

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
No. 121 ISSN 0814 - 2054 Seventy four years of community development July/August 1998

Conserving Castlecrag's Character

Castlecrag is a special place. Its residents have worked tirelessly over many years to conserve its unique character and heritage. Through their efforts, much of the charm and amenity of the suburb has been conserved though its population increases.

Much of Castlecrag's heritage was created by the genius of Walter and Marion Griffin. The area known as the Griffin Estate was developed as a model suburb in which buildings were kept subservient to the landscape. Retention of a cover of indigenous trees kept the natural environment dominant. In 1978 the National Trust listed the Griffin Estate to acknowledge Griffin's ingenuity expressed in his road patterns, their sympathy for the topography of Castlecrag and his series of internal public reserves and connecting walkways. The urban landscape design is now recognised as having international significance, particularly for its demonstration of the protection of the natural landscape character and provision of open space in a garden suburb.

The Castlecrag community has devoted much effort to the maintenance of this natural and built heritage. Council adopted Development Control Plan No.3 Castlecrag (DCP3) in 1987 to protect the character and heritage of the suburb. In 1993, Council designated the Castlecrag Conservation Area under draft DCP No.73 Heritage & Conservation. The objective was to:

- Retain the original subdivision pattern and linked system of public reserves and walkways;
- Permit new development which blends in with and preserves the natural landscape, its remnant bushland and rocky terrain;
- Restrict the height, scale, bulk, massing and proportion, site cover, location and visibility of new development using DCP3 controls so that it does not dominate the landscape; and
- Ensure that garages and fences are designed and sited to retain the unique character of the roadways.

In 1995 the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan (LEP95) defined items of heritage significance and conservation areas, including the Castlecrag Conservation Area and the 13 remaining Griffin houses (listed as items of State significance). DCP19 Heritage & Conservation provides the planning instruments for the buildings and places identified as having heritage significance in LEP95. It contains guidelines for the scale, setting, form and material for buildings in the Castlecrag Conservation Area.

Middle Harbour and its foreshore, particularly Sugarloaf Bay, is a dominant feature of Castlecrag's beauty and amenity. The National Trust and the Register of the National Estate list the area as one of major heritage significance. Community efforts to maintain and regenerate the bushland of the Northern Escarpment and Sugarloaf Creek over the past decade have helped immensely to make Castlecrag a special place. In addition, management of the Griffin estates and their reserve system has become an issue for the community and

Council. In 1997, a Plan of Management was developed for the Reserves, Walkways and Islands of the Griffin Estates. This plan is now being implemented through a community participation management approach to restore and enhance the Griffin Reserve system.

New residents are encouraged to join our local community groups and familiarise themselves with the activities and planning instruments that have been developed to keep Castlecrag special. Copies of LEP95, DCP19 and Guidelines for the Conservation of Environmental Heritage are available from Willoughby Council.

Extract from the New Residents' Kit, by sub-committee of CPA.

Griffin exhibition at Powerhouse

Beyond Architecture: Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin in America, Australia and India at the Powerhouse Museum

This outstanding exhibition of the work of the Griffins is now open and will continue through to May 1999. It was initiated following the demolition of the Griffin-designed Pyrmont Incinerator in 1992 and the subsequent provision of funds by Sydney City Council.

The exhibition surveys the lives and careers of the Griffins in the US, Australia and India from their years with Frank Lloyd Wright at the turn of the century, to their successful independent practice in Chicago, to the frustrations of the debacle over the implementation of their Canberra plans. It covers their many projects — large and small, completed and unrealised, in Melbourne and Sydney. This includes their grand vision for a community living in harmony with nature at Castlecrag, and the significance of their revitalised but short practice in India 1935-37.

The exhibition is multi-media and includes drawings, designs, paintings, photographs, furniture, light fittings and architectural elements, as well as objects and documents. They record the Griffins' passionate concern for the Australian landscape and its preservation, decades before such concerns received widespread currency. An outstanding film on Castlecrag, highlighting the vision and its international significance in urban landscape planning is a centrepiece of the exhibition.

Professor James Weirick provides the context for Griffin's work in Castlecrag and Joyce Batterham tells of her meetings in the Griffins and the importance of community. They are matched by contributions from Andrew Kirk on the experience and pride of living in a Griffin house and Meredith Walker's excellent presentation on the meaning and significance of Griffin's open space system.

Editor

COMMUNITY BYTES

New Rector at St James Church

The Reverend Geoff Leader was installed as the new Rector of East Willoughby/Castlecrag at St John's recently, a special event attended by many members of the community, including the Mayor, Cr Pat Reilly and Mrs Reilly.

Geoff originally graduated in Engineering at Sydney University, working in the corporate sector for many years before undertaking a Bachelor degree in Theology at Moore Theological College. His wife, Kathy, is a qualified social worker with wide experience.

Geoff and Kathy would like to make their home an 'open door' to the community and are looking forward to becoming part of the Castlecrag community. Their interests include literature, arts and crafts, sport and outdoor activities. The telephone number for the church office is 9958 4377.

Special thanks to Mark Crew, who drove the Council bus to take senior residents on the cold, wet night of the induction service. They all loved the friendly chauffeur service!

June Raymond, Church Warden

Willoughby Council / National Trust BushCare Volunteer Training Sessions

You can gain a certificate in BushCare after completing three sessions with National Trust trainer, Karin Nippard. It's FREE and all new BushCarers are encouraged to attend.

Session 1: Weeds

Definitions, where they grow, how to identify and control weeds. **Saturday August 29.**

Session 2: Weeds & Herbicides

Safe and effective use of herbicides, on-site safety issues. **Saturday September 5.**

Session 3: Bushland Communities

Definitions, native plant families and identification, environmental factors affecting plant communities. **Saturday September 12.**

Each session runs from 9am to 12mid-day. Meet in the car park in Artarmon Reserve, end of Burra Road.

Call BushCare on 9777 7756 to book your place.

Keep an eye out for the BushCare trailer at a local shopping centre and have a chat with the education officers. A current campaign is:

IF YOU DROP IT IN THE STREET, IT WILL END UP IN THE CREEK.

L.J. HOOKER CASTLECRAG

L. J. HOOKER CASTLECRAG TEAM
Bronja, Richard, Graham, Heidi

91 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag NSW 2068

Tel: (02) 9958 1800 Fax: (02) 9958 6063

A.H. (02) 9969 4124

St James' Annual Garden Fair

Saturday 12 September 9am-2pm in the grounds

The fair will offer delicious home-made cakes, biscuits and sweets, jams, pickles and chutneys; plants, gift items and jewellery.

Morning teas and a sausage sizzle at lunchtime;

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Donations gratefully received:

please phone Joan Gunz on 9958 1364.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants

Lecture Series

22 August: Successful plants for beginners: Brian Roach

28 September: Sex and smoke induced germination / Goodeniaceae: Jonathon Lidbetter

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Kenneth St, Lane Cove; 7.45pm.

For bookings and information, please phone 9416 2542.

Daylight robbery = one minute

A Castlecrag resident who suffered a recent home robbery reports that it happened during a gardening session at the front of the house, leaving an open front door unattended for *one minute* while going around to the back of the house. The thief saw the opportunity and ran inside, from one end of the house to the other to grab small valuables —one minute was all it took.

Raging up Edinburgh Road

It happened on a Tuesday night: an Edinburgh Road resident noticed a 1960s Kombi van and a man on a motorbike side-by-side, tearing towards The Pinnacle. The bike rider was kicking at the Kombi driver's door, yelling the usual expletives. The Kombi tried to push the bike off the road. They turned at The Pinnacle and began a mad return run, with the Kombi veering from one side of the road to the other, trying to cut the bike rider off, until a taxi drove towards them.

Was it gang warfare or a 'bad domestic'? No, actually it was the road rage we keep reading about. Resident heard the bike rider yell something about 'turning off your indicator'.

In the pre-millennium stress, life imitates film.



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Special Notice: Extension of time for FBL submissions to Willoughby City Council

Willoughby City Council has announced that submissions on the WLEP95 FBL Amendment No.3, further amendments of 25/5/98, will be received until Friday 4 September 1998.

Those wishing to comment on the exhibition who have not been able to write before the previous due date of 13 August, still have time to make their submission on the Willoughby Foreshore Building Lines.

Address submissions to:

Mr John Owen
General Manager
Willoughby City Council
PO Box 57
Chatswood NSW 2057

Submissions will not be received after that date

Ward Boundaries Update

Proposed changes to ward boundaries in Willoughby City were discussed at the February and April meetings of the Progress Association. The CPA was one of six groups to make a submission to Council on this issue. On 13 July 1998, Council resolved to adopt a preferred option of four wards of three councillors.

Four options for the boundaries of these four wards were placed on exhibition during July. Options A, C and D offer minor variations to the boundaries of wards of basically similar structure, viz a north-east ward, a south-east ward, a southern ward and west ward. Of these, only option C keeps the suburb of Castlecrag intact, with the northern boundary running along McLelland Street (then Alexander Ave) to Peshurst Street, the incorporating Willoughby areas to Sydney Street, coming back along Mowbray Road, then south along Alpha Road to incorporate Northbridge.

Option B would create an eastern ward of the peninsular suburbs bounded by Eastern Valley Way and Alpha Road.

On the basis of opinions expressed at our general meetings and Council's own criteria to "ensure that, wherever practicable, the new wards contain a socio-economic mix", the Progress Association does not consider Option B is a desirable outcome. We have indicated our preference for option C.

Bob McKillop, President

Traffic: Edinburgh Road & Sunnyside Crescent

(LATM: Local Area Traffic Management)

Good progress has been made toward tackling traffic management issues in Castlecrag. Following an on-site inspection and meeting between Council officers and Progress Association committee members in March, Council will appoint consultants to assist in preparing a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Plan for Edinburgh Road and Sunnyside Crescent.

A draft brief for the assignment was submitted to the Willoughby Traffic Committee on 3 June, which recommended to Council that the Castlecrag Progress Association review the brief, forwarded to the CPA on 10 July.

The brief is based on the objectives and draft plans drawn up by the Castlecrag LATM committee in 1991 and 1992. We made some update amendments to the draft brief, the most substantive being the need to address heritage significance of the Castlecrag Conservation Area and the inter-relationship of the Griffin landscape plan with traffic issues.

The specific aims of the study are to improve the urban street environment, enhance local economic activity at the shopping centre, to reduce the severity and number of traffic accidents, reduce the barrier effect of motor traffic on pedestrians and cyclists, and to reduce local air and noise pollution.

The planning process is to involve extensive public consultation: at least three public meetings, together with meetings with resident and business groups and to letterbox-drop the whole of the study area to notify residents of meetings. They are to develop options for addressing traffic and parking issues that are encountered during the study.

I am now advised that Council has incorporated the CPA suggestions into the brief. Council has also suggested that community representatives be involved in the final selection interviews, probably in early September. Any residents who would like to be involved in this selection process could contact me on 9958 4516.

Bob McKillop, President

POST OFFICE CASTLECRAG

Open: 9.00am Monday - Saturday
Close: 5.30pm M.Tu. W. F. 6pm Thurs., 12mid. Sat.
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Supporting our local community

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August is Chatswood CBD Month

Willoughby City Council have appointed consultants to assist with the preparation of urban design guidelines and a Draft Local Environmental Plan for the Chatswood Central Business District (CBD). Along with the need to address key issues, such as pedestrian access, traffic and parking, safety, quality of public open space and changing living patterns, public feedback to Council sought a vibrant, lively and welcoming atmosphere to make the CBD a centre of choice for the work and leisure activities of the city.

To ensure the maximum public input into the planning process, Council has asked the consultants to run a comprehensive community information and consultation program. A community information day was held outside the Chatswood Civic Centre on 1 August, and information kiosks will be set up in either the mall or the Civic Centre on August 15, 19 and 22nd. A display has also been set up in Willoughby Library from 4 August to 11 September. In addition, residents can obtain further information on a telephone hotline by ringing 9966 1673 during business hours or by sending questions and comments via email to: chatswood@smec.com.au.

Editor

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next CPA General Meeting
Tuesday 25 August at 8pm
 at the Community Centre

the Agenda will include:
 Local traffic issues,
 DAs, Residents' Pack,
 Ward Boundaries,
 Chatswood CBD

New Residents' Information Kits

Willoughby City Council has produced an information kit for people who have recently moved into the Willoughby area, designed to help orientation by providing information about the area and Council. New residents may collect copies of the Kit from the Help & Services Centre in Council's Administration Building, level 4, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood or from the Central Library in Chatswood.

The Castlecrag Progress Association is also preparing a new residents' kit to complement that provided by Council. It will provide background on the history of the suburb, its features and the community groups of Castlecrag.

Editor

Richardson & Wrench
Castlecrag 9958 1200

81 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag, 2068
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership fee is \$5 per person (\$3 for students and those on a fixed income). Membership is for the calendar year and is renewable from 1 January 1998. Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Name: _____ \$ Signature: _____
 Name: _____ \$ Signature: _____
 Name: _____ \$ Signature: _____
 Address: _____ Donation \$ _____

Our Constitution stipulates that a member of the Association must be a natural person who is a resident or ratepayer of the area (designated in Rule 1.3) being over the age of 18 years and has been approved for membership of the Association by the Committee. Two months membership is obligatory for a member to be eligible to vote. The names of the people applying for membership should be supplied with the membership fee. A person who was a member in 1997 will automatically be eligible to vote in 1998 as soon as the 1998 membership is paid (as long as the qualifying period has elapsed). A 'family' cannot be a member because a 'family' is not a real person. If a company owns a property in Castlecrag, then the directors of the company do not qualify for membership of the Association if they live outside Castlecrag.