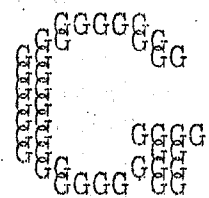
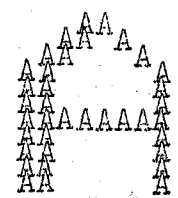
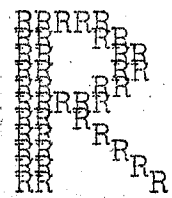
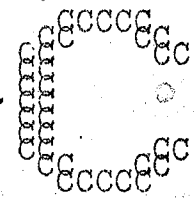


T H E



NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

CASTLECRAG COMMUNITY LIBRARY

MAY, 1979

The Association's Annual General Meeting on March 27, 1979, elected the following residents to the Management Committee for the 1979/1980 year:

- Beverley Blacklock, Eric Kaye, Meg Nicholson, Addie Saltis, Cliff Taylor, Ted Bourke, Jenny Kerr, Bob Ronai (Editor of "The Crag"), Con Saltis, Rhody Thomas, Marcella Cerna, Anne Korner, Di Street (Alderman), Mrs A. Vidale

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HISTORY OF CASTLECRAG - Sunnybank, Sunnyside & Wireless Estates

James William Bligh, later Chairman of the first Willoughby Municipal Council, received a number of land grants on this peninsular in 1856. One of the largest was the north side of Edinburgh Road, roughly from 3rd Avenue to 199 Edinburgh Road, extending down to Sugarloaf Creek - about 100 acres.

In the 1880's it was acquired by the Forsyth family - yes, the real estate people, and one of the pioneer families in the district. James Forsyth and his sons Thomas and Robert served 12 terms as Mayors of the Municipality between them.

The Sunnybank Land Company, in 1913, subdivided the land into two parts. Lyle Street (now part of Eastern Valley Way) was constructed and houses were built on the western (Willoughby) side by the War Service Homes Commission in the early 1920's.

The eastern side, known as the Sunnyside Estate was bought by a syndicate which leased part of it to AWA for the 2FC transmitter, and subdivided the remainder into building blocks sold as the Wireless Estates 1, 2, 3: Sunnyside Crescent, Raeburn Ave., Rutland Ave., Charles & Edith Streets.

It is interesting to note that the Castlecrag Progress Association was formed at this time. One of the first tasks it set itself was to try to have parks included in these new subdivisions.

Addie Saltis

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Castlecrag Progress Association

JUNE BAZAAR

Saturday, 9th June 8.30 - 12.30 in our Shopping Centre

- CAKE STALL - FRESH HONEY - HOME-MADE CHOCOLATES - HOOP LAH WHITE ELEPHANT STALL - SECOND HAND BOOKS - NATIVE PLANTS & HERBS LUCKY DIP - BALLOONS

WE NEED HELP! Can you bake a cake? Have you any bric-a-brac, ornaments, records, toys, crockery, clothes, unwanted gifts, jewellery? Sift through your bookshelves for old books, journals, magazines, comics, Do you have any donation suitable for a raffle? Perhaps wine, perfume. We will collect as soon as possible, and will appreciate ANY contribution.

Contact: Addie Saltis 95 6409 Jenny Kerr 95 3525

1979 membership form

The Treasurer,
Castlecrag Progress Association,
369 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag, 2068

Fees:
\$2.00 p.a. per person, or
\$4.00 p.a. per family

I wish to join my family up to the Castlecrag Progress Association for 1979.
I enclose my cheque for: \$4 fees plus \$ donation, total \$.

.....Name:
Address:

please tear off here and post with your cheque

CASTLECRAG INFANTS SCHOOL

Following a spate of rumours regarding problems at Castlecrag Infants School, a delegation of 16 parents - representing a cross section of the school's past and future parents - met with Mr. Watson, Senior Inspector North Sydney Branch, Dept. of Education, on 21st March, 1979.

Communication, Discipline, Creativity and Leadership were the main points of discussion. Mr. Watson assured those people present that the official Departmental view was that the school and three teachers were regarded as efficient and effective. He also assured them that no investigations had been, or were being carried out with regard to closing Castlecrag Infants School.

"We must try to emphasize the good points and be positive. I am not worried about the achievements of the school. The children from Castlecrag Infants School are well prepared for subsequent schools. The problems, as I see them, are not as serious as they have been made out to be. Try to work together. There is plenty of good in the School." -- Mr. Watson. This was unanimously agreed on.

Anyone wishing to contact Mr. Watson will find him c/- Infants Mistress' Office, Gordon Public School, phone 498 1764.

Christine Monch
President, Infants Club

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CONSERVATION SOCIETY NOTES

Now the weather is cooler, weed growth is slowing down and good results can be achieved in th garden with little physical exertion.

Lantana can be removed easily from soft soil by cutting the lateral roots one to two feet from the main taproot, and pulling out the taproot. These roots are usually near the surface and cut easily with secateurs. The ends should be carefully covered with soil - they will not reshoot - and the whole plant cut up for mulch to stop weeds.

Small privets can be easily pulled out, but large ones need cutting, poisoning immediately (while the sapwood is active) and the stump covering with plastic. Use Blackberry-tree Killer with caution.

"Zero" for Oxalis and Onion Weed is quite effective - read the instructions carefully.

Banksias are in flower at the moment and are brilliant winter flowering shrubs and trees. Fine specimens which are indigenous to Castlecrag include Banksia ericifolia - orange flowers; B. spinulosa - also orange; B. integrifolia - greenish yellow; B. serrata (Old Man) - greenish white. Following the recent rains banksias planted now would be well established before the more demanding summer weather.

For any information, phone Malcolm Taylor 95 5997

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MOTHERS' DAY TRAGEDY

A 4 year old child was knocked down and killed by a motorcycle on

For any information, phone Malcolm Taylor 95 5997

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MOTHERS' DAY TRAGEDY

A 4 year old child was knocked down and killed by a motorcycle on Edinburgh Road, on the Mothers' Day Sunday.

We ask our suburb's residents to attend our Association's June meeting to discuss effective ways of preventing any further needless tragedies.

WARRINGAH FREEWAY -- A PLAN 40 YEARS OUT OF DATE

In September, 1978, the Minister for Transport, Mr. P. Cox, announced that the Government had appointed Mr. David S. Kirby as a Commissioner...
"To inquire into and make recommendations relating to possible future and alternative uses of the Warringah Freeway Corridor reservations."

The recommendations of this Commission will be of great importance to Castlecrag, and consequently the Progress Assn will seek to make a submission to it. To prepare our case we have re-activated the Committee which worked so effectively during 1974/75 in opposition to the proposal to build an eight lane radial freeway and bridge from Sugarloaf Point. The Committee prepared three comprehensive reports: (a) Traffic Impact Report; (b) Survey of Social Effects; (c) Accoustical Investigation.

Copies of these were published and submitted to the appropriate Ministers in both the Australian and the New South Wales Governments.

This new inquiry has been initiated by the Government following strong representations from the combined Councils of Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Warringah and Willoughby against an earlier proposal to abandon the Freeway. These Councils are of the opinion that the corridor should be retained and the Freeway constructed. They have advertised for consultants to prepare and present their case to the Commission. It is anticipated that the cost of this will be in the order of \$25000. The money will be ultimately paid by the ratepayers in the districts concerned.

Our case will once again be prepared by dedicated volunteers. Consequently we need all the help we can muster. It is anticipated that Mr. Kirby will hear submissions later this year and in subsequent issues of the Crag we shall keep you informed on how the work is progressing.

The struggle against the Expressway is as old as our Association. Our records show a creditable number of successes in the past. A brief summary from our files covering the past forty years may be of interest...

1934-36 The Main Roads Board prepared a plan for an express route to the city following a request by Willoughby, North Sydney, Manly & Warringah Councils.

1945 The Cumberland County Council was formed and all plans on Expressway were submitted to them.

1946 Willoughby Manly & North Sydney Councils recommended adopting a route along existing roads, Strathallen Av., Sailors Bay Rd., Eastern Valley Way, Edinburgh Rd. and Sugarloaf Point.

1948 - March: Public exhibition of the CCC plan inviting comments & objections. This plan showed the route through Cammeray Park, Folley Pt., along foreshore of Northbridge and across to the Bluff at Seaforth.

1948 - May: Willoughby Council objected to the Northbridge route and on June requested that the Castlecrag route be adopted.

1948 - June 29: the CCC advised "No alternative to the Northbridge route at present."

1948 - July: The CCC plan was amended to show both routes.

1949 - June 10: The Minister for Local Government requested the CCC to adopt a single route. Consequently the route through Northbridge was dropped. Since then our Association has opposed the plan. Records of the time show meetings of three hundred ratepayers, a petition by 1035 property owners, and 200 irate citizens attending a Willoughby Council meeting on July 18, 1949. Our President at the time was Mr. E. Nicholls (a colleague of Walter Burley Griffin) and Secretary was Mr. J.F. Ward.

1949 - August: A public inquiry into the CCC Master Plan was held at North Sydney Council Chambers, presided over by Mr. N. Weekes. We were represented by Mr. Nicholls and in the summing up he was referred to as "The most emphatic best informed and thorough speaker." The representative of SCEGS asked that proposed road be moved further away from their grounds "because of danger to the boys using the playing fields."

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1952 Landowners in the proposed expressway route were advised that their properties were totally affected by the road proposal.

1974 - Jan: (Twenty-two years later) Those landowners who had not already sold their properties to the DMR were advised that "The Department's proposals f

The construction of the Warringah Freeway at this location necessitate the acquisition of the whole of your property."

To meet this crisis the Progress Assn set up our Anti-Expressway group. We were not alone in our struggle. Similar citizen action groups concerned for the environment and deteriorating quality of life in our city had appeared in other parts of Sydney. Through 1974 and early 1975 our group was very active, and considering our limited resources, very effective. From about mid-1975 it became apparent that the Government had temporarily shelved plans for the expressway, and consequently our activities in this work ceased.

In 1976 the Wran Government was elected and promised amongst other things an upgrading of the Public Transport System and significant improvement to existing roads. We support these aims, and although the rate of improvement has been slower than we would have hoped, we are generally pleased with what has been achieved. In February 1977 the Government announced that the corridor reservations for the Warringah Freeway beyond Willoughby Rd. would be eliminated. In December 1977 the Minister for Planning & Environment, Mr. Paul Landa issued Interim Development Order 27 relating to the corridor land in the vicinity of Sugarloaf Pt. and the strip of land between this corridor and the south shore of Sugarloaf Bay. In effect, most of the above land was proclaimed as "County Open Space" ie parkland, thus creating with the existing Open Space along Sugarloaf Creek & the Harold Reid Reserve, a fine & large Foreshores Park. The scheme required approximately twelve land owners to forfeit the waterfronts and up to 60% of their land. The Assn organised meetings of the landowners involved, and reached agreement with the majority to support the plan with some amendments, including that the boundary of the new park be moved slightly north to the natural sandstone escarpment rather than follow the southern line of the proposed freeway, also that the park be gazetted as a National Park not as County Open Space.

Early in 1978 Mr. Cox said that the Government had decided to abandon the Warringah Freeway and to sell the properties already held. A spokesman for his office stated that of 394³ properties needed to be acquired for the freeway plan, 522 had been resumed when the plan was abandoned. In June 78 it was announced that, in the light of the special circumstances surrounding the Freeway corridor, an investigation would be carried out into its possible future and alternative uses. Finally, in September Mr. Cox announced the appointment of Mr. D.S. Kirby to carry out the investigation.

WHAT NOW?

If the Warringah Expressway is constructed as planned, it will ruin for ever Castlecrag, one of Sydney's most beautiful suburbs. For this reason, if none other, it is our democratic right and duty to oppose it.

The residents of Warringah, like many other areas on the outskirts of our city have a desperate need for better transport and employment, recreational and social opportunities nearer their homes. It is the conviction of this Committee and of most of the residents to whom we spoke during 1974/75 that a combination of improvements to existing roads and the adoption of a modern rapid transit system would provide a better and less disruptive solution to the problem. Since 1975 the likely effects of the looming world energy crisis give added support to this argument.

In a preface to a report by P.G. Pak Poy & Assoc. on the proposed extension of the Warringah Expressway, Prof. W.R. Blunden made the following observation: "To proceed now with the entire Warringah Expressway Project would doom forever a rail mass transport scheme to serve the Warringah Shire and in view of the Bridge constraint seriously jeopardize a road-based public transport system."

The case for the retention of the corridor & subsequent construction of the Freeway will no doubt be forcefully presented by well paid consultants for the Councils. We again will be a minority group, requesting Mr. Kirby to recommend to the Government a solution to the transport problems of Warringah more suitable to their present and future needs, and less disruptive to the adjoining communities.

To assist us in the preparation of this submission, please attend the Progress Association meetings and voice your opinions. Furthermore, if you can spare the time and effort, join our Committee. We seek any assistance you can give in the form of publicity, typing, money or just your sympathetic support.

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Eric Kaye

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The CRAG is edited and printed on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association by Bob Ronai, 103 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag.