



Community Notice Board

Community Organisations

Castlecrag Progress Association:

'Representing the Castlecrag Community'

General Meetings:

Tuesday 27 February (see page 7); 8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre.

Committee Meetings:

8 March; 5 April. Contact details on page 2.

Meet the Candidates:

Wednesday 28 February at 8pm

Featuring all Candidates for the seat of Willoughby in the March State election. The Castlecrag and Northbridge PAs are jointly sponsoring this event at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Road, Northbridge (see page 5).

Walter Burley Griffin Society:

Federation Walk, Sunday 18 March, 10am-12.30pm.

Guided tour of Castlecrag led by Professor James Weirick past Griffin houses, through the reserves and walkways to the Haven Amphitheatre, with explanations of the vision and planning principles followed by Walter and Marion Griffin in planning their idealised urban community. Tour price \$25 - booking essential; Phone Kerry McKillop 9958 4516.

Community/Heritage Week Events

Italian Rendezvous:

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra concert, Friday 2 March at 8pm and Sunday 4 March, at Willoughby Civic Centre, 409 Victoria Avenue Chatswood. The Symphony's buoyant 2007 Season Premier featuring Shumann's married life and Mendelssohn's colours of the Italian countryside. Tickets \$5.50 to \$35; bookings 9777 7547.

Sydney Opera Society:

'Barber of Seville', lecture by David Garrett, 2pm, Saturday 3 March at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Cnr Laurel and High Streets, Willoughby. The following lecture, 'Abduction from the Seraglio' by Murray Dahm, will be on Saturday, 10 April at the same time and place, thence first Saturday of each month from May. Visitors are welcome. Information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851 or Nancy Fleming 9958 3110.

Old Chatswood Ramble:

Sunday 4 March at 12.30pm from Cnr Johnson and Neridah Streets. Guided walking tour to see lifestyle and early town planning combined in the conservation zone, a short to medium length walk including many Trust listed homes, followed up with a visit to the Willoughby District Historical Society Museum in Johnson Street. Cost \$5; Bookings 9419 7354 or 9419 5851.

Willoughby District Historical Society Museum:

Open Day at the Museum, 58 Johnson Street Chatswood, Sunday 4 and 11 March, 1300-1600. Fascinating displays showing the life style of early times in the district housed in the Federation house Boronia. Admission by donation.

Willoughby Seniors' Variety Concert:

Tuesday 6 March, 1.30-3pm at Willoughby Civic Centre, 409 Victoria Avenue Chatswood. A variety of talented performers, including the Police Band, the U3A Choir and Ron Sinclair on the Wurlitzer organ. Tickets \$4; phone 9777 7975 for information.

Pub Tales:

Sunday 11 March - A magical day tour around four of Willoughby's heritage pubs with local history experts and identities explaining the history of the pub, its community and surrounds. Phone 9777 1000 for further information.

Willoughby City Harmony Day:

Wednesday 21 March, Civic Centre Lawns. Morning tea and entertainment to celebrate the Willoughby community's success as a multi-cultural society. Phone 9777 1000 for further information.

The Community Notice Board is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

Please contact editors@castlecrag.org.au with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.

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THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CASTLECRAG PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION INC.

Sixty two years serving the community

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February 2007

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MEMBERSHIP:

Progress Association Membership renewals for 2007 are now due. Please see page 3 for membership renewal form.

OUR NEXT MEETING:

PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRE A community fire unit

Castlecrag Progress Association
General meeting, 8pm,
27 February 2007

At the Community Centre, The Rampart (down laneway near intersection with The Postern). Please see article on Page 7 for further details.

All residents are encouraged to come along and learn about this important topic.

NOTE: Residents interested in a local BABY-SITTING service are invited to attend a meeting from 6.30-7.30pm and to stay for the Bushfire presentation.

Joyce Florence Batterham 1916-2006



Activist for equality and peace, mentor and respected elder of Castlecrag, Life Member of the Castlecrag Progress Association

'Cappy'. She was soon enmeshed in the local community and was influenced by Walter and Marion Griffin and their colleagues. Later she returned to Sydney, where she met Bob Batterham and they were married in 1941.

During the War, Bob and Joyce became residents of Castlecrag, initially living with Rawson and Nancy Deans in the Fishwick House in The Citadel. Joyce and Bob became active members of the community and their four children - Robin, Tim, Dan and Lindy - grew up in the suburb. Joyce's secretarial skills contributed significantly to community organizations in her suburb.

One of Castlecrag's last links with its 'early days' was severed on 16 November 2006 with the death of Joyce Batterham. Just six months after joining with Joyce on the occasion of her 90th birthday (*The Crag* 160, p.2), a large number of her family, friends and colleagues came together again at the Community Centre on 24 November to 'remember, celebrate and mourn' her remarkable life.

Born at Rockdale on 16 May 1916, Joyce was the fifth of Absalom and Annie Deans' six children. Both Absalom and Annie grew up in English families in which progressive Christian concern for the disadvantaged was a dominant theme. Absalom was ordained as a Congregational minister a month after their marriage and the young couple set out for the Western Australian goldfields as missionaries. Absalom was subsequently posted to Rockdale in Sydney, and then the family moved to Melbourne where they became associated with Walter and Marion Griffin. Joyce completed her schooling there, then went on to excel at Business College but was also strongly influenced by the values she gained from her parents. Her father, recognised as a leader in the community, preached tolerance and was greatly esteemed for his friendliness. Annie instilled in her daughter a recognition that women's power rests in influence, not authority.

As reported in *The Crag* (160, p.2), Joyce came to Castlecrag in late 1931 to stay with her eldest brother Edgar, who had been appointed Secretary of the Greater Sydney Development Association, and his wife

During the War, Castlecrag was a small suburb with four shops, an hourly bus service to the city, little street lighting, no medical services, no sanitary system and certainly no school. In 1944, Joyce joined with Frank Duncan to establish the Castlecrag & East Willoughby Community Advancement Co-operative Society Ltd to raise money for a community centre. Joyce was setting out on her lifelong involvement in Castlecrag community affairs. As secretary to the co-operative, she worked tirelessly mobilising people to run artists' fairs, prepare afternoon teas and make Christmas toys to raise money for the project. It was therefore a proud moment for Joyce when her efforts became reality in

... continued on page 2

CASTLECRAG Community Fair 3 June 2007

- Helpers wanted -

Phone Simone on 9405 6040

Community groups and others
wishing to book stalls,
please contact Simone at
simone_selby@hotmail.com

Do you have *Trash or Treasure*
for the Progress Association stall?
Please put suitable items aside NOW
- details in April issue of *The Crag*.

BE INFORMED! HAVE YOUR SAY! GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

emails to the CPA:
info@castlecrag.org.au

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

COMMITTEE 2006-2007

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Letters to the Editor are welcome.

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Joyce Florence Batterham *continued from page 1*

November 1947 with the official opening of the Community Centre. Its function was expanded in 1951 with the opening of the Castlecrag Community Library. Joyce remained a tireless worker for the Centre, serving as a volunteer at the library and as secretary for the Community Centre Management Committee into her eighties.

Joyce's other great passion was lobbying for the establishment of the Castlecrag Infants' School. The post-war boom had seen a rapid increase in the suburb's population and Joyce and others' efforts were rewarded with the official opening of the school on 30 June 1950. It was to become a centre for Infant education and community life for generations of Castlecrag families. Accordingly, when the government moved to close the school at the end of 1989 Joyce's deep sense of social justice was aroused and, along with her daughter Lindy, played an important role for the next five years in the community's fight to retain the school. Through the family's union links 'green bans' were placed on the site (which opened the door for many other threatened school communities) preventing the Liberal Government from selling the site which they had rezoned to allow up to 64 townhouses to be built. Joyce was always waving a placard with her little granddaughters in the many demonstrations organised by the SOS*Crag group, their position vindicated today with overcrowding at surrounding public schools, and lots of young families living in the suburb.

The Castlecrag Progress Association recognised Joyce's work by awarding her life membership. She was a regular at PA

meetings until recent years, with a highlight being her special addresses to Association meetings and the dinner on 18 November 2005 (*The Crag* 158, p.3).

The many family, friends and colleagues at Joyce's beloved Community Centre on 24 November heard moving presentations on these and other elements of a very full and productive life. Peter Watson, the former Archbishop of Melbourne, was an effective manager of proceedings. Margo Watson (nee Deans) spoke of the Deans parents and their influences on their children. Nancy Deans covered Joyce's early years in Castlecrag, highlighting Joyce's steadfast, courageous, loyal and brave character. Joyce's daughter Lindy, through cousin Cathy, told of the family's deep sense of respect and loss and concluded with a poem by the late Oogeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker), a colleague of Joyce and Bob. Kim Batterham highlighted how she had been a point of reference in many people's lives that was unchanging. Kate Westoby outlined Joyce's many contributions to the Castlecrag community, while her longstanding friend, Jack Munday, noted the link between the progressive Christian values of the Deans family and socialist ideals. He spoke of the wide range of people who loved and respected Joyce and noted how all those present had been enriched by her idealism and consistency. The selection of Paul Robeson's rendition of 'Old Man River' and music and song by Jeannie Lewis and Peter Winkler made strong contributions to the 'Celebration of Joyce's Life'.

The Editors



Preparing for BUSHFIRE

Castlecrag has a wonderful legacy of bushland reserves, and conserving and enjoying the bushland and its creatures are part of the delight of living here. But as all Australians know, our warm summers can bring the risk of bushfires.

Are you ready with a plan of action should there ever be a bushfire near your house? Do you have a kit of essentials ready in a convenient place? Have you considered minimising flammable items around your house? If a bushfire comes, would you stay or go? Who would you call?

All these and many other bushfire questions will be addressed at the next General Meeting of the Progress Association at 8pm on Tuesday 27th February 2007, by a speaker from the NSW Fire Brigades.

We have also asked the Fire Brigades to discuss the possible formation of a Community Fire Unit (CFU) for Castlecrag. CFUs have been formed in nearby areas including Middle Cove and Castle Cove. NSW currently has 265 Community Fire Units with a total of around 4,550 members, and these members are drawn from all walks of life.

Community fire units (CFUs) are volunteer teams of local residents trained to safeguard their homes during a bushfire, until the emergency services can get there. The aim of the CFU program is to reduce the impact of bushfires on the community and to protect life and property from bushfires.

Units are provided with uniforms for all members, trailers or cabinets containing basic firefighting equipment, and initial

training by local NSWFB firefighters. One of the aims of CFUs is to build community capability and resilience in order to increase their preparedness to cope with bushfires and other emergencies.

Some general bushfire safety tips

1 Follow your bushfire survival plan

Sheltering safely in the home depends upon:

- The house being well prepared
- Residents being mentally and physically able to cope with the smoky, stressful conditions
- The house being located in a defensible position

If unsure about any of these factors, evacuate well before the fire arrives.

If you have decided to self-evacuate, do so early. If you decide to stay, be well prepared.

2 Be prepared to be evacuated

NSW Police or emergency services personnel may order you to evacuate. You must obey, so be prepared and have your pets and valuables packed and ready to go.

3 Have a portable radio

You should keep a portable radio and torch in the home in case the electricity supply fails. Listen to the radio for emergency advice broadcasts.

4 Check with your neighbours

Check if your neighbours need assistance, especially those that may be physically impaired.

5 Prepare your home

Close all doors and block all spaces beneath doors with wet towels or blankets. If possible, block your gutters and fill with water. If you have an LPG cylinder, point the relief vent away from the house.

Lorraine Cairnes

WE'LL FOLLOW UP THE NSW FIRE BRIGADE'S PRESENTATION WITH MORE INFORMATION IN 'THE CRAG' TO HELP YOU PREPARE AND PLAN FOR BUSHFIRES.

GARDEN NOTE: Dead-heading time for Agapanthus

Now is the time for gardeners to remove the seeding heads of all Agapanthus. This species, while producing lovely blue or white garden flowers in summer, has become a serious bushland weed in many parts of Australia including the Blue Mountains and Pittwater areas. A native of South Africa, Agapanthus is a vigorous perennial, and each flower produces many small black hard-coated seeds. If flower heads are allowed to run to seed, the seeds can be carried into bushland by wind, birds or water, and germinate there. It has dense clumping roots capable of displacing all other vegetation. In bushland, Agapanthus quickly spreads down drainage lines.

ACTION NEEDED: Please cut off all dead heads now, before they produce seed, and dispose of the heads in the green-waste bins. The bushland will thank you for your consideration!

Lorraine Cairnes

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The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag

February 2007
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performed by the RAW-EM Theatre Company

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Our Centenary Federation Project



The Creek in Retreat Reserve in flood on the morning of 2 January, 2007
Lorraine Cairnes photo.

The project initiated by the Castlecrag Progress Association in early 2001 to plant trees along Edinburgh Road to mark the Centenary of Federation, progressed significantly during December 2006. As outlined in *The Crag* No.135 (February 2001, p.3) the idea for the project came from the key role that Walter Burley Griffin played in the design and construction of our national capital, the symbol of the Federation of the Australian colonies. Accordingly, the Progress Association proposed to Willoughby City Council that locally indigenous trees be planted along Edinburgh Road to form a living green sculpture. This would be a memorial to Castlecrag's association with the Griffins and an acknowledgement of the significance of our natural environment. Several meetings were held with Council

officers on the project and a list of suitable tree species was agreed. Implementation dragged on, however. In October 2005, *The Crag* reported that the Edinburgh Road tree planting had been inaugurated by the Mayor, with a number of Banksias being planted along Edinburgh Road near Stoker Playground (No. 157, p.1). Another lull in activity followed, but in December last, contractors arrived in force and quickly planted 20 Eucalyptus trees, which appear to be two species, one of which is probably haemastoma (scribbly gum), and a dozen *Banksia serrata* (Old Man Banksia). It is also noted that residents have planted trees in the nature strip, including specimens of *Banksia integrifolia* and *B. ericifolia*, as well as non-indigenous trees.

We also note that the small reserve at the corner of Edinburgh Road and The Citadel

has recently been cleaned up and a range of additional locally indigenous trees and shrubs have been planted. In January 1986, local residents planted shrubs here in memory of Roma Hilder and other residents who had played a part in the cultural and environmental life of the Castlecrag community. It is pleasing to see it again in such excellent condition.

The Castlecrag Progress Association expresses its thanks to our Ward Councillors and the Council staff responsible for implementing this project for their efforts in bringing it to this stage. The new trees are well advanced, but they need plenty of water during their initial growing period. Residents with a new tree outside their place are encouraged to water it on a regular basis over the coming year.

For the Centenary project, Willoughby City Council proposed to use Banksias in locations where taller trees might interfere with the overhead cables. The continued presence of these unsightly cables remains a major constraint to realising the community's vision of a 'Federation Avenue' of fine trees providing a living green sculpture as the centrepiece of Castlecrag. Many readers will recall that in 1996 community action stopped Optus Vision adding to the overhead congestion in the Griffin Conservation Area with additional bundled cables on the poles and a Wires Underground Committee was established to pursue options to underground cabling in Castlecrag in accordance with Griffin's vision. Perhaps it is time to reactivate this initiative?

Editors

Martha's

breakfast lunch dinner
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(Sunday to 3pm only; closed Tuesdays)

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Community Bytes

Sally's Bookshop

Most residents will be aware that we now have an excellent bookshop located at Shop 4 in the 'Griffin Centre'. The bookshop, gallery and art supplies business has come to Castlecrag from Gordon, where it operated for 25 years. Sally Crawford and her friendly staff – Jenny, Steve and Alex – have now settled into their new surroundings at Castlecrag and have come to appreciate our 'special place'. Sally's Bookshop specialises in children's books, but also has an excellent range of books catering for all ages and interests. We note that a range of Castlecrag residents have been checking their local bookshop out and we are sure that all readers of *The Crag* will join with us in wishing Sally and her team all the best in their new location. Further details are provided in the advertisement on page 2.

Castlecrag Uniting Church

Meditation: Can you remember the last time you sat and enjoyed time in complete silence? Right here in Castlecrag you have the opportunity to 'sit and be still'. You can do just that, free and unchallenged, on Friday mornings at 9.15am in the little, peaceful Uniting Church at 12 Charles Street where Christian Meditation takes place, shared by anyone who finds the quiet conducive to just 'being'. We are guided by the words of Mother Teresa: "The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to touch souls."

If meditation is not for you, try Sunday mornings from 8.45am when there is a lot more activity as warmly welcoming members get together to worship, and enjoy the company and thoughts of others.

MOMO Art

Further to our report in *The Crag* No. 161, Lyndsey Hunter has advised that her role is that of 'curator' of the small art gallery at Momo Interiors. The proprietor is Rosemary Macey, while OJ Rushton has replaced Lyndsey at Momo Art. This will continue to feature a new exhibition by a distinctive artist each month, with artist and sculptor Sandra Marker currently featured in her *Shadows* Exhibition during February 2007.

Castlecrag Community Centre

The development application for extensions to the Castlecrag Community Centre was placed on public exhibition in late 2006. This covers an external terrace at the rear of the building, the water tank reported in *The Crag* No. 161, steps, paths and new storage cupboards. The Castlecrag Progress Association formally wrote to Council on 16 December 2006 expressing its strong support for this application, provided that there is sufficient space in the new storage cupboards to accommodate all tables, chairs and the lifting device currently stored in the current storage shed. Work will commence on the new extensions shortly. The many residents who attended the celebration of Joyce Batterham's remarkable life (see Page 1) were impressed at the improvements that have been made at the Community Centre, particularly the new pavilion and landscaping of the playground to the east of the building. There were many nostalgic comments about the 'tough old days' when the speakers recalled their days at the kindergarten when they had to make do with inferior facilities!

Revive Fitness Studio

Further changes at our local shopping centre occurred in November 2006 with the opening of the Revive Fitness Studio in the basement of the Griffin Centre next to Castlecrag Cellars. These premises have been used by a number of restaurants over the years, the latest being Christine's Lebanese Restaurant. The Castlecrag studio is the second to be opened by Brad Monks and Bas Fares, who aim to provide a community-based approach to fitness in small centres offering a more friendly and personalised service than that available in larger complexes. The Revive Fitness Studio is managed by Brad and offers group fitness classes, programmed workouts, and health assessment and personal training. Childcare is available at the centre.

Vandalism Again

We have received a number of expressions of outrage that vandals had defaced the pedestal for the bust of Walter Burley Griffin at the shops during the week of 15 January. Willoughby Council responded promptly and removed the offending matter.



Ready to be Enchanted?

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag

23, 24, 25 February and 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 March 2007

See Shakespeare's most loved comedy the way he intended!
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A Midsummer Night's Dream is the first co-production between RAW-EM Theatre Co. and The Haven Amphitheatre Committee, Castlecrag. Julie McKay, one of the producers behind RAW-EM, is confident that this production will build on RAW-EM's demonstrated ability to deliver enjoyable productions. Berynn Schwerdt rejoins RAW-EM to direct A Midsummer Night's Dream. Berynn is NIDA trained and brings wide and varied experience to this production.

The start time for all performances is 7.30pm.

As there is no parking at The Haven Amphitheatre, a free continuous shuttle bus operates from 6.30pm onwards from the corner of Raeburn Avenue and Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag.

Adults \$30, Concession cardholders \$25, Students \$20, Children under 12 Free.
Groups of 6, get 1 ticket free. A scrumptious supper is also available.

Bookings can be made at:

Roger Page and Partners, 100 Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag p: 9958 0124 f: 9958 0330
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Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2007

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Isobel Mary Jack 1909-2006

A long-standing Castlecrag resident, Miss Isobel Jack, passed away at Mosman in October 2006. Isobel was born at Nambucca Heads on 9 January 1909, the daughter of a Scottish 'ship's engineer', who worked on the Langley Brothers steamship Fitzroy. Tragedy struck the family when the Fitzroy sank off Cape Hawke on 26 June 1921 in high seas with heavy loss of life, including Isobel's father. In those days there was no pension, no insurance and no social security – the tragedy transformed the lives of Isobel, her mother and sister.

They moved to the Sydney suburb of Burwood where Mrs Jack kept the small family going by selling charity tickets door to door. Isobel gained entry to Sydney Girls' High School and was able to continue her studies to gain a Diploma of Education at the Teacher's College. She was posted to Cooma during the Depression, as a teacher. Isobel became the 'bread winner' of the family and, through diligent saving, the close-knit family was able to move to a house in the rapidly expanding suburb of Castlecrag in the early 1950s. In 1956 and 1957, Isobel served as the working principal at the Castlecrag Infants' School.

Editors

Castlecrag Baby-Sitting

There are many in our community who need, or could offer, baby-sitting in the local area. If you are interested, please come to an informal discussion over a cup of tea, to be convened before the next general meeting of the Progress Association.

WHEN? 6.30pm – 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 February 2007

WHERE? The Community Hall, The Rampart (down driveway to parking area, off The Rampart near intersection with The Postern)

WHO? Anyone who is seeking local babysitters or who could offer babysitting services.

Castlecrag residents honoured



Howard Rubie receiving his Willoughby Citizenship of the Year Award from the Mayor Bob McKillop photo.

Well-known Castlecrag identity Howard Rubie was named as Willoughby City's 'Citizen of the Year' at the Australia Day ceremony in Chatswood on 26 January. A film and TV producer, director, cinematographer and winner of many international awards, Howard has lived in Castlecrag for 35 years and has been active in community affairs during this period, particularly in his role as President of the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee. Howard is a past President of the Progress Association and has served on the Committee for many years.

A large contingent of Castlecrag residents was present at the Willoughby City Australia Day Ceremony on the Civic Centre lawns to see the presentation of the award. The citation stated that Howard received the award for:

Long standing and continuous commitment and service to the Castlecrag and Middle Harbour community through various community groups, most notably the Haven Amphitheatre, where he has led the renaissance of the space into a living community theatre.

Matthew Keighery won the 'Bushcare Golden Spade' award at the annual Volunteer Bushcarer's Christmas barbecue held in December 2006. Matthew, who is Convenor of the Keep Reserve Bushcare Group, and is also involved in a number of other Castlecrag Community groups, gained the award for his contribution, participation and enthusiasm in the Volunteer Bushcare program.

Councillor Adrian Cox



Council News

Winter Sports Traffic

Early in 2006 Shore school put in a DA for a new training field adjacent to Alpha Road, which was passed with a condition that it also be used for parking (220 spaces) for four games per year. Work has yet to commence on this project - but it is possible that fill from the Market Gardens (Willoughby Paddocks) site may transfer directly across to bring the level up to the existing playing fields. In the latest DA by Shore, passed on 11 December 2006, this parking usage was increased to cover all 'home games' during winter, ie when the main sporting fixture is at Northbridge. This will vary from year to year, but is an increase on the four games and provides the surrounding residents (of which I am one) with greater relief.

Men's Shed Set to Open

Sailors Bay Ward will have the honour and privilege of having Willoughby City's first 'Men's Shed'. The Shed is located at the Northbridge RSL Memorial Hall on Sailors Bay Road near the Northbridge Golf Club. The 'shed' will be a fully equipped workshop where skilled and unskilled people can pursue woodworking and craft projects, or simply just pass time with other like-minded people. The facility will be managed by Uniting Care and has been partially funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Although open to all people in the region, however a priority of service is to be given to residents of the Willoughby LGA.

Seniors Week

Seniors Lifestyle Choice Information Day scheduled for the 3 March at the Dougherty Community Centre. This will present a raft of useful information for those approaching the decisions on their futures in senior years.



LETTERS to the Editor

Parking at the Castlecrag Shops

In response to your article on the above parking [*The Crag* No. 161, p.3], I would suggest that Willoughby City Council considers removing three car parks in Edinburgh road outside the cafes on the south side and widen the footpath. Then we could use the bus stop car park for shoppers as you suggest. The parking on that south side would end then up near the start of the flower shop. That would make it easier for the buses and traffic generally going west I would suspect. That would free up the footpath on the sunny side of the road, which is currently a tight space for pedestrians and create a much more people friendly shopping precinct. Trees could be planted in some of that new footpath space. Look at how much nicer Chatswood is with wider footpaths.

James Hamilton,
The Bulwark

Editors: This letter takes up the wider issue of design improvements for the entry to Castlecrag. As reported in earlier issues of The Crag, improvements to streetscape in the shopping area in order to attract more customers to our local businesses was an objective of the Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Committee established by Council in 1992. From this, the Progress Association ran a series of workshops during 1993, which identified the concept of the 'Castlecrag Gateway', being a series of improvements to the streetscape at the shopping centre. Council's Traffic Study for Edinburgh Road and Sunnyside Crescent, undertaken in 1998-99 proposed kerbside nibs in the shopping precinct linked by a brick paved threshold in accordance with the 'Castlecrag Gateway' concept and this received strong community support. This was to be implemented when the pavement was next upgraded. This occurred in November 2006, but evidently the agreed proposals of 1999 were overlooked!

Home security

I write to advise of an incident in the local area that occurred in October 2006. While working in my backyard on a Sunday I went inside briefly, leaving the backdoor unlocked. There was a knock on the front door (which I was unable to answer immediately) and then, a few minutes later, my dog started barking and I heard the back door open. I went to check and found a young male Caucasian, who was a stranger to me, standing in my kitchen. He claimed that his mother had sent him on an errand to see a lady in the street, but he had come into the wrong house. On further questioning, his story was clearly a fabrication and, after the young man had been escorted off my premises, the matter was reported to the police.

This information may be of interest to the readers of our community newsletter, particularly the elderly, and a good reason to keep back doors secured even during daylight hours.

Robert Wilson,
Moratai Crescent

Operation Caring Christmas

Once again the St James Church community were busy baking Christmas cakes and festive cookies for home delivery in December. Each Christmas we try to bring a little joy and love to those in our community who are shut-in, disabled, elderly, sick or lonely. This year in true Christmas spirit we visited 41 homes and were very warmly received.

Next Christmas we will be on the job again, so if you can assist in this very worthwhile community project by helping with the cake baking or going on the visiting team, please contact June on 9958 4739. It is a very rewarding experience – you would love it! If you know anyone who would appreciate a visit and present, please let us know.

June Raymond

Meet the Candidates Meeting

A Meet the Candidates meeting will be held at St Marks Hall, Malacoota Road, Northbridge at 8pm on Wednesday, 28 February. Candidates standing for the State Election on 24 March for the seat of Willoughby have been invited to attend. Each candidate will be allowed a pre-determined time to present their policies for this electorate, then the floor will be thrown open to questions.

The Castlecrag and South Willoughby Progress Associations are joining with the Northbridge Progress Association in sponsoring the meeting, which is also being supported by the local churches in the area. Please come along and inform yourself on the candidates and their platforms. Refreshments will be served.

Malcolm Lye, NPA, and Editors

St James Church Sign



The St James Church community is proud of the new sign now displayed outside the entry. The custom-made hand-carved design complements the wonderful Bim Hilder sculpture, depicting the life of James, which is featured on the main vestry wall.

'Danthonia' designed and crafted the new complementary sign facing Edinburgh Road. Please come by and have a look.

June Raymond

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