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## NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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

#### President's Report

Sue Randle 958 6344

Dear Residents,

Welcome to new residents and happy 1992 to you all! Congratulations to our Castlecrag students who did so well in the stressful HSC examinations and good luck as you commence the next stage of studying or working. Congratulations are also in order to residents **Max Dupain** and **Leonard Teale** on their Australia Day Awards.

On the Australia Day weekend, the residents of **Sunnyside Crescent** once again held a 'street party' to which residents brought along food, drink, barbeques and picnic chairs and tables and enjoyed a few hours relaxing and chatting to their neighbours. The children 'had a ball' riding on their bikes, skateboards and roller blades in the safety of the closed-off section of the Crescent. I believe the residents of **The Parapet** had a get-together as well - did your street? If only more residents could talk and reasonably discuss problems as they arise, such as boundaries, fences, trees, noisy pool filters, illegal and inconsiderate parking, dogs barking, etc. our suburb would be a happier place. If this is not successful, I am happy as I have done on many occasions, to come and meet with both parties.

The enthusiastic **Castlecrag Traffic Committee** is up and running and is formulating ideas and following suggestions from residents, to be compiled and eventually put before the Traffic Committee at Council. As you can imagine, the main concerns

are the narrow streets and the often dangerous speed of cars and larger building and service vehicles travelling within Castlecrag. The Bastion, The Bulwark and the straight stretch of Edinburgh Road are the first problem areas being looked into. If you have any ideas/solutions please put them in writing for the Committee's consideration, and drop them into my letterbox at 63 Sunnyside.

I am standing down as president of the Progress Association (now don't all rush for this job!) at the coming AGM on Tuesday 25th February, as is vice president **Eric Kaye**. Eric has been an involved and caring resident and a wonderful adviser to me over many years, as a committee member of the Progress Association and now as an alderman for Middle Harbour Ward. Eric is taking time out to devote to personal matters but will be around to help when needed - thank you Eric and Rita too.

Please come along to our AGM and join our Association, which has historical links back to the early days of Castlecrag and the Griffins.

Residents may be interested to know that Willoughby Council has initiated 'Open Forum', setting aside 30 minutes at the beginning of each meeting to allow residents/groups to address Council for 3 minutes. The Town Clerk must be informed before 4.30pm on the day of the meeting.

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The next meeting of the **Castlecrag Progress Association** will be the **Annual General Meeting**, to be held in the **Castlecrag Community Centre**, corner The Postern and The Rampart, on **Tuesday 25th February 1992** at 8pm. All welcome, new residents especially so.

Meetings of the **Castlecrag Conservation Society** are held at the **Castlecrag Infants School**, Edinburgh Road, on the third Wednesday of every month, at 8pm. Ring president **Harold Spies** for details 958 8569.

## Honours for Castlecrag Residents

Castlecrag has reason to be proud of two of our residents who were honoured with awards this Australia Day. Max Dupain was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for services to the visual arts, particularly photography, and Leonard Teale was appointed Officer in General Division (AO) for his services to the performing arts and the community.

Max, who recently turned 80, became interested in photography when he received a Box Brownie on his fifteenth birthday. Since then, he estimates, he has taken a million pictures, covering a wide variety of subjects, and portraying a history of Australia in photography. His long association with architecture has earned him an honorary membership of the Institute of Architects and his love of nature is expressed in his book *Australian Landscapes* published in 1988. A copy of this book, presented by him to the Castlecrag Library, is on view there.

Max has always showed concern for our suburb. He was very supportive of our efforts to fight the freeway through Castlecrag, and to demonstrate just what would have been lost had such a freeway been built, he submitted an album of photos of Castlecrag to the Kirby Inquiry. Earlier in the 1940s when we published the book *Castlecrag* to raise funds for the landscaping of the Infants School, he provided the photographs which enhanced the publication. Recently Max handed his photographs of the Griffin houses to the Walter Burley Griffin Society.

Leonard Teale is highly regarded for his acting on television, the stage and on films. Among other parts, he played the lead in the television series *Homicide*. He also played the role of the father in *Seven Little Australians* (recently repeated on TV). Like Max, Leonard has been very supportive of Castlecrag activities, most recently the retention of the Infants School and the waterfront cottages. He has also been a big help in the presentation of Carols by Candlelight.

Rita Kaye

Jim Mason's many friends were sad to receive the news of his recent death. The Masons moved to Castlecrag in 1941 and soon became very involved in Castlecrag activities. When it was decided to build a Community Centre on the land reserved by Burley Griffin for that purpose, the Masons and others in the community worked hard to dig trenches, fence the area and build the first temporary shelter. The community combined to raise funds for the project, and Jim's contribution was a large array of beautifully made wooden toys, which were sold at a fair held on the corner of Eastern Valley Way and Edinburgh Road. The fine collection of wooden blocks still in use at the Castlecrag Kindergarten are also the work of Jim.

Another interest of Jim's was sailing, and he was regarded as an outstanding skipper. With his boat *The Caddence* he entered the 1963/4/5 Sydney to Hobart races, winning on handicap in 1966. During this time he also won the 1964, 1965 and 1977 Sydney to Brisbane races, an unequalled record of three wins.

Jim moved to Noosa, Queensland, in the late 1970s and took up farming, but he still kept in touch with his friends in Sydney. We express our deep sympathy to his family in their sad loss.

Rita Kaye

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Light Rail

I have never read so much nonsense [as in the last *Crag*] about a *light rail system*. The advocate dare not say *trams* because that would bring an avalanche of objections. Everyone who has had experience of trams knows what dreadful things they are:

1. They ruin the roads breaking up the asphalt making it bad for cars and requiring a great deal of maintenance as well as costly installation.
2. They are noisy.
3. They hold up traffic whenever they stop to allow passengers to alight.
4. They occupy a large width of road.

IF the Coalition of Urban Transport Insanity (*sic*) really want to improve public transport why not trolley buses? All they require is an overhead wire. They are silent, run on rubber tyres, don't affect the roads, don't hold up traffic and can pull to the kerb to pick up passengers.

I don't know of any international trend in the progressive world for public transport by trams. Trams belong to a bygone age and we don't want to go backwards.

AR Wheeler  
Morotai Crescent

### From the Library Committee

Some time towards the end of last year several books disappeared without trace from our Library. These are special books concerning our community, namely:

The Castlecrag Book - autographed copy;  
Historical Record of Castlecrag - provided by Willoughby Council as a Bicentenary project;  
Biography of Walter Burley Griffin - Birrell;  
Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin - Johnson.

This has caused great concern and distress to our team of Librarians because we have always been proud of the efficiency of our records and it troubles us that these books have been 'borrowed' without being processed in the usual manner.

If you have any knowledge of these missing books, please contact Billie Hume (975 2118) or Joyce Batterham (958 4161).

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### Bob McKillop responds:

Mr Wheeler's letter reflects an old demand by motorists to alienate public space (i.e. streets) for their individual use, which originated in the 1920s and remained in vogue until the 1950s. The NRMA journal, *Good Roads* No.6 of 1924, claimed "[T]he spirit of the times is that of betterment ... good roads and the automobile point that way." The journal maintained a strong campaign against obstructions to the motorist on the roads, namely pedestrians, cyclists, horse-drawn vehicles and trams. *Good Roads* (10/1922) viewed trams in terms of getting rid of:

our present cumbersome, noisy, street-destroying steel-track cars and replace(ing) them with quick-running modern vehicles [buses and trolley-buses] that could usher in good roads and streets in cities and suburbs.

By 1952, the campaign had begun action to close the tram system, which was progressively eliminated over the next eight years.

Elsewhere, trams have evolved into modern light rail systems, with ultra-modern vehicles operating over their own reserved right-of-way to provide fast, efficient, pollution-free and quiet service. Light rail is the fastest-growing public transport mode in the world with over 100 cities in 25 countries constructing new networks or expanding existing systems. World-wide, progressive cities are turning to light rail as a high capacity, low cost public transport mode which is flexible and helps shape cities into an attractive, pollution free and sustainable environments for their citizens. In North America, the number of cities with light rail has increased from 8 to 17 over the past decade. The Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity supports the call by the Light Rail Association for Sydney to catch up with the rest of the world and introduce a modern light rail network before our living space is strangled by inefficient, space-eating, polluting and noisy cars.

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## CASTLECRAG MEATS

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## Community Noticeboard

### ..... FEBRUARY .....

- 18<sup>th</sup> Tues. PAPER PICK-UP
- 19<sup>th</sup> Wed. CONSERVATION SOCIETY MEETING
- 20<sup>th</sup> Thurs. BOTTLE PICK-UP
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sun. RATEPAYERS ACTION GROUP PUBLIC MEETING
- 25<sup>th</sup> Tues. PROGRESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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"YOUR GARDEN - A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY" (WEPA 9<sup>th</sup> MAR)

### ..... MARCH .....

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
- 17<sup>th</sup> Tues. PAPER PICK-UP
- 19<sup>th</sup> Thurs. BOTTLE PICK-UP
- 18<sup>th</sup> Wed. CONSERVATION SOC. MEETING.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mon. W.E.P.A. Annual General Meeting.

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## Haven Amphitheatre News

Howard Rubie, Chairman, 530A Committee

Two great events were held at the Amphitheatre towards the end of last year, attended by the largest group of residents, families and friends in the history of the theatre. These events were *Dancin' at the Haven* on 1st December and *Candlelight and Carols* on Christmas Eve.

Those with any doubts about Castlecrag's ability to fill the Infants School with pupils would have to think again if they had seen the multitude of anklebiters at *Carols by Candlelight* on Christmas Eve. An audience of about 450 attended for what was the largest gathering ever in the Amphitheatre. Special thanks must go to **Patricia Sheldon** and her young players for their performance of the Christmas plays, to the Reverends **Jason Page** and **Allan Wilson**, and to **Jill Atherton** and **Donna Sife** for organising the *Haven Chorus* whose singing made the evening such a great success.

If you happened to be at the Castlecrag shopping centre about 5pm on Sunday 1st December, an unusual sight would have passed by. There leading the **Willoughby Brass Band** were **Walter and Marion Griffin**. Held high, the giant puppets (recently refurbished by the Progress Association) were being carried by a group of those with the stoutest backs in the whole of Castlecrag. What a team! Urged on by **Lindy Batterham**, **Bruce Wilson**, **Chris Hopwood**, **Larry Hilder** and **Stephen Taylor** led the parade. To the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*, they wheeled right at the hospital and headed for the Amphitheatre. So started what must have been one of the happiest community events that the Amphitheatre 530A Committee has yet organised.

A confirmed event for the coming year and a day to circle on your diary or calendar is **Sunday 27th September**. On that day the full **SBS Orchestra** of 60+ players will present two concerts. The first will be music for young people at around midday, and a second later in the day will be music of the times and the heritage of Castlecrag. The Committee looks forward to your continuing support for the theatre.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Richard Wheeler 958 6963

### Drugs in Castlecrag!!



Startling information received from the Police is that there are some unfortunates in Castlecrag who are victims and users of drugs. This has been backed up by a few of our neighbours who have found used syringes on the street. Keep a watchful eye on your surroundings and safety and carefully dispose of any syringes if any be found. Be aware - be an alert 'Neighbourhood Watcher'!!

## CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart

TUESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30pm

THURSDAYS 1 - 5pm

SATURDAYS 10am - Noon

### NEW BOOKS LIST:

FRANCIS, D	Comeback
CLEARY, J	Pride's Harvest
HOLLOWS, F	Autobiography
TYLER, A	Saint Maybe
FORSYTH, F	The Receiver
RUTHERFORD, E	Russka
HO, T	The Redundancy of Cochrane
COUGHLIN, W	Shadow of a Doubt
McCULLOUGH, C	The Grass Crown
PILCHER, R	Flowers in the Rain
FOLLET, K	Night over Water
COOPER, J	Polo
DRABBLE, M	The Gates of Ivory
WEST, M	The Ringmaster
INNES, H	Isvik
ALEXANDER, R	Scarlett
TRENHAILE	Blood Rules
PENMAN, S	The Reckoning
BALLARD, J	The Kindness of Women
MACLAINE, S	Dance While You Can
LEE, L	A Moment of War
CHANG, J	Wild Swans (Three Women of Hina)
GORDON, T	Deadly Perfume
ATTWOOD, M	Wilderness Life
COOKSON, C	The Rag Nymph
HEPBURN, K	Me
GIELGUD, J	Shakespeare - Hit or Miss?
PAMNER, T	Menuhin, a Family Portrait
CRAIG, T	A Hooded Crow
PETERS, E	The House of Green Turf
CORNWELL, B	Storm Child
LUIDLUM, R	The Road to Umaha

## Tennis - Castlecrag Sports Club Inc. (Cortile Reserve)

Vacancies for junior tennis players 9-16 years now exist. Two courts of synthetic grass are available. Play is supervised and begins at 8am each Saturday, going through to 11am. The morning is divided into sessions, varying according to the numbers present, but each is never less than one hour. Juniors may also play regularly on weekday afternoons when the courts are not let to midweek clubs, parental supervision can be arranged, and entry keys are available from Associates or Members. The available times are displayed in a window of the clubhouse. Senior juniors are not required to play under parental supervision but must have entry keys from an Associate or Member. The courts are also available to juniors on Sunday afternoons and during the week in conjunction with Associates and Members, if present. Players must rotate their sets between their own groups or as arranged mutually. Possession of a court shall not exceed half an hour while other players are waiting.

For application forms or enquiries phone 958 4365 (Mr L A Davis), apply at the clubhouse on Saturday afternoons or phone 958 3309.

The Castlecrag Sports Club owes its existence to the late **Walter Burley Griffin** who made the land available and was instrumental in the construction of the first court (loam) in 1928. The Club is a non-profit organisation and all Committee members serve in an honorary capacity.

Preference in membership is given to residents of Castlecrag but not to the exclusion of others. By arrangement visitors may play subject to payment of the required fees. Waiting lists are maintained when applications for all categories of members exceed vacancies.

Lee Davis

SEAN DYER

958 0065



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Please send to the Treasurer, Diana Jones, Box 6/77, Castlecrag.

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Judy Stone - Herbert 958 7961 and Kerry McKillop 958 4516. Deliveries Donna Sife 958 1841.