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OUR NEXT MEETING:

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 26 August
7.30pm for 8.00pm

Advance Australia...Where?

Guest Speaker:

Hugh Mackay,
Social reseracher and novelist

Your chance to hear and engage with a leading social commentator and writer, who also has a special attachment to Castlecrag. Refreshments will be served.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED to the Community Centre, The Rampart (down laneway near intersection with The Postern).

Hugh Mackay at Castlecrag



Hugh Mackay, our special guest on 26 August.

Well-known social researcher and novelist Hugh Mackay will be the guest speaker at the General Meeting of the Progress Association at the Castlecrag Community Centre on Tuesday 26 August. Hugh, who spent his childhood in Castlecrag, will be speaking about the main themes in his recent book *Advance Australia...Where?* There will be a 'Question and Answer' session with the audience following the presentation.

Hugh Mackay has made a lifelong study of the attitudes and behaviour of Australians.

He is the author of eleven books, including five bestsellers in the field of social analysis, and four novels. His novel *Winter Close* is set in Castlecrag and was launched, in conjunction with The Constant Reader bookshop, at the Community Centre in 2002. It provides numerous insights into Australians' relationships with the suburbs and each other. Hugh is currently working on its sequel which is expected to be out early in 2009.

In recognition of his pioneering work in social research, Hugh has been awarded honorary doctorates by Charles Sturt, Macquarie and NSW universities. He is a fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and received the University of Sydney's 2004 Alumni Award for community service. He is a former deputy chairman of the Australia Council, a former chairman of trustees of Sydney Grammar School, and was the inaugural chairman of the ACT Government's Community Inclusion Board. Hugh was a newspaper columnist for almost 30 years and now writes occasionally for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The West Australian*. He is also a frequent broadcaster on ABC radio.

All residents are welcome, so please come along and enjoy a good night out with a stimulating and engaging speaker. Refreshments will be provided. See the box below for details.

Bob McKillop

Enhancing our 'gateway'

Editors: *These ideas were put forward by David Scobie to the new Northbridge & Castlecrag Chamber of Commerce. We think they provide a good basis for further discussion on the elements that might improve the attractiveness of our Castlecrag shopping village as the 'gateway' to Castlecrag and David has kindly updated the article for use in The Crag. We welcome your ideas on this important subject.*

The following ideas are put forward as part of a broader strategy to improve the Castlecrag and Northbridge business precincts. They are proposed in the context of the current consultations regarding the Northbridge Plaza MasterPlan. The premise is that with any further development of the Plaza, it will be essential that the surroundings are improved to meet increased demand, to satisfy the concerns

from local residents about their immediate environs and to take advantage of any improved retail and business opportunities that may arise. It is also likely that the tenant mix within the Plaza will change thus opening up possibilities for a more diverse range of business uses within the traditional shopping areas.

The theme binding the proposals is that the Northbridge and Castlecrag shopping areas should continue to develop as villages with their own unique and distinctive character. Suggested improvements include:

- Pavement finishes to be non-slip and tactile, with an attractive appearance and mobility curbs;
- Improved street lighting for both traffic and ambient pedestrian areas, including protected under-awning spaces;

Continued on Page 9

THE CRAG

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.

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Community Bytes

Pam's Café

The Crag welcomes the new owners of Pam's Café, Lisa and Cornel Chow, to our community. Lisa and Cornel formerly operated a café business in Smith Street in the East Chatswood industrial area, which they sold three years ago to take a break and be full-time parents to their three children. They have lived in Middle Cove for 18 years and love the area because of its strong sense of community. In their new venture at Castlecrag they hope to build on the friendships they have established in the area and foster new ones. Patrons at the café will notice that it is business as usual at Pam's with the same staff still providing efficient and friendly service.

Honours for Castlecrag residents

Congratulations to Professor Geoffrey Duggin who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to renal medicine and toxicology in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year. Professor Duggin was honoured for his medical work as a clinician and researcher, and for more than 30 years of work for professional associations. He founded the toxicology unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1980 and headed the unit until 2007. He also worked as a senior renal physician at RPA Hospital for more than 30 years.

We also report that Harold Spies has been inducted into the Allen Strom Hall of Fame where his name will be inscribed on a shield and on permanent display. The award was established by the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) in memory of the late Allen Strom's untiring dedication to conservation

and education in New South Wales. Nominees for this award need to have made a constant and invaluable contribution to the environment over a number of years and to have displayed qualities of integrity, reliability and commitment. Harold has been actively involved in conservation matters in Castlecrag and Willoughby for over 25 years, as a member and President of the Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS), a member of the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) and until last year a member of WEPA's Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Team; in addition he has been a tireless campaigner in many local environmental issues.

Big Morning Tea

The Castlecrag ladies committee for the 'Big Morning Tea' held on 22 May wish to thank the Castlecrag community for their most generous support in our fundraising efforts for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The tea was a great success, with over \$1500 raised for the foundation. We thank all the wonderful Castlecrag friends and neighbours who came to the event with all the cakes and biscuits – we appreciate your support, time and company!

The committee – Jill Moffatt, Dieder Phoon, Gloreen Goldin and Jennifer Kos – also extend their thanks to the following Castlecrag businesses for their most generous support in our fundraising efforts:

LJ Hooker, Richardson & Wrench, Dr R Barratt, Castlecrag Post Office, Swimaster Pool Shop, TravelPlan, Castlecrag Meats, Ganache Patisserie, Sydney Butcher Boys, Gourmet Source, Burley's Restaurant, Clipso, Vald'arno and Martha's Restaurant.

Jennifer Kos

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Community Bytes cont...

Sally's Bookshop

As residents will be aware, Sally's Bookshop closed on 30 June. The Castlecrag community is the poorer that our little shopping centre was unable to sustain a viable book-selling business. Sally has moved to a new home at Taree where her mother is busy implementing plans for her new life! I'm sure all Castlecrag residents will join the Progress Association in wishing Sally all the best in her future adventures.

Chamber of Commerce

Further to our report in the April issue of *The Crag*, the committee of the Northbridge & Castlecrag Chamber of Commerce is proceeding with incorporation of the new organisation. The purpose of the Chamber is to promote the local business districts of Northbridge and Castlecrag and to champion the interest of its members to key stakeholders, particularly local government. A contact database of 141 businesses in Northbridge and 53 in Castlecrag has been drawn up and membership promotional material is being developed for distribution to these organisations. Further information about the Chamber can be obtained from Marko Delatovic at the Northbridge Golf Club, phone 9958 6900.

Climate Change forum

On 29 May Gladys Berejiklian MP arranged a public forum at the Dougherty Community Centre at which Ms Louise Wilson, a local resident, writer and lecturer at UTS, presented an information session on 'Sustainability and Culture Change' covering such topics as the science, the evidence, and the impact of climate change. Louise had been trained by former US Vice President, Al Gore as a 'climate change messenger'. The presentation was followed by questions from the audience and discussion on various related matters.

Kidz Club

Building on the success of the January Children's Holiday Club held at St John's Church under the auspices of the Anglican Parish of East Willoughby (St James, Castlecrag and St Johns, East Willoughby), the July Club held on 10 and 11 July was attended by an increased number of children (44 on one day and 39 on the other). Pastoral Assistant Richard Sercombe and volunteers from both churches plan to hold another club in January 2009.

President's musings

Advance Australia...Where? is the title of the book published last Spring by Australia's most highly respected social researcher Hugh Mackay. He has forensically analysed ABS data and other quantitative and qualitative research to ask important questions: What will the next generation of children be like? Are we re-engaging with government policies, not just daily politics? Why are houses getting bigger while households get smaller?

Despite unprecedented prosperity, Hugh's research has identified widespread anxiety and depression, record levels of debt, and yearning for more meaning in our lives as key issues for Australians. Join in the discussion on these issues with Hugh, who will be our Guest Speaker at the next Community Meeting on Tuesday 26 August at 7.30pm.

The forthcoming local government election is an important event that will shape the future directions of our city. In this issue we are providing profiles of the candidates who had announced their intention to stand for election by 1 August as your guide to who is standing and what they stand for (see pages 6-7). Please put the 'Meet Your Council Candidates' evening in your diary. It will be held on Wednesday 3 September at Willoughby Public School at 7pm (for 7.30), before the Election Day 13 September. Come along to hear all candidates' proposals for how they intend to contribute to local council activities in Castlecrag, and the wider Willoughby City environs.

'Your blood's worth bottling!' Special thanks are extended to those Crag residents I met donating blood at the Plaza last month. The Red Cross constantly needs more blood, and not just the 'blue' variety. Its next collection there will be in October, so keep a lookout for notices or phone 131495.

In the February issue of *The Crag* I spoke of building a '2020 vision' for our community to replace myopic near-term goals. Your CPA always tries to forge past short term 'kerb and gutter' issues, and ask readers what sort of community and suburb you would like to grow here together. It was therefore pleasing to see that our new Prime Minister has also adopted the 'Australia 2020' concept to initiate long term strategizing at a national level (see www.australia2020.gov.au). Participants in the 2020 Summit report that it was an

uplifting experience and we hope that their combined knowledge, experience and visions for the future will help delineate key national issues and positive future directions to enrich debate then action on national and global issues.

We must not sit back, however, and expect this type of 'top-down' planning is all that is required. Each small community needs to do its own 'bottom-up' planning. For instance, where do you want this little peninsula of 1100 households to be in 2020? The next 12 years do not affect the age group that presently guides your Progress Association as much as it does those in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are possibly new to Castlecrag and may have been attracted here by the local 'vibe' as well as the geographical beauty, all of which have been developed and protected by older and past generations. You are often working long hours, raising young families, and paying off homes. Nevertheless the 'investment' of a few hours per month in an organisation like the Progress Association is actually an investment in your household (and house value).

Check out our website at www.castlecrag.org.au provide us with your ideas and feedback at info@castlecrag.org.au write an article or letter to *The Crag*, and come along to the General Meetings of the Progress Association and other community events to exchange views with others.

Bruce Wilson

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2008

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Northbridge Plaza update

Stage 1 of the Northbridge Plaza Masterplan process that undertook research into the opportunities and constraints of the site has been completed. This covered customer and market research, detailed traffic and transport studies, a review of land use controls and community consultation. The process will now move into Stage 2 which will develop and test possible design concepts and options.

The interim period between these stages has generated some public gesturing by various interested parties.

An article in *The Australian Financial Review* on 20 June quoted Louise Mason, the head of development for AMP Capital Shopping Centres, on the subject of 'planning a major development at Northbridge Plaza to expand the shopping centre and add 50 residential units.' She stated: 'There is an ability to grow retail space in the general Northbridge area by another 10,000 to 12,000 square metres'.

In response, *The Australian Financial Review* ran a follow-up article on 24 June based on a media release issued by the Northbridge Progress Association (NPA). It argued that a plan to more than double retail space would

fly in the face of Willoughby City Council's resolution in June 2007 that any retail expansion of the Plaza should be limited to approximately 10 per cent. The NPA said that the statement made to the media by AMP will seriously erode any remaining trust or confidence that the community has in AMP's intentions for the Plaza. It also makes a mockery of the two Masterplan committees and process established by Council late in 2007 and which have been operating in good faith since.

Ms Mason responded that AMP had given 'full attention' to the resolution on a 10 per cent retail increase in putting together its retail options. She claimed that the results of Stage 1 investigations showed a range of future development options should be considered in the second stage of the planning process. She stated that the AMP vision for Northbridge Plaza is for 'a mixed retail and residential development that incorporates community spaces and facilities, with safer parking and with traffic around the centre better managed'.

The Castlecrag Progress Association is closely monitoring the development at Northbridge. Its concern is the ongoing

viability of strip shopping centres that may be impacted by expansion of the Plaza, particularly our own village shopping facilities here in Castlecrag.

Bob McKillop

CragSitters

The next gathering for the *CragSitters* is scheduled for on Sunday 31 August at 3.30pm, again at Stoker Playground in Edinburgh Road. We cordially invite existing and new members to join us on the day.

It seems the Dads enjoyed their evening out a few months ago, so it's now the Mothers' turn for a night out. We will be organising a dinner in September. If you would like to either plan an outing or have any suggestions for future events we would be interested to hear from you.

New members, both families and babysitters are welcome to the group, so if you're a family who would like to find out more about the group or if you are interested in providing babysitting services, you can email us on cragitters@yahoo.com.au

Sharie Kennedy-Wren

Castlecrag Diva goes to London



Valda Wilson of Raeburn Avenue has been awarded the prestigious Rockend National Opera Studio London Scholarship and will take up the award next month. The scholarship, valued at \$82,000, will enable Valda to study at the National Opera Studio in London for 10 months.

Proud parents Bruce and Karen travelled to Melbourne in May to hear Valda perform with five other finalists at a public recital at Federation Hall in Melbourne in May. One of the judges, Robert Allman, noted that: 'Valda Wilson's win was based not just on her outstanding performance, but also on the workshop which showed her versatility and ability to take direction.'

Valda's inspiration for music was generated here in Castlecrag where she gained support and guidance from Christine Corrigan, her long-time piano and music theory teacher, Rodna Fitzsimons, who taught her piano and singing at the

Castlecrag Infants' School, and the flautist Judy Huxtable. Nancy Fleming of the Sydney Opera Society also provided support and guidance over the years, while the Haven Carols and 'Opera at the Haven' offered opportunities to develop her skills.

Valda is a graduate of the Diploma of Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she studied under Stephen Yalouris. She made numerous performances with the Conservatorium Opera School and with various Sydney amateur musical societies. Over the past three years Valda has performed in concerts throughout NSW and presented live recitals on radio 2MBS-FM as part of the Young Performers program. During 2008 she has been performing as Rosina in Opera Australia Schools' Company production of Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Editors

North Shore Times, 30 May 2008;
<http://valdawilson.com.au>

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Changes to Planning Legislation in NSW

Further to our report in *The Crag* No. 167, the controversial changes to planning legislation in NSW were passed by the Legislative Council in the early hours of 18 June. A motion to refer the legislation to a Parliamentary Inquiry, which had been requested by the Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW and many other organisations, was lost by just one vote.

Nevertheless, the debate in the Legislative Council resulted in the Government making some concessions to the laws in response to the concerns expressed by councils and communities throughout NSW. At the time of writing, details of these amendments were still not available on relevant Government websites. The Local Government & Shires Associations are encouraging all councils to commit to closely monitoring the impacts and to hold the government accountable. They will be working tirelessly over the coming months to influence the drafting of the regulations and ensure the community's concerns are still heard.

Over time there will be a variety of codes developed for the NSW Housing Code to 'streamline' the planning process, particularly the planning assessment steps,

to reduce complexities and delays in approving straightforward development applications.

Readers may also be aware that the Department of Planning placed a draft of the first of the NSW Housing Codes on public exhibition from 8 May to 4 July. The document for exempt and complying development covers single-storey dwellings on sites of 600m² or larger (and alterations and additions to these homes) and internal alterations to two-storey dwelling houses, as well as exempt development in residential and rural zones.

At this stage the code for complying development cannot be applied in heritage conservation areas, environmentally sensitive land such as scenic protection areas, flood prone areas or below foreshore building lines, on land that contains a heritage item or within the flame zone of bushfire prone land.

While implementation of the new codes will require changes to many Willoughby City Council processes, backed by training of administrative and professional staff, this first stage of the Codes is unlikely to have significant impact on residential development in Willoughby given the

relatively low number of new single storey houses expected to be constructed and the large proportion of the city where the Codes will not apply.

The Environmental Defender's Office has posted its submission regarding the NSW Housing Code for single-storey dwellings on its website. This submission contains a critique regarding the adequacy of environmentally sustainable design principles in the Code and sets out principles that need to be incorporated into the Code to achieve these principles. You can download the submission at: http://www.edo.org.au:80/edonsw/site/policy/080704complying_devs.php

Editors

CCC ?
2009

more clues in the next *Crag*

Willoughby District Historical Society

Are you interested in our local History? The Willoughby District Historical Society is seeking new members. The WDHS operates a museum in *Boronia*, 58 Johnson Street Chatswood, a federation style brick cottage built in 1912 and bequeathed to the Society as a museum in 1988 by Mrs Sonya Narelle Kirkham. It presents a fine collection of household items from the Inter-War era, material on Willoughby's industrial history, photographs and graphic material, including plans and advertisements for subdivisions planned by Walter Burley Griffin. The kitchen, which has been restored to its 1930s glory by Society volunteers, was officially opened by the Mayor of Willoughby, Pat Reilly, on 22 May. The museum is open 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 10am-4pm and 1st Sunday of every month 1.30pm-4pm; school tours and other groups are welcome

by appointment. Admission is by donation, except for the special 'Meccano Lives On' exhibition on 6 September (see Page 11).

The Society holds general meetings at 2pm on the first Monday of the month (except January) at the Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor Street Chatswood. These are addressed by guest speakers who cover an interesting range of historical subjects and afternoon tea is served. Visitors are most welcome. The WDHS has a weekend tour scheduled to Orange and Millthorpe on 11-12 October to meet with the historical societies in those centres and explore the historical sites. For information about the Society and membership, phone 9410 3203 during Museum opening hours, or call Mary Thom on 9419 5851 or Betty Doggett on 9417 4192. For information on the Orange-Millthorpe tour you can also contact Bob McKillop at 9958 4516.

Sustainability Street update

The Sugarloaf Sustainability Street group has now become Castlecrag Sustainability Street as a result of the folding of The Bulwark group. Rob Gibson of Willoughby City Council is the mentor for the group.

The street trees (*Eucalyptus gummifera*) planted in Sugarloaf Crescent by the Sustainability Street group are doing well, with just one loss due to vandalism. Currently the group is working towards a Solar Hot Water Expo. Plans are also being developed to create a native garden at the entrance of Sugarloaf Crescent.

Castlecrag Sustainability Street meets on the third Sunday of every month from 3.30pm to 5.30pm, in whichever house is offered for the occasion. Those attending are asked to bring a plate and the host/hostess provides tea and coffee. If required, Council can organise child care. For further information, please ring Gay or Harold on 9958 8569.

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS 13 September 2008

As events over recent years have demonstrated, local government remains the area of government that relates to communities and deals with the key issues of local concern. The effectiveness of our local government here in Willoughby depends, to a large extent, on the candidates we elect to our council every four years. The forthcoming local government elections on Saturday 13 September are therefore of importance to the residents of Castlecrag.

To assist you with your decision, we have asked candidates standing in the Sailors Bay Ward at this election to provide us with information about themselves and their platforms for the election. While nominations had not closed at the time The Crag went to press (closing date 13 August), we have obtained the following information from the candidates who have declared their intention to stand. We assume that these candidates will head respective 'tickets' or 'groups' of three individuals. When voting, the proportional representation system is used and you may vote above the line for the groups or below the line for individual candidates. You must vote for at least half the number of vacancies (three for each Ward and one for the mayoral vote).

In association with our fellow progress associations at Northbridge and South Willoughby, the Castlecrag Progress Association will be co-hosting a 'Meet the Candidates' event at the Willoughby Public School Hall on Wednesday 3 September, commencing at 7.30pm. Mayoral candidates and the lead candidate for each group will be given the opportunity to make a brief presentation on their platform and then residents will be invited to join in a 'Q&A' session. This is your opportunity to hear what the various candidates stand for and what they will bring to the role of councillor.

Sailors Bay Ward candidates

The following candidates have advised The Crag that they wish to stand and have provided the following profiles to an agreed format. We understand that they will each

be standing on a ticket with two others to ensure an 'above the line' place on the ballot paper, but details of running mates have yet to be finalised.



Adrian Cox

Adrian was elected as a Sailors Bay Ward Councillor in 2004 and has served as Deputy Mayor for the past two years. Adrian is an industrial designer and runs

his own design-based business. He and his wife Lucy have three children and have lived in Mowbray Place, South Willoughby for the past 10 years. Their two younger children attend Willoughby Public School, while the eldest has just started at Shore. The family is very much the driver of Adrian's activity outside Council and work, seeing him involved with Sea Scouts, coaching soccer (U7J) and getting about with the family on bikes.

Adrian's goals as a Councillor are family and community orientated. During the next Council term he aims to:

- Continue his close association with the Castlecrag community, both through his involvement with the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee and the Community Centre Management Committee, and as an effective representative for residents on Council matters.
- Work with Willoughby South residents and Progress Association with local issues including the refurbishment and adaptive reuse of the Griffin Incinerator, continue calming traffic related to Saturday sports and ensuring the Market Garden Park (Willoughby Paddocks) development delivers the promised community benefits.
- Ensure that the Master Plans for Northbridge, including Town Centre Master Plan and the Northbridge Oval Master Plan continue to be followed through, delivering enhanced sporting facilities and a vibrant village atmosphere in the town centre. Ensure that the Plaza

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

redevelopment does not sell the community short. He looks forward to the move of the Landers Branch Library into the former Anglican Church buildings.

- Keep Council at the forefront of sustainability in Willoughby and beyond. Willoughby City Council is a leader, not only in our community, but amongst other local government areas in sustainable practices. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go in so many areas; sustainable transport, cycleways, bushland preservation, energy consumption and generation, water conservation, etc.
- Civic Place – Adrian will ensure work to this exciting project is delivered on time and on budget.
- Culture – support the local arts community, whether through associated groups like the Willoughby Workshop Arts Centre and The Haven Amphitheatre.
- Sport and recreation facilities – continue to work toward creating new facilities, such as the indoor ball sports stadium approved for the ABC site, as well as enhancing existing ones, such as the all weather futsal court at Northbridge Oval.



John Hooper

John advises that he is standing in Sailors Bay Ward at the invitation of the Northbridge Progress Association Executive. He has been a resident

and ratepayer of Willoughby City for the past 27 years. He lists his interests as helping the disabled and the elderly. He is a volunteer for Guide Dogs NSW/ ACT and is currently raising and training two guide dog puppies for the Society. He has extensive experience with many cultures and has travelled widely. John lists the following points regarding his candidacy:

Continued on page 9



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COUNCIL ELECTIONS 13 September 2008 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- Professional experience covers 10 years as a technical officer at BHP Newcastle, 5 years in technical sales management and 22 years in the computer industry as managing director of his own computer software consultancy. Past president of the Australian Computer Graphics Association.
- Professional qualification: a Masters of Arts Degree in Management from Macquarie University graduating in 1994.
- Active in community service within Willoughby City for the past 7 years, including president of the Chatswood East Progress Association; vice-president of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations; a Community Representative on the Northbridge Plaza & Council Car Park Masterplan Reference Committee; and as a Community Representative on Council's Communication Working Party.



John Lightfoot

John is a resident of Northbridge and has lived in the area for 16 years. Following 20 years overseas experience as an Australian Trade Commissioner in

Europe Asia and Africa, he established his own business development consultancy 10 years ago focussing on small and medium businesses. For 8 years he was on the Board of and ultimately Chairman of the NSW Small Business Development Corporation which represents the interests of small business to the State Government. John currently provides advisory services *pro bono* to an organisation providing grant aid

to businesses of all sizes that aid the poor in developing countries.

John has been active in the Northbridge community; his sons attended Northbridge Primary School, sailed at Northbridge Sailing Club, belonged to Northbridge Scouts and played Soccer for Northbridge Club. He served on the committee of Northbridge Scouts, which brought home the value of the community involvement that is very special in this Ward. In announcing his candidature for Sailors Bay Ward John said: 'I believe the village atmosphere of Northbridge, Castlecrag and Willoughby are particularly important community assets. My particular policy interests are:

- Re-emphasising local shopping and community centres;
- Managing streetscapes to maintain ambience;
- Commuter parking;
- Local street speed limits;
- Sporting facilities;
- Practical climate change work.'



Brian Moran

Brian and his partner Attracta Lagan immigrated to Australia from Northern Ireland in 1980. Both began working in the field of ethics, values and culture in the

early 1990s after completing post-graduate studies in Social Ecology at the University of Western Sydney. When Attracta was appointed as Director of Consulting at the St. James Ethics Centre, Brian took on the role of raising their two sons, enmeshing

himself in the world of pre-schools, playgrounds and pushchairs, discovering firsthand the challenges of fulltime parenting.

The family moved to Castlecrag nine years ago, where Brian was elected President of the Glenaeon parents association and, he became involved in the school's campaign against the environmental impacts of the Northside Storage Tunnel. This experience highlighted the paucity of decision-making at major utilities, the inadequacy of poorly designed community engagement processes and the lack of scientific rigour behind the decisions of many government agencies. Increasingly, Brian worked as an independent management consultant with the health and education sectors in governance and strategic planning. In 2006, Brian and Attracta established Managing Values, a consultancy firm specialising in business ethics and organisational integrity. Their clients include leading Australian companies, government agencies and several local government councils in NSW and Victoria. Brian has been active in sporting endeavours, serving as a coach at the Northbridge Football Club for the past 11 years and is an active member of Northbridge Golf Club.

Prior to his career as a management consultant Brian was CEO of the Australian operation of a global multinational company. He experienced firsthand the challenges of expanding a national business and also financial turnaround. He also learned a lot about people management which gave rise to his interest in the wider ecology. Brian says that the City of Willoughby, like all municipalities in Australia, face serious challenges over the next few years, not least:

- The need to preserve our city's unique community values;

Continued on page 8



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COUNCIL ELECTIONS 13 September 2008

- The demands of sensible and effective local planning in an increasingly centralised environment;
- The completion of Civic Place as a focus for the wider community;
- Climate change and the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- The challenge of long-term energy supply/cost and providing more sustainable transport;
- The tensions between protecting the environment, expanding green space, and expansion of social infrastructure to meet demand as a consequence of population growth;
- Good governance within local government to protect the assets of the people of Willoughby held in trust by Council; and
- Principle-based decision making.

Brian believes that the breadth of experience and skills he has acquired in businesses, both large and small, government and social sector organisations has equipped him to contribute to the future development of Willoughby as a sustainable city.



Trevor Morgan

Councillor Trevor Morgan and his family have been involved in Willoughby for the past 35 years, both as residents and owners of a number of

successful service-based local small businesses. He is seeking community support for a third term on Willoughby City Council.

Trevor is a believer in the principle that local councillors should not be politically nor developer aligned. He is not a member of any political party, nor supported by any pressure group or developer, and he will never accept financial donations from any source. Trevor is a firm believer in an 'independent' council that is not influenced by 'puppet politicians' aligned to political parties. He will support:

- Our Council focussing on local issues involving local people;
- Balanced development that allows

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

residents to develop their homes while taking into account the wider community views;

- Council setting the development guidelines for any redevelopment of the Northbridge Plaza shopping complex, not the developer;
- Prohibiting medium-density development, such as units, in residential streets;
- The provision of suitable housing for our older residents while taking into account the concerns of existing neighbours.

LETTER to the Editor

The Crag – Castlecrag 1924-1938

Thank you for the review of Wanda Spathopoulos' book in the April issue of *The Crag*. I have spent a magical summer walking in Wanda's footsteps with my three boys throughout Castlecrag and its beautiful built and natural environment. We played on the beaches, walked to the four points of its compass, and discovered the delights of the tennis courts, the library, and many of the reserves.

I appreciate greatly the legacy that Wanda has left for us in her book. It has encouraged me to seek out many of her sources. To read Marion Griffin's *The Magic of America*, online, to look at the photos on the National Library of Australia website and to look at our magnificent native flora lining Edinburgh Road and many of the road islands with new eyes.

Terese Haywood, The Bulwark

'Meet the Candidates'

All Castlecrag residents are urged to attend this special meeting to hear and question the Candidates standing for Sailors Bay Ward and for Mayor of Willoughby City.

Wednesday, 3 September at 7pm (for 7.30)

Willoughby Public School Hall, Oakville Road, Willoughby

A joint initiative of the Castlecrag, Northbridge and South Willoughby Progress Associations

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Experience
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
 at
The Haven Amphitheatre
Castlecrag

From 28 November through to 7 December 2008

The Haven Amphitheatre Committee has invited the Epicentre Theatre Company to present Charles Dickens' timeless tale of redemption and the spirit of Christmas under the trees at the Haven Amphitheatre, Castlecrag.

The production opens on 28 November and runs through to 7 December 2008.

This entertaining version of 'A Christmas Carol' was adopted in 2002 by Neil Bartlett for the Lyric Theatre in London. Using snippets of well known Christmas songs and the words of Dickens himself, Bartlett has brought this well known story to vivid life. Not a pantomime, but a carefully rendered adaptation that remains faithful to the famous work.

Experience the wonder of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey through the memories of Christmases past and present in this beautiful surrounding. Celebrate Christmas a little early this year with the entire family!

Once again this show at your Amphitheatre is not to be missed.

Bookings can be made by following the links from www.haven.biz or at **Roger Page and Partners First National Real Estate**, Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag. Tickets range from \$18 to \$25 and group bookings are available.

As there is no parking at the Haven Amphitheatre, the free shuttle bus operates from the Corner of Raeburn Avenue and Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, commencing 1 hour before each performance.

I shall honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.

Charles Dickens

For further information visit : www.thehaven.com.au

Enhancing our 'gateway'

continued from page 1



The bronze bust of Walter Burley Griffin by the sculptor Judit Englert-Shead is a popular feature of the Castlecrag shopping village. Some residents have suggested we also need a matching bust of Marion Mahony Griffin. We welcome your comments on this and other elements of the shopping centre.

Photo: Bob McKillop

- Increased use of street trees and planters where appropriate;
- Opportunities for outdoor dining in appropriate locations;
- Policies and incentives to encourage businesses to improve their presentation, shop-fronts, mobility access, awning safety, signs and shop lighting;
- Appropriate and distinctive seating;
- Complimentary litter bins;
- Vehicle parking spaces for accessible users and standard timed zones;
- Appropriate delivery and service vehicle standing spaces;
- Appropriate blister elements to improve pedestrian access and crossing distances; and
- Support for improved street address numbering through a standard street number 'plate' on each property.

David Scobie

Dangerous foods for animals

Over the following months we will discuss dangerous foods in 'The Crag' Newsletter, why they are poisonous and what toxic signs to be aware of in your pet.

Pet owners are often tempted to give table scraps to their pets as a special treat. This seems to be especially true during holidays. Unfortunately, there are some types of human foods that can be dangerous to pets, including:

- Chocolate
- Grapes and sultanas
- Mouldy foods
- Onions
- Macadamia nuts
- Tobacco products

Grapes and sultanas

Grapes and sultanas do **NOT** make good treats for dogs and cats because they cause acute kidney failure. The basis for kidney failure is unclear, but is currently being studied.

How much is dangerous?

The lowest recorded amounts to cause acute kidney failure are:

Grapes: 200g/kg = 5kg dog eating 1kg
 Raisins: 30g/kg = 5kg dog eating 150g
 (3 x 50g sultana boxes)

However, smaller amounts could also cause problems - we really don't know the exact minimum dose nor the risk factors for each animal. All species of dog and cats may be affected. However, cats will not readily eat grapes or sultanas. Birds do not seem to be affected (otherwise we would have no crows feeding on vineyards!).

What should I do?

If your pet has eaten a lot of grapes or sultanas bring them to VetMed immediately so we can make them vomit and flush out their stomach. They will also be put on intravenous fluids for 36 to 72 hours. If kidney failure hasn't developed by three days then your pet will remain unaffected.

For more information
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History Corner – Willoughby Market Garden land

Castlecrag residents will be aware of the large area of land between Eastern Valley Way and Alpha Road with a prominent 'For Sale' sign. This is former Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) land that was reserved for the Warringah Expressway corridor under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme in 1951. The corridor was subsequently abandoned by the NSW Government in 1977 and the land was rezoned primarily for residential (low density housing) and open space purposes.

In 1999-2000 Willoughby Council joined with the RTA and the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning to produce a land planning strategy for the surplus corridor land in the Willoughby Council area. The land bounded by Eastern Valley Way, Windsor Road, Mowbray Place, Remuera Street and Alpha Road, Willoughby was known as Precinct 2 in the strategy, which was completed by JBA Urban Planning Consultants Pty Ltd in June 2000. The outcome of the strategy was to allow medium density residential (110 dwellings) and public open space (1.5 hectares).

In 2002 Landcom was appointed to co-ordinate the development of the Precinct 2 housing and new public park. The Master Plan for the precinct involved extensive community consultation, which resulted in the proposed new dwellings being reduced in number to 80 townhouses. Landcom subsequently withdrew from further involvement in the scheme, resulting in the site being offered for sale to a new developer. At its meeting on 23 June 2008, Council delegated authority to the Mayor and General Manager to finalise a Deed of Covenant to bind the new owner of the land (now known as Willoughby Market Garden) to complete the existing Masterplan and development approvals.

As reported in past issues of *The Crag*, the area has a long history as the site of extensive Chinese market gardens. I was therefore interested to come across a report in the *Daily Telegraph* of Friday, 12 September 1913 with the heading 'Opium Den Discovery at Willoughby'. While the article reflects social mores and attitudes of that era, I thought that readers might be



The Willoughby Market Garden site in June 2008. What secrets does the site hold?
Photo.: Bob McKillop

interested in some extracts from the piece as follows:

The Chief Secretary has received a report from Supt. Goulder in regard to an opium den in Willoughby. Publicity was recently directed to this place owing to a quarrel between a habitual opium smoker and the Chinese who kept it. According to the information now in the possession of the Chief Secretary, the opium smoking took place in a cottage on the outskirts of Willoughby, towards Middle Harbour, about 2 ? miles from Chatswood station.

"Until recently," says Inspector Goulder in his report, "the locality consisted almost entirely of gardens worked by Chinese, but the bulk of the land has been sub-divided for residential purposes. The cottage referred to has been in the occupation of a Chinese for a number of years and a white woman about 40 years of

age who has lived with the Chinese for many years. The front part of the cottage was tenanted by another Chinese of advanced year, and for a number of months another white woman has been living there. This latter stated her age to be 31 years, and that she had been living with Chinese for about 18 years."

The report goes on to point out that the Chatswood police appeared to have suspected that opium-smoking was carried on at this place, which they searched for opium on several occasions. In March 1911, the police detected a number of Chinese smoking opium, and four of them were successfully prosecuted. The report claims that there was no doubt that the older Chinese men had been visited for some months by a number of white women and men from various parts of the metropolitan district, and the cottage was no doubt an opium shop for the sale of opium.

Bob McKillop

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Cheers, Jodie

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Council News

2008-2013 Management Plan

Council's updated Management Plan outlining the direction of the City of Willoughby for the next five years was on public display in May. The plan outlines the main actions and principal projects to be undertaken by council up to 2013 and specifies how Willoughby City Council will continue to provide services and amenities to enhance the lifestyles of the people of Willoughby and protect our valuable environment and bushland.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Creating an improved people friendly environment in the Chatswood CBD and local community centres;
- Improving traffic, transport and parking;
- Creating strategies to manage the CBD, including Civic Place, the Interchange and Chatswood Mall;
- Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment;
- Encouraging and supporting local business areas;
- Developing regional partnerships to achieve objectives relating to bushland preservation, waste, water, air, urban planning and transport;
- Establishing greater compliance functions; and
- Improving communications with the community and internally.

The plan also provides information on how Council will deliver improvements to our local environment through the third term of the e.restore program. This will continue existing projects targeting bushland regeneration, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and increase sustainable practices of Council and local businesses. It will also expand to include projects to enable Willoughby to take effective action on sustainability.

Another aspect of the Plan is a rate structure for the upcoming financial year. Willoughby City Council has now received approval from the Department of Local Government for a special variation for the 2008/2009 rates, which will allow the third term of the e.restore program and achieve a more equitable rate levy.

Sustainable Advantage for business

Willoughby City Council, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, has introduced a Sustainable Advantage program that enables local businesses to undertake a complete environmental audit as a step towards improving their sustainable practices.

The program, now in its second year, provides a complete environmental audit for medium sized businesses and teaches business owners to build a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly and cost-effective business through the development of a tailored action plan.

Adshel, Austcorp, Chatswood Chase, Clemenger, Chatswood RSL, Lindsay Yates & Partners, Quintiles and Weir Minerals are among the local businesses that have implemented action plans for environmental improvements through the Sustainable Advantage program. Their improvements include introducing new recycling schemes, upgrading lighting to lower energy, using

sustainable office products and engaging staff in corporate social responsibility such as tree planting events, and using public transport during office hours.

As well as alerting businesses of the simple changes they can make, the program also develops tailored initiatives for each business such as the introduction of a plastic recycling system at Chatswood Chase that compacts all plastics for recycling and the instigation of recyclable ink cartridges at Lindsay Yates and Partners which has helped to reduce their waste to landfill by 33 per cent.

Willoughby City Council is also involved in the City Switch program which focuses on the energy reduction of medium to large office tenets. Phone 9777 1000 to find out how your business can improve their environmental standards.

Rebecca Hill

Grant for Willoughby Incinerator

Updating our report in *The Crag* No. 167, Willoughby City Council has received a \$50,000 grant from the State Government as a contribution towards restoration of the Willoughby Incinerator building. The restoration works include the extension of the chimney to its original configuration subject to the structural integrity of the existing chimney base. The grant will also help resolve drainage and dampness issues in preparation for the reopening of the iconic building in 2009. This is in addition to the Federal Government's National Heritage Initiative Grant of \$454,545 reported in *The Crag* No. 160 (August 2006).

Council's Development Application for the Stage 2 works, comprising restoration of the Incinerator building and to adapt and reuse the building as a community hall, artist studio and refreshment room (café), was placed on public exhibition during July.

Community Notice Board continued

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA):

On Sunday 31 August Watgate Reserve walk to be led by Matthew Keighery. Meet 9.45am for 10am start at the Turning Circle in The Redoubt off The Rampart. Easy 1½-2 hour walk. Wear good walking shoes, hat and sunscreen, and bring water and morning tea. Further information: Matthew Keighery 9967 2682.

Willoughby Spring Festival:

Saturday 6 September 2008 – the highlight of the Spring Festival is the Willoughby StreetFair. The Chatswood CBD will be taken over by musicians, dancers, performers, market stalls, entertainment and the community coming together to enjoy the day. WEPA's native plant stall at the fair will have plants for sale, suitable for local gardens. For special orders or further information on WEPA stall: Gay 9958 8569 or Sheila 9958 5978.

Willoughby District Historical Society Inc:

Museum open day, Saturday 6 September 2008, 10am-4pm – 'Meccano Lives On – Toys that built the Future', a special exhibition for young and old. At Boronia, 58 Johnson Street Chatswood; Adults \$5, Family entry \$10. Information Mary Thom on 9419 5851 or Betty Doggett on 9417 4192.

Sydney Opera Society

6 September, Victoria Watson on 'Billy Budd', 2pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Cnr Laurel and High Streets, Willoughby. On Saturday 11 October the Executive Director of the Pinchgut Opera will speak on their forthcoming production in Angel Place. Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851 or Nancy Fleming 9958 3110.

Rotary Northside Garden Fair:

On Sunday 28 September 10am-5.30pm at Bicentennial Reserve, Willoughby Road, Willoughby. There will be stalls, talks, refreshments and entertainment (see article). Admission is \$4, children free. All funds raised will go to the Rotary Shelterbox appeal. In addition five gardens will be open for viewing. Further information: phone Mike Cocks 0412 217 652 or visit www.northsidegardenfair.com.au

Advertise your home business in Home Business Classifieds – an initiative of the Castlecrag Progress Association to support small local businesses within our community.

To lodge an ad please contact Simone by email at simone_selby@hotmail.com or by writing to Home Business Classifieds c/- CPA, PO Box 4259, Castlecrag NSW 2068.

Community Notice Board

Community Organisations

Castlecrag Progress Association:

'Representing the Castlecrag Community'

General Meeting: Tuesday 26 August from 7.30pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre, with guest speaker Hugh Mackay, the well-known social researcher and novelist. All welcome. Further information: info@castlecrag.org.au or phone 9958 4516.

Castlecrag Conservation Society:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 August at the Community Centre at 8pm. There will be a showing of 'CRUDE', a documentary DVD recording the journey of oil through time from its origins to modern times: peak oil and climate change. Information: Harold Spies 9958 8569.

Meet the Candidates Event:

Wednesday 3 September, 8pm, at the Willoughby Public School hall. Local government election candidates for Sailors Bay Ward and for Mayor of Willoughby will present their platforms and participate in a Q&A session. This is a joint meeting of the Castlecrag, Northbridge and South Willoughby Progress Associations and all local residents are urged to come along.

Castlecrag Sustainability Street:

Castlecrag Sustainability Street meets on the third Sunday of every month from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in whichever house is offered for the occasion. Further information: Gay or Harold Spies 9958 8569 or Rob Gibson at WCC 9777 1000.

CragSitters:

A gathering is planned for Sunday 31 August at 3.30pm at Stoker Playground in Edinburgh Road. Existing and new members—families and babysitters—welcome. Contact Sharie at: cragitters@yahoo.com.au

Other Events / Notices

Council workshops:

Shopping that doesn't cost the earth! Friday 15 August 2008, 10:30am–12:00pm at Level 4 Willoughby City Council Building, 31 Victor St, Chatswood. This workshop enables participants to develop an understanding of the environmental impacts of products, and learn practical steps to making the best decisions for participants and the environment. Bookings essential (maximum 20 people). Further information: Waste Projects Officer 9777 7730 or email waste.edu@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Gardening with Natives:

On Thursday 21 August, 9am–1pm, learn about trees, shrubs, grasses and other native plants for gardens in the northern suburbs. Find out which ones to use and where to get them. RSVP: Mandy Wilson 9777 7875; details of location provided when booking.

Book Week, 'Fuel the Mind!':

16–22 August at Willoughby City Library, Level 6, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067. Enjoy the displays and enter the Book Week competitions, as well as a free talk by author Will Davies on Wednesday 13 August 2008 at 12:30pm–1:30pm about his book, *In the Footsteps of Private Lynch*. Further information: Willoughby City Library on 02 9777 7900 or Email Library@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra:

'Bohemian Brilliance' on Sunday 24 August, 3pm at Greenhalgh Theatre, UTS Ku-ring-gai, Eton Road, Lindfield (A special bus will operate from Chatswood Station). \$35 adult (A Reserve), \$5.50 child (A Reserve); \$30 concession (A Reserve); \$16.50 student (A Reserve). Further information: phone 9777

continued on Page 11

*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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