

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION INC.

Eighty years serving the community
ISSN 0814 - 2054

No. 156

August 2005

Castlecrag Progress Association

6/77 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag
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www.castlecrag.org.au

President: John Steel
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Gay Spies OAM
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David Harrop
Bob McKillop
Jill Newton
Howard Rubie
Kate Westoby

Coming Events

Tuesday 23 August:
CPA General Meeting
(see box this page)

Sunday 18 September:
Opening of Stoker Playground
and launch of Edinburgh Road
tree planting (see page 3)

Tuesday 25 October:
CPA General Meeting

Please see page 8 for
membership renewals

The Crag is edited by
Bob McKillop 9958 4516
Jennifer Kos 9405 5117

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

The Crag is printed by
Bertram Printing
Bertram Street
Chatswood
Tel. 9415 1070

Our Day at the Fair

"Mark your calendar for the 5th of June," my friend told me. "You've been recruited to help with the Castlecrag Fair and it's going to be the BEST ever!" So promised the organizer of the big day, and she kept her word. With good weather, great planning and lots of participants running stalls, entertaining and just volunteering, her promise was good.

I arrived early on the 'Big Day' to help set up, then with my family, walked to the Fair mid-morning. My children could not believe their great fortune when they laid their eyes on the jumping castle and spinning teacups, and realised that they would be spending a large part of the day at the Fair (as Mum was helping out).

The children ate their way through the food stalls, enjoyed the sounds of the musical acts and even found some treasure (in their eyes) at the Trash & Treasure staff operated by the Progress Association. Luckily, they spotted the fairy floss much later in the day.



Willoughby City Council's and BushCare stall at the Castlecrag Community Fair.

With some calls of protest from the little ones, we made our way home at the close of the Fair and went straight to the bathtub to unstick the fairy floss fingers and faces. What a great day out!

As a fairly recent transplant to Castlecrag, I am thankful that I live in this gem of a suburb. It is great to have such a supportive local business community,

because without them events such as the fair would not occur. I am also thankful to have a friend who forces me to step outside of my comfortable box, meet new people and be a part of something bigger.

Now, if only my three year-old will stop asking, "Can we go to the Castlecrag Fair today?"

Jennifer Kos

Our Fair Sponsors

The Castlecrag Progress Association gratefully thanks our local businesses who helped make the 2005 Community Fair a great success. The major sponsors are:

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Other Sponsors: Cardno's Butchery, Castlecrag Cellars, Castlecrag Chemist, Christina's Lebanese Restaurant, Clipso Hair Salon, Energy Australia, Rodney Clark, Sailors Bay Dentistry, Travelplan, Vivien's Jewellers, Willoughby City Council.

Castlecrag Progress Association

GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 23 August 2005

Castlecrag Community Centre, 8 pm
Guest Speaker: Bob McKillop

'International trends and the
Willoughby City Strategy'

Discussion on DA issues (page 6) and the
Griffin Fountain Restoration Project
Please park in the street and walk down

Community Bytes

Castlecrag School Plaque

Our thanks to Council, which has arranged for International Conservation Services to repair the wonderful plaque of the Castlecrag Infants' School, which was taken down when the school was closed in 1990. The plaque, which is a mosaic of ceramic pieces, was taken apart and attached to a new backing board piece by piece. Missing mosaic pieces have been replaced, so the motto '*Together We Grow*' is again complete. The Castlecrag Community Centre Committee has proposed the installation of the restored plaque at the Centre and arrangements for this are currently being finalised. The Progress Association extends its thanks to Councillor Trevor Morgan for his help in facilitating the restoration through David Di Biase, Council's Property Maintenance and Construction Co-ordinator.

Eastern Valley Way Turn Petition

The Progress Association collected 1524 signatures on its petition for a right-hand turn signal for northbound traffic exiting Castlecrag at the Eastern Valley Way lights. The petition was forwarded to the office of the Member for Willoughby, Gladys Berejiklian, who is tabling it in State Parliament over an extended period. In a statement to Parliament on 22 June, Gladys said:

"For residents who live in Castlecrag, the current arrangements are just not acceptable. I will therefore make representation to the Minister for Roads and ask him to direct the Roads & Traffic Authority to install a green arrow at the lights at that intersection. This has been an issue for many years and I will do all I can to assist the community in implementing this important safety initiative."

Order of Australia

Congratulations to David William Grant of Castlecrag, who received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. David received the AM for service to business and commerce, to the community through promoting sport, business and charitable events, and his support for education and training programs.

At the Shops

The Castlecrag Australia Post shop will be moving from its current location to the *ISIS* store at Shop 1/122 Edinburgh Road. The move is scheduled for October of this year, pending approval from Australia Post. In addition to postal and gift items, the new location will carry an increased range of stationery.

Congratulations to Castlecrag Fruiterers which has been awarded the Sydney Markets' 'Greengrocer of the Month' Award for July. This makes them eligible for the prestigious 'Greengrocer of the Year' Award.

Letters to the Editor

The Crag is a community newsletter and we welcome letters from residents about local issues. Your letters should be concise and include your email address or telephone number. Letters should be sent to *The Crag* Editors, 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag 2068, or by email: jennkos@optushome.com.au

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President's Musings

Once again our Castlecrag Community Fair proved to be a huge success, more than meeting our expectations for community interaction for all ages and as a significant fundraiser for community projects. Thank you all for your participation, sponsorship and support for this event. We are particularly indebted to Gloreen Goldin and her team who performed the organisational magic that brought us all together and special thanks to all the community groups who participated on the day and helped to make it a success.

Approximately \$5000 was raised and added to the proceeds of the previous three Fairs. We now have about \$8000 to place into community projects. As previously mentioned, your Committee has recommended making a substantial contribution from these accrued funds towards the restoration of the Griffin Memorial Fountain at the entrance to Sortie Port. A smaller amount will be donated to Chatswood Day Centre for Senior Citizens, which is used regularly by residents of Castlecrag. We will be seeking the ratification of members for these proposals at the General Meeting of the Progress Association on 23 August.

We have formed a Fountain Project sub-committee to actively pursue this project. We hope to shortly have realistic estimates of cost and plans developed conjointly with Willoughby Council for the restoration of this important item of community heritage. Local councillor Trevor Morgan is actively seeking Council's support for the restoration.

As detailed on page 2, we have preserved a little bit of history by restoring the school plaque, complete with motto '*Together We Grow*'. We look forward to this wonderful icon again being on display in our community.

John Steel

Willoughby City Strategy and Castlecrag

The Mayor, Cr Pat Reilly, was guest speaker at the Progress Association's AGM on 3 May. He covered the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy and its implications for communities such as Castlecrag.

Pat's key theme was that with the development of Chatswood as a regional centre, Willoughby City has been able to meet its targets for new dwellings through high rise developments with good access to public transport, thereby helping to conserve the heritage character of our residential suburbs. He highlighted Castlecrag as the classic example of a Conservation Area of international significance that needs to be protected. In addition, Willoughby City is gaining new infrastructure, notably the new railway line, the upgraded Chatswood station and transport interchange, and the new police station.

Pat noted that Council has recently initiated a process to prepare a **Willoughby City Strategy**. This will provide a long-term (15-20 years) vision for the future of the City of Willoughby. The City Strategy aims to identify what the community values about our city, identify significant trends and issues, agree on future directions and goals, and develop strategies to achieve these goals. The planning process depends on high levels of community input to identify community values and establish consensus on strategic directions.

Castlecrag residents are urged to check out further information on the City Strategy on Council's website (www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au) and attend the consultative workshops that are being held on the planning process.

The Willoughby City Strategy will be a key topic at the Progress Association General Meeting on 23 August. Bob McKillop will lead a discussion on international trends and experience in key areas that affect Willoughby. He will provide a graphic presentation on how selected European cities are seeking to preserve their character, cope with transport and traffic issues, maintain open space and protect the environment. Come along and have your say.

Editors

Stoker Playground Opening and Edinburgh Road tree planting

Castlecrag families have been enjoying the upgraded facilities at the Stoker Playground on Edinburgh Road for some time now. The Mayor, Cr Pat Reilly, will officially open this Willoughby City Council facility and also launch the Edinburgh Road tree planting project, on Sunday 18 September 11am as part of the *Spring Festival*.

There will be special activities for the children, so come along and join in the fun.

New Editor

Jennifer Kos has joined *The Crag* editorial team with this issue. Jennifer, originally from Kentucky USA, moved to Castlecrag with her Aussie husband and family via Killara in 2002. As she notes in her article on page 1, Jennifer is most appreciative of the special qualities that Castlecrag offers with its strong sense of community and she is keen to help preserve these qualities.

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Griffin Memorial Fountain Project

As detailed in our *History of Castlecrag* series, our local community initiated a fundraising appeal in the early 1960s for a fountain to honour the contribution of Walter Burley Griffin to Castlecrag. Bim Hilder, a local sculptor and friend of the Griffins, was commissioned to design the work.

Officially opened on 23 October 1965 as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the Municipality of Willoughby, the fountain is a significant work of art. Lit at night, it made an elegant contribution to our suburb.

Unfortunately, the hydraulic system failed and it has been declared unrepairable. Council has undertaken assessment work with a view to restoring the fountain to operating condition. A heritage assessment was undertaken and a quote was obtained for these works in 2003.

On 26 July, Councillors Trevor Morgan and Adrian Cox met with Council's Director of Infrastructure, Jeff Organ and his staff in a very proactive and directional discussion. It

was evident from the meeting that the Council officers have undertaken considerable work over the past two years with a view to having the fountain restored and again operational.

The cost of restoration is now likely to be in excess of \$100,000. This cost can largely be attributed to the deterioration of the fountain's hydraulics due to age, as well as the necessary requirements for heritage conservation. The contemporary requirement for water treatment for health reasons is also an essential consideration.

Funding for complete restoration is beyond Council's normal maintenance programs and the works would need to be considered a capital improvement in a future program. Funding by way of the State Government's Heritage restoration program is unlikely to be available for the next few years.

To overcome the existing situation, Trevor and Adrian both agree that an innovative practical solution needs to be found wherein

the eventual restoration is achieved. In the short term, Council will commence an upgrade of the landscaping surrounding the fountain this month in order to enhance its overall setting. Together with this work the staff will also investigate the provision of a lighting system external to the fountain that will highlight the sculpture.

Councillors Morgan and Cox will be seeking a commitment at the next meeting of Council for the future allocation of \$25,000 on the basis of a joint community-Council contribution being met dollar for dollar by the State Government in the future. Both Councillors will be happy to work closely with the local community to ensure future funding is available for this very worthwhile joint project.

Trevor Morgan & Adrian Cox

Editors' note: As noted on page 3, the Progress Association will contribute funds raised at our fairs to this project.



The Walter Burley Griffin Society stall at the 2005 Castlecrag Community Fair.



The walking sculpture sponsored by Martha's Restaurant was a hit at the Community Fair.

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The Haven: A Musical Journey



As its contribution to the Willoughby Spring Festival, The Haven Amphitheatre will present a series of concerts in early Spring. It will be a true Musical Journey.

- Rhythm & Blues with Soul,
Friday 2 September at 7.30pm;
- Jazz in the Night,
Saturday 3 September at 7.30pm;
- The Haven Mix,
Sunday 4 September at 4pm.

The Haven Music Festival will be a sensational series of performances built around the music of Graham Wardrop, a superb international guitarist in the style of Martin Taylor, Tommy Emmanuel etc and Graham Jesse (sax and flute) with a piano, bass and drums backing. Graham Jesse is one of the heavyweights of the Sydney professional scene and a Castlecrag local.

Seats will be limited to 300 per performance so please get your tickets early. Tell your friends. Bring a group!!

Special Haven snacks will be available, however why not pack a basket of wine, cheese, etc. Tickets are on sale at the PRD Real Estate office in Castlecrag.

We provide a free community bus to and from the venue. As there is no parking at the Haven, please park at the Castlecrag shops.

Graphic Designer Wanted

The Crag newsletter is looking for a volunteer with graphic design skills to help improve the layout of our newsletter. We wish to update the template used for *The Crag* and are also seeking assistance with the design of a brochure for the Progress Association.

Please contact Jennifer on 9405 5117

WCC BushCare

A new round of *BushCare* training workshops will begin on Saturday mornings from 3 September. To reserve your place, please ring Willoughby City Council, Mandy Wilson, on 9777 7875. Council *BushCare* meeting dates for Castlecrag are as follows:

- The Scarp, every Tuesday
- High Tor, first Saturday each month
- Oriel Reserve, first Sunday
- Keep Reserve, 2nd Sunday
- Warners Park, 2nd Sunday
- Casement Reserve, 3rd Sunday
- Edinburgh Road, 4th Sunday

Contacts: The Scarp, Stephen Gow 9958 5402; Keep Reserve, Matthew Keighery 9967 2682; Casement Reserve, Sue Burk 9958 4295; Edinburgh Road, Craig McCarthy 9958 6168. Other sites, contact Mandy Wilson at Council, 9777 7875.

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Keeping Castlecrag Special: Our DA Policy

Background

An objective of the Castlecrag Progress Association ('CPA') is 'To conserve the natural and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations'.

Castlecrag is a special place. If we are to meet the above objective and conserve the special qualities of Castlecrag, then ideally the CPA should review all Development Applications (DAs) relating to Castlecrag and comment without fear or favour on those DAs having the potential to impact adversely, whether environmentally or socially, on our community.

It is the practice of Willoughby City Council (WCC) to notify each Progress Association of DAs within its area and the CPA is sent all DAs relating to Castlecrag. With usually less than two weeks to comment on a DA, it is clear that the CPA Committee, despite its best endeavours, cannot exhaustively consider all DAs received, or consult with other members of the CPA before commenting on a DA by the relevant deadline. The Committee therefore welcomes the community in general and CPA members in particular alerting it to those DAs that may adversely impact on our community.

In recognition of the need to further redefine its policy guidelines so as to improve transparency and consistency in its approach to commenting on DAs, the Committee will be presenting the following draft policy at a future CPA general meeting for discussion and endorsement by its members.

Draft DA Policy

An important first step in assessing whether a DA has the potential to have an adverse social or environmental impact on our Castlecrag community is to review the DA in terms of compliance against the list of planning controls applying to the particular DA.

The planning controls currently relevant to the whole or part (as the case may be) of Castlecrag, pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ('EPA Act') and Regulations are:

- Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 1995 (WLEP);
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 1 – Development Standards – (SEPP 1);
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 – Urban Bushland – (SEPP 19).
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 23 – Sydney and Middle Harbours - (SREP 23);
- Development Control Plan No. 16 - Dwelling Houses and Dual Occupancy and Boarding Houses and Residential Zones - (DCP 16);
- Development Control Plan No. 19 – Heritage and Conservation - (DCP 19), and
- Development Control Plan No. 30 – Environmental Sustainability for Dwelling Houses, Commercial/Retail Buildings, Industrial Buildings, Residential Flat Buildings – (DCP 30).

As the Committee cannot possibly monitor all DAs notified for strict compliance with all numerical requirements of the relevant planning controls, it will focus on those DAs that fail to meet the objectives and aims of these controls and will pay particular attention to those requiring a SEPP1 variation. The Committee will object to a DA if it is clear that the variation in terms of the SEPP1 is not justified in the circumstances of the case. In fact, unless absolutely certain that the variation is justified, the CPA may comment on (while not necessarily objecting to) such a DA, if only to remind WCC that the discretion provided by a SEPP1 variation should not be exercised lightly.

Although adhering to its previously-expressed policy of responding to a DA only if it is of clear community rather than private interest, the Committee recognises that a DA that has the potential to impact upon the amenity of one property only may still be of community interest. There is indeed a real risk (and this has been recognised by the courts) of a non-complying development establishing a precedent that is readily invocable by prospective developers of other land in the vicinity. Acquiescence to such development will incrementally damage the special character of Castlecrag and reduce the enforceability of the planning controls.

Finally, the courts on a number of occasions have recognised, as does the Committee, that development should make a commensurate contribution to those principles and qualities that give Castlecrag its special character. The Committee believes therefore that while the planning controls are minimum controls that are likely to meet these objectives, strict compliance with the controls does not necessarily guarantee that these objectives will be met.

A DA may also be considered to be of concern where it has one or more of the following potential effects:

- direct impact on a listed heritage item or indirect impact on the item by a neighbouring development;
- direct impact on vegetation and urban bushland, including removal of significant tree(s), significant reduction in vegetative cover or impact on other natural landscape features such as rock faces and outcrops;
- impact on adjacent urban bushland through changes to vegetative cover, wildlife corridors, runoff or natural drainage;
- impact on the public domain;



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Council News

e.restore in Castlecrag

Willoughby City Council's *e.restore* programme is continuing to repair, restore and manage Willoughby's environment. Council is encouraging all residents to become more active in environmental issues and to get involved in their local reserve. Some forthcoming activities are:

The Willoughby Fauna Fair. Sunday 21 August from 10am to 3pm at the Willoughby Park Centre, Willoughby. See Australian animals from frogs to phasids and bats to beetles. There will also be plenty of entertainment including children's games and activities, organic food stalls and more.

Willoughby Council launched *e-waste*, a computer waste recycling service on Saturday 30 July 2005. Call Council or check the Council website for date and times for col-

lection. Keep your unwanted computer equipment and take it to Willoughby City Council's Works Depot on these dates to dispose of it in an environmentally friendly way free of charge.

Competition Nestbox 2005. Tree hollows are in short supply in Willoughby. This poses a serious threat for the long-term survival of our local hollow-nesting animals such as owls, gliders and possums. *Competition Nestbox* allows you to have the chance to win a prize for designing nestboxes for birds, bats and possums. Check out www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au in August for further details.

Zero Tolerance for Graffiti

Castlecrag has recently become a 'hot spot' for graffiti on public and private property. Willoughby City Council finalised its Graffiti

Management Policy and Plan in June, which outlines graffiti prevention, protection and removal methods as well as education and law enforcement. The Mayor Pat Reilly has called for a no-tolerance stand on graffiti in the City of Willoughby and is seeking an extra effort from the police, in conjunction with Council's security efforts, to clamp down on graffiti incidents.

After a study tour in America and Canada this year, Willoughby's Environmental Services Director Greg Woodhams said cities with a no-tolerance stance were almost completely void of graffiti. He advised that, "In Portland for example, neighbourhood watch and citizen report programs and graffiti hot-lines helped to identify perpetrators as well as recent vandalism, which is removed within 24 hours."

Samantha Glass

Keeping Castlecrag Special (Continued from page 6)

- view loss to and from the public domain or from neighbouring property(s), particularly where the proposed development fails to meet the objective of appropriate view sharing;
- impeding the movement and/or safety of Castlecrag residents through generating significant increases in traffic movements;
- generation of significant noise impact, either by on-site activities or from additional traffic;
- air and water-based discharges from a site, particularly hazardous discharges or discharges into bushland and/or waterways;
- reduction of access to and amenity of public open space, eg Griffin Reserves and Walkways;
- change to the aesthetic and heritage character of the suburb (eg by virtue of aerial cabling and by the effect of dominant building(s) on streetscape, particularly in the Conservation Area);
- impact on the range of services and community amenities in the shopping centre;
- potential impact on health where scientific knowledge is uncertain, and
- light pollution (eg tennis court lights).

Submissions made in response to a DA will be framed in terms of the relevant planning controls and the previously mentioned objective of the CPA, namely '*To conserve the natural and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations*'. Submissions may include constructive suggestions to ameliorate the potential impact of a development proposal.

Progress Association Committee

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History of Castlecrag Part 14

1986 On 19 January, some 200 local residents attended a ceremony at the corner of The Citadel and Edinburgh Road to plant shrubs in memory of Roma Hilder and other residents who had played a part in the cultural and environmental life of the Castle-crag community. Many then adjourned to Bim Hilder's house for refreshments and to watch a film on Bim's father, the esteemed painter Jesse Jewhurst Hilder.

1986 A new bus shelter, erected with funds raised by the Castle-crag Progress Association and to the winning design by Francis Maratea and Michael Burgess in a competition sponsored by the Progress Association, was opened at 'The Pinnacle' on 25 May. It took its name from a sandstone house that was constructed by Walter Burley Griffin in the 1920s, using the walls of a former stable or shed. Griffin added a high pitch roof with his patent *knitlock* tiles. The house was demolished in the 1950s.

1987 Mary Baker and Kerry McKillop took over as editors of *The Crag* from issue No. 56 (November/December). Kerry had helped Rita Kaye with the past six issues of the newsletter.

1987 At the September Council elections, Alderman Eric Kaye was defeated by 81 votes in Middle Harbour ward, thus bringing to an end a long period of direct representation by the suburb on Willoughby Council.

1988 In response to a State Government proposal to examine options for the Extension of the Warringah Freeway through Castle-crag, the Progress Association organised a meeting with State election candidates on 13 March at the Community Centre to canvass their views on the proposal.

1988 Willoughby Municipal Council published *The Suburb of Castle-crag: a community history* compiled by Esther Leslie as part of its Bicentennial History series.

1988 The Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Track was officially opened by the Federal Member for North Sydney, The Hon. John Spender, on 20 December. Master of Ceremonies, Don Burke stated that 'A pivotal area for Sydney has been Castlecrag. The early work of Walter Burley Griffin in establishing his suburb and restoring the bushland was a farsighted and critical thing for the city.'

1988 The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. was established by a group of people inspired by the need to preserve the unique architecture and town planning of Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin. The Society aims to promote the preservation and conservation of landscape designs, buildings and other works designed by or having a connection with the Griffins. It has been active in promoting the Griffins' vision for Castlecrag and in supporting the conservation of their heritage, both in the suburb of Castlecrag and elsewhere.

1990 The Walter Burley Griffin Society obtained a \$6000 dollar-for-dollar grant from the Heritage Assistance Program of the NSW Department of Planning to produce a book on the history and conservation of the Griffin Estates, Castlecrag. The book, *Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag* by Meredith Walker, Adrienne Kabos and James Weirick, was published by the Society in 1994. The book documents the history of the Griffin estates and proposes principles for their conservation. In April 1995 *Building for Nature* received a National Trust of Australia (NSW) Award for Community History (this book is now available for purchase from Pam's café).

Bob McKillop and James Weirick



Opening of the Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Track on 20 December 1988. Don Burke (centre), John Spender MP and Gay Spies (foreground). Photo: Rita Kaye

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