



CASTLECRAG  
PROGRESS  
ASSOCIATION

# THE CRAG

*A voice for the community since 1925*

ISSN: 0814 2054

No. 198

FEBRUARY 2017

## Congratulations to new Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

Our Local member for Willoughby now in charge of NSW.  
See page 4.

## Have your say on our future City - Planning Strategy 2016-2036

Get involved in planning Willoughby and our village's future.  
Consultation closes on 17th March 2017. See page 3.

## Wildlife in our backyards



*The Tawnies appear in the bush behind our house down in The Bulwark every one or two years. I'll look out one day and think "there's something different about that tree". When I look closer – there's mum sitting so still you think she's a knot in a branch until the wind ruffles her feathers. She usually comes to raise a brood of one or two who at some point appear from under her wings. Eventually they are out and all sitting together. Hence this magic moment.*

*Louise Meek*

*Photo: Louise Meek*

Living in a suburb surrounded by bushland has many advantages that support a healthy and positive lifestyle. Most residents can access a park, reserve or bush track within five or ten minutes of their front door. Research increasingly demonstrates that having contact with nature influences one's wellbeing in a positive way, children and adults alike. The Norwegians have a name for it 'friluftsliv', used often to describe a way of life that is spent exploring and appreciating nature. This issue, we are zooming in for a close look at the many species sharing our suburb.

The Griffins designed the suburb around this ethos also, and we hope those who have moved into the community appreciate this aspect of CastleCrag. It's what makes our suburb so special. Many of us are fortunate to look out onto bush, mangroves, water, established gardens and mature trees and daily benefit from this ambience. Amid the constant drone of cicadas through summer, we hear and observe the creatures that share our habitat.

But being so close to bushland comes with challenges too. We have a growing problem with ticks – some people are

having nasty allergic reactions to bites. The art of 'guerrilla gardening' by netting plants also needs to be perfected, so that our flowers, herbs, fruit and vegies don't end up as early morning or midnight feasts for our feathered and furry friends. Too many times our labours in the herb and vegie plot end up as possum's dinner or cockatoo's destructive delight.

Our beautiful peninsular suburb is shared by nearly twelve hundred households and many more birds and creatures. What do you see and hear in your backyard?

*More wildlife on pages 6 and 7...*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 From the Editors + Letters
- 3 President's report
- 4 *The Crag* Mayor's Column
- 5 Creation of a Bookworm's Paradise
- 6+7 Wildlife in our Backyards
- 8 Obituary – David Harrop
- 9 Houses of CastleCrag
- 10 Giving Thanks for our new Parks
- 11 Environment News

### NOTICE OF CPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 15 March 2017

8.00pm

**What are the federal issues that concern you?**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Trent Zimmerman, Member for North Sydney

A chance to meet your local representative. Bring your questions & concerns.  
Consider joining the CPA committee & contributing to your community.

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](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 2016-2017

- President** Kate Westoby
- 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](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. Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

### Advertising Enquiries

John Steel at  
[editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto: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

Here at the Crag we have been delighted by the range and beauty of wildlife sightings our readers have captured for this issue; from exotic insects to echidnas. We haven't been able to include all of the wonderful photographs and their individual stories that have been sent in. We hope you enjoy those we've selected. There will be more next issue – maybe yours?

We are lucky to have so many wild and wonderful creatures on our doorstep so close to the centre of Sydney. It has been an unusually good year for sightings of everything. Last week a few of us met a green tree snake on Edinburgh Road just near the shops!

According to Willoughby Council Wildlife Officer Simon Brown, there are a few good reasons we are seeing so much lively activity spill out from the bush. The successful fox baiting program, started in 2000, is primary among them. The populations of bandicoots, quails, swamp wallabies and even those somewhat annoying turkeys have been able to flourish in recent years without so many of their predators lurking. Bush regeneration



*With thanks, Mr Leunig*

programs have also improved the quality for native habitats. A general awareness within our community about keeping domestic animals in check, which of course includes keeping your cat inside at night, has also helped enormously. Keep up the good work...

Have you been affected by the changes to the 203 bus route? Would it serve you better if it were to travel to Milson's Point train and ferry terminus? Please let the CPA know what you think, so it can continue to advocate for a bus service that meets the community needs. The CPA has, after all, been a voice for the community since 1925!

*Editors*

## Letters to the Editor

Many people in Australia are aware of the role Marion Mahony Griffin played in the creation of the design for Canberra. It was her superb architectural renderings that imagined the vision of the Capital and won the competition from the other entries along with the WBG design.

Having viewed the original silk drawings that are large panels at the National Archives – I was very pleased when the view from Mount Ainslie was renamed Marion Mahony Griffin View during Canberra's centenary. Thus the rendered architectural panels can now be viewed in real life from the lookout with Canberra spread out in its triangular and circular energy that is part of the Mahony Griffin and Burley Griffin design aesthetic.

We do not have many places in Australia named in Marion's honour so it is definitely worth the visit next time you are motoring through Canberra.

*Terese Hayward*

Talking of backyards – we're seeing more often now bandicoots scampering across ours in the Bastion, usually at 9pm and while they're timid they are unconcerned that humans may be out on the back deck. As a kid – we never, ever saw bandicoots or wallabies. Where have they come from? In all my experience (and I frequently run along the Watergate Reserve track) I've never seen, or heard of, any eel activity either until I observed it last November. I'd be interested in others' views.

*James Cryer*

## Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017

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

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

*(Cheque or direct debit to Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. BSB: 062 138 Account No: 10006008)*

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

Name: ..... *Please post to the Treasurer:*

Address: ..... **PO Box 4259**

Phone: ..... Email: ..... *Castlecrag 2068*  
*Queries to:*  
*info@castlecrag.org.au*

## From the President

Welcome to 2017. In keeping with the CPA's aim to inform and encourage involvement within the community I would like to invite you to our AGM on 15th March. We are fortunate to have our Federal Member Trent Zimmerman as our guest speaker who is happy to answer questions from the floor.

Thanks to Cottage and Coast for hosting our opening of the Street Library, and their ongoing accommodation of its growth! Their generous hospitality and the Mayor's gracious official speech made for a wonderful start to this initiative and the festive season.

Sydney is growing – and Willoughby is growing. Just look at the new apartments and our bulging public schools! The population of Willoughby is expected to increase by 18% in the next 20 years to more than 89,000 people. Council is inviting us to "Have our say" to help shape the future of Willoughby – to 2036. There are four streams of strategic planning – Chatswood CBD, Housing, Local Centres and Industrial Lands. What do you want the Quadrangle and our shopping precinct to look like in the future? Do you want our green spaces retained? Do you want to maintain the restriction of high-rise in our suburb? Where should such developments go? Find the survey in *Have your say* at [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au).

As the Mayor reports, the DA for the Haven Amphitheatre has been approved. We are hoping to have the plan slightly modified

so as to preserve the whole of the historic western terrace. Some small redesigning of the proposed stage shape would result in the seating below the Scarp having equal sight lines to those on the Western Terraces, as in the past. This would allow all the disabled access seating to be placed on the Scarp side, at the bottom of the proposed ramp and near the proposed accessible toilet. Both the proposed accessible pathway and the wheelchair platform for the Western Terraces, could then be avoided. We see this as the "least worst" option. The CPA will continue to work with all the other community groups to reach a consensus so that we can approach Council with a single voice.

Mark and I visited the National Museum recently, and said hello to a couple of our Local Treasures. The giant puppets of Walter and Marion have been on exhibition since 2010, as part of the CastleCrag section in the Landmarks Exhibition. They were first created in 1989 to feature in a huge outdoor community theatre piece opposing the sale of our local public school. In 1993, they starred in another community theatre piece at the Haven called Marion's Gift. The museum has requested a further 2-year extension of the loan because of the puppets' popularity amongst visitors. This is just as well, since we have not yet worked out where they are to be stored upon their return! We recommend a visit next time you're in Canberra.



*Kate with puppets at the National Museum*

On the 29th November this community, and in particular this organisation, lost a kind, funny and generous man. David was a member of our committee for many years and contributed in many ways not least with his advice on insurance but also with his zany sense of humour. (Obit, p 8)

It's time again for the CastleCrag Fair. It will be on the 20th August this year and luckily for us, Simone Selby has again agreed to organise it. Put it in your diary now to be sure not to miss it!

*Kate Westoby*

## There has been much happening at CastleCrag shops

A warm welcome to **Shant and Sevan Dilanchion**, the newcomers to **Sam's Café**. Locals will be treated to the delights of Middle Eastern cuisine as Shant and Sevan gear up with their new enterprise. The new eatery will bring even greater diversity to the CastleCrag dining experience.

We farewell our long serving **'Flavours**

**of Peking'** Chinese restaurant – now downsized but still operating at Town Hall station – and we welcome **'Prosperity Garden'**, due to open as we go to print. Operated by the successful 'Chef's Gallery' chain, the new establishment will be smaller in size than the former restaurant.

The former Banquet Room will be petitioned off to make way for another

new restaurant in the corner of the Quadrangle. We'll share details as they come to hand.

Our **Quadrangle Butcher** has moved on, and we wish Paul well. The generous space is also about to be subdivided to allow for a new food destination opening soon. Entry will be via Edinburgh Road.



### CAN YOU HELP?

CastleCrag Library desperately needs reliable volunteer help on Tuesday afternoons from 3pm – 4.30pm.

A couple of Tuesdays a month to assist the librarian on duty would be really welcomed.

Contact Dorothy Fraser on 9958 5851 or email [cdmfraser@hotmail.com](mailto:cdmfraser@hotmail.com)

# THE CRAG Mayor's Column



Mayor Gail launches Street Library

Photo: John Steel

What a fabulous start to the year, with some wonderful community celebrations including Australia Day and Chinese New Year. Congratulations to our Citizen of the Year winners, Janet France and Grant Sheldon, as well as Cultural and Community Building Award recipient, Venerable Ru Yi.

In December, Council approved a Development Application (DA) for works at the much loved Haven Amphitheatre including stage replacement with a storeroom, accessible ramps, terrace, amenities, gully stabilisation and associated works. This follows a long period of collaboration between Council, passionate community groups and committees to reach consensus and develop plans for the site that meet community needs, while also

addressing engineering, environmental and historic factors. With the DA approved, community groups can now move ahead with fundraising for the project.

Council has just completed community consultation on the proposed introduction of new boat trailer parking restriction across the entire Willoughby area. The changes are designed to discourage long term parking of unattended registered boat trailers on public roads, and to free up on-street parking spaces for local residents. Community consultation results will be considered by Council in March. Until then, Council will not issue parking permits for boat trailers.

Council has notified IPART of its intention to apply for a special rate variation for the upgrade of the Northbridge Plaza Car Park, commencing in the 2017/18 financial year. The special rate will affect a small portion of the business community, who are the primary beneficiaries of the car park, and it will not impact on the broader community.

All residents will soon have brand new red and yellow lid bins when the old models are replaced in stages through

February and March. The current bins were purchased and distributed at the commencement of the previous Waste Collection Contract in 2003 and have now surpassed the typical seven to ten year lifespan. The old bins will be taken away to be recycled by the manufacturer and turned into new bins. This is part of Council ensuring residents are provided with a quality waste collection service.

Congratulations to our local Member for Willoughby, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP on her appointment as Premier of NSW. Gladys has always been a hardworking, dedicated local member who has a very good relationship with Council and the community. Gladys has been our local member since 2003 and has been a terrific support on many local and State issues including school capacity, sporting facilities access to grants, traffic and the right hand turn at Eastern Valley Way. I look forward to continuing our positive working relationship in the future and wish her well in her new role.

We have some fantastic community events coming up over the next few months, including the Fauna Fair, Seniors Celebrations and International Women's Day. I hope to see you there.

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](mailto:gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au).

Gail Giles-Gidney

The Quadrangle  
Castlecrag  
+61 2 9958 5725

**EVERYDAY CASHMERE**  
everydaycashmere.com

Come join the pack at

**WHITE WOLF DOJO**  
MARTIAL ARTS FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

Martial arts is a lot more than just punching and kicking. It's a great way to get fit, feel good about yourself & learn to handle stress & everyday life situations more consciously.

Classes for Men, Women and Children.

Contact Rachael at White Wolf Dojo for a **free** trial class.

e. [dojo@whitewolfdojo.com.au](mailto:dojo@whitewolfdojo.com.au)  
p. 0418 282 171

[www.whitewolfdojo.com.au](http://www.whitewolfdojo.com.au)

Uniting  
Church Hall  
12 Charles St  
Castlecrag

**TAKE A FREE TRIAL CLASS**

## Creation of a Bookworm's paradise

The CPA recently launched its street Library initiative located in the shopping precinct. On hand to officially unveil the library boxes was Mayor Gail Giles Gidney, herself an avid reader. Neighbours donated books and many eagerly took a book or three with them for summer reading. The collection has continued to grow like a rampant vine over summer.

When the Progress Association was looking for locations to place the Street Library boxes, they found Julie from Cottage & Coast café had already started a shelf of books for free sharing. Promoting the same philosophy of passing books on, rather than putting on a shelf to collect dust or throw out at Council clean-up, a natural partnership was formed and a home was found for the adult box. It was beautifully designed with the theme of gum leaves

by local artist, Karen Ferguson, and can be found outside the shop in the Griffin Centre. The library has already far outgrown the box and has now taken over an entire case of shelves! So many good books to choose from-many hardcovers. Truly a bookworm's paradise!

The children and young adult street library is located in the Quadrangle, just at the top of the ramp. It was painted by eight year old Sophia Rayson, who did a fabulous job with the help of her parents Tana and Paul. It is being well used & has also burst out of its box into a milk crate. Is there a handy person who could build another one for the kids? The men's shed and street libraries have designs and workshops which CPA would be happy to pay for you to attend.

There are now over one hundred street libraries across Australia, all sharing the



same two purposes-to encourage literacy and community. Recently Waverley Council provided funding for 10 street library boxes. The aim is 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. Get into it!

## Spreading the word on Rare Disease



Local Rare Diseases advocate, Megan Fookes OAM, has been appointed to the Executive Committee for Rare Diseases International. The honour saw Megan

presenting at the committee launch held at the United Nations headquarters in New York late last year.

Megan is a founding member of Rare

Voices Australia and vocal advocate for the group after discovering 20 years ago that her father suffered from the rare Fabry disease. Megan and her 14 year old son have also inherited the condition.

Fabry disease is an enzyme disorder which presents as an acute pain in the hands and feet, but ultimately can lead to kidney failure and other complications.

As it is relatively obscure, it can take a long time to diagnose. As a result, the disease can progress to cause irreparable damage

on the way to diagnosis. Fabry disease is now treatable, but treatment can be very expensive. For Megan, creating awareness of rare diseases is a personal crusade. "My disease is managed, and my son is also on daily medication."

"It's a great honour to be on the International committee. We have a job to create greater awareness of these diseases in order to properly combat them. Having an International approach is a great step forward."

## Fire! Fire! Fire!



On Thursday 3rd November, Willoughby Council, in conjunction with NSW Fire and Rescue, conducted a hazard reduction burn at Castle Cove. The burn, attended by Council staff and NSW Fire and Rescue crew was part of Council's regular hazard reduction process. The burn was extinguished, but later that night NSW Fire and Rescue responded to an emergency call from a resident to treat a separate fire not far from the hazard reduction burn.

They were able to contain and extinguish it. However, by Saturday morning, strong winds must have reignited embers and the fire took off again, close to homes in Deepwater road. Two water-dumping helicopters were called in and could be seen from the Northern Escarpment dipping down below the ridge to drench the flames. The fire was finally extinguished in the early afternoon and was an important reminder to residents to prepare for the season.

### Are you submitting a D.A. in 2017?

...and live in a bushland connected residence

Contact **Terese Hayward** for:

- Bushland Plans of Management
- Native Landscaping Plans
- Bush regeneration Works

**Phone: 0405 363 776**

ABN: 57 039 499 202 Member: AABR



# ZEROPEST

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

**DAVID HOWELL**  
**9967 5000**

ZEROPEST PTY. LTD. PO BOX 4132 CASTLECRAIG 2068  
Fax: (02) 9958 4448 P.C.REG 1456

## Wildlife in our backyards



I live on Edinburgh Road, on the Northern Escarpment and my family and I have seen this echidna many times. The first few times I saw him, I was walking down to the water near Stoker Playground. Then I saw him in my backyard and I called my family down to see it! He was really cute and quite friendly, sniffing his way around the garden. That was the last time I saw the echidna and it was the best.

*By Sophie Herrmann (10 years)*



This phasmid was in Sophie's garden too, it was about 18 cm long while the one below looks like a stick and was on a gutter a few doors up. They are known as leaf and stick insects and are excellent at camouflage. There are over 150 varieties. Water dragons are often found sunning themselves on rocks and around pools.



A lace monitor was hanging around our backyard in Edinburgh road, on the edge of the Northern escarpment for a few days in late November. It was attracting the



attention of the cockatoos, who would flap & squawk & swoop on it. At first it would crawl away to escape them, but by day two of the cacophony the monitor was defending itself and striking that great long tail against the cockies as they noisily approached. Eventually they left it alone.

With the profusion of brush turkeys in our area, there has been an increase in tree goannas. They love to eat turkey eggs. The monitor wasn't seen again till mid January when it slowly walked through one afternoon on a very hot day. All you could hear was the crunching of dry leaves.

The Swamp wallabies have become regular visitors to our backyards over the last few years. This one, named Ronnie by the Ferguson family, has a chewed ear so is easily recognizable. Quite old now with greying whiskers, he was observed



eating frangipani flowers a few times over summer.

Perhaps it was a wallaby that ate my parsley, tomato plants, mature passion fruit vine, rhubarb leaves and red stalks too? Or maybe it was a possum or bandicoot...it can't have been the blue tongue lizard nor the beautiful green tree snake! Caught in the act, Brush turkey!

*Lindy Batterham*



### HSC ENGLISH

**Coaching by Qualified Teacher**

- English as a Second Language
- Standard
- Advanced
- Extension
- Essay & Creative Writing

**Call Henrietta on 9958 7528**

### Sailors Bay Plumbing

Northbridge family business  
**Friendly and reliable service**  
 A reputation for quality  
**Pensioner discounts available**  
 All aspects of plumbing work

Call Ben Hunter  
**9958 0325**

[www.sailorsbay.plumbing](http://www.sailorsbay.plumbing)  
 Mention this ad and we'll waive our call our charge





Left to Right: Koel, King Parrot, Kookaburra and those pesky Cockies. Photos: Lindy Batterham

On a bushwalk in Watergate Reserve, my family and I sighted a long-finned eel down in Sailor's Bay Creek in November. It was happily basking in a rock pool about 100m upstream from the junction of The Barbette track. After its long swim she (and we assume it's a her) then had to negotiate amphibiously up and around the waterfall then another 200m above!

These fish are predominately carnivorous, feeding on insects, small fish and even young birds. They are not aggressive, and contrary to most perceptions, they have



very short, platelike teeth that are of little threat to humans.

Long-finned Eels undergo a remarkable migration to sea to breed. Adults swim downstream to the sea and then migrate to their spawning grounds near New Caledonia. Female eels can have millions of eggs in their ovaries. Developing leptocephali take about one year to return to the streams of eastern Australia. Glass eels (ie, the tiny babies or elvers) arrive along the coast of NSW in early summer. Young eels (called elvers) then swim upstream and spend a number of years maturing in freshwater.

Neighbours have seen significantly larger eels than this one in some of our local creeks. They seem to be popping up everywhere.

James Cryer (Photo: Stuart Cryer)

This little fella surprised us all when we discovered him perched on the fence of



our pool enclosure. Maybe it was one of Louise's babies and flew up from The Bulwark. He must have swooped in through an open window and couldn't find a way

out. He slept on throughout the day. We opened all doors and windows and next morning he was gone.

Sandra Odorisio

**Tick Awareness**

Council has very good advice on its web site under Nature/Bushland. Tick Induced Allergies Research Awareness is very informative at [www.tiara.org.au](http://www.tiara.org.au).

We welcome people's photo stories of their wildlife encounters for future editions. Send to [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)

**Inspired by Marion Mahony Griffin...**  
...a young Sylvia Brose OAM founded Gleneagle 60 years ago in 1957.

The school's founding principles were **Design**: based on creativity embedded in learning. **Community**: warm and supportive classes based on close personal relationships. **A pursuit of academic excellence**: HSC results within top 10% of NSW high schools.

**School Tours from 9:30am**  
**PRESCHOOL CAMPUS** 118 Sydney Rd, Willoughby  
 Thurs 2 March, Mon 1 May, Thurs 8 June  
**KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 2 CLASSROOMS**  
 121 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag  
 Thurs 16 March, Sat 13 May, Thurs 15 June  
**YEAR 3-12 CAMPUS** 5a Glenroy Ave, Middle Cove  
 OPEN DAY Fri 31 March, Tues 2 May

To book a tour or for more enrolment information, visit [www.gleneagle.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gleneagle.nsw.edu.au) or call 02 9932 2325

**Gleneagle**  
Rudolf Steiner School  
Celebrating 60 years!

cherishing childhood. educating for excellence.

**Fauna Fair 2017**

Sunday 26 March  
Currey Park  
Tingha Street, Chatswood

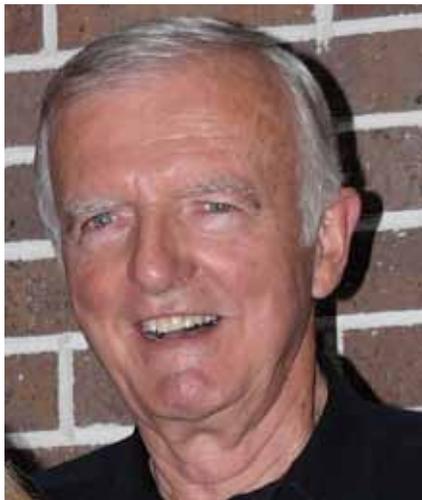
Enjoy informative talks and live Australian animal shows

live well in willoughby

[www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

## Obituary: David Harrop

### 2nd February 1939 – 29th November 2016



David lived in Castlecrag from 1978 until he and Joanna, his wife of 50 years, downsized to an apartment in Cammeray in 2008. The family home in Sugarloaf Crescent was where his three children and pets spent their formative years. It was a home where all were welcome, the kids in the street helped themselves to the fridge and pantry and the sulphur crested cockatoos helped themselves to the wooden verandah railings, which were constantly being replaced and lacquered by David in what was clearly something so delicious they returned with feathered friends constantly over the years.

Moving back to Sydney from Melbourne, the decision to move to Castlecrag came after houseminding for a family friend in The Redoubt. Castlecrag was so unique and nothing like a Melbourne suburb so we didn't even consider anywhere else in Sydney. Our home in Sugarloaf was at the end of the street up a bumpy gravel potholed road which had five other houses.

Not long after moving in, Aboriginal middens were discovered near the home, as were funnel webs and on a few occasions pythons that had the reptile keepers from Taronga Zoo exclaiming, "well that's a bloody big snake!"

David loved the wildlife and the bush. He was often joined by curious echidnas when he walked down the bushtrack to Sugarloaf Bay to join his friends for a day sailing on Sydney Harbour. The rock at the end of the bushwalk, near the mangroves, was where he fished with his kids – mostly there were oyster snags, stingrays being cut off the line and mudcrabs stealing bait, but the view and quietness, so close to the city, was worth the fruitless castings!

David was the son of Grace Harrop nee Bilby and George Harrop who was a professional trumpeter. He was born in Willoughby, grew up in Eastwood and was a student of Fort Street High before starting in the insurance business as a teenager.

Both sides of his family had music in their veins. He remembers his mother's cousin Noel Coward visiting and finding the original hymns that his aunts and grandfather had hand written. These were later published in Christian hymnbooks and still performed today. David loved music. He was never formally trained, but could pick up most instruments and play a tune. In his final years he was an active member of the local Welsh Choir – who touchingly performed at his funeral service.

In later years David ran his own bespoke insurance brokerage '5footnineteen and associates' from his home office with an enviable vista of bush across the valley to Middle Cove. Although David gave very good advice to insurance clients on how to keep their home and possessions safe, our family home didn't actually have keys. It was never locked, EVER and never broken into in the entire 30 years it was home. The location was probably a deterrent.

Dad loved Castlecrag and the people. He was a regular at the Quadrangle, knew the locals well, and loved having a chat with Mayor Pat Reilly whose father had played in bands with David's father. David also

joined the Castlecrag Progress association to become more involved in the local community, and was later a committee member for many years. He offered free advice on insurance matters to community groups, and was always ready to lend a helping hand.

David was a man of great height, humour and warmth. Suffering from Parkinsons, he spent the last months of his life in a nursing home in Kirribilli confined to a wheelchair and gradually losing his sharp mind and ability to speak. During a lucid moment he confessed to me, his daughter, that he had no memory of the home in Cammeray in which he'd lived for the final 8 years, but Sugarloaf Crescent was vivid and vibrant in his mind. Which made sense, as it was a place of fond memories and love for David.

David died at Castlecrag Hospital. He was beautifully taken care of by the loving staff and most importantly he was back in the suburb where he felt most at home and through the window he could see the trees and smell the bush.

*Georgina Harrop*

### Community Choir anyone?

Singing teacher Louise McDonald is keen to start a local choir – 'The Treble Makers.' So 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 more traditional pieces. 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).

**Didier Sockeel**  
*Chef Pâtissier*

85 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag  
 (Sydney) NSW 2068 Australia  
 Tel. 02 9967 2882 - Fax 02 9967 9271  
 www.ganachepatisserie.com.au

*Martha's*

**breakfast lunch dinner bar**  
**83 Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag NSW 2068**

**t** 02 9967 8299  
**e** bookings@marthas.com.au  
**w** marthas.com.au

## The Houses of Castlecrag

A Bauhaus style house is visited by Ben Gerstel. Ben is a local architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association ([www.architecture.org.au](http://www.architecture.org.au)).

### 315 Edinburgh Road

Edinburgh Road is a very long road and forms the spine of Castlecrag. Towards the end of the road stands a white house with no immediate neighbours. This address is 315 Edinburgh Road. It is located on a superb bushland site originally purchased from friends of Marion Mahoney in Chicago (1). The site provides views to both Sugarloaf Bay and Seaforth.

Eva and Hugh Buhrich designed this house. Construction started in 1941 and finished 17 years later. This was their first family home in Castlecrag. They went on to build their second family home in 1968, at 375 Edinburgh Road.

Eva (1912–1975) and Hugh (1911–2004) fled Germany due to the Second World War and arrived in Australia in 1938. The family first lived in Canberra and then moved to Sydney. He designed many houses in and around in Sydney. His wife was an architectural journalist.

The house at 315 Edinburgh Road is in the style of the white, functional architecture of the International Style established at the Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany. It utilises rectilinear forms offset by a “nautical style” through the use of organic curves.

The house has a flat roof to provide a roof terrace. The existing steel frames of the terrace were once covered to provide shade. The new steel wave like frame was originally made of timber, which perished over time. This sculptural element predates the curved fascia to 375 Edinburgh Road.

The house was originally four storeys and “designed as a series of cantilevers” (2).

Decoration was derived by the treatment of the steel windows. A “strip” window is visible from the street which is framed by a brick corbel (a protruding course of bricks)

and a frameless corner window on the first floor. The white render contrasts with the sandstone used in the fireplace and sub-floor walls.

On the ground floor is the entry, the kitchen with “a fixed table set just below the window line” (2), the dining and living spaces with a prominent stone fireplace and stairs down to the bedrooms. The rear glazed wall is angled to capture the expansive view of Sugarloaf Bay.

The floor finish to the ground floor is both timber and stone flagging which continues out to the terrace. An original carport has now been enclosed to increase the floor area.

On the first floor was a studio with access to the roof terrace. A small, curved laminated timber spiral staircase with cantilevered treads connected the ground and first floors. Again, this stair was repeated with concrete treads at the second family home. Buhrich also designed furniture, which was built by Paul Kafka who was another European immigrant and furniture designer who found solace in Australia.

Over time the house has been added to (a second development application was lodged in 1948) (2) and recently the house has been sympathetically renovated by the current owners. The window frames are now painted black to contrast with the white walls, a semi-circular element has been added on the side wall and the carport has been enclosed.

315 Edinburgh Road was a test case of



315 Edinburgh Road  
Photo: Ben Gerstel

Buhrich's ideas like the spiral stair case, the use of stone and the fixed dining room table which were repeated in his second family home. There are many fascinating aspects of this house. The one that I enjoy the most is how the owners appreciate the history and value of the house and have adapted it to suit their needs. They have preserved a piece of Castlecrag architectural history for other people to enjoy and learn from.

**Ben Gerstel**  
**Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd**  
[bgerstel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bgerstel@optusnet.com.au)

#### References:

- 1) “Buhrich House 1” by Glenn Harper *Architecture Bulletin* May / June 2007
  - 2) *News Update* 40 March 2005, Walter Burley Griffin Society
- Hugh Buhrich's House by Elizabeth Farrelly *Architecture Australia* July / August 2004  
“The Untold Story: migrants and modernism” by Rebecca Hawcroft in the *Architecture Bulletin* 2.05



**CASTLECrag**  
**CHIROPRACTIC**

Ph: 9967 4477

163 Eastern Valley Way, Castlecrag

[www.castlecragchiropractic.com.au](http://www.castlecragchiropractic.com.au)

Delivering quality Chiropractic care to the Lower North Shore community since 2003

We welcome babies, children and adults of all ages

**castlecragdental**  
**99584557**  
Dr Alex Dong & Dr Winnie Li  
105 Edinburgh Road  
[www.castlecragdental.com.au](http://www.castlecragdental.com.au)

# Giving thanks for our new parks



A hot day at the end of Spring saw WCC's Griffin Reserves Advisory Group's Open Day at the newly re-landscaped Linden Way reserve & playground. The park now has a large circular swing, table and benches and a log-stepping path that leads up through the bushes to a wonderful view out past The Spit to the Heads and beyond!

Well attended, but with plenty of refreshments and sausages from Castlecrag Meats to go around, the GRAG and Council's bushland team provided an informative morning explaining their work. People were led down the Pinnacle Hill

to the new park that has been created in Edinburgh road just past where Tor Walk meets it, right down the bottom of the peninsula. The name for this new park has not yet been decided. Council asked for feedback from the community on two Guringai place names 'Waringa' Middle Harbour, and 'Burrabru' the Spit and will be making a decision soon.

This site was the proposed take-off point for a bridge across Middle Harbour to Seaforth when the plan to extend the Warringah Freeway through our suburb was alive – the park and whole Northern

*Alfred Bernhard preaches the good word about Bushcare. Photo: Matthew Keighery*

escarpment is a wonderful legacy of this Progress Association and the members who fought against the Expressway for so many years, and that was acknowledged on the Open Day. Instead of an expressway and bridge, there is a well-constructed path leading quickly to the water where a small platform has been constructed with kayak storage and views up and down Middle Harbour. There is still a lot of weeding to be done on the lower slopes, but much has been achieved so far in turning this site that was held by the RTA and allowed to weed over with rampant bamboo (and the rest) for many years. The park looks like it needs a new bushcare group to nurture it and work with council. Any volunteers?

Speaking of which, a new bushcare group is starting up top at the Linden Way Reserve, meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month, 9-12noon.

A very experienced member of council's bushland team, Andrew Souter, will be the trainer of the group. Council will provide the usual support for the group – gloves, tools, signage, training etc. Interested residents should just turn up at the introductory meeting on Sunday 26th February, Linden Way Reserve.

For further info ring Council's Bushcare Supervisor on 9777 7875.



## Unrivalled Local Knowledge

Providing excellence in Real Estate Service  
Over 30 years real estate experience

Are you interested to know what your property is worth?  
If so, contact our office today for advice from agents who really know your area and get results!

Mark O'Brien 0413 879 778  
Sales Manager - Licensed Real Estate Agent

**Richardson & Wrench Northbridge/Castlecrag**  
9958 1200 | [rwnc.com.au](http://rwnc.com.au)

**LILLY PILLY**  
indigenous landscapes

<p><b>native flowering gardens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>low maintenance</li> <li>water wise &amp; friendly</li> <li>sandstone walls, paving &amp; features</li> <li>large or small projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>landscaping</li> <li>maintenance</li> </ul> <p><b>Richard Blacklock</b> 0417 217 937</p>
--	--

**Small groups.  
Unique destinations.**

**(02) 9906 5770**  
[bluedottravel.com.au](http://bluedottravel.com.au)

• ENVIRONMENT NEWS • environment news • ENVIRONMENT NEWS •



Community gardeners with their harvest.

people (or the not-so-young). Soaking in vinegar or lemon juice before cooking and minimising cooking time can reduce the colour change. Or you can eat them raw and retain the novelty factor.

Some of our citrus trees are looking on track for a bumper crop, as is our potted fig which has 23 small fruits urging us to look after them. Also doing well are a few yacon plants, which were planted in Spring courtesy of David, one of our wonderful group members. We're seeing lush, leafy growth through the Summer and expect some flowering towards Autumn. But it's what's happening under the surface that's of most interest.

**The Dairy Community Garden January 2017 Update**

Sustained hot days over a Summer with soaring temperatures. This has been an opportunity as well as a challenge for growing crops and maintaining the garden. Yay for the volunteers who have done extra watering at Warners Park in between regular meets. It makes a real difference.

Over the past few months tomatoes, beans, snow peas, lettuce, warrigal greens and corn have delivered nice harvests which we shared all the way into December. We had less success with cucumbers, eggplants and capsicums.

The purple king climbing beans we planted alongside our more usual green variety adds visual pleasure even before the food reaches your mouth which, let's face it, is important. These majestic-looking purple beans get their colourful hues from a natural group of chemicals called Anthocyanins. It's the same natural chemical that does it for purple grapes, plums and purple broccoli.

Interestingly purple beans turn green during the cooking process which makes a great talking/ learning point for young



Yacon is a tuber vegetable resembling a yam, originating from South America. It can be eaten raw, boiled or baked. It's a crisp root with texture and flavour described as a cross between a fresh apple and watermelon or as a pear-like flavour. It has the distinction of being high in fibre and low in calories.



All interested locals are welcome to join us at Warners Park for Neighbours Day on Sun 19 March. There will be a free introduction to community gardening with morning tea provided (bring your gloves).

Regular meets are on Wednesday mornings from around 9.00am. Weekend meets are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Visit [www.thedairygarden.weebly.com](http://www.thedairygarden.weebly.com) or contact Janet France through the website.

Mary Anne Veliscek

**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 Sunday of the Month**

- Gargoyle Bushcare  
9-12noon  
Contact Cherrie Wilson 0478 181 182
- 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  
or Adrienne Kabos 9298 3761
- Retreat Reserve  
9-12noon  
Contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213  
or Jill Newton 9967 4933

**Fourth Sunday of the Month**

- Linden Way Reserve  
9-12noon  
Contact WCC 9777 7875



**CAFÉ**  
OPEN 7 DAYS

Lifestyle, Homewares, Coffee

Shop 4, The Griffin Centre  
122 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag

[www.cottageandcoast.com.au](http://www.cottageandcoast.com.au)



Quality Thai Food

**Dine in & Take away**

Licensed and BYO  
(Wine only)

Tel: **9967 3433**

Fax: **9967 3411**

Shop 2A,  
122 Edinburgh Road  
Castlecrag

## Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

### Seniors Week Walk – Bushwalk, Poetry Reading and Sculpture Exhibition

Thursday, 9 March 10.00am – 12.30pm  
Flat Rock Reserve, Small Street, Willoughby

Enjoy either a walk down to the cool gully or a flat easy walk along the paths. Your guide will point out interesting plants and wildlife while imparting some of the interesting historic points about the reserve. Experience a bush poetry reading at the Henry Lawson Cave with morning tea provided. Then take in the Sculpture exhibition on our walk back to our meeting place.

### Neighbours Day at Warner's Park

Sunday, 19 March 9.00am – 11.00am

The Dairy Garden will host an intro to Community gardening, followed by a dig and then warrigal green pesto making. Lovely morning tea at 10.30am. Bring your gloves, mugs and neighbours!

### Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)

Tuesday, 21 March 8.00pm  
Marion Mahony Hall, Edinburgh Road

Annual General Meeting. Speaker tba. All welcome. Supper follows.

### Pre-schoolers Bush Scramble

Wednesday 5 April 10.00am – 11.30am  
O.H. Reid Reserve, Reid Drive, Chatswood West

The animals have found a very big egg and don't know who it could belong to. Who lays eggs in the bush? Use your eggs-pertise to unwrap this Dino-egg Easter mystery. Wear closed shoes, hats and bring your child's snack and drink.

### School Holiday Bushland Adventure (5 – 11 years)

Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 April 10.00am – 12.30pm  
Blue Gum Reserve, Dulwich Road, Chatswood West

Its holiday time and it's a Parrot Palaver! Kids will walk approx. 3kms through diverse bushland, learn about all the different types of parrots in Willoughby and play some "squawking-good" games. Everyone will need a back pack with a decent snack and drink. Please wear a hat and closed shoes.

### Heritage Festival Castlecrag Walk – 'Having a Voice'

Thursday, 4 May 10.00am – 12noon

Explore the far eastern point of Castlecrag with Council's Landscape Architect Jan Felton. Find out about how residents continued the Walter Burley Griffin ethos and used their 'voice' to save Castlecrag from having an expressway through it. Learn some interesting local history, visit the new panoramic reserve with sparkling water views and pass by some houses designed by significant Australian architects. Some very steep sections and uneven ground. Meet on the cnr Edinburgh Road and Linden Way, Castlecrag at the Pinnacle Bus Stop.

### Family Fun Walk – 'Going Batty'

Sunday, 7 May 10am – 12noon

Mowbray Park, Mow.00bray Road, Lane Cove North

It's a chance to go 'batty' on a great adventure in the wild while learning the differences between bat species found in the Sydney area. Walk along the beautiful Lane Cove River and play some 'batty' games. Bring snacks, drinks and wear hats and closed shoes. 3km walk with some steep bush stairs, suitable for 5 year olds and up.

**All events are free but booking is essential. Contact to get meeting point via DIARY DATE [www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au) or phone 9777 7755 or email: [emma.hayes@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma.hayes@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)**

Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

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



Heidi King  
Sales  
0411 631 888

Grant Percy  
Property Management  
0402 454 846

## nobody does it better®

- ✓ Over 30 years sales & property management experience on Sydney's Lower North Shore
- ✓ Over 1,500 successful sales
- ✓ Specialist in Castlecrag, Castle Cove, Middle Cove & Roseville Chase
- ✓ Most Outstanding Real Estate Agency Winner 2014 and Finalist 2015 & 2016 North Shore Local Business Awards



Call us for a confidential  
market appraisal

9958 1800  
[castlecrag@ljh.com.au](mailto:castlecrag@ljh.com.au)



**LJ Hooker**  
Castlecrag