

## New Willoughby Mayor Gail from Castlecrag



Councillor Rachel Ward and Mayor Gail  
Photo: Courtesy of R. Ward.

Sailors Bay Ward Councillor and Acting Mayor, Cr Gail Giles-Gidney of Castlecrag, won the Mayoral by-election held on 12 April 2014 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mayor Pat Reilly. She is the City of Willoughby's 50th Mayor and our second popularly-elected Mayor. An unprecedented number of nine candidates ran in the mayoral race including five Councillors, Crs Stuart Coppock, Gail Giles-Gidney, Tony Mustaca, Wendy Norton and Nick Wright. The other candidates were former WCC General Manager, John C Owen, and James Flynn, John Owens and Steven Willoughby.

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney won the highest number of first preference votes in all booths in her Sailors Bay Ward. However the final result was a very close finish between Giles- Gidney and Coppock.

The Council subsequently elected Cr Stuart Coppock as Deputy Mayor for a one-year term.

Councillor Giles-Gidney has lived in Castlecrag for 18 years and has been a Sailors Bay Ward Councillor for five years. She has been a hard-working and conscientious Ward Councillor, and a passionate supporter of Castlecrag's built and bushland heritage. Gail's platform included protecting our natural bushland and cultural heritage, easing traffic and parking congestion, improving services for Willoughby's diverse community, enhancing our local shopping experiences and promoting Chatswood CBD, supporting arts, entertainment and maximizing use of the Concourse as well as optimizing sport and recreation facilities, including Willoughby Leisure Centre.

The CPA congratulates Councillors Giles-Gidney and Coppock on their success. We are especially proud and pleased that 'one of our own' from Castlecrag, is Mayor of Willoughby City despite losing Gail as Ward Councillor.

### New Sailors Bay Ward Councillor Rachel Hill

As Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney was a Sailors Bay Ward Councillor, her election as Mayor left a vacancy in our ward that led to the 14 June 2014 by-election to elect a new Sailors Bay Ward Councillor. Three high calibre

candidates, Rachel Hill of Northbridge, Vache Kahramanian of Willoughby and Robert Manning of Naremburn stood for the vacancy. Rachel resoundingly won, achieving a staggering 64.9% of the overall vote and winning the highest number of votes in every booth.

Rachel has lived with her husband in Northbridge for eight years and has three primary school-aged children. She has a business degree and works part-time in community engagement and events for a leading children's charity. She has a track record of community involvement having worked on pre-school and school committees, been a primary member of the Northbridge Games Committee and, until her recent election as Councillor, served as Secretary of Northbridge Progress Association.

Rachel's platform included her commitment to listen to the people within the Ward (Castlecrag, Northbridge and South Willoughby), and having a clear communication strategy to ensure a broad representation of views on issues such as: finding the right outcome for Castlecrag's Haven Amphitheatre, redevelopment of the Northbridge Plaza car park, optimising sport and recreation facilities at Willoughby Leisure Centre, financial sustainability and responsibility of Council on behalf of residents, creating youth programs and bringing innovative ideas to alleviate parking and traffic frustrations.

The CPA congratulates Rachel on her success and looks forward to working with her in the years to come. We also thank Vache and Rob for standing as candidates.

**Jill Newton**

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### COUNCIL INSPECTIONS

A Council inspection will take place at these sites on  
**Saturday 26 July 2014**

- **8.30am** at the Edinburgh Road-Eastern Valley Way intersection for the right turn arrow issue, and
- **9.30am** at The Haven Amphitheatre, corner of The Barricade and The Scarp.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings to discuss their views with Councillors in the limited time available at each venue.

**THINK LOCALLY!**

**SHOP LOCALLY!**

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## THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the  
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259  
Castlecrag NSW 2068

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emails to the CPA:  
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Please send all correspondence and  
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Gay Spies OAM  
Dr Paul Stokes

**Editor** Deidre Pope

**Assistant Editors** Lorraine Cairnes  
Dr John Steel

email: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)

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

Please include your email address or  
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items to fit the space available.

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## Castlecrag Progress Association news and update

### Annual General Meeting

The CPA AGM was held on Wednesday  
18 June 2014 at the Marion Mahony  
Griffin Hall at Glenaeon School Castlecrag.  
President Kate Westoby welcomed  
members and friends, and reported on the  
years' events and activities.

Kate recalled with sadness the death of  
friend and great supporter of Castlecrag,  
former Mayor Pat Reilly and reported on  
the by-elections for a new Mayor and  
replacement Sailors Bay Ward Councillor.  
She welcomed the election of our  
Castlecrag Councillor, Cllr Gail Giles-  
Gidney, as Mayor of Willoughby, and  
Rachel Hill from Northbridge as our new  
Sailors Bay Ward Councillor.

She spoke of the CPA's concern about the  
NSW Government's proposed Planning Bill  
which it believes would adversely affect  
Castlecrag and its community. She referred  
to the Better Planning Network, of which  
the CPA is a member, and its assistance in  
helping its members raise public awareness  
of the shortcomings and adverse  
implications for the community in the draft  
Planning Bill. The CPA has contributed by  
holding street stalls to assist with letter-  
writing campaigns and even, with Council's  
support, hanging banners in public places  
throughout the Willoughby Municipality.

The public campaigns have been  
successful as the Bill has not yet been  
enacted due to the Government not  
accepting amendments made by the  
Upper House. There is, however, no room  
for complacency. While NSW has a new  
Premier, a new planning Minister and a  
new opportunity, the developer lobby  
groups have not given up their fight to  
reverse the defeat of the Government's  
Planning Bill. It is also important for us  
to be aware of the potential damage to  
existing planning legislation which could  
be done by Government changes.

Stage 1 of the Castlecrag village centre  
public domain project – to replace the  
pavers, plantings and seating on the  
Northern and Southern sides of Edinburgh  
Road – has now proceeded to tender.  
Council has indicated that further works

will be considered in the future. The CPA  
hopes that its response to Council on the  
Castlecrag Village Preliminary Concept  
Design over a year ago (June 2013) for a  
complete revitalisation of our village centre  
will be included in Council's considerations.

Two very important issues for Castlecrag,  
The Haven Amphitheatre proposed  
refurbishment and the Edinburgh Road -  
Eastern Valley Way right-turn arrow have  
very much been in focus over the past year.  
A full Council inspection of both sites will  
take place on **Saturday 26 July, 2014** at:

- 8.30am at the Edinburgh Road - Eastern  
Valley Way intersection for the right  
turn arrow issue, and
- 9.30am at The Haven Amphitheatre,  
corner of The Barricade and The Scarp.

Everyone is invited to attend these  
meetings to discuss their views with  
Councillors in the limited time available at  
each venue.

Kate then farewelled Jill Newton from the  
Committee. She thanked Jill for her hard  
work over eleven years, firstly as a CPA  
committee member from 2003 and as  
secretary since 2005.

Another member of the committee,  
Richard Wylie, had resigned during the  
year after moving from the area, and  
Kate emphasised that the committee was  
anxious to attract more members, of the  
community to the CPA and to serve on the  
committee. The CPA has played a huge role  
in the community in the past and to remain  
a relevant, vibrant and representative  
community organisation in the future, it  
is critical that there are more members of  
our community coming aboard, particularly  
younger residents.

### 2014-2015 Committee

The new CPA committee was duly elected  
with James Cryer acting as returning  
officer. The 2014-2015 Executive  
Committee members are:

President:	Kate Westoby
Vice-Presidents:	David Harrop and Dr John Steel
Secretary:	Ruth Kendon
Treasurer:	Diana Jones

## 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:  
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## CASTLECrag NOTES...

- A belated welcome to our new florist in Castlecrag, Stylish Scents, which opened in January this year. Owner Kristy Henderson has had a florist shop in Ryde for 10 years, and says that she likes a village atmosphere which is found in a small congenial shopping strip like Castlecrag. She looks forward to meeting everyone who wants beautiful flowers.
- A new business has opened in the Quadrangle, the newest store of the Australian-made women's clothing business chain, Fella Hamilton. We welcome manager, June, whose smiling face will meet you on entering the spacious shop. She is ready and able to assist you!
- The Butcher Boys have closed their Castlecrag shop. We thank them for their support of *The Crag* over the years. They have a shop in Surry Hills.
- The Willoughby Spring Festival is a month long festival, now in its 18th year. It features more than 70 fantastic events celebrating the people of the North Shore, their passions, culture and diversity, music, sustainable living, and youth. There is something for everyone, particularly at the Street Fair, to be held on Saturday 6 September.
- The Willoughby Incinerator (2 Small Street Willoughby), designed by Walter Burley Griffin, now has the new Incinerator Café up and running, and there is usually an interesting art

exhibition to visit there too. The Art Space is run by Willoughby Council.

A key feature of the Incinerator site is a public artwork by renowned artist Richard Goodwin. Titled Exoskeleton Lift, the large-scale fabricated polished stainless steel reflects the exterior setting and transforms the structure of the external lift core within the landscape of the Incinerator. According to Goodwin, "This contemporary sculpture is an ode to Griffin."

Future exhibitions are listed at <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/community/Facilities/Willoughby-Incinerator/willoughby-incinerator-art-space/2014-exhibition-calendar/>

- Use it or lose it: the Australia Post Box at the intersection of the Bastion, Rockley Street and The Bulwark has been removed because of a low level of use, and the nearest Post Box is now in Edinburgh Road near the intersection with Edith Street.
- New street pavers are being laid along the footpaths through Castlecrag shopping strip from Eastern Valley Way to The Postern. Work was scheduled to start on 14 July.
- Castlecrag's bus shelters are being replaced as part of Willoughby Council's renovation of all the shelters in the district.

### New CPA Committee Member, Dr Paul Stokes

Paul Stokes is a Science Teacher at Hornsby Girls High School. He recently returned to Castlecrag after nearly 40 years, having grown up in The Battlement from 1952. As a child and adolescent, Paul loved the Castlecrag bushland and spent much of his formative years exploring it. Before becoming a teacher, he worked as a project manager in the financial services industry for many years and he is keen to contribute these skills in the interests of the Castlecrag Community.

### WILLOUGHBY FAUNA FAIR Sunday 24 August, 10am–3pm

Learn more about local native animals and their environment, and how domestic pets can live alongside them. Enjoy food stalls, wildlife shows, and fun kids' activities. Take away some great ideas about wildlife-friendly living.

This year, along with our usual exhibitors, *Feathered Friends Animal Productions* will be joining us with their in-flight bird display.

This is a free event and will be held at Willoughby Park, corner of Fourth Ave and McClelland St, Willoughby on Sunday 24 August, 10am–3pm.

Enquiries please contact: Liz Powell at Willoughby Council on 9777 7871 or email [liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

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## The new stage for the Haven Amphitheatre

### Friends of the Haven we need your support !

#### – *Our Stage is closed*

A recent engineering inspection of The Haven Amphitheatre stage

commissioned by and for Willoughby City Council, the owner of the asset, states that the existing stage structure no longer complies with the current building codes.

The current non-compliant stage consists of a deck made of cement sheets mounted on a timber stage support system rebuilt 20 years ago including the 30 or more wooden piles that have been in the ground (and creek) for close to 40 years.

A proposal to replace the stage and undercroft facility has been before Council for some time now but the design is not as yet in place.

Council will be seeking full community consultation on a DA when the design has been submitted by the yet to be appointed architect. The project's progress will be published on The Haven Amphitheatre web site ([www.thehaven.biz](http://www.thehaven.biz)) and Council's web site.

All Councillors have been asked to attend The Haven Amphitheatre at 9-30am on Saturday 26 July so as to familiarise

themselves with The Amphitheatre and its operation and to this end they will be inspecting the current condition of the undercroft and stage at that time.

This inspection follows on from point 3 of the following motion passed by Council on 28 April 2014, namely:

That:

1. A functional specification report be provided to Council by the Officers in conjunction with the Haven Amphitheatre Committee within two months detailing the intended capabilities, appearance, and interactions with users and the natural environment as a guideline for design options for the renewal/refurbishment of the stage based on the views expressed by the community, namely:
  - Minimal impact on its natural setting / subservient to the natural landscape ie "touch the earth lightly".
  - Improved open-air performance and functionality.
  - Cost effective.
  - Compliance with building codes and planning requirements as much as possible

2. After the report in point 1 above has been adopted by Council design options be prepared and a community consultation on the design options take place with a subsequent report to Council with proposed costing.

3. A full Council inspection of site be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

**Community members may wish to demonstrate their commitment to this unique theatre by attending the meeting on 26 July** and may also take the opportunity of asking the individual Councillors about their commitment to, and views on, Council's replacement program.

Gifted to our community by Marion, The Haven Amphitheatre is a legacy of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin from the 1930s, transformed by our community 40 years ago to the vibrant theatre we love so much today.

**We need your continuing support for this heritage to continue!**

**Richard Newton**  
President – Haven Amphitheatre  
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## The Houses of Castlecrag

*Our suburb is full of exciting domestic architecture, as Ben Gerstel shows here when he visits*

### 13 The Citadel Castlecrag

Photo: Ben Gerstel

Travelling through Castlecrag, you come across a variety of cul-de-sacs usually with bush gardens, a rock outcrop or a swing at their centres. In one of these cul-de-sacs, The Citadel, you could not see two more contrasting houses, side by side at numbers 13 and 15. 15 The Citadel is the well known two-storey Fishwick House, designed by Walter Burley Griffin and built in 1929.

13 The Citadel was designed in 1973 by Andre Porebski, an architect practicing in Sydney. The original owners played a big role in the design of their house. From the various schemes presented to them by Porebski the final plan evolved between both parties by slowly peeling away the unnecessary components to reveal the essence of the design. The design process can be quite lengthy but with the patience of both the clients and the architect, the clients were rewarded with a clever, innovative design.

To my eye, it is a white modernist box which can be compared to the work of a group of architects called the New York Five who adopted similar design principles. This group of five architects was formed in the late 1960s: Peter Eisenman, Michael Graves, Charles Gwathmey, John

Hejduk and Richard Meier. Their inspiration came from the 1920s built work and principles of the modernist French-Swiss architect, Le Corbusier. Consequently, their built work was predominantly rectilinear, with flat roofs, white planes for walls, broken up with areas of glazing, openings and terraces. The group also became known as the "Whites" because their buildings were predominantly white in colour.

What strikes you on entering 13 The Citadel is that it is not a large house. Although on its plan it is a small square, it appears big in scale. This is achieved first of all by the entry space being a void, two storeys in height. From here, a half flight of stairs leads you up to a mid-level living room which occupies a space one and a half storeys high. Then a smaller flight of stairs leads to the first floor rooms. The varying levels of the house follow the terrain of the site.

Secondly, the living room has two walls of glass which makes the space feel a lot larger by allowing views to Sailors Bay and by seemingly bringing in the vegetation surrounding the house. To contrast with the two areas of glass, are the two white planar walls, creating a pattern of solid and void.



Attention to detail is paramount in this house. There are no skirtings or cornices. The internal timber doors extend from the floor right to the ceiling with no wall over the door. The floor is white terrazzo of which the white plane extends to the outside with the use of white ceramic tiles. The roof is also treated as a white horizontal plane and cantilevers past the glass walls of the house to provide shade, and to act as a transition zone between the inside and outside of the house.

Contrasting with the rectilinear nature of the house is the dining area which is semicircular and looks over the living room. To emphasise this contrast, a circular skylight is located over the dining area.

The palette of materials is very simple, white walls, timber, black window and door frames and natural light. The house appears very contemporary as if it could have been designed today, which means that in 1973 it was way ahead of its time.

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## ENVIRONMENT NEWS • environment news • ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Biological Control Agent to assist Bush Care

Crofton weed has been causing grief in Australia since the early 1900s, but now the release of a new biological control agent brings some hope.

The tenacious and troublesome Crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) has been running rampant in eastern coastal Australia since it 'escaped' from being an ornamental plant in Sydney gardens.

Crofton weed has invaded agricultural lands as well as 150 reserves in NSW managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It reduces the ecological value of bush land but also affects grazing land on farms by diminishing their carrying capacity.

The weed spread rapidly during the 1940s and 1950s creating dense infestations, particularly along waterways and disturbed areas, inhibiting native regeneration and threatening several vulnerable or endangered native species and communities.

The new biological control agent is a rust fungus that originates from Mexico (where Crofton weed is native) and works by infecting the young leaves and stems of the plant, stunting development and disrupting its ability to reproduce.

Other rust fungi of weeds, such as those introduced previously for the biological control of bridal creeper and rubber vine, have proved to be very effective tools to manage these weeds.



Flowering Crofton weed plant  
Photo: J.J.Dellow

The new fungus agent, commonly referred to as Crofton weed rust fungus but scientifically known as *Baeodromus eupatorii*, has been proved safe for introduction in tests performed by CSIRO and its release in Australia has been approved by all the relevant government authorities.

The first experimental releases are underway this winter, in partnership with

the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, at various sites across the NSW South Coast region where Crofton weed is dominant.

The cool and wet conditions that prevail during winter on the NSW coast are regarded as perfect for the Crofton weed rust to establish readily after release.

Once established in the environment, this biological control agent should be self-sustaining, self-disseminating via wind currents, and become a long-term management solution without the need for the rust fungus to be reapplied year after year.

This type of biocontrol option is environmentally friendly, cost effective and likely to offer permanent suppression, so it's regarded as the best solution to manage a range of invasive species.

The Crofton weed biocontrol program is a joint project of the CSIRO, the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, the Lord Howe Island Board and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### New Kerbing

We thank Willoughby Council for the new sandstone kerbs in The Rampart, which carries on the Castlecrag tradition of stone kerbing in our streets. This probably originates from the Griffin days, and this attention to detail to works in the historic Castlecrag Conservation Area is much appreciated by residents.

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## No wash in Middle Harbour

Middle Harbour and its foreshores contain many sites of cultural and historical significance and its seagrass and mangroves are critical ecosystems supporting many species of marine life. The sites of cultural significance include Aboriginal Middens.

The Sydney Basin, including Middle Harbour is one of the richest provinces in Australia in terms of Aboriginal archaeological sites. Shell middens are places where the debris from eating shellfish and other food has accumulated over time.

They can contain:

- shellfish remains
- bones of fish, birds, and land and sea mammals used for food
- charcoal from campfires
- tools made from stone, shell, and bone.

Shell middens tell us a lot about Aboriginal activities in the past. The types of shells in a midden can show the type of marine environment that was used, and the time of year when Aboriginal people used it.

Wash created from large pleasure cruisers moving through Middle Harbour at speed is having a significant impact on the foreshore environment and causing damage to and erosion of these very significant sites. The heavy wash is also causing the destruction of sea grass and mangrove habitats. The Department of Roads and Maritime Services is able to designate areas as "No Wash" zones to protect valuable sites and other waterways users from the effects of damaging wash.

As such, a petition is being organised by local resident John Vaughan. See <http://chn.ge/1ozA3q4>

## Barking Dogs

A recent letter to the editor has highlighted this problem. Willoughby Council's procedure for dealing with your neighbour's barking dog is quoted as below.

If someone's barking dog is bothering you, take the following steps.

- Contact the owner of the dog. They might not know their dog is barking, especially if it only barks when they are away.
- Be courteous and polite. Your neighbours might not know how to go

about fixing the problem, so perhaps you can assist with some information or suggestions. Perhaps you could direct them to this site. Give them an opportunity to correct the problem.

- Be specific and tell your neighbour if their dog is barking at certain times.
- If you can't resolve the problem with the owner of the dog, contact Willoughby City Council on 9777 1000, or see <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/your-neighbourhood/pets/Barking-Dogs>

## 2014 Bushcare Major Day Out

The 2014 Bushcare Major Day Out will be held on **Sunday 7 September** in Landcare Week. It will be part of Landcare Australia's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Just as Clean Up Australia Day has made us a litter-conscious nation, Bushcare's Major Day Out aims to make us conscious of the need to protect our bush, while learning about the role we can all play in its continued care.

Started by Willoughby resident Don Wilson, a dedicated bushcare volunteer, Don found that Bushcare was not only a great way to care for bushland, it was enjoyable, social and of great educational value. Don started organising yearly get-togethers for his local Council area and it grew exponentially from there.

Willoughby Council will organize this year's Day Out at Tunks Park, Northbridge.

Meet at the end of Lower Cliff Ave, on the grass area next to the carpark.

Come along on 7 September 2014

9:00 am – 12:00 pm. If you've never tried Bushcare, this is a great opportunity to find out what it's all about!

### Contact for the day:

Stuart Hall

Phone: 9777 7873

Email: [stuart.hall@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stuart.hall@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

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## Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

- **Sunday, 27 July 2014 10:00am to 2:00pm**

### National Tree Day

Plant giveaways, free mulch and planting activity for the whole family.

Address: Warners Park, The Outpost off Kameruka Road, Northbridge

Cost: Free

Contact: Jan Fulton on 9777 7753

- **Saturday, 9 August 2014 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

### Pictures at an Exhibition – Children's Concert

Willoughby Symphony presents a fun, interactive children's concert for children aged 3 - 12 years.

- **Saturday, 9 August 2014 7:00pm;**

### **Sunday, 10 August 2014 2:00pm**

### Pictures at an Exhibition – The Russian Masters

In this riveting program, Dr. Milton will conduct Mussorgsky's incredibly colourful Pictures at an Exhibition with orchestration by Maurice Ravel.

Address: The Concourse, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

Cost: \$45

- **Sunday, 17 August 2014 10:00am to 1:00pm**

**FIX IT! Do you have a broken wooden household item that needs fixing? Don't throw it out. Don't buy a new one. FIX IT!**

Address: Willoughby Men's Shed (next to Northbridge golf club), 296E Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge

Cost: Free

Places Available: 9

Contact: Leonne Donnelly on 9777 1000 or email  
[Env.Educators@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Env.Educators@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

- **Sunday, 24 August 2014 10:00am to 3:00pm**

Willoughby Fauna Fair 2014

Willoughby Park, corner of McClelland Street and Fourth Avenue, Willoughby.

Contact: Liz Powell on 9777 7871 or email  
[liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

- **Sunday, 7 September 2014 9:00am to 12:00pm**

### Bushcare Major Day Out

Tunks Park, Northbridge

## 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

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.



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