NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.

Issue No. 4 June, 1978

It was originally intended that this newsletter be issued each second month, which should make this the September issue!! However, as you now there has been a considerable need to keep Castlecrag's residents advised of the ever-changing situation regarding the proposed shopping development and related matters.

By now, most people will have seen local resident Mr Ken Thomas on television and in the papers speaking on his idea of seceding from Willoughby Council. He has presented this Association with a Notice of Motion covering this and other matters, and because of the current spate of publicity about it all, this Association has decided to hold a Special General Meeting on Tuesday 20th June, at 8pm, in the Community Centre as usual, so that the motions may be put and discussed. The motions are detailed in this newsletter.

We seriously urge all Castlecrag residents, members of this Association or not, to come along and discuss this matter, as it affects all of us.

Castlecrag Conservation Society's CONSERVATION COMMENT

THE HAVEN THEATRE was the most ambitious of the community activities planned for Castlecrag by Walter & Marion Burley Griffin in the 1920's.

Situated at the corner of the Scarp and the Barricade, the picturesque bushland setting at the time included a canopy of Angophora costata (Sydney Red Gum) descending to Southern-Aspect Hawkesbury Sandstone flora: Ceratapetalum gummiferum (Christmas Bush), Callicoma serratifolia (Black Wattle) towering Cyathea cooperi tree ferns through pristine shrubs and ferns to a superb view of Sailor's Bay.

Fifty four years later, a small group of bush regeneration enthusiasts optimistically commenced clearing dense lantana and croften weed, only to find the amphitheatre's historic stone seating buried feet deep under tons of fill and garden refuse from local building sites. Fortunately, interest in the project grew ... many residents came forward to assist with the work, enabling the Castlecrag Conservation Society to be formed.

A landscape consultant of some note, Judy Messer, was engaged to prepare a programme of clearing and regeneration to preserve the remaining indigenous flora. A landscaping plan using several hundred trees and shrubs followed. The species planted are Angophora costata, Eucalyptus, Banksia, Casuarina, Acacia, Grevillea, groundcovers and grasses.

The maintenance programme is an on-going event -- interest and assistance is always appreciated. Maintenance days (approximately five times a year) are usually on Sunday morning -- one or two hours only per person.

If you are interested, or can help, please phone Beverley Blacklock 95 6994

## MOTION TO BE PUT BEFORE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON JUNE 20

- 1. That we announce prior to the next Council election that this Progress Association has nominated three candidates as Ward Aldermen and that we will undertake that any of these candidates who are elected will receive an extra amount of \$500 each per annum during their term of office as partial compensation for the time, energy and expense required to properly discharge their duties and provide leadership in matters of local concern.
- 2. That none of the existing three aldermen will receive our support at the next Council elections because of what we consider to be blatant dereliction of their constituents' wishes.
- 3. That this Association will notify each tennant of the proposed Bowen complex of our historic and unrelenting hostility and opposition every month until the year 2000 A.D.
- 4. That a suitably worded tablet or shrine naming our warf aldermen and affirming our abiding sense of outrage at our defeat by the Willoughby Council be erected in an honored location adjacent to the proposed Bowen's Blight.
- 5. That this Association investigate the means whereby we can secede from the Willoughby Municipal Council and establish the Castlecrag Council in community premises to be acquired at valuation from the Bowen group and in particular to request resident architects, planners and economists to detail the great benefit that would flow to us from a beautiful village community site and substantially reduced rates.

## Ken Thomas

(It is important to stress that this is the wording of a motion to be put before the Special Meeting... it is not at this time official policy of this Association, nor is the publicity being given the idea a result directly of any action of this Association.)

## HISTORY -- WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN'S CASTLECRAG

The history of Castlecrag really starts with Walter Burley Griffin and the Greater Sydney Development Association, since it was the Castlecrag Estate which gave the suburb its name and its identity.

It is Griffin's vision of a dream suburb which still lingers, and makes many residents (and architects and town planners) feel that Castlecrag is something special and worth protecting. The following are extracts from pamphlets issued by the Greater Sydney Development Association and Griffin in the 1920's.

"Castlecrag, four miles from Circular Quay, derives its name from a towering rock called 'Edinburgh Castle' on the maps, and which is included among the numerous reserves established by the Association to conserve for the residents all the remarkable natural features of the place - its outlooks, monumental cliffs, caverns, ancient trees, fern glades, wild flower glades, waterfalls and foreshoes." (Don't laugh at this description... they WERE here.... there are photographs to prove it!!)

"No amount of artificial improvement could compensate for the sacrifice of this priceless heritage."

"People spend a lifetime trying to get a large piece of land, put a house on it, and plant it like a park. Few can afford to reach their goal. What I want to do is to give everyone a chance to attain such a dream. I want Castlecrag to be built so that each individual can feel that the whole of the landscape is his. No fences, no boundaries, no red roofs to spoil the Australian landscape; these are some of the features that will distinguish Castlecrag."

(Many thanks to those who rang with information about the 2FC transmitter. I will pinpoint its location soon and pass it on in a later newsletter.)

Addie Saltis.