

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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67 YEARS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

President's Report

Sue Randle 958 6344

Excerpts from the report to the AGM of the Castlecrag Progress Association 25th February 1992

I would like to commence this report by saying **thank you** to the Committee of our Association: Vice Presidents Eric Kaye and Louise Weingarth; Secretary Kate Westoby, Treasurer Diana Jones, and the other members Marcella Cerna, Dorothy Fraser, Gay Spies, Harold Spies, Sam Lander, Rita Kaye, Howard Rubie and Tina Hicks, Judy Stone-Herbert and Kerry McKillop. We worked as a team and I appreciated their support and commitment to our Association and the community. I would like to give special thanks to our Honorary Auditor Lee Davis, who has kept us on our toes by his conscientious approach to our management of our finances. Mr Davis has indicated that he would like to step down as auditor after eight years, and we are hoping he will accept Life Membership of our Association as a token of our gratitude for his dedication and hard work.

1991 was a great year of change for me and I would not have been successful in my bid to become an Alderman for Middle Harbour Ward had it not been for the great team effort of the Committee of the Progress Association. I was also greatly assisted by the many residents of our community who dropped leaflets in letterboxes and stood for hours at the polling booths on 14th September. I am enjoying my period of learning the 'ins and outs' of Willoughby City Council and am endeavouring to assist constructively with the many queries/complaints/ideas residents have brought to me concerning Council matters. Thank you all sincerely for your support and help.

I would like to congratulate and draw your attention to the various Castlecrag Community groups who with their dedicated committees offer a variety of interests for residents to pursue: Castlecrag Conservation Society, Haven Theatre, Community Centre (including the Kindergarten), Walter Burley Griffin Society, SOS*CRAG, Church Groups, the Library, the Playgroup, Sports Club, Neighbourhood Watch and WEPA. A new group has been formed recently, the Ratepayers Action Group which will lobby Council and make submissions to the Oakes Report on a fairer rating system. A number of public meetings have been held and they have gained much support from many sections of Willoughby and residents and groups from other suburbs.

Bus shelters were discussed at our August meeting and I am happy to announce that during 1992 new shelters will be erected in Eastern Valley Way by Council. At this meeting also it was decided that our Association should become incorporated, and a subcommittee of Lee Davis and Eric Kaye was elected to look into this process and design a draft constitution.

Willoughby Fun Fair was held in September and our stall was once again under the very capable supervision of Kathy Burgess, who spent many hours with her team pricing and organising the stock donated by our community. At our October meeting we discussed whether we should continue with *trash and treasure*. I have been nominated for the 1992 Fun Fair Committee so >>>>>>

The next meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association will be held at the Community Centre, corner The Postern and The Rampart, on Tuesday 28 April at 8pm. Our new constitution will be adopted at this meeting. All welcome!

The Castlecrag Conservation Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday 20 May at the Infants School, Edinburgh Road, at 8pm. For details ring Harold Spies, President, 958 8569.

shall be able to keep our Community Committees up to date on the coming fair.

From the foregoing matters you can see that it has been an enjoyable and busy year for me and as I step down as President I would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming committee my very best wishes for a successful and productive year and of course to offer my assistance in any matters affecting our community.

Death of Lee Davis (19th March 1992)

We are very sad to report the death of one of the most supportive and hard working members of the Progress Association, Lee Davis, since our last meeting. As you have read in Sue Randle's President's report, Mr Davis was highly respected for his dedication to the Progress Association and to the Castlecrag community, for his wide-ranging interests, and his generosity. His friend Alec Fitzsimons has written for the newsletter:

Lee died suddenly while playing tennis at Cortile Reserve courts on 19th March. He had a long and active association with the Castlecrag Sports Club (Tennis Club). He was: 1958 Court Captain; 1961-63 Club Auditor; 1966-70 President; 1971-73 Vice President; 1978 Auditor; 1989-90 President; 1991-92 Assistant to the Treasurer.

Lee was born in Darlinghurst nine days after his parents arrived from England in 1912. The Davis family settled in Scone and had five children. Scone had no high school so Lee eventually had to board at Maitland where he completed his Intermediate Certificate at Maitland High obtaining 7 A's and 2 B's, and second place in the State.

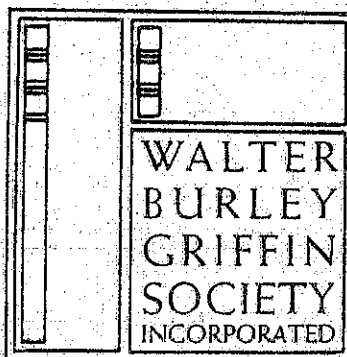
As a qualified accountant Lee was Secretary at the Department of Public Works. He set up a library at the department which was named after him. He retired in 1975.

Lee and his wife Ruth, also an active tennis club member, moved to Castlecrag from South Coogee to live in Warners Avenue in 1950.

Lee was active in arranging and running Melbourne Cup dances at the Community Centre with Cup decorations and prizes in aid of the Castlecrag Sports Club.

Lee leaves his wife Ruth, their children John, Marilyn, Dianne and eight grandchildren. Also his brothers Deryck, Des, Bill and sister Dorothy.

His speeches, amusing anecdotes and attention to detail in records etc will long be remembered and appreciated.



Heritage Week Walk

The theme for Heritage Week this year is *Discover Your Hidden Heritage* and aims to encourage the community to discover little-known elements of heritage in the local environment.

To celebrate on Sunday 3 May the Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. will be guiding a walk through some of the roads and pathways of Castlecrag past many of the Griffin houses and finishing at the open air Haven Amphitheatre where afternoon tea will be available. Wear comfortable walking shoes and assemble at the corner of Edinburgh Road and Edith Street Castlecrag for a prompt 2.15pm departure.

Other activities organised for the week include a Heritage Fair and concert at Old Government House, Parramatta for the launch of Heritage Week on Sunday 26 April; the Great Conservation Debate at Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 28 April with speakers including Frank Sartor (Lord Mayor of Sydney); Clover Moore; Harry Seidler; Robert Webster (Minister for Planning) and Pam Allan; guided tours of Woolloomooloo Bay Finger Wharf and Old Mortuary Station will be on all day on Sunday 3 May. For more information contact the National Trust.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. wishes to join with the Progress Association in expressing its concern about the removal of the special Castlecrag books from our Library, as reported by the Library Committee in the last issue of *The Crag*. The books have not yet been returned and we appeal to anyone knowing their whereabouts to return them to the library box at the entrance to the Community Centre.

Griffin Heritage Threatened

While Walter Burley Griffin was living in Castlecrag and working on the Castlecrag dwellings he was also involved designing numerous incinerators in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. Twelve of the Griffin-designed RIECo (Reverberatory Incinerator Engineering Company) incinerators were built. Each had its own totally unique and imposing design but unfortunately only two and a bit still stand. These include the Willoughby Incinerator, part of the Glebe Incinerator and the Pymont Incinerator near the corner of Victoria Road and Bowman Street, Pymont.

Pymont Incinerator, with its monumentally massed forms and complex ornamentation, has been called his finest Australian work and Marion Mahony Griffin described it as "Griffin's tribute to the 20th Century".

Yet Pymont Incinerator has been appallingly neglected. Its sad history is as follows: completed in 1935; operation ceased in 1972; classified by the National Trust in 1976; in 1977 Sydney City Council substantially unroofed it and demolished the chimney stack at a cost of \$250,000 (at this time the whole building could have been restored for the same cost); in October 1987 Sydney City Council sold the site for \$1.35 million to Balmain Breweries P/L (later Leon Fink bought the company); in 1989 the weighbridge building adjoining the Incinerator (covered by a Permanent Conservation Order) was demolished; in 1990 Meriton Apartments P/L bought the site for about \$6 million; also in 1990 the Heritage Council recommended reconstruction of all parts of the Incinerator visible from Bank Street/Victoria Road including the 40 metre high chimney stack; following that in the same year Sydney City Council approved the building's demolition conditional on a satisfactory development approval; in April 1991 Meriton submitted a scheme that included demolishing the Incinerator and building two 16 storey towers with a memorial garden wall of some of the tiles; in May 1991 the Australian

Heritage Commission listed the Incinerator on the Interim Register of the National Estate; in December 1991 Meriton submitted another scheme of a single horseshoe-shaped apartment block with the end wall of the Incinerator reconstructed at the western end; following intervention by the Society, the developer and Council agreed to extend the reconstruction to one-sixth of the Incinerator and an alternative proposal was developed that the developer pay the cost of the reconstruction or that an interpretive facility could be established off site; Meriton offered \$300,000 to Council for the interpretive facility; just before Christmas 1991, Council approved the part of the project away from the Incinerator to give more time to consider the interpretive facility; in March 1992 Sydney City Council resolved that one-sixth reconstruction wasn't necessary and a mere photographic display could be sufficient memorial to the Incinerator; at present Sydney City Council is awaiting the developer's finalised development application for the balance of the project.

The Incinerator is of such special architectural worth that Sydney City Council should take exceptional steps to ensure its preservation. New technology makes it possible to stabilize the concrete to prevent further deterioration so that the Incinerator could be a historic ruin in the grounds of the development. Alternatively the building could be reconstructed and the decorative tiles (most of which are still in good condition) reapplied. This last option would allow the building to be recycled for any number of other uses e.g. a community hall, swimming pool and gymnasium, restaurant etc.

The Society sincerely hopes that the present Sydney City Council will substantially redress the shameful neglect of their predecessors that led to the deterioration of the Incinerator. The final Development Application still hasn't been submitted so there is the opportunity for the appalling situation to be redressed.

Adrienne Kabos, Secretary
Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc.

momo

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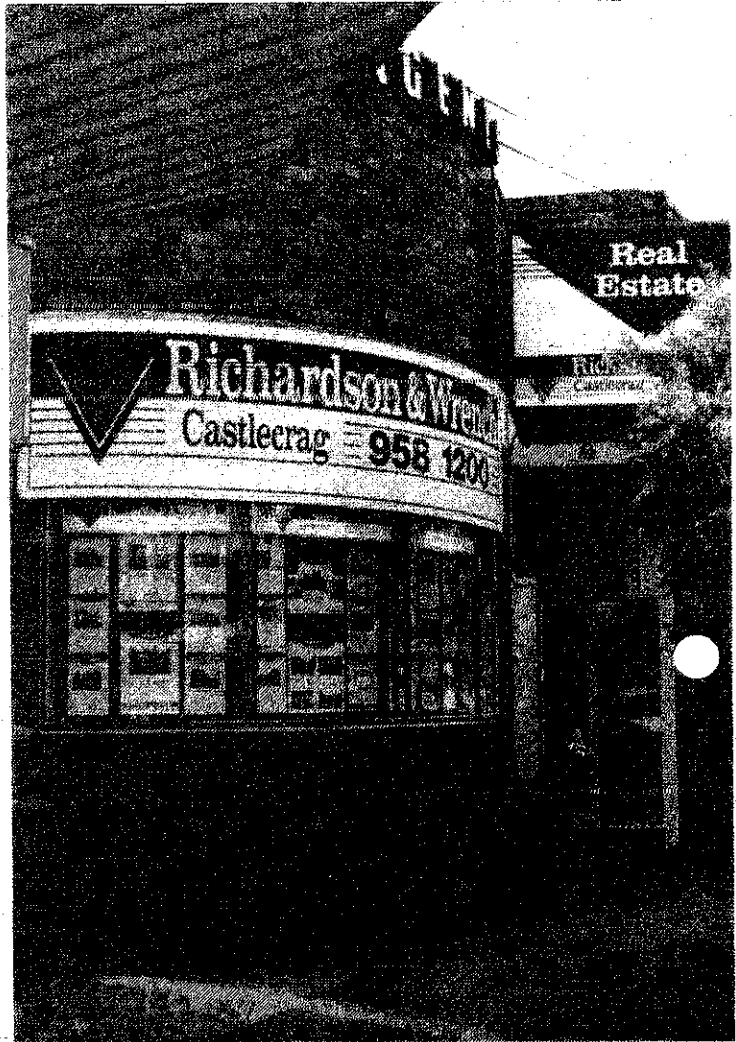
The proprietors of the Richardson & Wrench franchise area covering Castle Cove, Castlecrag and Northbridge have now opened a third office at 81 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag. The agency is operating at refurbished premises which have been trading as a Real Estate Agency for many years.

This completes the company's plans to establish a three stage marketing network to service the Middle Harbour area, stretching from Northbridge through to the Roseville Bridge.

Margaret Dimond at Castle Cove and Pamela Downie at Northbridge are joined by Peter McNeil at the new office. All three principals have been in the industry and the area for many years and would be known by many for their outstanding achievements. Services include sales, auctions, market appraisals, computerised management and international networking facilities.

The proprietors feel that the coverage of three offices under the one umbrella will provide an unprecedented service to the area. For enquiries:

Peter McNeil Castlecrag 958 1200
Pamela Downie Northbridge 958 1700
Margaret Dimond Castle Cove 417 1376



Muses at the Haven

The Haven Amphitheatre on Saturday 4th April continued the tradition of unusual and inspired entertainment which began with the Griffins and the early residents of Castlecrag. The audience was treated to a sample of the work of the Live Poet's Society, wearing their hearts on their sleeves but enjoying the ambience created by the bushland surroundings and the appreciative audience. The Blues Point A Cappella Choir were brilliant. Great credit to the members of the 530A Committee and in particular Lindy Batterham for organising such an enjoyable evening.



Neighbourhood Watch

Richard Wheeler 958 6963

Lock Up Those Cars!!

Lately there have been several reports to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators of theft or attempted theft from residents' cars while parked overnight at their homes. Incredibly some cars have been left unlocked - a wonderful invitation to thieves. Various items have been stolen, or damage inflicted. Don't let Castlecrag become known to thieves as an "easy steal" area. Please, for heaven's sake, lock those cars!!



Tree Preservation Order to Go?

On 3 February Willoughby Council resolved to reconsider the Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Council officers are to prepare a report assessing the present operations of the TPO.

This motion was the outcome of a much more drastic Notice of Motion by Ald. Klinger (West Ward) who proposed that Council consider the abolition of the TPO and that the money saved be used for a recycling programme. This seems an illogical move, particularly as recycling is a potential income earner.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act empowers Councils to gazette TPOs, which are essential to help preserve existing amenity. While there is undoubtedly room for improvement in the operation of TPOs abolition is a very retrograde step, especially when there are no other mechanisms in place to protect trees and when 70% of Australia's original tree cover has already been destroyed.

In a very comprehensive survey (1) of TPOs the Total Environment Centre identified both legal options and non-statutory mechanisms to ensure tree preservation in the urban environment.

a) Legal options were either, development of a State Environmental Planning Policy, or the use of a standard TPO to be adopted by all Councils and inserted in each Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Either option would mean infringements could be heard in the Land and Environment Court and proceedings could be initiated by private citizens.

b) non-statutory measures to increase the effectiveness of TPOs include:

- setting performance guidelines (eg for tree lopping on private or Council land);
- incorporation of tree preservation matters in a Development Control Plan (DCP) which if included in a LEP has legal weight;
- preparation of Landscape Codes;
- formulation of Registers of Significant Trees and Landscape Features;
- preparation of Street Tree Policies to develop and enhance local identity. This would include selection of species, identification of precincts most significant and/or most devoid of trees, when to plant, guidelines for preservation and new planting. By using indigenous trees adjoining bushland and of the same variety as existing species, a buffer zone is created for the bushland.

Council administration was found to be a critical factor in the operation of a TPO. The Total Environment Centre survey indicated that Council staff are not generally aware of the environmental requirements under the EPA Act (Section 90) for development and building consent, such as whether trees are worth preserving or not. The Soil Conservation Act and SEPP 19 (Bushland in Urban Areas) may also be relevant when making decisions about TPO applications. For these reasons suitably qualified Tree Preservation Officers should be involved in decisions on building and development applications because surveyors, engineers and health surveyors do not have training to assess the significance of trees.

The Total Environment Centre recommended development of a checklist to streamline TPO decisions and, if necessary, cost recovery by a nominal fee, eg \$10 per application. It stressed that education is one of the most important factors determining TPO effectiveness. The education process must inform residents, developers and statutory authorities and also Council staff, particularly those such as engineers and surveyors who have no horticultural or ecological background. It should also use all possible avenues of publicity.

If you are concerned about the future of Willoughby's Tree Preservation Order, please speak to your local alderman or write to the Town Clerk.

(1) *Urban Tree Preservation - A Study of Tree Preservation Orders in Sydney and Adjacent Regions* by Glyn Mather. Total Environment Centre 1990 ISBN 0 947360 02 6.

Gay Spies

(This article has been reproduced from Newsletter No.51 February 1992 of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association, WEPA)

The next meeting of WEPA will be held on **Monday 11 May 8pm at Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street, Artarmon.** Guest Speaker will be **Mike Wiles, Urban Development Manager of the Water Board, Northern Region,** who will speak on **Total Catchment Management**, particularly on the setting up of the Lane Cove Total Catchment Management Committee (the Middle Harbour TCM Committee was appointed last June and will convene shortly).

Community Noticeboard

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 16th Bottle Pick-up for recycling
- 21st Paper Pick-up
- 26th Heritage Fair (Parramatta)
- 28th The Great Conservation Debate (Syd. Town Hall)
- 28th PROGRESS ASSOC. MEETING

MAY

- 3rd Guided Walk Through Castlecrag
- 11th W.E.P.A. Meeting (Artarmon)
- 16th & 17th Glenaeon Craft Expo
- 19th Paper for Recycling
- 20th Castlecrag Conservation Society Meeting
- 21st Bottles for Recycling



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The **Glenaeon Craft Expo** is a national event held in May each year. Over the last six years it has become one of the major events on the Craft calendar, undoubtedly one of the best non-commercial craft exhibitions. The design and workmanship of goods on display is of a stunningly high quality and the display, in a tranquil bushland setting is quite superb.

CRAFT EXPO
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Friday	9.00 am - 8.30 pm
Saturday	9.00 am - 7.30 pm
Sunday	4.30 am - 7.30 pm

958 3511

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Castlecrag Infants' School

* 10 week term: \$127

For enquiries, enrolments and further information please ring Patti Somerset on 958 4530 or 692 8104

What's Happening at the School?

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Save Our School Community Residents Action Group (SOS*CRAG) grew out of the Parents and Citizens Association of Castlecrag Infants School in early 1989, four months after the closure of the school had been announced. Its aim was to prevent the closure of the school at the end of that year and to keep the site in the public domain, rather than have it sold for the purpose of medium density housing.

When the Government closed Castlecrag Infants School at the end of 1989, SOS*CRAG gained widespread support and encouragement from the community to continue with the aims. The 24 hour picket at the caravan in the school grounds was highly successful in that although the site was quickly rezoned for medium density housing (up to 64 townhouses), in May 1990 the Government withdrew the site from sale and gave a commitment that the site would be retained for community use.

After extensive consultation with community groups, Willoughby City Council and our local member Mr Peter Collins, it was unanimously decided that a local infants school was what was needed most on the site. This was not accepted by the Minister for Education (Mrs Chadwick). In November 1990, she announced that a Special Education Centre would be established on the site.

SOS*CRAG, acting on the decision of a large public meeting, accepted this proposal on the proviso that such a centre should run in conjunction with an infants school. Every other Special Education Centre in NSW operates within a functioning local school.

The Committee and the wider community have continually argued that the Government inaccurately assessed the number of small children living in our area. Now, only two years since closure, surrounding schools have kindergarten classes of 30 and over. The bigger schools because of their location and size, cannot hope to provide the close family atmosphere the students had at Castlecrag Infants.

1993 ENROLMENTS

To substantiate the case for re-opening the school, SOS*CRAG is seeking possible enrolments for 1993 and beyond. It is proposed that there be one kindergarten class to begin 1993, and that the school rebuild, year by year, back to a fully enrolled infants school. If your child will commence school in:

1993, ring Lindy Batterham on 958 2127;

1994, ring Kate Westoby on 958 0215;

1995, ring Cathy Frazer on 958 4692.

Fresh input from potential school parents would be warmly welcomed. To contact SOS*CRAG or attend a meeting, ring Sam Lander on 958 5143.

Meanwhile, rather than see the school buildings totally unused, SOS*CRAG has encouraged local groups and classes to meet there. Classes include:

Pre-natal classes: run by the Childbirth and Parenting Centre each week night. For information ring Vicky McLachlan on 449 8277.

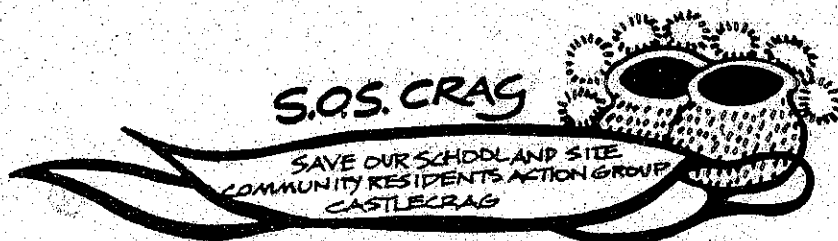
Life Drawing: an informal life drawing group meets at the school every Wednesday night from 7pm. Ring Mary Fergusson on 958 3948 for details. A life drawing class is held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 10pm, with teacher Patti Somerset 958 4530 or 692 8104.

Playgroup: each Friday afternoon at 2.30, a group of parents and children meets for playgroup. New families are especially welcome to join in this happy social and educational gathering. Ring Liz Keeling after 3pm on 958 2912.

Yoga: Commencing Wednesday April 29th. Beginners and Intermediate. Class consists of Yoga postures, breathing techniques and deep relaxation/meditation. Teacher: Leigh Carmody. \$8 per class. Concession available. 8 week term. For more information ring 949 2701 after 8.30pm or daytime 957 5853 to leave a message.
Wednesday morning class 9.30 - 11am;
Wednesday evening 7pm - 8.30pm.







Tap dancing: postponed till term 3.

Lindy Batterham and Sam Lander



Thank you to Val and Bob Howie formerly of the Castlecrag Newsagency, for your helpfulness and contribution to our community. Best wishes for your future.

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The Editors would like to thank Kate Andrews for her assistance.

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Congratulations are in order to Nick Barclay, a Year 12 student and resident of Castlecrag, who has performed so well in the 200m butterfly final of the 1992 Australian Open Swimming Championships and Olympic Selection Trials.

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.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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.