

CPA MEETING:

Sunday 30 May, 2010 at 2.30pm

The Castlecrag Community Centre, The Rampart (down laneway near intersection with The Postern)

CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Election of Office Bearers 2010

and

Speaker: Robert Sheldon AM, LFRAIA

The Haven Amphitheatre Design and Construction

Robert Sheldon is a noted Castlecrag Architect who was instrumental in the redesign and building of the Castlecrag Haven Amphitheatre.

It is also planned to launch the DVD of the Haven's 2009 Carols Spectacular at this meeting.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Howard Rubie honoured



Howard Rubie in January 2007 after being appointed Willoughby Citizen of the Year. Photo: Lorraine Cairnes

Howard Rubie ACS, a Castlecrag resident of more than 40 years, was inducted into the Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS) Hall of Fame on 1 May 2010 at the ACS National Awards. This is the highest honour that can be bestowed on an Australian cinematographer.

Those honoured by induction to the Hall of Fame "have made a substantial contribution

to the industry and the Society, as well as having left a legacy of fine work and having been responsible for training and influencing others".

Howard is a renowned producer and director of film and television. His work as a film maker has been recognised nationally and internationally with 17 industry awards including an Emmy nomination and winning two Prix Jeunesse (European Awards) and the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival 1999.

As a Cinesound camera assistant he covered the 1955 Maitland floods armed with an Arri and 1000 feet of film. When rowing a dinghy delivering medicines and the film rushes out of Maitland for Cinesound and rival Movietone, he was lucky to escape drowning in swirling floodwaters. The character Chris Hewitt's experiences in the Maitland floods in the Australian feature film NEWSFRONT are based on Howard's experiences. Fortunately Howard, unlike Chris Hewitt, survived.

Known by his close friends in Castlecrag as "The Mayor of Castlecrag", Howard is President of the Castlecrag Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee, a past President of the Castlecrag Progress Association, and a current member of the CPA Committee on which he has served for many years. He was a Willoughby Citizen of the Year in 2007.

**The Committee of the
Castlecrag Progress Association**

Farewell to the Cardews

Linda and Tony Cardew, former residents of Castlecrag, are moving to the property in North Queensland they bought several years ago, having sold their home in The Scarp. Linda has been Project Director of Willoughby City Council's The Concourse, formerly Civic Place, since the project commenced in 2000.

Now that the project is close to completion, in very good hands and with only about a 0.55% variation in costs over the contract price, Cairns Regional Council has fortuitously offered Linda, and she has accepted, the position of Project Manager of its proposed \$241 million Cairns Cultural Precinct waterfront development. (The Cairns Cultural Precinct is to include two theatres, museum, open space and retail. Cairns Regional Council is seeking to fund this development through a partnership of all three tiers of government with \$80 million sought from each of the State and Federal Governments.) Linda has therefore formally resigned from her position at Willoughby City Council.

Willoughby is fortunate to have had Linda's involvement in The Concourse for the past ten years. With her expertise as a lawyer experienced in various levels of government, her past experience as a violist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as well as her strongly held belief in the importance of public buildings, Linda has been uniquely placed to steer this exciting project.

... continued on Page 9

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

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Community Notes

Glenaeon Castlecrag Campus Building Works

As reported in *The Crag* (issue No. 173, October 2009), Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School was awarded \$2,000,000 for renovations and extensions to its Castlecrag campus as part of the Commonwealth Government's *Building the Education Revolution (BER)* grants scheme. The construction of this project is now well under way.

Malcolm Day, board member and chair of the development committee of Glenaeon, project manager Justin Clark and foreman Matthew Herbert of project/construction managers, Paynter Dixon, took CPA Committee members on a guided tour of the site in mid-April. The project is due to be completed in early August and is proceeding on time and on budget. It will deliver a multipurpose hall, educational learning spaces including a library and general learning area classroom, an administration space comprising staff room, sick room, meeting room, storage area and reception, and a new toilet block. The hexagonal-shaped 120-seat hall can be configured to provide a small closed-off meeting area with kitchen facilities. It is intended for community, as well as school, use. The buildings are to be clad in a mixture of brick and ecoply sheeting, with a colourbond roof. The building shapes were designed to maximise the retention of the existing mature trees, with some parts of the buildings being further modified during construction to ensure the safety of trees and low hanging limbs. This existing landscape will be further reinforced around the

buildings over time, maintaining the landscape nature of the school campus.

Surprisingly, pupils have been able to attend school at the Castlecrag campus throughout construction, with the classrooms and grounds tucked behind the construction site and entered from Edith Street. Walking past the site you will notice the acoustic hoardings to the windows of the classrooms and the large signs "radios not allowed"! Malcolm emphasised that Paynter Dixon has done a great job in minimising noise especially during school hours.

This is a most exciting project and a potentially invaluable resource for the school and the community.

Traffic issues in Castlecrag

The following traffic issues of specific concern to Castlecrag have been on the agenda of the Willoughby Traffic Committee in March and April 2010:

Intersection of The Bastion, The Bulwark and The Barquette

Of concern to residents is the blind corner at the intersection of The Bastion, The Bulwark and The Barquette. The Police, on behalf of a resident of The Bastion, requested that Council considers introducing measures to slow the speed of vehicles passing through this corner. A number of residents have also raised concerns regarding safety at this corner with the Progress Association. Council officers reported that double separation lines are in place on this bend, but many vehicles tend to cut the corner and/or proceed through it at a greater speed than is safe. The proposal that speed humps be introduced to improve the situation was considered impractical at this location. A

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Community Notes cont...

more appropriate solution was considered to be the application of raised 'rumble strips' along the centreline to force traffic to keep to the left side of the road and thereby keep speeds at more appropriate levels. Council will consult with residents living near this corner regarding this proposal and if there is majority support, raised 'rumble strips' will be introduced.

Sugarloaf Crescent Parking

The March meeting also considered representations from a resident requesting measures to ease the current congestion caused by cars parking along the northern side of Sugarloaf Crescent close to Eastern Valley Way. Vehicles are currently parking along the northern side of Sugarloaf Crescent right up to the intersection with Eastern Valley Way making it difficult for vehicles to enter the street especially when a vehicle is trying to exit. It was decided to install a 'No Stopping' sign on the northern side of Sugarloaf Crescent, 10m east of Eastern Valley Way and a 'No Parking' zone adjacent to this 'No Stopping' sign to extend approximately 20m east of the sign.

Edinburgh Rd, east of Linden Way

The April meeting considered a request from a resident to improve safety for residents in the section of Edinburgh Road east of Linden Way. The resident was concerned that the narrow width of the road carriageway in the vicinity of No. 290, combined with a lack of on-street parking, creates dangerous conditions for traffic and for residents exiting their driveways.

Council officers considered the current narrow road alignment along this section of Edinburgh Road to be appropriate given the local nature and low volume of traffic using this thoroughfare as it encourages lower speeds and a cautious driving approach. The Committee however agreed upon the following range of potential actions:

- remarking the faded edgeline markings on the eastern side of Edinburgh Road and introducing an edgeline along the northern side to more clearly define the carriageway;
- consulting residents about the possible introduction of 'No Stopping' signage on both sides of the narrow section of Edinburgh Road between Nos 311 and 329 Edinburgh Road;

- installing 25 km/h advisory speed signage on approach to the narrowed section of road;
- installing "watch for pedestrians" signage on approach to the narrowed section of road until such time as a footpath can be introduced along the nature strip area;
- establishing a 40 km/h speed limit for the section of Edinburgh Road east of Linden Way (Council has written to the RTA asking that consideration be given to a the lower speed limit as the establishment of speed limits is an RTA responsibility);
- replacing 'parallel parking', with '90 degree' angle parking, signage within the indented parking bay opposite 337-339 Edinburgh Road. (This would create several additional parking spaces, while requiring removal of the existing power poles and some shrubs which define the edge of the parking bay, and replacement with a low wheel stop to allow front or rear overhang by vehicles), and
- installing chevron signage on the electricity pole opposite No. 290 to reduce the chances of it being hit at night.

In response to a claim by the resident that only a complete rebuilding of the road to a full-width carriageway would solve the perceived problems in this locality, Council officers advised that road widening is not seen as a feasible and environmentally appropriate solution at this time.

Bob McKillop

Right-hand turn at Edinburgh Rd & Eastern Valley Way Traffic Lights

The on-going saga of efforts by the Castlecrag community to gain approval from the Roads & Traffic Authority for the installation of a right turn arrow on the traffic lights at Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way for vehicles exiting the suburb has completed another cycle. At the April meeting of the Willoughby Traffic Committee a late item was a letter from the RTA advising of its decision on the latest request. It states that an analysis of the accident history at this site shows a low accident rate and, based on this analysis, the RTA does not support the introduction of a right turn arrow.

Presentation on The Concourse at CPA General Meeting in March 2010

Willoughby City Council's General Manager, Nick Tobin, and Manager Special Projects, Ellis O'Beirne, spoke to a 3-D fly-through presentation on The Concourse (formerly known as Civic Place) at the CPA's General Meeting in March. The Concourse will comprise:

- 5000m² library that includes an environmental centre;
- 1000-seat Concert The Concert Hall offering seats in a magnificent setting of finely detailed timber wall panels;
- 500-seat theatre providing a high-tech intimate facility for a range of productions.
- Two rehearsal rooms;
- 500m² exhibition hall (The Civic Pavilion) is a multi purpose business and community facility;
- 5000m² open spaces, including an outdoor amphitheatre, offers opportunities for a range of performances, and
- 400 car spaces located in a basement car park.

Nick noted that the project is currently ahead of schedule by six to eight weeks.

The Concourse will attract world-class performers. Council is already receiving requests to book the facilities from a wide range of organisations and is in negotiations with promoters for special events. It is also evident that it will be a popular venue for national conferences.

The CPA congratulates those past and present Councillors and Council staff with the vision and drive to initiate and implement this inspiring project on budget and on time against the odds!

For further information on The Concourse visit <http://www.theconcourse.com.au>

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2010

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President's Musings

Living in Castlecrag is a privilege. Serving this community is a privilege. It is a privilege to work with a group of people whose ethos is to serve. I hope that people who chose to live in this special suburb also see it as a gift and a responsibility.

A lot has happened in Castlecrag over the past year.

As *The Crag* goes to press it has been announced that my fellow committee member and friend, Howard Rubie, a past president, and member of the CPA committee for many years, has been inducted into the Australian Cinematographers Society (ASC) Hall of Fame. This award is a huge honour and the CPA congratulates both Howard and his wife Patricia, his life and business partner.

The **Castlecrag Fair** on 31 May 2009 was again a huge success despite rain from time to time throughout the day. We launched our Castlecrag Local Plant Guide on the day and subsequently distributed a copy to each household in Castlecrag. Copies are still available from Lisa's Café.

Traffic issues continue to be of concern to our community. Strenuous efforts were made via Gladys Berejiklian, our State Member for Willoughby and Shadow Minister of Transport, and Cr Gail Giles-Gidney, to gain a much-needed right-hand turn arrow onto Eastern Valley Way from Edinburgh Road. Despite an onsite meeting with the RTA, community members, and senior staff from Council, and Council follow-up, our approach was unsuccessful, largely because there have been no fatalities at the site.

Queens Birthday Honours. Two Castlecrag residents, Robert Sheldon and Dr Ian Francis, received distinguished awards in the 2009 Queen's Birthday honour list. We extend our congratulations to Robert and Ian.

Bob McKillop is stepping down as the editor of *The Crag*. Bob has been on our committee for over 20 years and in this time he has taken on the roles of President, Secretary and Minutes Secretary. For the last ten years he has worked on *The Crag*, becoming its official editor in 2004. Bob is an author, an authority on the history of Australian railways, an historian, an agronomist and a dedicated community

worker. Under his editorship we have seen an increasingly professional layout for *The Crag* and a wide variety of articles. Thank you, Bob (and Kerry), for your dedication and commitment to the Castlecrag Progress Association and the wider community. As you see in this issue, Bob has taken on the role of roving reporter for *The Crag*!

New editor for *The Crag*. We are pleased to announce that Bob's assistant editor, Margaret Chambers, has agreed to edit *The Crag* for the coming year. A past president of the CPA, John Steel, will assist Margaret and we thank Margaret and John for taking on these roles. Thanks are also due to our wonderful Robin Phelan of Rocket Design. We do not know what we'd do without Robin's expertise and help in design, layout and co-ordinating publication of *The Crag*!

Northbridge Suspension Bridge has been in the news of late. Sadly, there have been a number of suicides from this bridge and in 2008 the NSW Coroner recommended that a safety fence be installed on the bridge to improve public safety on and under it. While there were a number of information nights run by the RTA, many in the community felt excluded from the decision-making process and also felt that suggestions from the community were not taken on board. This was reinforced when the RTA preferred design is the one that is now being erected.

Joyce Batterham remembered: As reported in *The Crag* No. 174, a bench seat has been installed on the island at the corner of The Parapet and Edinburgh Road. A ceremony on Sunday 2 May commemorated Joyce's life and all who attended were invited to plant a local seedling in her memory. Speeches about Joyce's life covered family, political activities and of course her involvement in Castlecrag.

Giant puppet reincarnations of Marion Mahony Griffin and Walter Burley Griffin were stars of the Willoughby Spring Fair Street Parade through Chatswood CBD on Saturday 12 September 2009. Operated by volunteers from the Castlecrag community (trained as puppeteers by Linda Cairnes), 'Marion' and 'Walter' showed off their recent restoration to a large and appreciative audience. The puppets are to become Puppets in Residence at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in 2011,

where they will be centre stage in a new exhibition about Australian communities featuring Castlecrag and other notable areas. Thank you to Lindy Batterham for coordinating this continuing project and for the expertise and work of Linda Cairnes and Haven Committee Member, Stephen Gow, in the restoration work.

At **The CPA general meeting in August** we held an open forum, attended by our three ward councillors. Traffic and transport were major topics of discussion. At our October meeting Steven Head, the Infrastructure Service Manager at Willoughby City Council, spoke about the State Government requirement for Councils to develop a community strategy to better integrate local planning. Willoughby covers this in its City Strategy. Steven also spoke about individual projects of interest to the Castlecrag community and broader city-wide projects.

2009 Carols Spectacular. The Progress Association was proud to be one of the sponsors for the 'Carols Spectacular' at The Haven Amphitheatre on Christmas Eve. It was a delightful mix of professional singers and musicians, local talent and audience participation. Congratulations to the hard working team.

Finally, after my term as your president for the past year, I will soon be handing over to a new CPA president. My thanks to our wonderful committee, James Fitzpatrick, Diana Jones, David Harrop, Elizabeth Lander, Warwick Lynch, Bob McKillop, Jill Newton, Howard Rubie, Maggie Scheller, Lorna Sinac, Gay Spies OAM and Bruce Wilson, who put in thousands of hours in support of our suburb – in particular to Bob McKillop for his huge task in directing the publication of *'The Crag'* as well as being a fantastic Minutes Secretary; to Jill Newton for being our secretary as well as for her work on DAs and to Vice President James Fitzpatrick for also wading through the many DAs that pass our way. It is wonderful to have a mix of experienced committee members and newbys who are providing fresh outlooks and energy. My very best wishes go to our new President and Committee who will be elected at our AGM on 30 May 2010.

Kate Westoby

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THE HOUSES OF CASTLECRAG

"The Houses of Castlecrag" is a new column, which will highlight some of the amazing houses located in this suburb through the decades, from Griffin's time to today.

Ben Gerstel, a local architect who has lived in Castlecrag for nearly 20 years and has had his own architectural practice for 13 years, will write the column.

Ben is a volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association (www.architecture.org.au) and conducts walking tours around Castlecrag and Middle Cove.



14 SUNNYSIDE CRESCENT, CASTLECRAG

I chose this house to be the first in the series as it stood out because of the steel posts, the elevated wall of glass to the street, the lack of windows and a flat roof. This house is significant when compared to other 1940s brick and tile cottages houses in the street. These houses were built within years of each other but are so different.

14 Sunnyside Crescent was designed by the late architect, Harold Smith, of the architectural practice, Smith, Jessie, Payne and Hunt. Smith also designed the houses at 20, 61, and 63 Sunnyside Crescent. Except for 14 and 61, the other 2 houses have been extensively changed.

Harold Smith was born in 1913. He came to Australia in 1914, did his schooling at Kogarah Intermediate High School and studied architecture at Sydney Technical College. He worked for Walter Burley Griffin before graduating in 1936. In 1937, he and his wife went overseas and worked in London. He came back to Australia in 1940 and set up his own practice in 1946.

In 1955, he was one of the 233 entrants from 32 countries who entered the competition for the design of the Opera

House in Sydney. He designed RSL clubs in North Bondi and Burwood, Castlecove Golf Club and the Bankstown Synagogue. He died in 2008.

14 Sunnyside Crescent was designed in 1948 and completed in 1952. From the street the house reads as "a box on stilts". In the 1920's, the Swiss French architect, Le Corbusier, developed five principles for domestic architecture and one of these was to lift the living room level one storey off the ground on pilotis or posts and this can be seen in Le Corbusier's *Le Villa Savoye*, built in 1929 in Poissy outside of Paris. 14 Sunnyside Crescent shares the same principle. The house was photographed after it was finished by the late Max Dupain, also a resident of Castlecrag.

The first floor to the street is a series of timber framed, glass sliding doors and windows opening onto a full length terrace to appreciate the view, supported on white steel posts.

Texture is added by a rough cast stone wall to the left of the ground floor entry and reappears as a fire place in the living room on the first floor.

The wonderful aspect of the house is the open plan of the first floor. The fireplace acts as a room divider and the view can be appreciated from the kitchen. A feeling of spaciousness is achieved. Again, very different planning to houses of the same period which were a series of rooms connected by a hallway.

Renovations to the house were done in 2000. The owners at the time consulted with Harold Smith to respect and enhance the original concepts whilst adapting the house to suit their needs. They engaged the designer Stephen Collins to restore and renovate the house.

Ben Gerstel

Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd

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Information has been sourced from the following publications:

*Opera House web site,
The Australian Jewish News,
Belle Magazine Aug / Sept 2001,
Global Architecture 13*

Another heritage commendation for the Cheong House



The studio extension to the Hugh Buhrich wing of the Cheong House at 14 The Parapet. Photo courtesy Willoughby City Council.

The 2010 Willoughby Heritage Awards saw ten entries across three award categories: Infill, Alterations and Additions and Restoration. On behalf of the judges, Jennifer Hill advised that six properties had been short-listed. She commended all participants for their interest, enthusiasm and their personal commitment to the heritage of Willoughby.

In the Alterations & Additions category each entry was of a high standard, with the award going to 29 Neridah Street, Chatswood, while a commendation award went to Scott Robertson of Robertson & Hindmarsh Architects for his outstanding achievement in designing minimal extensions to the Cheong House at 14 The Parapet, Castlecrag to provide essential facilities. The restoration of the original Griffin house was a recipient of 2008 Willoughby Heritage Award, while this commendation was for extensions to the 1940s Hugh Buhrich extension to provide a work studio and a small laundry/bathroom.

The judges reported that:

The interpretation of the parapeted masonry character of the original through the zinc clad extension provided a sophisticated dialogue between the original and the later Buhrich additions and the present additions. The work is informed by excellent and thorough research. The addition presents as

both 'a perfect folly' and the bathroom 'absolute magic'. The craftsmanship and attention to detail are exemplary.

In the Infill category, no major award was given, but two entries received commendation awards, namely the Home HQ Store conversion of the old Council depot building on Reserve Road to a shopping complex and St Cuthbert's Naremburn Cammeray Anglican Church for extending the building for new uses while protecting the heritage values of the original church.

The major prize in the Restoration category went to Peter and Jan Phillips and their architect Clive Lucas for restoring Woodencroft at 9 Edinburgh Road, Willoughby. RailCorp and its architect Graham Heine received a commendation award for the relocation and restoration of the Chatswood Signal Box from the former station building to the Bus Interchange.

Bob McKillop

A Walk through Griffin Reserves



Professor Carrick Chambers leading the tour.
Photo: Lorraine Cairnes

Sunday morning, March 21st, and we could not have had a better day to display our Oriel, Gargoyle and Embrasure Reserves.

The day's highlight was with Professor Carrick Chambers who lead two tours of more than 80 keen residents through the hidden world of the reserves behind The Bulwark and The Battlement. En route, we heard the reasons behind the unique names of the reserves, walked through hidden rain forest, saw restoration work undertaken by Margaret Hutchison at the Gargoyle and major works by contractors in the Embrasure.

It was good to hear that the Cortile Reserve is undergoing an upgrade as the gateway to the Griffin Reserve system, and that new steps to Tower Reserve have been completed and work is being done to The Redoubt steps.

Rob Gibson, our Bushcare Supervisor of the Oriel Reserve, explained how all the Bushcare handiwork and the controlled burns in the reserve were restoring its natural beauty. The Bushcare Flying Squad's Don Wilson gave a run down of how Bushcare is rubbing shoulders with "Clean Up Australia Day" in helping restore our bushland by holding a "Bushcare Major Day

Out". This is an innovative state-wide event for 30 May, starting in OH Reid Reserve, West Chatswood and, having promised a delicious morning tea, Don would love to see many helpers on the day. Please phone Don on 9958 0007 for more information.

The only low point in the day was seeing how one local resident had wilfully poisoned trees in a selfish attempt to obtain a 'private' view. As Councillor, I will do whatever it takes to crush this ugly vandalism; putting up green shade cloth on the dead branches with some ghastly signage might be the best start. If you have alternative ideas to discourage further attacks on trees, I would be very interested to hear from you.

The Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee, which is facilitated by Council and supported by local volunteers, coordinated arrangements for the whole day, including the sizzling BBQ. Our sincere thanks go to Willoughby City Council, Carrick and Margaret Chambers, Matthew Keighery, Frances Davis, John Steele, Don and Marianne Wilson from the Flying Squad and all the team who helped make this a great day for our community.

If you would like any more information on Bushcare please contact Mandy Wilson at Council on 9777 1000.

Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney

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Gail.Giles-Gidney@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au

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BBQ expert John Steel provided sustenance during the tour. Photo: Richard Newton

the LOOP

FREE Shuttle Bus

"The Loop" commenced on Tuesday 27th April. The service will provide residents with access to key destinations and aims to assist in reducing travel by private vehicles. This service will assist those without car transport to shop, visit friends and attend appointments.

"The Loop" runs from 10.30 am to 6 pm, servicing a different area of the Willoughby LGA each day. **The Castlecrag service will run on Tuesdays** between Castlecrag, Northbridge and Willoughby East, including the shops at Castlecrag, Northbridge and High Street. The route goes along Sunnyside Crescent, Edinburgh Road, and Eastern Valley Way.

The service is free and residents can join the bus anywhere along the route. The Tuesday Loop operates every 45 minutes.

Council has issued a brochure, including maps of the bus routes, which can be obtained from Willoughby Council's Sustainability Projects Officer Alison Jones on 9777 7706; Fax 9411 8309; or email: Alison.jones@willoughby.nsw.gov.au The Castlecrag Progress Association will have copies of the brochure available at the Annual General Meeting on 30 May.

This new shuttle bus is a trial and Council will welcome feedback.

Contact your Ward Councillors

If you have questions or issues to raise with your Ward Councillors, they are happy to be contacted:

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 9958 1135

Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 9967 0395

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Harold Spies steps down as Castlecrag Conservation Society President

Harold Spies recently stood down as President of the Castlecrag Conservation Society ("CCS") after 16 years in this role. During that time he was honoured by induction to the NSW Nature Conservation Council's Allen Strom Hall of Fame (2008) and was a Willoughby Citizen of the year (2004).

The new President of CCS is Matthew Keighery, who has penned thoughts on his new role elsewhere in this edition of *The Crag*.

Harold has been instrumental in contributing to many community organisations for decades. As the President of the Castlecrag Conservation Society, he sustained it as an active modern organisation, founded on the environmental and social values so important to our community.

Harold's enthusiasm for the beauty and spirit of our local environment encourages many to become active participants rather than passive onlookers. There are many parts of our bushland reserves which owe a lot to his past voluntary bushcare work.

At a personal level, he has made a continual effort to welcome all newcomers to Castlecrag, to offer help all who need it, and to engender a sense of friendship embracing all whom he encounters.

Harold has an encyclopaedic scientific knowledge of Castlecrag's local bushland ecology. Over the years he has lead innumerable bushwalks and rambles, and through these, large numbers of people have gained insights into our special places. Harold's philosophy has always been to encourage conservation through insight and understanding in preference to regulation.

A committed pacifist, Harold also has a strong social conscience and a commitment to a peaceful and equitable international society.

Harold recently celebrated his 90th birthday

at the Community Centre with many friends and relatives present.

Harold Spies is a true and committed community leader. His rare personal qualities and the example of community service that is integral to his life are an inspiration for the whole community. The Castlecrag community is grateful for his enormous contribution over many years.

Harold
Spies
Photo:
Gay Spies



Vale: Glad Bevis 1920–2010

The Castlecrag community is saddened by the passing of Glad Bevis who has lived in Sunnyside Crescent for almost 62 years.

Glad's death revives memories of development of Sunnyside Crescent in the years following World War Two. Glad, her husband Pat and their daughter Anne (aged 17 months) moved into their newly built home at 71 Sunnyside Crescent in May 1948 and their second daughter Margaret arrived in 1950.

Their land was purchased in 1941 for 195 pounds and is believed to be part of the Wireless Estate, so named because of the earlier existence of an array of ABC transmitters built on a higher level towards Edinburgh Road. The soil was particularly fertile and Glad spent many days tending her garden.

When Glad and Pat first came to Castlecrag there were very few homes beyond Charles Street in Sunnyside Crescent. The road surface in Sunnyside Crescent was unsealed and consisted of large pieces of blue metal. There was no sewerage and the Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) (of which Pat and Glad were members) formed a committee, with Pat as secretary, to apply pressure to the Water Board; this resulted in construction of the sewer to Sunnyside Crescent by 1950.

Within a few years many new homes were built in the street. Common interests of new homes, gardens and families engendered neighbourly spirit and firm friendships were formed. There were many happy parties and the prevailing shortage of beer (general supplies were still in short supply following the war) was not a problem due to a very good home brew and a police sergeant friend.

A particular shared concern was the proposed extension of the Warringah Expressway, which would have split Castlecrag asunder. The freeway was bitterly opposed by the residents and with strong support from the Progress Association the battle was eventually won.

Glad loved living in Castlecrag because of what she considered to be its village-like atmosphere. She volunteered for various causes at her local church, St Thomas' Willoughby, as well as at her daughters' school, Monte Sante' Angelo, North Sydney.

Glad is survived by Pat, their daughters Anne and Margaret and their families, to whom the Progress Association extends its sympathy. Her family and friends will miss her.

Pat Bevis and Lorna Sinac



Red Shield Appeal

**Weekend of
29th & 30th May**

Diana Jones is again co-ordinating the Salvation Army collection in Castlecrag and would greatly appreciate help from anyone 18 yrs or older who would like to spend two hours door-knocking for this worthy cause.

Meet the neighbours!

Please phone Diana on 9958 4885 if you are able to help.

↔ Community ↔ Exchange ↔

↔ Dru Yoga classes

Dru Yoga classes are held at The Haven Amphitheatre on Fridays from 10-11.30am. Complimentary for the first class, \$17 for casual classes and \$60 for a block of four classes. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a mat, blanket and water.

Contact Katya on 0414 187 916 or email: kmarden1@gmail.com

↔ Local woodworker

Carpentry/cabinet work

Chair/furniture restoration

Build/repair interior/exterior

Contact Poul Erik on 99044229

Please contact the editors at the email address given on page 2, or via 9967 4933 if you have items for the 'Community Exchange'. A fee of \$20 will apply for items listed in the exchange section (with discounts to CPA members).

New President of Castlecrag Conservation Society



On holiday at the Darling River in January 2010

Photo: Lachlan Keighery

Matthew Keighery was recently elected President of the Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS), and follows in the footsteps of Harold Spies, John Llewellyn and Beverley Blacklock.

I am surprised and also honoured to be elected to this position. I live in Castlecrag with my wife and children because I like its bushland, landscape and sense of community.

Over Easter I read "Cod" by Mark Kurlansky. It is the story of an economically important and abundant fish, which was fished out of existence, becoming commercially extinct. The author reported that Newfoundlanders have a "collective denial of what has happened", and states that "Man wants to see nature and evolution as separate from human activities".

Most of us see the environment as being really important. Almost all of us want a sustainable world that allows nature not just to exist, but to have vigour. But we view

nature as being 'out in the bush', and we don't see our lives as connected to it.

Castlecrag has a long history of nature conservation. The Griffins designed the built landscape of Castlecrag to blend with nature. The community fought to save Castlecrag from being bisected by an expressway that would also have wrecked bushland and Middle Harbour. Bush regeneration has been happening in Castlecrag since the early 1980s beginning with Beverley Blacklock and the National Trust following on from the Bradley sisters who developed its principles in Mosman back in the 1960s. It continues today with The Sugarloaf Project and nine local Bushcare Groups.

CCS members and others look after the Fountain on Edinburgh Road. CCS members sit on committees such as The Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee, Council's Sustainability Reference Group and the Willoughby Natural Heritage and Bushland Advisory Committee. We are working with others to implement an interpretive strategy for the suburb to help visitors and newer residents understand Castlecrag's history. CCS makes representations to government on environmental issues and we produce an excellent newsletter six times a year.

I run a lot. I am training for some long runs and along the way I am setting goals, for example how much faster than last time can I run 10 kilometres? When I started running I hadn't run for years. Improvement is a slow process. My running is a little like the way I think that the community can try to achieve environmental outcomes. Getting connected with the environment

requires effort, one step at a time. What plant is that, why is it growing there, what else feeds on that plant? Slowly, progress is made.

We are fortunate to have a Council which is environmentally aware; it eases the burden on an organisation such as CCS. But we do need to be vigilant. The Market Garden development next to Shore oval needs our vigilance to ensure that Sailors Bay Creek doesn't lose any more of its natural values; perhaps this is an opportunity to get better than expected outcomes.

We are perhaps all a little like the Newfoundland Islanders, i.e., in collective denial of what is happening. As a community we need to be organised, and we need to support and push for better environmental quality. We use resources like there is no tomorrow. The natural world is full of threatened species. It is happening around us because of us.

I'd like to think that more people would put the environment as high as their other concerns. Supporting and joining the Castlecrag Conservation Society is one way of achieving this. Visit our website at www.castlecragconservationsociety.org. (This article will be there and you can leave a comment.)

I invite you to come along to one of our CCS meetings and talks. They are very friendly and we enjoy a supper and get-together. Details of the next meeting date are in the Community Diary section of *The Crag*. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Matthew Keighery

President, Castlecrag Conservation Society



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LOSS OF THE CASTLECRAG TURTLE



1st Sailor's Bay Scouts inspect the tangled turtle. Photo: Julia Spragg

In late February a dead turtle washed up at the 1st Sailor's Bay Scouts boatshed on the Castlecrag foreshore.

Tom Hayward, a local Scout, wrote: "One Thursday night at 1st Sailor's Bay Sea Scouts, three scouts went out on kayaks to go and check on a sea turtle that was tangled in fishing line. The turtle was dead and smelt horrible. We towed it by boat to the boatshed where we took photos of it. Then we took the turtle back to the place where it was found and tied it up with a rope so eventually there could be a shell for the wall at our scout hall."

There were stories reporting this incident in the *North Shore Times* and in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

This was probably the well-known Castlecrag Turtle, which has been resident around our foreshores for several years.

It was a Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Green sea turtles are reptiles whose ancestors evolved on land and took to the sea to live about 150 million years ago.

They are one of the few species so ancient that they watched the dinosaurs evolve and become extinct. Old turtles can weigh 200 - 300 kilograms. Adult green sea turtles are the only marine turtles which are vegetarians. They commonly eat sea grasses and algae. Juvenile green turtles, however, will also eat invertebrates like crabs, jellyfish, and sponges.

Maybe this turtle arrived here as a small hatchling on the East Australian ocean currents. Sometimes, this species will take up residence in distant places until they reach maturity (this might take decades); then they make the long journey back to the nesting beaches in the tropics, where they originally hatched, to mate and lay eggs.



The tangled turtle at the 1st Sailor's Bay Scouts boatshed. Photo: Julia Spragg

Green Sea Turtles are listed as a vulnerable species. In some parts of the world they are still killed for their meat and eggs. Their numbers are also reduced by boat propeller collisions, fishnet-caused drowning, and the destruction of their nesting grounds by human encroachment. Turtles breath air, and so if they become entangled in a net or fishing line, they can drown.

Tom and other Scouts steered the corpse to a final resting place under the pontoon in the middle of the bay, where at least it could re-enter the ecosystem. Curiously, it has disappeared from there – maybe it has become a meal for other marine creatures.

Jon Hayward, Tom's father said: "Is there anything we can do, apart from being vigilant with our own fishing lines etc, to avoid this lethal stuff getting into the water, or remove it once it's there?"

The lesson for us all – don't let litter get into Middle Harbour, either directly or via stormwater drains. If you see fishing lines, crab nets, or plastic bags in the water or along the shore, do remove this litter and take it to a waste bin. The turtles of the oceans will thank you.

Lorraine Cairnes and Tom Hayward

Farewell to the Cardews

Continued from Page 1

The CPA wishes to thank Linda for her energy and drive, and particularly for her meticulous diligence and tenacity in selecting an excellent team to implement The Concourse development. It has been an extraordinary ten years for Linda and for those who have worked with her on the project. We congratulate her on her new position in Cairns and we wish Linda and her family all the best for their new life in Queensland. We look forward to toasting her at the opening of The Concourse!

The Committee of the Castlecrag Progress Association



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Many small **Eastern Water Dragons** which hatched during summer are now dispersing, finding new homes wherever there is some water, and some shelter where they can hide from predators. Some have been sighted along creeks in various Castlecrag reserves. As adults these large lizards will grow to 80-90 cm; they are grey to brown, with some darker stripes, and males may have red colour on their chest or belly. Their long tail is used in swimming, and they can remain underwater for up to 30 minutes.

Richard Newton, kayaking under The Spit Bridge, encountered four **Little Penguins** (also known as Fairy Penguins) swimming out from Upper Middle Harbour, no doubt returning to their rookery near North Head after a feeding excursion.

Three different night birds were heard during the same night in The Retreat Reserve recently: a **Powerful Owl**, a **Tawny Frogmouth**, and two **Southern Boobooks**. Several weeks ago the Boobook pair was spotted roosting in the daytime, high in a tree in the Oriel Reserve. The Boobook's distinctive "mo-poke" call can be heard frequently throughout Castlecrag. Wildlife is still being killed by cars – please

remember that our roads are narrow and that wildlife also uses them to travel from one bushy patch to another. A **Brush-tailed Possum** was killed in The Bulwark near the spot where an **Echidna** was killed last year. Please – slow down and watch carefully.

A pair of **Australian Brush-turkeys** is often seen foraging along The Rampart road edge. The return of these special and unique mound-building birds follows the successful fox control program by all Northern Sydney Councils a few years ago. It is the largest representative of the family Megapodiidae and is one of three species to inhabit Australia. Despite its name, the bird is not closely related to American turkeys. Eggs, laid September to March, are hatched by the heat of the composting mound which is tended only by the males. They regulate the temperature by adding or removing material to maintain the incubation temperature in the mound in the range 33-35°C. The male checks the temperature by sticking its beak into the mound.

The Castlecrag **Green Sea Turtle**, which was familiar to many residents, met an

untimely end last month – see article elsewhere in *The Crag*.

Warwick in The Bulwark found a **Golden-crowned Snake** resting in his garden. These small nocturnal snakes (50 - 75 cm) shelter during the day under rocks and leaf litter, and forage at night time; their diet includes lizards and frogs. They are brown to grey above and pink below, and can be recognised by their distinctive yellow "crown" around the top of their heads. This species is venomous but not regarded as a dangerous snake.

Please let the Editor know of any interesting local wildlife news so that it can be included in future issues of *The Crag*.

If you find any **injured native wildlife**, you can seek help and advice from WIRES – the NSW Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service. The WIRES Sydney North Shore Branch telephone number is **(02) 8977 3333**, and their general number for NSW is **13000WIRES or 1300 094 737**. Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service is another choice – their tel. number is **(02) 9413 4300**. Put one of these numbers in your mobile phone list now!

Lorraine Cairnes

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Neighbourhood Watch

Police Incident report January – March 2010

(Castlecrag and Middle Cove)

Castlecrag-Middle Cove Neighbourhood Watch, after operating for many years, will unfortunately soon be disbanded as an organisation unless some community-minded people can volunteer for the positions needed to continue to run it. Convenor, Editor, Treasurer, and Committee

roles are needed. A meeting will be held on 26 May in the Community Centre to discuss this. (See notice below).

The Castlecrag Progress Association has agreed that the police statistics will continue to be published, in *The Crag*.

We wish to acknowledge and thank all of those who have contributed to NHW over many years, and particularly the Newsletter Editor Estelle Renard, the Treasurer Neil Glick, the Committee, the street coordinators, and the team of newsletter deliverers.

Incident Category	Address	Premise	Date	Time	
BREAK AND ENTER	BREAK/ENTER INTENT STEAL POINT OF ENTRY: GROUND FLOOR FRONT DOOR	THE PARAPET CASTLECRAG	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE DETACHED	Fri 15th Jan 2010	19:26
BREAK AND ENTER	BREAK/ENTER AND STEAL. POINT OF ENTRY: GROUND FLOOR WALL	GLENROY AVENUE MIDDLE COVE	EDUCATION - SCHOOL PRIVATE	Wed 3rd Feb 2010	21:45
MAJOR TRAFFIC CRASH	NON INJURY / NON FATAL	EDINBURGH ROAD. CASTLECRAG	OUTDOOR/PUBLIC PLACE ROAD/STREET	Thu 18th Feb 2010	10:30
STEALING	STEAL FROM MOTOR VEHICLE. TAKEN FROM VEHICLE	GLENROY AVENUE MIDDLE COVE	RESIDENTIAL –CARPORT	Thu 18th Feb 2010	17:00
BREAK AND ENTER	BREAK/ENTER INTENT STEAL. POINT OF ENTRY: FIRST FLOOR REAR WINDOW	HEIGHTS CRESCENT MIDDLE COVE	RESIDENTIALHOUSE DETACHED	Wed 24th Feb 2010	10:00
MALICIOUS DAMAGE	MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY METHOD: SMASH & GRAB	THE RAMPART CASTLECRAG	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE DETACHED	Wed 10th Mar 2010	06:50
MALICIOUS DAMAGE	MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY METHOD: SCRATCH	EDINBURGH ROAD CASTLECRAG	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE DETACHED	Wed 10th Mar 2010	08:00
STEALING	STEAL FROM MOTOR VEHICLE TAKEN FROM: VEHICLE	EDINBURGH ROAD CASTLECRAG	CARPARK BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL	Tues 30th Mar 2010	0830
ASSAULT	ASSAULT COMMON METHOD: PHYSICAL FORCE	LINDEN WAY CASTLECRAG	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE DETACHED	Wed 31st Mar 2010	21:15

NOTICE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING

26th MAY 2010

A Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 May at 6.00 pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre to decide the future of Neighbourhood Watch.

The meeting will be held to elect a new committee. Should it not be possible to form a new committee the meeting will formally declare Neighbourhood Watch closed and then decide on the distribution of the remaining funds.

The outgoing editor would like to express the community's gratitude for the support of the sponsors: Roger Page Realty, Castlecrag Fruiterers, MOMO, Castlecrag Meats and Ganache. A special thank you goes to Dianne Page for the maintenance of the membership records, and to those in the community who regularly signed up to Neighbourhood Watch.

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- Thursday 13 May – Wednesday 19 May 2010

Council General Clean Up Service

For further information and precise date for your address see Council website at <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/CleanUpSearch.aspx?PageID=510>

- Tuesday 18 May 2010 at 8pm

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) Inc. Speaker Meeting

at Artarmon Library
Contact Gay 9958 8569 or Christina 9438 4073 or see WEPA website at <http://wepa.org.au>

- Thursday 20 May 2010 at 5pm

Deadline for written submissions on draft Willoughby Local Environmental Plan

For details see Council's website at: <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Content.aspx?PageID=1199&ItemID=25>

- Thursday 27 May 2010 at 8pm

Castlecrag Conservation Society Meeting

The Castlecrag Community Centre. Showing DVD "Rainforests on the Slopes of Mt Warning".
Contact Matthew Keighery 9967 2682

- Sunday 30 May 2010 at 2.30pm

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc. AGM

Robert Sheldon AM Guest Speaker & Planned Launch of Haven DVD at The Castlecrag Community Centre

- Saturday 5 June 2010 at 2.00pm

Sydney Opera Society

Victoria Watson on "Marriage of Figaro" at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall
Contact Shirley Robertson on 9605 5851

- Saturday 3 July 2010 at 2.00pm

Sydney Opera Society – Murray Dahm on "La Sonnambula" at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall.
Contact Shirley Robertson on 9605 5851

- Tuesday 20 July at 8pm

WEPA Inc. Speaker Meeting at Artarmon Library
Contact Gay 9958 8569 or Christina 9438 4073 or see WEPA website at <http://wepa.org.au>

- Thursday 22 July 2010 at 8pm

Castlecrag Conservation Society Meeting

The Castlecrag Community Centre. Contact Matthew Keighery 9967 2682

- Saturday 7 August 2010

Sydney Opera Society – Moffat Oxenbould on "Der Rosenkavalier" at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall.
Contact Shirley Robertson on 9605 5851

- Monday 9 August – Friday 13 August 2010

Council Metals Clean Up Service

For further information and precise date for your address see Council website at: <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/CleanUpSearch.aspx?PageID=510>

- Tuesday 24 August 2010 at 7.30 for 8.00pm

CPA General Meeting at The Castlecrag Community Centre.
Contact Jill Newton on 9967 4933

- Saturday 4 September 2010

Sydney Opera Society – Lectures with music/film of current local opera at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall.
Contact Shirley Robertson on 9605 5851

Castlecrag Bushcare Groups Meeting & Training Dates

First Sunday of the Month

- Cortile Reserve; 8.00am – 11.00am
Contact Sue Burk on 9958 4295

Second Sunday of the Month

- Keep Reserve; 9.00am – 12.30pm
Contact Matthew Keighery on 9967 2682

Third Tuesday of the Month

- Gargoyle Reserve; 9.00am – 12.00 noon
Contact Margaret Hutchinson on 9958 4230

Third Saturday of the Month

- Rockley St; 9.00 – 12 noon
Contact Tanya Coates on 0411 086 105

Third Sunday of the Month

- Oriel Reserve; 9.00am -12.00 noon
Contact Mandy Wilson on 9777 7875
- Casement Reserve; 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Contact Sue Burk on 9958 4295
- Edinburgh Rd; 9.00 – 12.00 noon
Contact Karen Ferguson on 9958 4417
- Retreat Reserve; 9.00 – 12.00 noon
Contact Lorraine Cairnes on 9958 1213 or Jill Newton on 9967 4933

Fourth Sunday of the Month

- Beverley Blacklock Reserve/Cheyne Walk; 9.00am-12.00 noon
Contact Frank Milner on 0409 586 533

BUSHCARE TRAINING 2010*

- Saturday 19 June 2010 at 9.00am – 1.00pm
Bushcare Training Programme at Warners Park Centre.
Session 1: Introduction to Bush Regeneration.
Please phone Liz Powell on 9777 7871 to book your place
- Saturday 26 June 2010 at 9.00am – 1.00pm
Bushcare Training Programme at Warners Park Centre.
Session 2: Herbicides and Safe Work Practices.
Please phone Liz Powell on 9777 7871 to book your place
- Saturday 3 July 2010 at 9.00am – 1.00pm
Bushcare Training Programme at Warners Park Centre.
Session 3: Planning for your site.
Please phone Liz Powell on 9777 7871 to book your place

* Bushcare Training Programme 2010

This year's training is over three Saturday mornings – 19th, 26th June & 3rd July 2010.
All training sessions are held at Warners Park Centre (formerly Women's Bowling Club) at the end of The Outpost, Northbridge. Sessions are practically based. Completion of all three sessions entitles you to a certificate and fulfils a requirement of Council that all bushcare volunteers working in Council reserves have completed training