

CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

* SIXTY TWO YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

NO. 52

ISSN 0814-2054

MARCH/APRIL 1987

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUE RANDLE

In my report to our Annual General Meeting, 24th February, I thanked my committee personally for their constant support during my year of presidency. Without such a team the Castlecrag Progress Association would not have been able to function. I thanked the residents who supported us by attending meetings of our Association, and gave us much appreciated financial support.

I also listed some of the projects in which we had been involved during 1986, including the bus shelter, the Family Fun Fair, the Innisfallen Castle proposal, and the very successful and enjoyable Bush Dance. I wished our affiliated organisations, the Castlecrag Conservation Society, Neighbourhood Watch and Safety Houses Schemes, a very successful 1987.

I would now like to thank Mrs Ann Korner who has been responsible for the typing of 'The Crag' for the last four years, 24 issues in all. This was quite a job, but unfortunately, Ann will not be able to help out this year.

The question of the waterfront cottages in Sugarloaf Bay is again coming up before Council. Our Association supports the retention of these three picturesque cottages as an important part of our heritage. I understand the present occupants are collecting signatures to support this cause.

The new committee appointed at our Annual General Meeting is as follows:

President: Sue Randle	95 6344	also: Beverley Blacklock	Ian Johnstone
Vice Pres: Eric Kaye	95 6146	Marcella Cerna	John Llewelyn
Secretary: Kate Westoby	95 0215	Dorothy Fraser	Flo. McIntyre
Treasurer: Diana Jones	958 4885	Bill Ickowicz	Erne Pope
Auditor: Lee Davis		Mary Jahroni	Harold Spies
Editors of Crag: Rita Kaye, Kerry McKillop			



DESTROY OR RESTORE ?

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE POSTERN, TUESDAY 28 APRIL 1987.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING AT 80 THE BULWARK ON 8 MAY 1987.

THE CRAG IS EDITED ON BEHALF OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION BY RITA KAYE 95 6146 AND KERRY MCKILLOP 958 4516. QUERIES, IDEAS OR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME.

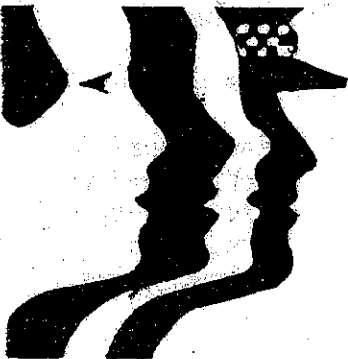
Readers may remember that in the last issue of The Crag, I reported on a development application for the conversion of Innisfallen Castle, Castle Cove, from a single building into two units, and the development of twelve strata titled units in the curtilage of the castle. Because of the great public interest in this, I report further on the matter. Since my first address to the Commissioner, Mr Charles O'Connell, on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association, I have spent two further days on this matter. One of these involved an official inspection of the castle, its grounds, and views of it from Middle Harbour and other vantage points, including Castlecrag. On the final day of the hearing, I with most of the original speakers, made a closing address.

By way of background to this matter, the following may be of interest. The proposal is prohibited under Council's planning controls (Interim Development Order No.15). The property also has an Interim Conservation Order placed on it by the Minister for Planning and Environment. However, despite this, the proposal could not be permitted under the Heritage Act. Section 129 of this Act allows the Minister to gazette an order curtailing or modifying local regulations which operate to the detriment of the conservation of heritage items. Therefore, the Minister could amend IDO 15 and permit the development proposal.

Council lodged a strong submission opposing the redevelopment proposal and in view of this and the very strong and continuing public opposition, the Heritage Council refused the development application at its meeting in December 1986. The Commissioner will now make his recommendations to the Minister, who will then hand down his final decision on the development.

The Quadrangle: Request for Additions A recent development application submitted to Council for permission to build first floor office space above the existing retail area of the Quadrangle Shopping Centre, predictably caused a large number of concerned residents to phone me. In addition, at least 14 written objections were submitted to the Town Clerk. The application does not comply with Council's policies relating to this Neighbourhood Business Area, and has since been refused under delegated authority.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 1987



Over 70 people attended and a number of new members were gained. It was an enthusiastic and interested group which heard the Area Co-ordinator's report on progress made during 1986 and plans for the future.

Last year's committee of Dick Wheeler (Area Co-ordinator), Dick Coggins (Treasurer), Ella Young (Secretary) and Committee Member Helen Young, were re-elected unopposed; with new committee member Monica Mayer they will form the administrative committee for 1987. The 1986 Group Co-ordinators (all 30 of them) agreed to continue their mighty work, with the addition of two new co-ordinators.

It was a great night with a convivial supper chat after. Thanks to all those who attended. IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED YET, RING 95 6963 FOR INSTANT MEMBERSHIP!

WANTED: for Castlecrag Infants School, secondhand APPLE 2E computer in good condition, preferably with colour monitor, dual disc drive and printer. Also interested in educational software. Phone (9am-3pm) 958 4035, after hours 958 3700 or 95 6472.

WILLOUGHBY BICENTENNIAL BANNERS PROJECT

Fourteen magnificent fabric banners are being created in our municipality for the bicentennial year. These four-metre high banners depict scenes from the history of Willoughby, from the pre-European era with Aboriginal motifs, through our various stages of development, and into the future. Model suburbs will appear, with a Burley Griffin motif, and a stage set from the New Haven Theatre. The completed banners will be permanently displayed in the Willoughby Town Hall.

Working bees are held every Monday and Tuesday at the Banners Workshop, 85 Albert Avenue, Chatswood, and volunteers will be needed to December. They do not need specific skills, though skilled craftspeople would be very welcome.

The banners will be worked in various textile techniques, including applique, quilting, embroidery, weaving, lace-making, and sewing. Yvonne Line, Fibre Artist, is the current co-ordinator. Her work has been exhibited at the Quilters' Guild, Sydney Town Hall, Opera House and the Sydney Textile Museum.

If you would like to be part of this most interesting undertaking, phone Yvonne Line on 411 5740, or Ann Hinchliffe, Community Arts Department, Willoughby Council, on 412 9109, for further details.

GET RID OF THESE WEEDS

The Committee

We have recently received pamphlets from the Department of Agriculture regarding two undesirable weeds. They are as follows:

RHUS OR WAX TREE: This is a dangerous, allergy-causing tree. Over the years it has been planted in Australia because of its beautiful Autumn foliage. However, Rhus can cause painful allergic reactions. Between 12 hours and 7 days after contact, Rhus causes dermatitis, beginning with a rash, itching and blisters where the skin has touched the plant. The rash is often accompanied by localised swelling. These symptoms usually last 7-10 days. Whilst the first contact with Rhus usually produces no significant reaction, it is subsequent contact which results in the allergy. Allergy tests in USA have shown that at least 75% of the population is allergic to this plant.

Rhus has become a serious weed problem in Sydney during recent years. The seeds are spread by birds and flourish in almost any reasonably fertile soil. **NEW TREES SHOULD NOT BE PLANTED AND ESTABLISHED TREES SHOULD BE REMOVED.**

PAMPAS GRASS: This plant seems to have the potential to become a major weed problem, particularly in urban bushland (you may have seen it along the river banks, under the Roseville Bridge). It has been widely planted as an ornamental plant. At present it occurs as a weed mainly in the disturbed areas associated with service roads, pipeline cuts and walking trails. It is a prolific seeder and seeds are readily wind-dispersed. Help to protect our bushland from this weed, both by not planting it in your garden, and by removing any plants you may already have. If you do remove it, ensure you dispose of the roots, for pampas grass can also be spread by root segments.

NIGEL'S QUALITY MEATS

Griffin Centre
120 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag
Phone 95 0065

For
top quality & friendly service



CASTLECrag

Harold Spies, President,
Castlecrag Conservation Society

"Fabulous block....water views....backing onto bush reserve....
high location...chance of a lifetime...."

A marvellous bargain, you acquire it and build a superb house with lawns and gardens....'Drat those casuarinas and gums which have grown, they are spoiling our view of the water. Let us cut and lop them, they are on the reserve anyway and it's only scrub. I've removed all that stuff from our block and planted some really nice trees, not too tall of course, and our lawns are the best in the district. Tree preservation? No worry. What's a few dollars anyway?

My wife is concerned about the privet and lantana which have appeared near our back boundary - they weren't there when we built. I'll cut them down. You know it's marvellous what the bush out there can do. We throw all garden refuse and lawn clippings into it, to break down and fertilise the bush.'

A fictional, but often too close to the bone, reflection of what often goes on. It can be called the WEEDING OF THE BUSH.

Many of us have been conditioned by our European heritage. The Australian bush was strange and foreign to our forebears. With its duller green plants and odd animals it was different from the home country. It needed taming. Far more comforting to have nice neat gardens planted with brightly coloured flowering plants, mown lawns and clipped edges. So our colonising ancestors passed on their conventions to us.

Most people are well-intentioned and think that the Australian bush can cope with almost any abuse. Why, look how it recovers after a big fire. Many of us have been guilty of dumping garden refuse into the adjacent bush before we knew better. Unfortunately some still carry out the practice which results in GARDEN ESCAPES.

Many weeds in the disturbed bush, Wandering Jew, Fishbone Fern, Bamboo, Privet, Lantana, Camphor Laurel and many more, have been the result of such dumping, spread by seed-eating birds or washed down our stormwater channels.

All these foreign plants thrive in high nitrogen and phosphorus-containing soils. The source of nitrates and phosphates can be run-off from the roads (dog faeces, and blue metal which has a higher phosphate level than sandstone soils), from fertilised lawns or from septic tank effluent. So the weeds blossom and thrive at the expense of native plants. These garden escapes, many of which are often succulents, are out of place in the bush, foreign to it. On the other hand our native plants have evolved and adapted to grow in low nitrogen-phosphorus soils typical of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. They can't cope with high amounts of these elements so they die or retreat and are overtaken by the weeds.

The bush can be regenerated by appropriate methods such as those based on the Bradley Principles of Bush Regeneration. This is not the time or place to deal with these methods but if you wish to see them in practice or see their results, enquire of any of the Conservation Society member, or come to see the Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project (ring 952569).

There is another aspect of spoiling our native bush, which can be called RUBBISHING THE BUSH.

Some people are just plain lazy. They are not prepared to take waste or discarded material to the local tip, or in the case of Castlecrag, to Council's Waste Transfer Station at Artarmon (a small fee is charged). So why

not toss it over the cliff, the waterfall, into the gully, into the creek... out of sight, out of mind? The Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project teams have removed enormous amounts of household rubbish, building material and discarded home items, including an old toilet bowl, sewing machine, cement washing tub, bricks, fencing posts and wire, galvanised iron pipes and sheets, bottles, a child's scooter, bundles of paper - even MWSDB terracotta and plastic pipes and timber, a Council post and sign saying DUMP NO RUBBISH, and of course garden cuttings and weeds.

WE BELONG TO THE LAND. Many of us have come to live in Castlecrag because of its bush and have come to appreciate native plants - their form, foliage and flowers and the associated animal life - the possums, echidnas, lizards and birds which have survived urbanisation.

This bush with its unique flora and fauna is part of our Australian heritage. Without it we lose part of ourselves. This bush, this land, doesn't belong to us, rather, we belong to the land. We are part of an interacting, interdependent, complex ecosystem. Whatever we do affects the bush, for better or for worse. We need to care for the bush. We need your help to preserve this heritage for our children and their children's children in the years to come.

DON'T 'WEED' THE BUSH

DON'T 'RUBBISH' THE BUSH

HELP WITH YOUR LAWNS!

DO YOU NEED YOUR LAWNS OR EDGES CUT? NICHOLAS STEPHENS, A CASTLECRAG STUDENT, WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT. PHONE 958 3859 . PLEASE PHONE EARLY MORNING.

SALVATION ARMY

The Red Shield Appeal, the annual appeal made by the Salvation Army to provide them with funds to assist the needy of Australia, will be held this year on Sunday 21st June. Once again we will be assisting in this, and will be responsible for the Castlecrag area.

We will need 25 helpers so the whole area can be covered. If you could possibly give 2 hours on that Sunday, and so help a very good cause, please phone Rita Kaye 95 6146 so that you can be included in the team.



Jim Young Real Estate

THE QUADRANGLE

100 EDINBURGH ROAD • CASTLECRAG • 2068

If you wish to buy or sell a home, contact Jim Young for courteous and genuine service, backed by over 40 years' personal experience in these lovely areas.

GENUINE BUYERS NOW WAITING

TELEPHONE: 95-0124 or 95-0197

After Hours contact:

Jim Young, 9 Minnamurra Rd., Northbridge. Phone: 95-1894



CASTLECRAG LIBRARY - NEW BOOK LIST

✓ Bragg, M	Maid of Buttermere
✓ Clavell, J	Whirlwind
✓ Sheldon, S	Windmills of the Gods
✓ Reeman, D	Iron Pirate
✓ Sanders, L	Passion of Molly
✓ Baigent, L	Messianic Legacy
✓ Read, P	Free Frenchman
✓ Grant-Adamson, L	Guilty Knowledge
✓ Scott, J	Rampage
✓ Graham, W	The Green Flash
✓ King, S	It
✓ Brown, M	Weaver's Apprentice
✓ Mortimer, J	Sharade
✓ Cookson, C	Bill Bailey
✓ Masterton, G	Headlines
✓ McCaffrey, A	Year of the Lucy
✓ Rendell, R	Live Flesh
✓ Booth, A	Roads to Sata
✓ Blair, L	Privilege
✓ Bailey, P	Gabriel's Lament
✓ Dahl, R	Two Fables
✓ Herbert, J	Magic Cottage
✓ Theroux, P	O-zone
✓ Thomas, L	Adventures of Goodnight and Loving

Also many paperbacks by authors such as Fay Weldon, John Mortimer, Anthony Price and Patricia Wentworth.

CASTLECRAG MEATS

CNR RAEBURN AVENUE & EDINBURGH ROAD

TELEPHONE 958 4274

*** EXCELLENT SERVICE ***

*** TOP QUALITY MEATS ***

TRY OUR NEW RANGE OF BARBECUE KEBABS

PHONE ORDERS 958 4274

FREE HOME DELIVERIES
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Northbridge Women's Bowling Club

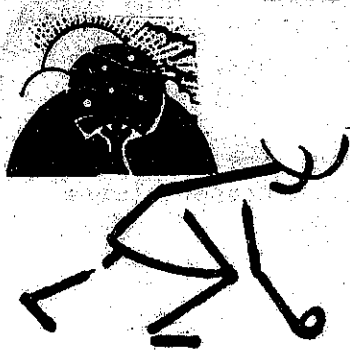
WARNER PARK, THE OUTPOST, NORTHBRIDGE PHONE 95 6322

NEW OR EXPERIENCED BOWLERS COME AND JOIN IN THE BOWLING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF OUR HAPPY AND RELAXED CLUB ***** SET AMONG BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS AWAY FROM TRAFFIC NOISE!

FREE TUITION FROM A QUALIFIED COACH. SHOES AND BOWLS SUPPLIED.

ART CLASSES SOLO BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG YOGA

Further enquiries Club: 95 6322 After hours: 958 3480



PRINTED BY GORDON BUSINESSPRINT - 498-4464

BUNNY'S CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

"FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S WEAR"

SHOP 3, QUADRANGLE
SHOPPING VILLAGE
100 EDINBURGH ROAD,
CASTLECRAG N.S.W.

95 6646



PATON & ASSOCIATES PTY. LTD.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS & MARKETING CONSULTANTS
• 81 EDINBURGH ROAD, CASTLECRAG, 2088 -TEL. 958 1200

DID YOU KNOW?

PROPERTY VALUES HAVE RISEN DRAMATICALLY THIS YEAR!!

FOR AN OBLIGATION-FREE UP-TO-DATE OPINION OF YOUR HOME'S CURRENT MARKET VALUE, PLEASE CONTACT TERRY LAMBERT OR PETER MCNEIL AT

PATON & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

81 EDINBURGH ROAD
958-1200