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CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

OUR NEXT MEETING

8pm, Tuesday, 24 August, 2010

The Castlecrag Community Centre, The Rampart
(down laneway near intersection with The Postern)

Speaker: Senior Constable Matt Jewell

Identity Theft — Strategies to Prevent Falling Victim to this Emerging Crime

Senior Constable Matt Jewell, the Crime Prevention Officer at Chatswood police, has 16 years' experience in the NSW Police Service, 10 as Crime Prevention Officer at Chatswood.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Meet the recently elected President of the CPA



James and Susie Fitzpatrick with Noah and Alexandria. Photo: Jessica Fitzpatrick

After completing a BA in Environmental Design in Tasmania, I moved to Sydney in 1988 where I obtained a Diploma of Dramatic Art in Theatre Design at NIDA. The attraction to NIDA was the opportunity to study outside Tasmania, and to study design in a different but closely related people based industry—as theatre and film design is defining the playwright's words and characters, creating costumes and settings which reinforce the characters and the script.

It offered a rigorous hands-on design education second to none, teaching one how to become one's own critic, and to know that a project 'is never finished, and it can always be improved'. Financial pressures and significant student debt stopped me from completing my second architectural degree. After a short time of painting shopping centre murals and

drafting stage sets for *Les Miserables*, *Chess* and others, I took a full time job with a renowned Japanese architectural studio which was setting up in Australia and the US.

I was introduced to the Castlecrag of my earlier studies by my Japanese director who lived there. This job also introduced me to many memorable experiences including overseas work and travel: Louis Vuitton, Armani suits, stretch limousines, Chivas Regal and our then PM Paul Keating (that's another story). It was the last of the heady days...

Sense prevailed during the recession we had to have, and I then worked for the leading Sydney practice, Travis Partners (Richard Travis now lives on Edinburgh Road), followed by Rice Daubney. This gave me the opportunity to design many exciting projects throughout Australia and South East Asia before forming my own studio in 2000. fitzpatrick+partners now has projects underway throughout Australia. These include the 6 Greenstar Macquarie Bank Building at Kings Street Wharf, the new entry building for Star City Casino, and the 55 story headquarters for BHPB under construction in WA. The majority of our commissions are won in competitions, a process we enjoy as it constantly questions and tests us to create innovative, place-specific architecture.

Perhaps the most important project is our new family home in Sugarloaf Crescent. The DA has taken two years to get ready—too many options and the three very patient clients!!!

Susie and I first made our home in

Castlecrag in mid 2006, renting a property on The Tor Walk. Susie was also very aware of Castlecrag, with her sister and brother in law (Jenny and Gary) living on Edinburgh Road. After a short time we purchased our property on Sugarloaf from the Biharis—who now live on Edinburgh Road.

Many people know stories of our house, having played tennis in the middle of the bush or dined on the balcony overlooking the bay whilst being attacked by kookaburras and cockatoos! We have found our place to live, to share with Noah and Alexandria, with beautiful views, and an adventure playground—all only 20 minutes from the city.

I am sure our story is similar to many others; it distils the reasons we chose Castlecrag over so many other places:

- The architectural and design heritage which has created a character and value beyond bricks and mortar
- The landscape character, blending water and bushland, village and community
- The proximity to Chatswood, the city, schools and beaches.

The Castlecrag Progress Association was an obvious organisation to become involved in, particularly when I understood that it had members with similar stories who also wanted to protect and enhance the character of our suburb. I quickly became involved, wanting to give something back to our community, and to help protect it for future generations.

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

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Castlecrag NSW 2068

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www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

COMMITTEE 2010-2011

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Vice Presidents David Harrop
Kate Westoby
Secretary Jill Newton
Treasurer Diana Jones

Committee Joe Christie
Elizabeth Lander Stephen Richardson
Howard Rubie Lorna Sinac
Gay Spies OAM Bruce Wilson

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Write to us

The Crag is a community newsletter
and we welcome letters and contributions
from residents about local issues.
We do not publish anonymous letters.
Items should be sent to the editors
by email to: editors@castlecrag.org.au
They should be concise
(preferably less than 250 words for letters).
Please include your email address or
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President's Musings

In the role as President of the Castlecrag Progress Association, I am honoured to be able to contribute to our colourful history by striving to make our community a safer, more environmentally aware and beautiful place in which to live. Castlecrag is entering the next family generational cycle, and in this issue I wish to discuss areas which are of interest to all in our community, and some which are perhaps misunderstood: Development and the CPA, the Castlecrag Fair and our relationship with Willoughby City Council (WCC). We welcome your further thoughts, comments and ideas.

Development in Castlecrag

All development applications for Castlecrag are forwarded by Council to the Progress Association for comment. We have a policy on the manner in which we review these applications, and you can read it on the CPA website. We assess these applications against the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) and the Willoughby Development Control Plan (WDCP). As a voluntary organisation we rely on the community also to identify developments of concern.

Under our assessment, if we consider a proposal to be inappropriate by not demonstrating compliance with, or a suitable design alternative to achieving the intent of, the WLEP and WDCP, we strongly advocate change through Council and through court proceedings as necessary.

Local development is capable of being categorised into three types:

Commodity Builders—are attracted to Castlecrag by good capital growth, desirability and exclusivity. They promulgate the right to unrestricted development at all costs, and then defend the right to object to any other surrounding development. They quickly sell and start again or move on. They are a minority within our community.

We attempt to demonstrate to them the benefits of working within the constraints and opportunities offered within Castlecrag, and how they can create better solutions which may enhance the return to themselves and the community.

Family Builders—understand the intrinsic values of Castlecrag and actively want to participate in the community, and to build a family home blending with their environment. Many of these people are unsure how to proceed with the development process, often erring on the safe side. These applications are in the majority, and we rarely need to comment on them. These are the people we welcome and would like to assist more within our community. They are Castlecrag's future.

We continue to engage with this group, assisting by organising council presentations to explain the DA process. We will also be inviting new and young, experienced and award-winning and local architects to speak on their work—open to the community to meet designers in a relaxed informal setting.

The Megastars—people with more experience who engage the best architects and consultants and produce award-winning renovations, extensions and new homes, not always on large properties. Sometimes this group seeks our thoughts and comments, and we often write to council supporting their design solutions. Again, great community members and we welcome assisting them as required.

The Fair

Our biennial fair, to be held again next year, entails monumental organisation. If you have thoughts, comments, or can offer assistance, please contact us.

Council Relationships

Our strong relationships with our ward councillors, mayor, other councillors and senior staff are very important and will be used to foster support for new community projects such as The Welcome Pack, The Gateway Project and a Community Nursery. These and ongoing projects such as traffic issues require working closely with our council and state member. Success depends on their confidence that we speak for the whole community. So, please, join your local community group, **The Castlecrag Progress Association**. Become an active member, or a listener, but get involved.

James A Fitzpatrick

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Castlecrag News

Haven Spring Festival

Travelling the world through stories and music with Bronwyn Vaughan and Hip Hop Duende

The Haven Amphitheatre presents a show for the entire family with two halves making one fabulous whole. Hip Hop Duende is a unique duo of female rhythmists bound to get you clapping, tapping and moving to their exciting rhythms from around the world. To add to the delight, performer extraordinaire Bronwyn Vaughan will have two of her storytelling shows full of humour, music, puppetry, beautiful aesthetics and paths in 'Aditi and her Rickshaw' about a young Indian rickshaw driver (first weekend), followed by 'Floating on a sea of stories' drawn from traditional Japanese stories a fortnight later.

Performances will be on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September, Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 October at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost \$12 from 4 years old plus; bookings at Roger Page Real Estate 9958 0124. There is no parking available at the venue; catch the free Haven shuttle bus from 1.30pm at the corner of Edinburgh Road and Raeburn Avenue.

Further information is available from 9958 2127 or www.thehaven.biz

The Haven Spring Festival is supported by The Spring Festival 2010 Grant Program.

Lindy Batterham

Valda Wilson—update on Castlecrag diva

We reported in issue No 168 of *The Crag* news that Valda Wilson had been awarded the prestigious Opera Foundation Australia Rockend Scholarship to study at the National Opera Studio in London for ten months. Valda and her family have been Castlecrag residents since 1984 and have been active participants in local musical events for many years. Parents, Bruce and Karen, are active in local affairs, Bruce having served as President of the Castlecrag Progress Association from 2007 to 2009 and is currently a committee member.



Valda Wilson, Sharolyn Kimmorley AM and John Donohoe at the Paddington Uniting Church
Photo: Bruce Wilson

On completing her studies at the National Opera Studio, Valda was awarded the 2009 Robert and Betty Salzer Award to improve her Italian and German language skills and to audition in Europe. She reached the finals of Placido Domingo's *Operalia* in Budapest and the *Concours de Geneve* international singing competitions, in addition to singing the role of Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* in Weimar, Germany. Since returning to London this year, Valda has sung in a variety of concerts and oratorios, and performed the role of Adina in Donizetti's *L'Elixir d'amour*. She is a member of the 2010 Concordia International Ensemble and a Making Music artist. She is booked for several European summer season concerts and will perform Elsie in a London production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeoman of the Guard*. Her next move will be to Germany to join the Young Artist Program at the spectacular *Semperoper* Dresden (www.semperoper.de/en/das_haus/welcome.html).

On Tuesday 18 May Valda performed in a recital at the Paddington Uniting Church with baritone John Donohoe, a final year student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and vocal coach and accompanist Sharolyn Kimmorley AM. Both singers demonstrated, in addition to their versatility and expressive powerful voices, a marked acting ability which is not always a feature of professional opera singers.

The capacity crowd, including an enthusiastic contingent from the unofficial Valda Wilson Castlecrag fan club, was treated to a most enjoyable programme. Items ranged from compositions by Handel, Donizetti, Wagner, Mozart and several French composers to some more recent items by Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Claude-Michel Scholberg (of *Les Miserables* fame) and Richard Rodgers. As Sharolyn Kimmorley said in her introduction, we expect to hear a lot about these two young singers in the future, and we wish them every success in their careers.

Margaret Chambers

Locals excel in 2010 NSW Architecture and Property Council of Australia Awards

We congratulate **Peter Tonkin**, a resident of Castlecrag, for his practice's achievements in the 2010 NSW Architecture awards.

- Paddington Reservoir Gardens by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer with JMD Design and the City of Sydney won the Lloyd Rees Award for Urban Design and the Greenway Award for Heritage.
- The Glasshouse Arts, Conference and Entertainment Centre, Port Macquarie designed by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer won the Blakett Prize and a Commendation for Public Architecture.
- Kane Constructions HQ, The Old Tannery School, Waterloo by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer with Linley Hindmarsh won a Commendation for Commercial Architecture.

We also congratulate CPA president **James Fitzpatrick** for his firm's achievements in designing One Shelley Street at King Street Wharf.

- In the 2010 NSW Architecture awards, One Shelley Street (aka Macquarie Bank) designed by fitzpatrick+partners earned a commendation for Sustainable Architecture.
- One Shelley Street was also the overall winner of the annual Property Council of Australia Rider Levett Bucknall National Innovation and Excellence Awards.

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Castlecrag Progress Association Committee

Congratulations are due to members of the new CPA committee; we particularly welcome two new members, Joe Christie and Stephen Richardson. Below are their short profiles in addition to that of the President James Fitzpatrick on page 1:

David Harrop, Vice President, has a Diploma in Financial Services (Insurance Broking) and is a Justice of the Peace. David lived in Castlecrag for over 30 years, serving on the CPA Committee since 1997. He has been active in a number of community issues such as the Foreshore Building Line and the ongoing fight to retain the urban bushland.

Kate Westoby, Vice President, is a teacher/librarian at Castle Cove Primary School. Kate has been active in the Castlecrag community for many years, covering the kindergarten, infants' school, the SOS CRAG campaign, WEPA and the Conservation Society. She has served on the Progress Association Committee since 1985, as President from 2001 to 2004 and 2009 to 2010.

Jill Newton, Secretary, a patent and trademark attorney and intellectual property lawyer, moved with Richard to Castlecrag in 1999 after rebuilding a house here. Elected to the CPA Committee in 2003, Jill has been secretary since 2006. She is an active member of the Retreat Bushcare Group, enjoys the local waterways and loves living in this very special part of Sydney with its sense of community, history, natural beauty and architecture.

Diana Jones, Treasurer, a science graduate, bookkeeper, and retired computer programmer, has lived in Castlecrag for over 30 years and has a husband and one married daughter. She is interested in heritage and the natural environment, is active in several community organisations and helps maintain the 203 bus terminus garden. In recognition of her services, Diana was awarded Life Membership of the CPA in May 2009.

Joe Christie, a qualified CPA [Certified Public Accountant] and part owner of a property funds management business, has

lived in Castlecrag since early 2006 and is married with three young boys. As a child he played and explored bush tracks around Castlecrag while visiting his cousins. He enjoys the Crag community, the bush surrounds and unique history and aims to get more people involved in the broader community.

Elizabeth Lander, a life-long resident of Castlecrag, has been involved in many aspects of the community including the Castlecrag Kindergarten and Infants' School. Elizabeth served as President of the Progress Association from 1994–1997 and as Secretary from 1997–2005. Currently she is the secretary of the Castlecrag Conservation Society and a Council-approved member of the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee and The Community Centre Management Committee. Elizabeth enjoys the sense of community Castlecrag has provided her and her wider family.

Stephen Richardson has a degree in building and runs a commercial building and property investment company. After recently building his own family home and moving to Castlecrag, Stephen joined the CPA and is pleased to encourage a positive, consultative and healthy approach to the process of design, approval and building within the area. He joins the committee hoping to assist in promoting and protecting the natural beauty of the area.

Howard Rubie ACS, film/TV producer, director, cinematographer and winner of many international awards, has lived in Castlecrag for over 40 years. Active in community affairs as President of the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee and past President and committee member of the CPA, he was awarded Willoughby Citizen of the Year in 2007 and inducted into the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) Hall of Fame in 2010.

Lorna Sinac was elected to the CPA Committee in 2009 following her involvement in the 2009 Community Fair. Lorna and her family moved to Castlecrag to be near the Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner school which her children attended and where she has been an active member of

the school's P&F. Currently working as an interior designer, her interests include community building, family and friends, and her two Hungarian Vizsla dogs.

Gay Spies OAM is a former microbiology teacher. Her service as President of Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA), her work on the Sugarloaf Bush Regeneration Project and other environmental activities with her husband Harold over 31 years, resulted in her Willoughby Citizen of the Year Award in 2002. Gay is an active member of Council's Natural Heritage and Bushland Advisory Committee, its Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee, its Sustainability Reference Group and the Castlecrag Conservation Society. Her interests include indigenous plants, climate change and sustainability, travel and SE Asian history and textiles.

Bruce Wilson is a retired government environmental lawyer and currently manages his family businesses. Bruce served as the Progress Association's President from 2007 to 2009 and is a former President of the Castlecrag Sports Club and of the Castlecrag Infant School P&C. He is an active member of the Council's Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee and has particular interest in encouraging friendship between neighbours and reinvigorating the peninsula's sense of community.

Editors

Contact your Ward Councillors

If you have questions or issues to raise with your Ward Councillors, they are happy to be contacted:

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
Or phone 9958 1135

Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
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The Houses of Castlecrag

This is the second in the series of articles in our new column 'The Houses of Castlecrag' by local architect Ben Gerstel, highlighting some of the amazing houses located in our suburb built through the decades from Griffin's time to today.

Ben is a volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association (www.architecture.org.au) and conducts walking tours around Castlecrag and Middle Cove.

265–267 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag 'The Audette House'

This house is a landmark in Castlecrag because of its striking design and street presence. It was designed by the architect Peter Muller in 1953 and is known as the Audette House.

The house is built on two parcels of land and has a very strong three-dimensional quality where separate horizontal wings spread out into the landscape. This helps connect the house to the site. Other features of the house are:

- dark stained timber framing;
- flat roofs with splayed timber fascias;
- splayed brick walls, splayed in the opposite direction to the fascias; and
- oozing mortar between the bricks to give a texture to the brickwork.

The charming technical name for this technique is called snotted brickwork. The architect wanted the brick walls to be made of stone but this was too expensive.

The design concept broke down the massing of the traditional house by separating its functions into different spaces. The kitchen, breakfast and laundry were located at the front of the house near the street, the dining and covered terrace to the rear and the living and study to the side. The bedrooms were located on the first floor with the garage and workshop on the lower level.

An interesting feature of the house was the inclusion of exposed timber trusses for the living room. The remains of this feature are the dark stained timberwork at the front of the house on the left-hand side.

Muller wanted this room to sit inside a timber truss. A truss is a structural frame made up of steel or timber members in the same plane to act like a beam to span a long distance or to carry a heavy load. Originally the trusses continued over the roof line but were removed by a previous owner.

This house was the first commission for Muller in Australia. It was one of four houses he designed in Castlecrag of which only two remain today. Muller's work was not restricted to houses. He also designed office buildings, town houses, apartments, cinemas, drive-ins, shopping centres and tourist resorts in Tahiti, Bali and Fiji.

Muller was born in 1927. He designed this house after coming back from America where he had completed his Master of Architecture degree at the University of Philadelphia. Mr Robert (Bob) Audette was his client.

Some say the Audette House was influenced by the work of the well-known American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. These influences can be seen in the overall horizontal form, rooms spreading out into the landscape and exposed timber frames. 'It was the compatibility of Wright's theories on building with his own already developed ideas that attracted Muller.' (i) These ideas were Muller's starting point. From here he developed his own organic style picking up other influences by visiting other countries, for example Japan, and learning about their cultures. 'He identified with the spiritual principles within a culture and so attained a deeper understanding of the culture's architecture.' (ii)



Photo: Ben Gerstel

The Audette House has been added to over the years. The current owners renovated the house in 2003. The architects for this work, Monckton and Fyfe, required an endorsement from Muller for their work on the house (iii) since this was a requirement from Willoughby City Council. They replanned the house by relocating the kitchen to the rear of the ground floor and increased the size of the public spaces in the house. The renovation reconnected the house to the northerly aspect, the landscape and the wonderful view of Middle Harbour.

Other changes included replanning the first floor, to add a new first floor wing on the back of the house, and reworking the lower ground floor. Also, services have been upgraded. This new work appears to be seamless between the old and the new.

Ben Gerstel
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Information has been sourced from the following publications:

- (i) Jennifer Taylor. *An Australian identity: houses for Sydney 1953– 63*. 1972
- (ii) Philip Drew. *Profile of Peter Muller*
- (iii) Leeta Keens. *Belle Magazine*, August/September 2005.
- Karen McCartney. *50/60/70 Iconic Australian Houses, Three Decades of Domestic Architecture* 2007.
- Jacqueline C. Urford. *Peter Muller: the complete works* 2008.

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Remembering Joyce Batterham



Lindy Batterham making the first planting of indigenous tube stock at the ceremony on behalf of the family. Photo: Bob McKillop

A gathering of some 60 family and friends on a perfect Sydney autumn afternoon on Sunday 2 May at the 'Isle of Lament' traffic island on the corner of The Parapet and Edinburgh Road paid tribute to the contributions of Joyce Batterham to the Castlecrag community.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Castlecrag Progress Association and the Walter Burley Griffin Society. Master of ceremonies, Kate Westoby, President of the CPA, spoke also as a personal friend of Joyce: 'We are here to celebrate and commemorate Joyce Batterham's life. Our Progress Association recognised her work by awarding her life membership. We now further celebrate her community involvement by jointly supporting (with Council and the Walter Burley Griffin Society) the upgrading of this traffic island, the fine bench and the plaque.'

Kate outlined Joyce's legacy in Castlecrag, namely the community centre, the library and the Castlecrag Infants' School. Joyce played a major role in establishing the community centre which was formally opened in November 1947, and was a tireless worker for the community library that opened in 1951. Her other grand effort was the establishment of the

Castlecrag Infants' School. It was officially opened on 30 June 1950 and soon became the centre for infant education and community life for generations of Castlecrag families.

Margo Watson, Joyce's niece, provided a family perspective. Joyce had first come to Castlecrag in 1931 to stay with her uncle, Edgar Deans, the Secretary of the Greater Sydney Development Association (GSDA), and his wife 'Cappy', to look after their new daughter Margo. It was at this place in the adjacent GSDA No. 2 house that Joyce's love of The Crag started.

Her time in Newcastle working to help the disadvantaged was an important period. When she married her 'Bobby' during the War, the couple came back to live in Castlecrag, initially in a basic cottage down by the water, then in The Citadel before their own home on Edinburgh Road was completed.

The local Castlecrag community was blessed by Joyce's unassuming, active and unique concern for the good of the people here as well as for flora and fauna. Pursuit of the arts and the ideals of social equality through various philosophies were shared and enjoyed. Margo concluded: 'Material possessions were not one of Joyce's values in life; rather her unassuming way through word and deed to promote lasting values that enriched the lives of our Crag community is what we remember her for. How appropriate and vital then that we remember her by keeping her ideals and values active in this way at this place.'

Former Castlecrag Councillor Sue Randle spoke of Joyce's influence as a fellow member of Council's 530A Committee managing the Community Centre. She emphasised that Joyce was a 'behind the scenes' woman who could be counted on to be there, to do what was necessary and to fight for Castlecrag. She was motivated by a sense of service to this community and she had a great sense of social justice. She was there walking down Macquarie Street for the Save-Our-School (SOS) campaign; she manned the caravan during our efforts to save the Infants' School; she sat through

endless Council meetings; she fought to save the foreshore cottages; and she attended numerous public meetings.'

Sue concluded: 'Joyce wanted not only her own children and grandchildren to live in this special community, but also fought for ALL Castlecrag residents to have a special quality of life here. During the SOS campaign for our school "A Community Lament" was held at this place in honour of the residents' efforts to save the local school. Today, we are again coming together to formalise this space; and this time in the memory of our friend JOYCE.'

Cr Lynne Saville spoke of Joyce's activities outside Castlecrag, particularly of her contribution to the Northside Peace Group during the 1980s and 1990s: 'Joyce was an inspiration to everyone, never giving up her commitment to social justice. Many people relinquish some of their commitment to such ideals as they age, but Joyce maintained her ideals and commitment for life.'

Cr Adrian Cox concluded the speeches saying: 'Given Joyce's contributions to the community, Willoughby City Council is pleased to have been able to assist in the recognition of her memory through this place. Council staff have expanded and rejuvenated the garden areas and Tony Hamilton, one of Council's talented contractors, was responsible for the stone edging and the memorial bench-seat, which was milled from locally grown Blackbutt. The new plantings are of indigenous species of local provenance, as are the tube stock flannel flowers, grasses, creepers and small shrubs that will be planted today.'

Lindy Batterham, Joyce's daughter, made a brief response to the speeches on behalf of the family and then formally unveiled the memorial plaque that has been inlaid into the bench. Lindy and Adrian Cox then planted the first two tube plants, followed by other members of the family and friends. The participants adjourned to an afternoon tea in the front garden of the Griffin-designed Johnson House at 4 The Parapet at the invitation of its owners, Roger and Jane Alliker. It was a fitting conclusion to an inspiring event.

Bob McKillop



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- Fine for the perpetrators of tree vandalism—\$1,100,000
- Neighbourhood determination to punish these vandals—PRICELESS!

From an obsession to steal a view, local residents have resorted to killing trees. Death by poisoning is a slow death; we have lost mature native trees in Castlecrag in The Embrasure Reserve (on two occasions) and The Bulwark, and in Northbridge in Clive Park and Kameruka Road. These losses have angered the neighbourhoods.

Approved Council policy of letter-box drops to affected residents and the attachment of a small signs to the dead trees has proved ineffective; catching the perpetrators has proved difficult—thus far.

So, Council has now approved exhibition of a new policy that enables Council officers to conduct personal interviews, offer rewards of up to \$10,000 for information leading to a conviction, provide large-scale signage to bring attention to the cause of death for the tree and to leave the tree skeleton standing.

Council is serious about catching these tree vandals and preventing further killings. We ask your help in identifying perpetrators so that we can prosecute, fine and shame them. Join us in protecting our neighbourhood (contact number for Council's ranger is 9777 1000).

Every majestic native tree living to a ripe old age is PRICELESS!

Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney

Phone 9967 0395

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- **Bushcare**

Information about what Council staff and volunteers are doing for the environment in Willoughby as well as interesting articles on a range of topics written by experts and residents.

- **ClimateClever news**

Information about events related to sustainability and initiatives that Council is undertaking to set the example for a sustainable future.

- **General**

- **Library Newsletter**

Details of many exciting programs for children, as well as language and computer classes for adults.

- **Performing Arts**

Information of upcoming cultural performances in Willoughby such as Willoughby Symphony nights and community musicals. Spring Festival

- **Talks @ Willoughby**

The Library often hosts talks with special guests who speak about their recently published books, or other interesting topics.

- **The Concourse news**

Keep up to date with the latest progress of the site.

- **Visual Arts**

Keep up to date with exhibitions.

- **What's On (including Spring Festival)**

This e.news will alert you to major upcoming events in the Willoughby area.

- **Willoughby Leisure**

Be notified of upcoming events at the centre, and be the first to hear about special classes like Fit Camp and Run Club.

- **Willoughby Park**

Find out when the new class timetables are released, be reminded about application dates, and receive highlight notices.

To sign up, go to the website

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au, open 'e.newsletter' on the 'What's on' menu, click on 'Subscribe now' and follow the prompts, selecting the newsletters you would like to receive. You will then go on to the mailing list. There is a link to unsubscribe at the bottom of every e.news, or you can return to this page to unsubscribe.

Council will use your email address only to send out the e.news to you; your address will not be used for any other purpose or given to anyone else.

Editor

Buk Bilong Pikinini

Buk Bilong Pikinini (BBP) is a voluntary group in Papua New Guinea which has been creating small libraries in Port Moresby, Lae and beyond, to give disadvantaged children access to books and improve literacy. Sponsorships enable the group to engage teachers to run the libraries. The BBP Founder and Co-ordinator is Anne-Sophie Hermann, wife of Australia's High Commissioner to PNG. To start a new library BBP need at least 1500 books, educational toys and craft materials.

Castlecrag has been sending books to BBP over the past year, which has been very much appreciated. We send books whenever there are a few boxes ready to go, and thank you to all the generous Castlecrag folks who have donated lovely books to BBP.

If you have any gently-used children's books (or pencils, drawing books etc.), we can pass them on. Just drop them in to 70 The Bulwark, or phone Lorraine on 9958 1213 and we can pick up. Just one book makes a real difference! Encyclopaedias are excellent, too.

Lorraine Cairnes



Castlecrag Progress Association Annual General Meeting



Robert Sheldon AM at the Annual General Meeting. Photo: Lorraine Cairnes

Over 50 CPA members and friends attended the Sunday afternoon AGM that was a hugely successful mix of information, entertainment and socialising over refreshments.

2010–2011 Committee Election

Our Mayor and Mayoress, Pat and Beth Reilly, and Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney who is a member of our Association and resident of Castlecrag, attended the meeting.

The Mayor presided over the election of 12 committee members including five office bearers (profiled on page 4). Two members of the 2009–2010 committee, Warwick Lynch and Maggie Scheller, who were unable to attend the meeting, may be coopted to the current committee at a later date. The Mayor congratulated the Committee, the newly elected president, James Fitzpatrick, and welcomed two new Committee members, Stephen Richardson and Joe Christie.

Preview of DVD of the Haven's 2009 Carols Spectacular

A preview of the Haven's DVD was enthusiastically received. Orders for the

DVD are now being taken. It seems it will be a HOT item so we suggest that you place your orders ASAP (cost \$25; contact 9958 2127 or www.thehaven.biz).

Guest Speaker architect Robert Sheldon AM LFRAIA - the Haven Amphitheatre

Historical Background

Robert provided a short history of Castlecrag's development. He painted a picture of The Haven Scenic Amphitheatre, built in the 1930s in the Griffins' time with the help of local sculptor and stonemason Bim Hilder, as a scene of Greek tragedies, anthroposophical festivals and medieval plays that attracted people from near and far. In 1943 Marion, after Walter's death and her return to Chicago, gave the title deeds of the Haven Amphitheatre to Willoughby Council. During the war and the post-war building boom the theatre fell into disuse.

Resurrecting the Theatre

In 1969 Robert moved with his wife Patricia and young family to the house he designed for them in The Bulwark. Locals mentioned a theatre but it took Robert a while to find it, covered in lantana and tree cuttings and with only a few stone seats remaining. In 1975 he heard that Beverly Blacklock and the Bush Regeneration Committee were considering resurrecting the theatre for the Castlecrag Heritage Festival and the centenary in 1976 of Walter Burley Griffin's birth.

Robert was eventually persuaded to make the theatre workable in time for the Festival. He:

- had a survey of the site prepared to show the location of trees and rocks and to demonstrate the contours;
- decided to create a 'theatre in the round', a mini version of the ancient theatres in Greece; and
- chose the position of the stage acoustically by employing his young daughter Petrina to scramble throughout the valley playing her violin.

Robert thought a hexagonal platform floating between the two banks of the

creek would relate to Walter Burley Griffin's work. He submitted drawings to Willoughby Council hoping for a quick approval as the 1976 Festival was fast approaching!

Council was concerned! This was a public reserve with two road reserves coming down its slopes! Council approved the development, seeing the advantage of a theatre on this abandoned land which could be a park when not used for performances.

Mr Wangman, a local builder/developer, on whose project Robert was working at the time, agreed to help build the stage. A stonemason was found to build the seats with new stone. The stage was to be built of large treated logs for beams with columns and timber joists to support the floorboards. However floods on the north coast delayed delivery of the logs. Finally the materials were delivered, only 11 days before the first of nine performances of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*.

Beverly Blacklock's husband David generously financed most construction costs. However as there was a shortfall of \$2,000 Patricia doorknocked residents to obtain a loan, guaranteeing full repayment at the completion of the Festival. A resident, Mr Salteri was particularly generous, the theatre was built in 11 days and the loans repaid as promised.

Salome, directed by Howard Rubie with Patricia Sheldon playing the lead, was well received. Patricia had to dance while carrying in her arms a plaster head of John the Baptist made by Bim Hilder who insisted it should be the weight of a human head to add realism! (It was way too realistic for Patricia who had almost fallen down a trapdoor on the first night suffering a split fracture to her leg! She only discovered the fracture after the Festival when she finally had time to visit her doctor!) 500 residents worked to make the Festival a great success and the theatre became a focal point of the suburb.

Patricia organised Christmas Carols in the Haven for over 20 years, holding choir

Continued on page 10

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2010

I wish to renew / apply for membership for the CPA Inc., and enclose payment of: \$

(\$10 per person, \$5 per student)

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

Name:

Address:

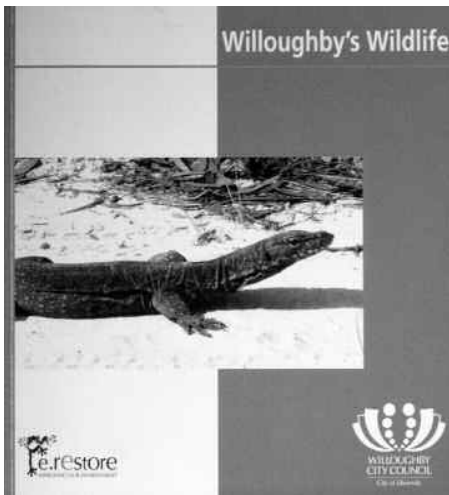
Phone: Email:

Please post to the Treasurer:

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag 2068

Queries to:
info@castlecrag.org.au

Book Review: *Willoughby's Wildlife*



Did you know that the Willoughby local government area is home to more than 250 species of native animals? This number includes recordings of 5 species of freshwater fish, 7 species of frogs, 15 species of mammals, 28 species of reptiles, 144 species of birds, a large, but as yet unknown, number of invertebrates, including slugs, snails, ants and no less than 18 species of bees.

This excellent small spiral-bound book, produced by Willoughby Council's Bushland section and printed on glossy, 100% recycled paper, draws on the fauna studies of Dr Arthur White and the bird surveys of Andy Burton. Divided into four sections, the book first addresses Willoughby's Changing Landscapes,

including the impacts of pressures such as predation by non-native animals and urban infrastructure.

The second section, *Willoughby's Wildlife*, examines the different fauna types, including feral animals, lists their status (eg abundant, common, rare, or threatened) and discusses threats to their survival. *Wildlife Habitat in Willoughby* describes the different types of habitat, together with their location, walks where one can experience them and the values they provide. Techniques of rehabilitation such as bush regeneration and use of fire are also discussed. Finally a section on Community Involvement outlines council programs such as Bushcare and the many council/community activities such as guided bushwalks, school activities, community gardens and the Fauna Fair. One case study highlights the Bushcare group working in Castlecrag's Retreat Reserve. A small subsection is devoted to organisations such as progress associations and Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) which are working to protect the environment.

The quality of the photographs, taken by Council staff and community members, is superb. The feathers of the Buff Banded Rail photographed by local resident Peter Moffitt are as sharp as a line drawing. It would be wonderful to have a photograph of every species, but that would require a much larger volume.

A glossary and list of references complement the book. There is no index

but the clear listing of contents should help locate specific information. *Wildlife Protection Areas* are referred to but the otherwise good map does not indicate their location.

Every household should have a copy of this book. Get your copy for \$20 from Level 4, Willoughby Council Chambers, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood.

Willoughby's Wildlife. 102 pp.
Willoughby City Council (2009)

Gay Spies

Friends of the Fountain

The Friends of the Fountain is a group of a dozen local residents with a monthly roster to weed and remove litter from the small triangular reserve surrounding the Birn Hilder designed fountain at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Sortie Port.

The group recently re-planted bare patches with local native plants to complement new rocks that have been placed there to prevent trucks and buses from using the Fountain 'island' inappropriately as a turning circle.

Participants were Frances Davis (from Willoughby Council), Chris Hopwood, Jill Newton, David Martin, Peter Moffitt and Lorraine Cairnes. Volunteers are welcome to join the group.

For information contact Frances Davis at WCC on 9777 7873.

Lorraine Cairnes

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Castlecrag Progress Association AGM

Continued from Page 8

practice in her home, using students from her speech and drama studio and even one year having a donkey on stage. Local ministers participated and made their choirs available when possible.

A few years after the Festival, Howard Rubie and others continued supporting and improving the theatre, making it a first-class performance space. The theatre is now managed by the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee, a committee of Willoughby City Council, with Howard Rubie as Chairman. Robert is a member of the Committee.

Robert noted that 34 years later, with much needed maintenance, construction of additional undercroft and storeroom and installation of electrical and sound facilities, the theatre is close to achieving Howard's dream. There is however still work to be done. The Committee is always seeking new members to help care for our unique theatre in the unique suburb of Castlecrag.

In closing, Robert thanked the current Committee members (saying they were the best group ever) for their energy and enthusiasm to do their very best.

Tributes were paid to both Robert and Patricia Sheldon for their work for the community over many years and particularly for their vision and work on The Haven Amphitheatre.

Jill Newton



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Council News

Spring Festival

This will be the 14th year of the Willoughby Spring Festival. Last year's festival attracted 240,000 people across 45 wide-ranging events, many organised by members of the local community.

StreetFair

A highlight of the festival is the StreetFair to be held on Saturday 11 September, 10am–4pm. For more than 13 years, the Willoughby Street Fair has been the heart of Willoughby City Council's Spring Festival. The CBD streets of Chatswood will be transformed into a showcase of craft, fine art, food, live performance and family activities. Of local interest will be the native plant stall organised by the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA).

StreetFair Parade

The Parade, to be held from 10–11.30am, is a major feature of the StreetFair, transforming Chatswood into 'a sea of moving colour as more than 1000 community members dance, march and perform to the beat of drums, bagpipes and brass bands'.

The Parade is open to all groups, from dancers and performers, to marching bands, to scout groups and seniors clubs.

Information from Rebecca Hill, WCC

Community Gardens Policy

Council has recently adopted a Community Gardens Policy in response to growing interest in establishing community gardens in underutilised land to grow food locally and increase community participation. Preferred locations are the higher density areas where such gardens would serve a greater social function and where suitable land is in shorter supply. Comments on the policy were invited for submission during July, with feedback to be incorporated into the policy.

Information from Rebecca Hill, WCC

Loop Bus

Willoughby City Council's trial of 'The Loop', a free shuttle bus, will continue at least until the end of August. Residents are encouraged to try out the service and send comments to the Sustainability Projects Officer Alison Jones (9777 7706 or Alison.jones@willoughby.nsw.gov.au).

The route serviced is different on each day, that on Tuesday being of most interest to Castlecrag residents. The bus runs from 10.30am–6pm on Tuesdays between Castlecrag, Northbridge and Willoughby East along Sunnyside Crescent, Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way, servicing the Castlecrag, Northbridge and High Street shops. The bus runs every 45 minutes and can be accessed anywhere along the route within safety limitations. A brochure can be obtained from Alison Jones.

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Neighbourhood Watch

Police Incident report April–May 2010 (Castlecrag and Middle Cove)

Incident Category	Details	Address	Premise	Date	Time
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Fri 23 April	5.30pm
Malicious damage	Damage to property	Raeburn Avenue, Castlecrag	Building site	Sat 8 May	8.00pm
Stealing	Steal from house yard	Rutland Avenue, Castlecrag	House yard	Thurs 27 May	10.00pm

Following the report in issue No 175 of *The Crag* in which we reported that Castlecrag—Middle Cove Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) would be disbanded unless volunteers came forward to serve on the committee, we can now report the good news that Jan and Geoff Duggin, Chris Jones and Linda McGregor have volunteered. They were elected to form the committee at a meeting held to discuss the future of the local NHW organisation on 26 May at the Castlecrag Community Centre. Jan Duggin will be the Area Co-ordinator. We would like to express our appreciation to these residents.

Other matters decided at that meeting were that NHW membership fees will no longer be applicable and no membership list will be kept. Snr Constable Matt Jewell from Chatswood Police confirmed that quarterly Crime Statistics can be provided for publication in *The Crag* as long as there is strong community interest and that a contribution from NHW funds would be made to *The Crag* to cover printing costs for Castlecrag and Middle Cove. Above are the

statistics for the period for April–May 2010. Although the statistics cover a shorter period than usual owing to *The Crag's* deadline, they appear to reflect a drop in reported crime in the area.

Middle Cove, where *The Crag* is not delivered, will receive the page prepared for publication in *The Crag* (with approval of *The Crag* Editor), duplicated for distribution in Middle Cove, using the volunteer NHW deliverers already available there. This will be arranged by the Area Co-ordinator.

Residents may not be aware that Castlecrag was the area selected in 1984 for the first Neighbourhood Watch program established in New South Wales after a trial scheme in Campsie. A report in the *North Shore Times* on 4 May 2010 quoted Mr Daley, Deputy Chief of the NSW Police Crime Prevention Unit in 1984: 'The people on the North Shore supported the program because of their community spirit and the large percentage of owner-occupied homes. They also had a really strong desire to help the police.'

Briefings for the North Shore Local Area

Command (LAC) Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) are held regularly at Chatswood Police Station. Residents are welcome to attend these briefings, the next one being scheduled for 10 August at 6.30pm.

**Jan Duggin, Lorraine Cairnes,
Margaret Chambers**

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000

For routine enquiries or advice after an incident phone Chatswood Police

9414 8499

Lane Cove Police

9428 1977

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- **Monday 9 August–Friday 13 August**

Council Metals Clean Up Service

For further information and precise date for your address see Council website at:

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/CleanUpSearch.aspx?PageID=510

- **Tuesday 10 August 6.30pm**

Neighbourhood Watch briefing for North Shore Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee

Chatswood Police Station. Residents welcome. Further information: Snr Const Matt Jewell 9414 8499

- **Sunday 22 August from 9am**

Tenth anniversary of Clive Park/The Knoll Bushcare Group, Northbridge

Bushcarers and other interested people welcome; morning tea and refreshments will be provided. Further information: Don Wilson 9967 0007

- **Tuesday 24 August 8pm**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc. General Meeting

Senior Constable Matt Jewell, Crime Prevention Officer at Chatswood Police, will speak on Identify Theft: Strategies to prevent falling victim to this emerging crime. All welcome. Further information: info@castlecrag.org.au

- **Saturday 4 September**

Sydney Opera Society

Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall; lecture by Stephen Mould, Lecturer at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, on *The Merry Wives of Windsor* to be performed by the Opera Studies Unit at the Conservatorium on 18, 21, 23 and 25 September. Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851

- **Saturday 11 September 10am–4pm**

Willoughby Spring Festival

StreetFair and Parade 10am, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.

- **Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 September**

- **Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 October 2.30pm**

Haven Amphitheatre

Spring Festival: performances through stories and music with Bronwyn Vaughan and Hip Hop Duende. Cost: \$12 from 4 years plus; bookings at Roger Page Real Estate 9958 0124. Further information 9958 2127, www.thehaven.biz

- **Tuesday 21 September 8pm**

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)

Meeting at Artarmon Library; Cotter Erickson will speak on 'Should we be using Nuclear Power?'. See <http://wepa.org.au/> for information.

- **Thursday 23 September 8pm**

Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS)

Meeting in Castlecrag Community Centre; speaker will be Costa from SBS' Garden show, *Costa's Garden Odyssey*. Further information: Matthew Keighery 9967 2682

- **Other Notices**

Walter Burley Griffin Society

Please contact the Secretary at info@griffinsociety.org for further information.

Castlecrag Community Library

Support your local library.

Opening hours: Tuesday 3–4.30pm; Thursday 2–5pm; Saturday 10am–12noon. Phone: 9958 8395.

Diary Dates 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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