



CASTLECRAG
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION

THE CRAG

A voice for the community since 1925

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No. 197

OCTOBER 2016

The 203 Castlecrag–City bus service has been terminated

Now it goes only to Victoria Square, North Sydney. See page 5.

Rally for refugees down Edinburgh Rd Saturday October 15

Hosted by People Just Like Us. See page 4.

‘The Carnival’ comes home...



Early next year, a spectacular circus opera will launch the fundraising campaign to rebuild the stage of Castlecrag’s Haven Amphitheatre.

Three special performances of *The Carnival*, composed by Chloé Charody, with leading lady and soprano, Valda Wilson, will take place at The Concourse, Chatswood on 17-18 February to spearhead what has become a million dollar building project.

Both of these internationally acclaimed artists grew up in Castlecrag, first

performing in the bush amphitheatre as young girls. It’s there that they first experienced the magic of performing. Chloé sang and played her keyboard at The Haven, while Valda regularly sang at Carols alongside her neighbours and baritone father, Bruce. In the late 80’s and into the 90’s Chloé and Valda would make the weekly trek down the winding Pinnacle Hill to the bottom of Edinburgh Road for piano and music theory lessons with the local piano teacher, Christine Corrigan.

“Chloé was always a self-starter, bringing me original scores combining pop & classical music she’d composed in her early teens. The scores were complex even then. Valda was a bright, committed student whose first love was always singing. Piano came second. She was very musical and loved to perform.”

Both were talented young women who studied at Sydney’s Conservatorium of Music, before venturing independently to Europe to pursue their careers.



Chloé Charody



Valda Wilson

In 2011, Chloé’s circus opera *The Carnival* debuted on London’s West End. Since then, *The Carnival* has gone on to sell out shows across the globe. Chloé’s seventh opera *Morning Blossoms* is currently on tour in Europe where she is rapidly becoming a leading female composer.

Valda won Opera Foundation Australia’s scholarship to train at the National Opera Studio, London. Valda has been a principal soprano at the Oldenburg State Theatre since 2014. Later this year, she will sing the title role in Handel’s *Theodora* for Pinchgut Opera in Sydney.

In February 2017, Chloé and Valda will triumphantly return to their North Shore spiritual home to bring *The Carnival* to The Concourse for all to enjoy. Whether you’re 9 or 99, do yourselves a favour. Arrange a theatre party. A big family outing! We are hoping for full houses for all three performances to kick off this very important building project.

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NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 19 October 2016

8.00pm

**Haven Amphitheatre fundraising progress
What are important local issues/concerns for you?**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Updates on WCC from Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney
Karen Wilson on *The Carnival*

In the Marion Mahony Hall, Glenaeon School, 117 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag
All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

THINK LOCALLY!

SHOP LOCALLY!

EMPLOY LOCALLY!

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.

COMMITTEE 2016-2017

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- Vice President** Dr John Steel
- Secretary** Dr Paul Stokes
- Treasurer** Diana Jones
- Committee** Lindy Batterham
Ruth Kendon
Gay Spies OAM
- Editors** Lindy Batterham
Sandra Odorisio

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. Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

Advertising Enquiries

John Steel at
editors@castlecrag.org.au

Design, Typesetting & Printing

Robin Phelan & Associates ☎ 0407 467 376
Frontline Printing ☎ 9438 3000

Disclaimer

The CPA and *The Crag* is not responsible for information or advice in contributed articles or letters. Readers should seek their own personal, professional advice.

From the Editors

Looking down on the empty little gully nestled in between The Barricade & The Scarp, it's easy to see how Marion and Walter were attracted to this wooded triangular space. They'd been looking for the right site for an open-air community theatre for some time. The Griffins bought The Haven Estate with Marion's inheritance.

In 1943 she returned to America and gifted the Estate to the community so we could enjoy the bushland and continue making and producing theatre together. She was passionate about creating the 'ideal' community. The sad thing is after her most generous gift to us, Marion struggled financially without any

inheritance for her later years. Council and we have responsibility to make the Haven live again for all to enjoy once more.

On another matter, our 203 bus service has been re-routed. It is reasonable to reduce the conga line of buses on the bridge each morning but community discussion and consultation might have led to a more people-friendly solution. It is a long walk for the less abled people from the last stop to the train station. An extra 5 minute ride to Milson's Point with ferry linkup would offer us a much more attractive service. We'd like to know how regular users of the service are managing with the change. Send us your assessment.

Editors

Letters to the Editor

In response to the letters by Peter Davenport and Barbara Grimm, in *The Crag*, June 2016, I'd like to refer readers to the comprehensive information on ticks available on the website of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, www.aabr.org.

Don't blame the poor bandicoot for ticks. It is just one of several native animals, including possums, kangaroos (or in the case of Castlecrag, Swamp Wallabies) and even reptiles, which can act as host to ticks. While bandicoots and Swamp Wallabies appear to have increased in numbers in response to fox eradication programmes, possums and other fauna have always been prevalent.

A changing climate, with more hot and humid weather and higher rainfall, may also account for an increase in tick numbers as such weather favours the development and survival of tick eggs.

Finally, beware of what you wish for! Foxes are increasingly ignoring baits and returning to our bushland, once more putting our native fauna at risk.

Gay Spies

UPGRADING THE CRAG

You may have noticed some changes in *The Crag*. They reflect our on-going desire to improve how the CPA uses this newsletter to provide a voice for the community of Castlecrag.

If you would like to see our upgrade continue, we need your support. We need your feedback, your suggestions and, of course, your membership in the CPA.

Your membership contribution, of only \$20 per person per year, will allow us to continue with the changes we have already made to *The Crag*, and to those still to come. It will also help us maintain and update our new website at castlecrag.org.au.

If you are interested in helping please contact us at info@castlecrag.org.au and if you can't get to the next meeting, you can pay your membership by direct debit from your bank account to: Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. BSB: 062 138 Account No: 10006008

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

(\$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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*Queries to:
info@castlecrag.org.au*

From the President

Spring has sprung with our bushland and gardens brimming with colour and wonderful scents. Recently a friend and I walked the North Arm and Harold Reid Walking Tracks. We started at Castle Cove (Press Park) walking down to the water's edge, reminding ourselves of the history there and then made our way through the bush enjoying the flowering bushes and trees. We found ourselves not just by the water but high up on the ridge, round through mangroves back into bush on Sugarloaf Mountain, lunched on a rock opposite the Waterfront Cottages and finally emerged at the end of Sugarloaf Cres. I thoroughly recommend this walk to all.

The Haven was the topic of conversation at our last general meeting where Councillor Rachel Hill advised us on fund raising strategies for the project. A number of ideas were workshopped. The first of those ideas to blossom, suggested by Karen Wilson, was to stage a Sydney performance of Chloe Charody's circus opera, with Karen & Bruce's daughter Valda. We are very excited and also grateful to 'our' Valda

& Chloe for putting the show on in support of The Haven. I urge you all to buy tickets – I have seen clips and it is amazing!

The conversation about fundraising ideas for The Haven will continue at our next meeting on Wednesday 19 October. Also, what do you see as important issues locally? The Intersection is a hot topic. Mayor Gail will give an update. Please come along and join in. We are a friendly lot!

On the 19 September the CPA attended the Greater Sydney Commission North District briefing. The Commission wants to understand issues at local and district levels to identify what is important to us. You can make submissions to the Commission's website on issues such as infrastructure needs, the environment and services for the aged & young.

Social media is all around us and we are keen to establish a facebook presence in order to support the local community network in a more immediate way than *The Crag* can. It would be a virtual



With thanks to Mr Leunig

noticeboard where people could post all sorts of info, such as our request for artists to paint our street library boxes or upcoming events, babysitters. However, we need someone to put their hand up to take responsibility for running the site. This would look really good on any young person's resume – it's a voluntary position. Perhaps you have some friends who would like to share the role? We would love to hear from you at info@castlecrag.org.au Hoping to meet up with you at our next general meeting on 19 October 2016.

Kate Westoby

STREET LIBRARY comes to the Crag

'The more you read, the more things you will know... The more you learn, the more places you will go...' Dr Seuss

What a wonderful idea! **STREET LIBRARY** encourages the free sharing of books with these little weather-proof houses for books planted in public spaces or on people's front fences. The idea is that people can take a book – without the need to check in or out – or they can leave a book; it's based on trust and community. The sticker on the boxes read: 'STREET LIBRARY: Take a book. Give a book. Whatever. Enjoy!'

The Progress Association has purchased 2 unpainted library houses – one for children's lit and one for adult books and is arranging for them to be installed in

the shopping precinct. However, we need two artists (ideally one adult & one child) to design & paint them first. Please offer your creative skills to be a proud designer of a STREET LIBRARY!

The goal is to bring neighbourhoods closer together and to build an Australian-based movement that 'motivates people to engage with their community in a positive and easy way.'

'When people take a book and leave a book, they create a cycle of generosity that allows them to share what they love with those around them', according to the street library creators. 'By participating in the STREET LIBRARY movement, you too can help encourage reading, encourage sharing, and encourage community.'



"The library houses will be installed in the coming month, just as soon as we find volunteers to paint them. Then let the sharing begin!" announced CPA President (and teacher librarian) Kate Westoby.

Artists, for more information approach info@castlecrag.org.au, phone 9958 2127 or visit www.streetlibrary.org.au.



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THE CRAG Mayor's Column



The lack of a green arrow at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way Castlecrag has been a long standing local issue which, in spite of many attempts, is still unresolved.

This intersection has been the site of four recorded pedestrian and car collisions in the past five years – with a serious collision in July. Many minor incidents and near misses go unreported with residents fearful of the intersection.

Along with CPA President and three local residents, I met with our local State Member, Gladys Berejiklian voicing the community's long held concern about traffic conditions. Minister Berejiklian has confirmed that she is also advocating for improvements at the intersection, will soon be surveying residents, and is actively following up with Roads Minister, Duncan Gay.

I'm sure many of you are keen for an update on the progress of works at the Haven Amphitheatre. Council completed the removal of the old stage on 9 September, and the next stage of works will involve sandstone rock stabilising of the creek line banks, utilising site material. Weather depending, this work should be

completed by the end of September. At the same time, adjustments to the stone steps will be done by a stonemason, to level any uplifted step treads.

The Development Application for the new stage was lodged 3 August 2016. The resident notification period will be extended to 7 October to allow height poles to be placed in the gully to clarify the location and height of the new stage.

In September I participated with thirty other residents in Bushcare's Major Day Out at the Outpost. We have forty-nine local bushcare groups and The Griffin Reserves Advisory Group will hold an Open Day on Sunday 23 October at Linden Way Reserve from 10am–1.00pm. This is a great opportunity to meet others in the community and learn about the reserves, pathways and road islands designed by Walter Burley Griffin. You can join a guided walk and enjoy the free sausage sizzle and refreshments. Thanks to the Advisory Group for their efforts and hard work – not only in arranging the Open Day, but for the other work you do to encourage awareness and enhancement, visitation and promotion of the natural and built features of the Griffin reserves open space system. I hope to see many of you there!

Lastly, thank you to community members and organisations involved in this year's Emerge Festival and StreetFair. September was a jam packed month full of amazing

events, and it would not have been possible without community involvement and hard work!

If you have any issues you would like to discuss with me please phone 9777 1001 or alternatively send me an email at gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Gail Giles-Gidney

REFUGEE RALLY 10.30am Saturday 15 October

On Saturday October 15 there will be a walk in Castlecrag to highlight the plight of Refugees in Australia.

Local Resident Fabia Claridge has partnered with People Like Us campaigner Amir Javan to co-ordinate the walk along Edinburgh Road from the Pinnacle bus stop to the shopping centre where speakers will address the crowd.

If you are concerned about the way refugees are treated by the Australian Government please come along.

Bring your banners, dress colourfully and gather at the terminus by 10.30am.

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Have you missed the last bus to the City?

The 203 Castlecrag–City bus service has been terminated as of Friday 2 September, and we now have a new 203 route that terminates at Victoria Square, North Sydney. Commuters travelling to the city must now get off and transfer to another bus along the way. The 203 return journey starts at Milson’s Point.

Only a few days notice of this change was given, and this was by an A5 laminated poster stuck to bus stops down the peninsula. Notices also appeared in buses around this time. However, people who are irregular travellers may still not be aware of the change.

There is concern in the community that absolutely no consultation took place about

the cutting of this service.

One of the questions voiced has been about why can’t a 205 or 206 come down and back Edinburgh Road occasionally to service commuters travelling to the city?

Under the new arrangements implemented by the State Transit Authority of NSW the 203s leaving the Pinnacle from 3.30pm will terminate at Victoria Cross, unload passengers, and then proceed empty over the bridge to commence their next run from the city!

The Progress Association has asked the Minister for Transport, Mr Andrew Constance, as well as our local member Ms Gladys Berejiklian, about the changes, specifically:

- Why are the buses travelling across the bridge empty of passengers in the afternoon?
- What would be the extra cost to the government to run the outward service down to Milson’s Point?

The Progress Association believes It would be a huge improvement for commuters to terminate the service at the wharf with two major benefits:

- Bus stop is an easy walk to train station
- A connection to the ferry to Circular Quay, Balmain, Darling Harbour, Pyrmont Bay etc.

We are awaiting a response.

Lindy Batterham

White Wolf Dojo School



Martial Arts Senpai, Rachael Crompton, has been teaching young students at her Castlecrag White Wolf Dojo School for four years now, and knows there is more

to martial arts than simply learning how to protect yourself. “I want to give them the same things a parent would want for a child – courtesy, respect, discipline, kindness, self control, and the spirit to have a go. These are the foundations of martial arts training, it’s really training for life.”

Last month, Rachael’s school was selected to demonstrate their skill at Chatswood’s Emerge Festival. 30 students took part in the display.

It was a chance to showcase to the wider community just how far the small school based in the Charles Street Uniting Church

Hall, has come. The after school junior classes are filled with eager young students encouraged by their parents.

Cameron Gough has been sending his 8 year old daughter, Nina, to classes for 18 months. “She’s learning self defence and fitness. She loves it.”

Mandy Laura is mother of 6 year old student, Tyson. “I love that Rachael emphasizes values along with the technique. She is incredibly nurturing and Tyson always leaves classes on a high.”

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The Houses of Castlecrag

A Walter Burley Griffin House is visited by Ben Gerstel. Ben is a local architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association (www.architecture.org.au).

Fishwick House 15 The Citadel, Castlecrag www.fishwickhouse.org

Most Castlecrag residents are familiar with some of Griffin's houses; he designed over 50 but only 15 were built and 13 survive. The grandest, most elaborate and now carefully restored is his 1929 Fishwick house. Unfortunately it is hard to see from the street and its outstanding qualities difficult to appreciate. Recently a website devoted to the house was launched to help overcome these shortcomings. This is certainly worth visiting because the Fishwick house is like no other. The building's site, concept and appearance as well as the novelty, ingenuity and intriguing atmosphere of its interiors set it apart from most other houses.

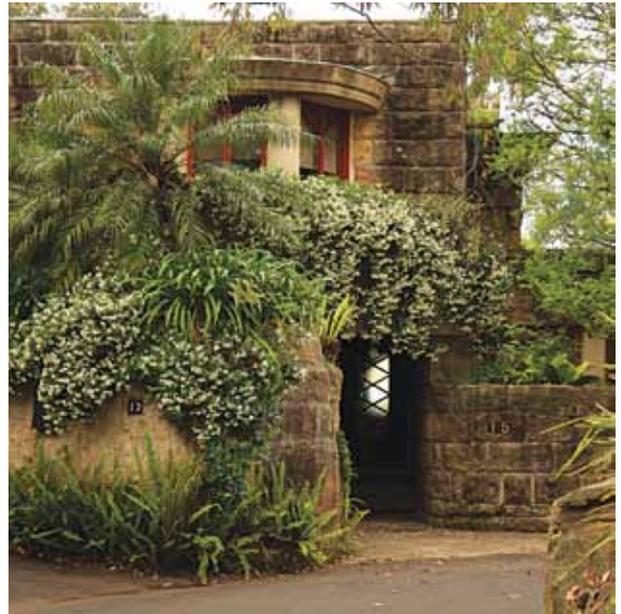


Sitting on a wedge-shaped site which falls steeply through five levels into Griffin's Buttress Reserve, the house is built from stone blocks quarried locally and presents a forbidding, narrow façade. Near the road it is sunk some two metres into the natural sandstone; the central section sits on a stone platform, the shape of which influenced the footprint of its design. Only from the cliff-tops of the neighbouring Tower Reserve can the

house's size, bulk and highly complex profile be appreciated. Internally, it incorporates some 40 design elements which would at the time have been considered as highly innovative, ultra-modern and daringly radical such as open plan and split level living rooms, built-in wardrobes, an integrated garage with sliding doors and a semi-circular main bedroom with an en-suite bathroom.

Over the years, unlike most other Griffin houses, its structure was basically unaltered, retaining most of its original fittings, hardware, ceramics and decorative glass. It was therefore considered a very good subject for a mid-1990s restoration under the supervision of a heritage architect and in 2000 won Willoughby Council's Heritage Restoration Award.

Long recognised as the most celebrated example of Griffin's Australian residential architecture, it is now considered the house which most vividly demonstrates his design principles, innovative skills and creativity. Following its restoration, it has been formally listed for preservation by all authoritative heritage bodies, including the national and state governments, as being emblematic of a pivotal period when architecture was moving away from adherence to European and traditional styles into the "modern" era. As such, it is widely appreciated as one of the country's most important early 20th century houses



playing a major role in establishing Griffin's position as a pioneer of modern architecture in Australia.

The Fishwick house has also received international recognition: it was recently honoured by being included in a prestigious book of 20th Century architecture as being "of outstanding importance" and in the top rank of houses designed worldwide in that period. It was also the only Australian house included from the first half of that century (See footnotes).

Its extensive new website is almost certainly a first for a privately owned and occupied residence. By visiting it one can follow the fortunes of the house, appreciate the details of its design and architecture and view the almost 200 photographs dating from the beginning of its construction in 1929 to the present day.

Ben Gerstel
Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd
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Footnotes:
Street front view courtesy Andrew Kirk
View from Tower Reserve courtesy Eric Sierins
Phaidon Press UK "20th Century World Architecture" 2012 p33

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Griffin Open Day

Over 360 participants immersed themselves in Castlecrag's Griffin Estate at the Griffin Open Day.



Photos: Courtesy A. Kabos, A. McGregor, B. McKillop and M.Thomson

Far left: Moon House fireplace, Centre left: South roundel window Johnston House

Centre right: Johnston House fireplace Right: Fishwick House fireplace



People explored the walkways and reserves either guided or alone and were able to take the rare opportunity to visit the interiors of three of the houses designed by Walter Burley Griffin.

First house open for inspection was the 'demonstration' Johnson House at 4 The Parapet, built in 1922. Further along the Parapet at Number 12 participants could visit the Moon House built in 1921-22. This house later had an extension added in the early 50's, designed by Griffin's partner Eric Nichols, who by then was the owner of the house. The third house open for inspection was the Creswick House, down the Bastion and nestled into the garden at 4 The Barquette. Built in 1926, this house was also known as The House of Seven Lanterns. People were also welcome to

visit the garden of the Fishwick House in The Citadel, featured on page 6.

In the afternoon there were two very interesting illustrated talks. The first, *The Melson House Revealed: An Owner's Perspective*, told us of this highly significant house designed by Griffin and built in Mason City, USA in 1912. There are 4 other Griffin homes in Mason, built using the local limestone, just as he used the local sandstone here. One could see the similarities with the Fishwick House. The talk was given by Peggy Bang, owner of the Melson house, who restored the house.

The second speaker was senior journalist Glenda Korporaal, author of the recently published book titled *Making Magic: the Marion Mahony Griffin Story*. Glenda spoke of the idealism of the Griffins

and how important community was to Marion in particular. Images were shown of a big Christmas party she held for the local children in 1925, and of elaborate costumes she made for Haven productions.



Above: Glenda Korporaal

Below left: Moon House gardens

Below right: Fishwick House gardens



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OBITUARY – Haven stage 1976-2016

Castlecrag has lost one of its greatest treasures. A grand old dame that brought pleasure to thousands has gone. The Haven Amphitheatre's timber stage, that once straddled the creek and hosted hundreds of shows, has been demolished.

In late August, and over a two week period, workers dismantled the community-built stage and lock-up undercroft, exposing the Haven creek that flows down to Sailor's Bay.

From the war years until the early seventies Marion's amphitheatre was overgrown with weeds and rubbish and it wasn't until 1975 that the Conservation Society, an offshoot of the Progress Association, decided to restore the gully.

They soon uncovered the original stone seating on the western terrace that had been laid for the first performance in 1934. It was from these seats, constructed by stonemason and sculptor Bim Hilder, locals and Walter Griffin himself, that an audience watched the first performance of *The Sacred Drama of Eleusis* staged amongst the rocks, banks and ledges.

In 1976 Marion's Haven was reborn. A wooden stage, designed by local architect Robert Sheldon, was built and funded by the community. It was launched with an ambitious 3 week season of *Salome*.

Since that time there have been Indigenous concerts, Gilbert & Sullivan shows, Brass

Bands, Poets, Symphony Orchestra's, Jazz bands, a festival of Youth Theatre and many wonderful independent theatre productions for children and adults alike. A *Midsummer Night's Dream*, of which there have been three productions, was always a favourite.

Apart from performances, at different times over the years, there have been Sunday morning yoga classes, Tai chi and meditation classes. Other events have included picnics, games, weddings, lectures, films and of course the annual Carols by Candlelight held on Christmas Eve since the early eighties. However, with no stage for at least the next year, the Haven tradition of Carols will most likely be broken as we raise the money for a new stage.

The last performance on the stage was part of the Willoughby Spring Festival 2013. It was *Comedy at the Haven*, which featured a selection of stand-up comics and a viewing of the classic Aussie film *The Castle*.

The Council has lodged a DA – 2016/283 to bring the Haven back from the dead.

The present DA plan is to re-align much of the stone seating on the western terrace



Demolition works / Photo Lindy Batterham

that overlooked the stage. Resident groups are not happy with this. Some stabilising is needed, but the irregularity of the seating is part of the character and heritage, and originated from the Griffin's philosophy of directing people to work around the plants as they laid the original seating.

The DA is also to demolish the more recently built eastern (Scarp) side seating to provide a flat terrace for wheelchair access. Disabled access is complex and very expensive and the DA has not been resolved as we go to press. You can view the DA-2016/283 online at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au and submit comments till 7 October. The CPA plans to submit a joint response with other groups, which will be published on our website.

Lindy Batterham

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Thursday 27 October and at our Family Fair on Saturday 5 Nov.
Our Year 3-12 campus at Middle Cove is running tours on Tuesday 25 October and Tuesday 15 November.
To book a tour or for more enrolment information, visit our website at www.glenaeon.nsw.edu.au or call 02 9932 2325.

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Food and Art at Martha's

Martha's is one of Castlecrag's well-loved restaurants. It has been providing wonderfully fresh and inventive food to many local residents for more than ten years.

When Mark and Arthur opened Martha's, they thought it would be a great opportunity for local artists to be able to hang their works on the walls of the restaurant providing a fantastic showcase for the artists and creating an ever changing look for the restaurant.

It is probably not surprising to know that there are a large number of local artists living in this area, and over the next few months there will be three displaying their work at Martha's.



Joanna Gambotto is a visual artist, who was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 2013. She has been the winner of several art awards and has

participated in group and solo exhibitions in Australia and overseas, and her works

can be found in both private and public collections. Her works come together using old sketches and fleeting memories – and she aims to evoke a subjective account of a place rather than an accurate copy.

Joanna's artworks will be hanging at Martha's in October.



Genevieve Thompson from Cammeray finds her inspiration in the outdoors. She grew up in rural England and began sketching,

drawing and painting from an early age. After moving to Australia Genevieve found inspiration in the beauty of the nature around Sydney's beaches, harbour and gardens. She developed her technique over the years, attending classes at Mosman Evening College, Willoughby Arts Centre, the Royal Art Society of NSW and others. Her first exhibition was held in Balmain and very well received.

Genevieve will show her collection at Martha's in November.

Our third local artist, from Northbridge, is



Linda Sherman Linda has studied broadly, including still life, life drawing and abstract, and has

completed a Diploma in Creative Visual Arts at the School of Colour and Design in Sydney.

Linda's series to be shown at Martha's in December and January is entitled 'Feels Like Summer' – perfect timing for the Christmas holiday period. She has found her inspiration for the paintings in this series from Italian and Mexican beaches – white sand, clear aqua water and brightly coloured beach umbrellas. Definitely bright and uplifting for summer!

KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY

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000

For routine enquiries - Chatswood Police
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Crime Stoppers
1800 333 000

The Police Assistance Line (PAL)
131 444

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CASTLECRAIG NOTES...

Wayside Chapel

Many thanks to those who contributed to our winter donation of warm clothes and bedding for the homeless, and to Chris Hopwood & Ruth Kendon who delivered them to Wayside.

Sam's Café

We are sorry to farewell Lisa & Connie from Sam's Café. They had become a vital part of the community and Lisa was our 'on the ground source' of tips for stories for the Crag. Their warm & friendly hospitality will be missed but we welcome Duke Matsuzaki who has now introduced Teriaki for lunch and kept up the good service of the café. However, if you still miss that friendly smile, walk two doors down to Cruiseabout, you'll now find Lisa the Travel Agent behind the desk ready to plan your next cruise!

Leonie, the longest standing behind the counter at the Post Office

Leonie Richardson first started work at Castlecrag Licensed Post Office in 2002, and has packed up the premises three times as it moved around the shopping precinct from the Quadrangle to the Griffin Centre then back again. She has seen three changes of ownership saying goodbye in July to John and Jen who retired. Jason Du was welcomed as the new Licensee.



Photo: Juliet Krizan, Enjoying the sports activities for the younger children

Olympic Fun Day – 31st July 2016

The children of Castlecrag Montessori School hosted a Family Fun Day at Warner's Park to celebrate the Olympics and raise money for their 25 year Anniversary Sustainable Classroom and Garden project. It was a fun-filled day with the jumping castle, activities from Marty Sports and the Olympic craft corner, and everyone enjoyed supporting the Australian Olympic team by writing messages of encouragement.

Crag Doggie-sitter's Club

There were a couple of sniffs about the idea to set up a reciprocal dog minding club, but not enough to make it viable. If you think you & your dog may be interested email: editors@castlecrag.org.au

Developer buys Quadrangle for \$25m

Owners of the Quadrangle Shopping Centre have quietly sold the complex to a family friend on a handshake without any agents involved. We understand the new owner is keen to have more of a food & beverage focus so we'll see what develops!

Community Choir anyone?

We have a singing teacher, Louise McDonald, who is keen to start a local choir in 2017. If you are wanting to have fun, improve your singing technique, meet new friends within your community then Louise suggests this is the choir for you! Songs from all contemporary genres will be performed as well as some classical. Being part of a choir increases your Dopamine, Serotonin, Oxytocin, and Endorphin levels – the quartet responsible for your happiness and well-being so if you enjoy singing with others please contact Louise for more info on: 0452 006 693 (all ages from 16 and up welcome).

THE CARNIVAL – A CIRCUS OPERA AT THE CONCOURSE, CHATSWOOD

Champagne Gala Opening – Friday 17 February at 7:30pm

Matinee Special + post-show talk by Chloé – Saturday 18 February at 2:30pm

Grand Finale – Saturday 18 February at 7:30pm

Produced by **Haven Promotions Inc**, a registered charity established by residents of the City of Willoughby specifically to support the Haven Amphitheatre and its legacy of theatrical performance. All proceeds will go towards this aim.

Tickets available from **The Concourse Box Office: 8075 8111** **Online: theconcourse.com.au** or **Ticketek: 1300 795 012**

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The Dairy Community Garden October 2016 Update

The local community garden at Warners Park adapted and survived Autumn and Winter 2016 while many of its gardeners followed the sun to journey in warmer climes for periods of time. Thanks to Castlecrag residents Maggie and Hilary for their steadfastness during the colder and wetter months.



Lettuce crops in particular have thrived. We planted an heirloom lettuce mix including interesting and pretty varieties such as Deer Tongue, Oak Leaf, Coral, Forellenschluss Romaine, Cos and Bergmans Green. Gardeners regularly leave meetings with a full bag of greens. Mixed fresh leaves



from different varieties, accompanied by herbs such as parsley and coriander, make a perfect base for great tasting salads and provide a real visual treat.

Fruit trees yielded limes, lemons and lots of guavas. They've received extra tender loving care after fruiting and are

looking perky. Broad beans are flowering prolifically. Many smallish flavoursome carrots were harvested.

Willoughby Council conducted an Introduction to Organic Gardening Workshop on site and a Green Manure Crop workshop. Their support is invaluable through initiatives such as these and linking us with a network of gardeners in the area. We continue to join in as part of the monthly food swap on the first Friday morning of the month at The Dougherty Centre in Chatswood.

Seeds have been ordered for Spring and Summer planting. These include eggplant, capsicum, beans, beets, snow peas, zucchini and micro greens. We're trialling seed-raising at home where some members have sunny ledges and can give a bit of extra attention to the seedlings during their early formative stages.

We've just planted sunflower seeds too which have been known to add a splash of showy colour to the garden by Christmas.

There's always a bit of 'heavier work' or repair and maintenance to be done with the wick beds, soil deliveries, edges, stakes and trellises, or whipper snipping to keep the grass at bay. All hands help to share ongoing tasks like pruning, composting and weeding. We can see the difference!

Curious? You're welcome at our Spring breakfast BBQ in Warners Park on Sunday 16 October 2016. You can get there via a short walk from the Rampart through Keep Reserve along a section of the Griffin Federation Track. Warmer Spring and Summer days ahead are perfect for getting out into nature.

On Wednesday mornings we meet from around 9.30am. Weekend meetings are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month. See www.thedairygarden.weebly.com or contact Janet France through the website.

Mary Anne Veliscek

Bushcare's Major Day Out 2016

Twenty six volunteers turned out for a restoration project in the bushland bordering Northbridge and Castlecrag on Sunday 11 September.

In attendance were Federal MP Trent Zimmerman and Willoughby Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney and they enjoyed a grand morning tea by local resident and bushcare volunteer Karen Keighery.

The project involved restoring native bushland around a chair dedicated by his children to the memory of Lew Levy. Sandra Levy, Lew's daughter and the recently retired CEO of the Australian, Film, Television and Radio school attended; making the journey from her home in Surry Hills. She told the story of Lew's migration from England in the 1950's, purchasing one of the first houses in Morotai Crescent and his joy at being able to raise a family in Sydney with the bushland at his doorstep. Lew's ashes had been scattered there and the bushcare volunteers enjoyed hearing the connections of the family to this part of the Castlecrag bushland.

Old Lew family friends also came along as well as people just happy to help out the bush. Though the bush is close to the busy Eastern Valley Way, it is home to lots of wildlife including Swamp Wallabies and Bandicoots but also Eastern Water Dragons and there are eels in the creek.

Sandra Levy also talked about a rock ledge they called snake rock because they often saw snakes there. The bushcare volunteers told her that there were still snakes there – a Red Belly Black snake seemed particularly happy there last summer.

Matthew Keighery

Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

Repair Café – Got something that needs fixing?

Sunday 2 Oct and 9 Oct 1.00pm to 3.00pm

(every first & second Sun of the month)

Chatswood South Uniting Church, cnr Mowbray Road and Pacific Highway (Ample parking at the back)

For small electrical appliances or mechanical gadgets/jewellery, clothes, shoes, chairs, ceramic/ porcelain/ tools/knives to sharpen/smartphones/ ipad/ computer/ internet advice... come to the Repair Café. Volunteers come with special skills and tools. It is a friendly place which aims:

- To bring repairing back in a throwaway society
- To share knowledge and pass on skills
- To encourage social interaction of people with different backgrounds

Cost: Free Donations welcomed and appreciated

Enquiries: Wendy Dwyer 0410 280 912

Refugee Talk & Film Evening

Tuesday, 11 October 6.30pm

Marion Mahony Hall, Edinburgh Road

A film and discussion night exploring the issue of Refugee intake into Australia.

Amir Javan from People Like Us will give a presentation and three 5 minute films will be shown.

Hosted by: Castlecrag Conservation Society

Refugee Rally

Saturday, 15 October 10.30am

Pinnacle Hill Bus terminus, top of Edinburgh Road

Bring your banners, musical instruments and gather at the terminus to march up Edinburgh Road to the Quadrangle. Show you care.

Dairy Gardens Spring Breakfast BBQ

Sunday, 16 October 9.00am

Pinnacle Hill Bus terminus, top of Edinburgh Rd

The Dairy Gardens community will be having it's Spring Breakfast BBQ. Check out this thriving community garden and team. You can enjoy a brisk morning walk from the Rampart through Keep Reserve and the Griffin Federation Track and then follow your nose.

WEPA Meeting

Tuesday, 8 November 8.00pm

Marion Mahony Hall, Edinburgh Road

Dr Andrew Huggett, ecologist, will talk about his survey of Willoughby's Fauna and discuss how we can live happily together.

Cost: Free

CASTLECRAG BUSHCARE Meeting Dates

First Monday of the Month

- Tower Reserve
9-12noon
Contact Jocelyn Chey
9967 5136
or Lisa Clarke
0404 806 406

First Sunday of the Month

- Cortile Park Care
8.30-11.30
Contact Sue Burk
0404 470 443
- Edinburgh Rd 209
9-12noon
Contact Keith Ferguson
0408 518 509

Second Saturday of the Month

- Gargoyle Bushcare
9-12noon
Contact Cherrie Wilson
0478 181 182

Second Sunday of the Month

- Retreat Reserve
9-12noon
Contact Lorraine Cairnes
9958 1213
or Jill Newton 9967 4933
- Keep Reserve
9-12noon
Contact Matthew Keighery
0408 203 511

Third Sunday of the Month

- Casement Reserve
8.30-11.30
Contact Sue Burk
0404 470 443
- Torquay Estate
9-12noon
Contact Jo Nolan
0419 234 235
- Lookout Reserve
9-12noon
Contact Jessica Davis
0431 317 756

Come along to search out undiscovered pathways, places and panoramas of the Crag



OPEN DAY

Sunday 23rd October, 2016 10am -1pm
Linden Way Reserve, Linden Way, Castlecrag

The Griffin Reserves Advisory Group invite you for a **FREE Sausage Sizzle**
Coffee, tea and biscuits

Guided Walk and Music

Meet your local community and share information about the Griffin Conservation Area

Sausages kindly provided by Castlecrag Meats

Everyone welcome!



Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

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