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MEMBERSHIP:

Progress Association Membership renewals for 2006 are now due. Please see Page 5 for membership renewal form.

COMING EVENTS:

- TUE 2 May** CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AGM (See below)
- SUN 14 May** BIRDWATCH with Andy Burton
- THU 25 May** CASTLECRAG CONSERVATION SOCIETY Speaker Meeting

See Community Notice Board, page 6, for details of these and other activities

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Castlecrag Progress Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 2 May at 8pm

Guest Speaker:

Pamille Berg OA
The Civic Place Public Art Program

Castlecrag Community Centre

(See page 4 for details)

All Welcome

Come along and enjoy the presentation and refreshments afterwards.

Please park in the street and walk down.

New Life for Griffin Fountain



The Griffin Memorial Fountain again stands out as a beacon that symbolises Castlecrag's origins. This scene on 21 March 2006 shows the landscaped island. Next time we will show it with water. *Bob McKillop photo.*

All Castlecrag residents will have noted the refurbishment work being undertaken by Council on the Griffin Memorial Fountain at the intersection of Sortie Port and Edinburgh Road. The island has been landscaped, the bowl has been repaired, the pump and jets have been refurbished and new lights will shortly be fitted. Willoughby City Council undertook this work in close consultation with the NSW Heritage Office under its maintenance budget.

Bob McKillop and Cr. Trevor Morgan reported this good news at the Progress Association General Meeting on 28 February. As the refurbishment does not entail a modern water treatment facility, the operation of the fountain will require regular checking and cleaning of the fountain by local residents. To this end, the Progress Association has formed a 'Friends of the Fountain Group', which will inspect and clean the fountain on a roster basis using a kit supplied by Council. A number of residents have already nominated for the Group, but additional support is welcome. Please contact the Progress Association Secretary at 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag or phone 9958 5384.

With the formation of the Friends Group, Council will have the fountain operating again in the next few weeks. Council will continue its efforts to obtain additional resources to upgrade the fountain over the longer term.

Progress Association President John Steel has congratulated Council for its achievement in refurbishing the fountain to operating condition and expressed his appreciation of the efforts by Councillors Morgan and Cox in gaining this positive outcome. He said:

The Griffin Memorial Fountain was constructed in 1965 as a result of a community fund-raising effort to mark the Centenary of Willoughby Municipal Council. The magnificent water sculpture by Bim Hilder was created as a memorial to the creator of our suburb, Walter Burley Griffin. Local residents also helped with the construction. The Mayor, Alderman Laurie McGinty, unveiled the fountain on Centenary Day, 23 October 1965, to the great pleasure of the many residents who attended. It continues to be a feature of the suburb and has been listed as a heritage item of State and Regional significance by Willoughby Council. The Progress Association has made its restoration a priority project for the community and the funds raised through the Castlecrag Community Fairs have been set-aside for this purpose. The Progress Association will continue to liaise with Council for the long-term conservation of this local icon.

Editors

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the Castlecrag Progress Association

6/77 Edinburgh Road 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 2005-2006

President John Steel

Vice Presidents Peter Moffitt Gay Spies OAM

Secretary Elizabeth Lander

Treasurer Diana Jones

Committee Glorcen Goldin David Harrop Bob McKillop Jill Newton Howard Rubie Kate Westaby

THE CRAG

is edited by

Bob McKillop 9958 4516

Email: editors@castlecrag.org.au

Letters to the Editor are welcome.

Design, Typesetting & Printing

Robin Phelan & Associates 9958 4191 rocketdesign@bigpond.com

Community Bytes

Right-hand Turn Traffic Signal

The Progress Association obtained over 1500 signatures to its petition for a right-hand turn indicator for northbound traffic exiting Castlecrag at the Eastern Valley Way lights (The Crag 157, p.3). Our local member, Gladys Berejiklian, tabled this petition in Parliament and lobbied the Minister for Roads on our behalf.

She has now forwarded a letter from Greg Keவில், Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Roads, which states that the RTA has rejected our request. Residents attending the General Meeting of the CPA on 28 February were dismayed at this decision and urged the Progress Association to arrange an on-site meeting with the local RTA manager to demonstrate the safety concerns arising from the current situation.

A sub-committee of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations examining traffic issues at Northbridge has formally supported the Castlecrag case for a right-hand turn indicator at this intersection.

Traffic Devices on Edinburgh Road

The new traffic devices installed by Council on Edinburgh Road near St James Church generated adverse comment at the Progress Association General Meeting on 28 February. Residents felt that devices were installed without any consultation and they create a traffic hazard. As detailed in past issues of The Crag, traffic-calming measures for Edinburgh Road have been a long-standing issue in the community, with detailed designs having been prepared and widely circulated. The new structures do not

relate to these designs and residents at the meeting felt that they were in direct conflict with the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Sunnyside Crescent and Edinburgh Road. The Progress Association is keen to hear your views on these devices. Please call John Steel on 9958 5804, Elizabeth Lander 9958 5384; or write to the Editor - 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag OR email: info@castlecrag.org.au

Web Page

The website of the Progress Association has recently been updated with a selection of articles from The Crag and additional material from the history timeline. The photographs look much better in colour - check them out at www.castlecrag.org.au. The Progress Association is keen for feedback on the site and suggestions for improvement. Please contact the Secretary at 6/77 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag or email to: info@castlecrag.org.au

Improvement at THE CRAG

You will note that we have enhanced the appearance of The Crag for this issue. Castlecrag resident Robin Phelan has kindly volunteered to undertake the desktop layout of the newsletter for the Progress Association and will be making a number of design enhancements of The Crag, while keeping its unique character. The editors are keen to hear of your response to the changes and any suggestions you may have for improvement, including new features. Please contact us at the above address.

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President's Musings

Amongst the milieu of activities that the Progress Association engages in, the ongoing interaction with Willoughby City Council (WCC) with respect to the implementation of development controls is one that demands careful and sensitive attention to the community interest. We are fortunate in having a sub-committee that approaches this task in a very professional manner. As explained in the accompanying article (page 4), the sub-committee strictly adheres to our policy guidelines. Occasionally one hears, via the 'grapevine', rumblings that suggest that our policy is not well understood and that we are seen to be more influential than really is the case. In reality we rarely object to a Development Application and only in a minor percentage of cases do we make a comment to Council drawing attention to elements that do not conform to the relevant Development Control Plan.

Through the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations we have supported a

range of suggestions to simplify the processing of Development Applications and improve its fairness and transparency. Council is currently reviewing these suggestions and several have already been implemented. At the same time, Council needs to address state government planning reforms that will impose uniformity across councils and reduce complexity. As part of these reforms, WCC has consolidated its existing development controls into a single document, which is currently on public exhibition. Your committee will be examining this draft over the next few weeks and we expect to make a response to Council based on potential effects on the community interest in Castlecrag. If you have comments on the draft Willoughby Development Control Plan we would like to hear from you (see page 2 for contact details).

On a broader front we have commented on Council's Draft Strategy for Willoughby City. We felt that the community consultation

had worked well and captured a broad section of opinion on what Willoughby residents wanted to maintain and develop in the municipality over the medium term. It was pleasing to see so many of the things that we value in Castlecrag in terms of the blend of natural and built environment given prominence across the whole of Willoughby.

You will note the update of *The Crag* with this issue, including the introduction of a Community Notice Board that will enable various groups in our community to promote their forthcoming activities and events. We are keen to obtain your feedback on these changes and suggestions for further improvement. Please contact the Progress Association or the editors via the contact details on page 2.

John Steel

Willoughby CouncilCab

As part of its commitment to sustainable transport, Willoughby City Council will launch a 12-month trial local area transport service in May 2006. It will offer pre-booked transport on a shared ride basis on an 'anywhere to anywhere' basis within the boundaries of Willoughby City. The service proposal, which has been developed in consultation with representatives of the Taxi Council and Combined Communications Network (the owners of ABC Taxis), will see Council hire taxis on a fixed hourly rate and make them available on a multiple user basis at a subsidised rate.

Residents wishing to make a journey within Willoughby City would make bookings prior to 4pm the previous day of travel, they will

be given a 30-minute 'pick up window' and will pay for their journey by giving the driver a pre-paid voucher. The proposed fare is \$4 per trip and vouchers will be sold in books of five. Under the trial, the service will be offered between 10am and 4pm five days a week.

Feedback has been very positive regarding the need for such a service and Council believes there is a demand for the service, the workability of the operational aspects and acceptability of the fare. Further details of the service will be provided through various media outlets as they are finalised.

Editors

Civic Place Public Art Advisory Committee

Castlecrag architect Peter Moffitt has been appointed to Willoughby's Civic Place Art Advisory Committee, which will provide broadly based, expert advice on the integration of public art within the project's design and construction. The Advisory Committee will provide advice to Council on all public art policy, the gifts policy, community cultural development projects, heritage interpretation, and the assessment of individual or gift proposals for the duration of the Civic Place project. It comprises eleven members, selected in accordance with their experience in and knowledge of contemporary visual arts, craft, design, community arts and cultural practice both nationally and in the Sydney area. *The Crag* and the Progress Association extend their congratulations to Peter on this appointment.

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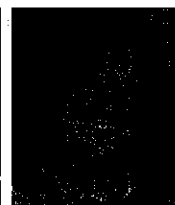
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Comment on Development Applications

It is the practice of Willoughby City Council to send copies of DAs to each progress association within its area and the Castlecrag Progress Association is sent all DAs relating to Castlecrag. The Castlecrag Progress Association attempts to monitor all DAs relating to Castlecrag and to comment without fear or favour on those DAs that may have the potential to adversely impact on our community. The Association does this according to strict policy guidelines that are linked to its long-standing objective: 'To conserve the natural and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations.'

Acquiescence to non-complying development that will impact upon our community will incrementally damage the special character of Castlecrag and reduce the enforceability of the planning controls.

To facilitate transparency and understanding of our policy and the processes followed in implementing the policy, the Committee of the Progress

Association redrafted its DA policy last year. The redrafted policy was unanimously endorsed at the Progress Association general meeting on 23 August 2005. It was published in *The Crag* and is posted on the Association's website at www.castlecrag.org.au (under 'About Us/CPA Documents').

The Progress Association is pleased to report that it has only found need to object to, or to comment on, a small percentage of the large numbers of DAs received since August 2005.

The Association has, in accordance with its DA policy, commented on several DAs requiring a SEPP1 variation. This arises where a proposal seeks to depart from any mandatory standard contained in a local or regional environmental plan or state environmental planning policy such as site area requirements, maximum height or foreshore building line. In these cases the applicant must lodge a written statement known as a SEPP1 objection.

As the Progress Association does not always have the means in the time available to assess whether such a variation from the controls is justified and will not adversely impact upon the community, it will write to Council to remind it that consent should only be granted if the SEPP1 objection is well founded.

On other occasions if the applicant has not provided all documentation that is required by the planning controls for assessment of a DA, the Association will also write to Council to remind it that consent cannot be given until all the necessary information has been provided to permit a proper understanding of the proposal. The most common omission is the failure to provide a SEPP1 objection for a partial three storey development (which always requires a variation of the height standard), or a landscape plan, or a heritage impact statement for a development in the Griffin Conservation Area.

Jill Newton and Peter Moffitt

Guest speaker on the Civic Place Public Art Program

Pamille Berg AO, the consultant to Willoughby City Council on the Civic Place Public Art Program, will be the guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association at the Community Centre on **Tuesday 2 May at 8pm**. Under Council's Public Art Policy, sculptures, other works of art and key heritage items relating to Willoughby City will be incorporated into the Civic Place development and a Civic Place Art Advisory Committee has been established to guide this process.

We have been most fortunate that Pamille Berg has been able to accept our invitation to address the meeting on 2 May. Pamille completed her post-graduate education in classics and ancient art history with a two-year Fulbright Fellowship for PhD research in Rome from 1977-79. She then joined the architectural firm of Mitchell/Giurgola Architects in New York, before coming to Australia in 1982 with Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects who won the international competition for the design of new Parliament House in Canberra. During the period from 1982-1989 she carried out the master planning and coordination for the \$13 million Parliament House Art Program

with over sixty major commissions to artists and craftspeople.

Pamille was a partner of Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects for 14 years from 1988 till 2002 and among other major public art projects she completed the \$2 million Art Program for St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral in Parramatta, NSW from 2000-2005, which won the national RAIWA Sir Zelman Cowan Award for the best public building in Australia in 2004.

In 1992 she established her own firm in Canberra, Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd, to focus full-time on the provision of art/architecture master planning, coordination and consultation services to a wide range of public and private clients in Australia and overseas. Pamille was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 2004 for her services to public art in Australia, particularly for creating opportunities for emerging artists and Indigenous artists in remote communities.

Willoughby Council is keen to engage residents and organisations across the city in its public art initiative. The Castlecrag Progress Association meeting on 2 May is a unique opportunity to learn more about the

program directly from an outstanding authority on the subject. All residents are cordially invited to attend the meeting and to meet with Pamille over refreshments afterwards.

Peter Moffitt

Indigenous Plant Guide for Castlecrag

The Castlecrag Progress Association was successful in obtaining a \$3000 Willoughby Council Enviro Grant to produce a brochure on plants that are indigenous to our area. The aim is to familiarise residents with indigenous plant species that are suitable for gardens in Castlecrag and the project draws on similar material developed by other councils in the Sydney Metropolitan area. All gardens require some maintenance, but using local plants in your garden will mean less work, less watering and it will encourage native animals, birds and insects.

continued on page 6

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James Morrison Band at The Haven

James Morrison and his band will be appearing at an exclusive concert to be held at The Haven, Castlecrag's outdoor amphitheatre on 28 October 2006. The concert, brainchild of Howard Rubie, Chair of The Haven committee, is the first to be organised by a community group in support of Willoughby City's Civic Place Project.

Two hundred tickets only will be available at \$1500 each, which will not only provide entrée to The Haven to hear James Morrison but will also entitle each ticket holder to a seat endowment in the new Civic Place Concert Hall or Theatre. This is the first initiative under Willoughby City Council's 'Please be Seated.....' seat endowment program, which offers the opportunity to buy a seat in the new Civic Place Concert Hall or Theatre. Endowments are \$1500 and provide a plaque on a seat in either venue in your name, the name of a loved one or business name.

Howard Rubie says: "For years it's been our hope to have James Morrison, who we believe to be the finest trumpet player in the world and his orchestra, play at the amphitheatre. The concert in October is an event we have been working towards as we have been upgrading our technical facilities to support and attract the finest musicians to this unique venue. We are pleased to be able to support the community in this way."

"It is exciting that The Haven, one of the great small performance spaces in Sydney, should host such a wonderful event to support the cultural future of our community," said Gioreen Goldin, Civic Place Project Community Campaign Director.

Tickets for the James Morrison concert at The Haven can be purchased at Willoughby City Council, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood - phone 9777 1000. Further information can be found on www.thehaven.com.au

Ann Rawlinson
Willoughby Council

Sustainability Street in Castlecrag



The inaugural Sustainability Street meeting for residents of The Bulwark and adjoining streets, was held on Sunday, 12 March at the Haven Ampitheatre.

The Bulwark is the first street in Castlecrag to participate in the Sustainability Street program which is supported by Willoughby Council. The objective is to get people together to learn about ecological sustainability and to implement initiatives in their communities to achieve a more "earth friendly" environment now, and for future generations.

Broadly speaking, the three key areas of focus are Water, Waste and Energy. These three areas encompass a vast range of topics which will be covered in "bite-sized" pieces as the program unfolds. For example, most participants at our meeting indicated rainwater tanks were one of their key areas of interest. In May, our guest speaker will speak on the subject of rainwater tanks, looking at concepts such as what is

available on the market, rebates from Sydney Water and the procedures and processes for getting the tanks installed.

So whether it's rainwater tanks, biodiversity and its relationship to our Castlecrag environment, or simply which household cleaners are more environmentally friendly, Sustainability Street has something for everyone.

Meetings for The Bulwark and adjoining streets will be held at the Haven Ampitheatre on the last Sunday of each month at 3pm. The topic for our 30 April meeting will be an *Introduction to Sustainability Street*, with guest speaker Erika Van Shellebeck from Willoughby Council, who is also our mentor for the program.

All interested residents of Castlecrag are also invited to come along to the meeting to find out what Sustainability Street is all about and to discover its benefits to our Castlecrag community.

Contacts for Sustainability Street in The Bulwark are: Judy 9958 7981, Lorraine 9958 1213, Janet 9958 7723, Jill 9967 4933 and Robyn 9967 0634.

Robyn McKanna



The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag Spring and Summer Season 2006-2007

September
Movies at the Haven
A special night at the Haven
As part of the Willoughby Spring
Festival
Check our web site for dates.

Sat 28 October
James Morrison at the Haven
The Haven Committee in Association with Willoughby City Council are proud to present one of the world's finest trumpet players and his orchestra in Castlecrag's open air theatre as part of the fund raising for the New Willoughby Civic Centre.

Fri, Sat, Sun 10, 11, 12, November
Dressing Room at The Dog and Trumpet
A new Australian play performed by the Raw-Em theatre company

Sun 24 December
Carols at the Haven
Our traditional Celebration of Christmas

February 2007
The play that Shakespeare wrote for The Haven
A Midsummer's Night Dream
performed by the RAW-EM Theatre Company

March 2007
Classical Cabaret
Back by popular demand a great night of music and food when we turn the Haven Stage into a night club.

For further information please visit our web site at thehaven.com.au

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2006

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

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

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

Name:

Address:

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Please post to the Treasurer:
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Castlecrag 2068
OR
hand in at the Newsagency

Community Notice Board

Community Organisations

Castlecrag Progress Association: 'Representing the Castlecrag Community'

General Meetings: Tuesday 2 May (AGM); 22 August; 24 October – 8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre.

Committee Meetings: 23 May; 27 June; 25 July; 26 September and 28 November. Contact details on page 2.

Castlecrag Conservation Society: Speaker Meetings for the next three months are Thursday 25 May and Thursday 27 July – 8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre.

Religious Organisations

Youth Activities at St John's Anglican Church, East Willoughby (Cnr Warrane Road & McClelland Street). Breakout for senior school students, 7pm every Friday night – a relaxed atmosphere for a night of fun. Salt for junior school students – a time full of games and outdoor activities, 5-7pm Sunday afternoons. Information: Murray Tooth 9817 7965 (H) or 0411 961 571 (M)

Lost & Found

FOUND: Canon digital camera in grey carry case on Edinburgh Road at the bus stop opposite Glenaeon School. Please ring 9958 4516.

Community Events

Artarmon Fair: 10am to 4pm, Saturday 6 May at Hampden Road, Wilkes Avenue Plaza and Burra Road. Interactive environmental displays, children's activities, heritage walks and much more.

Birdwatch with Andy Burton: Sunday 14 May at Mowbray Park, 8am-11am. Bookings with Di on 9777 7755.

Guringal Festival, 21 May to 9 July: A celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage across northern Sydney. A highlight will be Chatswood Mall entertainment with the Yidaki Didgi Dance Group and a writing competition. Phone 9777 7976 for further information.

Aboriginal Cultural Bushwalk: Your guide Brad Webb will introduce you to different aspects of Aboriginal culture connected with the local bush as part of the Guringal Festival. Morning walk 10am-12 noon; afternoon 1-3pm. Bookings with Di on 9777 7755.

Environment in Focus 2006: Willoughby's environment photographic competition based on the theme: 'Willoughby's Living Water, discover our creeks, wildlife & waterways.' Entries close 23 June 2006. A Bushwalk with renowned wildlife photographer is scheduled for 28 May. Details and entry form on Council's website – www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au – or call James Smallhorn on 9777 7710.

The Community Notice Board is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association. Please contact toris@castlecrag-ora.nsw.gov.au with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.

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Indigenous Plant Guide for Castlecrag

continued from page 4

The Progress Association has been assembling information for inclusion in the Guide and has recently contracted a graphic designer to prepare the layout. We plan to produce a 20-page booklet with information and photographs of over 80 indigenous species suitable for local gardens, ranging from tall trees to ground covers. The Guide will cover where to plant each species, its height and form, flower colour and other key information for gardeners. We plan to produce the Guide in time for its distribution to each household with the next issue of *The Crag* in August. It will also be distributed to new residents through local real estate agents.

Kate Westoby and Gay Spies



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WILLOUGHBY
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Council News

We can recycle steel

We Can Statistics from Australian recycling company Visy Recycling show that each year Australians throw away enough steel to rebuild the Sydney Harbour Bridge or make 40,000 fridges. By recycling steel cans and other steel products we are able to save natural resources, energy, greenhouse gases and reduce waste to landfill.

Residents of Willoughby City Council are amongst the best recyclers in New South Wales, except when it comes to recycling metal cans. Last financial year each Willoughby resident recycled only 2.8 kilograms of steel, 0.7 kilograms below the national average. The challenge for 2006 is

to increase the levels of steel recycled throughout Willoughby. Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly has urged all residents do their best and recycle 100 per cent of all household steel products in Willoughby City Council's weekly recycling service.

Steel cans, aerosols and paint cans are 100 per cent recyclable and can be recycled over and over again, saving precious resources and diverting unnecessary waste from landfill. Recycling food cans is as simple as rinse, drop and squash. Rinse the can at the end of the washing up, drop the lid inside the can and squash the top inward so the lid doesn't fall out and place in your recycling bin.

For further information on Willoughby City Council's recycling services visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au or phone 9777 1000.

Call for residents to help save water

Willoughby City Council is urging residents to continue to save water around their home by installing a rainwater tank. The captured rainwater can then be used to supplement approximately 50 per cent of

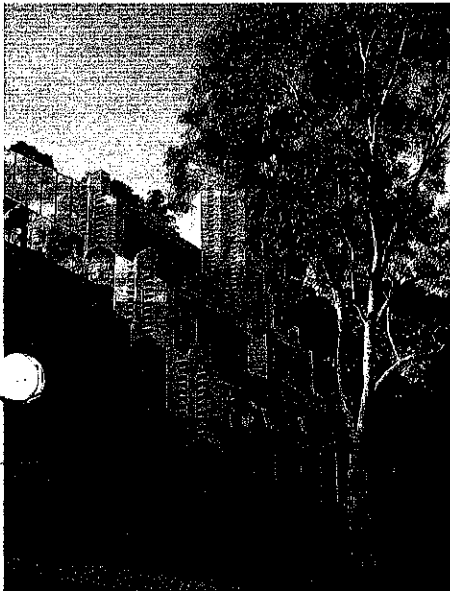
our current treated water usage. Rainwater tanks can be plumbed to toilets and laundries, and can supply water for irrigation, car washing and swimming pools, saving our precious drinking water.

Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly says: "Installing a rainwater tank is simple to do and is a great way to save treated water and make a valuable contribution to the environment. By taking a few simple steps when installing a tank residents can ensure their water supply is safe and clean."

Reducing stormwater runoff from urban areas will help to protect our local creeks, estuaries and bushland. If all residential lots installed a 10,000 litre rainwater tank the volume of stormwater flowing to local creeks could be reduced by between 10 per cent to 25 per cent. Sydney Water continues to offer rebates to residents and schools that install rainwater tanks. Tanks with a maximum capacity of 10,000 litres can be installed in residential homes in NSW without a development approval from the local council. Conservation Areas or heritage buildings require approval.

Samantha Taranto

Willoughby Incinerator



The classic lines of the Willoughby Incinerator building still stand out for their fine proportion and artistry. *Bob McKillop photo.*

Councillor Adrian Cox provided residents with an update on the status of the former Willoughby Incinerator building at the February General Meeting of the Progress Association. The building has been vacant for several years and its future has been the subject of ongoing negotiations between Council and the mortgagee in possession.

Cr Cox said that a likely outcome is that the lease will revert to Council, which will then be responsible for carrying out significant restoration works. This action has been covered in Council's Property Management Plan, which gives the long-term future of the building as a 'public use option with future recommendation of the Cultural Facilities Plan. The meeting was advised that Council proposes to apply for a Place of Public Entertainment licence that would allow its use for a café, an art gallery, an art workshop or similar purposes.

Many regard the building as Willoughby's most important heritage asset and it has been widely featured in promotional

material. The building was designed by Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Nicholls in 1933 and constructed by the Reverberatory Incinerator & Engineering Company for Willoughby Council.

Following its closure, Colin and Garry Dilworth obtained a 50-year lease of the building in 1979 and converted it to a restaurant. This closed in 1988 and the building was converted into commercial offices. The building was severely damaged by fire in late 1996. Following a further resale of the lease, the fire damage was restored and the building was again sub-let as a commercial office, but the building has been vacant for the past three years.

The Progress Association is most appreciative of the efforts by Council to achieve a satisfactory outcome for the future of this iconic building and it looks forward to its use for functions that will allow a wider public appreciation and use of its facilities.

Editors

ZEROPEST

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History of Castlecrag Part 16

1993 The NSW Historic Houses Trust temporarily acquired Walter Burley Griffin's GSDA No.1 Dwelling at auction on 13 February and initiated a significant program of conservation works on this property, which is the first Griffin house in Castlecrag.

1993 To commemorate the life of Edgar Deans, a memorial planting was held on 5 June by the Progress Association and the Walter Burley Griffin Society on the island at the corner of The Sortie Port and The Battlement. Some 150 people attended the ceremony and helped plant indigenous plants.

1993 The play *Marion's Gift* by Lindy Batterham was performed at Haven Amphitheatre on 14 November: by a large cast of residents and many children, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Marion Mahony Griffin giving Title Deeds of Haven Amphitheatre and the foreshore Castlehaven Reserve to Willoughby Council.

1994 Following the sale of the Castlecrag Infants School site to the Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner School, SOS*Crag ended the State's longest running green ban and organised an event at the newly-named *Isle of Lament* opposite the school in Edinburgh Road. A proposal was put forward by advertisement in *The Sydney Morning Herald* to buy the site back for the community.

1995 The 100th issue of *The Crag* ushered in a stormy year as feelings in the community ran high over proposed amendments to the Foreshore Building Line (FBL) that had been established in the 1980s to protect the Middle Harbour foreshores.

1995 The 'Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin Festival' was held on 27 August to celebrate 75 years of Castlecrag. Five Griffin houses (GSDA No.2 Dwelling, Moon, Creswick, Felstead and Fishwick) were open for inspection, an exhibition of the Max Dupain collection and early Griffin photos was opened by David Moore, and Professor James Weirick gave a talk on the shareholders of the GSDA.

1995 The Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning formally gazetted the Willoughby Local Environment Plan (LEP) 1995 on 15 November. Most of Castlecrag's residential areas were zoned as Residential-2A(2) Scenic Protection Zone, which requires housing that accommodates the scenic qualities and ecological values of environmentally sensitive natural areas by minimising impacts such



The performance of *Marion's Gift* at the Haven Amphitheatre. Rita Kaye photo.

as hard surfaces. Castlecrag places listed as Heritage Items under Schedule 6 were:

- **State Significance:** Griffin houses at 2, 4 and 8 The Barbette, 23 The Bastion, 15 The Citadel, 136, 140 and 158 Edinburgh Road, 4, 8, 12 and 14 The Parapet, and 12 The Rampart; Eric Nicholls houses at 3 The Bastion and 215 Edinburgh Road; the Griffin Memorial Fountain; and Castlecrag Hospital.
- **Local Significance:** Nicholls houses at 7 The Barbette, 37 The Bulwark, 10 The Parapet, 144, 170 and 183 Edinburgh Road; the four waterfront cottages on Sugarloaf Bay; Buhrich house at 375 Edinburgh Road; and the Community Centre at 10 The Postern.

1997 A draft Plan of Management for the Griffin Reserves and Walkways in Castlecrag, prepared for Willoughby Council by consultants Walker & Lehany, was placed on public exhibition. It was a response to concerns voiced by residents that Council had not adequately met its responsibility to maintain the Griffin system of nature reserves. Council established a Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee with representatives from the Progress Association and local residents.

Bob McKillop and James Weirick

Sustainability Street from page 5



To resident and visitor alike, The Bulwark links them with nature as it meanders through the bushland, thereby presenting one of Castlecrag's most appealing streets. Bob McKillop photo



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Northbridge & Castlecrag

9958 1200

81 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag 2068

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