

# THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS  
ASSOCIATION INC.

Eighty years serving the community  
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October 2005

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## Coming Events

**Tuesday 25 October:**  
**CPA General Meeting**

**Willoughby Council's  
Sustainability Street  
Program**

**Fitness Training at  
The Haven Amphitheatre:**  
(see notice page 4)

**Friday 18 November:**  
**Castlecrag PA  
80th Anniversary Dinner**  
(see box page 1)

**Saturday 24 December:**  
**'Carols at The Haven'**  
(see page 3)

Please see page 8 for  
membership renewals

## Tree Planting and Stoker Playground Opening

On Sunday 18 September, approximately 40 residents gathered at the Stoker Playground on Edinburgh Road, for the Inauguration of the Edinburgh Road Tree Planting program, as well as the official opening of the refurbished Stoker Playground.

The Progress Association put forward the tree planting program to Council as a Centenary of Federation project in 2001. We envisaged a project that would improve the presentation of Edinburgh Road with a fine avenue of locally indigenous trees.

For the ceremony, 13 Banksias, of a planned 100 trees, were planted along the southern side of Edinburgh Road. In addition to being a local species, this tree has been chosen for its relative ease of pruning around electrical wires. A number of long-standing residents participated in the event.

The Mayor of Willoughby Pat Reilly and Mrs Reilly were present for the planting and the opening of Stoker Playground,

as two of Phyllis and Michael Stoker's children, Annette and Kathy spoke of their parents' contribution to the Castlecrag Community. Michael Stoker moved to Castlecrag in 1935 at the invitation of the Griffins and was active in local theatre group activities. He and Phyl returned to 'The Crag' in 1942 and established a registered child-minding centre, which expanded to become the Castlecrag Kindergarten. Several of those present had attended that centre.

The Stoker Playground upgrade is one of many planned open space refurbishments in the City of Willoughby. As Mayor Reilly highlighted, the design and fit-out of Stoker Playground is very much in keeping with, and complementary to, the unique character of Castlecrag.



Joan and John Gibson plant one of the trees at the ceremony.

The playground is once again enjoying much use from families. For those who visit the playground, have a look at the rubber mat surrounding the castle. (The mat is made in the shape of the Castlecrag Peninsula!)

**Jennifer Kos**

## CPA 80th Birthday Dinner

The Castlecrag Progress Association will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary at a dinner on

**Friday 18 November 2005**

**Christina's Restaurant**

Banquet dinner, with soft drinks, coffee and entertainment, BYO

Cost per head \$35

Further Information, contact Diana on  
9958 4885 or John on 9958 5804

## Castlecrag Progress Association

### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 25 October 2005**

**Castlecrag Community Centre, 8pm**  
**Guest Speaker: Erika Van Schellebeck**  
**'The Willoughby Council Sustainability Street Program'**

Plus latest updates on activities in your community and open forum  
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*The Crag is the community newsletter  
of the Castlecrag Progress Association*

6/77 Edinburgh Road,  
Castlecrag  
Web page:  
[www.castlecrag.org.au](http://www.castlecrag.org.au)

**President:** John Steel

**Vice presidents:** Peter Moffitt  
Gay Spies OAM

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Lander

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**Committee:** Gloreen Goldin

David Harrop

Bob McKillop

Jill Newton

Howard Rubie

Kate Westoby

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

Please send all correspondence and  
membership renewals to the above  
address. Letters to the Editor are  
welcome.

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## Community Bytes

### The Bailey

Willoughby Council has endorsed 'The Bailey', the name proposed by the Progress Association for the children's playground in The Bulwark. A draft concept upgrade plan has been prepared for the playground, which will result in considerable enhancement of the site. Following a period of community consultation, the upgrading work is expected to be completed in the current financial year.

### Warners Park Playground

Have you visited the new playground that Council has established in Warners Park? It offers an interesting range of playground challenges for young children and there are also attractive picnic facilities, including an electric barbecue.

For Castlecrag residents, the best way to visit the playground is via the Federation Walking Track from Keep Reserve on The Rampart. Try it one day soon and benefit from the exercise!

### Tree Vandalism

We are saddened to report that trees in Griffin Reserves have been illegally poisoned. Council officers have placed signs on these

trees. Given the current public debate on appropriate responses to terrorism, perhaps you have some suggestions on how we should deal with such acts at the local level?

### At the Shops

Our post office opened for business at its new location in the former Isis Gift Store on 26 September. Proprietors John and Jen purchased the Isis Store some months back and have joined the two businesses at the larger premises. As indicated in the advertisement on page 5, you can now obtain a wider range of items from the friendly team at the post office/store.

### 72 Sugarloaf Crescent

Council's appeal to the earlier decision of the Commissioner on this matter on the grounds that there had been an error of law has been dismissed by the Land & Environment Court.

This long-running dispute offers lessons for the community and Council regarding development processes. The Progress Association will be urging Council to ensure that its controls are sufficiently clear and robust to avoid development that is inappropriate for our area.

**L.J. HOOKER**

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## President's Musings

## John Squire

In the previous issue of *The Crag* we published the Progress Association's draft policy on responding to Development Applications in Castlecrag. I am pleased to report that this policy has been fully endorsed without change by members at our last general meeting, which was, as usual, open to all. The policy is available on our website.

The manner in which we respond to DA notifications has in the past been a contentious topic in some sectors of the community, with the belief that the process lacked transparency and was captive to particular sectional interests. I believe that these concerns should now be laid to rest by our adherence to a clearly defined policy which articulates our support of State and Local government planning controls, and the basis of our response to those DAs which we believe conflict with the special character of Castlecrag, as defined in our Constitution. Our DA sub-committee undertakes its difficult job seriously and sensitively, and has shown the willingness and ability to respond quickly to situations where the community interest is threatened by inappropriate development.

On a lighter note, we are looking forward to celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Association with present and past members at an excellent local restaurant in an historically appropriate setting, The Griffin Centre (see page 1). Tickets are limited by the capacity of *Christina's* to seat 90 people but we hope to share this evening with non-members who want to get to know us better – and perhaps join the Association. It promises to be a convivial evening with plenty of opportunity to share memories and reflect on our many significant achievements (see page 8), as well as new ideas to maintain the vibrancy of Castlecrag and its character. Do come along!

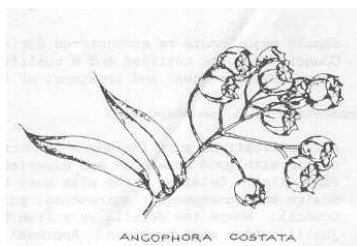
*John Steel*

On Sunday 11 September, a ceremony was held in Currey Park to commemorate the Willoughby-Bingara student exchange program and to remember the life of the late John Squire. For over 20 years John was an alderman, councillor and Mayor of Willoughby and during that time he represented our own Middle Harbour Ward.

At Christmas 1995, while he was the mayor, John took a car load of presents for Bingara's children and over \$3000 to assist in combating the drought that was ravaging the Bingara area at that time. From this visit sprang the student exchange program and the very high regard in which John was held by the Shire Council and the people of Bingara.

The recent ceremony at Willoughby was attended by John's wife, Anne and her children, the previous Mayor of Bingara and, of course, our Mayor, Councillors and many old friends. They all spoke movingly of John and the event was completed by the planting of vegetation indigenous to Bingara by the exchange students, the Mayor and the Squire family. It was a very pleasant, low-key occasion that allows us to remember through the pleasure that this green space gives, the achievements of a modest man.

*Elizabeth Lander*



### The Petition

As reported in *The Crag* No. 156 (page 2), the Progress Association has gathered over 1500 signatures on its petition for a right-hand turn signal for northbound traffic exiting Castlecrag at the Eastern Valley Way lights. Our local member, Gladys Berejikian, acknowledged that the petition demonstrated outstanding achievement and the strength of feeling in the community about this important aspect of road safety.

Following her receipt of the petition, Gladys has been tabling the petition in Parliament and has written to the Minister for Roads requesting that he consider installing a right-hand green arrow within the existing traffic lights. He has responded and arranged for the matter to be examined. A response will be provided as soon as possible.

We hope that the result will be a positive one and that the practice of running the amber light will become a thing of the past.

### Haven Amphitheatre

## Christmas Carols at The Haven

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## Griffin Memorial Fountain

Since the report in *The Crag* No. 156, Council officers have initiated some restoration work on the fountain and cleared vegetation from the island.

The current work also involves the restoration of the old lighting or, if this is not practical, the installation of new lighting. The cracks and holes in the foundation slab will be repaired and new water jets installed.

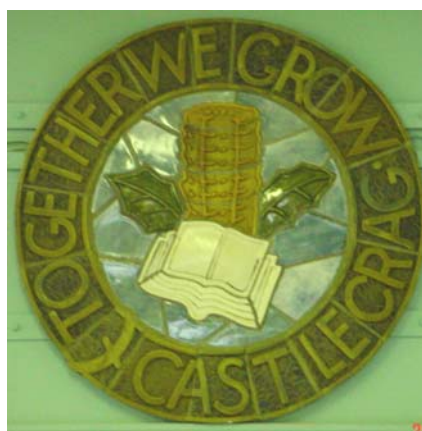
The key issue is the standard of water required. Council officers are looking at returning the fountain to operation with tap water. If it is deemed that treated water is required, then this will involve a much more expensive project. The whole fountain would have to be dismantled and the sculpture specially treated to stop the treated water damaging this heritage item. The treatment equipment is also very expensive.

The Progress Association continues to liaise with Council to ensure a positive outcome.

The Editors



The Griffin Memorial Fountain in September 2005.



## School Plaque

The Castlecrag Community Centre Committee has finalised the installation of the Castlecrag Infants' School plaque in a prominent position at the Community Centre.

As reported in the last issue of *The Crag* (page 2), Willoughby City Council arranged for the restoration of the plaque by International Conservation Services. As shown in our photo below left, the plaque is again in pristine condition with the motto, 'Together We Grow', the centre of attention. The plaque is an important symbol of our community's achievements and the Progress Association expresses its thanks to Council and the Committee for this outstanding result.

### Griffin Reserves

Council contractors have been working in Tower Reserve, where the pine trees have been removed and regeneration of indigenous species is occurring. The BushCare group in Casement Reserve report excellent regeneration is occurring following earlier pile burns, especially of *Kunzea ambigua*. A pile burn on 13 September was most successful.

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## Successful Hazard Reduction Burn in Castlecrag

NSW Fire Brigades and Willoughby City Council's Bushfire Crew successfully completed a hazard reduction burn in bushland on the Castlecrag Northern Escarpment near Sunnyside Crescent on 28 and 29 July.

The aims of the burn were to provide protection to surrounding properties in the event of a future wildfire and to maintain diversity of native plant species. Considerable planning and preparation was required by Willoughby City Council's Bushfire Crew to ensure effective bushfire management. The crew developed a detailed burn plan of the area that included conservation of cultural heritage sites, bushland vegetation and wildlife habitat and property protection.

The burn area was prepared by cutting down standing vegetation and leaving it to season for a year before burning. This helps ensure that a hot burn is achieved to assist the regeneration of plant species. The

preparation also reduces available fire fuel over the area and the burn can be conducted safely. This burn preparation technique also minimises air pollution and reduces the amount of water needed to manage the burn.



Phil Sarkies of Council's Bushfire Crew tends the Sunnyside burn on 28 July

The crew had to await ideal weather conditions on 28 and 29 July this year to carry out the burn, which was most successful. The burn area will continue to be maintained by Willoughby City Council staff to ensure weeds are controlled. The public can assist the native plant regeneration throughout the burn area by sticking to the paths to enable plants to regenerate and to reduce erosion. A successful pile burn was carried out in Casement Reserve on 13 September also.

Keep a close watch on this area, as the regeneration occurs over the next year. An abundance of beautiful native wildlife flowers is expected to flourish on the site. If you require further information on how to protect your house during the fire season, please contact Willoughby Council on 9777 1000.

Rebecca Hill, WCC

### Pilates & Yoga Classes



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## Still Available! Sydney Water Rebate for Tanks

The drought has been a time when we all have learned to use water conservatively; Australia's variable climate means that we can expect more droughts.

Sydney Water is encouraging everyone in Sydney to install a rainwater tank. Used correctly, rainwater tanks are an effective way to take the pressure off our limited water resources, and at the same time, help manage stormwater run-off. By storing rainwater run-off from your roof, rainwater tanks can provide a valuable water source for flushing toilets, in washing machines, watering gardens and washing cars.

The following information is from Sydney Water, and there is more advice at their website <http://www.sydneypwater.com.au/SavingWater/RainwaterTanks/>

Using rainwater appropriately (and in conjunction with water efficient devices like dual flush toilets, showerheads with at least a AAA-rating, taps, tap aerators, trigger nozzles and tap timers) can save you money on water bills and help the environment by:

- conserving our valuable drinking water and reducing the demand on our water supply (conserving water also reduces the chemical and energy requirements for treating and transporting water to your home via the mains supply)
- reducing the amount of stormwater leaving your property by minimising flooding (using your rainwater for day-to-day purposes like toilet flushing helps create space in your tank for more water the next time it rains).

While the NSW Department of Health does not advise using rainwater for drinking when there's an alternative mains water supply available, we could save millions of litres a year by using rainwater for toilets, in washing machines, and garden and outdoor use.

For more information, Sydney Water has brochures 'Buying a Rainwater Tank' and 'Installing a rainwater tank', either via the web, or by telephoning them on 13 20 92.

There are key things to remember if you are using your tank for water conservation and stormwater management.

- **Tank capacity** - the larger the tank, the more rainwater can be captured for use during dry periods. A minimum tank size of 5000 litres is desirable.
- **Water use** - its best to use the water in the tank on a regular (daily) basis so there is always storage capacity available in the tank when it rains. By using the tank this way you will maximise the amount of water and money you save and reduce the amount of run-off from your roof to the stormwater system.

Rainwater from your tank is fine for use with garden irrigation systems. However, if you plan to connect your rainwater tank to an irrigation system, you should ensure that you have a filter on your tank. Algae or debris can sometimes be present in rainwater tanks, and a filter will stop blockages occurring in your irrigation sprays.

Connecting your tank to your toilet cistern or your washing machine is a good way to maximise the use of your captured rainwater because unlike garden watering, you will even be using your tank water when it is raining. To supply these appliances from your tank you will need to maintain a minimum operating water level in the tank when there is insufficient rainfall. This will require a 'top-up' connection from the Sydney Water supply (just like a toilet cistern) and therefore some plumbing alterations to your home. You should consult Sydney Water on this.

If you want to contact Sydney Water regarding any plumbing alterations, their Plumbing

Policy, Standards and Regulation area can provide advice.

Sydney Water has a **Rainwater Tank Rebate Program** offering customers up to \$650 to install a rainwater tank. A special Rainwater Tanks in Schools Rebate Program is also available for schools.

Sydney Water is offering a rebate to customers who install a rainwater tank. Rainwater tanks have many advantages - no matter where you live. Even in urban areas where a reticulated service is available, rainwater tanks help conserve valuable drinking water and reduce stormwater run-off.

**What is the Rebate for?** Sydney Water is offering a rebate to help customers who install a rainwater tank. To qualify for the rebate, the rainwater tank must be both:

- a new tank with a capacity of 2,000 litres or more, and
- purchased on or after 20 October 2002.

**How long does the offer last?** This offer ends 31 July 2008.

The Terms and Conditions of Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Program are detailed in the Rebate Program brochure. If you have any questions please contact Sydney Water on 13 20 92.

Lorraine Cairnes



### Northbridge Bowling Club

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## Council News

### Sustainability Street

*Sustainability Street* is an exciting new program that encourages local residents by working together to take action to create a healthier, safer, more environmentally sustainable neighbourhood. It aims to reduce your waste to landfill by 50 per cent, save up to \$500 per year in everyday energy consumption and reduce household water usage by up to 60,000 litres a year.

Free information sessions:

**Saturday, 2 November:** 12 noon to 1pm at Warners Park Community Centre, Northbridge (followed by a free picnic and refreshments).

**Tuesday, 15 November:** 6-7pm at Council Chambers (followed by light refreshments).

Phone 9777 7837 for info and RSVP

### Creek Art

*Creek Art* will be held on Saturday, 30 October, at Ferndale Park from 11am – 3pm. Bring along the family and a picnic and discover the magic of Willoughby's local waterways through the minds of local artists.

Willoughby's *Streets to Creeks* has teamed up with the *Dare2* sculpture group from the Workshop Art Centre to present artworks in nature. Phone 9777 7873 for information.

### Youth Lead

Do you want to make a difference in your community but aren't sure how or where to start? *Youth Lead* is an innovative environmental action and leadership training programme designed to give young people the skills, motivation and opportunities to lead the way to a sustainable future.

A three-day workshop will be held from 4 to 6 November 2005 at the Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lane Cove. Designed for participants aged between 15 and 25, the training will cover:

- Ecological footprint assessment and lifestyle analysis;
- Strategic questioning and critical thinking;
- Creative thinking, values and visioning and
- Goal setting and action planning for lifestyle changes and projects.

The cost is between \$50 and \$200, including food and accommodation. Visit Willoughby Council's website — [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au) — for further details and an application form.

**Samantha Taranto**

## Haven Amphitheatre



Professor Higgins said to Eliza Doolittle, "The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain," and it occasionally falls on the Haven Amphitheatre as well." Unfortunately, our wonderful Music Festival

on 2-4 September was rained out for two of the three concerts.

The very fortunate residents and friends who attended Friday night's concert, *Rhythm and Blues With Soul*, were treated to some of the

finest musicianship ever presented at The Haven. The two Graemes, Waldrop and Jesse, plus orchestra, performed superbly, accompanied by vocalist Dee Taylor. Next morning, word of mouth was spreading rapidly, with PRD Realty being besieged with requests for tickets for the remaining shows. The Haven was expecting to have its best event ever, both artistically and financially.

Then, as the Saturday concert was scheduled to commence, gentle rain began to fall. The committee consulted the weather radar on Richard Newton's mobile, and willed the red images of rain to move south, missing us

and cooling down Northbridge. Alas, nature won, and the concert was cancelled after a tantalising sample of what might have been by the two Graemes. At the theatre, the trees were happy, but the committee and musicians grumpy. The rain continued into Sunday. The Haven Amphitheatre committee will try to reschedule the concerts for the New Year. We hope to see you there!

This spring and summer, the Haven is hosting a Fitness Team with an array of training sessions for the whole family (see page 4).

*Howard Rubie*

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## 80 Years Serving the Community

On 10 November 1925, the residents of Castlecrag came together in the basement of the recently-opened shops (now the Griffin Centre) for what was to be the inaugural meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association. Edgar William Herbert was elected president and Walter Burley Griffin served on the executive committee.

In celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) we remember its many achievements and those who have contributed to its proud record.

**Edgar Herbert** was a pioneer of physical education in Australia and, while working with the YMCA in Melbourne, he and his wife had become friends of the Griffins. When Herbert came to Sydney in 1923 to work with G Z Dupain (father of Max) at the Institute of Physical Education, he made his home in Castlecrag. The Herbert family initially lived in the King O'Malley house on the site of the present hospital, then moved to the end of Edinburgh Road. Herbert served as president of the CPA until 1929 and was also an instigator of the Community Circle.

**Edgar Deans**, who arrived in Castlecrag in 1928 as Secretary to the GSDA, was another key figure in the Progress Association. He served as its president for four years and as secretary for 13 years. He was also secretary and president of the Willoughby Federated Progress Associations and a Mayor of Willoughby.

The early concerns addressed by the Association included the establishment of 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 for the peninsula and tree planting along Edinburgh Road.

Over the period 1944 to 1964, the Progress Association 'retired' in favour of the Castlecrag and East Willoughby Community Advancement Co-operative Society Ltd, which was formed to raise funds for and build a Community Centre. The centre was opened in 1947 and the Castlecrag Community Library opened its doors in 1951. Both facilities continue to serve the needs of our community.

The resurrected Progress Association arranged for the construction of the Griffin Memorial Fountain in 1965 and initiated tree planting at the shopping centre. By the 1970s, traffic issues were of increas-

ing concern in the community and the Association led a successful campaign to stop the construction of the proposed Warringah Freeway along the Northern Escarpment of the peninsula. Traffic calming measures and the need for a right-hand turn signal at Eastern Valley Way were dominant issues in a survey of residents conducted in 1981.



The Griffin Memorial Fountain designed by local sculptor Bim Hilder was a Progress Association initiative. The sculpture is shown here being moved to the site in 1965.

Photo: Harry Fox

The CPA commenced a community newsletter, *Castlecrag News* in 1974 and this became *The Crag* in March 1978. It has maintained a regular production schedule since then.

More recent community events sponsored by the Progress Association, notably the Castlecrag Community Fairs, and its achievements are being chronicled in the history series. The Association will be celebrating its 80th birthday at a dinner to be held at Christine's Restaurant — see page 1.

**Bob McKillop**

**Note:** The timeline 'History of Castlecrag' series will be resumed in the next issue, commencing with the campaign to save the Castlecrag Infants' School.



**Richardson & Wrench**

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### Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2005

I wish to renew / apply for membership of the CPA Inc., and enclose payment for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per person; \$5 per student)

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