

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CASTLECRAIG PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION INC.

Seventy nine years of community development
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Castlecrag Progress Association

6/77 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag

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Vice presidents: David Harrop

Bob McKillop

Secretary: Elizabeth Lander

Treasurer: Diana Jones

Committee: Tina Hicks

Peter Moffitt

Howard Rubie

Gay Spies

John Steel

General Meeting dates for 2003

Tuesday 25 February 8pm

Sunday 2 May 2pm:

(Annual General Meeting)

Tuesday 24 August 8pm

Tuesday 26 October 8pm

Progress Association Membership
is now due (see form on page 4).

Please send all correspondence
and membership renewals to the
above address.

The Crag is edited by
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Water, waves and wandering...

On Sunday 13 April, the Walter Burley Griffin Society will be hosting a special event 'showing off' Castlecrag, as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival in Heritage Week. The theme for this year's festival is 'freshwater - water, waves and wandering'.

Castlecrag residents are especially invited to take part in the event. The assembly point will be at the intersection of The Parapet and Edinburgh Road, where there will be stalls providing information and selling books, videos and other heritage-related items. Tickets for guided walks through the Griffin Conservation Area will be sold here (\$10 per person, concessions available). There will be two themes for the guided walks, both of which will depart regularly at short intervals.

One walk will explore the fruits of Griffin's passion that architecture should be well integrated in the landscape. It will cover his street planning, walkways and reserves, as well as the Castlecrag houses and their gardens. (There will be no house inspections on this occasion).

Griffin's Castlecrag Estate

remains an important listed Heritage Area and its features have inspired some of Australia's most celebrated modern architects to build outstanding houses in the suburb. The second type of walk will explore the work of well-known and emerging post-war architects such as Muller, Seidler, Lucas, Cox, and Popov. It will also illustrate the importance of effective planning to heritage conservation.

The routes of both walks will be undemanding physically, and will pass by displays of more than twenty enlarged photographs of the suburb taken in its early years. Many of these are by Australia's most celebrated landscape and architectural photographer, Max Dupain (who was a Castlecrag resident).

Willoughby City Council has introduced a community programme for residents of Castlecrag, Northbridge and Willoughby called 'Streets to Creeks - Sailors Bay'. It is funded by the NSW Government's Stormwater Trust and its aim is to prevent stormwater run-off pollution of the local bushland and creeks which

drain into Sailors Bay.

On the same day as the Society's event, Willoughby Council will open Griffin's celebrated natural amphitheatre at The Barricade in Castlecrag for a display about the Sailors Bay catchment area and the *Streets to Creeks* programme. Here it will also host two sessions of live musical performances, poetry readings and other 'happenings', at around 1pm and 3.30pm. Local community groups will be making food and drinks available in the amphitheatre. There will be a free shuttle bus service back to the assembly point and heritage stalls.

Please put this event in your diaries. For more information call Andrew Kirk, the Society's president, on 9967 2327.



The publication of *The Crag* newsletter is made a reality by advertising from our local businesses. Thank you for your continued support of the Association's newsletter to our community.

Castlecrag Progress Association

Next
GENERAL
MEETING

Tuesday 25
February
2003

Agenda:
Castlecrag
LATM plans

Community Bytes

Edinburgh Road LATM

Further to our report in the October issue, planning for the traffic improvements in Edinburgh Road are proceeding. Residents can expect the proposed works to be marked out in the near future, when extensive consultations will be undertaken with property owners in affected areas.

A roundabout at the corner of Rutland Avenue and The Postern has been given the highest priority by the community. The available space is limited, so design options have involved a spin off between the size of the central island and the area of land that would need to be taken from the existing streetside areas. The Progress Association Committee considers that a larger island would require undesirable cuts in the existing kerbing, thereby impacting on the adjacent houses and the important Griffin landscape features of the site. Accordingly, a small central island without a garden area is considered desirable in order to minimise this impact.

Designs have also been prepared for improvements to the traffic island at the intersection of The Parapet, and three traffic calming devices along Edinburgh Road.

Willoughby DCPs

Willoughby Council currently has two important Development Control Plans on public display. DCP 2 covers Transport and Traffic issues, particularly the provision of off-street parking in areas near railway stations.

DCP 27 covers the processes for the processing and notification of development applications (DAs). Its purpose is to ensure that the procedures followed by Council for the receipt, notification and processing of DAs are fair, equitable, objective and transparent. Residents are encouraged to inspect and comment on these DCPs.

The Golden Trowel Award: Congratulations to Adele Barnett on winning the top award at the annual party for Bushcarer groups in the city of Willoughby!

Vale Joseph Erdelyi

Joe Erdelyi died at his home in Raeburn Avenue in mid-January. He had come to Australia with his family from Yugoslavia some 45 to 50 years ago, but spent much of his life in institutions for the mentally incapacitated. Released into the care of his mother 15 years ago, Joe was a familiar sight at the Castlecrag shops, where he added a touch of colour and the unconventional to our local area.

Progress Association Membership now due: Please renew your membership now (form on page 4) or join the Progress Association, to support and help us preserve the character of Castlecrag. The Progress Association which was formed in 1925, attempts to represent the interests of, and inform, the one-thousand-plus households in Castlecrag. Its committee is elected annually by members and works on a voluntary basis.

momo

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Streets to Creeks



What's your favourite water view around Sailors Bay? How often have you said to yourself "I must photograph that before it changes?" Willoughby Council has received funding to initiate *Streets to*

Creeks - Sailors Bay, an exciting community program for residents of Castlecrag, Northbridge and Willoughby to help prevent pollution and protect the local bushland, creeks and Sailors Bay.

As part of this program, a post card project will offer residents an opportunity to be creative while developing an understanding about stormwater issues that affect water quality in Sailors Bay. You don't have to have a camera, be an artist or photographer or an expert to get involved! The project begins with the **Photo Tour of the Sailors Bay catchment on Saturday 22nd February 1pm-4pm.**

If you would like to be involved in the Project, contact **Erika Van Schellebeck** at Willoughby



Council on 9777-7942.

This year's *Carols by Candlelight* held at the Haven Amphitheatre was as usual very popular, with an estimated 500 people attending. This was the twenty sixth year of carols at the Haven, organised and staged by the Management Committee. We look forward to celebrating carols on Christmas Eve well into the future.

Coming Events for 2003 are:

The EGG **Straordinary Magic Muddle**

Saturday March 29 and Sunday 30 March at 3pm. A pantomime for all the family.

Streets to Creeks Project

Sunday April 13, 1pm to 5pm. As part of Heritage Week, the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra will be present a programme of poetry and music. >>>>

Haven Amphitheatre News

Willoughby Spring Festival

September 2003. A special program, details to be advised.

Under Mulgawood (WORLD PREMIERE) **Friday October 31, Saturday November 1, Sunday 2nd at 8pm.** A play for voices written by Will Christie based on the renowned *Under Milkwood* by Dylan Thomas.

There will be other events during the year so for information call the Haven Information Line on 04055078 or check our web site at: www.haventheatre.cjb.net

Prior to any event, posters will be displayed on the community notice board at the shopping centre or call **Howard Rubie** on 0418648870. The free shuttle bus will run to and from the shopping centre to the theatre for all events as there is definitely no parking at the Amphitheatre.

'Fenced In' - letter to the Editors

Good news for the Whye family concerned about the issues of privacy, security and noise in relation to fences (*The Crag, No. 144*): Walter Burley Griffin's vision for Castlecrag did include the need for privacy. He wrote about it on several occasions and in an article on the Castlecrag venture published in the *Australian Home Builder* in August 1922 and titled *Picturesque Waterside Suburb* Griffin stated 'The individual allotments are approached from a drive on one side, and on the other side face a spacious playground or park, or extensive outlook, from which and from their neighbours they are screened only by thickets and clumps of verdure to mask preliminary wire fencing, rendering them as completely private as may be desired'.

In relation to security, the police advise that the best form of security is natural surveillance. A lack of fences and walls allows for such natural surveillance with the added advantage that it also minimises graffiti. In relation to noise, Willoughby City Council aided with funding from the RTA will be implementing traffic calming in Edinburgh Road over the next six months. This should not only make this road safer but also, by reducing traffic speed, reduce traffic noise.

While living in the 21st Century undoubtedly brings with it its own requirements, living in a Conservation Area also requires some compromises to ensure its preservation. Viewing ourselves as custodians for future generations can help gain a perspective of this heritage area that is nationally significant.

Adrienne Kabos

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History of Castlecrag: Part 4

We continue our presentation of a history of Castlecrag, based on articles that have appeared previously in *The Crag* and other sources. We take up the story in 1925, five years after the GSDA (Greater Sydney Development Association) had been formed to develop the Castlecrag Estate.

1925 Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin moved from Melbourne to Castlecrag in April, residing at the Grant House, 8 The Parapet, until their departures for India in October 1935 and April 1936 respectively.

1925 The **Castlecrag Progress Association** was established by the first residents of the estate. Its inaugural meeting was held on 10 November and Edgar Herbert was elected president. The Griffins were active members, with Walter serving on the Executive Committee. Early campaigns were for a government infants' school, better transport access to the city by construction of an arterial road from East Lindfield to North Sydney (now Eastern Valley Way), the upgrading of Edinburgh Road, undergrounding of electricity wires, sewage services and tree planting along Edinburgh Road.



1925 A Griffin-designed stone house with a large studio-living room was built at 23 The Bastion for Robert Guy, a freelance artist and his wife Elizabeth. It featured a floor plan comprising a series of interlocking squares and, with its columns defining the squares, it was referred to by Marion Griffin as the 'Temple of Aphrodite'.

1926 Walter and Marion Griffin formed a syndicate in May to purchase 30 acres of land adjoining the northeastern boundary of the Castlecrag Estate, which they developed as the Haven Estate, incorporating similar provisions to those of the Castlecrag Estate for landscape conservation and building controls. This estate was not subdivided until the late 1930s.

1926 A Griffin-designed knitlock house was built for Ellen Mower at 12 The Rampart. It was the first of a group of six houses planned for this street, but the others were never constructed. A two-bedroom knitlock house was constructed at 4 The Barquette for Mrs A E Creswick, the first of three small houses built with setbacks staggered to allow views past one another to Middle Harbour. It was called 'The House of the Seven Lanterns' (see photo).

1927 Edgar Deans became secretary/accountant of the GSDA, his skilful management steering the company through the Depression which followed and the difficult times after Walter's death in India in 1937. He was Secretary of the Progress Association for 13 years, and President for 4 years, and subsequently became Mayor of Willoughby. Members of the Deans family still live in

Castlecrag.

1927 The *Cabarisha* hospital was established by Dr Edward Rivett, who wanted a non-institutional atmosphere where patients could be nursed back to health in an environment of peace and tranquillity. An existing stone house designed by Griffin for his good friend King O'Malley, the Federal politician, was converted initially for the project. Later Dr Rivett employed Griffin to design extensions to provide for a 20-bed hospital, which he called *Cabarisha* after a legendary American Indian healer. Over the years many changes have been made to the building. It was sold by the Rivett family in 1970 and the name has changed to Castlecrag Private Hospital. Dr Rivett also engaged Griffin to design his residence at 148 Edinburgh Road. A disagreement arose over Griffin's desire for a flat roof and the building was not constructed in accordance with his design. The GSDA took action through the courts, Justice Long-Innis finding in favour of Rivett in a long and complicated judgment.

1927 The second Tresillian hospital for nursing mothers, Tresillian North, was opened in Second Avenue Willoughby on 2 March. The Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies, which operated the hospital, received strong support from the Castlecrag community. Marion Griffin organised a Castlecrag Picnic, which raised £53 for the Society. Margaret Whitlam told the 2002 Australia Day audience at Chatswood of her association with Willoughby through a period at Tresillian North hospital in the 1940s with her first child.

1928 A community clay tennis court was constructed in the Cortile Reserve.

Adrienne Kabos, James Weirick and Bob McKillop

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2003 due 1 January 2003

I wish to renew / apply for membership of the CPA Inc., and enclose payment for: \$ _____ (\$10 single; \$5 fixed income)

If you wish to make a donation, this will be most welcome. I enclose my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____

Please post to the Treasurer: Diana Jones, 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag 2068 OR hand in at the Newsagent