

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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*** 66 YEARS OF RESOLVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES***

ALDERMAN'S REPORT

Sue Randle 958 6344

Dear Residents,

On 14th September I was elected to Willoughby City Council as one of the three aldermen representing Middle Harbour Ward, along with Pat Reilly and John Squire.

I would like to sincerely thank all the residents who supported me, enabling me to be elected entirely on primary votes. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 90 helpers from our community who assisted me in my campaign, by delivering leaflets and/or helping on election day. Many thanks also to my campaign committee: Andrew Frazer, Tina Hicks, Eric Kaye, Sam Lander, Kerry McKillop, Howard Rubie, Peggy Wall and Kate Westoby; to the Castlecrag Progress Association which not only endorsed me but also financed the publicity, photography and printing costs; and to the many residents who made donations to my campaign. Also, a big thank you to my (long-suffering) supportive family for the time and effort they gave to my campaign.

I am finding that being an Alderman on such an energetic and enthusiastic Council is a very challenging and satisfying experience. There are many complex and controversial decisions to be made on behalf of the Willoughby Community, and I am endeavouring to be fair, objective and just in my contributions. I am looking forward to the challenges of representing our community for the next four years, and to working together with the other Aldermen.

As well as representing our community at Council meetings, I have been appointed to various committees, including the Aged Services Advisory Committee, the Bushland Management 530A Committee, the Dougherty Centre Board of Advisors, the Family Fun Fair Committee, and the Harold Reid Reserve Consultative Committee, the Willoughby Community Recreation Association, the Willoughby Park Centre Committee, and the Haven Amphitheatre 530A Committee. These groups will cover a wide range of interests and concerns and I will keep you in touch with their achievements through my reports in this newsletter (in the tradition of our former Alderman, Eric Kaye, who has promised to write for the next issue to enlighten us about what 530A committees really do!).

Please contact me if you have any queries, problems or need information with regard to Local Government matters, on 958 6344 or drop me a note to 63 Sunnyside Crescent, Castlecrag.

Finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to all the new Aldermen, particularly Louise Weingarth who stood in East Ward because of my nomination for Middle Harbour Ward, and I hope that we all will have a successful and efficient term as your representatives on Willoughby City Council.

Sincerely,

Sue Randle

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, corner of THE RAMPART and THE POSTERN, ON TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER, at 8pm. COME ALONG AND MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

MEETINGS OF THE CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY ARE HELD AT THE INFANTS SCHOOL, EDINBURGH ROAD, on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of every month, at 8pm. Ring president Harold Spies for details 958 8569.

Growing Up in Castlecrag 1956-1966

The icecream man each Saturday afternoon - waiting patiently for the bell, hoping we hadn't missed him and buying a chocolate paddlepop for sixpence; the baker's van on deliveries - if we pestered him enough, we were sure to cadge a fresh bread roll; the neighbourhood Egg Run - hard work for little pay!

The rights-of-way everywhere - we knew them all and called them secret pathways. Exploring the bush - neverending experiences Dead Man's Cave, the Green Patch, getting down to the water's edge along the creek beds. Admiring the 360 views from the high rocks at Tower Reserve. Going on picnics on the rocks along the early track between The Citadel and The Barbette.

Hoping to be invited to the playreading evenings at the Milstons, but never being allowed as we were too young! Getting invited to the fireworks nights at the Milstons with other neighbourhood kids!

Watching and wondering how Doug Chandler could hurl newspapers so accurately to each house. Watching Johnny O'Keefe tearing through the shopping centre in his 'Yank Tanks'.

Squeezing into Stening's chemist shop to buy something. Watching the mechanics working at both the garages.

Taking the long track down to Northbridge Baths from The Rampart and spending most of the day swimming in fairly unpolluted waters. Playing Cockylora, British Bulldog and Kikery on the only flat front lawn in our street with about twenty other neighbourhood kids. Dad used to weed out all the bindiis just so we could play on the lawn. Hearing the Chrystals whistle - going home time!

Enjoying Miss Dove's preschool. My locker was the peapod. Enjoying Castlecrag Infants' School - except the warm milk for playlunch. Enjoying dumping my stale sandwiches when I had spare pocketmoney and buying a pie and meringue from the cake shop. Who was the lady who owned it?

Spending our bus money on lollies at the corner store near Willoughby School and having to walk home. Throwing our bus passes out the window of the double decker school bus to the waiting pals who needed a lift from the shops to The Pinnacle. GFS - the Girls' Friendly Society - a great fun time with a good bunch of local girls.

Putting together dumb neighbourhood concerts and the neighbours actually attended!

Eating rock oysters from the bay and getting chronic food poisoning.

The Discotheque at St James Church - the famous 'coffee shoppe'. Those were the days - many hearts won and lost. The IN place. Participating in and enjoying many musical comedies at St James, performed by locals and always directed expertly by Dorothy O'Connor. Sunday School picnics. One of the first to get TV in the street so always had the neighbourhood kids around to watch *Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, The Three Stooges, Captain Fortune, Bandstand, etc.*

Remembering the death of actress Marcia Hathaway taken by a shark near Middle Cove and Harold Reid Reserve. The ambulance unable to climb the steep road up from the boatshed.

Being the 'groupie' for the neighbourhood band of my brother, which disrupted many a student studying for the Leaving Certificate as they used the local garages to practise every few weekends. They played at many local parties, sometimes for sixpence each! Now they are together again as *The Rolling Bones* and played for the SOS*CRAG fundraiser last year.

Margaret Hutchinson (nee Pails)

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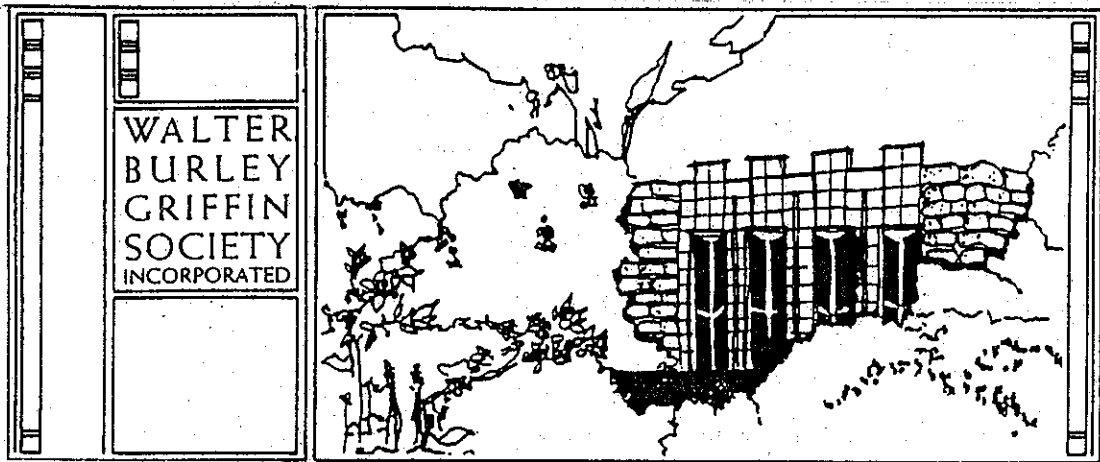


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MAX DUPAIN HONOURS WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY

Max Dupain, the master of photography has very generously given his entire collection of Griffin photographs to the Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated.

The photographs are a wonderful celebration of Walter Burley Griffin's architecture in Castlecrag. The collection includes photographs of each of the thirteen houses built by Griffin at Castlecrag in 1920s and early 30s and also some of his houses at Killara and Telopea.

The photographs capture the interesting and unusual architectural details and proportions and the beauty of Griffin's stone and knitlock dwellings at Castlecrag.

Max Dupain said that he sympathised with the principles and theories of Walter Burley Griffin and Frank Lloyd Wright and in 1948 bought land in Castlecrag. He commissioned Arthur Baldwinson to design his home which was completed in the early 1950s.

Max Dupain is largely responsible for establishing Australian 20th century architecture in the international scene. An exhibition of his photographs was recently shown in London and the Australian National Gallery is mounting an exhibition of his work next month.

Some of the photographs given to the Walter Burley Griffin society will be included in the forthcoming book *A Vision for the Future: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag* which the Society will publish early next year. The Society also hopes to mount an exhibition of the photographs next year.

The Society's **Annual General Meeting** will be held **Sunday 20th October** at **"Burley Griffin Lodge"**, the National Trust property at **32 Plateau Road, Avalon**. The AGM is at **2.30pm** and at **3pm** guest speaker, **Professor James Weirick**, Head of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of NSW, will speak about the history of this delightful house built in 1934 as a weekend retreat for Stella James.

Should you require any further information please contact Adrienne Kabos on 958 2060. **All welcome!!** As parking is limited in Plateau Road Avalon, a bus will leave the Castlecrag shops at 1.15pm, and will return after the proceedings. Light refreshments will be served. Bring insect repellent and cushion!

m o m o

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Waste Minimisation and Recycling in the 1990s

The Sydney Region now produces 3.4 million tonnes of waste annually and if present trends continue unabated, this figure will double to 7.1 million tonnes by the year 2011. This would mean that more than 100 million tonnes of waste would need to be disposed of over the next 20 years, and as the main disposal system is by landfill, this would require a substantial increase in the number and size of landfill tip sites presently in operation.

As only seven years' landfill capacity remains in Sydney, the recent decision by the State Government not to proceed with the Londonderry landfill proposal has left Councils with a serious waste disposal problem. In addition it has been announced that the government will not be establishing any new tip sites in Sydney and that the responsibility for development of new sites will rest with Local Government and the private sector. Unfortunately the government has made the decision to disassociate itself from the waste management arena without consultation with Local Government.

The Waste Management Authority which is the State Government body controlling waste disposal in the Sydney Region, conducts an orderly and organised disposal service which gives uniform access to transfer stations or landfill depots by all Councils. The new approach where Councils will be forced to deal directly with private enterprise, apparently without any price control by a State Government authority, will lead to substantial increases in waste disposal costs.

As Council now disposes some 21,000 tonnes of domestic waste per annum, a figure of over \$2 million to dispose of this waste in the near future, would not seem to be an extravagant estimate.

It has generally been accepted that there should be a target set for a 50% reduction in waste going to landfill by the year 2000, measured by weight per capita based on current levels. In order to achieve this target the following waste management hierarchy has been evolved:

1. Waste avoidance - practices which prevent the generation of waste altogether
2. waste reduction - practices which reduce it
3. waste reuse - direct reuse of waste material
4. recycling

When all these precious steps cannot be utilised then the remaining waste would go to landfill. This can be summed up in three simple words:

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

To achieve a reduction in the amount of waste presently disposed of will require a complete

change in community attitudes and actions. It has been too easy for far too long to throw out all waste in the garbage bin, put the bin out on garbage night and have it all removed, with no thought for the consequences. This attitude is no longer acceptable. Before any material goes into the bin it is the householder's responsibility to consider:

Could I have bought something that did not generate so much waste?

Could the material be used for something else?

Could the material be recycled?

An overall question could be asked as to what is being done to deal with the problem. In this regard much work has been carried out over the last few years investigating waste processing and recycling procedures and introducing new systems.

Willoughby Council in conjunction with the Waste Management Authority and Council's collection contractor Sulo Municipal Services Pty Ltd, recently conducted a three month trial of a weekly recycling service in several geographical zones within the city area, using four different types of recycling containers. Residents placed these containers out alongside the mobile garbage bins on garbage nights for collection on the same day the garbage service is rendered. The trial established that a weekly recycling service, with a recycling container, substantially increased yields of recycled materials. Council will be considering the introduction of such a scheme in 1992. Work has also been carried out investigating composting of vegetation and development of new uses for waste such as converting it to building aggregate.

As vegetation and food waste comprise about 50% of the domestic waste stream the potential to reduce waste in this area is enormous. Ku-ring-gai Council is developing a compost plant at St Ives, and Warringah Council is conducting composting trials at its Kimbriki Road depot. Willoughby Council will be keeping close contact with these Councils through the North Shore Councils Region Recycling Committee.

Council has sold over 400 compost bins which indicates that residents are becoming aware of the value of composting waste. Of course there is no value in recycling if the materials collected cannot be sold and reused. While glass and aluminium cans have a ready market, over the years the paper market has been unreliable. Council has recently entered into a two year agreement with Australian Paper Manufacturers which will ensure a stable market in the short term. Residents are therefore urged to support this service and to contact Council if unsure of their recycling collection day. (over >>>>)

Domestic recycling of plastic, other than PET bottles (the ones with the rocket shaped base) is almost nonexistent. PET bottles are collected in conjunction with the bottle collection service. The great variety of types of plastic and the high collection costs have hampered the introduction of recycling programmes of this material, however feasibility trials are being conducted by a number of Councils collecting mixed plastics.

While Councils can introduce new systems and strategies it will ultimately be up to the community to support these initiatives. The community must minimise waste or endure increased collection and disposal costs and ultimately environmental consequences.

The challenge for Council in the coming years will be to change community attitudes and reduce waste, a challenge that must be met to ensure costs are contained and the environment protected.

Jim McCormick
Willoughby City Council

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Vale Anne Thomas

The passing of a great lady! Anne was one of the first people I met when we moved to the Crag in 1950 - she used to pass my kitchen window in Sortie Port on her way to tennis every week, and one day she asked me to go to the kindergarten 'Cup Party' in The Rampart, my initiation to the fundraising activities in the Crag.

She didn't drive a car in those days, but still took a very active interest in the various schools her children attended - she was an inspiration to all of us. With Anne as secretary, being president of the Kindergarten, Infants School and Ladies Auxiliary of Willoughby Public and North Sydney Boys High Schools over the years was a sinecure. We used to pack all the kindergarten furniture and equipment into the childrens' toilets every Friday afternoon; it was such a tight squeeze that it would only fit in, in the order each piece was numbered.

When Nev and I moved to the Morson's house, Anne and I shared the functions held for money-raising; but I always found I had the one wet day or night in a fine week, and Anne the one fine day or night in a wet week!

In the middle 1950s, before the playing of the Davis Cup at White City, we spent hours with some Mums from the Kindergarten, cleaning out the cushions from the bowels of the stands, dusting them off, for hire on the day. Anne would be at both functions - tennis was not my cup of tea.

There was the time we spent hours in town looking for the right material for the Kindy curtains and were happy when a new Mum offered to make them. When we hung them nothing matched, either in length or patternwise!

Anne would organise a sewing bee for school or Scout fetes, and at someone's home we would go into production - one mother cutting out, another pinning pieces together, a third machining and a fourth finishing off. The production line was kept going by others cutting off ends, inserting elastic, sewing on buttons, ironing etc and pricing ready for sale. Many were the times we would go around various warehouses, begging goods to sell at stalls on these Fair Days.

Few people could resist her charm and wonderful personality. They were great times and I am very grateful that I was able to work with Annie over these years. She was an inspiration to all who were lucky enough to know her and as for me, I will always treasure her memory. She was Castlecrag to me. May our community continue to honour her memory by working together.

Hail and farewell, Anne!

Madge Milston

Dear Editors,

A Vision for the Future

Most of us who live in Castlecrag, and feel that it is very special, acknowledge the legacy and particular genius of **Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion**.

Together they have created not only a unique built and natural environment, but they have provided the blueprint for a vital and healthy cultural landscape as well. Now, with a more sympathetic Council in place, there has never been a better time to draw on that past for inspiration to move forward to build a stronger, ever more creative, united and caring community.

If you share the Griffins' 'vision for the future of Castlecrag' why not come to the **Annual General Meeting of the Walter Burley Griffin Society, on Sunday 20th October**, and put forward your ideas? It seems to me, speaking personally and not necessarily as a relatively new, but nevertheless active member of the Society, that what is needed right now is honest, open and constructive debate that confronts head-on the contentious issues which inevitably surround questions of preservation and restoration.

Only when the diversity of viewpoints within the community is openly acknowledged will it be possible for us to move forward, with the help of the Society, and map out, agree upon and formalise further longterm goals for the preservation and commemoration of the Griffin heritage in this suburb. Forward planning, such as has been undertaken for Hunters Hill would, hopefully, eliminate misunderstanding and reduce heartache and dissention along the way.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society was established in the hope of acquiring the Duncan House. That hope has not been realised but the basic, unique fabric of the suburb remains. Preservation need not be seen just in terms of bricks and mortar. I, for one, think it would be highly worthwhile if, like the generations before us, this community pulled harder together now to realise and maintain the Griffins' dream. Surely in doing so we will make this an even more interesting and desirable suburb in which to live and bring up our families.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Purser
Member, Management Committee,
Walter Burley Griffin Society

Dear Editors,

I think that Bim Hilder was one of the most lovable and talented men I have ever known. His works will be a constant reminder of his abilities but what perhaps is less well known was his enthusiastic dedication to teaching sculpture to others. His support and his encouragement, like his patience, were boundless.

I suggest that in recognition of Bim the citizen as well as Bim the artist, we establish a fund which could provide a prize for art students, say the 'Bim Hilder prize for sculpture'.

Best wishes (and in hope)

Lew Levy

Editors' note: This matter will be on the agenda for the Progress Association meeting Tuesday 22nd October.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler 958 6963

Out of sight - out of mind!



We are talking about leaving valuables in your unattended car in full sight of passers by. Police report theft from cars is increasing. So please make sure you are not the next victim. Any car can be broken into and to leave valuables where they can be seen just doesn't make sense. Take that bit of trouble to put things where they cannot be seen. Compare this tiny bit of trouble with the trauma of returning to your car and finding it damaged and your valuables gone!

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association (Box 6/77, Castlecrag) by Judy Stone - Herbert 958 7961 and Kerry McKillop 958 4516. Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. Deliveries: Donna Sife 958 1841.