

TRAM

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 50

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1987

Dear Residents,

On behalf of my committee, I would like to wish you all a "Happy, Healthy and Safe 1987."



The new school year has now started. I urge all drivers to be aware at all times of children making their way to and from school, especially in streets such as The Bulwark, The Scarp, Bastion and Tor Walk. These narrow roads can be particularly dangerous to children who do not always have their mind on the traffic. Our children are precious, help us keep them safe!

I would like to welcome Marthe back to Castlecrag Kindergarten after her leave of absence. I hope you had a great holiday, and that you enjoy being back with us.

I would also like to welcome Mrs. Nola Miller, new headmistress of Castlecrag Infants School. May you find your time in our community rewarding.

This issue of the Crag went to print before the Bush Dance. I would like to thank all those who helped with the organisation and the work, including Willoughby Council who provided the marquee, tables and chairs.

The 23rd February is the Annual General Meeting and election of officers. Do come along and help us make 1987 a good year for Castlecrag.

Sue Randle, President.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE POSTERN ON TUESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 8.00 P.M.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT 8.00 P.M. FRIDAY MARCH 5TH AT 70 THE BULWARK.

ALL RESIDENTS ARE VERY WELCOME TO BOTH MEETINGS.

THE CRAG is edited on behalf of THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION by Rita Kaye & Ann Korner.



ENVIRONMENT

WILLOUGHBY

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY - NEW BOOK LIST

IRONSIDE, E. A Very Private Enterprise
JAMES, P.D. A Taste for Death
ERDMAN, P. The Panic of '89
CONDON, R. Prizzi's Family
HUDSON, C. Colombo Heat
FRASER, Tamie It Wasn't Meant to be Easy
MASTERMAN, G. Silver
SEYMOUR, G. A Song in the Morning
FORD, R. The Sportswriter
ELLIS, J. The Only Sin
SUSKIND, P. Perfume
CORDNER, C. A Mavis Singing
HOOKER, J. Standing Orders
MARTIN, M. Vatican
SANDERS, L. The Eighth Commandment
FRATER, A. Beyond the Blue Horizon
COLLINS, J. Hollywood Husbands
GORDON, N. The Phsican
ANSETT, Bob
BANKS, L.R. Casualties
BURGESS, A. The Piano Players
ELEGANT, R. White Sun, Red Star
KIANNE, G. George Johnston
DUNLOP, E.E. War Diaries of Weary Dunlop
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At the August 1986 meeting of the Progress Association we resolved to lodge an appeal against an application to build 12 town houses around "Innisfallen Castle". Appeals were also lodged by the local member, Mr. Peter Collins, Willoughby Council, the Heritage Council, the National Trust, W.E.P.A., Castlecrag Conservation Society, local residents and Progress Associations. In addition a petition signed by 3000 residents was tabled. To resolve the matter the Minister for Planning & Environment appointed Mr. Charles O'Connell to report to him. Rita and I attended the enquiry on 30th January. Addresses were made to the Commissioner by Mr. Peter Collins, the Mayor, Ald. Noel Reidy, Town Planner, Elizabeth Thompson, the National Trust and residents. Following is part of my address to the Commissioner on behalf of our Association.

"The Castlecrag Progress Association has represented the residents of Castlecrag for just over 60 years. It includes all sections of our community and presently has approximately 100 paid up members. Walter Burley Griffin was a foundation member. It is concerned with the precinct of Castlecrag, its waterways and adjacent land areas. Innisfallen Castle is a significant part of this heritage.

Our Association supports the Planning and Development controls laid down by Willoughby Council. Its members, together with other residents, worked with Council officers to draft L.E.P. 25. It strongly supports the current moves to create a Middle Harbour National Park.

At our General Meeting on 26th August considerable concern was expressed at the proposal to develop town houses in the grounds of Innisfallen Castle. We consider the proposal to be -

- * contrary to the Draft S.E.P.P. relating to bushland Urban areas.
- * nullify action by Willoughby Council to purchase three properties adjoining the grounds to improve the heritage value and scenic beauty of the property.
- * conflict with the concept of heritage, conservation and legislation.

Our other concern relates to the obstruction of view which the proposal will cause. Unobstructed views of the Castle from the Castlecrag Peninsula and Harold Reid Reserve are now obtained over 120°. From the waterways this exceeds 180°. The four town house units on the water side of the Castle will severely limit these views.

For these reasons we ask you to refuse the proposal."

The hearing is continuing.

1987 FEES NOW DUE

The Committee

We thank those residents who support our Association by becoming paying members, and invite others to do so. Fees for the year 1987 are now due.

.....
PLEASE TEAR THIS FORM OFF AND SEND WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE TO CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION C/- THE TREASURER, MRS. D. JONES, 72 LINDEN WAY, CASTLECRAG.

I WISH TO RENEW/APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AND ENCLOSE PAYMENT FOR 1987 FOR: \$4.00 Membership, or
\$4.00 Membership plus donation.

NAME.....
ADDRESS &
PHONE NO..... SIGNATURE.....

Please note that whilst membership has been set at \$4.00 per household, any extra donation you may be generous enough to offer will be very gratefully received and will assist in our work, including production of this newsletter.

In mid 1984 Willoughby Environment Protection Association (W.E.P.A.) received a National Estate Grant of \$10,000 to enable them to carry out bush regeneration and restoration on the Sugarloaf Creek and Camp Creek Catchments. The area in which they are working at present is between Sugarloaf Crescent and Sunnyside Crescent and contains degraded bushland, three waterfalls and a creek. Before work commenced this was an impenetrable jungle of lantana; now the large rock shelf beside the creek and the top waterfall makes a pleasant picnic area. Lantana, properly handled can be eradicated, as demonstrated by W.E.P.A. Below the second waterfall the water pours through large boulders; these too were inaccessible due to lantana and can now be easily reached.

Representative from the Heritage Council, the Department of Environment and Planning and the Total Environment Centre accepted an invitation to inspect the work and were very interested and impressed.

Gay Spies and her team are to be congratulated for the excellent results which they have achieved in this area; there is still much more to be done. W.E.P.A. applied for and received a grant from the Australian Bicentenary, this time for \$80,000. The work is required to be completed by the end of 1988, quite a daunting project. To achieve the conditions of the grant they are taking on a number of new workers, including some trainees. W.E.P.A. will be responsible for the management of the project and the funds will be administered by the Environment Centre of N.S.W.

W.E.P.A.'s approach to the whole job is commendable. To inform the local residents of the project, they issued invitations to people living in both Sugarloaf Crescent and Sunnyside Crescent to attend an inspection of the area. Between 25 and 30 people arrived and they were both interested and supportive. One old time resident spoke of the days when eels and yabbies lived in the creek; three weeks later, the group were delighted to see, for the first time, eels in the pool below the large waterfall. Life is coming back into the creek.

It is good to see people interested in the care of the bush being trained in bush regeneration by W.E.P.A. This organisation is very thorough and dedicated and the project should produce very good regenerators. The more knowledgeable we are, the more hope we have of our bushland returning to its original good condition.

It might interest readers to know the source of the water that now flows into the south arm of Sugarloaf Creek. Prior to development of Willoughby the main creek ran through what is now known as Bales Park, Lea Avenue, Willoughby Bus Depot and Eastern Valley Way at Butt Park (between Sugarloaf Crescent and Sunnyside Crescent). It was joined by smaller creeks from around Fourth Avenue, High and Penhurst Streets. These days the water is piped underground other than between Fourth Avenue and Eastern Valley Way where a small waterfall enhances a very pleasant park. The large catchment, 174 ha (640 ac.) includes most of the area north of Mowbray Road and Edinburgh Road to Patrick and Cambridge Streets. (J. Timmins W.M.C.).

At the estuary, where the creeks join and flow into Sugarloaf Bay, they pass through an extensive area of Mangroves, said to be one of the best examples of a healthy mangrove community on the central section of the New South Wales Coast.



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Sugarloaf Point (Harold Reid Reserve) separates two communities of Mangroves. These occur in the north and south arms of Sugarloaf Bay and are of particular scientific interest because the south arm system is diminishing whilst the north arm system is expanding. In the past mangroves have been labelled "stinking swamps, uninhabitable and undesirable areas" and many systems around Sydney have been filled in and the land reclaimed for development.

It has now become apparent that mangroves form an integral part of the estuarine ecological system. They provide a basis for a complex food chain and are a habitat and an ideal breeding ground for many species including fish, crustaceans, mammals and birds. The grey mangrove, which is the species occurring in Sugarloaf Bay produces ten tonnes of organic matter per year per hectare, caused by the leaves falling from the mangrove trees themselves. This provides a food source for micro-organisms such as fungi, bacteria, protozoa and microalgae. These are fed upon by organisms including crabs, prawns and small fish, which in turn become the food for larger fish, birds and mammals.

Mangroves perform another function in that they reclaim land previously covered by salt water such as estuaries, streams and river mouths. This gradual reclamation of land is accomplished by the mangroves trapping small particles of soil and debris and retaining them between the tides. Over a period of time this builds up and the land reclamation begins.

Mangroves occur in those areas of shoreline which are between the mean high water level and the mean sea level. As the mangrove system reclaims more land, the first mangrove plants to establish themselves are left high and dry and eventually dry out, leaving the land reclamation to the newer plants which encroach into the waterways. This gradual progression continues until such times as equilibrium is reached between the mangrove system and the waterways.

The south arm of Sugarloaf Bay has become a static system. It has reached this equilibrium point where the tides and currents make it impossible for any more mangrove plants to establish themselves. This band of mangroves on the south arm is becoming narrower.

Whilst the south arm mangrove system has become static, the north arm system is continuing to expand. This is because development around the southern system commenced earlier than that around the north arm system. Sedimentation is still being deposited on the banks of the north arm allowing the continued expansion of the mangroves.

Mangroves in themselves are highly special plants which have adapted to growing in a waterlogged environment. They have developed systems which can survive in a soil saturated with salt water. The grey mangroves have developed modifications to their lateral systems called pneumatophores which are vertical air roots that protrude above the mud and give the root system access to an oxygen atmosphere. The leaves of the grey mangroves have developed special pores and hairs on the surface which can secrete excess salt from the plant.

(This is an abridged version of an article prepared by Chris Comb, Tree Preservation Officer for the Parks Department of Willoughby Council.)

CASTLECRAG CELLARS

122 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECRAG PHONE 95 2682 or 958 1507

DISCOUNT WINES BEERS & SPIRITS

CENTRE ART SPACE - EXHIBITIONS FEBRUARY-APRIL AT CIVIC CENTRE CHATSWOOD

9th-21st Feb. "Victoria Avenue - The Future." An exhibition of the conceptual design transforming Victoria Avenue into a pedestrian mall, to allow the public to view the plans and make comment.

23rd-28th Feb. "Tibetan Images" Australian/Tibetan Soc. presents costumes, carpets, religious and household artefacts from Tibet. Also, photos from Peter Schoolal's four months trek from Lhasa to edge of Gobi Desert.

2nd-7th March "Victoria Avenue - The Future" - as above.

9th-14th March "Million Minutes of Peace" Letters, poems, drawings and artworks created for Australia's contribution to this campaign.

16th-21st March "Belinda Richmond and Jackie Rawlings" Contemporary figurative paintings & selection of drawings and posters of nature.

30th March-3rd April "Willoughby Bicentennial Banners Project" the 14 banners will be worked on during this week. Sewers, quilters and those interested in the project invited to join in or view the work in progress.

6th-18th April Sculptures produced in Willoughby - culmination of three month community project. Individual works - sponsored by W.M.C. and Comm. Arts Board.

PLEASE NOTE This area available for artists to exhibit their works. Some vacancies for May, June and July - contact Community Arts Officer 4129109.

RETREAT RESERVE POOL

Eric Kaye

I reported in the Sept/October copy of the Crag on the great difficulties facing Council in the restoration and retention of the pool. This was closed following receipt of the following telex from the London Underwriters:

"ALL LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF THE EXISTING AND/OR USE OF THE CASTLECRAG TIDAL POOL IS EXCLUDED FROM COUNCIL'S CURRENT POLICY WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT".

Lane Cove and North Sydney have taken similar action with respect to pools in their municipalities.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF "NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH" WILL BE HELD AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH HALL, EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECRAG AT 8 P.M. ON FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1987. Supper will be served.

Everyone is welcome.... in fact, we WANT everybody to come. This meeting will encompass the election of a new executive and any questions you may have regarding NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH will be welcome.

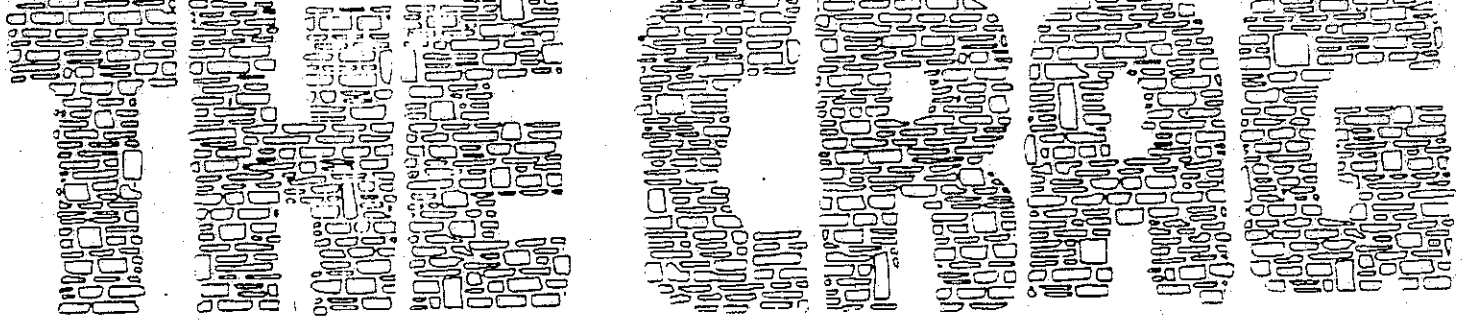
Police advise that any family going on holidays is welcome to advise them at Chatswood Police Station of the dates, where a key may be obtained if necessary, and they will include this in their House Register, for their action as may be necessary.

To join NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH telephone 95-6963..... you can also join at the meeting on 6th March.

CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT.

Committee.

We would like to thank Mark Howarth, Minister of the Willoughby Presbyterian Church, David Tyndall, Minister of St. James Church of England and the choir, and organist, for their help on the night of Carols by Candlelight, held at the park in Edinburgh Road. Over eighty people came along to enjoy a very pleasant evening.



CASTLECRAG BUSH DANCE

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