

TRASH

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1989

* SIXTY FOUR YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eric Kaye

Spring has brought with it an increase in local social activities. First the annual **Willoughby Fun Fair**. Let me thank the many residents who so generously donated items for our Trash and Treasure stall and those members who worked so hard to make the day a great success. We raised \$1050 from the event and this money will be used to support various community activities, such as the printing of **The Crag** (now costing over \$1000 for the year), 25% will be donated to the Conservation Society. Other activities we have financially supported this year are: the fight to save the school, the Willoughby Environment Protection Assoc. to assist their work in the area between Sunnyside and Sugarloaf Crescents (the Valley of the Water Dragons), and the Castlehaven Reserve Committee for their productions.

Some items from the stall were unsold at the end of the fair. Books have been handed to the Red Cross for their regular stalls in Chatswood and the remaining items were donated to the Aboriginal Opportunity Shop at Redfern.

The Castlehaven Reserve Committee has arranged with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society to stage **Yeomen of the Guards**

on Sunday 22 October at 3 pm. This has been made possible by a generous donation from Ron Pritchard of the Zenith Centre Corporation, and will avoid the rain risk faced in the past.

Our own community event is the third item on the program. The event will be held in the Castlecrag Infants School on Sunday 19 November and will emphasise issues of concern to our residents. This is being coordinated by Nick Hughes who describes it elsewhere in this issue. It should be a great occasion for strengthening community ties, I urge everyone to participate.

Coming now to business. Of recent years it is very seldom that we have not had a quorum at our meetings. This did, however, occur at our August general meeting when, because of a bitterly cold winter's night, only nine financial members attended. An important item on that agenda was an invitation from Council, seeking the Association's comment on a request by a resident for subdivision of property on the northern escarpment. This property extends from Edinburgh Road to Sugarloaf Bay and, like many other lots in the area, is affected by a foreshore building line at the 70 m

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE **CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION** WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, THE RAMPART, **TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER AT 8 PM. ALL WELCOME**

THE **CONSERVATION SOCIETY** WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON **FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 8PM** AT 1 TOWER RESERVE (the lane adjacent to 200 Edinburgh Road). NEW MEMBERS MOST WELCOME.

President Harold Spies 958 8569

contour and by county open space reservation. Because of the importance and contentious nature of this matter, our Committee considered that a resolution relating to it could only be taken at a properly constituted General Meeting. Consequently, the item will be recommitted at the meeting on 24 October.

The policy of the Association relating to further development on that part of the northern escarpment between Sunnyside Crescent and The Pinnacle is covered on pages 103-107 of the **Local Environmental Study**. In part, it recommends restriction of development to the relatively flat land above the 70m contour and "to ensure the visual

integrity of the area as seen from the water it is imperative that any further development on the residential part of the lots should be as inconspicuous as possible and not sited near the cliff edge." A further complication arises in that the area allocated to the proposed subdivision does not meet Council's requirements for residences in this area. The question we must address is whether this application constitutes a special case, and should be treated as such, or whether any relaxation of the policy could create a precedent which threatens Castlecrag's unique environment. I respectfully ask all members to attend the meeting and express their views on this important matter.

Castlecrag's Future: Environmental Options

Bob McKillop

Over the past six months there has been a remarkable upsurge in public awareness and concern about Sydney's environment. Communities are now more aware of the need for clean air, water, beaches and protection of our natural bushland and heritage.

Here in Castlecrag we are fortunate in having the benefits of a superb natural environment, the Griffin heritage and the foresight of a small band of residents who gave their time to prepare the Castlecrag Local Environment Study (LES) back in 1982. The LES is a remarkable document which clearly sets out the principles and steps necessary to limit and control the forces of change on our community in order to minimise their environmental impact and to retain the scale and character which makes Castlecrag unique. The LES put forward recommendations to protect and manage natural bushland, preserve the unique built environment, restrict traffic congestion and provide adequate community facilities. This required controls to prevent excessive development of small residential sites, to ensure new buildings are harmonious with existing structures and to protect waterways by prohibiting new building below a Foreshore Building Line based on natural contours. Evaluation of development proposals should emphasise potential impact on the natural landscape and the amenity of other residents. It was

a pioneering work toward a Local Environment Plan (LEP) and, following community consultation, Willoughby Local Environment Plan No. 25 was gazetted on 1 August 1986.

While there is now increased public awareness of environmental issues, the attractiveness of Castlecrag as a place to live generates pressure for new development which threatens our environment. New homes have been constructed which do not comply with preservation of the local character, subdivisions are proposed across Foreshore Building Lines, our school is threatened with closure, and the shadow of the expressway remains. Without an aware and active community ensuring adherence to the provisions of LEP.25, these pressures threaten Castlecrag's unique character and environment. We face a choice between an overbuilt 'concrete jungle' or a suburb where the built-environment is in harmony with the natural, and residents (and visitors) can enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities.

If you are concerned about protecting our environment for future generations then you need to 'get involved' in community affairs. A perusal of the Castlecrag LES (1982) is a good starting point. The Progress Association welcomes the support of new members and their involvement in meetings and functions.

Neighbourhood watch.

Richard Wheeler (958 6963)



There is no need to stress the importance of keeping your credit cards safe. But did you know it is advisable that you request the carbon paper the store normally discards after running your card through the machine? An individual can take the carbon from the rubbish, copy the number, and use it for a mail order purchase! It has happened. So try to keep track of your card whilst an imprint is being made, and make sure it is used to print only one slip.

Neighbourhood Watch - vigilance. Remember, those who do nothing to deter crime are, in fact, encouraging it.

CASTLECRAG CARNIVAL

A Feast of Fun and Theatre for Everyone!

The Progress Association is hosting a day of public entertainment for the whole community of Castlecrag and friends. The Carnival will take place in the grounds of Castlecrag School on Sunday 19th November from 11am till 4pm and is open to all.

At the beginning of the Carnival everyone will be invited to play a giant version of Snakes and Ladders laid out in the grounds of the school; an enjoyable way to tour the gardens and learn something of their history.

Delicious Food will be available and there will be many exciting and varied activities to enjoy including the opportunity to join in the making of a unique bamboo structure.

The climax of the day's festivities will be a performance featuring giant puppets, masks, song and dance, in which Walter and Marion Griffin help the community defend itself against those who would steal its school, its open space and its right to independence.

We hope to make the Carnival not only a day of brilliant entertainment and fun but also a day to remember. To do this we need your help, for, the essence of an enjoyable Carnival is the involvement of lots of people in making it, doing it and being at it. Would anyone who is interested in being involved in any way or who wants to know more about the project, please ring the Carnival Co-ordinator: Nick Hughes on 958 2127.

The presentation of the Carnival has been made possible by the receipt of two grants towards the costs. One of these is for \$5,000 from the Community Cultural Development Unit of The Australia Council (The Federal Government's Arts Advisory and Funding Organisation.) The other grant, for \$2,000, is from Willoughby Municipal Council and is for the employment of a Visual Artist and materials costs for the large puppets. The Progress Association extends its thanks to both these organisations for their generosity which has enabled us to employ three professional artists (a writer/director, a musician and a visual artist) to assist in the preparation of the Carnival.

Nick Hughes
(Carnival Co-ordinator)

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

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CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST

TAYLOR, I	George Elliot
GARDAN, J	Showing the Flag
LIVELY, P	Passing On
DICKENS, M	Enchantment
ELLIS, J	Rich is Best
SANDERS, L	Capital Crimes
DIETRICH, M	My Life
LINDSEY, R	Gathering of Saints
Van LUSTBADER, E	French Kiss
RADER, D	Tennessee (Williams)
BRADBURY, R	The Toynbee Convector
MacCOUN, C	Age of Miracles
DAVIDSON, R	Ancestors
CROSLAND, S	Ruling Passions
TROYAT, H	Gorky
HALL, R	Well of Loneliness
HOCKING, M	A Particular Place
SEYMOUR, G	Home Run
KORDA, M	The Fortune
CHORLTON, W	Rites of Sacrifice
SILLITOE, A	The Open Door
WELDON, F	Cloning of Joanna May
HILLERMAN, T	A Thief of Time
MEHTA, G	Raj
THEROUX, P	My Secret History
CAUNITZ, W	Black Sand

and paperbacks by Rumer Godden,
Charmian Clift, Pamela Haines,
PD James, and many more.

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Willoughby Municipal Council is to organise a series of seminars for older residents to provide information on major issues of lifestyle and living. The first of these is to take place between 1.00-3.00pm on Friday October 27 at the Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood.

Future seminars will consider such issues as housing, loss and separation, and medical aspects of health. The seminars are open to all interested older persons, including those considering retirement or early retirees. There will be a cost of \$1 which includes afternoon tea. Those wishing to attend should book on 419 2555.

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DO THE RIGHT THINK!

DON'T REFUSE TO USE THE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION AT ARTARMON

In May 1989 the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority, through its contractor Pacific Waste Management (439 8521) began operations at the Artarmon Transfer Station and Recycling Centre in Laceley Place. It is open to the public Monday to Friday 6am-5pm; Saturday & Sunday 7am-5pm (closed Good Friday & Christmas Day).

The Centre accepts all solid waste **except** car bodies and large timber, demolition material, and sand. The disposal of ordinary motor tyres is limited to five per load. Washing machines, hot water systems, refrigerators and white ware are disposable.

Recycling: bottles, glass containers, PET bottles, paper and cardboard, sump oil, small amounts of scrap metal (stoves, fridges etc) and aluminium cans are accepted free of charge.

The unloading of all refuse is the responsibility of the person using the facility. There are separate disposal outlets (chutes) for recycling items, such as white, green and amber glass, paper and car batteries.

Charges:

- * Cars, station wagons and all vehicles designed primarily for passenger carrying **\$2.00**
- * Car-type utilities, trailers panel vans (<0.5 tonnes) **\$8.00**
- * Bulk waste (per tonne) **\$37.50**
Minimum charge **(\$8.00)**

The 1989 Annual Report of the Willoughby Municipal Council announced the progressive introduction of the 240 litre mobile bin once-weekly collection service and a recycling system to be carried out on the same day. Many bins have already been delivered. For small amounts of general waste, special purpose bags are obtainable from Council and other commercial outlets at a cost of 50c each, and will be taken away as part of the garbage service.

Council proposes to ban backyard burning in 1990. Until then, burning in properly constructed incinerators with cover and spark arrester can be carried out in a suitable location as follows:

- * April to September 7am-7pm
- * October to March 7pm-7am

The following Waste Disposal Service phone numbers are from the Municipal Directory:

Artarmon Trasfer Station	437 6555
Garbage Service (weekly)	412 9100
	412 9168
Glass recycling	699 6875
Paper recycling	51 5098
Small St Tip (clean fill)	95 7607

For information on recycling and waste management: Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority, Zenith Centre, 821 Pacific Highway, Chatswood Ph 4121388; FAX 411 8634



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Following last November's outstanding performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore" at the Amphitheatre, we are delighted to join with the Society in this their latest production.



Sunday 22nd October, 3 pm

The Haven Theatre

Cnr. The Scarp & The Barricade
Castlecrag

Adults \$8
Child & Conc. \$4

Tickets from Cafe Belaroma,
The Quadrangle, Castlecrag

There is no parking at the Amphitheatre

Take the free bus from the Castlecrag shops - runs via Castlecrag School from 2.30 pm

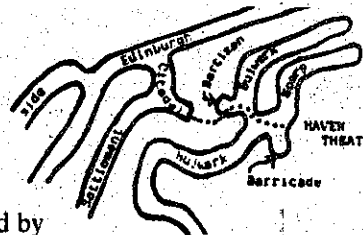
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see map

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CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Dear "CRAG" Readers, from 5 to 95,

How can you help achieve retention of the Infants School as the heart of this community?

The answer:

- (1) a short, simple letter to Premier Greiner (Fax 2311110),
- (2) sent every week from now to 30 January,
- (3) with copies to:-
 - Mr Collins (Fax 9584098 or 2114331);
 - Dr Metherell (Fax 278391);
 - State Liberal President King (Fax 3312349);
 - Anne Susskind, S.M.H. (Fax 2823027); The Editor, S.M.H. (Fax 2122424, 2811164);
 - Sheila Browne (Fax 4121461); Peter Alexander (9671055)
- (4) Encouraging friends, especially outside Castlecrag, to similarly write.

Why letterwriting? Because it is immediate tangible evidence of widespread commitment. It underlines that the so-called facts given by the Education Department to the Government last September and March were incomplete, wrong, or out-of-date facts.

The cost? It will only cost you a few dollars for faxes (or stamps). It will only take ten minutes at most each week. Just take a minute now to jot a reminder note in each week of your diary. And yet this will ensure that the campaign waged on behalf of the whole community (for some \$100,000 in time and cash) keeps this Infants School for future generations of children to learn of banksias and books.

What to write? Any short message that says "Save Castlecrag Infants School". Below are some helpful facts that you may wish to include. The important point is to write **SOMETHING**, each week from now until the decision to save the school is announced. Ask questions. Demand explanations. Emphasise your concerns. Support the proposed Environmental Education Centre as an enhanced use of the School. State your personal reasons for saving this valuable institution.

TO: Premier Greiner
c/- Parliament House, Sydney, NSW 2000
cc. Education Minister Metherell
cc. Mr Collins, State M.P.
cc. State Liberal Party President King

FROM:
of
.....
DATE :/.. /89

I REQUEST THAT THE INFANTS SCHOOL AT CASTLECRAG BE KEPT OPEN as the heart of our community, and fully-enrolled centre of excellence and equity in infant education.

Yours faithfully,

_____ for publicity purposes



How to write? Short handwritten letters are the most effective. However, the attached pro forma might be helpful. Just add your special reasons for wanting to save the community's Infants School. Your personal background, age, memories or aspirations all give a fresh individual perspective.

How to send it? Sending by facsimile machine ("fax") has the most impact; it also enables one letter to be sent to many destinations within seconds. Willoughby Post Office can fax for you. Or you can drop your letter in one of the following mailboxes for fax transmission: 15 Barricade (Gullivers) for surnames A to G; 216 Edinburgh (Reinhardt's) for surnames H to R; 193 Edinburgh (Weingarths) for surnames S to Z. Of course, you can mail it as usual.

Publicity: Most members of the community have put their names to public documents e.g. two petitions with several thousand signatures. Residents' personal reasons for saving one small school within the vast impersonal Education Department are of great "human interest" (to use newspaper jargon). If you would prefer your letter was not available for publicity purposes please indicate. (If using the proforma letter below, please insert the word "not" at the bottom right hand side).

The result? The Committee of parents and residents - and a unanimous Willoughby Council - have presented new and compelling facts to retain Castlecrag Infants School, proving many of the Education Department's recommendations incomplete or wrong. But a new Government (of whatever sort) is loathe to back down merely because a decision was wrong. They fear unjust criticism of weakness or 'favouritism'. The fact is that Castlecrag's educational and social reasons for retention are stronger than any other school slated for closure.

Every short individual letter does have an important impact. And the combination of every reader of the "Crag", from 5 to 95, asking for retention of the Infants School shall be an irresistible force to reverse the Education Department's recommendation, - and SHALL SAVE CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL.



Yours sincerely,

Bruce Wilson

Bruce Wilson, President and Trustee, 39 Raeburn Avenue, Castlecrag

SOME OF THE REASONS TO SAVE THE INFANTS SCHOOL AT CASTLECRAG:

- (1) FULL ENROLMENTS: 83 enrollees for 82 spaces for 1990, - as do Northbridge and Castle Cove Primary Schools.
- (2) INCREASING 0-4 YEAR OLDS across ALL EASTERN WILLOUGHBY's 8 suburbs (6.1% in 1986; 6.5% by 1989), - not "ageing" or "declining" as was claimed.
- (3) MEDIUM-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT opportunities across Eastern Willoughby are further freeing housing for young families.
- (4) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT has saved, and will save, taxpayers' dollars.
- (5) Support from the CARRICK report for community-centred, infant education: \$1 on infant learning saves \$4 to \$7 on later learning.
- (6) COST-EFFECTIVENESS is greater in this separate Infants School, than as part of a Primary school.
- (7) A SCHOOL'S REAL VALUE is more than its REAL ESTATE VALUE. The land value is not great; it can never be replaced if sold.
- (8) FREEDOM OF CHOICE is enhanced with separate Infants Schools.
- (9) It is the PROTOTYPE for the "GREENING OF SCHOOLS" policy.
- (10) The proposed community-funded ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTRE, open to all NSW schools, is an example of the Scott Report in action.