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### MEMBERSHIP:

Progress Association Membership renewals for 2006 are now due. Please see Page 3 for membership renewal form.

### OUR NEXT MEETING:

**Castlecrag Progress Association**

#### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 24 October at 8pm**

**Castlecrag Community Centre**

(See page 5 for details)

#### Guest Speaker:

Jeff Organ, Infrastructure Services Director, WCC

'Stormwater Management in Willoughby'

*All Welcome*

*Come along and enjoy the presentation and refreshments afterwards.*

*Please park in the street and walk down.*

## Street Trees near our Shops



Following advice by Council in July that it was proposing to remove five trees in Edinburgh Road close to the Castlecrag shopping centre, a number of residents contacted the Progress Association expressing their concern at the loss of large mature street trees.

The Progress Association has assessed the situation and has written to Council to make the following points:

1. The three substantial trees opposite the Griffin Centre in Edinburgh Road, two of which are *Eucalyptus scoparia* and the other an *Erythrina x sykesii* (Coral tree), make an important contribution to the landscape and frame the entrance to Castlecrag. The two *Eucalyptus scoparia* are showing signs of stress, no doubt exacerbated by the drought, but also because of past

unsympathetic pruning. The one nearest the roundabout also suffered considerable damage during the construction of the roundabout.

2. Before any final decision is taken to remove the two *Eucalyptus scoparia*, the Association has suggested an attempt be made to prolong their lives by fertilisation, aeration of the soil and deep watering.
3. The Coral tree is very large and overhangs the road. These trees are known for their propensity to suddenly drop large branches and we do not object to its removal provided a replacement native eucalypt is planted.
4. The Association recommends staggered planting of three replacement trees a short distance away from the three existing trees, so there will not be a clear fell along this stretch of Edinburgh Road.
5. We are strongly of the view that the replacement trees should be large trees such as the Scribbly Gums already requested for Edinburgh Road. *Banksia serrata* are simply not big enough to create the desired landscape character for Castlecrag, especially on this important stretch at the entrance to the suburb.

**Gay Spies**

## Redevelopment of Castlecrag Private Hospital

The Castlecrag Private Hospital was taken over by Ramsay Healthcare in October 2005. At this time the hospital was in need of renovations, it having been over 10 years since any major works had been carried out on the facility. Ramsay took on the task of upgrading Castlecrag Private Hospital with a commitment to bringing quality health care to the local community.

At the time of the Ramsay takeover I took on the role of Operating Theatre Manager. I am a resident of Middle Cove and enjoying living in and discovering more about this wonderful area. As part of the development, I wanted to include something of the history of the hospital into the artwork that would grace the walls of the newly refurbished facility.

I was hoping this would assist the patients who are cared for in this facility to feel more at ease knowing this hospital had a long

history of caring for local residents. We have commissioned an artist from the Northern Beaches to manipulate the old photographs we have to make them into pieces of art. We have ended up with some lovely pieces and the feedback from our patients is wonderful.

Castlecrag has a long history of community involvement and Ramsay Healthcare would like to help foster this. We would welcome any local visitors to have a look around, but please call before you come to arrange a time. You will be most welcome. I would also appreciate any other tid bits of information that anyone would like to share about the hospital including photos.

**Josie Gabrielli**

**Editor:** A history of the hospital is presented on Page 7.

**THE CRAG**

is the community newsletter of the  
Castlecrag Progress Association

PO Box 4259  
Castlecrag NSW 2068

Web page:  
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

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Elizabeth Lander

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Bob McKillop  
Howard Rubie  
Simone Selby  
Gay Spies OAM  
Kate Westoby

**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****MOMO Art**

Long-standing Castlecrag business Momo Interiors has recently established an art gallery in our local shopping centre, utilising the front of the premises at 79 Edinburgh Road. Proprietor Lyndsey Hunter told *The Crag* that the gallery will showcase a different local artist each month, with the emphasis on 'cutting edge art'. The rear of the ground floor houses Oven Fairy, another new venture providing oven and barbecue cleaning services. The traditional colour and design consulting business of Momo Interiors continues to operate from the first storey of 79 Edinburgh Road. Next time you are at the shops, drop in and check out the current exhibition at MOMO Art.

**2006 Willoughby Art Prize**

Congratulations to Antoinette McSharry of Castlecrag, the winner in the Willoughby City Resident section of the 2006 Willoughby Art Prize awarded on 1 September. The prize, sponsored by Willoughby City Council, was for Antoinette's two-dimensional painting 'A Day in My Life - Balmoral'.

**Weekend Traffic Chaos**

Further to the report in *The Crag* No. 160 (p. 6), the frustrations of residents and motorists came to a head on Saturday 12 August, when an estimated 10,000 visitors tried to get to the Shore playing fields by private car. Drivers frustrated by the traffic situation damaged some cars; residents had to remain at home when motorists desperately seeking non-existent parking places blocked their

driveways. Council parking rangers were called in to address the problems, but such was the level of illegal parking that they ran out of parking tickets!

**Castlecrag Community Centre**

The Castlecrag Community Centre houses an active kindergarten and the local branch library, while serving as a meeting place for local community groups. It also serves as a polling booth during elections. Council's management committee responsible for overseeing the Centre is proposing to install a large water tank to collect water for recycling at the centre and to reduce runoff into the prime bushland in The Keep Reserve. Council has made an application to the Federal Government for a Community Water Grant to fund the water tank and the Castlecrag Progress Association has endorsed this application.

**Castlecrag website**

The Progress Association website at www.castlecrag.org.au was updated in August, with some restructuring of material, additional postings and new links. Check out the photograph of the Griffin Memorial Fountain in colour! Suggestions for additional material and other improvements are always welcome.

Please note also that the Progress Association has a new mailing address. Correspondence and membership renewals should now be sent to **PO Box 4259, Castlecrag NSW 2068**. Email addresses for the Progress Association and *The Crag* are given on page 2.

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## Community Bytes continued...

### Movies at The Haven

On a perfect September evening around 150 patrons attended the screening of a Japanese classic Oscar-winning film *Spirited Away*, a Willoughby Spring Festival event. The presentation was enhanced by the 5.1 surround system installed for the occasion by Haven Committee members Richard Newton, Jack Metcalf and Phil Pik.

Prior to the screening, Mayor Cr Pat Reilly spoke about Willoughby's sister city relationship with Sugunami, the film animation centre of Japan. This was one of the reasons the Haven Committee chose *Spirited Away* to be screened. It proved to be a delightfully surreal evening watching a story based on Japanese culture, surrounded by the Australian bush.

### Parking Area adjacent to the Newsagent

Several residents have approached the Progress Association to request that parking in the designated area on Eastern Valley Way adjacent to the Castlecrag Newsagent be restricted to 2-hour periods or less in order to free up space for short visits to the shops. The Progress Association passed this request on to Council, which has responded by stating that the relevant officers believe that commuter parking is an appropriate use at this location.

The Progress Association is checking its records for correspondence with Council documenting the agreement reached during the community consultation over the former RTA blocks some years ago, that this area be retained for short-term parking. Do residents have views on appropriate designation for parking spaces in this area? If so, please write to *The Crag* and let us know.

### Castlecrag Branch Library

*Crag* ran an article on the future of the Castlecrag branch library in issue No. 158 (February 2006). It noted the views of Council's library service that existing facilities at branch libraries are too small to provide adequate services and recommended the amalgamation of the Northbridge and Castlecrag branch libraries. It was proposed to relocate the amalgamated branch library to a Council-owned property on the ground floor of the Castle Gardens building at Northbridge Junction.

Our Ward Councillors reported to the November 2005 general meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association that they had persuaded Council to undertake a feasibility study of the construction of a new branch library and early childhood centre on a Council-owned property at 13 Eastern Valley Way, Northbridge. Some residents may be aware that Council called a public meeting on 28 September to consult residents in Northbridge about its proposal to move their branch library to the Castle Gardens building.

The Northbridge Progress Association has expressed concerns about this proposal. Our Ward Councillors advise that the present proposal for Northbridge does not affect the Castlecrag Branch Library for the present. You are requested to support our local branch library – drop in and check what it has to offer! The library is situated in the Castlecrag Community Centre and is open Tuesdays 3-4.30pm, Thursdays 2-5pm and Saturdays 10am till noon.



## The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag

Saturday, October 28, 2006

An amazing Gala Concert

Black Tie and Runners

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The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag will come alive with the exhilarating sound of international Jazz Legend James Morrison and his Band.

This undeniable world master of Jazz will thrill and delight with his favourite big band standards by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, The Beatles and many others in a special programme designed especially for The Haven.

James will be joined on stage by vocalist Emma Pask, with pianist Harry Sutherland and Castlecrag professional musicians Graham Jesse and Valda Wilson.

**Why Black Tie and Runners?** Well those of you that have been to The Haven know that it is our Amphitheatre in the Bush, and runners are ideal footwear.

**Black Tie?** This night is a special fund raising event for the theatre, so to make it a truly gala occasion I guess any Black Tie will do!

**INFORMATION** [www.thehaven.com.au](http://www.thehaven.com.au)

There are **only 200 seats available** for this concert. Tickets \$120.00

**Bookings for all Haven Events**

Roger Page and Partners, 100 Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag p: 9958 0124 f: 9958 0330  
[www.rogerpage.com.au](http://www.rogerpage.com.au)

## 2007 Community Fair

The Progress Association Committee has initiated planning for the **2007 Castlecrag Community Fair** with Sunday 3 June as the probable date.

This is a community event for our suburb and we aim to hold it every second year – to give us all time to recover from the effort! We are keen to get your ideas on the focus for the next fair and are seeking your support to help with planning and administrative tasks.

Please contact the Progress Association at [info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au) or phone

Simone Selby on 9405 6040 or John Steel on 9958 5804

## 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: .....

Phone: .....

Please post to the Treasurer:  
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Castlecrag 2068

## Keeping Castlecrag a Special Place



Hazard reduction burn in The Keep, September 2005. Matthew Keighery photo.

I became a Castlecrag resident with my family just four years ago. The natural beauty of the suburb attracted us here, but when we moved in we had no idea of the efforts by local residents and Council to maintain this unique character.

Because I live on Keep Reserve in The Rampart and was interested in bush regeneration, I was asked to become a member of the Griffin Reserves Advisory Group. This is a sub-committee of Willoughby City that reviews local management plans for the reserves and brings matters of concern to local residents to the attention of Council. The committee comprises a Willoughby Councillor, a council officer and residents who live adjacent to a reserve. This experience has made me aware of the need to inform new residents of some of the thinking behind Walter Burley Griffin's Castlecrag.

Since 1997, a Plan of Management prepared by Willoughby City Council has controlled the Griffin reserve system and its upkeep. This aims to preserve and strengthen the importance of the natural environment in line with the Griffin legacy. Similar management plans also apply to other reserves in Castlecrag, such as the large area of bushland on the Northern Escarpment.

It is obvious to us now that Castlecrag

residents see their suburb as a 'Special Place'. To help new residents more easily appreciate Castlecrag's special qualities, the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee has prepared a 'Welcome Letter' along with information about the heritage of Castlecrag and local services. This will be distributed via neighbours or be provided through local real estate agents. Following is a summary of what the letter contains.

International recognition of Castlecrag as a unique suburb is based on the contribution made by the American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, best known for his award winning Canberra design, who with his wife Marion Mahony Griffin, planned two subdivisions of this rugged Middle Harbour peninsula he called Castlecrag. The Griffins' philosophy was to preserve the numerous glimpses of the harbour, and to emphasise that the built environment should be subservient to the natural habitat. Narrow streets have been cut into the sandstone ridges that they follow and road islands of remnant bush are left to add to this sense of melding into the landscape. A series of reserves and walkways help to nestle houses into the natural environment. These also enable residents to have shared access to public land, often with the boundary between bushland reserves and people's gardens being blurred. Indeed fences were originally not allowed in Castlecrag because

they were seen to interrupt the landscape and Council planning controls acknowledge this fact.

These reserves are essential for the support of a wide range of native plants and animals, and there is strong support both from all levels of Government to protect this unique natural heritage. The reserves are home for two species of possum, bandicoots, echidnas, even swamp wallabies, many lizards and they provide feeding and nesting places for a wide range of native birds including Brush Turkeys and the Powerful Owl.

The reserves and their bushland are an important element in keeping Castlecrag 'a Special Place'. Dogs are not permitted to wander alone in the reserves, nor should cats and never after dusk. Protecting our bushland means that we should not plant or dump anything in the reserves including garden waste; and they are not places to collect firewood. Residents living adjacent to reserves are reminded not to mow areas close to their boundary unless it is an agreed part of your Reserve's Plan of Management.

There are a number of active Bush Care Groups assisting with the restoration and maintenance of Castlecrag's reserves. If you would like to participate, please contact Council's BushCare Coordinator on 9777 7875. For more information about the Griffin Reserves and the Advisory Committee, please contact Council's Community Projects Officer 9777 7732 or the Environmental Projects Officer on 9777 7710.

The meetings of the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee are open to the public and the group plans to hold regular public forums where residents can have their say about any part of Castlecrag's reserves, islands and pathways. At these forums, a senior Council spokesperson will give residents an update about each of Castlecrag's reserves. This is your chance to voice your concern or simply hear about plans that may be affecting the reserve or pathway near you. We will post details of these events in due course and look forward to seeing you there!

**Matthew Keighery**



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# Stormwater Management in Willoughby

The pipes and detention tanks of our city's stormwater drainage system are taken for granted by most residents, who see it as something that can be left to others to worry about! One matter of concern to some residents, however, is a new 'Stormwater Charge' of \$25 on their Willoughby City Council rates notice. This charge will contribute to the program of works that Council requires to upgrade and improve the efficiency of its stormwater drainage system in response to its deterioration due to age as well as higher community expectations. Increasing development pressure is generally addressed through developer-funded works.

Jeff Organ, Council's Director of Infrastructure Services, is one who has a wide knowledge of the complexities of our face and subterranean drainage systems. Jeff has guided the development of an innovative program to achieve more sustainable management of our stormwater in future. Jeff will be the Guest Speaker at the General Meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association at the Community Centre on Tuesday 24 October. His address promises to be both entertaining and informative.

Jeff will provide an illustrated address on the problems confronting Council, both financial and physical, in replacing and updating to modern standards the 140km of deteriorating stormwater mains in the city and 5000 stormwater pits, which can also become traps for litter. He will outline how Council's stormwater management and infrastructure maintenance review is looking for more sustainable water management across Willoughby City. Particular attention is being given to reducing flooding problems in the Chatswood CBD and several other flood prone areas.

Council's stormwater management and infrastructure maintenance program encompasses an innovative water management scheme to re-use water from Civic Place and harvest stormwater from the Chatswood CBD. Although other councils have been reusing water, particularly for watering playing fields and ovals, the system to be introduced in Chatswood is the first of this scale to capture the water run-off from the many hard surfaces of a CBD. This initiative is being supported by significant grants from both the State and Federal Governments.

Editor with Samantha Taranto

## Nils Korner Memorial Scholarship

Nils and Ann Korner were long-time residents of Castlecrag, with Ann playing a leading role in community affairs. They were keen music lovers and the family has established the Nils Korner Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a young musician who is already engaged in chamber music.

The recipient will attend the annual music camp of the Amateur Chamber Music Society held in January at the University of Wollongong. Applications for the 2007 Scholarship close on 29 October 2006. Applications should be made in writing to the President, Amateur Chamber Music Society, 99a Johnson Crescent, Lane Cove NSW 2066. Applications should outline your level of musical studies, the level of ability achieved and a character reference, as well as describing your reasons for making the application.

Bruce Wilson



WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

## Council News

### State Government Grant for Willoughby Water Management

Willoughby City Council announced on 5 September that it had been awarded a \$1.88m grant by the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability through its Water Savings Fund of Sydney for Council's Chatswood CBD and Civic Place Integrated Water Management System. This grant matches an earlier Federal Government WaterSmart Grant of \$1.88m dollar for dollar.

Civic Place will incorporate a range of smart water technologies and fittings throughout its facilities and open space areas. They were devised during the planning of Civic Place by Council's drainage and environmental engineers who designed a leading, environmentally sustainable solution to conserve and reuse water while improving water drainage in Chatswood.

Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly said "The grant is a recognition of Willoughby City Council's innovative actions to create an economically and environmentally sustainable CBD for Chatswood. It is a result of the leading edge, environmentally sustainable design embodied in our community's Civic Place project and is the first of its kind in Australia."

Editor with Jeff Organ

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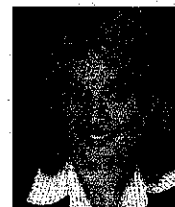
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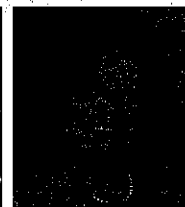
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## John Owen at Castlecrag

Willoughby City Council General manager, John Owen, addressed the general meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association on the Civic Place project, on 24 August. His presentation included AV images of early Council plans for a civic square in the Chatswood CBD and various aspects of the final Civic Place design.

The context from which Council's plans for Civic Place had developed was of particular interest. An early Council planner, HD Robb, developed a visionary plan for Chatswood central business district (CBD) in 1948 with a large central civic square occupying much of the present CBD and incorporating a courthouse, community room, a community hotel and council chambers, as well as a large central open space. Council adopted the plan and started buying the required land. Things came to a halt when a key block of land was sold to Grace Bros for its retail development. Subsequent councils put dollars before community and much of the land was sold off for commercial development. With the subsequent commercial dominance of the CBD, people felt it had 'lost its heart'.

Council proposed the Civic Place concept in 1995-96. Option 1 put forward in 1996 was based on a 'no cost to Council' principle. It included massive commercial buildings and limited community facilities. There was a strong community reaction against this scheme, so it was 'back to the drawing board'. The current Council has increased its land holding at the site (cost \$21 million) and developed the current innovative concept design with strong community involvement.

John noted that Council borrowing for the

\$138 million project will amount to just \$38 million, which will be repaid through income generated by Civic Place. In addition, Council is seeking to enhance community involvement in the scheme, in the first instance raising \$3 million from individual and corporate donors. A significant part of this contribution will come through the 'Please be Seated' program, under which residents can make a tax-deductible donation of \$1500 over three years to endow a seat in one of the two theatres in the new complex.

The development application for the Civic Place project was submitted to Council in July. Construction is scheduled to commence in October 2007 and will take three years to complete.

Local residents raised several other matters with John Owen at the meeting, including the current status of the planned LandCom development at the Market Gardens site off Eastern Valley Way and the pressures placed on councils in the Lower North Shore to provide adequate recreational facilities and sporting fields to meet demand. John agreed that sporting events at the Shore Playing Fields and Bicentennial Reserve were generating huge traffic congestion on weekends, particularly in winter, and advised that Council is looking for ways of reducing these problems.

### Editor

**Note:** The Castlecrag Progress Association committee has resolved that it will recommend to members that the Association donates a 'Please be Seated' seat as part of the fund-raising campaign for the Willoughby Civic Place Project. The resolution will be put to the General Meeting of the Progress Association on 24 October.

## Fire Hazard Reduction in Willoughby



Members of Council's fire hazard reduction team carry out the ecological burn in The Oriel Reserve in August 2006. Karl McKillop photo.

Willoughby City Council has been at the forefront in developing a systematic fire hazard reduction program for its extensive bushland areas, with particular attention to the interface between residential areas and bushland. The fire hazard reduction program seeks to reduce the intensity of fire fronts within 30-50 metres of properties.

Bushland areas are prepared for ecological burns according to the time since the last burn, the historical record of vegetation types within the area, evidence of reduced floral diversity and the emergence of dominant species (eg, *Allocasuarina spp.*), the declining health of the flora (senescing) and the presence of species that rely on fire for regeneration. In Castlecrag, a large ecological burn was carried out on the Northern Escarpment in September 2005, while smaller burns have recently been carried out in The Oriel Reserve and the Linden Way Reserve.

*Martha's*

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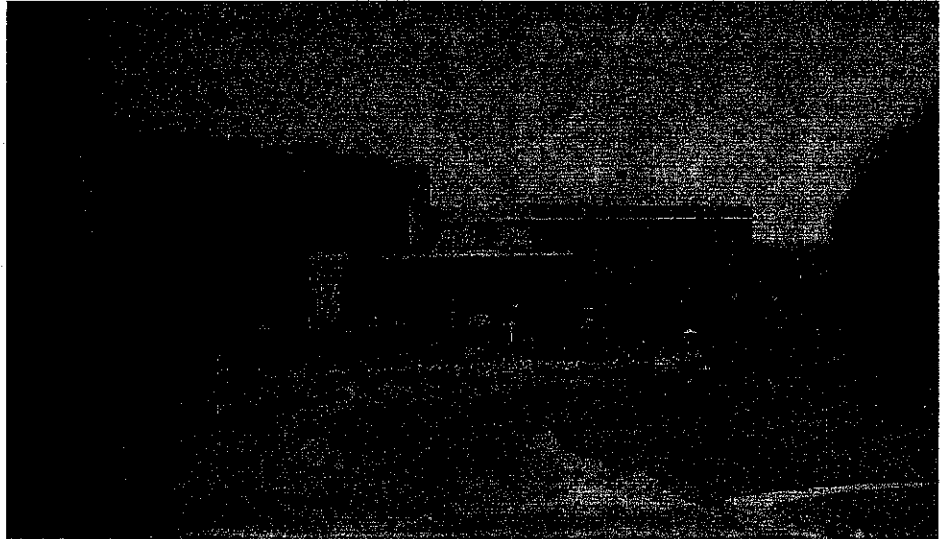
## Castlecrag Private Hospital: A Short History

As noted on page 1, the Castlecrag Private Hospital is establishing a display interpreting the history of that establishment. It is a colourful history, some of which was originally told in *The Crag No.15* back in December 1980, so an update may be helpful to the residents of Castlecrag – new and old!

The origins of the hospital go back to 1927 when Dr Edward William Rivett purchased the Walter Burley Griffin designed 'King O'Malley House' on the corner of Edinburgh Road and Sortie Port. This had been constructed on Lot 96 of the original Griffin subdivision of Castlecrag in 1922-23 and was financed by King O'Malley, the flamboyant Minister for Home Affairs in the Federal Government at the time that the international design competition for the Australian Federal Capital was held. It was O'Malley who resolved the controversy over design for Canberra by endorsing the majority view of the selection committee and approving the plan of fellow-American Walter Burley Griffin. O'Malley became a strong supporter of Griffin in the subsequent upheaval over the implementation of his plan, and he continued this support to the Castlecrag project.

The O'Malley house was leased by Edgar Herbert, a friend of the Griffins and a pioneer in physical education who came to Sydney from Melbourne to work with GZ Dupain at his Institute of Physical Education. Herbert was the foundation President of the Castlecrag Progress Association and his family lived in the O'Malley House until 1927. The house was a small stone cottage, very similar to the Cheong House at 14 The Parapet. Herbert's daughter Erwin remembers that the picture window in the living room offered a commanding view of Middle Harbour and The Spit. It was "a typical Griffin house with polished floors and a blue and white Chinese rug in the living room."

Dr Edward Rivett had graduated in medicine from Sydney University in 1920 and became Resident Medical Officer at Sydney Hospital and The Women's Hospital that year. Rivett practised in general surgery and obstetrics. Following his purchase of the O'Malley House in 1927, it was converted into a small five-bed hospital. Griffin's office designed significant extensions to the house to provide a two-



*Cabarisha Hospital following completion of Griffin's two-storey extension to the original house and Nicholls' extension along The Sortie Port. The island where the Griffin fountain now stands is on the left and the entrance to the hospital was on The Sortie Port as shown here. Courtesy Ramsay Healthcare.*

storey 20-bed hospital, which Rivett called *Cabarisha* after a legendary Indian healer. Rivett's vision was to provide a hospital that was more a home than an institution, in which people could be nursed back to health in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. The grounds were laid out with lawns, gardens, ponds, fountains and a tennis court – which was used by staff and local residents.

Further extensions to designs by Eric Nicolls were made to the hospital, notably a wing along Sortie Port and a nurses home in The Battlement in the 1930s, and an obstetrics wing along Edinburgh Road after the War. It remained very much a family affair, with Edward's sister, Dr Amy Christine Rivett assisting at *Cabarisha* for some considerable time from her practice in Northbridge. His sons Ronald and Howard also worked there as medical practitioners. The Topsy-like growth of the facility resulted in a rambling geography, however, leading to a high staff-to-patient ratio. This, together with the need for new equipment and techniques to keep abreast of medical developments, resulted in financial losses by the 1960s.

To the older residents of Castlecrag the hospital was and always will be *Cabarisha*. Dr Rivett was a very popular doctor and the hospital was a thriving business, with many of his patients coming from the local

community. The post-war baby boom made heavy demands on the hospital's obstetrics facilities, so the wing along Edinburgh Road was added, with Dr Rivett undertaking some of the construction himself.

Many of Castlecrag's post-war babies were born at *Cabarisha*, with the two-weeks of post-natal care provided there enabling mothers to return home fully able to meet life's demands. Dr Rivett is remembered with affection for the professional standards of care he brought to his practice and for a hospital that was at one with the beauty of its natural setting.

Following the deaths of Edward Rivett and Christine Rivett in 1962, Ronald and Howard continued the business, changing the name to the Castlecrag Private Hospital. In 1970 they reluctantly decided to sell to a company with adequate capital for further development of the facilities. This did not eventuate and the hospital was on sold. The present remodelled building was opened on 5 January 1986. The architect, Michael Cavanagh, endeavoured to preserve the character of the former hospital, with the front façade being retained and the building's past character reflected in the new Griffin-like mouldings in the other facades.

**Bob McKillop and Elizabeth Lander**

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# Community Notice Board

## Community Organisations

### Castlecrag Progress Association:

'Representing the Castlecrag Community'

#### General Meetings:

**Tuesday 24 October** (Jeff Organ, Director Infrastructure Services, Willoughby Council, on Stormwater Management in Willoughby -- see page 5).  
8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre.

#### Committee Meetings:

28 November. Contact details on page 2.

### The Retreat Reserve Bushcare Group:

meets on the 4th Saturday of every month from 9am to 12 midday outside 70 The Bulwark, Castlecrag. Contacts: Lorraine Cairnes ph 99581213 and Jill Newton ah ph.9967 4933.

### The Bulwark and Neighbours Sustainability Street Group:

meets on the last Sunday of the month from 3 to 5pm at the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School, Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag. Contacts are: Judy Stone-Herbert on 9958 7961 and Robyn McKanna on 9967 0634

### Haven Amphitheatre:

This Council committee is seeking a community volunteer to serve as Treasurer. Phone Howard on 0418 648 870.

### Willoughby Environment Protection Association:

David Bradbury's film *Blowin' in the Wind* will be screened at the meeting on Tuesday 17 October at 8pm. All welcome -- Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street at 8pm. Further information, phone Gay on 9958 8569 or Virginia 9958 8377.

The Community Notice Board is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association. Please contact editors@castlecrag.org.au with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.

# LETTERS to the Editor

## Castlecrag Open Gardens

I am writing to thank the Castlecrag residents who opened up their homes to the public on Sunday 24 September as part of the Open Gardens day associated with the Willoughby Spring Festival.

It was an absolute delight having the opportunity to walk into the gardens of local residents and enjoy the spectacular surrounds. Part of the magic of Castlecrag is that you don't always know what is around the corner or what exists beyond someone's fence.

The gardens I visited were wonderful but very different. One boasted a beautiful flowering banana tree and a tawny owl in a nearby gum within natural shrubs and plants, another was a newly renovated garden that had some gorgeous "grass trees" and an amazing view of the bay.

Thank you again to the special families for sharing their gardens with the public. You should feel rightly proud of what we were able to enjoy.

**Gladys Berejiklian MP**  
Member for Willoughby

## It's been thirty very good years

A few weeks ago Robert Sheldon reminded me that in 1976 Castlecrag community chose to clear the Griffin inspired Haven Amphitheatre and produce the first play in 25 years as part of Sydney's American Bicentennial celebration of that year.

Since that very successful reopening, (a three week season of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*), the Haven Amphitheatre has presented many events, including performances by the Australian Opera, the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, jazz concerts, poetry readings, plays, community events, the occasional wedding, pantomimes and our now legendary *Carols on Christmas Eve*.

The theatre is cared for and run by a very dedicated committee of local residents and supported by Willoughby City Council. Now with a stage that will last well into the future, the committee has embarked on a programme of financing and installing a first class lighting and audio system. It is the committee's intention to pass on to future Castlecrag residents an enduring legacy of a Community Performance Space unlike any other.

**Howard Rubie**  
Chairman Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag



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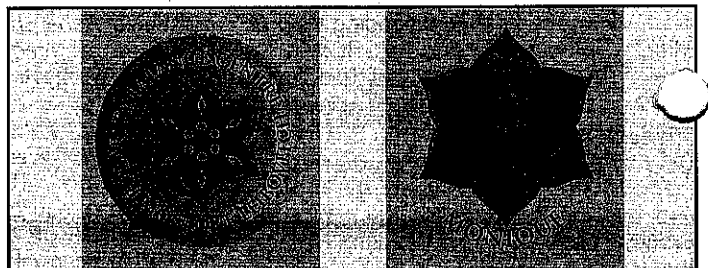
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