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CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

OUR NEXT MEETING

7.30pm for 8pm, Tuesday, 26 October, 2010

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

**Speaker: Sally Hamilton,
Director of Sustainability Projects, WCC**

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Travelling the World through Stories and Music

at the Haven Amphitheatre this Spring was a wonderful treat to all those who attended. The first act, *Hip Hop Duende*, had the entire audience enthusiastically clapping and tapping to world rhythms. Keen participants, to their pure glee, had the opportunity to play a variety of cajons, a sound box/drum originally from Peru, developed from African slaves playing percussion on cod fishing crates to replace their native drums. Adopted by the Spanish, the cajon can be tuned and has steel guitar strings vibrating internally when hit. Half of *Hip Hop Duende* is Claudia Chambers (pictured below) a very talented rhythmist whose family lives a stone's throw from the Haven. The other half, Annalise Friend, equally inspired the crowd with her catchy rapping and rhythms. The audience of all ages was totally absorbed with participating in a very exciting and innovative rhythmic experience and the demand to sample playing the cajons was strong.

The second part of both weekends featured veteran performer extraordinaire Bronwyn Vaughan showcasing two of her



expectations which was a huge disappointment to those who had put much voluntary time and effort over many months into creating, advertising and producing these accessible and highly professional performances for the community. Marion Mahony Griffin bequeathed the Haven Amphitheatre as a gift to us all, and it was of particular importance to her that children should be exposed to the creative and performing arts. Over many

one-woman storytelling shows. The first weekend was *Aditi and her Rickshaw* which brought a lovely Indian flavour to the Haven and the audience listened intently to the travails of a Mumbai rickshaw driver and her family. The smiles, laughs and happiness emanating by the end of this performance, when everyone was up and dancing a Bollywood routine taught to all by Aditi, was heart-warming. The shows were



light-hearted but with pathos, giving the audience some insight into people's lives in other cultures.

At the time of going to print the second weekend of *Travelling the World through Stories and Music* has not yet occurred, so audience sizes are unknown. Despite the shows being 'just fantastic' (*Susie from the Scarp*), audience sizes for the first weekend did not reach

years the Haven has been a proud upholder of that philosophy, but unless we get the *bums on seats* at the theatre the committee's motivation may be lost. Is theatre dead? Not for the kids pictured! Let's hope the second weekend restores our faith!

Lindy Batterham

Vice President Haven Amphitheatre
Producer of Travelling the World
*Photos top and left: Josh Jenkins
Photo above: Jill Newton*



THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

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

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Write to us

The Crag is a community newsletter
and we welcome letters and contributions
from residents about local issues.

We do not publish anonymous letters.

Items should be sent to the editors
by email to: editors@castlecrag.org.au

They should be concise
(preferably less than 250 words for letters).

Please include your email address or
phone number as we may need to edit
items to fit the space available.

Advertising Enquiries

Email David Harrop at
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President's Musings

Thank you to the many Castlecrag residents and those further afield who have conveyed their best wishes to me in my new and exciting role in our community. I have been totally amazed at the conduit *The Crag* has into the wider community, having received comments from colleagues from as far away as WA.

The last months have been a busy time within our community, and at last Spring is upon us.

Susie, Noah, Alex and I attended the Willoughby Street Fair Parade and the opening of the Willoughby Spring Festival. Susie and the kids joined the Willoughby Library story time float, in costume as their favourite story book characters. I stood back, shyly, in the role of family photographer.

What a fantastic turnout and event, covering all the cultures and community services offered within Willoughby. Castlecrag was well represented, with the Walter and Marion puppets being the tallest participants in the parade. This was their farewell appearance before they temporarily move to the Australian National Museum in Canberra as part of a new exhibition featuring Castlecrag.

The CPA congratulates Willoughby City Council on organising such an extraordinary annual event.

Closer to home, congratulations are due to Glенаeon School on completion of new facilities at their Castlecrag Campus. We inspected the classrooms and hall during the recent open day, and the quality of the spaces, as well as the excellent work of the students, was great to see, something the school Board and teaching staff are rightly proud of.

I believe the buildings nestle in well with their surrounds, and with the completion of landscaping, we will have a quality community asset. The CPA is discussing with the school Board the possibility of holding some community meetings in their new hall.

The school is also meeting several community groups to discuss landscaping, particularly surrounding the transformer on the corner of Edith Street and Edinburgh Road.

There are several events at the Haven over the next few months. Until recently I had not heard of the cabaret events held from time to time. These quickly sell out without advertising and are reportedly great nights of food and entertainment in an amazing location—and you get to walk home! Watch for the posters around the suburb, particularly in Roger Page's window in The Quadrangle.

We have been approached about the possibility of having children's film nights at the Haven during summer. Having spoken to some of the Haven committee members, I find that they have both the equipment and contacts to do so. If we receive community support, we will investigate hosting these through January and February.

CPA Committee members are also investigating a family twilight bowling competition between streets at the Northbridge Bowling Club. There seems support for this activity within The Bulwark and The Bastion. Some have dared say it is due to them seeing the sun again, and having the strength to strike out—maybe fighting words!!!

I look forward to a response...

We have a strong and active community, with events for all. Please support them, and come forward with your suggestions for others.

As always we need your ideas and comments.

The easiest way to make contact is to come to the next general meeting on Tuesday 26 October or email us on info@castlecrag.org.au.

We attempt to respond to all identifiable correspondence.

James A Fitzpatrick
President

Castlecrag Progress Association

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Castlecrag News

Welcome to new residents

Recently elected Committee member, Joe Christie, has suggested a new section in *The Crag* to welcome recently arrived residents. As *The Crag* is our local quarterly newsletter, we encourage submissions from new residents and their families for publication as part of the welcoming process.

We extend a warm welcome on behalf of the CPA to the Gill family, Edmund and Cathy and their children Charles (aged 11) and Pippi (aged 9), who recently moved to Knight Place. Asked why they chose Castlecrag, they replied:

"We lived in Castlecrag in 1996 before we moved to London and thought it a great family suburb. After arriving back we bought in Willoughby and Castlecrag became our local, and we fell in love with it all over again.

The smell of the bush, the birds, the space and the peace and quiet helped us really feel like we were back in Australia.

Since then, we've made lots of friends in the area and enjoy living a village lifestyle in this fantastic city. We regularly go for walks around the area and enjoy the killer hills to really get the blood pumping."

Editor

Hospital Birds—notes from Harold's bedside at Castlecrag Hospital*

Sitting next to a window in the sun while the patient sleeps, observing small details in the outside world, sharpens my senses.

A pair of lorikeets frequents a small tree in the courtyard of Castlecrag Hospital. Next they are seen visiting one of the phoenix palms on Edinburgh Road. A hole becomes visible high up in the trunk. One bird emerges while the other disappears into another hole. Their nest has a front and a back entrance. Catering Manager Dawn Tutty reports that the birds used to nest in one of the palms in Sortie Port but have been chased away by crows. Four kookaburras cling to the trunk of the palm, then fly away to a cable on the other side of the road. One by one they fly over to the same spot on the trunk then return to their cable

perch. Checking out a possible nest site? Or hoping for a snack of baby lorikeet? They appear to lose interest for now.

Down at the back of the hospital near the kitchen there is a tame male magpie of many talents. His partner no longer visits since one leg became disabled by fishing line. Every year, though, the male brings their two new babies to show to the kitchen staff—and perhaps to teach them how to get a handout. More amazing are his vocal talents. This gentleman can mimic the barking of a nearby dog, as well as the owner's voice calling it. These calls are always preceded by his melodious magpie song. This behaviour has been going on for several years. Staff don't know where the magpies roost or nest but it is obviously close by.

Gay Spies

* *Harold Spies spent some time in the Castlecrag Hospital in September following a serious fall. We wish him well for his recovery and return home.*

Sugar & Spice

As most readers will be aware, Melinda and Chris Sims have sold their Gourmet Source delicatessen business at The Quadrangle. The new owners are Jenny and David Wyatt who reopened the shop trading as 'Sugar and Spice' on 14 September following extensive renovations. We extend to Jenny and David a warm welcome to our suburb. Jenny and David live on the North Shore and have been involved in the hospitality industry. At the suggestion of their children, Zachary and Ziarne, they have chosen the name 'Sugar & Spice' for their new venture to convey the concept of 'all things nice'. We trust that you will enjoy their food, décor and service over the coming years.

Bob McKillop

Vale: Eileen Bessie Vaughan 1914–2010

Eileen Bessie Vaughan, a long time resident, recently died aged 96.

Eileen grew up in Forestville, in 1945 marrying Les Vaughan of Vaughan Bros Motor Garage in Chatswood; in 1946 they moved to Castlecrag where they were

blessed with three healthy children, John, Susan and James.

Eileen loved Australian history and was elected Tours Officer at the inaugural meeting of the Willoughby District Historical Society in February 1974. For nearly 30 years she assisted her son John, Convenor (1973) and President (1974–1985). It was a family affair, Les serving as the inaugural senior Vice-President and later President, and Jim as the first Public Relations Officer. Eileen and Les were recognised as joint Willoughby Citizens of the Year in 1984 and in 2010 the Mayor of Willoughby, Cr Pat Reilly, formally recorded 'Eileen's contribution to our community and her involvement in community organisations, first and foremost the Willoughby District Historical Society'.

A WCC bench plaque in Lower Edinburgh Road, 'Vaughan's View', commemorates Eileen and Les.

John Christian Vaughan

Vale: Clarice Jean Neal 1917–2010

Many Castlecrag residents will remember Sister Neal greeting patients at the Northbridge Medical practice but few knew of her distinguished war service in New Guinea.

Jean was born in Albury, and trained as a nurse at Corowa before enlisting in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). After being posted to 102 Australian General Hospital in Tamworth, she was posted to 2/5 Australian General Hospital AIF stationed at Port Moresby. There Jean met her husband Ray while they were serving in New Guinea, and they married on 8 July 1944 soon after their units returned to Australia. As a married sister Jean was 'grounded' and posted to Concord Military Hospital.

Jean and Ray lived in Castlecrag for the rest of their very happy married life. Few women served overseas in the defence of Australia, but Jean was one of the outstanding individuals whose war service we should never forget.

Elizabeth Lander,
with thanks to Ray Neal for assistance



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AUGUST CPA MEETING REPORT

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Two additional committee members have been coopted, following the AGM:

Warwick Lynch is a Chartered Accountant working in a senior finance role for a large media organisation. A recent arrival in Castlecrag but long time resident of the lower north shore, Warwick is interested in sport, fitness, the theatre and history. He believes in sustainability and the environment, in protecting our heritage and in embracing community values. He participates in The Retreat Bushcare Group and joined the CPA to contribute to the Castlecrag community.

Maggie Scheller moved to Castlecrag with her husband John and daughter Melanie in 2008. They were attracted by the Castlecrag's unique character, particularly its setting in the natural environment, its interesting architecture and the opportunity to walk to the local shops. Born in Poland, Maggie grew up in Germany where she met her husband and accompanied him to Sydney. With the arrival of their daughter, Maggie became a full-time mother. Her interests are classical music (she is a member of the Willoughby Symphony Choir) and sustainable transport.

IDENTITY THEFT

Senior Constable Matt Jewell, Crime Prevention Officer at Chatswood Police Station, spoke at the Castlecrag Progress Association's August general meeting on this relevant but chilling topic.

What is it?

Identity theft refers to the theft and use of personal identifying information of an actual person (either living or dead). It can range from somebody using credit cards illegally or making purchases over the internet or telephone through to having another person assume your entire identity by opening bank accounts, taking out loans, making tax returns and conducting other business illegally in your name. A survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2007 found that 499,500 people in Australia were victims of identity

theft in the 12 months prior to the survey, 77% being credit card or bankcard fraud.

How to stop it

- Order a copy of your credit report regularly to catch unauthorised activity. (The three main credit reporting agencies in Australia are Baycorp Advantage, Dun and Bradstreet and the Tasmanian Collection Service);
- Place passwords on all your important documents;
- Secure your personal information—if possible in a locked filing cabinet or safe;
- Don't carry personal information unnecessarily;
- Destroy personal information by tearing/cutting up or shredding all old records, files, bills, expired credit or other cards;
- Avoid giving personal information by phone, mail or internet;
- Secure your letterbox or use a post office box;
- Check bills and records carefully. Follow up if accounts don't arrive on time as a thief may have changed your billing address;
- Limit the credit you have in accounts. For telephone or internet transactions use a separate account with a low credit limit;
- Write cheques and forms carefully to avoid easy alteration; remove your name from mailing lists if you have received unsolicited mail. If you receive unsolicited pre-approved credit cards, immediately contact the company making the offer and ask that your name be removed from mailing lists.

How to report it

Your local police station, Chatswood, should be your first point of contact to report identity theft. You should also:

- contact other organisations such as Australian, state and local government agencies, finance and utility providers and retail stores; and
- provide statutory declarations to these organisations to establish that you are not liable for any debts in your name.

Enquiries

Senior Constable Matthew Jewell
Crime Prevention Officer
Chatswood Police Station
63 Archer Street, Chatswood NSW 2067
Tel: (02) 9414 8518
Email: jewe1mat@police.nsw.gov.au

Jill Newton

YOUR RIGHTS—Legislative Update: Resolving Hedge Disputes

The Trees (*Disputes between Neighbours Amendment Act 2010* (NSW), which commenced on 2 August 2010, gives the Land and Environment Court power to resolve disputes between neighbours in cases where two or more hedge forming trees severely obstruct sunlight or affect views.

The Land and Environment Court could previously only make orders in relation to trees which cause damage to a neighbour's property or were likely to injure people.

Under the new Act residents must first attempt to mediate with their neighbours before applying to the Land and Environment Court. A lawyer is not required.

The many matters to be considered by the Court in determining an application include whether:

- the trees pre-existed the relevant part of the dwelling, the subject of the application;
- the trees have any historical, cultural, social or scientific value;
- the trees contribute to the local ecosystem and biodiversity.

The Court has power to order:

- the removal or pruning of trees;
- payment of costs associated with carrying out a court order;
- installation of root barriers;
- payment of compensation for damage caused by roots or trees.

Councils now have power to enforce the order and charge costs of enforcement and administration. For further information see: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lec/ll lec.nsf/pages/LEC_tree_disputes_information

Jill Newton

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2010

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, it will be most welcome. I enclose my donation of: \$

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The Houses of Castlecrag

Continuing the series of articles by local architect Ben Gerstel, highlighting some of the amazing houses located in our suburb built through the decades from Griffin's time to today.

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

3 Tower Reserve, Castlecrag The Meller House

Like or dislike the work of Harry Seidler, here is a house which shows his design skills and expertise in creating stunning domestic architecture. To add to this, the house has wonderful water views.

The house, designed in 1950, was first known as the Meller House because of its first owners. It was quite small by today's standards having two bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, living, dining, kitchen, laundry and a single carport. All the rooms were designed with a wall of glass to appreciate the outlook. The house was designed over three levels connected by ramps, which created a feeling of spaciousness. This planning was dictated both by the site and to maximise the view. Rock outcrops on the site were left untouched.

Some of Seidler's typical features incorporated into the house were a 'butterfly' roof which expressed the different floor levels, and a free-standing fireplace which acted as a room divider, a device he still used in his more recent houses.

Seidler did a series of similar houses all over Sydney. They varied in size and some were located on wonderful sites like the Meller House. Seidler was a master of domestic design. There was no waste of space. I feel when you look at a Seidler floor plan it is the perfect solution to the design brief. Seidler designed three houses in Castlecrag of which two remain today.

Harry Seidler was born in Vienna in 1923 and died in 2006. He came to Australia

in 1948 to design his parents' house at Wahroonga, now owned by the Historic Houses Trust and open to the public. It is one of three houses that Seidler designed for members of his family on this site. When these houses were finished with, for example, their walls of glass, flat roofs and external ramps, they were like nothing people had seen before when compared to the brick and tile houses of the 1950s.

Eric Nicholls (i), Walter Burley Griffin's partner, had originally placed a covenant on the site on which the Meller House was to be built excluding the use of timber as a building material. As Seidler wanted to use timber as a cladding material he managed to negotiate successfully with Marion Mahony in America (where she had returned after the death of her husband) and had the covenant lifted (ii).

When the current owners bought the Meller House, it was in a very bad state of disrepair. Many original features had been lost and a lower ground floor had been added. They engaged Seidler to rebuild the house as well as sympathetically add to it. The result is a wonderful piece of design that respects his original concept.

The house was taken back to the steel frame, and face concrete brick has replaced the timber cladding. A new wing was added which included a double garage, children's bedrooms and bathroom. The laundry and kitchen were relocated as in the original plan.



Photo: Ben Gerstel

When the design of this house was presented to Willoughby Council in 1950, the *Sunday Herald* (26 March 1950) reported:

Seidler said: 'The building inspector of Willoughby Council rang me up and asked me to come out personally and to explain my blue prints because he didn't understand them'.

'Yet, on his advice, a bunch of butchers, grocers, and so on, tell me, a qualified architect, that my ideas of a house have no aesthetic value'.

The Council had objected to the plan on the grounds of 'design, materials and the location of the proposed building site. It is also considered that to approve of the same would not be in the public interest' (iii).

The upshot of all of this was the house was built and Seidler went on to produce many more award-winning houses and buildings.

Ben Gerstel
Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd
E: bgerstel@optusnet.com.au

References:

- Frampton, Kenneth and Drew, Philip (1992). *Harry Seidler*. Thames and Hudson
(i) p 49
(ii) p 49
(iii) p 394

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1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts



New boatshed reopening 29th November, 2003

1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts, with 80 members and leaders, operates from its hall on Eastern Valley Way and modern boatshed at the end of Rockley Street, Castlecrag.

History

The group originated in the very active 1st Chatswood Scouts, formed in 1914 and State champion for at least four years, winning the national competitive shield at the Melbourne Corroboree in 1923 and known as 'Lord Forster's Own'. On 3 May 1924 the Governor General Lord Forster officially opened the new hall at 56-58 Laurel Street, Willoughby built on land donated by Joseph Griffiths of 'Laurelbank' in 1922.

In 1932, the group split into Land and Sea Scouts, the latter renting a boatshed on the southern arm of Sugarloaf Bay from 1935. During the war the Sea Scouts moved boatsheds to Sailors Bay, renting from Ron Eddies who had taken over Bob Carr's boatshed (now Castlecrag Marina). Rowing expeditions were made throughout Middle Harbour in 18' skiffs and sails were hoisted. In 1948 the group built its own boatshed next door at Mowbray Point with volunteer labour and continued to organize its Port Resolution Regatta.

In 1955, 1st Chatswood Sea Scouts was renamed 1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts, with Cliff Bray as Scoutmaster and Greig Carnell as Assistant Scoutmaster. This active duo ran a very strong troop, but their 'take no prisoners' approach undoubtedly contributed to conflict as they continued

to share the Laurel Street hall with 1st Chatswood (Land Scouts) when not at their boatshed. The boatshed was wired in 1959, the slipway refurbished, and a kitchen added in 1969. Another troop, 1st Willoughby Scouts, initially met in private homes and a church hall from 1925-1934 when it moved to a shop at 27 Penschurst

Street. In May 1973 1st Willoughby merged with the declining 1st Chatswood Scouts in the Laurel Street hall where it remains today. 1st Castlecrag Scouts, formed in 1953 with Cubs, Scouts and later Senior Scouts and Rovers, acquired Warner's milk depot (i), Eastern Valley Way, in February 1956. When 1st Castlecrag Scouts was full, 2nd Castlecrag was formed for Cubs and Scouts born after the mid-1950s. However, with declining numbers in the 1970s, 2nd and then 1st Castlecrag Scouts disbanded and in 1979 1st Sailors Bay Scouts left Laurel Street for its current premises at the old milk depot.

Greig Carnell was both Scout Leader and Senior Scout Leader of 1st Sailors Bay Scouts. Leather-bound journals record many wonderful activities from 1962 to 1997: sailing 16' skiffs, travelling to regattas, participating in scout swimming and athletics carnivals, winning State Rally and making regular trips to the Blue Mountains, Warrumbungles, Snowy Mountains, Tasmania and New Zealand. On a 1st Sailors Bay trip to the Americas, Greig Carnell tragically fell to his death on Cerro Cathedral in Patagonia in December 1994. Greig had been in Scouts for 44 years and the boatshed was named after him in 1997. On 12 November 1998 the 50-year-old boatshed and many boats were destroyed by a suspicious fire. The group endured lean years with limited water access until the new boatshed was officially opened by Cr Pat Reilly, Mayor of Willoughby, on 29 November, 2003.

1st Sailors Bay Sea Scouts Today

The group is justly proud of the modern two-storey boatshed with ground floor boat storage and workshop, upper level general purpose meeting room with kitchen and change facilities, and new deck and pontoon.

While the group had female Venturers for many years, the scout troop only admitted girls in 2007. By May 2008 girls formed half of the Sailors Bay patrol that won the competitive Scout Hike attended by 1000 Scouts in Penrose State Forest. In 2010 the first three patrols were led by girls, and 1st Sailors Bay came 2nd, 4th, 5th and 15th of 181 patrols. Nineteen Scouts from 1st Sailors Bay joined 12,000 others camping for two weeks at the Australian Jamboree in January 2010 at Cataract Scout Park.

Much of 1st Sailors Bay's strength is due to its Cub Pack which now takes girls. In 2002 Gwen Cleworth was named Willoughby Citizen of the Year in recognition of 30 years' service as a cub leader. Recipient in 2003, Toni Richards, was also a cub leader. Other current leaders include Geoff Phipps, Frank and Chris Walster, Adrian Spragg, Jeff Loder, Ed Coates, Marc Lee, Ron McLaren, Bob Cleworth and Michael Rohanna.

Naturally, water activities in Sailors Bay form a big part of the group's program, culminating in the annual Sirius Cup Regatta on Balmoral Beach in March. Skipper Ron McLaren with a young crew sailing a Tasar won the Sirius Cup this year, and multiple canoeing trophies were won.

The Future

1st Sailors Bay Scouts is a valuable community resource providing young people with opportunities to enjoy the harbour waters beside our suburb and experience the benefits of belonging to a scout troop. The Group is very grateful for financial support from RSL Chatswood, WCC and Club Willoughby. 1st Sailors Bay would like to attract more leaders and girls from Years 5 to 8, so don't be shy (contact Adrian Spragg 9958 8322; or email aspragg@tpg.com.au).

Adrian Spragg

(i) J R (Reg) Warner established his 'Waratah' dairy in Edinburgh Road in 1914 and in the late 1930s built the milk depot next to Sailors Bay Creek. Eastern Valley Way was only opened in 1939 after Warner's subdivision.

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Bushcare Flying Squad: from little things big things grow



Castlecrag contingent at the Major Day Out Photo: Jude Morris

Ten years ago Mandy Wilson, Bushcare Co-ordinator at Willoughby City Council, recruited Marianne and me as the Clive Park Bushcare Group in Northbridge. Today, using a little creative accountancy, we have 20 members including Miles Connolly, our five year old Mother of Millions champion, our trainer Judy and her dog Buster, the group mascot. From our group we initiated Northbridge Lanecare, The Flying Squad and, from The Flying Squad, The Bushcare Major Day Out. We find our bushcare day one of the most enjoyable of the month. The bush has a tranquillity that soothes tensions in this busy life. People are at their most congenial working in the bush and we have formed close bonds within our group. The day is an enjoyable social day out with pleasant company, morning tea and great satisfaction in seeing the weeds disappear leaving room for beautiful native plants which come up on their own once the bad guys are removed.

As our numbers grew we looked for more things to do. Two of our members, Neil Hardy and Pamela Reilly, started a Lanecare group to help residents improve nearby laneways. So far they have weeded, cleared and planted three Northbridge lanes and meet regularly to help residents maintain them.

We came up with the idea of a Flying Squad to visit a different bushcare group each month. Now in our second year this initiative has been warmly received. The groups we have visited have been most appreciative, we have met lots of beautiful people and made lots of friends. For example on 21 March we assisted in the open day at the Oriel Reserve, Castlecrag. If you are already a bushcarer come and join us, and you'll have a ball. Contact me on 99580007 or email gdonya@bigpond.com.

Some of the sites we visited with the Flying Squad have been big, and we

considered that if we could get a big turnout for a special event once a year we could make a difference to some of these. We had our first **Bushcare Major Day Out** last year with 55 people attending including The Mayor, Pat Reilly and our state Member of Parliament, Gladys Berejiklian. We transformed the site alongside the Northbridge golf course down from the men's shed from a mess to a showpiece. Marianne volunteered as the convenor of a new group, 'The Nineteenth Hole', formed to consolidate our work.

This year the **Bushcare Major Day Out** was held at O H Reid reserve, West Chatswood and, although rescheduled to 27th June because of rain, was a great success with 42 volunteers. There was great company, sumptuous morning tea, lunch provided by WCC and Chatswood Rotary, and the satisfaction of removing ugly weeds from a valuable piece of bush to give the natives a chance to regrow and beautify the reserve.

Four other groups across Sydney and one in Brisbane held their own **Bushcare Major Day Out** this year. Our aim is to extend it across Australia and make it as big an event as Clean Up Australia with WCC Bushcare Major Day Out continuing to lead the way.

I recommend that everyone join a bushcare group. I promise that you will get back a lot more than you put in. If you are too busy that is all the more reason to join as the bush will soothe your stress, relax you and prepare you for the new week. There is a friendly group near you. If you would like to try it out there is no obligation to continue; if you like it you only commit to three hours a month whenever you can make the time. Just phone Mandy Wilson on 97777875 or email Mandy.Wilson@willoughby.nsw.gov.au and she will look after you.

Don Wilson

Editor's note: There are many Bushcare groups in Castlecrag; details of their locations, contacts and meeting times are in this issue of *The Crag*.

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Traffic issues in Castlecrag

The Willoughby Traffic Committee on 18 August addressed a number of issues relating to traffic matters in Castlecrag. The most significant related to proposed measures to reduce ongoing speeding on Edinburgh Road in the context of recent accidents there.

Following assessment by Council engineers, the Committee had given in principle support for the introduction of pedestrian refuges or traffic islands on Edinburgh Road, subject to community consultation.

Pedestrian refuges

Council proposals for two pedestrian refuges – one immediately west of the Montessori Preschool at No 183 and the other near the Stoker Playground at No 220 – elicited nine responses from residents regarding the former, with five in favour, one of which was from the Montessori group which advised it had unanimous support from its 50 parents and five staff, so approval was given to proceed with construction of this measure. Seven responses were received regarding the refuge at No 220, four of which opposed the measure, so this will not proceed.

Sugarloaf Crescent

The meeting considered ongoing representations from residents in Sugarloaf Crescent regarding unsafe road vision at the bends between Nos 48 and 54 due to vehicles parked on the bend. Residents were consulted regarding the introduction of double separation lines on these bends, which would effectively ban parking in this

location. Of the 12 consultation letters, only six responses were received, which were evenly divided between support and opposition. Accordingly, this matter will be brought back to the Committee if and when a suitable compromise can be found between neighbours.

Raeburn Avenue parking

In response to shop-owners' concerns, alterations to the on-street parking restrictions in Raeburn Avenue to make additional parking available near the shops were put to affected residents and the Committee considered the results of resident consultation on proposed changes to the existing restrictions. Three changes were proposed. There was majority support (7 to 5) to convert the present 'No Parking' restrictions outside Nos 1 and 3, and the Committee agreed to this change as it would provide additional short-term parking near the shops. There was the same level of support for a similar change outside Nos 12 and 16, but the Committee decided not to proceed with this change due to the strong opposition by the residents at these locations. It was agreed to remove the wording 'Authorised vehicles excepted' from the existing '1P' parking signs in the street, despite the opposition by residents, in order to comply with RTA guidelines for resident permit areas.

Blocking driveways

Vehicles parking in a manner to block driveways and pram ramps are evidently a problem in Castlecrag, as the meeting was

advised that Council is to implement the following measures under delegated authority:

- Install a 'No Parking' zone across driveways at Nos 7 and 9 The Postern;
- Paint parking lines either side of the pram ramp adjacent to No 5 The Postern;
- Mark driveway lines at No 13 Edith Street; and
- Install 'No Parking' restrictions along the northern side of Moratai Crescent to improve access for vehicles entering the street from Eastern Valley Way.

Chatswood Chase

For residents who travel to Chatswood Chase, the traffic chaos at the Victoria Avenue/Neridah Street intersection caused by cars entering the carpark has become a major concern, particularly to the State Transit Authority whose buses are frequently delayed by up to an hour on Saturdays. The Committee heard that Council staff had undertaken modelling of five options to address the congestion. This highlighted the slow response of the existing ticket machine at the Chatswood Chase car park as the major contributor to the 'choke point' on Victoria Avenue. It was resolved that Chatswood Chase be asked to review the intersection performance and to consider the benefits to their customers' ease of access by introducing automatic ticket machines.

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More on the Little Penguins

You will recall a report of Little Penguins (species *Eudyptula minor*) in Upper Middle Harbour near Castlecrag in the May issue (No 175) of *The Crag*.

The NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Mr Frank Sartor, issued a media release on 3 June, saying that the Little Penguin colony at Manly is doing well. He said that Sydney Harbour's endangered little penguin population has recorded one of its best-ever breeding seasons, despite devastating attacks by a dog or fox in July 2009. The annual monitoring report showed that the population successfully raised an above-average number of chicks, despite the death of at least 10 penguins in that attack.

Manly's little penguin population is the last mainland breeding colony in NSW. The colony survives among the rocks, beaches and even backyards around Manly Point and the North Head area of Sydney Harbour National Park. The colony was listed as endangered in 1997. A 2007 study found the colony produces the fattest, most fertile chicks in the country—a good sign they are getting enough food.

The Little Penguin, the world's smallest penguin species, stands about 35 cm tall and weighs about 1.2 kg. It is found only in Australia and New Zealand. Its breeding season lasts from 1 July until 28 February.

Anyone harming or disturbing the birds faces fines of up to \$5,500. In the critical habitat (around Manly Point) it is illegal to:

- approach a penguin or disturb a nest box;
- take dogs into the area at any time; or
- fish between sunset and sunrise during the breeding season.

We can expect to see more of the Little Penguins roaming Upper Middle Harbour in search of food, and to hear their distinctive high pitched 'bark' as they keep in touch with each other. Kayakers who move quietly over the water will frequently encounter them along the Castlecrag foreshores.

Lorraine Cairnes

Spring is Sprung

Hormones are stirring in the local wildlife emerging from hibernation, arriving from overseas or just looking for mates. The following observations were made in the last two weeks of September in the bush around Sugarloaf Creek, in the creek itself, or in the gardens or houses of residents in Sugarloaf Crescent.

A pair of wattle birds canoodling in a *Kunzea* overhanging the main waterfall. A pair of ducks paddling and flying along the creek. Two eels swimming upstream. Water dragons of varying sizes appearing, including a pair of mature males fighting for territory by grabbing each other by the jaws. A large echidna waddling purposefully down to the creek. The raucous call of the migratory channel-billed cuckoo heard in the valley. Whip-birds heard in the bush on either side of the creek below the bottom waterfall.

Gay Spies

Four variegated wrens seen in some lantana—three boys in blue, side by side, cuddling up to a girl in brown. A brush turkey in vegetation behind No 64 Sugarloaf Crescent. In the front garden of No 66, scats were seen of the swamp wallaby which was heard bounding in the dusk. Also three yellow-tailed black cockatoos in our old-man *Banksia*. To cap it off, the large eastern brown tree snake, with its lovely salmon-coloured tummy and brown lacy patterned back, has returned to our pantry for the third time! Beautiful, but a bit too close for comfort.

More wildlife sightings

- A white-faced heron strutting up Rockley Street;
- An Australian brush turkey walking along the footpath in The Bastion;
- Numerous birds nesting throughout the area, magpies and grey butcherbirds being particularly obvious and noisy;
- The first channel-billed cuckoos, calling raucously (these birds migrate from as far north as New Guinea and Indonesia to Sydney to breed in spring and summer, then return north by February);
- Two powerful owls (listed as a vulnerable species in NSW) calling to each other in the Retreat Reserve, and one in Oriel Reserve; and
- Foxes in several areas (unwelcome news).

Lorraine Cairnes

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Our Castlecrag Councillor's Update

Protecting our heritage... Living in a uniquely beautiful and historical peninsular suburb brings responsibilities—much of Castlecrag is conservation listed, to protect our heritage. Albeit we caught the perpetrators, I was horrified to hear of the recent wilful destruction of rock on a roadway in Castlecrag. Due to quirky legislation, Council could only impose a \$220 fine—per offence, not my idea of a 21st century deterrent.

The remedy... Council agreed to lobby the Local Government Association to petition the Department of Local Government to raise penalties rates significantly for offences under the Local Government Act, 1993—specifically, unlawful removal of plant material, animal, rock and or soil from any public space. We can fine tree vandals up to \$1,100,000—soon we will extend to any individuals vandalising our community.

Roofscapes... Not everyone can read architectural drawings. Photomontages and temporary height poles for proposed developments really help applicants present their proposals to Council and the community. Immediate neighbours and interested parties gain a deeper understanding of the proposal implications with clearer and more transparent DA approval processes. I applaud the proactive work of the Castlecrag Progress Association in providing Council with suggestions to aid assessment of Development Applications—a picture is worth more than 1,000 words.

A Gateway to the Crag... Council Officers are currently planning footpath upgrades outside the Quadrangle Shopping Centre and work should commence in June 2011. My belief is that it would make great sense to create a welcoming Gateway to our unique suburb—so, if you have any ideas on how the Gateway could look I would like to hear you. Please call me on 9967 0395 or email on Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Council News

Willoughby Recognised in Sustainable Cities

Willoughby City Council (WCC) has been awarded an Environmental Education Award in the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards.

Willoughby Mayor Pat Reilly was delighted with the win, saying: 'The ClimateClever campaign has only been up and running for just over one year. I'm thrilled that we can already claim to be award winners in creating a sustainable city.'

Part of the e.restore program, WCC's ClimateClever program assists the community to reduce its carbon footprint by 15 per cent by 2015 and the Council's carbon footprint by 50 per cent by the end of this year.

For more information about the ClimateClever campaign, phone WCC on 9777 1000 or visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/ClimateClever

Information from Rebecca Hill, WCC

Second Hand Saturday in Castlecrag: a giant garage sale

Twice annually Willoughby City Council (WCC) assists residents to sell unwanted goods through garage sales on the Saturday before each area's General Clean-up Collection. Several households in The Bulwark have decided to take advantage of this facility on 6 November prior to this year's next General Clean-up Collection for their area, and would encourage other Castlecrag households to do likewise in their neighbourhoods.

The date for your Second Hand Saturday sale will depend on your street's collection date. You can check this by telephoning

Council or visiting Council's website (<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Second-Hand-Saturday.html>).

To host a garage sale for Second Hand Saturday, by Monday of the week prior to your proposed garage sale fill in the online form on the WCC website or phone 9777 7730 and WCC will:

- advertise your address on its website and in the North Shore Times,
- send a poster to display at the front of your property on the day, and
- send information and advice for running a successful garage sale.

Items left at the end of the day can be placed on the kerb for collection the following week. Material must not be placed on the kerb for more than one week prior to the collection day. Alternatively items could be retained and contributed to the Progress Association's Trash and Treasure stall at the Castlecrag Fair in May-June 2011.

By holding a Second Hand Saturday garage sale you will help promote community spirit whilst reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. Australians are the second highest producers of waste in the world, generating an annual average of one tonne per person.

Contact the Waste Education Officer on 9777 7730 if you would like to participate.

Editor

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

John.Hooper@willoughby.nsw.gov.au
Or phone 0402 395 155
(if possible please email rather than phone)



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Neighbourhood Watch

Police Incident report July–August 2010

(Castlecrag and Middle Cove)

Incident Category	Details	Address	Premise	Date	Time
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Lee, Middle Cove	Residential - detached	6 July	Between 9am & 5pm
Malicious damage	Damage to property	Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag	Business/commercial	26 July	Between 6am & 9am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Greenfield Avenue, Middle Cove	Outdoor/public space	29 July-4 Aug	Between 6.30pm & 8am
Stealing	Steal from dwelling	The Bulwark, Castlecrag	Residential - detached	31 July	Between 10.30pm & 8am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Rembrandt Drive, Middle Cove	Residential - driveway	31 July-1 Aug	Between 9.45pm & 8.15am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Rembrandt Drive, Middle Cove	Residential - detached	31 July-1 Aug	Between 9.30pm & 7am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	The Quarterdeck & North Arm Road, Middle Cove	Outdoor/public space	31 July-1 Aug	Between 11pm & 12.45am
Stealing	Other steal	Rembrandt Drive, Middle Cove	Residential - verandah	31 July-1 Aug	Between 9.45pm & 8.15am
Stealing	Other steal	Rutland Avenue, Castlecrag	Residential - verandah	31 July-1 Aug	Between 11am & 9am
Stealing	Steal from motor vehicle	Glenroy & Greenfield Avenue, Middle Cove	Outdoor/public space	1 Aug	Between 10am & 10.14am

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For routine enquiries or advice after an incident phone:
Chatswood Police
9414 8499
Lane Cove Police
9428 1977

To give information about any criminal activities, phone
Crime Stoppers
1800 333 000

The Police Assistance Line (PAL)
131 444

Early Morning Birdwatch

Join local expert, Andy Burton, on a little known bushwalk beside the Northbridge Golf Course and view the wrecks of Wreck Bay. Bring binoculars if you have them and a mug. Tea and damper to follow.

Beginners welcome.

Date: Sunday 28 November 2010

Time: 8–10am

Venue: Wreck Bay, western end of Dorset Road, Northbridge

Contact: Di Eva on 9777 7755 or email dianne.eva@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Cost: Free

Bookings essential (by phone only please)
Open Space Branch 9777 7755

Castlecrag Bushcare Groups

Why not join a Bushcare group now and help conserve the bushland in our local reserves? There are nine Castlecrag Bushcare groups supported by Council which provides each group with a trainer and the equipment and tools needed. Bushcare groups in Castlecrag always welcome new members.

Meeting Details:

DATE & TIME	RESERVE	CONTACT
First Sunday: 8–11am	Cortille	Sue Burk – 9958 4295
Second Sunday: 9am–12.30pm	Keep	Matthew Keighery – 9967 2682
Third Tuesday: 9am–12noon	Gargoyle	Margaret Hutchinson – 9958 4230
Third Saturday: 9am–12 noon	Rockley Street	Tanya Coates – 0411 086 105
Third Sunday: 9am–12 noon	Oriel Casement Edinburgh Road Retreat	Mandy Wilson – 9777 7875 Sue Burk – 9958 4295 Karen Ferguson – 9958 4417 Lorraine Cairnes – 9958 1213 OR Jill Newton – 9967 4933
Fourth Sunday: 9am–12 noon	Beverley Blacklock Reserve/Cheyne Walk	Frank Milner – 0409 586 533

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- **Tuesday 12 October 6.30pm**

Neighbourhood Watch

Briefing for North Shore Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee.

Chatswood Police Station. Residents welcome.

Further information: Snr Const Matt Jewell 9414 8499.

- **Tuesday 26 October 7.30pm for 8pm**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc. General Meeting

Sally Hamilton, Director of Sustainability Products, WCC will speak.

All welcome. Further information: info@castlecrag.org.au

- **Throughout November**

Willoughby City 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>

- **Wednesday 3 November 6.30-8pm**

Willoughby City Council

ClimateClever workshop. Learn tips for sustainable home design. Dougherty Community Centre.

For further information phone WCC 9777 1000.

- **Saturday 6 November at 1.30pm**

Sydney Opera Society

AGM followed by a lecture by Murray Dahm on Macbeth at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall.

Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851.

- **Monday 8 November 8.30am-12.30pm**

Willoughby City Council

'Follow your Recycling' Tour. Bus tour to Chullora Materials Recycling Facility. Meet at The Dougherty Centre.

Free but bookings essential. Contact Tejinder Gill on 9777 7730 or Tejinder.Gill@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

- **Tuesday 16 November at 8pm**

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA)

Meeting at the Artarmon Library; talk by Professor Linda Connor, Professor in the Department of Anthropology, School of Social and Political Sciences, University Sydney and President of the Australian Anthropological Society. Professor Connor's research interests include the anthropological study of environmental change.

- **Saturday 4 December at 5pm**

Sydney Opera Society

Christmas party at Willoughby Presbyterian Church Hall.

Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851.

- **Other Notices**

Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS)

Regular meetings on conservation topics.

Further information: Matthew Keighery 0408203511.

Walter Burley Griffin Society

Please contact the Secretary at info@griffinsociety.org for further information.

Castlecrag Community Library

Support your local library.

Opening hours: Tuesday 3-4.30pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Saturday 10am-12noon. Phone: 9958 8395.

Fun 4 Kids

Every Tuesday during term 3-5.30pm, games, craft, afternoon tea at St John's Anglican Church, Cnr McClelland Street and Warrane Road. Contact Richard 0418 291 219.

Breakin

Youth program of activities for school years 6-9 every Friday at 7pm at St John's Anglican Church, Cnr McClelland Street and Warrane Road. Contact Richard 0418 291 219 or Kathryn 0432943376.

Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

Please contact: editors@castlecrag.org.au with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.

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