

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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MARCH/APRIL 1991

* SIXTY SIX YEARS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT *

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (presented to the AGM, 26 February 1991)

Sue Randle

I would like to thank the Progress Association Committee, including Eric Kaye and Louise Weingarth as vice presidents, who have a great deal of knowledge and experience that must be the envy of every other Progress Association in our ward. Also, Diana Jones, our treasurer, so reliable and unflappable; Anne Korner, who has been a font of knowledge as secretary; and Lee Davis, who always carries out a precise and correct audit. To these and the other members of our committee who have supported me and shown great commitment to our community, I thank you all.

Castlecrag residents would not have a suburb with such diverse and unique features that make for great quality of life without the time and effort of the many organisations working in the Castlecrag community: the Conservation Society, Sugarloaf Regeneration Project team, Kindergarten Committee, local Church Committees, Haven Theatre Committee, Community Centre 530A Committee, WEPA, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and Committee, the Walking Trails Committee, Library Committee, and last but not least the ever active and highly motivated SOS*CRAG Committee - in particular I would like to thank the 1990 Co-ordinator Lindy Batterham for her dedication to this ~~not-yet-or-ever-lost-cause~~. The newly formed Walter Burley Griffin Society is going from strength to strength. Also, the Castlecrag Sports Club has had active participation in our community from many of its members. THANK YOU ALL.

During the year the attention of the Progress Association was occupied by a wide range of issues. The School dominated. Many meetings were held with members of Parliament (Federal and State), officials of the Education Department, the media

and public meetings, attended by our local ward Aldermen. The waterfront cottages were a hot issue and the foreshore building line, as exhibited at Council, caused many headaches for residents and our committee.

The Warringah Freeway seemed to be shelved once more with release of the *North Shore Strategic Transport Study*. However, as Eric Kaye indicates later in this newsletter, we need to maintain vigilance with respect to this issue. We are assisted in this task by the Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity. Bob McKillop attended meetings of CUTS and kept the Association aware of their activities to promote an integrated transport system for Sydney.

A Bushland Management/Review Committee has been formed by Willoughby Council. Castlecrag is represented by Gay Spies and Adrienne Kabos. The proposed Northbridge Marina environment study was exhibited at Council. Our Association supported the Northbridge community in their opposition to this proposal.

The *Willoughby Fun Fair* was held in September, but unfortunately was affected by heavy rain. We had much *trash and treasure* donated by residents, and it was decided to postpone our stall and hold a Garage Sale at the School. Thanks to Kathy Burgess and her hardworking team, this was a great social and financial success.

During 1990 the community lost one of our great residents, Bim Hilder, who is sadly missed by his many friends and acquaintances in Castlecrag. The Conservation Society is maintaining Bim's Citadel garden. (continued over)

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS SO COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT ONE, ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL AT THE INFANTS SCHOOL, EDINBURGH ROAD, 8pm.

THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY will hold its next meeting on FRIDAY 17th MAY at the INFANTS SCHOOL, 8pm. For details ring Harold Spies, President, 958 8569.

St James Kindergarten, owned and operated by the Montessori group, was a concern of ours due to traffic dangers in Edinburgh Road. A driveway was constructed into the Church grounds to help overcome the problem.

Once again, thank you all for your support and participation in community affairs. With Council elections coming up in September, it looks as if the Progress Association will again have a busy year.

Poetry by Candlelight

A Great Night at the Ampitheatre

On Saturday 2nd March the Haven Theatre 530A Committee in association with SOS*Crag, presented Poetry by Candlelight. If you missed it, this is what happened.

Saturday arrived with grey clouds and a *promise* of clearing weather forecast ... with occasional showers. *Euterpe, Thalia and Erato, the Muses of Verse* were obviously on our side as the showers cleared and blue sky stretched for as far as the eye could see from The Pinnacle bus shelter. Well, at least from Bondi to Bilgola. With all fingers crossed, the Committee decided to carry on with the programme and not use the alternate venue of the School.

From 3.30pm the Ampitheatre was prepared for the evening's performance. Sound and lighting were installed with help from Sam Lander and Larry Hilder. The chairs arrived from the Community Centre. Two hundred or so cushions once again appeared from Sylvia Taylor's garage and a small willing group of volunteers worked hard to make things right. At 5.30pm Sue Randle brought along supper provided by some of the great cooks of Castlecrag.

Now there *really* was no turning back. Poets Komninos and Rod Gibson, arrived and sat on the stone seats, watching the activity with satisfaction. Michael Dulics accompanied the other performers Antony Howard, Neville Milston, Nick Hughes, Kieran Condell, Douglas Knaggs, Janine Starch, down the theatre steps while our musicians for the evening, Ajeya and Luke Jankovic, rehearsed their pieces.

By good luck and some good management the 530A Committee had secured for the evening, Anne Fairbairn (poet and respected university lecturer in Australian Poetry and Literature in Baghdad and 18 universities in the Middle East) to read some of her compelling work. Anne had been helpful in securing the release of Australian hostages in Iraq prior to the outbreak of war. The poetry Anne was to read would tell us about an Iraq vastly different from that of the TV news.

Our poets, delighted with the performance space, were ushered off by Michael Dulics to Lisa Purser's house for a pre-show dinner and a jug of wine.

At 7.30pm all was ready. The Council bus masterfully driven by Mark Crew picked up people from the shops and the school. The Ampitheatre began to fill with people. At 7.45 the stars began to blink out in the night sky. At 7.50 it commenced to RAIN!

One hundred and forty brave souls cheerfully sat through the temporary inconvenience of the passing shower and at 8.10 the first poetry reading held in the Castlecrag Haven Ampitheatre since the days of the Griffins in the 1930s, was under way.

What a night of fine voices and wonderful poetry! Poetry about life, love, growing up, early Sydney, Iraq, a Carlton fish shop, freeways, thoughts on ripe bananas, politicians, cricket, the School and many other themes. All were presented from the heart with provoking thoughts, great humour and lots of fun. Local poets were represented by Neville Milston, Nick Hughes, Janine Starch and Lindy Batterham read the works of Fiona Place with great understanding. The *Muses of Verse* still smiled on us and no more rain marred a very entertaining piece of theatre.

After intermission, the voice of Komninos, professional performing poet supreme, rolled and rollicked around the Ampitheatre. Two hilarious encores, thunderous applause and **Poetry by Candlelight** was complete. If the spirits of the Griffins happened to be resting in the trees, they would be well pleased.

For a really complete review of the proceedings read Tony Taussig's piece in this issue of *the Crag*. The show worked so well for Tony that he felt compelled to generously and immediately on arriving home, put his thoughts in verse for us to enjoy.

Oh what a wondrous evening, Haven Theatre!

Howard Rubie, for the 530A Committee

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March 2

Ampitheatrical Do

Were you too
At the Ampitheatrical do?
If not I suggest you activate
For the 530A to perpetuate
This most wondrous expressive event

'Twas simply, simply stunning
Stopped rain and axial moon
With hopping possum with local blossom
With hearts exposed, no eardrums closed

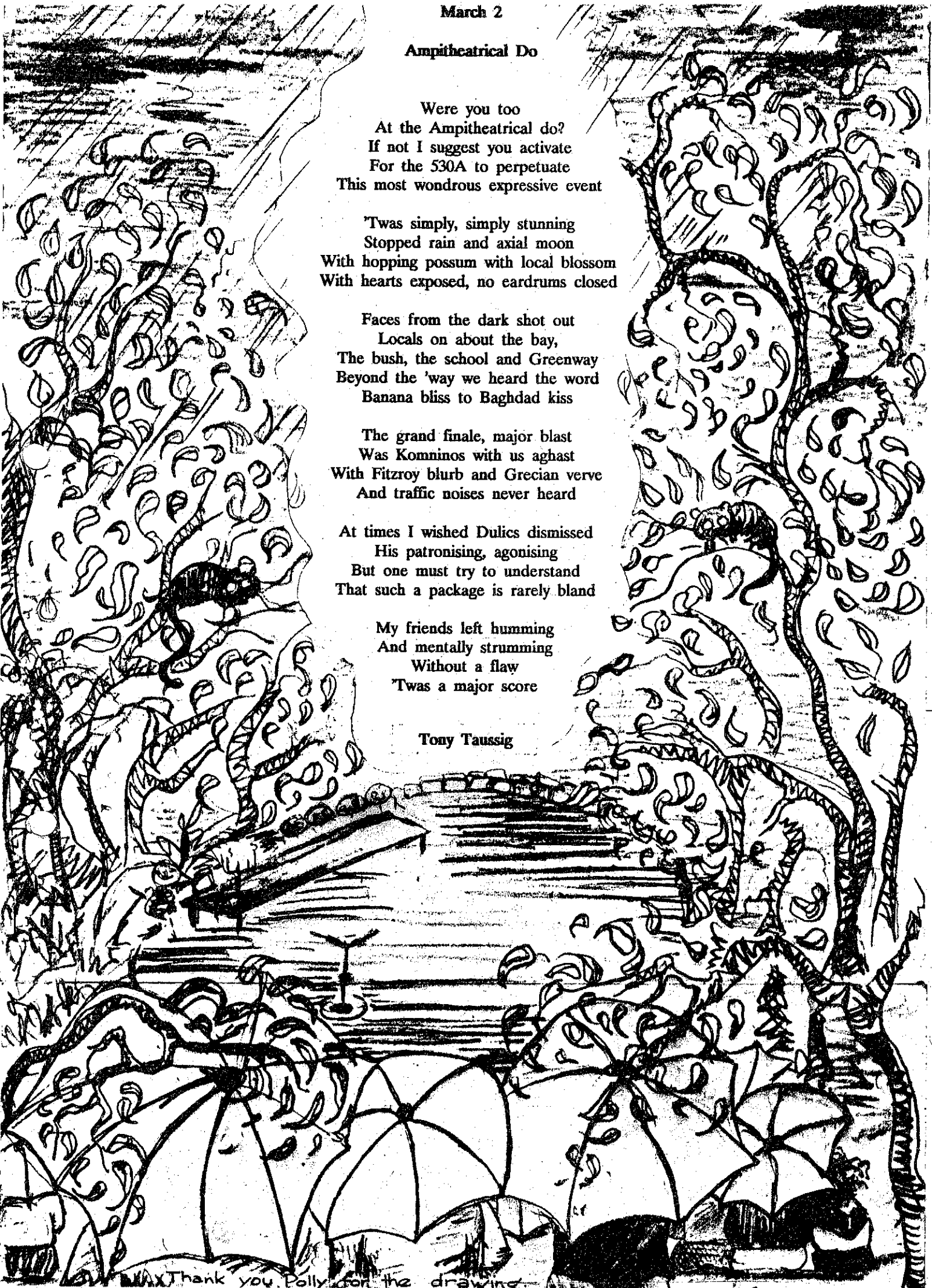
Faces from the dark shot out
Locals on about the bay,
The bush, the school and Greenway
Beyond the 'way we heard the word
Banana bliss to Baghdad kiss

The grand finale, major blast
Was Komninos with us aghast
With Fitzroy blurb and Grecian verve
And traffic noises never heard

At times I wished Dulics dismissed
His patronising, agonising
But one must try to understand
That such a package is rarely bland

My friends left humming
And mentally strumming
Without a flaw
'Twas a major score

Tony Taussig



MAX Thank you, Polly, for the drawing

FREEWAY BLUES!

An article in *The Northern Herald* of 7th March reporting a decision by the Councils of Willoughby, Mosman and Warringah to support the construction of the Warringah Freeway has caused concern to many of our residents. The article refers to an updating of the *North Shore Strategic Transport Study* prepared by the Department of Transport in December 1989. This study reviewed the transport problems of the Lower North Shore area and examined options for investment in extension of the Warringah Freeway, heavy rail, light rail (the *Transit North* proposal) and a monorail. It found that none of the options provided a satisfactory return on investment using conventional cost-benefit analysis. Specifically, it stated that "the costs of the freeway outweigh the benefits which could be derived".

The *Northern Herald* item reviews a recent study, commissioned by the Councils of Willoughby, Mosman and Warringah, carried out by a private economics company. It re-examined the Department of Transport analysis of the options and claimed a marginally improved return for the freeway. It stated that perceived benefits would exceed the costs by a factor of 1.4.

Briefly, the method used in such studies is known as **benefit/cost analysis**. It is a traditional economist's technique also used by engineers as a means of choosing between alternatives, in this case between a freeway and alternative travel options. Benefit/cost analysis provides a means of comparing estimates of tangible quantities ("hard" costs) such as costs of construction, traffic handling ability, vehicle operating costs, road maintenance costs, etc. Its weakness is that it appears to generate a precise "bottom line" figure, when the key factors contributing to this result are estimates based on questionable assumptions. Benefit/cost analysis is now generally discredited in international use because of its inability to accurately assess less tangible quantities such as environmental and health impacts, road trauma (the cost of accidents), energy efficiency and the costs of urban congestion. Even worse, these quantities are frequently not taken into consideration.

North Sydney Council and the Member for North Shore, Robyn Read, strongly oppose the Councils'

Eric Kaye and Bob McKillop

move to reopen the Warringah Freeway controversy. The Mayor of North Sydney, Roslyn Crichton, is reported to have said that "we need another freeway feeding through this municipality like we need a hole in the head".

This Association's fight against the Warringah Freeway has not ceased since the 1950s. The threat was greatest in 1972/73. At this time our community carried out research and produced a Traffic Impact Report, a Survey of Social Effects, an Acoustical Investigation and an Ecological Survey. These efforts contributed in our view to the Government decision made in 1974 to abandon the construction of the freeway. In 1978 the Northside Councils petitioned the Government to retain the corridor of land in case it should be needed for a future transport use. An Inquiry was set up, conducted by Mr D S Kirby, to which this Association and Castlecrag residents contributed. Mr Kirby concluded that a freeway was not warranted this century and recommended against reinstatement of the corridor. Despite this, successive governments since the 1980s have retained the corridor to permit construction of a freeway or other transport options should they consider this necessary at some future date.

As a consequence of this situation, lobbying for construction of the freeway is bound to emerge from time to time. For the Progress Association and the Castlecrag community, it is not sufficient to simply oppose freeway construction: we need to think through practical and realistic strategies to overcome the problems of traffic congestion in our area. In parallel with international trends, such a response needs to tackle the problems of automobile dependence which threaten the future of our cities and the lifestyle of their citizens.

Earlier this year the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) invited the Progress Association to respond to a Draft Strategic Plan which they have prepared entitled *Road Safety 2000*. We consider the report to be a most welcome contribution to the debate about Sydney's future transport needs, and responded accordingly. Our letter will be discussed at the April meeting and from debate we expect to establish our policy on road safety and transport matters. (over...)

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The Castlecrag Progress Association letter supports the RTA policy to reduce people's dependence on the private car. We believe this requires an end to the construction of freeways in the Sydney area and attention to the planning of integrated transport and land use systems. An integrated system needs to give attention to mechanisms to aggregate people for efficient fixed track public transport and to incentives which will encourage people to reduce car dependence. We consider the principles for urban transport must encompass:

- *provision for urban participation in planning;
- *urban consolidation to improve the efficiency of public transport and reduce urban sprawl;
- *protection of our national heritage, particularly harbour foreshores, bushland and open space;
- *a realignment of investment priorities and incentives for individual transport choice to incorporate the social and environmental costs of road safety, health hazards, congestion, pollution and inefficient energy use.

It is expected that the joint councils' support for the freeway is likely to bring the freeway issue to a head at the State elections later this year. We consider that it will also be a major issue in the Local Government elections in September. To assist our residents to determine their voting preferences, the Committee has drawn up a questionnaire on the attitudes of candidates to freeways, public transport, road safety and related issues. This we will send to all North Shore candidates standing for the State elections and a similar questionnaire will go to all candidates for Willoughby City Local Government elections to be held in September. The replies to these questionnaires will be compiled and made available to all our residents.

Your contribution to the debate on transport planning issues is most welcome. Come to the next Progress Association meeting and have your say.

Congratulations to Sue Randle who has been awarded a **Pride of Workmanship** award by Northbridge Rotary Club, for her work in the community. The award will be presented at a special dinner on 23rd April at a local restaurant. Phone Shaan Verco 958 5753 if you would like to attend.

Gregory's

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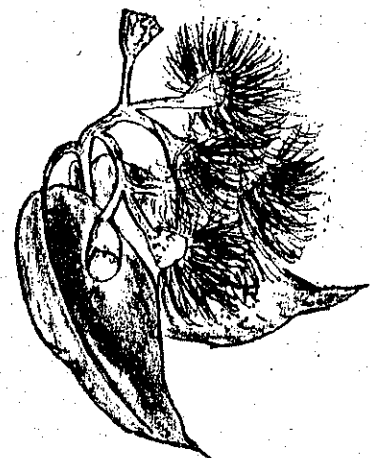
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Congratulations to **Michael Dulics** whose interest in the history of and culture of Castlecrag was the source of the successful **Poetry by Candlelight** evening in the Haven Ampitheatre.



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The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS 1 - 5pm

SATURDAYS 10am - Noon

NEW BOOKS LIST:

THAYER, N My Dearest Friend
KRANTZ, J Dazzle
CORNWELL, B Crack Down
SCOTT, J The Hong Kong Edge
MOSCO, M For Love and Duty
HOOKER, J Rubicon
GREY, A The Bangkok Secret
EASTERMAN, D The Last Assassin
KENEALLY, T Flying Hero Class
SEYMOUR, G Condition Black
CARR, P The Black Swan
KOONTZ, D Cold Fire
DURAND, L Jaguar
FORBES, C Whirlpool
PILCHER, R The Shell Seekers
ALLENDE, E, I Eva Luna
MAHMOODY, B Not Without My Daughter
BRANAGH, K Beginning

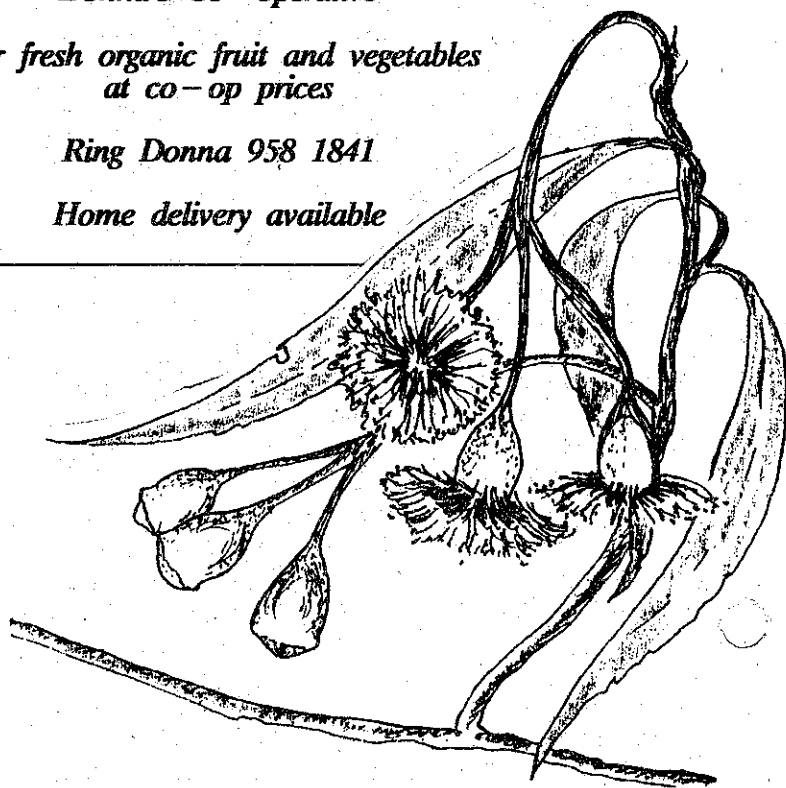
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler 958 6963



The Good Old Days Ah yes, many of us look back to times when, with smaller populations, people knew their neighbours and near neighbours on a first name basis. This made for a more concerned and caring community. You can help preserve this spirit by joining and being active in our Neighbourhood Watch and our Progress Association. As members you have immediate common interests with your neighbours. It 'breaks the ice' - you have something else to talk about other than the weather! Let's join forces to keep our little community safe and environmentally sound. You may be a new resident - your participation in Neighbourhood Watch and Progress Association activities would be most welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch - join now! Enquiries, Charles Reynolds 958 5945.

Progress Association Office Bearers 1991

President: Sue Randle 958 6344

Vice presidents: Eric Kaye 958 6146, Louise Weingarh 958 8737

Minutes secretary: Kate Westoby 958 0215 **Correspondence secretary:** Tina Hicks 958 1163

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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.

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ADDRESS: _____

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