



NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 1991

Gift from Max Dupain

The Society has been greatly honoured by the renowned and highly revered photographer, Max Dupain, who has very generously given his entire collection of Griffin photographs to the Society.

It is a truly wonderful collection, and includes many photographs of Griffin's Castlecrag houses, of the Killara and Pymble houses, of the Winter House in Telopea, and also includes prints of some of the original Griffin photographs of the Castlecrag development.

The Society is very grateful for Max Dupain's generosity and we hope to be able to mount an exhibition of the photographs next year.

Pymont Incinerator Talk, Tuesday 3rd September

The Art Deco Society has organised for Trevor Waters to talk about Walter Burley Griffin's Pymont Incinerator at the Powerhouse Museum's Studio 1 Seminar Room Level 3 downstairs, next Tuesday, 3rd September, 7.30pm. Trevor Waters is an architect and Pymont resident who has been very active campaigning to save the Pymont Incinerator.

Thankfully, the Incinerator has had a reprieve. The developer, Meriton Apartments, submitted a new development application (DA) in July which required new approval from the Sydney City Council. The DA involved demolishing the Incinerator to build a 16 storey block to the north of it. The Society sent a letter objecting to the DA on the grounds that it would demolish the Incinerator and reduce it to a mere garden wall of a few of the Incinerator's decorative tiles. Our letter requested Council to negotiate with the developer to find a solution that conserves the Incinerator and does not reduce it to a token gesture of "Griffin Memorial".

The fate of the Incinerator is now largely dependent on the Pymont Local Environment Plan (LEP) which is being drafted at present. In the meantime, the developers have indicated they are willing to restore the Incinerator! Thus the situation looks more optimistic compared with a few months ago.

Trevor Waters' talk about this wonderful building with its majestic proportions and unusual adornment of decorative tiles representing the elements of air, water and earth, will undoubtedly be very interesting. The talk is titled *Symbolism and Dynamism of Design Elements of the Pymont Incinerator*. It is free for members of the Art Deco Society and guests and visitors are \$5 per head. The Art Deco Society has also organised a Discovery Walk in Killara, Sydney at 11am 29th September, to be conducted by architects Mandy Jean and Robert Staff (\$5 per head for guests and visitors). For further information contact Mary Nilsson on (02) 419 4259.

The Book: *Vision for the Future: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag*

The book, for which the Society is receiving a \$6,000 dollar for dollar grant from the Heritage Council, is progressing well in the capable hands of Meredith Walker, heritage planning consultant, and Professor James Weirick from the University of New South Wales School of Landscape Architecture.

The Friends of Willoughby Library have recently, very generously offered \$2,600 assistance. We are very grateful for their support and assistance. The book should be ready at the end of the year and will boast many of Max Dupain's Griffin photographs.

The Duncan House

At the Willoughby City Council meeting of 15th July the Aldermen voted to inspect the Duncan House before deciding on the proposed development application. The site inspection was held on Saturday 20th July and was attended by Aldermen, Society members and concerned residents. We are very grateful to Professor James Weirick who spoke on behalf of the Society. The owner also spoke, and was then followed by Ian Stapleton on behalf of the National Trust against the development application.

Council received many letters from concerned residents, Society members, the local member Hon. Peter Collins, Castlecrag Progress Association, Castlecrag Conservation Society and Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) opposing the development. We are very grateful to those people and organisations. However, despite this opposition and that of the National Trust and the Society to the proposed development, it was nevertheless approved at the Willoughby City Council meeting of 22nd July.

At this meeting Adrienne Kabos, the Society's Secretary, addressed Council and Alderman John Squire spoke opposing the development. We are very grateful for his support. However, a number of aldermen including Ald. Judy Navin, Ald. Greg Bartels and Ald. Pat Reilly spoke in support of the development application and the vote was lost 10:1.

The main support of the development application was the Heritage Council's prior approval and the recommendation of Willoughby City Council's Chief Town Planner to approve the DA.

Public debate in relation to a development application normally takes place at local level. In the present case, public debate was effectively stifled because of the prior approval of the Heritage Council, in whose decision making process no public debate was involved. There is thus a great need to correct this situation so that all of New South Wales' heritage is not treated this way.

We hope that the Duncan House owners will accept the Permanent Conservation Order on their house (to replace the lapsed Interim Conservation Order) now that they have approval for their DA.

Haven Amphitheatre Forthcoming Events

- * Willoughby Brass Band Tea Dance Sunday 17th November promises to be a great afternoon for the whole family. Refreshments and the famous *gluwein* will be available.
- * Willoughby Youth Ensemble – December
- * Carols by Candlelight – Christmas Eve

For further information contact Howard Rubie on 958 1729

AGM at Burley Griffin Lodge, Avalon, Sunday 20th October

The National Trust and the tenant of the Burley Griffin Lodge have kindly permitted us to hold our AGM at their property, Burley Griffin Lodge, Palmgrove Road, Avalon. This house was designed by Walter Burley Griffin and completed in 1934 as a holiday house/weekender for Miss Stella James.

The AGM will commence at 2.30pm to be followed at 3pm by our guest speaker, Professor James Weirick, who will talk on the history of the house.

There is limited parking at the Burley Griffin Lodge so for those not wanting to take their cars a 22 seater minibus will be provided. The bus will depart from the shops, Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag at 1.15pm and will return with passengers after the meeting. Refreshments will be served.