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WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL'S GENERAL MANAGER TO SPEAK IN CASTLECRAG ABOUT THE HAVEN AMPHITHEATRE

Guest Speaker: Nick Tobin will be giving an update on
Community Consultation and the Process Going Forward
for the Reconstruction of THE HAVEN STAGE

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY MEETING

8pm, Thursday 14 March, 2012

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

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED

Another Sell out Cabaret at The Haven



Australian jazz chanteuse Bonnie J Jensen at the Haven Photos: Jill and Richard Newton

For those lucky 90 or so people who could get to a table at the Citadel of Song cabaret on 23rd November last, the night could not have been much sweeter.

The Bonnie J Jensen Quartet gave us a superb show. Bonnie played keyboards and faultlessly delivered vocals for over two hours, backed by Sydney scene jazz greats, Brendan Clark on bass, Graham Hildendorf

on drums and Andrew Robertson on sax and flute. They showered us with jazz standards, unique renditions of rock classics and stunning originals and all the while Keepin It Fresh served another one of their exceptional meals. And one could be forgiven for wishing it would never end. It was dry, warm and windless, the Maestro uplit all the trees, the sound wafted gently

over the entire audience..... and no one was asked to leave!

This was the first of a series of Haven Cabarets planned for the Goddesses of Song we are blessed enough to know.

The next show in this series will be on 5 April 2012 – see page 5 under 'Haven News' for details. Don't miss it!

STOP PRESS:

At the CPA Community Meeting on Thursday 14 March 2013 Willoughby City Council's General Manager, Nick Tobin, will be joined by Council's Infrastructure Services Director Stephen Head speaking on the Castlecrag Village Centre – public domain upgrade.

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

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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We do not publish anonymous letters.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
phone number as we may need to edit
items to fit the space available.

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5 April, 2013

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Castlecrag Progress Association news and update**November 2012 meeting report**

Our final general meeting for 2012 was well-attended and showcased the second of our architectural talks 'Architects, clients and homes in Castlecrag'. Guest speakers, architect Virginia Kerridge and client Gloreen Goldin, spoke about the design and evolution of the Goldins' beautiful Castlecrag home.

Gloreen's brief to Virginia for a multilevel house overlooking Middle Harbour included that it should blend in with the environment and comply with Council's LEP and DCP. Before the development application was submitted, Virginia and Gloreen discussed with Council officers each aspect of the design phase, which meant that the DA was approved in four months! The house with an all-native garden is placed below street level so that passers-by can also enjoy the view of the waterways below. Gloreen and Virginia showed a film made of this most inspirational house.

Cr Gail Giles Gidney and Cr John Hooper provided us with an update of Council issues and particularly some of those discussed at the 2012 Local Government Association's Annual Conference held in Dubbo. Council amalgamations were mooted at this conference in recognition that some Councils have insufficient funds to provide required essential services and facilities. While some Councils may need to amalgamate it is hoped that Willoughby City Council, being one of the best managed councils in New South Wales (it was the 2011 Local Government winner of the AR Bluett Award – see *The Crag* No 182 February 2012, p2), will oppose amalgamation.

**Castlecrag Community Fair
2 June 2013**

Planning is now under way for our biennial Community Fair to be held from 10am to 3 pm on Sunday 2 June 2013. Any community groups and individuals who might like a stall or to stage an event are urged to begin their own planning now,

to help make this a real community day.

For information about the Fair and stall availability please contact our Fair Coordinator, Simone Selby, on 0421 369 643. The CPA again intends having two fundraising stalls (a food stall and a book stall) and is seeking donations of books, DVDs, CDs and also games this year. If you have items for donation, please contact Kate Westoby on 0402 465 522 or Mark Crew on 0412 971 861.

New Planning Laws for NSW

As *The Crag* goes to press the White Paper and Draft Legislation on proposals for a new planning system for NSW have not been released (for article on the new planning laws see *The Crag* No 185 November 2012 page 1). We expect it to be released in early February 2013 with a two to three month exhibition period.

As it is critical that as many people as possible comment, we hope to run an information session/workshop on the White Paper. Speakers (to be announced) will be drawn from the Better Planning Network and Willoughby City Council. Please keep a look out for notices around the Quadrangle shopping centre advertising of this important meeting. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend the briefing session.

**New Stage for The Haven
Amphitheatre**

The CPA committee fully supports the concept proposal of the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee to replace the existing stage with a new structure to be named *The Howard Rubie Memorial Stage*. This will ensure that Marion Mahony Griffin's gift to Council of this unique space is retained in good working condition for future generations.

Council's General Manager will be speaking at the next CPA meeting on Thursday 14 March about the Haven Amphitheatre project, community consultation and the process going forward.

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013**

(\$20 per person, \$10 per student)

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

(For further options to pay memberships please visit www.castlecrag.org.au and select 'Membership option')

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

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Castlecrag 2068

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info@castlecrag.org.au

CPA news continued...

Castlecrag Walkways Strategy

Our committee continues to work with Council on this long term project. For clarification regarding one element of the proposals for Castlecrag Walkways' article in *The Crag* No. 185 November 2012 on page 9, we state that the walkways as discussed:

- in point 3, between 95-97 The Bulwark linking to between 19-21 The Bastion, and
- in point 6, between 34 The Bulwark and 18 The Scarp linking The Bulwark to The Scarp,

ARE NOT CURRENTLY ACCESSIBLE LINKAGES.

Edinburgh Rd Right Hand Turning Arrow

Most responses the CPA has seen, to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) October 2012 community newsletter survey of its proposed changes introducing parking restrictions to Edinburgh Rd, were unsupportive of the schemes proposed by the RMS. These changes would not have addressed the primary concern of our community that it is unsafe to turn right out of Edinburgh Road northwards into Eastern Valley Way.

Following the CPA's representation at Council's Traffic Committee Meeting on 28 November 2012 that was also attended by Mr John Begley of the RMS, Council agreed to not support the recommendations and to write to the RMS seeking the CPA's suggestion of a dedicated right-hand turn arrow outside of peak hours. (The RMS clearly will not support the right turn arrow during peak hours.)

As the only impediment to the installation of the right turn arrow outside peak hours is the \$100,000 to \$150,000 cost, the CPA will be making a final push in the next few months to obtain this arrow and will be keeping the community posted of developments and of what you can do to help!

Jill Newton
Secretary, CPA

**DESIGN 29 –
The Winning Design for Canberra**

From March 1 2013, as part of the Centenary of Canberra Celebrations, visitors will be able to see the original and rarely displayed designs for Canberra by the 1911 Federal Capital City Design Competition finalists. These intricate artworks and plans include the winning entry No. 29 submitted by Walter Burley Griffin, and the original entries by the other finalists.

For the first time in 10 years, they are on show at the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. It is a rare opportunity to see these internationally-acclaimed watercolour renderings and fine drawings by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin up close.

National Archives of Australia

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Further information: naa.gov.au

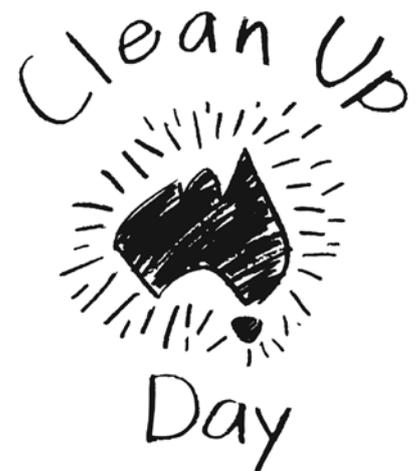


CANBERRA'S CENTENARY IN 2013

celebrates 100 years since Lady Denman, wife of the then Governor-General, stood upon the newly laid Foundation Stones and announced that the name of the new Australian capital would be Canberra.

The year-long celebration calendar will also bring visitors to Castlecrag, who have visited Canberra because of their interest in Walter Burley Griffin's design of our Capital city, now regarded as one of the most enduring planned cities in the world.

If you encounter tour groups walking our Castlecrag roads with maps in hand, do give them a welcome as they explore Griffin's vision for a "model suburb".



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY in Retreat Reserve on Sunday 3rd March, 2013 9am to 12pm.

Join Retreat Reserve Bushcarers and the 1st Sailor's Bay sea scouts to remove plastic waste from the foreshore.

Wear a hat and sunscreen and shoes you can get wet. Canoes provided for those who wish to float. BYO morning tea and water.

Gloves and bag provided. This community work can count towards scout badges and high school programs. Enjoy meeting with two local groups – scouts and bush carers.

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Castlecrag Notes



Cr John Hooper

Cr John Hooper wrote this profile for The Crag in September 2012:

My sincere thanks go to all those residents in Sailors Bay Ward who re-elected me as one of their three

Ward Councillors with a vote that was more than double that in 2008. I will work hard to ensure the community is properly represented and that our suburbs remain wonderful places in which to live.

Council's financial situation

The main task in coming months will be to seek actions to remedy Council's long term financial problems. It's a real concern to me that in the last financial year Council incurred an operational deficit of \$5.1M and the deficit this year increases to \$7.5M.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan predicts a total \$140M deficit by 2024. Worryingly, this predicted \$140M deficit does not include the needed upgrade of our storm water pipe system; the costs of flood mitigation; or the refits of The Concourse or to the proposed \$45M Willoughby Leisure Centre.

What it means for ratepayers

Council's Long Term Financial Plan 2011/2025 states (on page 21, for scenario B): "For the purpose of pre-community consultation taking place, recommended increases begin in 2014/15 at 8% followed by annual increases of 5%, 4% and 4% p.a. (in addition to yearly rate increases set by IPART). This will lift our rate base by approx. \$27.1M over four years, continuing thereafter as the increase is cumulative." IPART's rate increases are expected to be approx 3% p.a. Thus; this Plan predicts a rate increase over four years of 38%. Yet the maths doesn't make sense as \$27.1M from a 38% rate increase requires a rate base of \$71M. However, the rate base for 2013 is actually \$51M so the rate increase must be 53% to deliver \$27.1M.

Need for consistency and transparency

I'm insisting Council ensures future plans are based on reliable figures. We need a

rigorous long term plan consistent with commitments made to the community and transparency about Council's financial situation into the future. I'm committed to working with fellow Councillors to resolve these critical issues.

John Hooper

Mobile 0418 239 195

john.hooper@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

A copy of Council's Long Term Financial Plan which appears on the Council website is best accessed from a Google search of 'long term financial plan Willoughby Council'.



Cr Hugh Eriksson

The third of three profiles on our ward councillors, Cr Hugh Eriksson writes:

Hello Castlecrag, I would like to introduce myself as your new

Sailors Bay Ward Councillor. I was fortunate to have been elected in last year's Local Government elections.

I am 29 years old and currently live in Northbridge, but I am a Castlecrag boy born and bred. My mother's family moved here from South Australia in the late 1950s, into your typical red brick Aussie home in Linden Way. My grandfather continued to live at the same address until 2002, when my parents and I moved in. Prior to this, we lived in Edinburgh Road at the same address for the better part of the first 19 years of my life. My parents still reside in Castlecrag.

I attended Shore School in North Sydney, where I devoted much of my time to my love of sports, including, skiing, rugby, cricket and athletics, in which I represented the school at the GPS level, earning my School Colours.

I went on to study at Macquarie University after which I worked in marketing for multinational companies. Last year I completed my Masters in Business Management at UTS Graduate School of Business.

Currently I work as an Account and Marketing Manager for an ASX 200 company in the manufacturing industry.

I am very passionate about local issues and good local government, so when asked by Castlecrag Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney to run with her for election, I jumped at the chance.

My plan is for better sporting facilities, fairer parking for local residents and a more 'common sense' approach to DAs, both for the applicant and members of the community.

Please feel free to contact me on any local issues. I look forward to working with all residents over this term of Council.

Hugh Eriksson

Mobile: 0481 033 443

hugh.eriksson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

A Letter to The Crag

As an expat I consider myself very fortunate to have been living in this beautiful suburb throughout the last seven years. During my many weekly morning runs around the area, I have always enjoyed the beauty of the natural surroundings and the architecture of the houses and how they melt into the areas' flora and fauna – the overall aesthetics of Castlecrag.

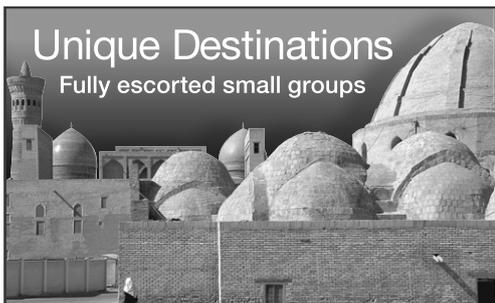
But I have noticed a new malaise which unfortunately is spreading. Every time I see another old, beautiful and charismatic house for sale, my heart sinks. For as soon as a "SOLD" sign has been attached on the noticeboard, I know that the bulldozers will arrive and another concrete monster will soon raise, build within the last inch of the boundary.

I can understand that new owners want to make changes and even to rebuild, but why so big and why so ugly?

As I have seen concrete bunkers spreading in Castlecrag and thought that all hope was lost, I stop in awe!! I hail the courageous owners of the newly built brick house on The Parapet. It is gorgeous, delightful and in harmony with the surroundings. It is a perfect example, that you can build something new, which is beautiful and respects the aesthetics of the suburb. That house has restored my faith and hope for Castlecrag - thank you so much!

Mette Christensen

Rockley Street, Castlecrag



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Carols 2012

The committee set the stage, audio and lights.

It rained;
No stage cover to save the day;
The piano was put away;
The digital sound system was put away;

The show went on.

Our Choristers:

Marlene Vaughan
Daniel Tambasco'
Kathryn Cannings
Bonnie J Jensen
Paul Chang
Bruce Wilson

Sax and flute

Graham Jessie

The Castlecrag community never lets rain ruin carols. They came, they stayed and enjoyed an evening of Acappella Carol singing. The beautiful flute of Graham Jessie just floated behind the songs. The song book was raided for two hours of magical carol singing.

"The fire marshal was able to enjoy the show. Everything was damp."



Six white boomers stole the show



Photographs Mathew Keighery

COMING EVENT Haven Cabaret – 5 April 2013

The next show planned in our *Goddesses of Song* series, will be **Jack's Avenue**, a six piece light rock blues ensemble featuring sensational vocalist Kath Canning.

Kath is no stranger to the Haven, having performed there many times over the years. Kath has the smile to die for and one of those voices that can do just about anything.

Get in early for your tickets. There will be premium seats including a meal as well as standard bring-your-own picnics on the stone steps.

See the website at www.thehaven.biz for details.

The Haven Amphitheatre Committee Congratulates and Thanks



for eleven years of wonderful food and service and a great celebratory dinner. As usual Michael's food was absolutely delicious.

Those lucky enough to find a seat at this party greatly appreciated the effort Michael and his staff made. The variety of acts, the dancing and the auctions were enjoyed by all.

The Haven Amphitheatre Committee wishes Michael and crew all the very best in the years to come.

Meg Nicholson (nee Thomas) – Daughter of Castlecrag



Meg was born in Cabarisha Hospital on 20 July 1947. (Her mother Anne walked up The Bastion to Cabarisha to have her and walked back down the hill carrying her.) Meg grew up with her father Ken Thomas

and mother Anne, three brothers, Rhody, Gavin and Andrew, and her sister Elizabeth Lander. She later married Garth Nicholson in her parent's home in The Bastion. Meg and Garth then moved to the Gingerbread house down on Sugarloaf Point where they had two sons, Sandy and Tom. Meg also ran a physio practice in Northbridge and often attended patients at Cabarisha. She made many friends in the area.

Meg died at her home surrounded by her family on 19 October 2012. She was farewelled by a loving group of friends, relatives, work colleagues and many other Cragites.

Meg had travelled the world, been published in medical journals, had a knack for business, entertained magnificently and was a loving mother to Sandy and Tom and grandmother, not only to her own four grandchildren, but to many nieces and nephews and children of friends. She led a life in full bloom, right to the end. Dinner parties, coming and goings and always time for a fireside chat.

I have had the privilege of 65 years of friendship with our darling and remarkable Meg. We attended Castlecrag Kindergarten and Infants School, then public, built by the community. Before TV or internet games, together we listened in to the chats, which were always rich and juicy in the Crag of the 1950s and 60s. Looking back, I realize Meg and I were witnessing a unique era and a community where everyone knew everyone's business and a time when people savoured life and were engaged with each other – a time when the bohemian era of the Griffins still cast a shadow onto the straight society of the 50s, broadening minds and opening hearts. Much of that is now lost to us. You could write a book about it and some have.

Doublers on the toilet... Bellbirds, rhododendrons, skinny dipping in the lake, yellow sand crunching, ballet concerts and keyholes... listening in to the chats, Ohh! I'd never have guessed that!... Did she really!... Ssh! Don't let them hear us!... Blue eyes steady, giggling... Straight blond hair fell thickly in a neat curtain across her round cheeks, her mouth in a half smile bow of determination... hot summers with cicadas, winter fires with whisky and cigar smoke, smelly fishing boat at Torquay Point... Wind in the she-oaks... freedom... down in the bush caves... running through the neighbours... stop off for chocolate goat's milk... Comings and goings of VIPs from The Bastion, glamour and fine silver... watching, listening, learning what was important and what was not. No need to

explain anything to each other. Being there. Knowing.

MEG

Meg listens. Meg observes.
Meg remembers. Meg organises.
Right to the end.
Acts when necessary.
And likes a win.
Capable Meg. Confident Meg.
In so many spheres.
From cakes to properties.
The pinnacle of success.

Keeps a well of feeling inside herself.
Love in action. Understands the other.
Hid her pain. Never once complained.
Always gracious.
Meg, always there, knows what to do.
Sensible. Pragmatic.
Teaches through example.
Has learnt acceptance.
Leaves these gifts for us all. Her legacy.

Meg, now too soon on a journey we all must take.
Leaving us, like a wheel without its spoke... a gaping hole.
To reinvent ourselves in a Megless life.
Leaving a space filled with memories and inspiration.
Her calm solid presence an imprint on all our lives.
Bluebell, jonquil we will miss you so.

Fabia Claridge

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The Houses of Castlecrag

Continuing the series of articles 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.

80 The Bulwark, Castlecrag "The Glass House"

Castlecrag has a wealth of interesting houses which chart the history of Sydney domestic architecture from Griffin's time to today. Castlecrag includes seminal work by Walter Burley Griffin, Hugh Buhrich, Harry Seidler, Peter Muller and Bill Lucas whose Glass House, is another fine example of innovative domestic architecture. The legacy of Walter Burley Griffin in Castlecrag is not only seen in his stone houses but also in the layout of the streets which follow the winding contours of the steep promontories and bays. This means that some houses are located on very steep sites, especially in The Bulwark and The Scarp. If you walk along the Bulwark, you will discover The Glass House, standing in the trees overlooking The Retreat Creek.

The Glass House was designed by Bill and Ruth Lucas and built in 1957 as their own home. This is a very significant house in the history of Sydney domestic architecture. Peter Moffitt (FRAIA) described The Glasshouse in his obituary for Bill Lucas in The Crag in 2002 as being "audaciously simple in its concept, it stands on tiptoes amongst the boulders and the ferns on four slender steel posts... The house appears to barely touch the ground, suspended amongst the trees."

It is a fine example of the phrase, "touch the earth lightly". The rectangular house sits on four steel posts which extend through the corners of the void of the house up to the roof. From the top of these posts are steel tension rods which support the structure of the house. The floor is a steel-framed platform supporting timber joists with steel cross-bracing connected to the posts. This skeleton of steel supports the walls of timber and glass. The centre

of the house is open to the sky as in a courtyard. Half of this space is a deck but the other half is a square void with the trees of the site growing up through it (Moffitt, P., 2002) and through which the sandstone rock and steep tree-covered site below can be seen.

The house was radical in the engineering required to make it stand up, and in its light weight construction. Something like The Glass House had never been built before in Sydney. Lucas' idea was to use "off the shelf" readily-available materials with a minimal budget, and to have a minimal impact on the site. To Lucas, "a building is in its finest stage when the frame goes up – everything that goes on after that destroys the original structure" (Taylor, J. 1972). This might be why the house has walls of glass so that the structural frame can be visible. Compare this house to the standard housing model of the time (the late 1950s) of brick walls, red tiled roofs and square windows in walls, built closely to the ground. The Glass House was the opposite.

In recent times the owners engaged a structural engineer to help in repairing the supporting structure. This remedial work resulted in minimal changes to the original structure.

Bill Lucas was born in 1924 and died in 2001. He lived in Castlecrag from 1957 to 1962 with his wife Ruth, also an architect. They lived in The Glass House with their six children. It is not a big house by today's standards. There is only one level and the rooms are interconnected and run around the perimeter of the house. It has two living areas, two bedrooms, a studio, a kitchen,

and a bathroom. Narrow balconies run along the north and south sides.

Bill also designed the houses at 70, 76 and 78 The Bulwark. He had a company in which he was the architect and his brother, Neville, was the builder. Bill owned the land at No 76 and No 78 and offered these two parcels of land gratis as long as he was engaged to design the house and Neville was engaged to build it. The clients only had to pay for the cost of their house. It was a very idealistic approach, which did not last.

In his obituary for Lucas, Peter Moffitt wrote: "Bill Lucas was also an activist. He helped set up the Paddington Society to save the suburb from redevelopment. He was the secretary of the Bring Back Utzon campaign, worked on aboriginal housing in Bourke, helped with the BLF's Green Ban movement and with a proposal for the conservation and regeneration of Woolloomooloo when it was proposed for demolition" (Moffitt, P., 2002)

The Glass House is on the National Trust of Australia NSW Register and listed in Schedule 7 of Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 1995 (Heritage items of local significance).

In 1972 the Royal Australian Institute of Architects published a guide book to Sydney architecture called 444 Sydney Buildings in which notable houses are listed by suburb. Five houses are listed in Castlecrag, two of which are by Walter Burley Griffin and two by Bill Lucas: 80 The Bulwark (The Glass House) and 70 The Bulwark (The Block House). (Moffitt, P., 2002)

Continued on page 9...



Photo: Ben Gerstel

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More Castlecrag Notes...

New Owner and New Name

Central to life in the Quadrangle at Castlecrag is the outdoor restaurant, where many people meet. At the end of last October, its new owner, Ricky Liu moved in. He has plans for some renovation very soon, and will rename it "Butterfly" on completion.

Ricky is from Adelaide, and plans for the restaurant to be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with home delivery again available. The pizza oven will be running too!

The Crag warmly welcomes Ricky to Castlecrag.

Meet Sarah from Cyrus the Great

We welcome Sarah Adeli, the owner of the Persian Cuisine Restaurant, to Castlecrag.

Sarah's restaurant opened only five months ago, and already has been the venue for many and varied happy celebrations, weddings, birthdays, family and corporate gatherings. The spacious interior is warm-coloured with bright and festive touches, and the outdoor terrace has a cool and green feeling. This is where breakfast is served Fridays to Sundays from 8am, and on these days the restaurant is open until midnight (10pm Sun) for lunch and dinner also. From Tuesday to Thursday it is open only for dinner from 5pm to 10 pm.

Sarah says she's always loved good food and the menu features recipes from a collection of her family's favourites. All the food is prepared freshly each day by their genial chef, and you certainly will receive a warm welcome on dining there.

Castlecrag farewells the Chambers

We bid a fond farewell to Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers and Margaret Chambers who, after many years in Castlecrag, are moving to a beautiful harbour-view apartment in Mosman.

We thank them for their involvement and support of the Castlecrag community in so many ways – Committee members and members of local groups including the Castlecrag Conservation Society, Willoughby Environment Protection

Association (WEPA), the Castlecrag Progress Association, the Library, Oriel Bushcare Group, and others. Carrick is Patron of the Walter Burley Griffin Society. Margaret was Assistant Editor and then Editor of *The Crag*, her professional background as an archivist being especially valuable in this role. Carrick, a former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, has always been willing to help local bushcare groups with botanical advice.

Whenever helping hands have been needed in Castlecrag, the Chambers have been willing to offer their assistance.

We will miss you, Carrick and Margaret! Thank you for being such wonderful Castlecrag citizens.

Philip Hickie 1927-2012

Philip Hickie was a councillor of Willoughby City Council from 1999 to 2008. He lived to see his vision for The Concourse fulfilled. With his dedication and design skills, Philip made a huge contribution to The Concourse, particularly in the early stages of getting the project off the ground. Phillip immersed himself in the environmental, heritage and cultural aspects of Willoughby City.

Philip graduated as an engineer from the new University of Technology (now the University of NSW) but at heart he was an artist, actor and producer. He became head of the division of design at the National Art School in Darlinghurst, then senior lecturer in Industrial Design at the newly formed Sydney College of the Arts and eventually, Head of Division in the School of Civil Engineering at the NSW Department of TAFE.

Philip was a lovely, intelligent, compassionate man. To quote Mayor Pat Reilly from his mayoral minute Philip 'was a great family man, a community man and he was just a good bloke.' Those of us who knew Philip will miss him greatly. The CPA extends its condolences to his wife Philippa, their two daughters and their families.

See the following link to Philip's obituary in the SMH 21 December 2012: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/diversity-at-heart-of-design-success-20121220-2bpa4.html>

George Cooks 1922 -2012

George Cooks (Kuks), resident of Castlecrag, lived quietly in Castlecrag with his wife Vera Borsody for many years. George arrived from Europe as a refugee in 1947. He was 'a notable figure in Sydney's cultural life. . . for more than three decades he ran music shops in Sydney (and Canberra) that were testaments to his impeccable taste and encyclopaedic knowledge of classical music.' (SMH)

George is perhaps best known for his first shop, Rowe Street Records, opened in 1961 in the cultural, arty, bohemian, Rowe Street, which ran between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets and was overtaken by the MLC development in the 1970s.

In 1988 George was presented with an ARIA Award for his 28 years of service to the music industry, and a Platinum Record from EMI for 38 years of service. George was singularly responsible for fostering and developing in many people (myself included) a knowledge and love of classical music. I remember him well and will forever be grateful to him.

See the following link to George's obituary in the SMH 21-23 December 2012: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/on-the-record-as-rowe-street-king-20121221-2brdw.html>

Jill Newton

Crime Prevention

We wish Senior Constable Matt Jewell well as he goes on a year's leave from this role as North Shore Local Area Command (Chatswood Police) Crime Prevention Officer.

Senior Constable Jewell has always been willing to offer help and advice on crime prevention for our community, and he briefed us on the issues of Identity Theft at a CPA meeting. Matt initiated regular Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings at the Chatswood Police Station.

Our regular crime reports in *The Crag* via our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Jan Duggin have been produced by him. Enjoy the year, Matt!



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Other news...

New Parking System

As reported in the *North Shore Times* of January 9, 2013, a new parking system will begin at the Quadrangle Shopping Village in Castlecrag to enable more parking for shoppers by discouraging all-day parking. Run by Secure Parking, it involves increased policing of the car park's three-hour parking limit.

Road repairs in The Bulwark

Willoughby City Council has made a special effort to conserve the significant stone drain beneath The Bulwark which dates from the Griffin years, and is one of the few Griffin engineering structures. The stone barrel drain is being protected during a major road repair operation. We will bring you a more detailed story soon about this fascinating stone structure.

Thanks to Castlecrag's Book Donors to Buk Bilong Pikinini, PNG

The Castlecrag Community has just sent 18 boxes of donated children's books to our friends at Buk bilong Pikinini (BbP) – books for children – in Papua New Guinea. These books have come from community members, the giving tree at the Bulwark and Neighbours Christmas street party, from excess books from a school library cull, and some leftovers from a charity second hand book stall. All of these books will soon be put to good use.

BbP is an independent not-for-profit organisation based in Port Moresby, PNG,

which aims to establish children's libraries and foster a love of reading and learning. In PNG there are few functioning libraries outside the school system and most children do not have access to books at all. Buk bilong Pikinini was established in 2007 and has so far set up nine children's libraries. You can visit the website at <http://www.bukbilongpikinini.org/>

The purpose of Buk bilong Pikinini is to focus on early childhood learning as a key to literacy. Only half of school-age children go to school and the literacy rate in PNG is well under the 50% officially claimed. BbP brings the books sent by donors to the children via the creation of small Buk bilong Pikinini libraries in community-based localities such as near settlements, clinics and market places.

The community of Castlecrag has, over several years, made a great contribution to support BbP in their effort to make PNG children happy readers! We have sent at least 1000 books, which are sorted and colour-coded for various age groups.

Thanks to everyone in Castlecrag who has contributed. If you have any gently-used children's books you'd like us to send on to BbP, please give Lorraine Cairnes a call on 9958 1213, and we can arrange pickup.

Baby News

We congratulate Phil and Kathleen Mitchell of Castlecrag Meats on the arrival of their first child, a son, Charlie John Mitchell, on 14 January 2013, weighing in at 3.7kg.

The Houses of Castlecrag continued...

Many of the houses in Castlecrag are examples of the important periods of domestic architecture in Sydney. These should all be recorded and documented for future generations to appreciate. Bill Lucas has left a legacy with his house at 80 The Bulwark. The Glass House shows what can be achieved with very little, to produce an amazing result.

Ben Gerstel

Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd

Email: bgerstel@optusnet.com.au

References

Moffitt, Peter, Bill Lucas Architect, 1924-2001. In *The Crag* Vol 41, Castlecrag Progress Association, 2002

Taylor, Jennifer, *An Australian Identity, Houses for Sydney 1953 – 63*, Dept. of Architecture University of Sydney, 1972

Guzman, Neville, Bright Thinker Pursued his Utopian Vision, in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1/11/2001

How well do you know your suburb?

In the next issue of *The Crag* we will be showing in an unidentified photo a place or object in Castlecrag. It should be interesting to see how well you know the beautiful little spots in your home suburb. Look out for it!



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ENVIRONMENT NEWS • environment news • ENVIRONMENT NEWS

CICADAS – The sound of summer

As anyone studying for final exams at year's end knows, November and December mark the beginning of cicada season. Their ear-splitting song can be a serious distraction. Cicada song is a sound of summer, but their song can be very loud – up to 120dB, one of the loudest sounds produced by insects.

The common names of cicadas are passed on from one generation of kids to the next. Green Grocer, Yellow Monday, Redeye, Floury Baker, Chocolate Soldier, Sizzler, and of course the elusive Black Prince.

Species have different songs to ensure they attract the appropriate mate. The males make a loud sound by flexing drum-like organs found on their abdomens, called tymbals. The males call noisily to attract females (which do not call). Each species has its own characteristic song.

Around Castlecrag, the loudest is probably the Greengrocer. The Yellow Monday is the same species, but this form is without turquoise colouring, which combines with the yellow colour to make it green.

Cicadas have large, compound eyes on each side of their head, which give them wide peripheral vision. Three tiny jewel-like eyes on the top of the head (called ocelli) allow them to watch for predators from above.

Cicadas' lifecycle begins after mating; the female lays eggs in small grooves she makes in the bark of trees. When tiny larvae emerge, they feed for a while, then drop to the ground. There they become

nymphs and spend the next phase of their life underground, feeding on sap from roots. Both the nymph and adult forms have a beak for sap-sucking. The underground nymph phase may be as short as 9 months, or as long as 17 years. Somehow, they receive signals about the right time to emerge, and between September and March you will see their brown shells (exoskeleton) attached to tree trunks where the nymph has crawled up from the soil, and split to allow the adult to emerge, dry and harden its wings and body, and fly off.

Urban myths abound about cicadas. The Black Prince is sometimes sought because it has been said that Chemists or the Australian Museum pay good money for them. This is not true! And they are not "locusts" which is a type of grasshopper.

Cicadas are found on every continent except Antarctica, and there are around 2500 species worldwide. 200 of these are found in Australia. Many people around the world regularly eat cicadas. They are known to have been eaten in Ancient Greece, and shells of cicadas are used in the traditional medicines of China.

So, enjoy this wonderful sound of our summer, part of the rich wildlife of our suburb.

PITTOSPORUM BRANCHES Everywhere

Have you noticed in your own garden and others branches with brown leaves lying on

the ground? Have they been blown down? Or been cut off? When you look at the end of the branch it appears that this may have been the cause. And then you notice that they are all pittosporum branches.

What is happening? One explanation is that there is a beetle or insect which causes the shearing off of these pittosporum branches, in gardens and the bush and in all sizes of trees. Its name and origin is a mystery to us, and attempts to find out have been unsuccessful.

So please don't accuse the neighbour, gardener or family member of some unwanted strange pruning!

BLACKTOWN BUSHCARE

On March 10, The Retreat Bushcare Group will welcome a Bushcare group from Blacktown. It's not just a social visit, but a working one. It's planned that they will be shown the beautiful rainforest site along the The Retreat Creek down to Sailors Bay, and the areas that still need work and maintenance.

Our visitors will then join us in doing a spot of weeding in our coachwood rainforest environment which should be a big contrast to the environmental weeds in the dry plains of Western Sydney. A return visit to Blacktown by the Castlecrag group will follow shortly after.

This has been arranged by the Willoughby Council Bushcare Co-ordinator, Mandy Wilson, who has also arranged an outdoor lunch in The Haven Amphitheatre afterwards.

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Neighbourhood Watch

(Castlecrag and Middle Cove)
Police Incident Report October-December 2012

Incidents for this three month period are moderately worse than in the previous period. Senior Constable Jacqui Rollinson of Chatswood Police is now providing these statistics for us, and also keeps us informed of the next Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings. These are held at Chatswood Police station at 6:30pm and last for about one hour and are open to the public. The next two are on April 9 and June 11, 2013.

Incident Category	Details	Address	Premise	Date	Start Time
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Rutland Ave Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sat 4th August	5.00pm
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	The Bulwark and The Scarp Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sun 14th Oct	8.30pm
Breach AVO	Domestic	The Bulwark Castlecrag	Residential	Fri 19th Oct	8.45pm
Malicious damage	Graffiti	Edinburgh Rd	Residential	Wed 24th Oct	10.00pm
Stolen vehicle/vessel	Vessel	Linden Way/Harbour	Outdoor/public place	Fri 2nd Nov	4.00pm
Assault	Assault common	Charles St and Edinburgh Rd	Outdoor/public place	Sat 3rd Nov	3.00pm
Stealing	Other steal	Eastern Valley Way Middle Cove	Business/Commercial	Sun 4th Nov	5.00pm
Stolen vehicle/vessel	Vessel	Cheyne Walk	Outdoor/public place	Wed 7th Nov	8.00am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Cheyne Walk and Linden Way Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Fri 16th Nov	3.00pm
Break and enter	Break/enter and commit other felony	Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag	Residential	Tues 20th Nov	3.00pm
Assault	Assault common	Glenroy Ave Middle Cove	Education	Thurs 22nd Nov	3.00pm
Stealing	Other steal	Eastern Valley Way Castlecrag	Business/Commercial	Mon 26th Nov	6.40pm
Break and enter	Break/enter intent steal	Eastern Valley Way Castlecrag	Business/Commercial	Fri 30th Nov	2.10pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Eastern Valley Way Castlecrag	Business/Commercial	Thurs 6th Dec	5.20pm
Assault	Assault common	The Barbican Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 8th Dec	7.15pm
Break and enter	Break/enter intent steal	Morotai Cres Castlecrag	Residential	Tues 11th Dec	7.40am
Assault	Assault common	Knight Place and Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sun 16th Dec	12.50pm
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Thurs 20th Dec	8.00pm
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Edinburgh Rd and The Bulwark Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Thurs 20th Dec	12noon
Located vehicle/vessel	Abandoned	The Bulwark Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Fri 21st Dec	10.00am
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 22nd Dec	10.00pm
Stolen vehicle/vessel	Vehicle	Heights Cres Middle Cove	Residential	Sun 23rd Dec	5.50pm
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	Heights Cres Middle Cove	Residential	Sun 23rd Dec	5.50pm
Stealing	Steal from dwelling	The Barbican Castlecrag	Residential	Thurs 27th Dec	4.00pm
Assault	Actual bodily harm	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Mon 31st Dec	7.00pm

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- **Saturday 2 March, 2pm**

Sydney Opera Society

Speaker: Dr David Schwartz, " Force of Destiny"

NEW VENUE Willoughby Uniting Church Conference Centre,
10 Clanwilliam St., Willoughby

Enquiries: Shirley Robertson, on 9605 5851

- **Saturday 9 March, 7pm and Sunday 10 March, 2pm**

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

"A Night at the Ballet"

Enquiries: 9777 7639, Bookings: 9020 6968

- **Thursday 14 March, 8pm**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road

Speaker: Nick Tobin, WCC General Manager

All welcome. Contact: info@castlecrag.org.au for further information

- **Tuesday 19 March, 8pm**

Willoughby Environment Protection Association (WEPA)

Speakers: Judy and Geoff Lambert, "The Flora & Fauna of North Head"

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag

See www.wepa.org.au for more information.

- **Saturday 27 April, 7pm and Sunday 28 April, 2pm**

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

"The Emperor" with pianist Piers Lane.

Enquiries: 9777 7639, Bookings: 9020 6968

OTHER NOTICES

Castlecrag Bushcare Groups' Meeting Dates

First Sunday of the month

- Cortile Reserve; 8am–11am; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295
- Northern Escarpment; 9am–12noon; contact Richard Blacklock 0417 217 937 or 9958 8468

Second Saturday of the month

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

Second Sunday of the month

- Keep Reserve; 9am–12.30pm; contact Matthew Keighery 9967 2682
- Retreat Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213 or Jill Newton 9967 4933

Third Saturday of the month

- Torquay Estate Reserve; 1pm–3pm; contact Jo Nolan 9958 8237

Third Sunday of the month

- Beverley Blacklock Reserve/Cheyne Walk, 9am–12 noon, contact Frances Davis at WCC 9777 1000
- Casement Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295
- Oriel Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Mandy Wilson 9777 7875 or Rob Gibson 0409 035 614

Castlecrag Community Library

Support your local library. Opening hours: Tuesday 3pm–4.30pm;

Thursday 2pm–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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