

CASTLECrag COMMUNITY FAIR on it's way for Sunday June 7!



The **Annual Castlecrag Fair** will shake our sleepy suburb into life on the long weekend of Sunday June 7, and it's shaping up to be a record breaker.

This year the stalls and entertainment will stretch through the main shopping centre, along Edinburgh Rd, into the Postern and Griffin Centre carparks.

Leave the car at home and walk if you can.

Along with the many amazing stalls there will be a jumping castle, bungee trampoline, artworks for sale, wine tasting, fashion parades and plant stalls as well as a sausage sizzle.

At 10am...

Lee from Australian Wildlife Displays will unleash his menagerie of critters for the kids to have a hold. We'll have to see if he can outdo last year's assortment of Sammi the snappy crocodile, Tinkerbelle the HUGE olive python, Bubblegum the Bluetongue

lizard and various other friendly snakes and lizards, along with his tiny possums and echidnas.

At 11am...

The Quadrangle will transform into a high fashion runway with the best of this winter's styles on parade.

At midday...

The runway will clear to make way for a Breakdance and Hip Hop display to help you work up an appetite for the many special offers from the local restaurants and food stalls.

When you're ready to take a rest break, go via one of the most impressive second hand bookstalls Sydney has ever seen.

The Castlecrag Fair bookstall has uncovered its share of rare first editions over the years, as well as the latest in airport thrillers, romance fiction, biographies and all other manner of bestsellers, cookbooks and kids fiction.

See you there!

We are still looking for volunteers to sell tickets and man the jumping castle between 10am-3pm.

Anyone looking to do their community service hours for the Duke of Ed should call Simone on 0421 369 643.

Pinnacle Bus Terminus Re Opens

Sunday May 31, 3.45pm

at the Terminus in Edinburgh Rd.

Everyone welcome.

We are especially hoping those who attended the original opening in 1986 will come along.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday June 17, 2015

8.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER:

Willoughby City Council General Manager
Debra Just

In the Marion Mahony Hall, Glenaeon School,
117 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag.

All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

THINK LOCALLY!

SHOP LOCALLY!

EMPLOY LOCALLY!

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.

COMMITTEE 2013-2014

President Kate Westoby
Vice President Dr John Steel
Secretary Dr Paul Stokes
Treasurer Diana Jones
Committee Ruth Kendon
Gay Spies OAM
Editors Lindy Batterham
Sandra Odorisio

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. Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

Advertising Enquiries

Diana Jones at
info@castlecrag.org.au

Copy & Advertising Deadline for next issue

Friday August 9, 2015

Design, Typesetting & Printing

Robin Phelan & Associates ☎ 0407 467 376
Frontline Printing ☎ 9438 3000

Disclaimer

The CPA and *The Crag* is not responsible for information or advice in contributed articles or letters. Readers should seek their own personal, professional advice.

From the Editors

Your Editors are developing a local oral history project, which will provide us with a new story in each issue of *The Crag*. Initially we hope to interview people who have lived here for sixty years or more. We are looking for interviewees so please phone or email your offers or suggestions.

We've discovered our local KU preschool is a practitioner of an educational initiative called *Bush Kinder*, which draws its philosophy from the fifty year old *Forest School* movement of Europe. It is part of a growing educational practice in Australia and world-wide which has emerged in response to children spending more and more time indoors being sedentary, engaging in screen time and not interacting with nature in the way that we of past generations have.

Children today have less time for unstructured, creative play in the outdoors than ever before in human history. I was lucky enough to spend a morning with the



Screen Time – Our thanks to Leunig.

children immersed in this at *Bush Kinder*. The report appears on Page 4.

We are certainly privileged in our community to have such easy access to the bush and beautiful wild places at our doorsteps. Whether it's down around Sailors and Sugarloaf Bays or exploring the mangroves, caves, waterfalls, winding bush tracks, the circuit around Sugarloaf or having a family BBQ up the top of Harold Reid Reserve; getting out in nature has got to be one of the best things you can do for you and your family's body and soul.

The Eds

Introducing the new Editors

This issue of *The Crag* introduces two new local editors who have heeded the call...

Lindy Batterham has grown up in the Crag. The family line goes back to the days of Marion and Walter Burley Griffin. My uncle Edgar Deans was Company Secretary to Walter Burley Griffin's Sydney Greater Development Company and moved with them from Melbourne to Castlecrag in the 1920s. My mother Joyce was a teenager when she met Marion and Walter.

Over the years Edgar motivated his parents, brother Rawson and my mum and dad to move into the suburb and by the early 1950s there were eighteen Deans family members living on the peninsula. Apart from being Alderman, Deputy & Mayor of Willoughby Council, Edgar was a founding member of the Castlecrag Progress Assn. My mum was awarded a Life member of the CPA in the 90's, so I feel as if I'm following some sort of family calling to become Co-editor of *The Crag* in 2015!

I have been creating and producing theatre at The Haven as part of the Committee for the last 30 years. My children have been raised here and for the last 15 years I have worked in TAFE teaching in

Early Childhood Education and Care. I'm learning to play the ukulele. I continue to appreciate our suburb. There's no-where else in Sydney I'd rather live.

I'm **Sandra Odorisio** – a relative newcomer to the suburb having moved to Edinburgh Rd with my husband and young family only 17 years ago.

I am a Journalist and Television Producer hailing originally from country Western Australia where I grew up on a dairy farm.

I made my way to the east coast via Perth, and a freshly awarded journalism degree from Curtin University in the early 90's, intending to stay for 2 years.

Three decades on I'm still here, working, and doing the school sports run on a Saturday. I'm a local jogger and bushwalker, Schnauzer fan, backyard chicken farmer, occasional yoga and pilates student, and now co-editor of this very informative community newspaper.

I too love living in Castlecrag, which blends the absolute best of village life with a buzzing metropolis.

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 – Due January 1, 2015**

(\$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')

\$

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

\$

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

Please post to the Treasurer:

PO Box 4259

Castlecrag 2068

Queries to:

info@castlecrag.org.au

From the President

The Castlecrag Progress Association has been working for the Castlecrag community since 1924 with the purpose of promoting the interests of the district, and conserving the natural environment and human heritage of Castlecrag for the benefit of future generations.

We are very proud of the work we have done over those decades and the progress we have achieved. None of it could have happened without the passion and involvement of the people who live here.

Progress – more specifically our website – now allows us the means to more easily communicate with the community we serve and we are encouraging our residents to speak to us.

What are the issues that you would like to see the CPA championing? How can we become more relevant to you?

The CPA has always been here to support our community and we encourage you to become involved. Our website provides you with a comprehensive history of the suburb and the CPA's involvement in this.

We enjoy a unique neighbourhood with its bushland, its history of architectural leadership and most importantly its sense of community, and it is critical we preserve

Castlecrag's greatest features for the generations that follow.

The CPA has a proud history of standing strong for it's community.

We have campaigned shoulder to shoulder to stop the Warringah Expressway, to protect the Foreshore Cottages, to retain our Local School, to campaign for the Foreshore Building Line and more recently to ensure the reopening of The Haven Amphitheatre.

When our local school was lost, despite our battle, the CPA established the Castlecrag Fair in 2000 to refocus our sense of community.

I look forward to seeing you all enjoying the festivities on the June long weekend when we gather again for the fair this year.

I have lived in Castlecrag since 1979 and became quickly involved in the various issues. Being involved in the CPA has given me a deeper understanding and love of this unique area. The Griffin vision of community is an inspiring one and even more relevant today and as our busy lives dominate it is easy to forget the significance and importance of this community connection.

I have raised three children in Castlecrag,

I've been involved in the Castlecrag Kindergarten, Castlecrag Infants, and as the Teacher Librarian at Castle Cove Public School and as President of the Castlecrag Progress Association I continue to be enmeshed in this community.

I believe that to be part of a community you must also give to the community.

Please take the opportunity to have your say and become involved – visit: www.castlecrag.org.au

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the Castlecrag Progress Association will be held at the Rudolph Steiner Junior School, Edinburgh Rd Castlecrag on Wednesday June 17 at 8.00pm. Guest speaker will be Willoughby City Council General Manager, Debra Just. Do come along to hear the new initiatives she's planning for our district and to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to speak directly to one of our local decision makers on what YOU think we need.

Also if you are free on Sunday May 31 at 3.45pm head to the Pinnacle Bus Terminus on Edinburgh road for the ceremonial RE-opening of the newly refurbished bus shelter. It will be a loud and fun gathering.

See you there!

Kate Westoby

CASTLECRAG NOTES...

The Pinnacle Bus Terminus has had a facelift. The newly restored shelter originally designed by architects Francis Maratea and Mike Burgess, will be ceremonially reopened on Sunday May 31 at 3.45pm. All welcome and we are particularly hopeful of seeing anyone who was at the original opening back again.

Brenda Harrison fashions – a landmark in the Crag for 35 years – has changed hands. The stylish and very private Brenda has retired to her newly renovated home on the Balmoral slopes where she will catch up on some well earned rest and long beach walks.

For decades Brenda was a 6-days a week glamorous presence in the Castlecrag Village and we wish her all the very best

for her seachange. The Brenda Harrison Fashion brand name will live on in the Crag under the ownership of Fran Hennessey.

Martha's Restaurant will feature the artworks of Winifred Giles through the month of June. 76 year old Winifred has been a lifelong student and teacher of painting. Her lively works range in price from \$300-\$500. Anyone purchasing during this month will receive a \$50 gift voucher from the restaurant.

A new Malaysian Restaurant is on it's way to Castlecrag in what was the old MOMO /Oven Fairy location. The village is growing it's reputation as a dining mecca, offering Crag locals a wide range of cuisines all within an easy walk.

Everyday Cashmere is now trading in the space created next door to Castlecrag Pharmacy. Designed here and made in Scotland using Australian Merino wool and Scottish cashmere, they specialize in easy to pack jumpers and jackets aimed at the travelling customer.

IGA has opened it's doors via an alternative Edinburgh Rd entrance. It's allowed 24 hour access to the ATM machine which is now permanently installed on the outside wall.

It was a lucky escape for two elderly customers of the IGA on Wednesday May 13 when they lost control of their vehicle on the way into the carpark. Remedial works are underway to restore the wall and garden bed near the carpark exit.



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BUSH KINDY



Every other Monday the children from the Blue group arrive at KU Castlecrag Pre School in their walking shoes with backpacks ready for their bush kinder morning. Director Nicole Farrelly and the education team have been taking children into the local bush since 2013. Now the children are leading her!

Nicole saw huge benefits of getting them outdoors and noticed how every area of child development is enhanced by being in the bush. She and her team have enthusiastically embraced the bush kinder

model. This day the sun was shining after days of heavy rain and everyone was very glad to be out.

Within four minutes of getting outside the kindy gate and along The Rampart, the children were down in the bush. The track was somewhat steep and slippery in parts, but they handled it with confidence and care. There was not one fall! As we crossed the little bridge the enthusiastic four & five year olds noticed how much more water was in the creek, how muddier it was and how louder it sounded because of all the rain. Great observing!

The children followed the track that runs around the back of what was the Warner's Park Women's Bowling Club. It is now a Council owned playgroup/OOSH/ community space. They crossed the creek again, balancing on stepping stones and headed into a regenerated area at the back side of the clubhouse. Here was "Their Space" and evidence of previous visitations was clear. Their architectural

creation was still standing after the storm – an elaborate and clearly sturdy bush cubby constructed stick by stick for months and a nearby sitting circle of logs with big branches fallen down all over which Tyler, Angus and Educator Ann enthusiastically cleared.

The children relished their morning in the bush, busying themselves with self-initiated experiences. Some played make-believe games – a fallen log became a boat on which to sit and fish from, while others played a chasing monster game. Others inspected the vegies growing in the garden beds and looked for insects to observe.

A group enjoyed sitting around chatting under the giant trees and others were keen to learn an ancient Indigenous bush game called *Birguu Matyr*, an extension of noughts & crosses where you can keep moving your piece but only into the next square – you can't jump. They learnt it came from the Wiradjeri people of NSW and played it over and over again!



The bush clearing uncovered a beautiful carved chair which looked like a throne for Queen Alexandra of the bushfolk to sit upon!

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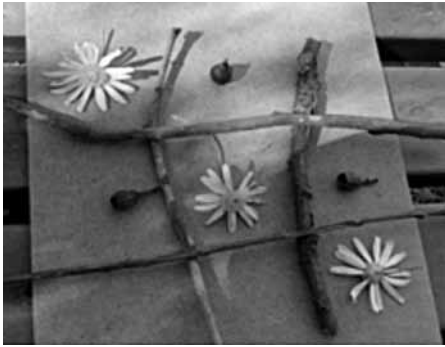
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The indigenous bush game called Birguu Matyr.



Anika found an *Omalanthus* leaf with five colours & was inspired to carefully observe and draw it.

With great concentration, Christian drew an elaborate sketch with a stick in the dirt.



Nali and Tom spent considerable time, first with Nicole, but then on their own co-operatively collecting rocks to make a big round fireplace.

The cubby builders strengthened their structure and talked about what leaves might make a good carpet. Deep learning was taking place as children problem-solved and engaged in creative thought. There's so much to explore and be curious about in the natural world! The Educators were following the children's lead, which is a strong part of the philosophy.

After three & a half hours of being in the bush, it was time to head back up the hill to Kindy for lunch. All agreed that they would bring their lunches next time so they could stay out longer. The children loved being in the wild. The only tears of the morning came when it was time to return and a little boy sobbed for half the way back because he didn't want to leave the bush!

Medical evidence shows that contact with the natural environment improves health and wellbeing, prevents disease and helps people recover from illness. This evidence also shows that experiencing nature in the outdoors can help tackle childhood obesity, coronary heart disease, stress and mental health problems. Children with special

needs particularly ADHD and autism, can find great comfort, peace and nourishment from being immersed in nature.

Educators at KU Castlecrag are doing a wonderful job of this. The benefits of Bush Kinder/schools are increasingly being realised. Recent studies in the UK indicate that children who attend forest nurseries arrive at primary school with strong social skills, enhanced cognition and higher self-confidence. Weekly visits to the forest are continued well into primary school in some parts of Britain.

In Victoria, the Department of Education has released a National Quality Framework for Bush Kinders. It paves the way for Primary Schools to be able to integrate the program into their weekly timetable.

All of this sounds like a wonderful idea for our overcrowded local Willoughby Public School. They could access that same bit of bush and beyond into Watergate Reserve; it's just a 15 minute walk along Mowbray Road when the pedestrian lights are turned on in the dip of EVW. Perhaps a chat with the Principal is in order...

Lindy Batterham



Cubby builders hard at work.

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THE CRAG Mayor's Column



I hope you are all as excited as I am about *Vivid Sydney* at Chatswood – Friday May 22 to Monday June 8.

The Chatswood CBD will be transformed into a mesmerising water-world

with light projections and installations featuring an underwater experience, giant sea creatures and an animated aquarium, culminating with a giant animation set over the façade of The Concourse. It is a wonderful event to be able to offer locally to our community and with lots of food offerings and entertainment at the Concourse, there is something for everyone. See you there.

The 10/50 Clearing Code continues to be of concern to many local residents, including myself. Council's conservative estimate is that at least 400 trees have been removed across Willoughby. I encourage residents to continue to contact Council to report tree removals, as it helps with our records. Tree removal in Castlecrag can be tricky as it is sometimes unclear if trees are on private property or Council land. I would urge residents to exercise caution as the fines are hefty. Council has put forward several submissions, asking to be exempt from the code. We are awaiting a review of the Code to be completed, which may be by mid-year.

In March, Council appointed CAB



VIVID CHATSWOOD

Don't miss the chance to step through a water wonderland of light as VIVID comes alive through the streets and malls of Chatswood for 18 nights this month.

While you're there take some time to enjoy the many eats and treats of Chatswood after dark.

Consulting to undertake the preparation of design options for a new open air theatre at The Haven. The consultants have completed a first round of discussions with Castlecrag community organisations and council staff, and are preparing preliminary design options for a second round of consultation in May. The brief the consultants are working to – the Functional Specification adopted by Council in July 2014 – can be viewed on Council's website.

Lastly, congratulations to local businesses across Willoughby City who have been nominated in this year's Better Business Awards. These awards acknowledge businesses that are striving towards success through sustainability and making a difference to the environment and community through improvements to their business. On a local level, congratulations

to the Quadrangle Shopping Village, Castlecrag, nominated for the 2015 Better Business Energy Saver Award. Good luck at the awards ceremony in June.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss with me please phone 9777 1001 or alternatively send me an email at gail.gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Gail Giles-Gidney

DON'T FORGET!

Be aware, the deadline for your comments on Council Amalgamations is Friday June 5.

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The Houses of Castlecrag

An interesting house in *The Bulwark* is visited by Ben Gerstel. Ben is a local architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association (www.architecture.org.au).

100 The Bulwark, Castlecrag

Photo: B. Gerstel

Castlecrag is a haven of architectural treasures. Some houses can be seen quite clearly from the street, while others, if you are not walking but driving, will be missed altogether. 100 The Bulwark is one of these latter houses.

This house was designed by the architect, Robert Maclurcan in the 1950s, for his brother Douglas, who was an engineer. Robert had another brother, Donald, who was also an architect and partner in the firm, Fowell Mansfield and Maclurcan.

Robert also designed the very distinctive house at 97 Sunnyside Crescent and the Crackenback Ski Club Lodge at Thredbo in 1957. The latter was designed with another architect, Constance Crisp.

The house at 100 The Bulwark sits two storeys below the road and all you can see is a carport and a gabled roof that wraps itself around the site. It was designed post war when there was a short supply of building materials.

The design of the house is well considered but to the untrained eye, conventional. By this I mean how it is orientated for the sun and how it is twisted to keep the trees on the site. Once you study the house, it is full of architectural "devices" which were ahead of its time for the 1950's. Some of these "devices" are:

- large picture windows to capture views to Retreat Reserve, Sailors Bay as well as filtered water views through the surrounding trees
- the separation of public (living) spaces from private spaces (bedrooms and bathrooms)
- split level design
- a shallow, curved metal deck roof to the carport
- built-in joinery
- a laundry chute
- a separate toilet from the main bathroom
- eave overhangs create porches over doorways
- copper gutters and downpipes
- an ensuite appears to have been added after the house was built

Another interesting feature in the house is a wall in the dining room clad in large clay tiles which give off variegated pink hues. Some of these tiles are cantilevered off the wall to provide ledges or shelves. The owner thinks that these tiles were made from clay from the site and fired at the Manly brick pits. These tiles sit above what was an open fireplace located in the corner of two walls. This would have been unconventional at the time.

Since the house was designed for an



engineer, he may have had an input in the sizing of the timber joists for the floor. These joists extend 3 metres to become the framing for the cantilevered terrace. The joists are about 300 mm deep and extend back into the house by another 5 metres.

The current owners bought the house from the original owners. They have adapted the house to suit their needs such as:

- they added a staircase to connect the downstairs to the upstairs
- they have converted the downstairs existing workshop into a teenagers retreat, studio and bathroom
- they have opened up and extended the kitchen to embrace the view
- they have removed some doors to connect the living and dining rooms

The history of houses shows how people live and change them to suit their needs. Houses are not static objects. They will change as they are bought and sold. Even conservation items like the Burley Griffin houses have changed over time. The house at 100 The Bulwark has been changed to suit its current owners needs but it has kept its innovative architectural features intact.

Ben Gerstel

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

Castlecrag Progress Association General Meetings:

Wednesday 17 June – Annual General Meeting
 Wednesday 16 September – General Meeting
 All commence at 8.00pm in the Marion Mahony Hall at Glenaeon, Edinburgh Rd.

Castlecrag Bushcare Groups' Meeting Dates:

First Monday of the Month

- Tower Reserve, 9-12noon, contact Jocelyn Chey 9967 5136 or Lisa Clarke 0404 806 406

First Sunday of the Month

- Cortile Park care, 8.30-11.30, contact Sue Burk 0404 470 443
- Edinburgh Rd 2011, 9-12noon, contact Keith Ferguson 0408 518 509

Second Saturday of the Month

- Gargoyle Bushcare, 9-12noon, contact Cherrie Wilson 478 181 182

Second Sunday of the Month

- Retreat Reserve, 9-12noon, contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213 or Jill Newton 9967 4933
- Keep Reserve, 9-12noon, contact Matthew Keighery 0408 203 511

Third Sunday of the Month

- Oriol Reserve, 9-12noon, contact Mandy Wilson 9777 7875
- Casement Reserve, 8.30-11.30, contact Sue Burk 0404 470 443
- Torquay Estate, 9-12noon, contact Jo Nolan 0419 234 235

Talks@Willoughby presents Ross Gittins

Date & Time: Thursday 4 June 2015 12:30pm-1.30pm
Address: Chatswood Library on The Concourse, Lower Ground, 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood

Cost: Free

Contact: Willoughby City Library on 9777 7900 or email library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Dance to The Nines

A dance for persons aged 18 years and over with a disability

Date & Time: Friday 12 June 2015 6:00pm-9pm

Address: Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood

Cost: Free

Contact: Kathy Whale on 9777 7581 or email kathy.whale@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Bushcare Training Workshop – Session One

Date & Time: Saturday 13 June 2015 9:00 am- 1pm

Address: Northbridge,

Exact meeting place to be confirmed at time of booking

Cost: Free

Contact: Mandy Wilson on 9777 7875 or email bushcare@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Library Book Sale

Monthly book sale – held third Thursday of the month

Date & Time: Thursday 18 June 2015 11:00am to 2:00pm

Address: Chatswood Library on The Concourse, Lower Ground, 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood

Willoughby Shorts 2015 Film Festival – Entries Open

The Willoughby Shorts Film Festival, open to students aged 12–28, encourages young filmmakers to express themselves creatively through short film, and to showcase their talents in a public forum.

Selected entries will be screened on the Urban Screen on The Concourse, Chatswood.

A prize pool of \$5,000 will be on offer to winning filmmakers (one winner from each category and one overall 'Best Film' award).

Contact: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

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



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