

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECrag PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

No. 94

Seventy years of community development
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June/July 1994

President's Report

After the last war, Castlecrag and its few residents strove mightily to establish a Community Centre with its associated kindergarten and library, and our 'infants' School. They participated in many local groups of political, dramatic, artistic and other pursuits. **Together We Grow** could well have been the motto of those people, as it was later of the School. Some of those early residents are with us still but recently we have been saddened by the deaths of Frank Duncan and "Harv" Harvey, both of whom were well known to many. We send our sympathy to their families and you will read on other pages, articles of remembrance of them.

On **Saturday 17th September Willoughby Fun Fair** will be held at Willoughby Park. For many years the Progress Association has run a **Trash and Treasure stall** and we will be doing the same this year but in conjunction with Devonshire teas and light luncheons. We hope to make this our major fundraising event and are looking for helpers to serve refreshments or sell treasures, on two-hour rosters. We also need donations of trash and treasure and these can be left at Sue Randle's home, 63 Sunnyside Crescent. If you can assist in any way, please ring me on 958 5384. All offers are much appreciated!

As we go to press our vice-president Bob McKillop is leaving to do one year's work in New Guinea. His resignation from our Committee has been accepted with much regret. Bob's input to the Association has been intellectually constructive and practical and much respected by all who work with him. We wish him well and thank him for his sense of community, the result of which has so benefitted our Association.

Elizabeth Lander

School Update: A Meeting with Glenaeon

At the request of Glenaeon, four representatives of Castlecrag Community Incorporated - Tina Hicks, Lisa Purser, Howard Rubie and Louise Weingarth, met on 6th July 1994 with four representatives of the Glenaeon School Council.

The meeting was very cordial and constructive, with both parties agreeing to work together. We were encouraged to believe that a solution which will be to the long-term benefit of both the Castlecrag and Glenaeon communities, can be arrived at with some good will and well directed energy on both sides.

Sadly, over the past few weeks the contents of the Castlecrag Infants School have been gradually dispersed. David Hatton asked us to advise the Castlecrag community that Glenaeon first invited local residents to remove any historic or community assets from the site, following which the principals of public schools in the municipality were given the opportunity to select what they needed. Finally other Steiner schools were invited to take anything that still remained.

We look forward to working positively with Glenaeon to achieve a win-win solution in the near future.

Howard Rubie, Castlecrag Community Inc.

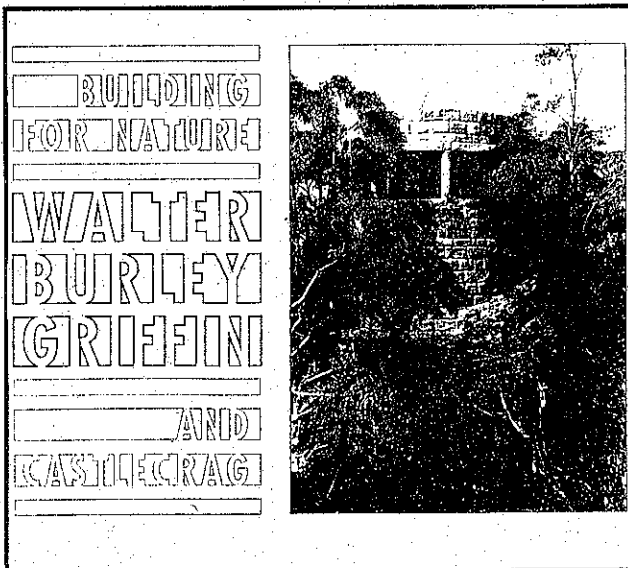
The next meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association will be held at the **Community Centre**, corner The Postern and The Rampart, on **Tuesday 26th July at 8pm**. Come along and catch up on what's happening in your suburb!

NEW CASTLECRAG BOOK

A new book ***Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag*** superbly documents the history of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's work and life at Castlecrag, including town planning, architecture and community activities. It is a fascinating book, written by heritage planning consultant Meredith Walker with the assistance of a dollar for dollar grant from the Heritage Council of NSW and financial assistance from the Friends of Willoughby Library.

The book traces the acquisition of the Castlecrag estates, the establishment of the Greater Sydney Development Association, the ideals that Griffin had for the estates, their townplanning and architecture, and the community life and activities Walter and Marion fostered. Extracts from journal articles, lectures and letters written by Walter and Marion, enrich the text and give great insights. Each of the Griffin houses at Castlecrag is described in detail accompanied by early photos, and plans of each. In all there are over 100 illustrations, including many previously unpublished photographs taken in the 1920s and by Max Dupain in the 1960s.

The book will be launched in early August and will be available from the 6th August at The Gallery, Castlecrag and at Castlecrag Newsagency. On Saturday 13th August authors Meredith Walker, James Weirick and Adrienne Kabos will be at The Gallery between 2pm and 4pm to sign books. As well there will be a display of photographs taken by Max Dupain in 1965 of the Griffin houses at Castlecrag. The book costs \$25.



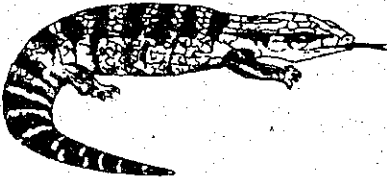
CASTLECRAG LIBRARY

The Community Centre, The Rampart
 TUESDAYS 3.30-4.30pm
 THURSDAYS 1-5pm
 SATURDAYS 10am-Noon

NEW BOOKS LIST:

- | | |
|---|---|
| WESLEY, M | An Imaginative Experience |
| WAITE, T | Taken on Trust |
| OSBORNE, M | Sihanouk, Prince of Light
Prince of Darkness |
| TENNANT, E | Pemberley |
| CLARK, MH | Remember Me |
| WITTING, A | A Change in the Light |
| COOKSON, C | Justice is a Woman |
| Encyclopaedia of Ideas that Changed the World | |
| BROOK, S | Venice to the Dolomites |
| DALRYMPLE, W | City of Djins, Delhi |
| CHICK, S | Searching for a Chairman |
| SASSON, J | Daughters of Arabia |
| SEYMOUR, G | The Fighting Man |
| HENDERSON, S | The Strength of Us All |
| FORSYTH, F | The Fist of God |
| McLEAY, A | The Dream Maker |
| WELDON, F | Reflection |
| ERDMAN, P | Zero Couple |
| HOWARTH, S | Absolute Truths |
| GRISHAM, J | The Chamber |
| O'CONNELL, C | Mallor's Oracle |
| ELLIS, J | Lasting Treasures |

Also a number of new paperbacks, mysteries and children's books.



Are you interested in conserving our natural environment and stopping the spread of weeds?

A small group has begun weeding the bushland around Mill's Lookout, between 169 and 171 Edinburgh Road, with support and guidance from Willoughby Council. More people are needed to help make a difference. Working bees are held on the last Sunday of each month - the next being:

31 July, 9am - 12 noon

Tools provided
 Ring Michael Burke 958 2012 for more information



CASTLECRAIG AND WILLOUGHBY: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Bob McKillop

Australians have a love-hate relationship with their local councils. If we want to develop or improve our property, then *council* represents the bureaucrats who put barriers across our "freedom" or "rights" to do our own thing, imposing costly and time-consuming *red tape* on us; if others propose developments then we look to council to "protect our neighbourhood" from poor taste, traffic congestion or some other undesired change. These competing interests and rights are at the centre of our relationship with government at all levels. They are also fundamental to the future form and liveability of our urban environment.

In Willoughby City we are experiencing rapid changes in the way we respond to the forces which shape our urban form. The public is more concerned with environmental issues and seeks more active participation in the planning process. Local councils have responsibility for these planning matters and, as a result of the Local Government Act 1993, they are required to become more accountable to their publics. You will have recently received Willoughby City Council's 1994 Annual Report, *2020 Vision*, which reports on some of the strategic planning steps now being initiated. This planning process will only be effective if there is an active response from the community. Over the next two years, Council will be seeking to involve community groups and the wider public in extensive consultations over their Local Environment Plans/Development Control Plans (LEP/DCPs), including heritage and conversation issues, and Willoughby Housing and Transport Strategies which will shape the future vision of the city.

As ratepayers, we are most concerned about changes which affect the *quality of life* in our street or neighbourhood. Dual occupancy and traffic congestion are dominant concerns, but pollution of our waterways, bushland management and loss of public open space are also lively issues. In many cases, our efforts to reduce the impact of a development on our neighbourhood simply diverts the problem somewhere else. Our councillors are pressured to respond to individual or group interests, which reflect the diversity of views and values which constitutes our pluralistic, multi-cultural society. Council also needs to address long-term factors which shape the environment of Willoughby City and Sydney as a whole. For Castlecrag, we need to consider:

1. **Castlecrag in the urban context.** We are but one of more than 500 suburbs in Sydney. We are dependent on other parts of the city for work, transport, household supplies, financial

and professional services, entertainment, leisure activities, utilities and social exchange. Our access to and use of these resources affects the lives of others. Outsiders impact on our neighbourhood as shoppers, workers, visitors and tourists. While some may see "solutions" to urban problems from an isolationist perspective, an appreciation of the interdependence of modern cities and economic systems is more likely to produce practical outcomes.

2. **Growth and Urban Sprawl.** Our jobs and economic well-being are linked to economic growth. While some environmentalists may dissent, public opinion supports growth-orientated policies and this means more people in Sydney. Past urban policies and increasing *car-dependence* have focused this growth at the periphery creating urban sprawl. This has generated many serious environmental consequences for the Hawkesbury-Nepean basin - and therefore threatens our water supply - and has resulted in economic inefficiencies. Governments have tried to encourage "urban consolidation" in areas such as Willoughby and North Sydney where populations have declined or been stagnant for over 30 years, despite high-rise residential developments. The failure of urban consolidation policies suggests they have not tackled the underlying problems.

Individual Freedom and Urban Form. Successful cities involve a trade-off between individual freedoms and the rights of the wider community. Motor cars have provided a large segment of urban populations with great freedom and flexibility of travel, but car use also generates serious impacts on the rights and freedoms of others. Cars hinder the freedom and safety of non-motorists and take over urban space. Cars take up to thirty times the space to move each person than public transport; they also require space for storage and maintenance so that the family car consumes about three times more urban space than the average family home. Thus, North Sydney and Willoughby have experienced declining or stagnant populations because residential space is being converted to other uses, notably roads, parking lots and commercial activities. Some 35 per cent of Sydney is now devoted to roads and associated car uses and the car's appetite for space has not been satisfied. In Los Angeles some 70 per cent of the city is now devoted to the car. =>

3. **Transport Economics.** People use their cars in the city because they see them as more convenient and cheaper than public transport. In doing so, they contribute to traffic congestion, urban sprawl, accidents, air pollution and related health costs, deterioration of public spaces and runoff from paved surfaces. These are all costs on the economy and especially residents on busy thoroughfares. These costs are difficult to quantify, but it is estimated that private motorists in are subsidised to the extent of about \$20 billion per year in Australian cities due to the failure to capture costs imposed on the wider community. The highest costs are imposed by motorists using roads in peak periods. The recent Industry Commission recommended that these costs should best be recovered by electronic road pricing or increased fuel tax. If you are required to pay \$1 per km for peak hour road use (say \$7 from Castlecrag to Chatswood) and \$5 per hour to meet the full costs of car use/parking, would you reduce your car use? If these charges help to improve public transport will you use it more?

We can respond to these issues in different ways. A do-nothing approach is supported by believers in chaos theory. This holds that when traffic congestion, pollution and other negative consequences become overbearing, people will move out to more attractive environments. Many see this to be the present Government strategy. The opposing view is that planners will solve the problems with enlightened policies for the good of the common folk. However, the track record of central planners suggests we should not leave such matters solely in their hands. Somewhere in between these extremes, there appears to be scope for a strategic planning process which identifies and builds on the perceptions of local communities about the kind of neighbourhood and services they want. In Castlecrag, the next big issue may well be the release for sale by the Government of RTA land held for the Warringah Transport Corridor. This could be sold off in odd parcels for uncoordinated dual occupancy development, or it could provide the basis for an exciting planned urban village which provides a model for 21st century living environments.

I understand that Willoughby Council and the Progress Association will be seeking community participation in the strategic planning process. The following are some of the ideas and planning issues which might be addressed in the evolution of a Willoughby City strategic plan:

- development of **neighbourhood hubs** (or urban villages) around selected shopping centres with good access to public transport, to

provide a mix of commercial activities, social services, pedestrian and cycle facilities, and medium- or high-density housing designed in a socially and environmentally sensitive manner;

- **protection** of Sydney's greatest asset, its harbour/foreshores, through reduced development pressure on all areas zoned 2 (a2);
- **conservation** of the city's built and natural heritage through appropriate controls and incentives (as proposed in the draft DCP for Heritage and Conservation areas);
- qualified support for dual occupancy in other areas where it is sensitive to LEP guidelines formulated through public participation;
- provision of **neighbourhood bus services** (mini-buses) to link individual homes with urban villages, providing an alternative to the private car and reducing overall travel by focusing exchange on the local urban village;
- a **Willoughby City midi-bus service** linking urban villages to the regional hub at Chatswood, thereby focusing movement within the local government area;
- traffic calming measures in residential areas, including Edinburgh Road, based on recent international practices;
- support for **home-based work** to reduce urban movement;
- appropriate pricing and incentives to encourage transfer from private to public transport, particularly parking fees and possible road pricing mechanisms.

THE GALLERY CASTLECRAG

The Gallery Castlecrag will have the new book Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag available from 6th August. On Saturday 13th August the authors will be present to sign the book between 2-4pm. There will also be a display of photographs taken by Max Dupain of the Griffin houses. Open 7 days.

Shop 13 The Quadrangle
100 Edinburgh Road
Castlecrag 2068

PHONE
967 2551

The Castlecrag Conservation Society will hold its next meeting at the Castlecrag Community Centre on Wednesday 20th September at 8pm. New members are most welcome.

Harold Spies, President 958 8569.

IN MEMORY OF NOTABLE CASTLECRAG RESIDENTS

Edmund Harvey

I am writing not to mourn the passing of my friend Edmund Harvey (Harv) but to celebrate his rich and full life. For some several years Harv was the secretary of the Castlecrag Branch of the Labor Party, which he joined in 1977 and served mightily, so much so that on his 80th birthday he was made a Life Member of the Party, but long before 1977 he had determined the direction of his social endeavours. One or two vignettes must suffice in the hope that some aspect of his personality is revealed.

For instance, in 1929 in Florence, when the Fascist dictatorship dominated Italy, after a gesture of defiance to several policemen which can only be described as rude, Harv was arrested and beaten with the broadside of a sword. I suspect he didn't regret his action for one moment. In 1975 Harv was holidaying with a friend at Merimbula when a phone call came from Lloyd Rees, an old friend. Would Harv donate a painting to help raise funds to "maintain the rage" against the Whitlam Government's dismissal? The answer was never in doubt.

Harv was never the lonely artist isolated in a garret. During the 1930s Depression his Drummoyne studio was filled by workers dismissed from the Dunlop factory down the road who came to watch the artist paint. Who knows where inspiration struck?

Harv was a singular man, a gentle man with an iron determination. He gained the affection of all who know him and to know him was to delight in his inherent goodness. He loved his family and his family loved him. He had a vision, he saw the light on the hill and he kept that light burning, because through all his days and down all his years he believed above and beyond all other beliefs that there should and could be a better world for all, where poverty would be seen to be an obscenity. Those of us who cherish his memory will celebrate his life by remembering his vision, his dedication the common good.

Lew Levy

Frank Duncan

Frank Duncan was one of the earliest residents of Castlecrag. I first met him in December 1932 when he and Anice and their baby, Ross, were living in the Griffin house at 140 Edinburgh Road, sharing it with Edgar and Cappy Deans and baby, Kaaren.

Construction of the Duncans' home in The Barbette had already begun and Frank worked very closely with Griffin and contributed his labour to the building.

It was Frank, who, because of his experience with Co-operative Societies in the UK, initiated the idea of forming the Castlecrag and East Willoughby Co-operative Society to use the land which Griffin had designated "for community purposes" where the Kindergarten, Community Centre and Library were established. Frank was the first President of the Society and I was the first Secretary, and we signed the legal documents on behalf of the Society. As well as the administrative work, Frank was one of the "labourers", building the temporary shed and playground which we used for the kindergarten while the centre was being built.

Frank was employed for many years by the County Council branch at Crows Nest and advised many of us when we were purchasing electrical appliances. After he retired he was always available to fix a faulty light switch or install a power point for his friends and neighbours.

Frank and Anice loved and cherished the Australian bush and were enthusiastic bushwalkers. They introduced many people to their beloved Jamberoo in the Kangaroo Valley and the cabins there were almost another Castlecrag during the school holidays.

Frank died quietly and did not want any farewell ceremony. He will always be remembered and his ideals and contribution to Castlecrag will live on.

Joyce Batterham

Frank Duncan died at Bulli Hospital last month at age 91. He was the leader of the Castlecrag community fifty years ago. He had immigrated from England as a young man and had built a Burley Griffin stone home in The Barbette which is now known as *The Duncan House*. Frank was a long-term President of the Progress Association back in the 1940s. He and his wife Anice worked alongside Eric Nicholls, Michael and Phyl Stoker, Jimmy Mason, my wife Anne and other local activists in establishing our Castlecrag Kindergarten before it was absorbed into the Kindergarten Union. His political leanings were towards the Labor Party. In the turbulent war years I well remember a prominent member of that party being the guest speaker at a Progress Association meeting and observing that Frank was a top class

chairman. When we were building the kindergarten hall we used to meet at each other's homes. Frank recruited members by personally calling on us to encourage us to become involved in local affairs.

He and Anice were prominent members of the Bushwalkers Association, alongside Paddy Pallin, and were leaders in establishing the Blue Gum Forest as a reserve in the Grose Valley. In those days they kept a goat for which I was the emergency milker when they were away.

Frank was the keystone in the arch that was later to evolve as a community of some distinction.

Ken Thomas

Leonard Teale AO

Leonard Teale, passionate patriot and resident of Castlecrag for twenty years, will be sadly missed by our community. He died in May after suffering a heart attack, while walking in Rockley Street near his home.

Leonard was famous for his spirited performances of the works of Australian poets such as Henry Lawson and Banjo Patterson. He was extremely generous with his talent and widely shared his love of poetry. We were very fortunate to have Leonard as our Guest Speaker at the AGM of the Progress Association in February this year, where he gave us a dazzling virtuoso performance of his skills.

Leonard has spoken at many community events over the years on such issues as the Expressway, the heritage-listed cottages, and most recently the School, which he fervently believed should remain in public ownership. He was also a regular participant in Carols by Candlelight at the Haven Amphitheatre near his home, and took a keen interest in events at the Amphitheatre. In the words of his wife, Liz: *Len loved this area so much. He gave thanks every day that he was able to come home to such a wonderful environment.*

A keen conservationist, Leonard served as a trustee of the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation. In 1992 his contribution to the performing arts and community was recognised when he received an Order of Australia.

A friend of Leonard has written: *his kindness was inordinate. His legendary status was not only earned, but in a way, inevitable. He embodied so much that was good in the nation, and he gave it voice.* The Castlecrag community has lost a kind and active resident of whom we are all proud.

Howard Rubie

The Lament

On Sunday 5th June an unusual event took place in Castlecrag near the newly-named *Isle of Lament* opposite the School in Edinburgh Road, when many Castlecrag residents gathered to express their feelings about the fate of our School. Under the inspired direction of Lindy Batterham, and with Walter and Marion keeping an eye on proceedings, we revisited the high and low points of the past five years' efforts to retain our School. The mournful tones of the bagpipes reflected the mood of the crowd. Many speakers came forward to describe what the School had meant to them and to express their disappointment and dismay.

Then, following speeches by gifted speakers Lindy, Tina Hicks, Howard Rubie and Louise Weingarth, the mood changed to become more positive and forward-looking. Louise read from a document which was being prepared as an offer to the new owners, Glenaeon, for the community to purchase the site back. This document became the basis for the announcement published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 21 June 1994.

Many thanks to all those whose attendance made the event so successful and who donated so generously for the SMH advertisement.



Willoughby Fair Saturday 17th September

It is almost time for the most enjoyable Willoughby **Family Fun Fair** and the Progress Association will again be holding its **Trash and Treasure stall** (this year we were planning a cafe serving teas and lunch as well). Please remember us when you are doing your spring cleaning and have old books, magazines, plants and household items to spare! Ring **Sue Randle 958 6344** or **Kerry McKillop 958 4516** to collect your no-longer-wanted **treasures**. We are grateful for the generous donations which in past years have helped cover the costs of our newsletter.

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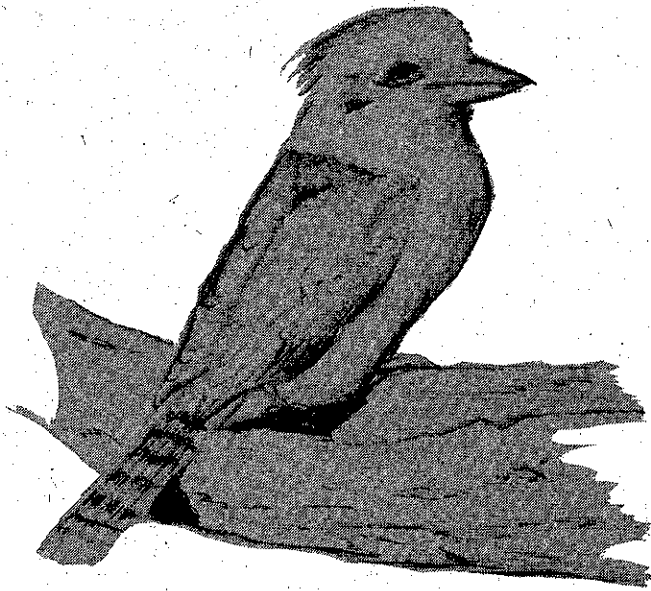
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The next meeting of WEPA (Willoughby Environmental Protection Association) will be held at the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street Artarmon, on **Monday 12th September at 8pm**. All welcome! WEPA will again be holding its **native plant stall** at the Willoughby Fair, so you can order special plants to collect on the day. Phone **Chris Lawrence 419 6656, Sheila Sippel 958 5978 or Gay Spies 958 8569**.


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ADDRESS: _____

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

The Crag is edited on behalf of the Castlecrag Progress Association (Box 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag) by Helen Levett (958 3510) and Kerry McKillop (958 4516). Contributions and letters are most welcome.