

# THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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## DANCIN' AT THE HAVEN

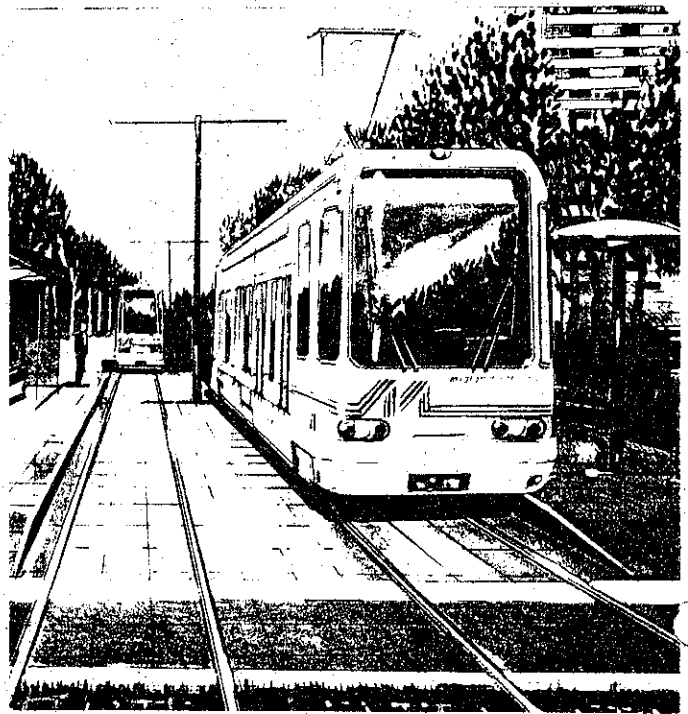
SUNDAY THE 1ST OF DECEMBER 1991



**A TEA DANCE AT THE HAVEN  
AMPHITHEATRE CASTLECRAG**  
**Featuring The Willoughby Brass Band**  
BAND STEPPING OUT FROM CASTLECRAG SHOPS AT 5PM AND SWINGING FROM 5-30 PM AT THE AMPHITHEATRE  
NO PARKING AT THE THEATRE • FREE BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM THE SHOPS & SCHOOL •  
WET WEATHER ALTERNATIVE DATE: 8th DECEMBER • SUPPORTED BY WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

The Coalition for Urban Transport Planning (CUTS) serves as an umbrella organisation for groups throughout the Sydney metropolitan area concerned with urban transport and environment issues. The Castlecrag Progress Association is a member. Our interest was initially based on opposition to the proposed Warringah Freeway, but has evolved toward a recognition of the inter-dependence between urban transport and environmental issues across the Greater Sydney Region.

CUTS seeks to promote integrated transport and land use planning for building better and sustainable cities. This requires a shift from private to public transport to reduce congestion, pollution, noise and stress; and protect urban and natural environments from the automobile's appetite for space. The international trend for improved urban public transport is based on light rail transit systems. These provide low cost, attractive and flexible public transport services as a viable alternative to the motor car. Proposals for modern light rail transit systems on the North Shore have come from North Sydney, Manly, Mosman, Willoughby and Warringah Councils - the *Transit North* proposal for the Warringah Peninsula - and the Light Rail Association. The latter proposal links North Sydney with St James Station via lanes 7 and 8 of the Harbour Bridge. Rededication of these lanes to light rail will significantly increase the capacity of the Harbour Bridge. The people carrying capacity of the Harbour Bridge was greater in 1952 when lanes 7/8 were dedicated to trams, than the combined capacity of the Bridge and Tunnel will be in 1992.



CUTS has joined the Light Rail Association in sponsoring a public rally, **The Battle for the Bridge**, on 15 December to demonstrate public support for the light rail proposals. The rally will assemble at Wynyard Park at 11 AM and march to the **Tram Stump** (near North Sydney Station). This is an opportune time to influence a most important decision on the future of our city. All residents of Castlecrag with an interest in building a better urban environment are urged to attend this most important event. Please contact 958 4516 for further details.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler 958 6963

### Is Your Number Up?



No, no - your house number, we mean! It really is important that your house number is clearly visible - a life could depend on it. Just say an ambulance is responding to a call from a house which is the scene of a serious accident or life-threatening sudden illness. But vital seconds are lost as the driver searches for the exact house number, minutes which could mean the difference between life and death. Again, police hurrying to a call for help arrive too late to arrest the offender because of time lost finding the house. It can happen - it does happen. Make sure it doesn't happen to your household. Please see that the number of your house (and business) is clearly visible.

# Alderman's Report Sue Randle 958 6344

Dear Residents,

Since becoming an Alderman in September, I have had many calls from residents on Council matters. In most cases I have been able to successfully advise them or gain information or advice from Council. With this in mind I plan to hold two open forums for residents in early 1992 - one in the evening and one on a Saturday morning - when individual residents (community groups please make an appointment for another time and date) can come and talk over their problems and Local Government matters. The dates of these meetings will be published in the January 1992 *Crag*.

A more urgent matter is the traffic problems in Castlecrag. I am inviting residents to attend a forum to discuss and find possible solutions to these problems. Hopefully, a local traffic management committee would be formed from this meeting to formulate a traffic management plan and present it to Council for consideration and implementation.

Please come along and participate in this important community meeting

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on Wednesday 4th December 1991

at Community Centre, corner The Rampart and  
The Postern, Castlecrag

8pm till 10pm

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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## CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS 1 - 5pm

SATURDAYS 10am - Noon

### NEW BOOKS LIST:

EASTERMAN, D Night of the Seventh Darkness

MAYLE, P Toujours Provence

SEBASTIAN, T Saviour's Gate

RIPLEY, A Scarlet

BROOKNER, A A Closed Eye

INNES, H Isvik

ROWE, J Death in Store

SANDERS, L The Seventh Commandment

WEST, M The Ringmaster

LITTELL, R An Agent in Place

Also many new paperbacks and mysteries

# Dancin' at the Haven

Do you recall the days of tea dances, pink champagne and cucumber sandwiches? For some residents this next event at the Haven Amphitheatre will be a nostalgic event, while for younger residents it will be a new and different experience. Either way, everyone is assured a great time.

The Haven has a new stage for which we are grateful to Willoughby City Council and to celebrate the new structure we are inviting everyone along to kick up your heels at the community Tea Dance.

At 5pm the giant puppets of Marion and Walter Burley Griffin will lead the procession from the Castlecrag shops, followed by the sixty-piece Willoughby Brass Band. They will stirringly and tunefully blow their way down to the Amphitheatre in The Scarp, so park your cars and take to the streets, in a procession the likes of which Castlecrag has never seen! For those unable to walk the distance, the Haven shuttle bus service will be in operation with the first busload following the procession, and when the roads are clear it will resume its service. So please -

NO CARS AT THE THEATRE.

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RESIDENTS OF THE BASTION AND THE  
BULWARK SHOULD TAKE NOTE THAT  
THESE STREETS WILL BE CLOSED TO  
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BETWEEN 5.10PM  
AND 5.30PM ON SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER  
1991.

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Get into the spirit of the occasion and dress in 20s and 30s gear. Otherwise wear contemporary clothing - the important thing is to come and enjoy the music, conversation, dancing and food. The Haven Amphitheatre is one of Australia's most beautiful intimate outdoor performance spaces and this community is most privileged to have it on our doorsteps. Show it off to your friends!

We have been fortunate to secure the services of wellknown radio announcer Brendan Walsh from MBSFM as Master of Ceremonies. The top ballroom dancers from Chatswood Evening College will strut their stuff and the renovated Haven stage will be well and truly put to the test by a 10-member tap dancing troupe. There will be opportunity for everyone to have a dance, be it the Tango, Lambada or Foxtrot. The evening is planned to end by sunset when the free shuttle bus will carry weary bodies back up the hill.

Come with your family and friends. Or come alone. It's sure to be a friendly and memorable experience for all.

Lindy Batterham for the 530A Committee

## Edgar Absolom Deans 1903 - 1991

The death of Edgar Deans on 22 October has saddened our community. Edgar was a long time resident of Castlecrag and has had an important influence on the early development of our suburb, and on the Municipality of Willoughby. In 1927 he joined Walter Burley Griffin as secretary/accountant of the Greater Sydney Development Association, formed in 1920 and responsible for the town planning and development of a large part of Castlecrag, Middle Cove and Castle Cove. It was Edgar Deans' skilful management that steered the company through the Depression and the years after Griffin's death in 1937.

Edgar Deans was an outstanding person with a remarkable devotion to the community. As a resident of Castlecrag he served as secretary of the Progress Association for thirteen years and as president for four years, was active in the building of the Castlecrag Community Hall, in the acquisition of the land for the Castlecrag Infants School, and the establishment of the Albert Chowne Memorial Hall; he was then secretary of the Willoughby Federated Progress Associations for eight years and president for two years. In 1948 Edgar was elected to Willoughby Council where he served for eight years, two of them as Mayor.

In 1989 Edgar became Patron of the Walter Burley Griffin Society. This was a wonderful honour for the Society, being associated with someone who had worked so closely with the Griffins. He has deposited the original papers of the Greater Sydney Development Association with the National Library, Canberra; and the promotional film made in 1928 titled *Beautiful Middle Harbour* with the National Film and Sound Archives. This film is the only one that records Walter and Marion Griffin's work.

## Gregory's

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Remember also: Carols by Candlelight in the Haven Amphitheatre on Christmas Eve! See posters in the shopping centre for more details.

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958 0065



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### ☆ Carols at Castlecrag School ☆

On Friday 13th December - the last day of the public school term, there will be a community picnic tea from 5pm till sunset in the grounds of the Castlecrag Infants School. This will be a good opportunity for parents and kids alike of all ages to catch up with Castlecrag friends, or if you are new to the neighbourhood, come along to meet the locals. We're a very friendly lot with great spirit!

Bruce Wilson will strum his guitar and lead the carol singing accompanied by a local pianist. Any other musicians interested in joining in are most welcome to bring along instruments to add to the harmony.

So pack a scrumptious picnic tea, grab a rug and head for the Infants School Friday 13th December.

The NSW Government continues to act irresponsibly and wastefully regarding Castlecrag Infants School. The mismanagement of the issue has been criminal and it is saddening to see the site being ignored and not used to its full potential. Whilst it is now too late to have the school reopened for next year, the SOS\*CRAG Committee is planning a fresh, re-energised campaign calling for re-opening with one infant class in 1993, and building up to its former glory over a five year period. The Committee is in favour of an additional usage on the site, as long as it complements a local infants school. Names of future enrollees will be taken to show Mr Greiner that the children do exist. Since the closure, an extra \$60,000 per year is spent on school buses from Castlecrag (that's in addition to the services that existed pre-1990).

As predicted, more and more young children and babies are evident in the area. The NSW Government cannot afford to be as arrogant as they have been over this issue, so hopefully 1992 will see reasonable, rational discussion with this community.

Lindy Batterham for the SOS\*CRAG Committee

TOGETHER WE GROW \* SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

# What is a 530A Committee?

Eric Kaye

What do they do? Who belongs to them? What authority do they have? These are questions that I am frequently asked. The brief answer is that under Section 530A of the Local Government Act, Council is permitted to delegate authority for non-elected residents to carry out specific management tasks on its behalf. In Castlecrag we have two such committees, one to manage the Community Centre, the other to manage the Castle Haven Reserve and Amphitheatre. This authority is succinctly even if rather stuffily expressed in the Act thus ".... Council may by resolution authorise an officer, or a servant, or a person, or a committee consisting either wholly or in part of officers, servants, or persons to exercise or perform on behalf of the Council ....". For the purposes of this exercise, I consider myself "a person", not an officer, not a servant nor even a slave.

A brief outline of the beginning of these committees may be interesting to readers. I am indebted to Esther Leslie's excellent book *The Suburb of Castlecrag A Community History* for much of the following.

**Castlecrag Community Centre:** At a special meeting of the Castlecrag Community Circle in 1944, a decision was taken to investigate ways and means of acquiring a suitable Community Centre building. The Greater Sydney Development Association (Burley Griffin's company) had donated land on the reserve off The Rampart for this purpose. This was later transferred to Willoughby Municipal Council to avoid payment of rates. Eric Nicholls, a partner of Griffin, was invited to be the architect for the community hall. Residents responded promptly and willingly in clearing the land, digging trenches for drains and foundations, and participating in many fundraising activities. Willoughby Council subsidised this on a pound for pound basis. The nucleus hall was opened in November 1947. By 1965 upkeep exceeded rentals and the building was taken over by Willoughby Council. It is now administered by the 530A Committee listed below. Following requests from this committee, Council has recently made extensions to the original building, including a fireproof room for community records.

**The Castle Haven Reserve and Amphitheatre:** This amphitheatre was originally planned and constructed by Griffin on the southern scarp of Castlecrag in the early 1930s. Until the beginning of World War II, many successful performances were staged in this beautiful bushland setting. Following the war, the area declined and became so seriously overgrown that even the stone seats were not visible. However, in 1976 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Walter Burley Griffin, our community rallied to restore and rebuild this fine amphitheatre. It was opened on April 2nd 1976 as

part of the 10-day Castlecrag Heritage Festival. The Theatre is presently managed and operated by a most energetic and competent committee. Forth-coming events include a Tea Dance on December 1st and Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve.

Present members of the two committees:

## Castlecrag Community Centre

President: John Kabos  
Secretary: Joyce Batterham 958 4161  
Dorothy Fraser, Billie Hume, Eric Kaye, Margaret Koeninger, Ald. John Squire.

## Castlecrag Haven Theatre and Amphitheatre

President: Howard Rubie  
Secretary: Lisa Purser 958 1503  
Lindy Batterham, Bill Donnelly, Eric Kaye, Christine Monch, Ald. Sue Randle, Ald. Pat Reilly, Patricia Sheldon, Robert Sheldon, Sylvia Taylor, Ella Young.

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Heather Rowland - President 958 4846

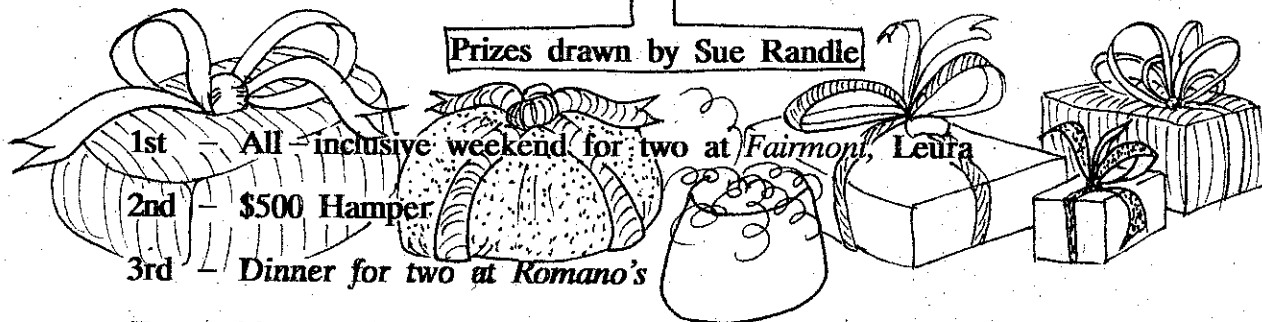
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Prizes drawn by Sue Randle

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- 2nd - \$500 Hamper
- 3rd - Dinner for two at Romano's

Entry with each \$10 or more spent at any shop in The Quadrangle.

### Community Noticeboard

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS....  
HERE COMES DECEMBER!

- 1<sup>st</sup> TEA DANCE AT THE HAVEN
- 4<sup>th</sup> FORUM AT THE COMMUNITY CTR.
- 8<sup>th</sup> GALA DAY AT NORTHBRIDGE BATHS.
- 13<sup>th</sup> PICNIC TEA & CAROLS AT CASTLECRAG SCHOOL
- 15<sup>th</sup> THE BATTLE FOR THE BRIDGE RALLY
- 17<sup>th</sup> PAPER RECYCLING PICK-UP
- 19<sup>th</sup> BOTTLE RECYCLING PICK-UP
- 21<sup>st</sup> SAUSAGE SIZZLE & PRIZE DRAW AT THE QUADRANGLE.
- 24<sup>th</sup> CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT AT THE HAVEN

MERRY  
 CHRISTMAS



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