



NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 67

ISSN 0814-2054

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1989

* SIXTY FOUR YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

The Castlecrag Amphitheatre Committee
invites you to

Carols by Candlelight

Friday 15th December – 7.30 p.m.

with

Rev. Alan Wilson and guest artists

Candles with dripguards will be on sale at theatre
Procession leaves The Quadrangle shops at 7 p.m.

or

take the free bus from
the shops via the School

or

walk the path between
17 & 19 The Citadel

**THERE IS NO PARKING
AT OR NEAR THE THEATRE**

P.S. Don't forget the Aeroguard!



THE CASTLECRAG CARNIVAL was held on Sunday 19th November and was a memorable and outstanding success. To Nick Hughes who planned and coordinated the event, wrote the script and directed the performance; to Mrs N Miller, Principal of the School, who gave such generous support; to Lindy Batterham and the Carnival Organising Committee which comprised Lindy, Marcella Cerna, Mark Crew, Adrienne Kabos, John Llewellyn, Sue Randle and Kate Westoby, who worked so hard for many weeks to make the day a success; the 44 performers; the six musicians; the six puppeteers who manipulated the puppets of Walter and Marion Griffin; and to the large number of residents who made the costumes and provided or assisted with the preparation and serving of food; on behalf of the members of our Association and hundreds of residents and friends who attended, I extend our sincere thanks.

We were pleased to welcome many notable people, among them John Spender, Federal Member for North Sydney; Robyn Read, State Member for North Shore; Andrew Refshauge, Deputy Leader State Opposition; Ted Mack, Former Mayor of North Sydney; Noel and Mary Reidy, Mayor and Mayoress of Willoughby; Aldermen J Clantar, J Jorgenson and P Reilly.

The event was funded by grants from the Australia Council and Willoughby Council. The Progress Association thanks these bodies for their support. In a letter to our Association referring to the performance, Deborah Mills, Director of the Community Cultural Development Unit of the Australia Council, says in part, '...this important event...is both a celebration of your unique and beautiful community and a rallying point for those of you who are fighting to preserve it. Community art is about people doing things together to make changes that as individuals would be impossible. Through art, the Castlecrag Carnival project is communicating to others the values, ideas, dreams and visions of the Castlecrag community in a way which can help bring about change. The vital and energetic residents of your area possess what many other areas throughout Australia are striving for -

an awareness and understanding of their community and a sense of identity, pride and purpose.' These fine words express the spirit of the day far better than I could.

Two important aspects must be mentioned. The first is that many young people in our community received such valuable training from the very high standards set by the professional performers, and the second, that the event drew together all groups of residents working in our community. These include church, sports, environmental, cultural and youth groups. More than 100 people were actually involved and nearly 1,000 attended and enjoyed the day.

Rita and I joined the Progress Association during the 1950s and with the exception of a few years when we lived overseas have always been enthusiastic members. In this period covering more than 40 years I am proud to have been President or Vice President on many occasions, and for seven years your Alderman. However, the time has now come for me to step down from the position of President and at the 65th Annual General Meeting next year I will not seek re-election.

Between meetings the work of our Association is largely carried by members of the Committee. In my time I have seen many fine, enthusiastic and hardworking committees, and without a doubt the present team ranks with the best of them. The need now is for a younger person to take over the job of president.

Progress associations are an important part of a democratic society. They provide a necessary link between local communities and their council. This is well recognised by Willoughby Council. This is particularly important at the present time when councils are coming under increasing pressure from the State Government to lower their standards. Such a situation occurred recently in North Sydney. The Minister for Planning without consultation with either Council or residents, had substantially altered a Local Town Plan. A public meeting of Council and over 500 outraged residents forced the Government to withdraw these alterations. In Castlecrag, problems such as overdevelopment, the proposed

school closure and the renewed threat of the construction of the Warringah Freeway, demand constant vigilance by a strong progress association.

At the first meeting of our Association held on 10th November 1925, chaired by Edgar W Herbert, our constitution was adopted; this stated in part 'the object of the Association shall be to do everything to further the interests of the district of Castlecrag'. This is still our most important objective. As I look at Castlecrag today, I feel that those present at the first meeting 65 years ago (and they include Walter and Marlon Griffin) would have been generally pleased with the way our community spirit has been maintained, if not completely satisfied with some of our urban development.

Finally, I wish all of our friends and members a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Now that Summer is here you may prefer to entertain at home.....

LUNCHEONS, DINNERS, PICNICS, EVENTS, BUSINESS OR PRIVATE

Leigh Stone-Herbert

958.7961

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST

MACCOUAN, C	The Age of Miracles
LINDSEY, R	Gathering of Saints
HOCKING, M	A Particular Place
TROYAT, H	Gorky
BRADBURY, R	Toynbee Convector
RADER, D	Tennessee, Cry of the Heart
DAVIDSON, R	Ancestors
CROSLAND, S	Ruling Passions
TAYLOR, I	George Eliot, Woman of Contradictions
PETERS, E	Rich is Best
GARDAM, J	Showing the Flag
LIVELY, P	Passing On
DICKENS, M	Enchantment
VAN LUSTBADER, E	French Kiss
FREEMAN, C	Fairytales
PILGER, J	A Secret Country
LUDLUM, R	Trevayne
PIZZEY, E	Snow Leopard of Shanghai
LEWELLYN, K	The Mountain
BRISKIN, J	The Naked Heart
DEIGHTON, L	Spy Line
ACKROYD, P	First Light
FOLLETT, K	Pillars of the Earth
WALLACE, I	The Guest of Honour
DRABBLE, M	A Natural Curiosity
PIERCY, M	Summer People
SMITH, M C	Polar Star
HIGGINS CLARK, M	While My Pretty One Sleeps
CLEARY, J	Babylon South
COOKSON, C	The Black Candle
	and numerous paperbacks, mysteries.

**FOUND AT CARNIVAL:
PAIR OF READING GLASSES.
PHONE MRS. JONES 958-4885**

CASTLECRAG MEATS

Cnr. Raeburn Ave. and Edinburgh Rd.
Phone 958 4274
for

**excellent service / top quality meat
phone orders / free home delivery
Tuesdays & Fridays**

(Try our NEW range of Kebabs)

PATONS First National

REAL ESTATE & MARKETING CONSULTANTS

81 Edinburgh Road
Castlecrag

For an obligation free, up-to-date
opinion of your home's market
value, contact

Terry Lambert or Peter McNeil

PHONE 958 1200

THE FIGHT FOR CASTLECRAG SCHOOL CONTINUES

The Department of Education has advised the Principal that a skip and packing cases will be arriving at the school shortly. Already the Principals from neighbouring schools have gone through and labelled the materials and equipment they want. We have been denied any say in that matter at all. One would think that for example, the photocopier that was bought from parents funds could go to our local library but no, all property belongs to the Department. The P & C has written to the Department insisting that the Minister's promise (that the children not be disrupted by the closure) be honored and that no packing, or signs of packing should be evident during the school term. The children are sad enough about the closure, without being confronted with that.

GREEN BANS AND PICKET LINES.

We remain determined to seek justice for this community and for our young children in particular. The only way this can now be done is by maintaining a physical presence in the school grounds over the holiday period to stop the removal of equipment and the dismantling of the buildings. We have gained the full support of the Union movement with a "Green Ban" on the site. The agreement is that as long as there is strong community support by way of a physical presence, they will not cross our "picket line". The chances of the Government contracting non union labour is, however, high.

It is for this reason that we will need to maintain a 24 hour roster with a minimum of two adults (and hopefully their families) at any one time. We urgently need to borrow a caravan. We will have a mobile phone and a network so that fifty people can be called in at five minutes notice. If we remain determined, stand together and persist we will win in the end. The media and the community at large will support us. We have received letters of support and encouragement for our stand for justice from all over Australia.

The Government seems to be under the misapprehension that they have been given a mandate to sell off our assets in an attempt to buy votes in the west. Although they have now announced that they will consult with community groups and conduct Environmental Impact Statements with regards the sale of public assets, they also seem to believe they are beyond the proper processes of consultation with our community and our elected Council.

THE ZONING ISSUE.

Willoughby Council (to their credit) have refused to rezone the land. The State Government will now probably try to rezone the site to allow up to sixty four units to be built. Our legal advice however is that there is no power to rezone the site in order to make money; the making of money out of the sale of public land is NOT a town planning objective or an environmental planning purpose. The Minister (Hay) cannot make such a plan and the Government will find itself in Court for a breach of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act if it tries to rezone the land.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Now is the time to come to the aid of your community! We all lead busy lives but we all have an interest in stopping this sort of overdevelopment and alienation of our suburb. Coupled with the legal challenge, this is our last stand. We are seeking people of all ages to put their names down for 6, 12 and 24 hour shifts. A "home away from home" will be created, fun and interesting activities for all will be provided. We need your suggestions -

WE NEED YOU! If every household in the Crag gave some time (even one six hour shift) the burden would be less on everyone and we would have a far greater chance of winning.

DISTRICT COURT APPEAL

Attempts to gain access to documents relating to the closure through the Freedom of Information Act have been met by beauracratc coverups and political interference. We have been charged exhorbitant rates and denied access to many relevant documents. This is all in respect to a decision that was supposedly made in our best interests. You may have read in the Sydney Morning Herald that documents leaked from the Department (and denied to us) revealed that Naremburn and Milsons' Point schools were on the original list of schools to be closed, but because of the North Sydney by-election those schools were taken off the list, and our school, along with Balmoral Beach Infants were substituted. In our quest for the truth, we have appealed to the District Court against the Department of Education's refusal to give us access to these documents. The hearing will be on 13th December and we will be represented by two leading Q.C.'s. Interested community members are most welcome to attend.



AN EDUCATION

WHY WE ARE DETERMINED TO GAIN JUSTICE

The State Government is continuing to act against the best interests of our community by persisting with the selling of our school. This is despite full enrolments of 82 for 1990, and demographic data which shows an increase in the 0-4 age group across Eastern Willoughby. Parents have spent a very active fourteen months trying to defend the school's right to exist but have constantly been met by a brick wall mentality. Not once has the Government shown us the respect of giving us the opportunity to intelligently discuss the issue. Our local member has treated the region with contempt and will I'm sure, find himself in for a big shock next election. On more than one occasion Peter Collins dishonored an appointment between parents and Mayor Reidy to look over the grounds to discuss the ideas involving extended usage of the site.

The Environmental Education Centre Proposal did not receive the proper hearing it deserved; the report that was eventually received from the Regional Director did not address the concept and was full of inaccuracies, just like their demographics.

Our demand now (which is also whole heartedly supported by John Spender MP) is for a moratorium on the school closure and an independent committee of review to examine all the facts.

Phone As the final song at the Castlecrag Carnival said:

M. Cerna 958 6936 Time for everyone to stand together

Weingarths 958 8737 Raise up our voices and sing

This is our past and our future

Come on stand together we can win!

Lindy Batterham

for the SOS C'tee

958 2127.

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION 1989
1st PRIZE CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL
FOR BEST SCHOOL GARDEN. CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED HARD ON THE GROUNDS - KEEP IT UP!

MOMO

Interiors

79 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag

Ph: 958 6672 or 958 8372

Car Phone: 018 226586

- * Design & Construct Kitchens
- * Interior Design
- * Colour Consultants

[Roman and Balloon Shades]

[Bedspreads and Curtains]

Pacino's Italian Restaurant

- Under new management
- Recently renovated

Offering Superb Italian A la Carte Cuisine with

• Daily Blackboard Specials

• Fully licenced with Cocktail Bar. Your hosts

Friendly Service in a Relaxed atmosphere at

122 Edinburgh rd. Castlecrag (on the Postern)

• Phone: 9581357

Lunch: tues-friday

Dinner: tues-saturday



SHOP 4 THE QUADRANGLE
EDINBURGH RD. CASTLECRAG
Ph: 958-0212

To buy or sell a home contact:

Jim Young Real Estate

The Quadrangle, 100 Edinburgh Road
Castlecrag

Phone 958 0124 or 958 0197

[After hours contact Jim Young at
9 Minnamurra Rd. Northbridge]
Phone 958 7894

* courteous and
genuine service

* over 40 years of
local experience

Pleased to meet you with meat to please you

LARTERS MEAT Pty. Ltd.

Your Family Butcher

The Quadrangle,
Shop 25,
100 Edinburgh Road,
CASTLECRAG, 2068
Telephone: 958 8008



Gregory's

CASTLE DELICATESSEN AND
GOURMET CENTRE

SHOP 3, 126 EDINBURGH ROAD,
CASTLECRAG, 2068.

(02) 958 3849

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