

THE CRAG

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.

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Castlecrag Conservation Society's CONSERVATION COMMENT

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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: *Cerastopetalum 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

