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### CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

8pm, Tuesday, 23 August 2011

The Marion Mahony Griffin Hall at Glenaeon School  
121 Edinburgh Road Castlecrag

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney, Councillor for the Sailors Bay Ward  
Willoughby City Council, will speak on Castlecrag: its future  
and place within Willoughby City.

A panel discussion on community issues will follow with Cr Giles-Gidney  
and representatives from the Castlecrag Progress Association, Walter Burley  
Griffin Society and the Castlecrag Conservation Society.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

## Open day at the Cortile Reserve

'Let's Connect' was the theme for the open day and sausage sizzle held on May 15 at Cortile Reserve. It was a beautiful sunny morning for the unveiling of recent work by local bushcarers and Willoughby City Council (WCC).

The event was organised by the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee (GRAC), a voluntary committee of Castlecrag residents appointed by WCC and supported by council officer Frances Davis. GRAC oversees and advises on the maintenance and restoration of the reserves established by the Griffins within Castlecrag.

On display were plans for future work in other Griffin reserves and information about a proposed wildlife habitat connection from Harold Reid Reserve and the northern escarpment via Cortile Reserve to Watergate Reserve on the southern side of Castlecrag.

'Let's Connect' aimed to encourage the many people whose houses adjoin the reserves to connect with neighbours and learn about one of the many bushcare groups operating in the reserves (see page 12 for details of Bushcare Groups' meeting times).

And what a success! Over 150 people enjoyed the morning including the Mayor Cr Pat Reilly, councillors, council officers and residents and many young children who planted indigenous trees and shrubs raised from local stock. The Mayor also planted a commemoration tree. Gay Spies and Jan Felton (WCC) provided the planting schedule so that the reserve could demonstrate *in situ* Castlecrag's native plants as illustrated in the *Castlecrag local plant guide*.

The Castlecrag Sports Club, generally known as the Castlecrag Tennis Club, opened its clubhouse and many children

enjoyed playing tennis with Saturday coach Armand Djani who generously provided his services on the day *pro bono*.

The New Shorter Oxford Dictionary defines a cortile as 'an enclosed usually roofless and arcaded area within or attached to an Italian building'. The morning's success and the new gardens are a tribute to the enthusiasm of WCC, GRAC and local residents; even without Italian embellishment, the Cortile is a Castlecrag treasure. Residents are encouraged to visit the Cortile Reserve, opposite the shops at the tennis courts. Entry is either via The Postern or the Parapet.

*Photos: Matthew Keighery*

*Below left:*

*The Mayor Cr Pat Reilly with Rob and Zac Everett*

*Below centre:*

*Residents enjoying the event*

*Below right:*

*Elizabeth Lander with grand-daughter Erin*



## THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the  
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259  
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:  
[www.castlecrag.org.au](http://www.castlecrag.org.au)

emails to the CPA:  
[info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au)

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

### COMMITTEE 2010-2011

**President** James Fitzpatrick

**Vice Presidents** David Harrop  
Kate Westoby

**Secretary** Jill Newton

**Treasurer** Diana Jones

**Committee** Joe Christie  
Elizabeth Lander  
Warwick Lynch  
Gay Spies OAM  
John Steel  
Phil Walsh

**Editors** Margaret Chambers

**Assistant Editors** Lorraine Cairnes  
John Steel

email: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)

### 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](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)

They should be concise  
(preferably less than 250 words for letters).

Please include your email address or  
phone number as we may need to edit  
items to fit the space available.

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23 September, 2011

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## President's Musings

This issue of *The Crag* celebrates the  
success of our biennial Castlecrag Fair  
and the life of one who was always at the  
centre of our community, Howard Rubie.

The organisation of our fair is an  
enormous undertaking that Simone Selby,  
ably assisted by her husband, Mike, takes  
on with no fanfare. Thanks, Simone and  
your committee, and also the many  
individuals who assisted in various ways,  
from helping on the jumping castle  
(members of the infamous collective  
loosely known as the 'Gentlemen of the  
Crag'), to serving soup and selling books  
(see pages 6–7 for photographs). Thanks  
also to Mark Crew who for several weeks  
beforehand and on the day transported  
thousands of books.

Our local retailers and businesses again  
supported us (see centerfold) with  
financial assistance, time and goods, for  
which we thank them. A special thanks to  
our major sponsors, **Clipso Hairdressing**  
and **Woolworths**. Please continue to  
support our local retailers as they do  
significantly enrich our village.

Funds raised ensure the CPA continues to  
exist, with any profits being channeled  
back into community projects.

I was lucky to meet Howard Rubie and  
have the benefit of his words of wisdom  
at many CPA meetings. He cared deeply  
for our community and the continuity of  
a community spirit. I wish I had had  
more time to hear and learn from him,  
but I do believe the essence of his beliefs  
will continue in Castlecrag through the  
many passionate and selfless individuals  
who give so much to our suburb. The  
CPA has recently coined the phrase  
'community is for life'. Howard's life  
exemplified the meaning of this. Our  
thoughts are with his family.

I thank the 2010–2011 Committee for  
their time and valuable insights and  
welcome the new 2011–2012  
Committee.

It all bodes well for the future of  
Castlecrag...

**James Fitzpatrick,**  
President

## The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP speaks at CPA AGM

Gladys Berejiklian MP, Member for  
Willoughby and Minister for Transport,  
spoke on local and state issues to a large  
appreciative audience at CPA's 2011 AGM  
held in the new Marion Mahony Griffin  
Hall at Glenaeon School.

The local issue still very much on her  
mind is the right-hand turn arrow from  
Edinburgh Road to Eastern Valley Way  
which she tried so hard in opposition to  
have implemented. Following the recent  
election, Gladys has again approached the  
RTA about this but the decision rests with  
the RTA.

State issues discussed by Gladys included  
the government commitment to repeal  
Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning  
and Assessment Act*. Of her own  
portfolio, she emphasised that transport  
is all about customer service. Policy and  
implementation will be separated, with all  
public transport policy conducted centrally.  
Gladys generously answered questions and  
emphasised that she remains our local

member of parliament and is most  
interested in local matters.

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney acted as returning  
officer and the 2010–2011 Executive  
Committee members were re-elected for  
a further term with President: James  
Fitzpatrick; Vice-presidents: David Harrop  
and Kate Westoby; Treasurer: Diana Jones;  
and Secretary: Jill Newton. Two new  
committee members were elected: former  
President John Steel and Phil Walsh (see  
profiles on page 4). Four former committee  
members were farewelled and thanked for  
their work: former President Bruce Wilson,  
Stephen Richardson, Lorna Sinac who  
worked so hard for the 2009 fair, and  
Maggie Scheller who worked to address  
Edinburgh Road traffic problems. Other  
serving committee members were re-  
elected: Joe Christie, Elizabeth Lander,  
Warwick Lynch, the late Howard Rubie  
and Gay Spies OAM.

**Jill Newton,**  
Secretary

## Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011

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

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

\$ .....

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

\$ .....

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Castlecrag 2068

Queries to:  
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# Remembering Howard Rubie ASC ~ 1938–2011



Howard Rubie was a long serving committee member and past president of the Castlecrag Progress Association. He was a founding committee member and then chairman of the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee and a founding member of the Walter Burley Griffin Society. He died in the heart of his community in Castlecrag Private Hospital at 2pm on Saturday 18 June.

Howard lived with his wife Patricia in Castlecrag for over 40 years and was known by friends as *The Mayor of Castlecrag*. His contribution to the community of Willoughby was recognised in 2007 when he was made Willoughby Citizen of the Year.

Over many decades, Howard:

- participated in the successful fight against the extension of the Warringah Freeway that saved the northern escarpment of the Castlecrag Peninsula;
- supported the effort to prevent demolition of Castlecrag foreshore cottages;
- contributed to efforts to stop construction of 64 townhouses to replace Castlecrag Infants' School;
- helped organise the annual Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight and Castlecrag Fairs which have become part of the tradition of the community;
- helped establish the Upper Middle Harbour Marine Watch, serving as Zone Commander for ten years; and,
- worked tirelessly as builder, fundraiser, director, producer, mentor, MC, Santa, bus driver, crew member and chairman of the Haven Amphitheatre.

Howard's passion for the creative arts began in his childhood. He read everything he could lay his hands on and photographed just about everything he saw. While his father was away at war he lived with his mother and younger brother Kerry on his grandfather's property near Corowa NSW. When his father returned the family moved to Coogee.

Both boys soon developed a love for the sea and became active members of the local Surf Life Saving Club.

Howard joined Cinesound's newsreel operations and became a skilled cameraman recording images of bushfires in the Blue Mountains, floods ravaging northern NSW, and ocean racing yachts sailing across Bass Strait. His coverage was always compelling because he dared to get as close to the action as possible – sometimes literally in it – with singed eyebrows to prove it.

Howard's visual story-telling skills led to him being recognised as one of Australia's leading cameramen. In May 2010 he was elected to the Cinematographers' Society Hall of Fame. His coverage of the Maitland floods inspired the movie *Newsfront*.

During his career Howard received 17 industry awards including an Emmy nomination, two Prix Jeunesse (European Awards), the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival 1999 for *Search for Treasure Island* and Certificate of Merit for the film *Cries from a Cold Aquarium*. He was also a prolific director of TV drama including the World War II series of *Spyforce* starring Jack Thompson. He cast a young Nicole Kidman in *Chase through the Night*, directed the feature film *The Settlement* and was first assistant director/second unit director of *Wake in Fright*.

Howard, a skilled yachtsman, loved the sea. When he married Patricia, he thought his yacht would make an ideal first home. After experiencing life on the yacht for a while, the young couple rented and later bought Bim Hilder's fisherman's cottage at the end of the Castlecrag peninsula, transforming it into the beautiful home where they lived for the rest of Howard's life, his yacht moored just beyond the balcony.

Howard's funeral service at St James Church in Castlecrag and the celebration of his life the following day at Northbridge Golf Club were fitting tributes to his life. Both were attended by his family and a

huge number of friends from the community and industry.

Jack Metcalfe, a close friend of Howard and fellow Haven Committee member, said that Howard brought three essential elements to all his schemes and projects: his clarity of vision, an indefatigable resolve and determination and a deep and abiding sense of service to something greater than himself.

Mayor Pat Reilly, another of Howard's friends, said of Howard that 'with his creativity mixed in with his attention to community consciousness and to community interest and with his attitude towards sensible governance, there was always balance, and that's what made him such a wonderful person. He was a very very deeply thinking person but also an action person. ...' The Mayor urged the 'good folk of Castlecrag' to keep that spirit alive because 'the spirit of Howard Rubie will never leave Castlecrag'.

Kate Westoby, fellow committee member, secretary when Howard was president of the CPA and friend for over 30 years, said that Howard was involved in all aspects of the community and was dedicated to working for it. He was particularly passionate about the school and only a few weeks before his death was still trying to have a documentary film made about the fight to save it.

In Jack Metcalfe's words we are 'humbled by him and deeply saddened by his loss'. The loss of Howard has affected many of us, his friends, more profoundly than we could have expected and we long for his presence.

Vale Howard. You have been an inspiration! We will miss you deeply, but we will always remember you.

Howard is survived by his wife Patricia, his brother Kerry and his mother, Joan.

*Acknowledgement: The commentary on the early part of Howard's life and work has been extracted from the tribute paid by Kerry Rubie to Howard at his funeral and celebration of his life.*

*Photos: Courtesy Rubie family and Jill Newton.*

# Castlecrag Notes

## New CPA Committee members

**John Steel** is currently a consultant in livestock parasite control, following a long career as a CSIRO research scientist in the livestock industry. He and Marianne became residents of Castlecrag in 1979, joining the Progress Association shortly thereafter. John was elected to the committee in 1998 and served as President from 2004–2007. A founding member of the Oriel Bushcare Group, he has a strong interest in environmental sustainability and the preservation of our natural and built heritage that makes Castlecrag such a special place in which to live and rear a family. John is well-known for his fashionable bushcare attire, and has been accepted as a contestant in the next series of MasterChef following an outstanding performance of gourmet cuisine in the Oriel Reserve, where he effortlessly fed over 80 local residents and Councillors.

**Phil Walsh** is an IT consultant with one of the Big-Four accountancy and advisory firms. A relative newcomer to Castlecrag, moving to the area from Willoughby in 2009, Phil, Pru and their three boys were attracted by its community feel and bushland surroundings. Spending a large part of his life sailing around Sydney Harbour, Phil is passionate about the foreshore and local waterways. He has a keen interest in maintaining the original principles of Castlecrag that make the area so special, specifically regenerating native bush and maintaining the Griffin Reserves, pathways and foreshore in a way that brings the community together.

## Land and Environment Court decision

In July 2011 the Land and Environment Court handed down a strong decision rejecting a development application for a multi-level dwelling, driveway and swimming pool on an undeveloped site in the Griffin Conservation Area in Castlecrag. The applicant appealed Willoughby City Council's refusal of the application. The Court in dismissing the appeal upheld Council's planning controls for the zone and the Conservation Area.

The Court found the proposed development unsuitable for the site for the reasons stated in the decision including:

- it is an overdevelopment of the site, is visually intrusive and dominates landscape and scenic qualities;
- it is inconsistent with the objectives of the Residential 2(a2) Scenic Protection Zone and the management policies for the Griffin Conservation Area in the WDCP;
- it is excessive in height bulk and scale and is not subordinate to the natural landscape;
- the proposed driveway is unsafe because its gradient does not comply with the Australian Standards or Council's code and is at odds with the Griffin Conservation Area.

Several community organisations, many local residents and expert witnesses for both sides presented their views to the Court. (See <http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/landenv/index.html> for the full decision).

## Design Awards

Several recent design awards have connections to Castlecrag, and we congratulate the awardees:

- NSW Architecture Award for Urban Design–Lloyd Rees Award: to Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects for the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (Redfern). Peter Tonkin is a Castlecrag resident.
- NSW Architecture Award for Residential Architecture–Houses: to Neeson Murcutt Architects for a house in Edinburgh Road (see Ben Gerstel's article, *The Crag* May 2011).
- Winner of a design competition for a new Sydney highrise office tower at 33 Bligh Street: fitzpatrick+partners. James Fitzpatrick is a Castlecrag resident and President of the CPA.

## Valda Wilson wins travelling scholarship

Young Castlecrag opera singer Valda Wilson, whom many have heard singing in The Haven Amphitheatre at the Christmas Eve Carols, has been awarded a Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship of \$20,000 towards travel and study expenses over the next two years.

Valda is briefly in Australia, and on Monday 15 August is teaming up with baritone Andrew Finden (2010 Marten Bequest winner) and accompanist Sharolyn Kimmorley AM for a concert at the Paddington Uniting Church.

Save the date!

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## Castlecrag at the National Museum in Canberra

Griffin's Castlecrag is one of 34 places from across the nation featured in the National Museum of Australia's (NMA) outstanding new permanent exhibition, Landmarks: People and Places of Australia. Although overshadowed by a huge windmill at the other end of the gallery, the giant 'Walter' and 'Marion' puppets ensure that the Castlecrag component stands out among the crowd.

Six years in the making, Landmarks explores ten ideas or ambitions or challenges for life in Australia in its broad history as a nation since European colonisation. It explores the diversity of our lives across the continent, while also drawing out connections and similarities in Australian experience in different places.

Castlecrag was selected along with Bowen Hills in Brisbane, Bennelong Point in Sydney and 'Perth's playground', Rottneest Island, to explore the emergence of the highly urbanised nation we know today. Dr Daniel Oakman, who curated these displays, made numerous visits to the communities to interview people and collect objects for the exhibition, and many of us have met him and respect his courtesy and expertise.

Kerry and I, along with Lindy Batterham and Alex and Babs Ground, had the memorable opportunity to represent our community at the official opening of the new gallery and exhibition on the evening of 2 June. The key objects in the expertly-presented Castlecrag component are the giant puppets, on loan to the NMA,

supplemented by a collection of hand-puppets created by Bim Hilder; the Knitlock tile-making machine used by Griffin at Castlecrag, together with a number of tiles; two of the original doors from the Duncan House; a desk from the GSDA\* No 1 Dwelling when it was used as the drawing office; and a Griffin-designed light, also from GSDA No 1.

A continually-running DVD of the GSDA promotional film Beautiful Middle Harbour helps to place the objects in the Griffins' time in Castlecrag, while the Felstead House, now owned by Alex and Babs Ground, is featured as the prime example of a building constructed of Knitlock, the interlocking concrete and crushed sandstone tile system devised by Griffin and his associates. Ingeniously, the curators have developed plastic Lego-style 'Knitlock' building blocks that children can use to create their own building designs.

Although there is some coverage of the Haven Amphitheatre, the one area of disappointment with the Castlecrag interpretation is that little is provided on how our community retains a strong sense of identity and commitment to conserving the beauty and natural heritage of the place that inspired the Griffins to create a unique suburb in the 1920s. Daniel Oakman is keen to develop this theme further and we look forward to the display evolving in this direction over the coming years.

**Bob McKillop**

*\*GSDA – the Greater Sydney Development Association was the company formed by Walter Burley Griffin to purchase and develop land*

*which included large portions of the areas now known as Castlecrag, Castle Cove and Middle Cove. It was to be a model of how to subdivide, develop and build within, and with respect for, the Australian landscape.*

## Photographic award

Congratulations to Alex Vaughan for winning the people's choice award in the Head On photo festival in June for her photograph *Les and Eileen* (see page 5, *The Crag* May 2011 for an article on Alex's work and a copy of the photograph). Works in the exhibition were selected for the quality and impact of the image.

## Village anniversaries

**Bai Yok Thai Restaurant** and **Ganache French Patisserie** recently celebrated their 10 year anniversaries in Castlecrag. We thank Michael and Didier and their staff for their significant contributions to the community over the years and we look forward to the next 10 years!

**Sugar and Spice** delicatessen has had a successful first year in Castlecrag. Congratulations to all.

## Found in book at Fair

Did you donate a book on Switzerland by AUGÉ International?

In it were discovered five undated school and sports team photographs from Sydney Grammar, and one dated 1974 from Vaucluse Infants School. Enquiries to Kate Westoby/Mark Crew on 9958 0215.

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# Castlecrag community is for life Fair – 5 June 2011

The biennial Castlecrag Fair, held on 5 June 2011, was an outstanding success in every respect.

Fortunately the day dawned clear and sunny, sandwiched between several very wet days. This was particularly important to all participants including the major Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) enterprises: a monster bookstall and a soup kitchen.

The CPA expresses thanks to all who contributed to the Fair's success and particularly acknowledges our major sponsors:



**CLIPSO** HAIRDRESSING

Above all, the day was fun. Among those attending were the Mayor and a number of councillors including our three Sailors Bay ward representatives, residents and visitors. Amusements for the children were provided by a jumping castle, bungee trampoline, music and a wildlife entertainer. The day was a major cooperative effort, illustrating the community spirit in our suburb.



Cr Adrian Cox and Jan Felton, Community Projects Officer, WCC.  
Photo: John Steel



Aston Cox generating electricity to make smoothies.  
Photo: Niki Hughes



Rainbow the Clown (Sonya Dubalay).  
Photo: Niki Hughes



Jennifer Stone, Bruce Wilson and Kate Westoby at the bookstall. Photo: John Steel



Angus McBarron on bungee trampoline. Photo: Niki Hughes



Sheila Sippel and Gay Spies at WEPA stall. Photo: Niki Hughes



Butcher Boys staff at barbecue. Photo: John Steel



Matthew Keighery, Harold Spies and Katie Cooney at Castlecrag Conservation Society stall. Photo: John Steel



Mark Crew with Alessio Colli, Hugo Lee and a young assistant. Photo: Niki Hughes



Anthony Stimson, Australian Wildlife Displays, entertains the crowd. Photo: Niki Hughes



The Mayor Cr Pat Reilly drawing raffle, assisted by James Fitzpatrick. Photo: Jill Newton



John Kabos and Bruce Wilson at Walter Burley Griffin Society stall. Photo: Matthew Keighery



Helen Haigh, WCC Bush Regenerator, Steve Gow and Liz Powell, Habitat Restoration Officer, WCC. Photo: Matthew Keighery



Sandra and Christian Walsh, Sean and Patrick Dixon. Photo: Niki Hughes

**Our appreciation goes to the following who contributed their professional time, goods, money and raffle prizes:**

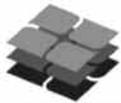
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## Council News



### The Concourse Community Open Day 10 September 2011

Local people are invited to take their first glimpse inside The Concourse, Willoughby's highly anticipated performing arts, entertainment and information destination, at the Community Open Day 12 noon to 4pm, Saturday 10 September 2011.

The Open Day will see the doors of The Concourse open for the first time and will provide members of the public an exclusive preview inside the centre's major venues – the Concert Hall, Theatre and Library.

Tickets are already on sale to a number of shows including the Willoughby Theatre Company's production of *The Boy from Oz*, *Ode to Joy* by the Willoughby Symphony and a performance by internationally renowned performer Pam Ayres, with more shows soon to be announced. Ticket information is available at [theconcourse.com.au](http://theconcourse.com.au).

Throughout September a number of Spring Festival events will feature at The Concourse. Events will include the Mayoress' Luncheon, Selby and Friends

and the Voices of Spring. The Faces of Willoughby project will also be unveiled as part of the festival.

An interactive community art project, the Faces of Willoughby, will merge more than 1,500 portraits of the Willoughby community into six images reflecting the community. The six part series will reflect male and female composites of youth, seniors and all Willoughby residents. The portraits, located adjacent to the Art Space near Anderson Street, will be revealed at the Willoughby StreetFair on 10 September from 12 noon.

'September will be an historic occasion for the people of Willoughby with the completion and opening of The Concourse,' said Willoughby Mayor, Cr Pat Reilly. 'The Concourse is set to become a dynamic, accessible and progressive nucleus for live art and entertainment, providing a performance venue for local, national and international artists... The extensive library will also provide a state-of-the-art learning centre and information and resource hub for the community', said the Mayor.

The Community Open Day will be held as part of the Willoughby StreetFair. Entrance will be from the Box Office located next to the Art Space at the Anderson Street site entrance. The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO will officially open The Concourse. Locals are invited to join in the outdoor celebrations on The Concourse from 4.30pm, Saturday 17 September.

### The Concourse is:

**Chatswood Library** – 5,000 square metres. Set to be one of NSW's busiest libraries, Chatswood Library on The Concourse will offer separate study areas, meeting rooms, training facilities, multilingual collections in more than ten languages and will be equipped with the latest technology including self-checkouts, a modern security system and an automated handling system.

### Performing Arts Centre

**The Concert Hall** – 1,000 seats. Acoustically excellent, the Concert Hall provides a sensational atmosphere for a diverse range of performances, from classical music and chamber ensembles to jazz, world and pop music.

**The Theatre** – 500 seats. The Theatre will attract regular seasons of professional touring theatre companies, lectures and seminars and musical and theatre shows.

**The Civic Pavilion** – 509 sqm

**The Studio** – 149 sqm

**Rehearsal Room** – 149 sqm

**Green Room** – 119 sqm

**Orchestra Room** – 115 sqm

**Chorus Room** – 72 sqm

**The Lounge** – 50 sqm boardroom

**Art Space** – 90 sqm

**Outdoor Urban Screen**

**Retail and Dining**

**Rebecca Hill**

**Media and Marketing Group Manager,  
Willoughby City Council**

# We'll meet you on The Concourse

## Join us for a Community Open Day, 12 noon to 4pm, Saturday 10 September.

For the first time the doors of The Concourse will open and you are invited to drop in for an exclusive preview.

Be one of the first on site, take a look inside the Concert Hall, Theatre and library and find out more about shows and performances.

The Community Open Day will be held as part of the Willoughby StreetFair. Tours depart from the box office.

The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO will officially open The Concourse. You are also invited to join in the celebrations on The Concourse 4.30pm, Saturday 17 September.



## The Houses of Castlecrag

Another article in Ben Gerstel's series featuring some interesting and historic houses in Castlecrag.

Ben, an architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association ([www.architecture.org.au](http://www.architecture.org.au)), leads walking tours around Castlecrag and Middle Cove.

### 11 The Scarp

Castlecrag is a very architectural suburb and not just because it was designed by the architect, Walter Burley Griffin. This suburb also has many fine, architect-designed homes. Two of these homes were designed by the late architect, Bruce Rickard.

The first house is located at 138 Edinburgh Road. This eventuated in 1995 from the subdivision of the land between 136 and 140 Edinburgh Road, two existing Griffin houses. This created a third parcel of land to build a new house which was to be sold to obtain funds to restore 136 Edinburgh Road. Rickard was chosen because of his understanding of the work of the famous American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Griffin, before he came to Australia after winning the competition to design Canberra, was working in Wright's office. Bruce Rickard was born in 1929 and died in 2010. He began his architecture diploma at Sydney Technical College in 1947 and travelled to America and Europe in 1954. In America he discovered the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The concepts of Wright's work would stay with him for his lifetime.

Fifteen years on, Rickard designed a second house in Castlecrag at 11 The Scarp, the result of a major renovation to the existing house on the site, which is the last house Rickard completed before his death.

The site and the massing of the previous house dictated the Rickard design. The new house sits on the footprint of the former house, is long and basically one room wide, and spread across the site. Another constraint was a big drop-off at the rear of the site. To compensate for this, the land extends to Sailors Bay, which provides a fantastic adventure playground for the children who live in the house. It also provides a wonderful view from the house and is its major focal point. This is enhanced by having large timber-framed glass sliding doors at the back of the house to access the timber deck.

Another factor in the resolution of the design was the location of the part first floor on the left-hand side of the ground floor to maintain views to the bay from the surrounding houses.

The house is a combination of different materials, for example, cement-rendered



masonry, dark-stained timber and a metal deck roof. Timber is a feature throughout the house along with a limited colour scheme of earthy tones. The kitchen has an island of honed concrete. Also, in the kitchen there is an interesting use of mirrors as a splashback to pick up the landscape and the view.

An open-tread timber staircase leads up to the parents' retreat. This acts as a spatial divider, separating the kitchen / dining area from the living room. The house has a lower floor where there is a home office and music studio.

The front yard has been overplanted with Australian natives which provide a wonderful green edge to the front of the house. In time, this will help screen the house from the street to provide some privacy. Due to the lay of the land, the front garden is the only flat area of the site and has become the children's playground.

The house has a very relaxed feel, almost like a holiday house.

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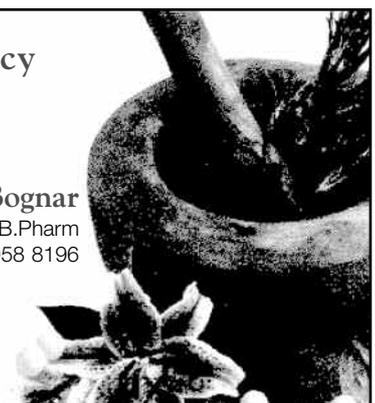
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# WILDLIFE NEWS • wildlife news • WILDLIFE NEWS

Winter is with us, and the summer migrant birds have left—we heard the last raucous calls of a Channel-billed Cuckoo in February, and the Common Koels have departed for the warm north of New Guinea, Indonesia etc; so we will all be left in relative peace until their return in September. Who will be the first to hear them?

But we still have the morning wake-up call from the Kookaburras, which, throughout the year will provide—free—their first laughter performance of the day, an hour or so before sunrise. Their cackling call is a territorial or contact call; as far as we know, Kookaburras do not tell each other jokes. And apparently there is no evidence that Kookaburras' laughter means that rain is on the way.

A White-faced Heron has been spotted in gardens in The Bulwark, showing special interest in a small garden pond (where there might have been some delicious froggy morsels for its dinner). These graceful birds are common around the harbour foreshores, and occasionally visit the gardens and creeks of Castlecrag. These sightings show that if your garden can include a small pond, it will attract some really interesting wildlife. Such a pond only needs to be tiny!

In the February 2011 issue of *The Crag* you will have read Gay Spies' item 'Myrtle Rust threat to native plants'. Over the past months, all local Bushcare groups in Castlecrag and elsewhere in Willoughby have checked bushland reserves for Myrtle Rust. Fortunately none has been located, but we should all continue to watch our

own gardens, and if necessary report any infestations to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881). You can read Gay's article on the Castlecrag website, at <http://www.castlecrag.org.au/crag/theCrag.htm>

If you are thinking of **adding some local native plants to your garden**, winter is a good time to plant them—they will have a while to settle in before the heat of summer arrives. Good choices to attract wildlife include Banksias and of course every garden should have a Wattle (*Acacia* species). Wattles range from small ground-hugging plants to large and beautiful trees such as the Coastal Myall (*Acacia binervia*), with its silver, sickle-shaped leaves and golden springtime flowers. Like many of the wattles: its seeds are attractive to native birds. But, please, resist any temptation to plant Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*), Queensland Silver Wattle (*A. podalyriifolia*) or Orange Wattle (*A. saligna*). These are all fast growing and readily germinate from seed, but they are not local natives of the Castlecrag area. They can escape from gardens and invade adjacent natural areas and behave as weeds, and so should not be grown near bushland.

The best reference for plant selection for your Castlecrag garden is the brochure produced by the Castlecrag Progress Association and Council, **Castlecrag Local Plant Guide**. If you don't have a copy, please contact the Progress Association on [info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au) or PO Box 4259 Castlecrag NSW 2068.

Lorraine Cairnes



Photo: John O'Neill

## Eastern Bearded Dragon—sequel

I would like to assure Marie Clifton-Bassett (*The Crag* May 2011) that her Eastern Bearded Dragon visitor is probably fine, just hibernating. For the second summer in a row, (possibly) the same one visits us and our neighbour in Sugarloaf Crescent. Our neighbour's backyard provides a swimming pool, and we have a compost bin from which we feed it succulent worms, fly larvae and the occasional cockroach. In addition, on a hot day it appreciates a light hose spraying and may perform comical twists and turns to express its pleasure. Come autumn, when things start to cool down, it disappears. We are looking forward to next December!

Phil Moloney

## Willoughby Spring Fair

WEPA (Willoughby Environmental Protection Association) will have a stall at the Willoughby Spring Festival Street Fair on 10 September selling a range of local native plants and will be providing expert advice about them too.

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## Neighbourhood Watch

### Police Incident report January–June 2011 (Castlecrag and Middle Cove)

Incident Category	Details	Address	Premise	Date	Time
Stealing	Steal from marine vessel	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	After Sat 1 Jan	12:00
Malicious damage	To property	Highland Ridge Middle Cove	Residential	Sun 2 Jan	12:00
Sexual offence	Other	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Tue 4 Jan	09:00
Malicious damage	To property	The Battlement Castlecrag	Residential	Fri 7 Jan	18:00
Malicious damage	To property	The Bastion Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Fri 7 Jan	17:00
Stealing	Steal from motor Vehicle	Rockley St Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Fri 7 Jan	19:30
Malicious damage	To property	Rockley St Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Fri 7 Jan	19:00
Malicious damage	To property	Rockley St Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Tue 11 Jan	19:00
Malicious damage	Graffiti	The Redoubt Castlecrag	Residential	Tue 1 Feb	18:30
Stealing	Other steal	Rockley St Castlecrag	Industrial/building site	Wed 16 Feb	15:30
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Rembrandt Dr Middle Cove	Residential	Fri 25 Feb	12:30
Malicious damage	To property	The Postern Castlecrag	Education/preschool	Tue 1 Mar	17:00
Malicious damage	To property	The Bastion Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Sat 5 Mar	14:00
Stealing	Steal from motor Vehicle	The Battlement Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Sat 5 Mar	18:00
Assault	Common assault	The Parapet Middle Cove	Business/commercial	Mon 7 Mar	18:20
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Barbette Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 9 Mar	12:30
Stealing	Other steal	Sunnyside Cr Castlecrag	Residential	Thur 17 Mar	18:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	North Arm Rd Middle Cove	Residential	Mon 21 Mar	01:38
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Education private school	Thur 24 Mar	20:30
Malicious damage	Malicious damage To property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 30 Mar	20:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Linden Way Castlecrag	Residential	Tue 12 Apr	10:00
Stolen Vehicle	Vehicle	Linden Way Castlecrag	Outdoor/public space	Wed 13 Apr	06:15
Stealing	Other steal	Linden Way Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 13 Apr	06:15
Malicious damage	Malicious damage To property	Rutland Ave Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 16 Apr	16:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Bastion Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 27 Apr	07:30
Malicious damage	Malicious damage To property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 30 Apr	18:00
Malicious damage	Malicious damage To property	The Battlement Castlecrag	Residential	Thur 5 May	17:00
Stealing	Steal from marine vessel	The Parapet Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 18 May	07:15
Malicious damage	Graffiti	The Parapet Castlecrag	Residential	Sun 29 May	16:30
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Scarp Castlecrag	Residential	Sun 29 May	12:00
Stealing	Steal from motor Vehicle	The Scarp Castlecrag	Residential	Sun 29 May	12:00
Stealing	Other steal	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Business/commercial	Tue 31 May	21:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Scarp Castlecrag	Residential	Tue 31 May	19:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Thur 9 June	18:00
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Business/commercial	Fri 17 June	05:00

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# Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

• **Tuesday 23 August, 8pm**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc. General Meeting  
Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road.  
The speaker will be Gail Giles-Gidney, Councillor for the Sailors Bay Ward, Willoughby City Council.  
All welcome. Further information: [info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au)

• **Saturday 3 September, 2pm**

Sydney Opera Society  
Lecture by Dr Robert Gibson on The Ring Cycle (part 1), at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall, cnr Laurel and High Streets  
Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851.

• **Saturday 10 September, 12 noon-4pm**

Willoughby City Council: Concourse Community Open Day  
As part of the Willoughby StreetFair, residents are invited to drop in for an exclusive preview or attend the official opening at 4.30pm by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC AVO.

• **Sunday 11 September, 9am-12 noon**

Bushcare Major Day Out is going National  
At Tunks Park, Brothers Avenue, Cammeray followed by free sausage sizzle provided by Rotary. Learn about bushland and help restore our parkland. Enquiries: Don Wilson 9958 0007, [gdonya@bigpond.com](mailto:gdonya@bigpond.com)

• **Tuesday 20 September, 8pm**

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)  
Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road.  
Cotter Erickson will speak on 'How did Malthus get it so wrong? The future of population growth in a world of limited resources'. See <http://wepa.org.au/> for information.

• **Thursday 22 September, 8pm**

Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS)  
General meeting and a topical talk on an issue of community concern at the Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road. Enquiries: Matthew Keighery 9967 2682.

• **Saturday 24 September, 2pm**

Sydney Opera Society  
Lecture by Dr David Schwartz on The Love of the Nightingale by Richard Mills, at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall, cnr Laurel and High Streets Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851.

• **Tuesday 11 October, 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.

## OTHER NOTICES

### Castlecrag Bushcare Groups' Meeting Dates

#### First Sunday of the month

- Cortile Reserve; 8am-11am; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295

#### Second Sunday of the month

- Keep Reserve; 9am-12.30pm; contact Matthew Keighery 9967 2682

#### Third Tuesday of the month

- Gargoyle Reserve; 9am-12 noon; contact Margaret Hutchinson 9958 4230

#### Third Saturday of the month

- Rockley St; 9am-12 noon; contact Tanya Coates 0411 086 105

#### Third Sunday of the month

- Edinburgh Road; 9am-12 noon; contact Karen Ferguson 9958 4417
- Casement Reserve; 9am-12 noon; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295
- Oriel Reserve; 9am-12 noon; contact Mandy Wilson 9777 7875
- Retreat Reserve; 9-12 noon; contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213 or Jill Newton 9967 4933

#### Fourth Sunday of the month

- Beverley Blacklock Reserve/Cheyne Walk; 9am-12 noon; contact Frank Milner 0409 586 533

*Diary Dates* is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

Please contact: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au) with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.



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