU
MacLEAN, Alistair	FLOODGATE
FORBES, Colin	THE LEADER & THE DAMNED
McCARRY, Charles	THE LAST SUPPER
STEWART, Mary	THE WICKED DAY
KAY M.M.	DEATH IN ZANZIBAR
PLAIN, Belva	EDEN BURNING
FRANCIS, Dick	THE DANGER
ELEGANT, Robert	MANDARIN
MEYER, Nicholas	CONFESSIONS OF A HOMING
MORTIMER, Penelope	THE HANDYMAN PIGEON
STUART LONG, William	THE ADVENTURERS (VOL.5)
MICHENER, James	POLAND
FACEY, A. B.	A FORTUNATE LIFE
LAWSON, Silvia	THE ARCHIBALD PARADOX
FRANCIS, Clare	NIGHT SKY
TANAHILL, Reay	THE DARK DISTANT SHORE
HOLT, Victoria	THE DEMON LOVER
TREVANIAN	THE SUMMER OF KAYTA
ADAM-SMITH, Patsy	THERE WAS A SHIP
BRADLEY, Marion	THE MISTS OF AVALON
SHAW, Irwin	BREAD UPON THE WATERS
ALLISON, Eleanor	ESCAPE TO AN ISLAND
DURACK, Mary	SONS IN THE SADDLE
GIFFORD, Margaret	I CAN HEAR THE HORSES
KRAUTH, Nigel	MATILDA, MY DARLING
MOFFETT, Ian	THE COLOR MAN

AND OTHERS: PAPERBACKS, MYSTERIES.

OUR NEW RANGER

We would like to announce that Willoughby Council has appointed our very popular postman, Mr. Harry Fox as Honorary Ranger for this area. Harry's duties in this position will be to ensure that Council ordinances are observed, in particular such things as the preservation of trees, dumping, littering, etc.

CASTLECRAG MEATS

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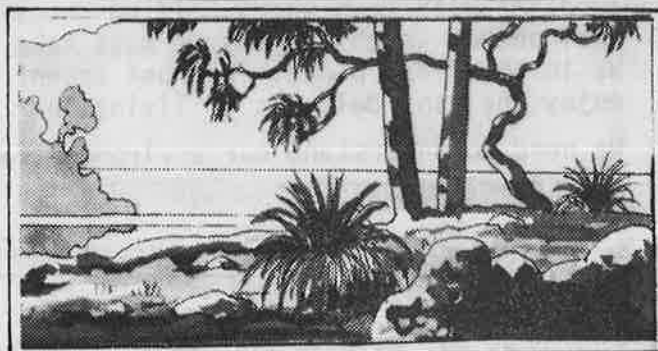
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TRAMP

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BUSH DANCE

SAT 19 NOVEMBER 1983
— CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY HALL —

By popular demand our annual bush dance is to be repeated this year. Last years dance was a knockout so you are urged to buy your tickets early. They are available from John and Venessa Francis at the Castlecrag Newsagency.

This year your Committee has organised a bigger tent. It is to be erected in the Community Hall car parking area and there we can eat, drink and be merry. We need volunteers to erect this monster (60' x 40') on the Saturday morning of the dance at 10.00 am. If you can help, please ring Rhody Thomas (95.6033), Tim Trumbull (95.5669) or Eric Kaye (95.6146). Those still able to stand on Sunday are asked to assemble under the monster at 10.00 am to dismatle it and help sweep up. I am sure that the cleaners will be able to find a cool drink or two amongst the rubble!

Shearers Dream is one of Australia's top bush bands and we are fortunate to have them to play for us. They will explain the steps for each dance as the evening proceeds - so don't say that you don't know how to dance!!!

We have obtained beautiful beef (thanks to Nigel's Meats) to cook over the glowing coals of the spit, salads, home-made damper, desserts and real billy tea - so don't say!!!

BYO! BYO! BYO! BYO! BYO! BYO! This year your committee wants to enjoy themselves too, so please bring your own beer and wine. Cordial will be on sale at 20 cents per cup.

You are encouraged to bring your children, as this is a family evening. Last year the children had to be dragged home at midnight, they so enjoyed the dancing. Your hard working Committee has arranged tickets at the following prices: a family at \$30.00; adults at \$10.00 and students, pensioners and children under 15 at \$6.00 each. Toddlers of course, are free.

It promises to be a wonderful evening and community get together, so I urge you to enter Saturday, 19th November in your diary, buy your tickets early, and bring your family and friends to join in the fun!

