



# NO SAY IN YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S DA?

## *New Planning Laws for NSW*

Prior to the State Government elections 18 months ago, the then Opposition leader, Barry O'Farrell, promised to return planning to the people – but he didn't say how he proposed to do this.

Planning issues were high on the list of matters which had caused the community to lose confidence in the government, particularly the notorious Part 3A. This Section of the Act allowed the Minister to take projects deemed to be of 'state significance' out of the hands of local councils, to be decided by the Minister or by a panel of unelected and unaccountable 'experts' who could ignore the input of residents. Communities in Ku-ring-gai saw their residential amenity and property values trashed in the rush to build high rise apartment blocks, many of which remain empty.

Once in office, the O'Farrell government set up a wide-ranging planning review. It did not assess the existing act for its shortcomings, even though, when introduced in 1979, it was highly regarded. A new planning act had to be prepared.

An independent panel consisting of Tim Moore, former Senior Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court and a former planning minister in a NSW Liberal government and lawyer Ron Dyer, held meetings in 2011 across the state, gathering opinions from the public, councils and professional planners.

Their report was to have been exhibited for public comment. Instead the government issued a Green Paper which set out the direction for a new planning system, but ignored all but a few of the recommendations of the independent panel. Instead of 'an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable framework' the new act was to be about 'economic development and competitiveness'.

The Green Paper is unashamedly pro-developer and developers have even been thanked for their role in its preparation.

Even before submissions could have been properly analysed, the Government has been busy on the next stage, the more detailed White Paper and the

draft legislation, which the government hopes to introduce to parliament by March next year. It hopes that the White Paper will be ready by the end of the year, to be followed by a three month exhibition period which would include the Christmas/New Year period and the summer holidays.

Under the government's proposed new system, it appears that the only opportunity for public input into planning and development proposals would be early in the planning process, at the strategic planning stage. Communities would have an opportunity to decide what their neighbourhood should be like, in terms of building height and envelope. At a recent meeting on the White Paper, the Minister was strongly pushing for random selection of individuals to take part in Strategic Planning. After that, **when a development application is lodged, residents would not be notified, nor would they have the opportunity to comment or to object.** There would be more complying development (no DA needed) and increasing use of private certifiers. State Planning Policies which have protected the environment and heritage will go. Decisions on developments would be taken out of the hands of local councillors and decided either by a Council's general manager and staff or by independent panels, the unelected, unaccountable 'experts'. Developers would have the opportunity to apply for spot rezonings and to appeal decisions they were not happy with. There would be 'enterprise zones' which may encompass whole suburbs and which would have few or no development controls.

Growing opposition to the government's proposals has led to the formation of the Better Planning Network, a growing alliance of community organisations which was the brainchild of the new president of the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society. The Castlecrag Progress Association, the Castlecrag Conservation Society, WEPA and the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations are all members. All Willoughby Councillors are strongly opposed to the proposals.

**It is vitally important that as many people as possible comment on the White Paper.** Before that, please write to the Premier asking for at least a 6 month exhibition period. These are the biggest changes in planning in over 30 years. Why the rush?

As the White Paper will come out between editions of *The Crag*, keep up to date and get ideas for your submissions from the campaign website: <http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do> and from <http://www.facebook.com/BetterPlanningNetwork> and also <http://twitter.com/BettPlanNetwork>

Also watch Quentin Dempster's Stateline Programme on iView and Wendy Bacon's article in [newmatilda.com](http://newmatilda.com) both from Friday 19th October.

Gay Spies

### ACCLAIMED AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECT TO SPEAK IN CASTLECRAG

**Architect Virginia Kerridge and Gloreen Goldin** will speak about the design and evolution of Gloreen's Castlecrag Home at the Castlecrag Progress Association's General Meeting

8:00pm

Wednesday, 21 November

The Marion Mahony Griffin Hall  
at Glenaeon School

121 Edinburgh Road Castlecrag

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## STOP PRESS:

On 26 October 2012 CPA Committee members Gay Spies and Jill Newton (sec), met on behalf of the BPN with the Hon Gladys Berejiklian, member for Willoughby, to voice the concerns of the BPN on a number of aspects of the NSW Government's planning reforms proposed in the Green Paper. We had a most positive meeting with Gladys who appeared to agree with most of our views.

## THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the  
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

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Please include your email address or  
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## CPA Report – August 2012

### "Meet the Candidates"

In place of the usual General Meeting in August, the CPA, jointly with Northbridge and Willoughby South Progress Associations, hosted a public meeting in the Marion Mahony Hall, Glenaeon School with the Local Council election candidates for Sailors Bay Ward and for Willoughby City Mayor.

At least 80 people from Sailors Bay Ward attended the meeting which was addressed by each of the two Mayoral candidates, Pat Reilly and Stuart Coppock, and three Sailors Bay Ward Councillor candidates, Cr. Gail Giles-Gidney, Cr. John Hooper and Hugh Eriksson. Gail and John each headed separate groups and Hugh was a candidate in Cr. Giles-Gidney's group. (Unfortunately the third lead candidate Peter Cohilj was unable to attend because of work obligations.)

The candidates were each given an opportunity to present their credentials and positions on local issues before answering questions randomly selected from a pool generated by audience members. The meeting was polite and orderly, and credit for this goes to the candidates, to the MC of the night, CPA president James Fitzpatrick, and to CPA Committee member, Joe Christie's meticulous handling of the questions.

We thanked Councillor Adrian Cox who did not recontest his seat in this election for all of his work of the past eight years. (See our tribute to Councillor Cox on page 4.)

### The New Council

We congratulate Pat Reilly on his re-election as Mayor of Willoughby City Council, and also the Sailors Bay Ward Councillors for the coming term; Gail Giles-Gidney, John Hooper and Hugh Eriksson.

In particular we congratulate our local Castlecrag representative, Cr. Gail Giles-Gidney, for achieving the highest number of votes at the Castlecrag polling booth and overall.

The table below shows the number of first preference votes for each group in Castlecrag and in the whole of Sailors Bay Ward.

Cr. Giles-Gidney's group C score of first preference votes was sufficient for Hugh Eriksson, the second candidate in this group, to be elected as the third Sailors Bay Ward Councillor.

The CPA looks forward to working with our three Ward Councillors for the next four years.

The new Council subsequently elected Cr. Coppock as Deputy Mayor for a one year term and we congratulate him on his success.

### CPA Submission to RMS Survey

For the CPA's latest submission to the RMS's survey on *Improving Safety at Edinburgh Road at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Road* – see link on CPA website.

Group	Castlecrag Community Centre		Sailors Bay Ward	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
A Cohilj	164	13.44	1,444	17.97
B Hooper	325	26.64	2,969	36.96
C Giles-Gidney	731	59.92	3,621	45.07
<b>Formal Votes</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,034</b>	<b>100</b>
Informal votes	89		898	
<b>TOTAL votes</b>	<b>1309</b>		<b>8,932</b>	

## Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

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## A New Stage for a Castlecrag Treasure



*Drawing by John Haycraft of Haycraft Duloy*

The Haven Amphitheatre is truly a hidden treasure - a fully functional outdoor theatre with seating for 350 and equipped with the lighting and audio facilities required by modern productions. It is nestled in a natural gully in Castlecrag just a few kilometres from the heart of Sydney and forms one of the most tangible links to the Castlecrag designers Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, to the early history of the suburb and to the ongoing cultural activity in the area.

In the 1930s, Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin and a team of Castlecrag residents, including the local sculptor and stonemason Bim Hilder, constructed the "New Haven Scenic Theatre" as their first major community project.

For several years the Haven hosted performances by local and visiting players and in 1943 Marion gifted ownership of the site to the local community as a dedicated performance space to be administered by Willoughby Council.

However, after Marion's departure from Australia and the advent of World War 2, the site fell into disrepair, abandoned to debris and overgrown with weeds. Over many years it became convenient to conceal building waste in this hidden gully below the roadway.

In 1972, led by the Castlecrag Conservation Society, the locals began restoration and carefully cleansed the site of the debris, weeds and years of neglect. In 1976 the community honoured its Griffin Heritage as part of the American Bicentennial celebration and the Haven Theatre was reclaimed. Local architect Robert Sheldon AM designed the new amphitheatre, community members donated funds and a legion of volunteers built the stage,

spanning the creek. This prepared the way for the first theatrical production in decades, Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, featuring Patricia Sheldon in the title role and directed by local cinematographer and movie director, Howard Rubie.

The amphitheatre was classified by the National Trust and included in its register of significant cultural, historic sites in 1987. By 1992 the years, the damp and the termites had again taken their dreadful toll. The rapidly dilapidating timber stage was redesigned and rebuilt by another army of locals. The Amphitheatre now boasted a 100 sq. metre stage, underground power, audio and lighting cables and revamped seating. A lock-up dressing room and a secure storage space were created underneath.

In nearly 80 years as a community theatre space the Haven has hosted hundreds of performances and celebrations and is quite properly regarded as one of the pivotal points around which the Castlecrag community turns.

Jazz concerts, poetry readings, plays, operettas, weddings, school celebrations, circus, parties, children's and youth theatre and community meetings have graced the facility. And of course on any Christmas Eve, Carols by Candlelight will attract several hundred local residents and their guests who fill the stone terraces and stand up to five deep on the surrounding roads.

Since 1981, the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee of local volunteers, under the leadership of Howard Rubie until his death in 2011 has operated the venue. All proceeds from Haven events are invested back into the theatre infrastructure and its productions and in so doing the Committee has been able to acquire and install modern lighting and audio systems and repair and maintain the venue.

However the "dreadful toll" requires our attention again. Weather, use and time continue to ravage the stage and substantial repair and refurbishment to the largely timber structure will soon be required.

In order to plan this effort effectively, the Committee has asked a group of prominent architectural, engineering and building experts to assist in determining what will be required to take the facility into the future and to help prepare an optimised design scheme.

In making its recommendations, the experts were mindful of the cost of refurbishment, the ongoing maintenance load both in terms of funds and in community effort, the sentiment and plan behind Marion's gift to the community, the cultural heritage significance of the site, and the impact of the structure on the site itself.

On the basis of this expert advice the Committee proposes to completely remove the current stage and replace it with a

maintenance-free, weather-proof, secure stage and storage zone in the position of the existing stage. This scheme has now been documented and formally presented to the Willoughby City Council which is now proceeding with the D.A. process.

The proposed design calls for an elliptical stage, oriented to maximise its projection to the audience, a secure and weather-proof green room and storage underneath, and construction in maintenance-free reinforced concrete.

In the Deed of Gift formalising the handover of the ownership of the Haven to the community, Marion emphasised its use as a dedicated performance space and specified concrete as one of the three preferred building materials for any structures required on the site. As a structural medium, reinforced concrete offers many advantages. Concrete can be shaped and coloured in almost limitless ways. It is the most economic solution, both in terms of its initial capital cost and its ongoing maintenance. Construction methods using concrete pose minimal risk to the general site and over its life, concrete has a carbon footprint commensurate with or better than that of an equivalent timber structure. And perhaps even more importantly, unlike timber, which requires substantial chemical treatment to preserve it against the damp and termites and which makes it no longer suitable for use as such in a Council park, concrete poses no such environmental burden.

While the efforts of a vast number of Castlecrag residents and visitors have nurtured and formed this unique cultural icon, Howard Rubie's input is legendary. His leadership of the Committee was untiring for decades right up until, sadly, he passed away in June 2011.

So in honour of one who so generously gave of his self to this community over so very many years the Committee intends to name the proposed stage after its long serving President:

### ***The Howard Rubie Memorial Stage.***

by The Haven Amphitheatre  
Management Committee

## Bai Yok Celebrates 11 years in Castlecrag

As a way of thanking the community for their support and friendship for the eleven years of operation at the Castlecrag restaurant, Michael has decided on a special event, and **all proceeds from it will go to the Haven New Stage Appeal.**

There will be a 3 course dinner with Thai dancing as entertainment, for a cost of \$30 per head on Monday November 26, 2012.

Book now at the restaurant – telephone 9967 3433 / 9967 3411.

## Castlecrag Notes

### Well deserved thanks to Adrian Cox, retiring Councillor

The Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) sincerely thanks Adrian Cox, a Sailors Bay Ward Councillor of eight years for his service, time and effort.

Adrian became interested in local issues with the proposed development of the Market Garden site adjacent to Shore ovals. As a concerned resident, he fought successfully for a lower density plan and a focus on sustainability. Water recycling and a wetland is now part of the plan, along with landscaping which references the site's agricultural heritage.

I had the good fortune to come to know Adrian in his role as Councillor on the Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee. Adrian has always been interested in ideas that improved our suburb and he has always made me feel that my ideas were valued.

Jill Newton, secretary of the CPA, says 'I don't think I can recall a bad decision he made! His considered decisions, as well as strong refusals assisted newer councillors. Without Adrian's good judgement I don't think we would have had some of our important decisions that have maintained the character and essence of Castlecrag'.

Adrienne Kabos from the Walter Burley Griffin Society says 'he always informed himself well. He could be relied upon to support all heritage, environmental and community issues'. Another who has worked closely with him reported that he has been the nicest person on Council.

But, Adrian has not been afraid of development. He strongly supported the (unsuccessful) redevelopment of Northbridge Plaza with its intensification of use that included Council services, housing for the aged and an improved north-facing public square and underground car park.

With his wife Lucy and their children, Adrian often found the hard work of being a councillor at odds with family life. Recently, we went to a Chinese food outlet in Lemon Grove together. He talked about his relief at moving on. We discussed Pat Reilly for whom Adrian was handing out how to vote forms. Adrian said 'I asked Pat once about having a succession plan'. Pat, quicker than most of us, replied; 'Why, where are you going?' Not far we hope, Adrian!

**Matthew Keighery**

Castlecrag Progress Association Committee Member

### Cr Gail Giles-Gidney

The following profile on Cr Gail Giles-Gidney is the first of three profiles on our ward councillors. Crs John Hooper and Hugh Eriksson will be profiled in the first two editions of the 2013 Crag.

It was a great honour to be re-elected as your Ward Councillor on September 8th.

My eldest child was a toddler when I first moved into Willoughby, now she is at university! In 1998, my second child arrived and, as with all mothers, I faced the many challenges of finding suitable day-care, attending our community health centers and enrolling two kids at preschools and then local school. This led on to visiting local parks, attending serial

sporting events, swimming lessons, netball and the gym whilst shopping locally, using the library, volunteering for bush care, attending performances at the town hall, renovating three homes and of course fighting traffic gridlock. In short, I am a just a regular Mum.

Over time with a background as a Project Manager, I extended my involvement with the NSW Cancer Council and NSW Parents Council and took all these fabulous family-life experiences for granted. Little did I know that all of the above would deliver the greatest practical background for so many aspects of Willoughby City Council work.

Since May 2009, it has been my continuous privilege to serve as your Sailors Bay Ward Councillor. Daily issues and involvements swerve between resolving conflicts surrounding Development Approvals to improving sporting access, battling traffic issues to footpath maintenance and encouraging aged community infrastructure planning. Albeit deemed a part-time role, each week I spend 30 to 40 hours on very interesting and challenging Council duties. On the whole I feel very lucky to have a job I love.

My next four years at Council promises to be even more full. The dramatically changing community demographics demand that we need to find better means to accommodate all of our residents needs. So, if you would like to discuss any aspect of your community in more detail, please email me and I will continue to work on resolving all these issues.

**Gail Giles-Gidney**

Phone 9967 0395

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

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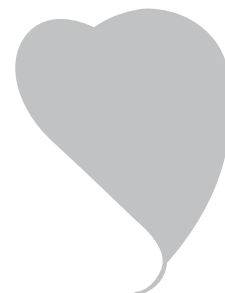
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## Castlecrag Notes cont...

### Alec Fitzsimons 1922-2012

Alec Fitzsimons lived in The Rampart, Castlecrag, with his wife Ronda since 1956, raising three children there.

Alec was orphaned at 17 and joined the RAAF at 19, flying many missions across Europe with the Wellington Bombers. He captained Gordon Rugby club in 1949.

Always active, Alec built and maintained the cricket pitch in Turret Reserve and was a regular at the Castlecrag tennis club.

He died suddenly and peacefully in his garden. His happy disposition will be sorely missed.

**Matthew Keighery**

### Les Vaughan 1915-2012

One of Castlecrag's residents of many years passed away recently. Les and his wife Eileen had lived continuously at the same home, his "dream yachtsman's paradise", in Edinburgh Road for 66 years. His business, Vaughan Bros. Motor Engineers, traded for several decades in Archer Street Chatswood. He was foundation member of the Willoughby District Historical Society and its president for many years. Les and Eileen were Willoughby Citizens of the Year in 1984.

A lookout seat dedicated to Les and Eileen Vaughan, with wide views over Upper Middle Harbour, is a well-known local landmark in Castlecrag.

Les was absolutely devoted to his family which includes John and Marlene Vaughan of Castlecrag. They remember him as "a

dedicated and inspirational gentleman; always of cheerful and positive disposition and loved and appreciated by all who had the privilege of knowing him."

### A new seat for contemplation



*Photo: Lorraine Cairnes*

A beautiful new timber seat has appeared beside the steep road leading up from the Castlecrag Marina. It is a scenic outlook and a welcome rest, halfway up that steep "heartbreak hill"!

Alfred Bernhard, Willoughby Council's Bushland manager, was behind the installation, and he says: "As well as its role as a resting spot on heartbreak hill, it is really a quiet gesture for Marion Mahony Griffin... there are such special angophoras to be enjoyed from that spot and one of Marion's most beautiful drawings of a small house under a magnificent angophora was the prompt [for the location of the seat]. It could also be part of the Marion and Walter walks we are planning for next year's celebration of their centenary in Australia. The wood used is blackbutt with turpentine for the legs, made by our timber artisan, Andrew Smith. Over the past decade or so we have installed about

50 similar benches in bush settings and vantage points. Other nearby sites include the Sunnyside Crescent lookout, Harold Reid Reserve, with a goanna-inspired log seat as well as in the Lookout, Oriel and Casement Reserves."

Thank you Alfred and the Council for installing this lovely seat. It is already receiving a lot of use by people walking up the steep hill, who pause to contemplate the beautiful trees and the outlook over Sailors Bay. Marion Mahony Griffin would have been pleased!

### Centenary of Canberra celebrations

Centenary of Canberra Creative Director, Robyn Archer AO and Centenary Heritage and History Advisor, Dr Dave Headon have made the journey to Lucknow in India for a commemorative ceremony at the gravesite of Walter Burley Griffin.

The ceremony took place in September at the Nishatganj Cemetery in Lucknow in collaboration with Lucknow Anglican Minister, Reverend Subhan, the Australian High Commission and Craft ACT. As part of the ceremony water from Lake Burley Griffin was sprinkled on the grave from a glass vessel created by Canberra based glass artist Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello.

The visit to the gravesite marks the beginning of a series of international Centenary of Canberra launches and lectures for Ms Archer and Dr Headon. Their visit to India has been supported by a grant from the Australia India Council.

The official programme for next year's events is now available on [www.canberra100.com.au](http://www.canberra100.com.au)

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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](http://www.architecture.org.au)) and conducts walking tours around Castlecrag and Middle Cove.*

### Coomara, 239 Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag

Edinburgh Road is the spine of the Castlecrag peninsula, dividing the northern from the southern side. Walking along this road you will come across Stokes Park and on its eastern side is an interesting house called *Coomara*. This house is very deceptive in appearance, which I found fascinating; it is very wide, covering the site which comprises the width of three regular blocks.

Through my curiosity I met and was invited in by the owners. Once inside, the house is basically one room deep with a hallway. Looks can be deceiving! No sooner was I in the house than I was outside again on the wonderful, north-facing rear terrace which runs along the entire width of the house. One could sit here all day and absorb the spectacular view of Sugarloaf Bay through the trees. The edge of this terrace is also the rear boundary of the block, so that the total land area is actually quite small.

The house was approved to be built in 1956. The architect, W.J. McMurray, was

active in Sydney in the early 50's. His design incorporates three stone walls which anchor the house to the site, one at each end and one in the middle near the front door. The front wall is clad in vertical timber boarding across which is placed the name *Coomara*.

The wide block makes a semi-circular driveway possible. The swimming pool behind a fence on the right is a later addition, located where the clothes line used to be. I found this piece of information by researching the house plans at Council. They were hand-drawn, water-coloured drawings.

The house is divided into two parts. On the left of the entry are the living and dining areas, or public spaces, highlighted by a skillion, or one-way sloping, roof. To the right of the entry are the bedrooms and bathrooms, or private spaces, with a flat roof. The kitchen is in the middle of the house, opposite the front door.

The living room has a wonderful huge

copper frieze depicting a scene of Hong Kong harbour; the owners told me that it was in the house when they bought it. The living room also has built-in seating in an L-shaped configuration and a bar. The bar is defined by a Japanese inspired sliding door, a black timber grid in-filled with hessian. Streams of sunlight enter the living and dining rooms through a continuous wall of aluminium-framed, glass sliding doors opening to the northern terrace.

The floor of the house is supported by 900 mm diameter concrete piers. Originally the undercroft of the house, except for the garage, was an open area which over time had been enclosed to provide additional space.

This house is another wonderful example of a mid 20th century architect-designed house in Castlecrag. Luckily it has not been demolished.

**Ben Gerstel**  
**Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd**  
 Email: [bgerstel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bgerstel@optusnet.com.au)



Photo: Ben Gerstel



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# CASTLECRAG WALKWAYS – A Strategy for the Future

Concrete footpaths first appeared in our suburbs in the early 1900's with the advent of local bus and rail services.

Different materials have been used for footpaths, such as concrete pavers, precast slabs, and compacted gravels, but concrete is still preferred by many Local Government Authorities, for both speed of construction and perceived minimal maintenance.

With the development of environmental awareness, this 100-plus year precedent is being questioned. There are more appropriate ways to provide footpaths, which have lower embodied energy, permit water penetration to replenish ground water, have a more appropriate appearance, maintain flexibility for replacement, and have low maintenance cost.

Willoughby City Council recently proposed a draft master plan for footpaths within Castlecrag. Concern was triggered immediately amongst residents, related to the streets for which concrete footpaths were proposed, the effect on our natural environment, including rocky outcrops and significant trees; and the visual impact of such footpaths on Castlecrag.

Castlecrag Progress Association saw an opportunity to research and develop a strategy for walkways within Castlecrag and requested an extension of time to November 2012 to respond to Council's draft master plan. The CPA document, outlined below, is part of the response from the CPA to Willoughby City Council. A full copy of our submission can be found on our website: [www.castlecrag.org.au](http://www.castlecrag.org.au).

## PROPOSED STRATEGY

**A Draft Walkways Strategy has been prepared by the Castlecrag Progress Association to assist in defining principles and design criteria for walkways within Castlecrag. The draft strategy addresses functional need, as well as contextual, ecological, historical and aesthetic issues.**

All pedestrian-trafficable zones usually referred to as footways, footpaths, tracks, or walkways are referred to in the proposed strategy as "walkways". This is intended to identify a walkway as different from the traditional footpath, both in style, location and construction.

There are many opinions regarding the required attributes of walkways within Castlecrag. These are generally related to historical precedent, existing natural or constructed impediments, the need for linkages to other walkways and other uses, safety, and aesthetic considerations.

This proposed strategy suggests that traditional concrete footpaths within nature strip zones are generally not appropriate for Castlecrag, because of the suburb's unique relationship to the surrounding bush land, and the negative environmental elements associated with concrete construction, and the traditions associated with the Griffin Conservation area.

It proposes alternative solutions to address all of the points of view expressed within the community. This proposal does not remove the need for community involvement and assessment of proposed individual walkways, but in assessing these comments, it is important that the whole community's usage of any particular walkway is also considered, particularly links to other walkways, public transport nodes, recreational spaces and the village centre.

This strategy does not indicate where walkways should go, but rather proposes principles and a process to test their need, and some design criteria for their construction.

The CPA suggests that any assessment is best done through demonstration projects so that the effect and efficacy of such projects are able to be fully assessed.

The Castlecrag Progress Association proposes the following principles for any walkway design.

- Walkways should only be constructed where a need can clearly be demonstrated.
- Walkways should be considered where they relate to large pedestrian catchments, with the possibility of linking to existing walkways, public transport nodes, the village centre, parks and reserves.
- All walkways should be constructed from materials appropriate for their intended use and location.
- Walkways should be located and constructed to minimize their visual impact and to protect existing vegetation and natural features.
- Walkways should not necessarily be straight, but can meander through the existing walkway zones and nature strips, providing a natural and organic flow, and a more visually-interesting journey.

- Walkways which share or cross roads should be signed and have appropriate surface treatments.

## WALKWAY GUIDELINES

The following guide is proposed for any new or replacement walkways within Castlecrag.

### 1. LOCATION

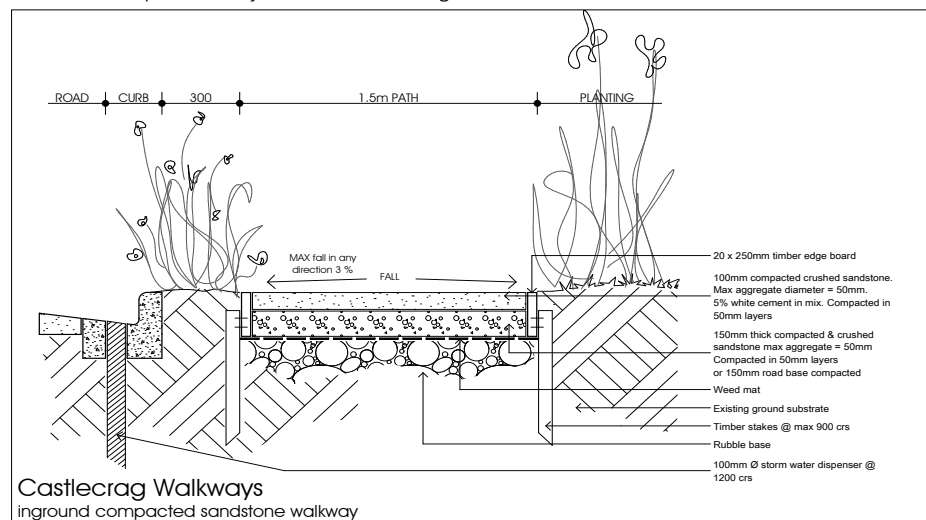
#### Which side of the road?

To determine on which side of the road the walkway should be located, the following elements should be considered:

- User catchment – will one side have a significantly larger user catchment? (that is, more houses or more connecting streets)
- Linkages – will one side have significantly more links to existing or proposed walkways, and will it minimise crossings of the vehicle carriageway?
- Impediment – does one side have a significantly higher number of impediments, such as existing plantings or rock outcrops?

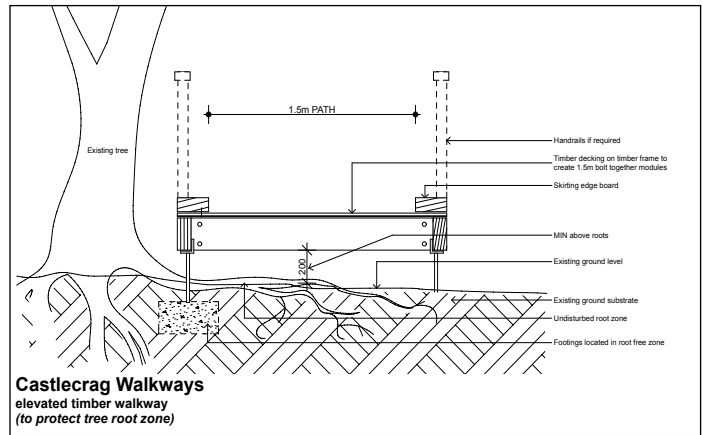
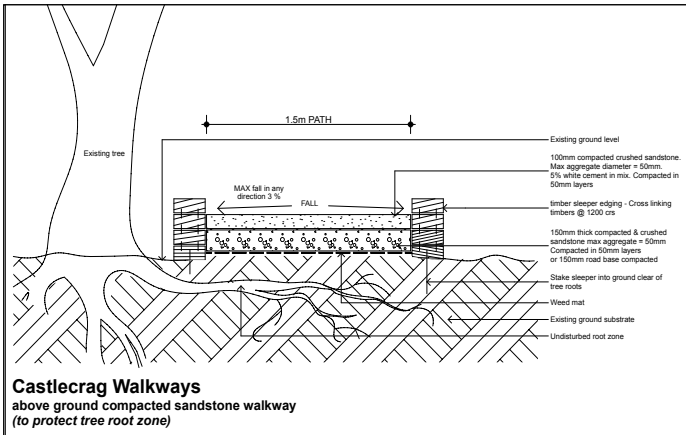
### CROSS SECTION THROUGH A TYPICAL FUTURE CASTLECRAG WALKWAY

NOTE: Compacted sandstone walkways should be laid in maximum gradients of 3%.  
For steeper walkways other materials might be needed.



# Castlecrag Walkways cont...

## CROSS SECTIONS ABOVE GROUND WALKWAYS DESIGNED TO PROTECT TREE ROOTS



- Power Poles and cables – walkways are best located under existing street power poles and aerial cabling, leaving the alternative side clear for trees to grow vertically unencumbered.

*Cheyne Walk*



*Elevated walkway to protect tree roots*



it requires little or no excavation, bridging over the root zones, with or without handrails, and with supporting structures placed clear of any existing roots, or root pathways; or stopping the walkway on either side of an existing root zone and providing an alternate and safe walkway zone in another location.

## 2. EXISTING TREES

### Protection

Existing landscape plantings of any scale or type should be protected. Walkways should be constructed such that they do not damage the roots of existing trees, cause soil compaction around root zones, change drainage patterns, or impede the potential root zone of existing trees as they grow.

This can be achieved by one of the following methods:

- Elevating the proposed walkway so

## 3. EXISTING IMPASSABLE ZONES

### Protection

Zones of any proposed walkway may be made impassable because of barriers including existing vegetation, rocky outcrops, steep grades, or wet zones.

Should a need be demonstrated for a walkway, and an alternative location/linkage cannot be provided, the proposed walkway should be constructed using

elevated or bridging structures which do not alter the existing landform or features.

## 4. ROAD CROSSINGS

### Pedestrian zones

Pedestrians should be able to move safely throughout the Castlecrag. This includes the crossing of existing roads or walking along the edge of these roads where no suitable alternative is appropriate.

Roadway crossings should provide linkages and safety crossing zones, be constructed in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards, and generally be located at an existing intersection with clear vision to pedestrians and drivers of oncoming vehicles.

If a crossing is required at any other point along a road, it should be signed, and the road surface treated to indicate that it is a pedestrian crossing area.

In some locations, particularly within the Griffin Heritage Precinct, a shared carriageway should be defined and constructed in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards.

The shared zone should be paved in a suitable defining material, such as granite sets, paving, clear edge marking through the use of elevated cats eyes etc.; and signage should be installed to clearly define a shared carriageway zone.

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## Castlecrag Walkways cont...

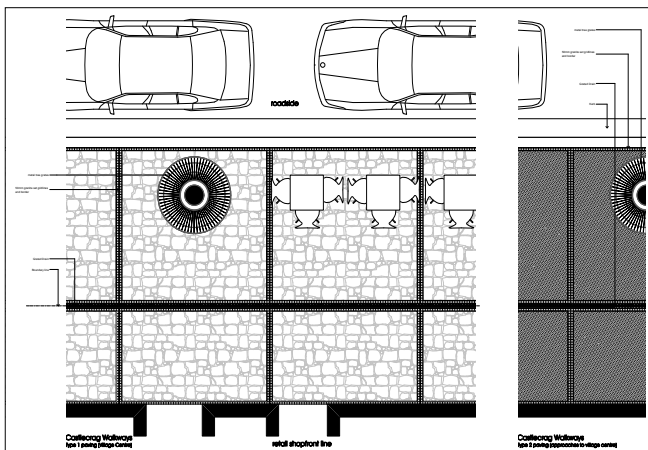
### 5. FORM

#### Relationship to existing grades, landscape and use

Walkways when constructed to replace existing paths, to run through reserves or bush land or through nature strips should be constructed such that the walkway relates to landform, existing or proposed vegetation and usage and, where applicable, to comply with the Reserve Action Plan prepared by Council in consultation with the community.

Walkways through bush land should only be considered when the subject bush land has been restored to a sustainable condition suitable to withstand additional use.

#### PAVING LAYOUT EXAMPLES FOR THE VILLAGE CENTRE & APPROACHES



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS • environment news • ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### CASTLECRAG WILDLIFE CORRIDORS – Local Action Plan for a Global Program

Imagine that you are a small native creature, dependent on special habitat for your shelter, food, and nesting places. You need to be able to move around to find all these needs in your territory, and if you can't find food or shelter in one place, you have to move to somewhere else nearby or you will not survive.

And we can help! Our gardens can be part of a network of linked habitat, allowing small native creatures to move about with safety, and to recolonise areas where habitat has been restored – such as the bushland reserves throughout Castlecrag.

At the local neighbourhood scale, we can each do a bit to help local wildlife, by planting native plants in our gardens, providing shelter through our gardens and beside roads, creating a frog bog and pond, or simply not "cleaning up" too much! A wild corner in your garden can be a habitat haven for creatures such as lizards, bandicoots, small birds, or frogs.

We are talking about local "ecological linkages", and this is part of a global program for large scale corridors to interconnect natural areas such as national parks. An Australian National Advisory Committee is preparing Australia's first 2012 National Wildlife Corridors Strategy.

Local linkages are essential in this whole concept. Without habitat connectivity, the local native creatures face a bleak future.

Let's give them a hand! Your garden and your street should be part of a wildlife corridor! Readers can get planting ideas from the CPA Native Plant Guide for Castlecrag.

### CASTLECRAG NORTHERN ESCARPMENT BUSHCARE – Bushcarers Wanted!

Castlecrag Northern Escarpment Bushcare is our newest Bushcare group.

As a new group, it urgently needs members, and perhaps you can spare one weekend morning a month to help conserve this beautiful bushland reserve.

The Northern Escarpment is the largest and wildest of the Castlecrag bushland reserves, with waterfrontage to Sailors Bay and wonderful outlooks across the waters of Middle Harbour.

At present the group consists of just four regulars, lead by leading landscape and bushland expert Richard Blacklock, whose mother, the legendary Beverley Blacklock, was one of the founders of the Castlecrag Bushcare movement.

Bushcare sessions are not arduous, and Willoughby Council supports each group with a trainer, tools, and insurance. A Bushcare session is usually three hours but always includes a good break for tea, coffee and a cake. There is no need to have any special training to come along and see what it's all about, and Council provides training free for those willing to join in.

If you live along Edinburgh Road adjacent to the Northern escarpment, or anywhere else in Castlecrag, do give this some thought. You will be very welcome.

Richard Blacklock can be contacted on 0417217937. The group meets on the first Sunday of each month from 9am till 12. The next sessions will be on 4th November; and 2nd December. Meet at the back of Stoker Playground in Edinburgh Road.

### FAREWELL, ROCKLEY STREET BUSHCARE GROUP

After several years of hard work restoring bushland in the Rockley Street section of The Retreat Reserve, the Rockley Street Bushcare Group has decided it's time to wind up. This group, known as the "Under Thirties" Group, has found that its members are having too many other responsibilities in their lives to commit to the bushcare work. Perhaps another group of locals will form to carry on their work in the future.

We thank the Rockley Street group and their convenor Tanya Coates for all the wonderful work. They leave the bush there in very good condition.

### FUNNEL WEB SPIDER SEASON

With the warm and humid summer weather, these spiders will be on the move. Take care especially in the garden, and on entering swimming pools!

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## Neighbourhood Watch

(Castlecrag and Middle Cove)

Police Incident Report July–September 2012

Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of the year and ALL are welcome. They are held at Chatswood Police station at 6.30pm and last about an hour. The next two are therefore on 12th Feb and 9th April.

At this festive time of year, or any other time really, if you are having a party please notify the police. They will cruise by when they can, especially around closing time. Chatswood Police 9414 8499.

If you find a set of car keys, it is worth handing them in to police. They can often chase up the owner via the car dealership where they can get the chassis number off the key and hence locate the owner through the RTA/ RMS. A new key for a late model European car can cost up to \$1000 and so your actions may be well appreciated.

Incident Category	Details	Address	Premise	Date	Start Time
Break and enter	Break/enter and steal	The Tor Walk Castlecrag	Residential	Thurs 12th July	3.53am
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	The Rampart Castlecrag	Residential	Wed 11th July	9.10pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sat 4th August	8.30pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Rutland Ave Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sat 4th August	5.00pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Edinburgh Rd and Linden Way Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sat 4th August	1.00am
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Sat 4th August	9.00pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Rembrandt Drive Middle Cove	Residential	Tues 14th August	2.30am
Break and enter	Break/enter Intent steal	The Parapet Castlecrag	Recreation/Club	Mon 27th August	4.00pm
Malicious damage	Graffiti	Glenroy Ave Middle Cove	Education Private School	Fri 24th August	4.00pm
Assault	Assault common	Lane W71 and Raeburn Ave Castlecrag	Outdoor/public place	Wed 29th August	7.00pm
Malicious damage	Graffiti	Glenroy Ave Middle Cove	Residential	Thurs 6th Sept	4.99pm
Malicious damage	Graffiti	Sunnyside Cres Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 22nd Sept	5.00pm
Malicious damage	Malicious damage to property	Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag	Residential	Sat 22nd Sept	10.00am

### KEEP THESE PHONE NUMBERS HANDY

For URGENT police assistance including a suspected crime in progress

**000**

For routine enquiries or advice after an incident phone: Chatswood Police

**9414 8499**

To give information about any criminal activities, phone Crime Stoppers

**1800 333 000**

The Police Assistance Line (PAL)

**131 444**



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# Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

## • **Saturday 3 November, 1:30pm**

Sydney Opera Society

Speaker: Mr Murray Dahm, "Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades" and AGM  
Presbyterian Church Hall, cnr Laurel and High Streets, Willoughby  
Enquiries: Shirley Robertson, on 9605 5851

## • **Tuesday 20 November, 8pm**

Willoughby Environment Protection Association (WEPA)

Speaker: Sharyn Munro, "Rich Land, Wasteland: How Coal is Killing Australia"

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road

See [www.wepa.org.au](http://www.wepa.org.au) for information

## • **Wednesday 21 November, 8pm**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) Inc

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road

Speaker: Architect Virginia Kerridge

All welcome. Contact: [info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au) for further information

## • **Friday 23 November, 8pm and Sunday 25 November, 2pm**

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

Handel's "Messiah"

The Concourse, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Enquiries: 9777 7639 Bookings: 9020 6968

## • **Saturday 8 December, 2pm**

Willoughby District Historical Society

Members' Christmas Party

Willoughby Museum, 58 Johnston Street, Chatswood

Enquiries: 9410 3203 or email [willoughbydistrict@bigpond.com](mailto:willoughbydistrict@bigpond.com)

## • **Monday, 24 December, 7:30pm**

Carols by Candlelight. All welcome.

The Haven Amphitheatre

Transport details [www.thehaven.biz/running-events/coming-events/](http://www.thehaven.biz/running-events/coming-events/)

## OTHER NOTICES

### Castlecrag Bushcare Groups' Meeting Dates

First Sunday of the month

- Cortile Reserve; 8am–11am; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295
- Northern Escarpment; 9am–12noon; contact Richard Blacklock 0417 217 937 or 9958 8468

Second Saturday of the month

- Gargoyle Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Margaret Hutchinson 9958 4230

Second Sunday of the month

- Keep Reserve; 9am–12.30pm; contact Matthew Keighery 9967 2682
- Retreat Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213 or Jill Newton 9967 4933

Third Saturday of the month

- Torquay Estate Reserve; 1pm–3pm; contact Jo Nolan 9958 8237

Third Sunday of the month

- Beverley Blacklock Reserve/Cheyne Walk, 9am–12 noon, contact Frances Davis at WCC 9777 1000
- Casement Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Sue Burk 9958 4295
- Oriel Reserve; 9am–12noon; contact Mandy Wilson 9777 7875 or Rob Gibson 0409 035 614

### Castlecrag Community Library

Support your local library. Opening hours: Tuesday 3pm–4.30pm;

Thursday 2pm–5pm; Saturday 10am–12noon

Phone: 9958 8395

Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

Please contact: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au) with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.



## Local Christmas Church Services



### • **Carols@Northbridge Oval**

Saturday Evening 1 December

6:30pm for picnic (bye everything) and 7:30pm for the Carol singing. Brought by the Combined Christian Churches of Northbridge.

<http://carolsatnorthbridge.com.au/>

### • **St Marks Anglican Church**

Tunks Street, Northbridge

. Sunday 18 December: 5:00 pm Carols

. Christmas Eve: 5:00 pm Family Service, 11:00 pm Late Service

. Christmas Day: 9:00 am Service with Communion.

Rev Adam Street, ph: 9958 5794

[www.northbridgeanglican.org.au](http://www.northbridgeanglican.org.au)

### • **St Philip Neri Catholic Church**

224 Sailors Bay Rd, Northbridge

. Christmas Eve: 6:30 pm Carols in the amphitheatre, 7:00 pm Mass

. Christmas Day: 9:00 am Mass

Fr Rex Curry, ph: 9438 1011

[www.lns.org.au](http://www.lns.org.au)

### • **Uniting Church**

Castlecrag & Northbridge

. Christmas Day: 8:00 am Service - Charles Street,

Castlecrag

. Christmas Day: 9:00 am Service - Gunyah Street, Northbridge

Rev Yangrae Son, ph: 9958 7594

[www.northbridgecastlecragu.ca.org.au](http://www.northbridgecastlecragu.ca.org.au)

### • **Northside Baptist Church**

63 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest

. Carols in Ernest Place: 4pm Sunday 23rd December

. Christmas Eve: 7:00 pm Service

. Christmas Day: 9:30 am Service with children's talk

Rev Sid Grindley, ph: 9901 4299

[www.northsidebp.org](http://www.northsidebp.org)

### • **Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney**

32 Frenchs Rd, Willoughby

Contact for Christmas Services is:

Rev. Hagop Sarkissian, ph: 9958 2989

[www.aecs.org.au](http://www.aecs.org.au)

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