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CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 9 April, 2014, 8pm

MEET THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Meet those candidates who are able to attend on the night, hear them speak about their vision for Willoughby City, find out what they are really like, and have them answer your questions.

The Marion Mahony Griffin Hall at Glenaeon School
121 Edinburgh Road Castlecrag

All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Mayor Pat Reilly lifted the community

– 1952-2014



Photo: Elise Hassey, Courtesy WCC

left us but The Concourse remains and it will remain his gift to the people of Willoughby for a long, long time to come.'

Pat supported the City of Willoughby to become the City of Diversity, which celebrates many cultural groups and provides a huge range of activities and support to residents of all ages.

He believed in an independent, progressive Council and tried hard to keep party politics out of its deliberations. He was the people's Mayor, a generous and caring person who was ready to listen to everyone. John Owen, former General Manager of Willoughby Council from 1997 to 2007, said at his funeral '... Pat was a remarkable man. He continued to look out for people, to look into people, to see what was in them that he could mentor and lift ... Through Pat's life he lifted the community'

Pat was a great friend of Castlecrag. He supported our struggles to prevent the closure of the Castlecrag Infants School; to stop the planned Warringah Freeway which would have cut the peninsula in two; and to preserve the historic Foreshore Cottages. Pat always supported our bushcare activities and the Haven Amphitheatre. Mayor Reilly, usually accompanied by his charming Lady Mayoress Beth, opened our Fairs, was an obliging guest speaker at our Progress Association meetings and generally took a huge interest in what was happening in our community.

We will miss Pat Reilly so much but we will try to keep his vision alive.

A contingent of Castlecrag residents including members of our Progress Association attended the packed funeral service at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood, and later a tribute concert in the Concourse, to farewell our beloved Mayor Pat Reilly. Pat died peacefully on 20 January 2013 with his wife Beth and daughter Sophie by his side. We wish to express our sympathy and great sadness to Beth and Sophie as well as to Willoughby City Council staff and Councillors.

Pat, the longest continuously-serving Mayor on the North Shore, became the first popularly-elected Mayor of Willoughby in 1999. He served as Mayor for 17 years and was on Council for 27 years, representing Middle Harbour Ward.

Pat lived and worked for most of his life in

Willoughby. He and his family dedicated themselves to delivering the best community services and amenities for Willoughby City.

He succeeded in maintaining the sense of history and individuality of our communities by supporting appropriate high-rise development in the Chatswood CBD. This meant that Willoughby City Council (unlike neighbouring Ku-ring-gai Council) has largely been able to control its development because it complied over the years with the dwelling density requirements of various NSW State Governments. However he was still determined to give Chatswood a heart. As Pat's nephew, Matthew Reilly said in his Eulogy: 'The Concourse.....will be Pat's legacy. It's the sparkling jewel in the crown that is Willoughby. There is nothing like it in Greater Sydney. It took vision to start it and uncompromising vision to deliver it. Pat has

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

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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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Copy & Advertising Deadline

Monday, 12 May, 2014

Design, Typesetting & Printing

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Castlecrag Progress Association news and update**General Meeting**

We were fortunate to have the Hon.
Gladys Berejiklian, NSW State Member for
Willoughby, Minister for Transport, as guest
speaker at our October 2013 meeting.

Ms Berejiklian updated us on transport
issues, particularly on the Opal Card, the
smart card that had been introduced
some months before to include train
services from the city to Chatswood. A
smart card had been planned over the
years and then terminated, so Gladys is to
be congratulated for her achievement in
implementing this card.

Gladys also spoke on an issue dear to our
hearts, the long-awaited right-hand turn
arrow from Edinburgh Road into Eastern
Valley Way. Unfortunately as none of the
options proposed by the RMS had included
a right hand turn, the meeting was less
than impressed. Many of us were left
wondering what needed to occur, short
of a fatal accident, to achieve this turning
arrow. *[NB The RMS has recently updated
the options to include the right hand turn
arrow option!!! – see comment on page 4
of this issue of The Crag.]*

Most questions for Gladys concerned
the Government's controversial proposed
planning laws. Gladys did not immediately
answer most of the questions posed by
our relatively informed community, instead
suggesting we send written submissions
and questions to her for follow up.

**Status of Castlecrag Village Centre
Public Domain Upgrade**

Council's resolution on this matter last
November included the following:

- the Castlecrag Public Domain Upgrade
Improvement Plan be approved for
construction, with the new paver colour
being 'Granite Bronze';
- the community notice board and
installation of additional cycle stands be
included, with their location finalised
after consultation with the respective
interest groups;
- the use of interpretive overlay on
seating, and incorporation of a Bim
Hilder inspired vertical sculpture be
considered as a separate project to

be implemented at a future date as
a Castlecrag Community Project that
could be funded through sponsorship;

- the works be placed to tender for
completion by June 2014.

A site meeting was held in mid-February
2014, which was organised and attended
by our ward Councilors. Council officers,
Council's contracted landscape architect,
Quadrangle Shopping Village management
and several community representatives also
attended. The Quadrangle management
and the community representatives were
given a choice of two different coloured
pavers to be used for the public domain
of the Village Centre, the Granite Bronze
paver and a lighter coloured paver. The
lighter coloured pavers overwhelmingly
won the day!

Stage 1 of the upgrade will now proceed.
However the CPA will continue to press
for the complete revitalisation of our
Village Centre as previously requested –
see comment on page 4 of the June 2013
Crag (available on the CPA website).

Diana Jones

The CPA was delighted that our wonderful
CPA treasurer, Diana Jones, together with
the well-known Don Wilson, founder
of Bushcare's Major Day Out and active
participant of many Bushcare groups,
jointly received The Willoughby Citizen
of the Year Award on Australia Day, 26
January 2014 – see more on Diana's award
on page 3 of this issue of the *Crag*. We
congratulate Diana and Don on this well
deserved recognition.

Jill Newton
CPA Secretary

Castlecrag Library

Our own Castlecrag branch of the
Willoughby Library has a wonderful
selection of children's books, as well as
those for their parents.

Why don't you pay it a visit? It is open
Tuesday 3pm–4:30 pm, Thursday 2pm–
5pm and Saturday mornings from 10am–
12 noon. It is in the Rampart, near the
kindergarten. Phone 9958 8395.

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014 – NOW DUE**

(\$20 per person, \$10 per student)

I wish to renew / apply for membership for the CPA Inc., and enclose payment of:
(For further options to pay memberships please visit www.castlecrag.org.au and select 'Membership option')

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If you wish to make a donation, it will be most welcome. I enclose my donation of:

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Queries to:

info@castlecrag.org.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Diana Jones Willoughby Citizen of the Year

On Sunday 26 January 2014, Australia Day, the Willoughby Citizen of the Year Award was presented to 'two outstanding people', our treasurer Diana Jones, and Don Wilson founder of the national bushcare volunteer day, Bushcare's Major Day Out. The citation for Diana stated that 'Diana Jones is the dedicated Treasurer of five voluntary organisations in the Willoughby area and has given generous support to many local organisations including Castlecrag Progress Association, Willoughby Environment Protection Association, Castlecrag Conservation Society, Federation of Willoughby Progress Association, Salvation Army and Castlecrag Library. Her service has inspired and helped the community of Castlecrag and the wider Willoughby area.'

Diana is truly a gem. We seriously question if many of our organisations could continue without her help! Diana's popularity was clearly reflected by the large group of her friends and family that attended the award ceremony and continued to celebrate over lunch at the Quadrangle. We congratulate and thank Diana as well as her husband Bob, daughter Angela and family.

James Fitzpatrick, former CPA President

James' firm, Fitzpatrick + Partners, of which he is managing partner, together with Hassell, received National Commendations for Commercial Architecture and Urban Design for 1 Brookfield Place, Perth, WA

in the 2013 National Architecture Awards announced by the Australian Institute of Architects on 7 November 2013 at the Sydney Opera House. 38 projects were awarded a total of 55 awards and commendations. The 2013 national jury selected these projects from the 166 eligible award winners progressing from the Institute's state and territory awards series earlier in the year. Fitzpatrick + Partners with Hassell had previously won the Ross Chisholm and Gil Nicol Award for Commercial Architecture and the John Septimus Roe Award for Urban Design for 1 Brookfield Place awarded by the WA Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects. The WA Chapter had also awarded 1 Brookfield Place the Margaret Pitt Morrison Award for Heritage.

Garry Browne AM of Castlecrag

For being awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List 2014 for significant service to the community as a supporter of a range of social welfare, youth, Jewish and environmental organisations, and to business.



Diana Jones receives her award from Australia Day Ambassador Iva Davies AM (ICEHOUSE), also Acting Mayor Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney (r) and The Hon Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Member for Willoughby (l). Photo: J. Newton.

Mary Bogнар, pharmacist, of Castlecrag Pharmacy

On 2 April 2014 Mary will celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the opening of her Castlecrag Pharmacy. We congratulate Mary for her achievements with this acclaimed and award winning pharmacy. We thank her for choosing Castlecrag for her pharmacy and for her support to the community!

As well as trying hard to keep us well and giving us valuable and free advice over the years, Mary has a great instant photo lab! Try having some of your digital photos printed at Castlecrag Pharmacy. Such quality for 19 cents a print is a steal! You won't be disappointed.

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Rotary award for Bob McKillop



Bob receiving the award from John Bolton, President of the Rotary Club of Northbridge. Photographer unknown.

At the end of last year Bob McKillop was presented with a Rotary Community Service Award, at a dinner marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of Northbridge Rotary Club. His citation is as follows.

"Bob a rural scientist, worked in developing countries throughout his professional career, focusing on Asia and the Pacific region, particularly Papua New Guinea. He is the author of several papers about rural subjects in those areas.

Bob is also a railways enthusiast. He's an active historical researcher and prolific author on industrial and railway history. His books include an authoritative history of Central Station. He joined the Light Railway Research Society of Australia almost 50 years ago, was its magazine editor for more than 20 years and is a Life Member of the Society. More recently, he joined the staff

of the Australian Railway Historical Society in Sydney as editor of its magazine.

But we're not honoring Bob this evening for his substantial rural contributions nor for his valuable railways history writings.

A Castlecrag resident, Bob is a long term member of Castlecrag Progress Association, was its President for many years and edited its newsletter *The Crag*. He represented Castlecrag on the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations and was also its Secretary for many years. In both roles, Bob used his formidable writing skills to generate authoritative, hard-hitting submissions to State and Local governments on planning issues. He also sat on the Willoughby Traffic Committee for many years, representing community views on traffic and parking to RTA, Police and Council.

In January 2010, he joined Willoughby District Historical Society as a volunteer and has been leading the effort to revitalise Willoughby Museum in Chatswood. With a small band of volunteers, he has developed new policies, sorted through accumulated collections, acquired significant objects and held important exhibitions.

Bob's extraordinary representation of the community through his contributions to local issues and history, make him well deserving of this Community Service award."

Our congratulations are also extended to Bob on receiving this honour.

EDINBURGH ROAD – EASTERN VALLEY WAY Right hand turn arrow

Readers will recall the long campaign by the CPA and Castlecrag community to have a right-hand turn arrow installed at the east side of the Edinburgh Road intersection with Eastern Valley Way. Willoughby Council has now sent residents a letter advising that "... after considering community feedback RMS [Roads and Maritime Services] has now agreed to install a right turn phase subject to Council's concurrence". Without such an arrow, there are long delays as vehicles await a safe crossing; traffic either darts across at the last minute (a recipe for serious accidents) or takes a "rat run" through the "avenues" in Willoughby to avoid long queuing and danger of right hand turns.

Council, in this letter, invites feedback to the RMS proposal and we strongly suggest that you respond. Of course, no proposal is without some impacts, and there might be objections or suggestions for improvement, but IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A RIGHT-HAND TURN ARROW IS DESIRABLE YOU NEED TO RESPOND BY SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL.

Just post the form in the letter of consultation, or email Council at email@willoughby.nsw.gov.au, or phone James Brocklebank (Group Leader, Traffic and Transport) on 9777 7750. Time for comments has been extended until **mid-April 2014**.

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Mayoral By-election

Willoughby City lost its Mayor with the death of Pat Reilly on 20 January 2014. A by-election for the vacant position of Mayor will be held on **Saturday 12 April 2014**. All Australian citizens 18 years of age or older who are resident in the Willoughby City Council area must vote in this by-election. In this election where the mayor is popularly elected, the method of voting is *optional preferential* voting.

Mayoral Candidates

As nominations for Mayor have only just closed as we go to press, there is insufficient time to obtain a short précis from each candidate including their background, experience and vision for Willoughby City.

Meet the Candidates

Come to our 'Meet the Candidates' meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 8.00pm at the Marion Mahony Griffin Hall at Glenaeon School Castlecrag to:

- meet Mayoral candidates who are able to attend on the night,
- hear them speak about their vision for Willoughby City,
- find out what they are really like, and
- ask them your questions.

Should a current Councillor be elected Mayor, a by-election must then be held in the Councillor's ward to elect a replacement Councillor.

Candidate's Membership of Political Party or truly independent?

All candidates must disclose on their application forms filed at the NSW Electoral Commission whether they are members of a political party and if so they must name the party. This information is published on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

In the past most candidates for Willoughby City Council, have declared themselves as INDEPENDENTS, whether or not they are members of political parties (unless endorsed by their party). We urge you to check the candidates' credentials on the following website:

http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/willoughby_city_council_by-election_12_april_2014/candidates

OPTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING – how it works for you

In this election where the Mayor is popularly elected, the method of voting is optional preferential voting, which is the method used in the NSW Legislative Assembly.

To cast a formal vote you only need to put the number '1' in the square next to your candidate of first choice and your vote will be valid. BUT you also have the option of showing other preferences by placing the number '2' in the square next to your candidate of second choice, the number

'3' next to your candidate of third choice and so on.

If a single candidate gains an absolute majority of the electors' number '1' votes, that candidate is elected and the preferences will not be counted. Whenever there is a large number of candidates standing in an election, as is the case in the mayoral election on April 12, it is most unlikely that any one candidate will gain an absolute majority of votes.

If no single candidate gains an absolute majority of votes, then the candidate with the least number of votes is excluded. The votes of the excluded candidate will then be redistributed to relevant candidates according to the second preference shown on each ballot paper of the excluded candidate. If any of the excluded ballot papers do not have second preferences, then they will be removed from the count as 'exhausted' votes. The process of exclusions is repeated until a candidate has an absolute majority of the votes remaining in the count and that candidate is elected.

If your preferred candidate does not end up with a majority of votes, then you may hope your second or third preferred candidates will become Mayor rather than one of your least preferred candidates. **It is important therefore to number more than one candidate so that your next choice is still taken into account should your favoured candidate not succeed.** Don't let **your** vote be exhausted at the beginning of the counting period!

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Thirteen good reasons to join a Castlecrag Bushcare Group

There are many hidden bushland places in Castlecrag and they're all in need of care. This is the role of Bushcare Groups. There are ten Bushcare Groups in Castlecrag, and each meets monthly for a few hours work to restore and repair bushland. Group meeting times and contacts are in each issue of *The Crag*. All of our local groups love extra pairs of hands and, if you'd like to join a Bushcare Group, yours will be very welcome!

We asked some local bushcarers why they enjoyed being part of their Bushcare Group. Here's what they said:

1. It's exciting to see bushland recover from weeds, litter and pollution and regain its natural ecological beauty.
2. As a caretaker of the bushland it's very satisfying to help hand it on to the next generation in the best possible condition.
3. I've learnt a lot about wildlife habitats and how to restore them. And I love seeing the birds, water dragons, wallabies and echidnas that are our regular bush companions.
4. I've learnt so much about our local native plants and how best to grow and care for them.
5. I love being able to contribute in a practical way to our community's environment.
6. Surprisingly, while weeding, I've learnt lots about the uniqueness of our



*Bushcare site – one side of the creek.
Photo: D. Pope*



*Weedy site on other side of the creek.
Photo: D. Pope*

Sydney sandstone surrounds. This has helped me in my own garden.

7. Actually sitting in our unique Willoughby bushland, and learning restoration practices, has greatly increased my appreciation and enjoyment.

8. Joining my local Bushcare group has given me a delightful and rewarding new interest and hobby.
9. I like that through Bushcare I've been able to raise community awareness of environmental issues.
10. Working with likeminded neighbours has strengthened my past friendships and created new ones. And it's been a great way to catch up with local "happenings" (and gossip!)
11. The morning teas (a feature of every Bushcare session) are relaxing. We usually take turns to bring some delicious contribution.
12. Our expert and friendly Council Bushcare Trainer looks after and provides us with Bushcare tools, training sessions, and a lovely light blue Bushcarer's shirt.
13. I've found that a 3-hour session once a month is easily manageable but it's also easy to opt out if I have another commitment.

Bushcaring is a healthy outdoor pastime. It is yet another excellent reason to get outdoors and enjoy the magnificence of the Castlecrag peninsula, whilst gaining an opportunity to exercise gently (or briskly) in our harbourside environment. It's good for body and soul.

Castlecrag Bushcare Group Meeting Dates can be found on Page 8 under Diary Dates.

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The last Neighbourhood Watch Report



After a number of years of being able to bring you crime statistics for the Castlecrag area, courtesy of Chatswood Police

station and our contributor Jan Duggin, these are no longer available to Local Progress Associations.

They are still provided to officially incorporated Neighbourhood Watch Groups. However, after having such a group in Castlecrag since 1984, it was finally disbanded in 2010. This was primarily due to lack of volunteers, rather than a lack of interest in this organisation and the benefits it can bring a suburb.

The community meetings every 2 months at Chatswood Police Station have also been discontinued, as the Police wish the meetings to revert to their original charter which was a more official meeting with serious stakeholders not just community reps such as NHW with their so called "minor" concerns.

Castlecrag was the area selected in 1984 for the first Neighbourhood Watch program, which was established in New South Wales after a trial scheme in Campsie. A report in the North Shore Times on 4 May 2010 quoted Mr Daley, Deputy Chief of the NSW Police Crime Prevention Unit in 1984: 'The people on the North Shore supported the program because of their community spirit and the large percentage of owner occupied

homes. They also had a really strong desire to help the police.'

We thank Jan Duggin and all her predecessors who have served our Community through Neighbourhood Watch over the last 30 years.

Please keep the following telephone numbers handy for emergencies, maintain the community spirit and get to know or stay in touch with your neighbours.

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

THE HAVEN AMPHITHEATRE needs our urgent attention

It seems not only was the 2013 Carols by Candlelight Spectacular at The Haven Amphitheatre the 30th annual Christmas production, it was also the final performance on the existing stage!

Following a recent engineering inspection of the stage, Willoughby City Council has informed the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee that no further performances are able to be held at the Haven Amphitheatre as the stage no longer complies with the relevant codes.

This means the stage must be modified or replaced before it can be used again. The Committee has provided Council with a concept proposal for a replacement stage, which is currently displayed on the Council website.

This concept proposal has been criticised by a local group and the Committee has addressed this critique on the Haven Amphitheatre website: www.thehaven.biz

Simply put, if we wish to continue the cultural heritage so wonderfully served by this unique community facility, we need to act NOW.

If you have ever enjoyed Christmas Carols, any of the dozens of Cabarets, plays, concerts and even a circus, go to the Council website <http://haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au/haven-amphitheatre> and have your say or email Council at email@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions close on **Monday 7 April 2014.**

Richard Newton

President, Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- **Wednesday 26 March, 8pm,**

Castlecrag Conservation Society

Annual General Meeting with guest speaker, and supper.

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road

Enquiries re joining the CCS Committee are welcome.

Contact: Terese Hayward CCS Secretary 0405 363 776

- **Sunday 29 March**

Earth Hour 8:30-9:30pm

Switch off your unnecessary electric lights and appliances

- **Wednesday 9 April, 8pm,**

Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA) General Meeting

Marion Mahony Griffin Hall, Glenaeon School, 121 Edinburgh Road

Speaker: Meet the Candidates (Mayoral By-election)

Contact info@castlecrag.org.au for further information.

- **Tuesday 22 April**

Earth Day

A day to resolve to do something to help our planet.

- **Saturday 3 May, 7pm and Sunday 4 May, 2pm**

Willoughby Symphony Orchestra

"Majestic Mozart"

Conductor: Dr Nicholas Milton

Flautist: Jane Rutter

The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood

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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

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 with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.



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