



NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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* SIXTY FIVE YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sue Randle (958 6344)

The Castlecrag Progress Association elected its 1990 Committee at the March meeting. It comprises Sue Randle, Eric Kaye, Louise Weingarh, Diana Jones, Marcella Cerna, Howard Rubie, John Llewellyn, Gay and Harold Spies, Adrienne Kabos, Dorothy Fraser, Bob McKillop and Rita Kaye. Mary Baker and Kerry McKillop continue as editors of *The Crag*. Lee Davis is the Honorary Auditor.

After a busy 1989, Rita and Eric Kaye are taking a break from their hectic Castlecrag community life with a well-deserved overseas tour. Eric and Rita have been the backbone of our Community for many years (since 1946), and their care and concern for our suburb has been constant and dedicated. Eric will return to the Vice President role and Rita to the Committee, so they will continue therefore to support the Association.

The Progress Association dealt with a number of issues of concern to the Community during 1989:

- * preservation of our foreshores heritage, including the cottages, an issue again on Council's agenda;

- * Life Memberships of the CPA for Judy Bowen, Beverley and David Blacklock, Di Street, Edgar Deans, and John and Addie Lee;
- * the foreshores building line and its implications for development proposals;
- * a pre-school at St James Church;
- * the *Castlecrag Carnival* on 19 November directed by Nick Hughes, an excellent event with strong messages to our community and state and local governments;
- * the establishment of a Council Bushland Management Committee;
- * inputs by CPA to the North Shore Strategic Transport Study;
- * proposed medium-density housing;
- * the Innisfail Castle development; and

last but not least, the SOS Castlecrag Infant's School. Community support for this important issue has been stunning, but we need to maintain our battle, so please keep up the fight and your continued support.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL, EDINBURGH ROAD, ON TUESDAY 1 MAY 1990 AT 8pm. ALL WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS ESPECIALLY SO.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 18 MAY 1990 AT THE CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL AT 8.00 pm. FOR DETAILS PLEASE RING PRESIDENT HAROLD SPIES 958 8569.

I/we wish to become members of/renew our membership of the Castlecrag Progress Association, for which I/we enclose subscription and/or donation. (Membership fees are renewable from 1st February each year.)
Family \$10; Single \$5; Fixed income/student/concession \$3.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please send to the Treasurer, Diana Jones, 72 Linden Way, Castlecrag.

CUTS THROUGH SYDNEY'S TRANSPORT CHAOS

We have just experienced another election in which no party saw the need for a **transport policy**. Instead we had promises to throw more money in the direction of roads. One group which feels that this state of affairs is unsatisfactory is the Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity (CUTS), which brings together groups throughout the Sydney metropolitan area with an interest in sound urban planning and an integrated transport system. Members include public transport user groups, environmentalists, cyclists and community groups who have emerged in opposition to freeway proposals. I represent the Castlecrag Progress Association at CUTS meetings, which are held monthly under the guiding hand of Judy Messer as chairperson.

CUTS is establishing a data base on urban transport developments in overseas cities and actively campaigns to drag transport planning in Sydney out of the 1960s. CUTS members are concerned with the quality of urban living, the threat to Sydney's bushland by proposals for new roads, pollution by car emissions (transport is responsible for 32 per cent of CO₂ and 16 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions in Australia), and declining standards of public transport services.

The solutions to these problems require a viable **public transport system** which provides a genuine alternative to driving for as many journeys as possible. This involves consideration of **physical means and political changes** to:

Reduce travelling through:

- * planning the location of housing, business and light industry to bring people and jobs closer together;
- * staggered working hours to even transport demand.

Encourage **low-energy forms of transport**, such as bicycles and walking, to keep people fit and the environment healthy.

Improve existing public transport through:

- * bus interchange with rail;
- * integrated ticket systems between bus, rail and ferry;
- * investment in light rail lines, such as the *Transit North* proposal;
- * expansion of the existing rail network (eg new lines to Rouse Hill and the new Badgerys Creek airport).

Improve Transport Pricing. Road pricing measures and taxes on parking space in congested city areas are required for effective resource utilisation in modern cities; while long term social and environmental costs must be included in the justification of new transport proposals.

Facilitate community participation in the planning process.

If you are interested in the issues of urban transport planning, have suggestions or ideas which might be taken up by CUTS, or would like further information on CUTS activities, please come to Progress Association meetings and become involved.

Bob McKillop (958 4516)

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TOWN HOUSES AND VILLAS IN CASTLECRAG ?
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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY No.28 (SEPP 28) and
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN No.7 (REP 7)

Willoughby City Council was recently granted exemption from the application of SEPP 28 which operates to simply override existing development controls to make town houses and villas permissible in Castlecrag. Council has identified seven areas where the development of town houses and villas would be suitable on environmental grounds. These areas do not include Castlecrag and so we basically remain a 'residential A' or single dwelling house area.

The main objective of SEPP 28, which came into force on 30th March 1990, is to enable town houses and villas to be developed on land currently zoned for single and dual-occupancy dwellings. In 1989, the Government attempted to achieve a similar aim by passing an amendment to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to allow spot re-zoning of land for medium density development. However, regulations accompanying the amendment were disallowed by the Legislative Council rendering the amendment inoperable.

The exclusion of Castlecrag from the policy had to be based on environmental factors shown in a study which identified the area as unsuitable for such medium density development.

This raises an intriguing situation in our local planning laws. While the Government has accepted that Castlecrag is unsuitable for town houses and villas, the same Government has rezoned its own land (our local school) to accept such development. A spot rezoning of the infant school (REP No.7) became law on the 16th of March 1990, despite the strong protest of the community and the Council. The Regional Plan permits town houses and villas to be built where the school is while the Government agrees that Castlecrag is unsuitable for the same development. For some reason the concept of "environmental planning" or zoning laws only applies to private individuals and local government, not to the State government

OBITUARY

We were saddened by the news of the death of Mr. John Lee who lived with his wife Addie here in Castlecrag from approximately 1955 until their move to Chatswood in recent years. John Lee was one of the founding members of the Castlecrag Conservation Society and an active member of the Castlecrag Progress Association



THE CASTLECRAG SCHOOL: A SENIOR RESIDENT SPEAKS

The following item is a shortened version of a letter sent to Willoughby City Council by Mrs Hilda Chapple, a senior resident of Castlecrag.

As the longest living resident of this community, as I believe I now am, I feel deeply concerned about the survival of the historic and uniquely beautiful character of Castlecrag and its caring community.

I came to live in Raeburn Ave in 1927, when Burley Griffin and his wife were establishing a unique environment of houses with flat roofs built entirely of large sandstone blocks in the native bush. Subsequently the building laws were changed and over the past 60 years I have watched the growth of Castlecrag into a very beautiful scenic and bushland area of conventional community living with its own school to serve its young community which has steadily grown and is still increasing contrary to the erroneous submissions made by the Department of Education.

The closing of the Castlecrag School has already robbed this community of the priceless asset of an established core of basic education and community welfare for the future young Australians here, whilst endeavouring to deprive them of their use of the land itself, for the erection of up to 70 medium-density townhouses; which is again to rob them of the only much-needed area they have for the holding of public meetings, sporting activities, community gatherings and educational enterprises.

Recognising the need for more and smaller housing everywhere should not overrule the needs of already established communities, especially where such intrusion can only bring destruction and downgrading to the environment by way of such limited access and egress as exists in Castlecrag from Eastern Valley Way. There are only two areas for transport to enter and leave Castlecrag, a constantly busy main thoroughfare of one lane which is Edinburgh Road, and the narrow Sunny-side Crescent which twists and turns and then joins Edinburgh Road.

The shopping centre is located at the lights and the entrance to the parking area is exactly opposite Raeburn Avenue where I live, which means at this point there are eight directions of traffic at all times passing through that one area which is the main access to the suburb; so that the entire community is locked within these boundaries, all side streets leading into one or the other throughout the whole peninsula.

Intensified medium-density building in the only open area we have - the school grounds - with its attendant extra commuters daily, can only mean greatly intensified traffic and pollution and

heightened community stress, downgrading and subsequently destroying a suburb which, until now, has maintained a character of great bushland beauty and unique historical significance with community welfare and commitment.

I know Willoughby Council is very aware and considerate of our situation and I am appealing to you to endeavour to convince the Department of Planning and the Minister for Education, that our concern to retain our established identity and school is not just a selfish one but of significance to everyone for the upholding of national Australian standards for the future.

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Save Our School Community Residents Action Group

Below is a list of classes/workshops to be held at the school. We are delighted to inform the community that two of the classes have already started. They are the Yoga class on a Saturday afternoon and the Voice class on a Thursday night which drew some eighteen persons who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

To assist us in gauging levels of interest please tick any class(es) you might be interested in taking and either notify the person organising the course concerned or **Marcella Cerna on 958 6936.**

- CHILDRENS/YOUTH DRAMA GROUP (4-7 years) and (8-14 years) []
- DRAWING CLASSES (These are to be held during the day) []
- NUTRITION CLASSES (Day or evening) []
- FIBRE CRAFTS (e.g. spinning and weaving) []
- YOGA (contact Tana Edey if interested on 958 4805) []
- YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT GROUP []
- HOME GARDEN DESIGN AND RENOVATION []
- CREATIVE WRITING []
- PLAYREADING GROUP []
- DANCE (Ballet) []
- MUSIC LESSONS []
- PATCH WORK QUILTING []
- STRESS MANAGEMENT []
- BUSH REGENERATION TECHNIQUE AND WEED CONTROL IN THE SYDNEY AREA (10 weeks Saturday morning 9.30 - 12.30 \$60 for course) (contact Mrs. Sylvia Taylor; 958 5997) []

ASTRONOMY

- * Hubble Telescope landed by Space Shuttle
 - * New Comet discovered
Visits every 40,000 years.
 - * Moon in Scorpio seen rising over picket.
- Observation Astronomy classes with Tony Edey for beginners and buffs alike.
A visit to Sydney Observatory is planned to get things rolling. []



Liz Tremaine (who did a tremendous job in organizing the food section of the recent garage sale/fete at the Infants School site) would like to thank everyone who so kindly brought a cake etc. We certainly enjoyed a wonderful feast.

CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM

THURSDAYS 12.30 - 4PM

SATURDAYS 10AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS LIST

PRITCHETT, V S Chekhov, A Spirit Set Free
THWAITE, J Importance of Being Earnest
CALDER, R Life of Somerset Maugham
IRELAND, J Life Line
GINGOLD, H How to Grow Old Disgracefully
CATO, N Heart of the Continent
ACKROYD, P T S Eliot
and numerous paperbacks and mysteries.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler (958 6963)



Are you a new resident?

If so, welcome to our pleasant area - we hope you will enjoy living here. Castlecrag has a strong community spirit encouraged by our own community paper *The Crag*. We have an active Neighbourhood Watch, which encourages neighbourliness, and we would love to have you as a member. Just ring Richard Wheeler on 958 6963 and arrangements will be made to provide you with full information.



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Tel: 958-6322 or
Hon.Sec. Marie Ward, 958-7800



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