

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1985

"BANKSIA DREAMS"

Editor.

By now you should have received a notice in your letter box telling the date, time etc., of the play being performed at the Haven Theatre, corner of the Scarp and Bulwark. Much research and preparation has gone into this play, BANKSIA DREAMS, a mixture of the historical and the fantastic, based on Walter Burley Griffin and on Castlecrag. We have spoken of this in the Crag a number of times, and now at last a date has been set, in fact "it has arrived".

If you have not already attended a function at the Haven Theatre, and experienced the pleasure of being entertained in such delightful surroundings we urge you to take this opportunity to do so. Either stroll down, or take a bus from the Castlecrag Infants School. Also, when buying your tickets at the school, why not have afternoon tea in the school grounds.

BANKSIA DREAMS

Directed by Michael BATE.
Project funded by the Community Arts Board
of the Australia Council.

A fantasy set in Castlecrag for children and adults.

DATES

9th 10th, 16th and 17th February.

PLACE

Haven Theatre (corner Scarp & Bulwark).

TIME

Play begins at 4p.m.

TICKETS

\$4 adults, \$2 concession, \$10 family ticket.

Afternoon tea and tickets available at Castlecrag Infants School, Edinburgh Road, from 3p.m. There is no parking at the theatre, but free buses leave regularly from the school.

Tickets also available at Theatre on days of performance and from:-
Sue Randle - 95 6344, J Batterham - 95 4161, Ella Young - 95 4751, Rita Kaye - 956146.
We hope that you will make an effort to go and that you will enjoy the performance.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE - THE POSTERN ON FEBRUARY 26th AT 8P.M.

THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY MARCH 8th at 8P.M.

Aldermen, like other workers, have four weeks annual leave from their duties. I write this report whilst on leave and in response to queries from several of our residents who ask "why don't we have the large garbage containers like Ku-ring-gai?". The reasons we don't are as follows:- Willoughby Council's estimated expenditure for 1985 is \$17 million. Of this, 6% (over \$1million) is allocated to garbage services, thus \$50 of the average resident's rates will be spent this year to collect from each household two 55 litre garbage bins each week and four quarterly pick ups of rubbish. The cost per tonne to dispose of this waste is approximately \$17 and this does not include the cost of collection.

The steep rise in waste disposal charges started when landfill tip sites in closely settled Municipalities were recognised as environmentally unacceptable. Willoughby built the transfer station at Lanceley Place Artarmon to replace "the tip" which operated until 1972, at what is now Hallstrom Park. Our waste is taken by truck to landfill tip sites outside the Municipality. The bad news is that unless there is a significant reduction in the amount of waste disposed, the existing landfill tips near Sydney will be filled by the early 1990's and costs will rise even more steeply as the waste must be transferred greater and greater distances.

For these economic and ecological reasons, and to conserve our natural resources, it is imperative that we support and expand recycling schemes. Two of these are established in Willoughby now. The bottle collection which is carried out on the third Thursday of each month in our area is significantly reducing the amount of waste collected in our bins at no cost to Council. Also, the door to door waste paper collection is now removing 60-70 tonnes of paper per month at a saving of \$10,000 per year. It is in everyones interest to use these recycling services and to keep the waste in our garbage containers to a minimum.

Experience of Municipalities which have adopted one or other of the various "big bin" systems has shown that householders tend to place all of their rubbish in them, recycling schemes are abandoned and consequently the cost of garbage services increases. Furthermore, the initial cost of implementing such a scheme would exceed \$1 million.

The State Pollution Control Commission claim that "at least one third of household garbage is food waste". This is a sad reflection on our affluent and wasteful society, it does however suggest one way in which many could, at little cost and with moderate effort assist in reducing waste, reducing pollution and at the same time improving their gardens.

Most of us in this community have medium to large gardens of predominatly clayey soil. Compost increases the fertility and quality of such soils resulting in better flowers, lawns, shrubs, trees and vegetables.

It is not appropriate here to discuss composting methods other than to observe that several types of bins are readily available in garden supply stores. About a year ago THE CRAG ran an article on one simple method. Excellent pamphlets on composting methods can be obtained from the State Pollution Control Commission, box 4036 G.P.O. Sydney (tel. 266 0661).

Two final comments on the "big bin" systems, they do reduce the backyard burning of leaves etc, a menace which is estimated to account for up to half of Sydney's "brown haze". And a final comment, it would be very difficult for the large trucks which such systems require to negotiate the narrow streets of parts of Castlecrag and Northbridge.

FOUND Pale green fridge food container. Left at Inspection of home of Mr. & Mrs. Crebbin. Owner please phone 95 6146 to collect.

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FERNS IN CASTLECRAG.

THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Have you noticed the number of ferns that grow in Castlecrag?

The native species that are most prevalent are Fishbone Fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*), Coin Spot Tree Fern (*Cyathea cooperi*), Common Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum aethiopicum*), False Bracken (*Culcita dubia*), Coral Fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa*) and Gristle Fern (*Blechnum cartilagineum*).

It is possible to grow these ferns in your garden provided they are planted where there is some shade. Suitable situations are a southerly aspect or in the dappled shade of trees. The light sandy soil of Castlecrag is ideal for ferns provided it is enriched with compost, peat moss or well rotted cow manure. Ample watering is required in dry weather as the roots of ferns are close to the surface. Mulch will assist in retaining moisture if applied freely around ferns growing in the garden. Apart from weeding and the occasional removal of dead fronds attention may be limited to a yearly dressing of compost and perhaps a sprinkling of Nutricote.

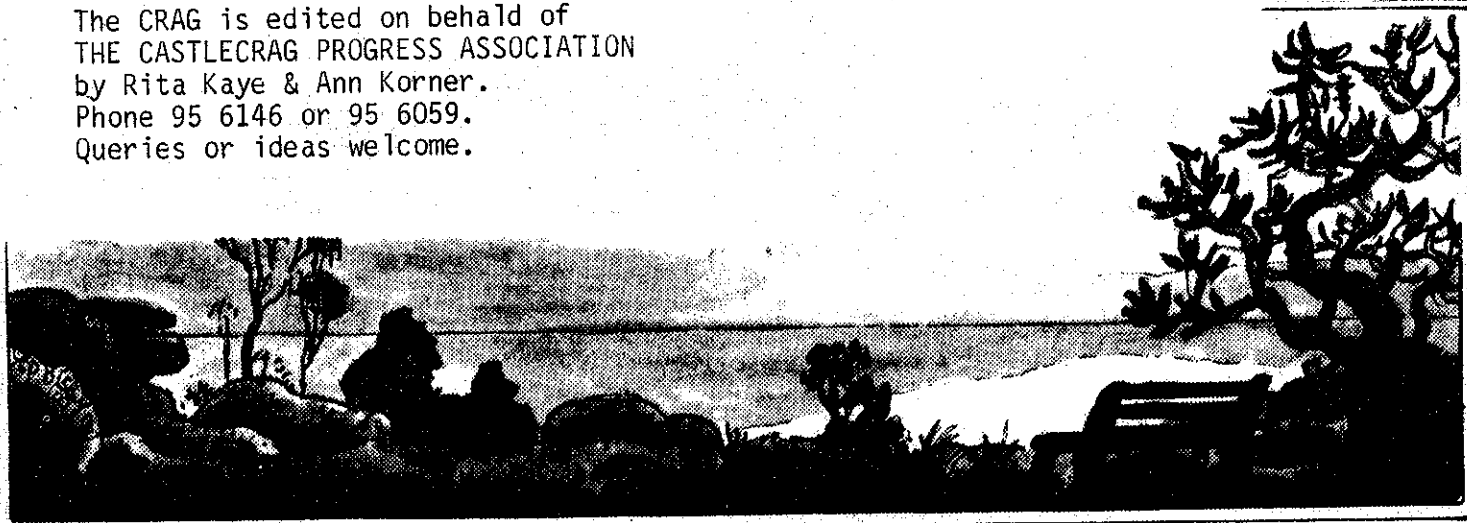
Additional species of native ferns that will grow in your garden and are often available from nurseries are Soft Tree Fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*), Fragrant Fern (*Microsorium scandens*), Shield Fern (*Polystichum australiense*), Mother Spleenwort (*Asplenium bulbiferum*), Hare's Foot Fern (*Davallia Pyxidata*), and Rasp Fern (*Doodia aspera*).

A GOOD YEAR FOR THE BIRDS!

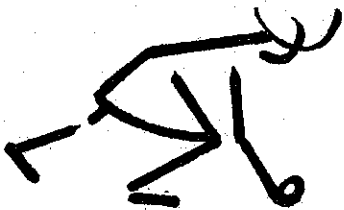
RITA KAYE.

Has anyone else noticed the increase in the number of birds around this spring? Besides the usual Noisy Miners who always seem to have young ones, we have had Dollar Birds, Butcher Birds and Rainbow Lorikeets nesting in our garden. The Koel Cuckoo turned up again, but did not stay for many days, apparently his call did not attract a mate so he moved on. I was delighted by the gift of a "What Bird is That" book, a new edition incorporating over 400 full page plates never before published. It is worth looking at, if you like bird books.

The CRAG is edited on behalf of
THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
by Rita Kaye & Ann Korner.
Phone 95 6146 or 95 6059.
Queries or ideas welcome.



NORTHBRIDGE WOMENS' BOWLING CLUB.



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Further inquiries phone:- Club 95 6322 AFTER HOURS 95 3480 or 95 5505.

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER WRAITH IF 1949

Dorothy Fraser.

I think I know how Michaelangelo felt when he finished painting the Sistine Chapel! At last we have our car on the road, After 3 years of slow painful restoration, it has discarded its previous nicknames of "the Old Bomb with the Pommie Number Plate", "the White Elephant" and "the Mill-stone". Instead it is a gleaming gracious vehicle, a reminder of a previous era, when cars were built by hand by skilled craftsmen and when wood, wool and leather had not been supplanted by plastic, vinyl and synthetics.

Gradually, we have pieced together the history of the car. Originally built in England in Crewe, with Coachwork by Park Ward, it spent its first year in Belfast, in Ireland. It was then sold to Howard and Wyndham, well-known theatre owners in Britain, and spent the next 13 years travelling regularly between London and Edinburgh. Who knows how many contemporary Celebrities reclined in comfort in the back seat easing the boredom of long journey by sipping from the crystal glasses, housed with the crystal decanter in a recess in one of the doors.

In 1964 it was bought by my father-in-law and one of his earliest tasks was to remove the grouse and pheasant feathers from the boot; relics of a Highland Shooting Weekend? Later I travelled in the car as a nervous bride on the way to church, and in the course of time our children looked forward to riding with Grandad in his Rolls. However, after my father-in-law's retirement, the car sank into a sorry state of neglect for various reasons. It became badly affected by rust and corrosion caused by the salt used on the roads to melt ice and snow. It was in a very sorry condition when it landed in Sydney 1981.

Its progress to its present day appearance has aroused a lot of interest down our end of the Bulwark, and we thank the many people who encouraged us when we were feeling disheartened at the size of the task ahead of us.

Please be patient when I hold you up on the narrow Castlecrag roads as I desperately fumble for First Gear! It is still a bit unfamiliar. Alas, along with vanished crystal decanter and glasses has gone the Chauffeur

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DONT RETIRE JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SIXTY

COMMITTEE

November 1985 will mark the 60th year of the Castlecrag Progress Association. Without a doubt, the new Committee to be elected at our Annual General Meeting will plan appropriate functions to celebrate this. Meanwhile, the outgoing Committee is very keen to significantly increase the number of paid up members. It is normal and understandable that the membership of all such associations rises and wanes with time and with current problems facing the community (for instance, there are powerful groups attempting to persuade the State Government to reconsider construction of the Warringah Freeway). Furthermore, some residents feel that they "belong" but forget to pay their dues.

The relationship of this Association to Willoughby Council is analogous to Council's relationship to the State Government; a friendly but of necessity, business-like relationship. Like Willoughby Council, we pride ourselves on our non party political approach to problems. We are a significant voice in Local Government, however we seek your support to become more effective. Our constitution allows only paid up members to vote, so please renew your membership. New Members can join by filling in the form below, and posting it to Dorothy Frazer, our Treasurer or by bringing it along to our meeting on 26th February.

We would like to thank our advertisers for their support during 1984. This covered just over half the cost of the printing of the CRAG. The balance of the cost had to be raised by functions and donations.

PLEASE TEAR THIS FORM OFF AND SEND WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION C/- The Treasurer Mrs. D. Fraser,
16 the Bulwark,

I WISH TO REVIEW/APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
AND ENCLOSE MY PAYMENT FOR : \$4 Membership or
\$4 Membership plus donation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please note; whilst membership has been set at \$4 per household any extra donation you may be generous enough to offer will be very gratefully received, and would assist in our work, including production of this newsletter.

CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY LIBRARY

NEW BOOK LIST ACQUIRED NOVEMBER-JANUARY 1985.

HODGE, Jane	Private World of G. Heyer.
FORSYTH, Frederick	The Forth Protocol
DEIGHTON, Len	Mexico Set
PLAIN, Belva	Crescent City
HOLT, Victoria	The Landower Legacy
JENKINS, Geoffrey	Fireprint
FRANCIS, Dick	Proof
RUTHERFORD, Marg.	Blithe Spirit, A
PETERS, Margot	Mrs. Pat,-The life of
	Mrs. P. Campbell
	Vanities
LANGFORD, Gary	The Dearest & The Best.
THOMAS, Leslie	The Shapiro Diamond
LEGAT, Michael	Wild Berries
YEVTUSCHENKO	Full Circle
STEEL, Danielle	The March of Folly
TUCHMAN, Barbara	Up the Country
FRANKLIN Miles	The Bush Soldiers
HOOKER, John	Just Resting
McKERN, Leo	Stanley & the Women
AMIS, Kingsley	Here Today
FAIRBAIRNS, Zoe	The only Problem
SPARK, Muriel	The Tolstoys
TOLSTOY, Nikolai	Lines & Shadows
WAMBACH, Joseph	A Flower That's Free
HARRISON, Sarah	Nightbloom
LIEBMAN, Herbert	Interpid's Last Case.
STEVENSON, William	

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Saturdays - 10a.m. - 12noon.

THIS IS YOUR LOCAL FREE COUNCIL LIBRARY - NEW BORROWERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

STOP PRESS: As we go to print Council in its first week of the new year gave final approval for construction to start on the Aged Housing Project at the Dougherty Community Centre, Orchard Rd, Chatswood. Work will start on 1st April, and completion is expected in July, 1986.

I consider it to be an outstanding scheme, of excellent design and the culmination of years of work on the part of Willoughby Council. Construction will be managed by the N.S.W. Housing Commission and management of the completed complex will be by Tripartite Management Committee comprising the Council, the Housing Commission and the Uniting Church. We will report further details in future issues.

CASTLECRAG CELLARS

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