

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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JULY/AUGUST 1989

* SIXTY FOUR YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eric Kaye

Judy Bowen. The many friends and residents of Castlecrag who knew, respected and loved Judy Bowen were saddened to learn that she passed away on July 19th, peacefully, after her long illness. To Ted and her family we extend our deepest sympathy. Judy fought her illness with great courage; the positive attitude she adopted to her problem and her cheerful and active participation in our community activities are an inspiration to all. We were very proud when Judy was rewarded for her dedication by winning in 1984 a Churchill Fellowship for her work in Cansupport (a supportive group who work with cancer patients and their families, based at the Royal North Shore Hospital) and later when Willoughby Council named her as Citizen of the Year in 1986.

A Community Event to be staged on Sunday 22nd October. The Australia Council of the Federal Government has set up a Community Cultural Development Unit to support and encourage active community involvement in cultural matters. The CCDU supports and funds (amongst other things) art, culture, and community art. The aim is to increase community awareness of the bonds we share and to understand that together we can make changes that as individuals would be impossible. Nick Hughes, a playwright in our community, has drawn our Association's attention to this government initiative and has proposed a most imaginative community event to be staged (hopefully) in the school grounds. Some professionals will be involved, however most participants will be locals. The 'Event' is intended to be the first stage of a longer term Cultural Mapping project. In Nick's words, 'The Event will consist of two parts: a life-sized board game and a performance. The board game will be able to be played by all age groups and will be laid out through the school grounds. The performance (hopefully with many local people) will be the climax of the Community Event and will use large puppets to present the major issues facing our community in an entertaining and enjoyable way'. The Progress Association has made application to the CCDU to fund this Event.

The 'new look' Crag In support of our environmental policy, this and future issues will be printed on recycled paper. Information supplied by the makers (APM Tasmania), advises that six large trees are used to manufacture one tonne of newsprint. Each issue of The Crag uses 22kg of paper, so until this issue we consumed one large tree per annum. Coloured recycled paper is not yet available.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE RAMPART, TUESDAY 22 AUGUST AT 8PM. ALL WELCOME.

THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 8PM AT 48 THE BULWARK. NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME. President Harold Spies 958 8569

Continuation of Speech by Edgar Deans at Castlecrag School 30/4/1989

Representation in Willoughby Council: We found we were grossly under-represented in Council. A petition was prepared and presented to the Minister resulting in our representation being increased from 3 to 6; 3 from Northbridge and 3 from Middle Harbour Ward as at present.

Free Libraries: We made representations and supported the Free Library Movement. Willoughby Council was slow to act at first but finally it came good and we have the excellent local library and the one at Chatswood.

Baby Health Centre: In the early years cars were a rarity in Castlecrag and Willoughby and it was a long way to push a pram to Northbridge or Chatswood so it was a great relief when our representation resulted in a centre under the spectators' pavilion in Willoughby Park.

Trees in Edinburgh Road: In those early days, as in most others in Willoughby, Edinburgh Road was bare of trees. We persuaded Willoughby Council to provide them if we would care for them. So I was one of the Progress Assoc. members who went from door to door persuading residents to water and care for the young plants.

Post and Telephone: Representations for improvement of these facilities were much on the agenda. Many were the letters I sent to the Rt. Hon. WM Hughes PC MP who was our local member in those days.

Hotel: Application was made for the transfer of a hotel licence for premises to be built on the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Edinburgh Road. There was much opposition from residents who rallied around the Progress Assoc. in organising a petition against it and then engaging Counsel to oppose it in the Licensing Court, and making history in having the Court refuse the transfer.

Conservation: Inspired and led by the Griffins, we worked hard for the preservation of the native flora. Many were honorary rangers under the Protection Act and also worked at fighting bush fires when they occurred. The Fire Brigade operated only when 'property' (meaning buildings) was endangered. We regarded the bush also as valuable property to be saved if possible.

Eastern Valley Way: The road did not exist initially. Walter Griffin was instrumental in planning and building the road and donated land for it. (We always called them Walter and Marion Griffin; nobody ever referred to them as Burley Griffin.) The roadway was formed by Unemployed Relief labour with the stones set in place by hand in the traditional Macadam method and it was paved and opened in 1939, a momentous year in the history of Castlecrag.

Transport: The Harbour Bridge was opened in 1932 but no trams or buses were allowed across it at first so one had to change to a train or ferry. After a long campaign we finally got the Wynyard-Lindfield bus in 1939 but in the beginning we still had the same problem with the Harbour Bridge crossing.

I now live in Canberra and was recently asked: 'If Walter Griffin was alive today what would he think of the way Canberra has turned out?' I replied that he would think that the Civic Centre is an abomination but that he would love the Botanic Gardens. The Gardens in Canberra have only native, indigenous species growing in them, just like most of the grounds of this school. If you were to ask me today what Griffin would think of the way Castlecrag has turned out, I would reply that he would not like a lot of the things that have happened but that he would love the School. For his philosophy was that buildings should be subordinated to the landscape. This school is almost unique in its garden setting of native plants. It is the product of diligent, devoted and unselfish work of two generations of local people. Think of that; two generations of continuous work!

To destroy it is completely and utterly wrong. It must be preserved for the third generation and for those yet to come! We know that places elsewhere need schools but to destroy what we have here will not provide them these. To destroy this local school in its uniquely beautiful and creative natural setting would be a completely irresponsible disaster, and for our local infants a denial of a facility which we and they are entitled to expect.

So, I urge you here to continue the work of those who have gone before and so to co-operate together and to do all you can to preserve and maintain this place for the generations to come. Together we grow!

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST

BURGESS, A Any Old Iron
SWEENEY, V South Lies the Valley
ALLENDE, I Eva Luna
HIGGINS, J A Season in Hell
MILLER, J S The Days of My Life
ELLIOTT, J Life on the Nile
SMITH, W A Time to Die
PETERS, E The Heretic's Apprentice
DRINKWATER, C An Abundance of Rain
GREGORY, P The Favoured Child
ADLER, E The Rich Shall Inherit
FRAME, J The Carpathians
COOKSON, C The Harrogate Secret
DE TERAN, L Off The Rails
ALLEBURY, T Deep Purple
BRAGG, M The Second Inheritance
BAEHR, S C Daughters
SEBASTIAN, T Spy Shadow
SILVERMAN, D The Shishi
SIDDON, A R Peachtree Road
STEELE, D A Perfect Stranger
LE CARRE, J The Russia House
FORSYTH, F The Negotiators
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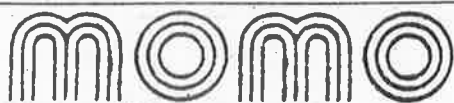
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SAVE OUR SCHOOL

The battle continues to retain the school and keep the land for community use. The NSW Department of Planning has again requested Willoughby Council to rezone the land, but Council has thankfully refused to do so until they have heard what the community has to say on the matter. To this end Council will be calling a Public Meeting mid August (watch the North Shore Times for date) and we urge all Castlecrag residents to attend. Some far-reaching proposals are being formulated, we are determined to show the Government that the site is not 'surplus' but a treasured and much-needed asset. It is agreed that the site is under-utilised and one of the proposals is to establish (along with the existing Infants School) an Environmental Learning Centre open to other schools and community groups and working in with Dr Metherell's recently announced Greening of Schools Program. Would you be happy with medium density housing? Please come to the meeting, be part of the discussion, show your concern over the future of the school site.

Another poker in the fire is a very detailed submission to the Ombudsman, prepared by Bruce Wilson on behalf of the parents. This submission covers all of the mismanagement and dubious practices of the Dept of Education and its officers regarding the school closures. The Ombudsman's office is at present deciding whether it will proceed with a full formal inquiry. Bruce has also lodged the first Freedom of Information Document to the Dept of Education in an attempt to sight the paperwork to which the P&C was refused access.

Keep 2pm SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER free - we will be welcoming Spring and holding a 'Green Day' at the school to launch our proposal for the Environmental Learning Centre. We have invited Messrs Greiner, Collins, Moore and Metherell as well as some noteworthy Conservationists to see the grounds and hopefully convince them that it is a valuable educational and community asset.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ... Please keep writing letters. It is imperative for the community to keep the heat on. Send to SMH, Telegraph, Northern Herald and North Shore Times. Also to The Premier, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney. This school refuses to die!

Lindy Batterham, Convenor SOS.CRAG

On 27th June a number of Castlecrag residents attended the meeting of the Royal Australian Historical Society at which Associate Professor Jill Roe of Macquarie University spoke on 'The magic world of Marion Mahony Griffin: Castlecrag in the inter-war years'. In her most enjoyable and instructive lecture, the speaker drew on little-known sources such as the correspondence between the Griffins and Miles Franklin to show a strong, forthright, creative and independent woman highly regarded in her profession of architecture, whose creative energies contributed to the development of an unusual and spirited community here in Castlecrag. Under her direction the Haven Amphitheatre became an important focus and expression of this special community character. Dr Roe presented an interesting range of photographs depicting productions of the Haven Theatre and other aspects of Marion Mahony Griffin's life. Several members of the audience at the lecture could remember attending performances at the Amphitheatre during those years, reminding us that contemporaries of the Griffins still live in Castlecrag and nearby in Sydney.

Dr Roe is to address the October meeting of the Progress Association, so residents with interest in our history and heritage and those with special knowledge and recollections of the early years, are urged to attend.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. hopes to build up a collection of Griffin memorabilia, and would carefully copy and return materials such as photos, drawings, Amphitheatre programmes, posters etc which residents might want to make available. Please contact the Secretary, Adrienne Kabos, 12 The Parapet (958 2060).

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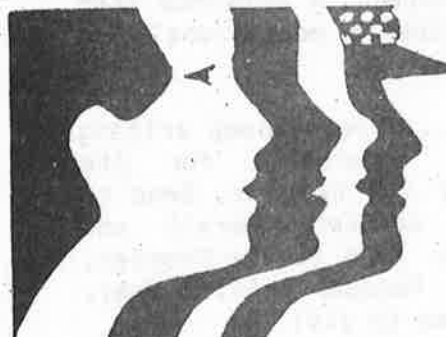
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler (958 6963)

Which kind are you?



Householders can make it easy or make it hard for burglars. Most burglars 'case' a home before they break in. Whether they choose your home or someone else's depends on how you advertise your safety consciousness. Neighbourhood Watch plaques, lights, radio (there are gadgets that turn them off and on) are 'off-putting' to criminals. And, of course, visible alarms. Think about it - if you were a burglar, wouldn't you pick the easy targets in preference to the difficult ones?

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY
Harold Spies, Conservation Society
(continued from last issue)

5 billion People by the End of Century

Huxley raises another major problem of our age - overpopulation. The world's population will reach 5b by the end of this century. Despite its one child per family policy, China's population is 1b. Increasing population means increasing demands on energy hence on food supply, fuel and industrial products. Limiting human fertility is complex; it involves economic, religious, developmental and most sensitive and personal values. However, it can't be ignored.

Through media exposure most of us are aware of other interconnected problems such as pollution, soil degradation, acid rain, ozone hole and cfc's, pesticides, recycling, intractable wastes, nuclear wastes and oil spills. All need to be tackled at the international, national and local levels.

'Steady-state Economy' David Suzuki, the well known Canadian scientist and broadcaster, summed up the outlook for the future: 'All projections of human activity lead to predictions of energy depletion, massive species extinction and the disappearance of all wilderness by the first years of the next century'. He called for a change in our behaviour so that society becomes a sustainable one based not on continual growth as the norm but on a steady-state of growth.

In 1972 the Meadows Group (chemical firms) published a book titled 'Limits of Growth'. In it they defined the basic problem - that growth in all aspects of the economy, industrial expansion, and population growth, must have limits when viewed globally. Economists and politicians were incensed because they consider unlimited growth as their lifeblood, as they still do today in Australia. Weighty political and economical decisions are based on this obsession with growth.

In 1977 Herman Daly now Senior Environmental Economist to the World Bank, proposed the concept of steady-state economics. All economic activity is powered by energy. National economies have been powered by robbing from others and by drawing upon resources accumulated over past geological time scaled in millions of years. Daly summarised his views in Bulletin of Atomic Scientists:

'A steady-state economy is one in which the populations of people and the goods are maintained constant by a low rate of activity. Birth rates equal death rates and production equals depreciation, all at low levels, so that people live long, physical goods are durable, and environmental depletion and pollution rates are low. Steady-state economics seeks an answer to the question of economic growth in terms of a scale of activity ecologically sustainable over the long term at a level sufficient to provide good life for whatever population size can be accommodated under those conditions.'

What can be done? What can we do as a group, family or individually? Time is short. Dr Noel Brown of the UN Environmental Programme believes we have only ten years to do something about it. But, have we the moral right to tell the Brazilians to stop cutting down their forests when we have destroyed so much of our own and are clearfelling the South East Forests for wood chip? Can we tell other countries to cut their energy usage when we in Australia use more per capita than any other country? What are our priorities? Estimated expenditure on arms is \$1.5 million per minute!

What are we prepared to give up? How can we cut down on the use of energy? What can we recycle? What are your thoughts on this crisis? Finally, a quote from David Suzuki: 'What sustains me, though, is an optimism about the strength of love - love of our children and a hope for a better world for them that must surely override all other considerations. And I hope that we will finally see and hear the signs and cries from nature everywhere. That would be the beginning of a wonderful transition in the metamorphosis of our species.'

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PETER WILLSON
GENERAL MANAGER



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PEST ERADICATION

WILLOUGHBY FUN FAIR SAT. 16. SEPT.

Please keep in mind our trash and treasure stall for which we need donations of old books, records, toys, games and small household goods. Ring Joyce Batterham (9584161), Rita Kaye (9586146) or Sue Randle (9586344) to come to collect any items you no longer require. This is our major fundraising effort. Thank you and see you at the fair.



**HOLIDAY UNIT
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The Progress Association is seeking a motif for a new letterhead for our stationery. Please contact one of the Editors or send to 80 or 10a The Bulwark. We also wish to re-form the Traffic Subcommittee of our Association. Contact Eric Kaye 958 6146 if you are a resident concerned about traffic safety in our suburb.

Please accept/renew my membership of the Castlecrag Progress Association, for which I enclose \$4, and/or a donation (\$) to cover costs such as the printing of The Crag.

Name: _____

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Please make cheques payable to Castlecrag Progress Association, and send to the Hon. Treasurer, Diana Jones, 72 Linden Way, Castlecrag, 2068.

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Progress Association by Mary Baker (958 5518) and Kerry McKillop (958 4516).