



CASTLECRAG  
PROGRESS  
ASSOCIATION

# THE CRAG

*A voice for the community since 1925*

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JUNE 2016

## Willoughby Council given merger reprieve

The NSW govt has announced 19 new 'super' councils across Sydney. See Mayor's column on Page 4.

## Your opportunity to meet our Federal Election Candidates on June 21

Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations Inc. will be organising this evening session. See Diary dates on Page 12.

## To the Sahara Desert and back CastleCrag's Patrick Hodgens completes the toughest footrace on earth

Amateur runner Patrick Hodgens is home and nursing his blisters after finishing a gruelling 257 kilometre run across the Sahara Desert in the world famous Marathon Des Sables last month.

The 51 year old father of two young girls set out on his third strenuous marathon as a personal challenge. "I like doing difficult races, I've done tough races in the Kimberley and Nepal and this was the next stretch. It's hard to say why I do it. They're hard races, they're difficult and I just want to see if I can do it."

The race attracts runners from around the world and the conditions are extremely hostile. Temperatures reach 50 degrees Celsius in the day and drop to 0 degrees at night. Each runner is required to carry all of their own gear for the 6 day run which covers a daily course ranging anywhere from 35-82 kilometres.

"You have to carry everything you'll need. Your cooking, eating and sleeping gear all goes into a backpack. Mine was 11 kilos at the start. I had enough freeze dried food to sustain me with 20,000 calories a day. You can't top up anything else. The only

fill up you can do is for water, and you have to carry that too."

29 Australians signed up in the field of 1200 racers. Patrick weighed in at 74 kilos when he started the race and finished 6 days later a much leaner 65 kilos.

"It was an amazing experience. It's dry heat, you don't sweat because it's so hot the sweat evaporates. I'm reasonably fit, but it's not fitness that takes you to the finish line on these sort of races it's your mindset."

One of the Australians Patrick met on this run was Kate Sanderson, who was also caught in the West Australian outback bushfire in which Turia Pitt was so savagely burned. This was her 5 year goal after rehabilitation.

"She was outstanding and an inspiration. It goes to show the resilience of people. She had the right mindset to complete it."

Patrick finished 129th in the field. His feelings on finishing?

"Oh, absolutely exhausted and a hell of a lot lighter! There's quite a lot you don't enjoy while you're doing it but when I finished I was elated. And I didn't feel at all



Patrick competing in the Marathon des Sable  
Photo courtesy Patrick Hodgens

guilty about all the eating and drinking we did afterwards."

Sandra Odorisio

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### NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 15 June 2016

8.00pm

Haven Amphitheatre community fundraising workshop

#### GUEST SPEAKERS:

**Rachel Hill, Councillor, WCC and  
Melanie Smith, Director, Community Culture & Leisure, WCC**

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:  
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[info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au)

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

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Ruth Kendon  
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**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](mailto: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

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### 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

As we go to press, Council amalgamation is still in limbo. With Mosman and North Sydney Councils (our forced partners) making legal challenges, we have had a reprieve and Willoughby continues with Mayor Gail at the helm (see Mayor's report p 4). Willoughby's independence is clearly threatened and the government's "consultation process" has proved to be a total sham once again. There is still no evidence to show that we would be better off with a "super" council. In fact, all pointers indicate quite the reverse.

Closer to home, ticks seem to still be getting under/into our skin! We have been getting reports from all over the peninsula

of ongoing and regular attacks. The medical centre and chemist are regularly treating and advising children and adults alike. Local vets are also treating dogs and cats, so remember to keep up their medication. Although the bites generally are not making people sick, the itch and discomfort can last for weeks.

As the letters suggest, it does seem as if the bandicoots and perhaps brush turkeys contribute to the distribution and some people are now avoiding going into their gardens, which is a very sad state of affairs. Let's hope winter slows these parasites down!

*Editors*

## Letters to the Editor

Last Spring my wife & I both had 3 ticks each, collected either in our garden down the eastern end of Edinburgh Road or in the bush below while working on bush regeneration.

Initially I used the tweezer method relatively successfully. Then we bought a freezer kit which is the best. We started examining each other every night & two more ticks were found & packed up & sent to Sydney University. We now are careful to dress appropriately & use DEET sprays.

This year we have been free of ticks until the last few days, I relaxed the dress rules to swim & water the garden which resulted in six larvae bites, very irritating & uncomfortable but I'm treating them with Lyclear as recommended.

We had noticed a lot of bandicoot activity before we were attacked by the ticks. Now we know that the eradication of foxes allowed the bandicoots to flourish. Can we control the bandicoots?

Ticks put you off gardening & make an enjoyable occupation a chore. We have now had the whole garden sprayed to break the cycle of larvae, nymphs, adults, eggs & we are very careful about dressing appropriately for the bush.

*Peter Davenport*

It seems that ticks have migrated into our area and are having a good time.

We've lived in Castlecrag since 2000 opposite the Griffin Centre in Edinburgh Road and never had any problems. I work in the garden all the time but protect myself with long pants, hat, long sleeves and socks. Alas mainly to avoid the spiders.

Late last year I ventured into the garden without the hat and sure enough developed a bump on the back of my head that just did not go away. I also had a funny bite on the ear. Finally I decided to see the doctor and to my great surprise she thought it might have been a tick.

We have also noticed for the first time since we moved to Castlecrag that there are Bandicoots in our gardens. Maybe the two are connected?

Not to speak of the poor magpie that had to feed a very hungry and noisy channel-billed cuckoo who selected our garden as its home and entertained us no end throughout January. First time we ever saw the evidence of the many adult cuckoos that visit here every year.

I think we are very fortunate to have all this activity right here on such a busy road as Edinburgh Road.

*Barbara Grimm*

## Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

(\$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](http://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: .....

*Please post to the Treasurer:*

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## From the President

—an edited account of my Annual Report at recent AGM

### The Haven

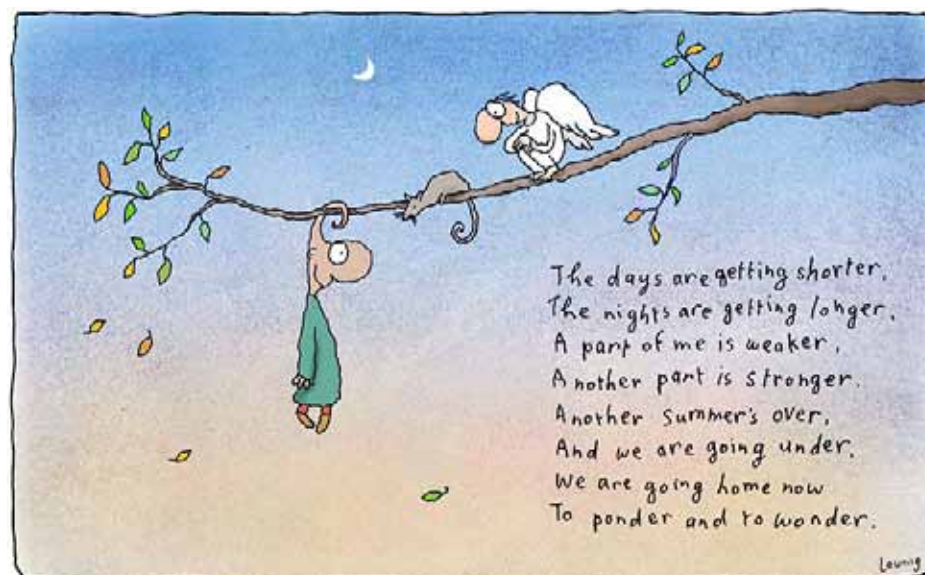
*The Crag* has provided thorough updates on the progress of The Haven Amphitheatre project. The CPA, as it should, has taken a keen interest and indeed participated in the debates, discussions and decisions regarding The Haven. Like everyone else we want to see it reopened as quickly as possible and have worked hard to ensure this end. But now is the time for this community to work together. The motto for Castlecrag Infants School was 'Together We Grow' and although sadly this school is no longer, the sentiment remains true – TOGETHER WE GROW. So, I put it out there, that the community groups and any interested individuals need to come together and start planning our campaign to raise the large amount of money required to see the new stage built. We invite all interested people along to our next General Meeting where Cr Rachel Hill will facilitate a discussion on fundraising possibilities. This is Rachel's area of expertise. See you there!

### 10/50 Legislation

Since this disastrous rule came into effect in August 2014 hundreds of mature trees have been destroyed in Willoughby. There is scant evidence to show that most (if indeed any at all) were felled because they created a bush fire hazard. Dozens have been lost in Castlecrag and I find it hard to comprehend why people, who chose to live in this suburb and one would presume because of its natural beauty, would then turn around and destroy one of the reasons which makes it so special.

### Amalgamation

The CPA made a submission against the forced amalgamation of local councils. We have yet to see any substantial advantage to Willoughby. Indeed, there is evidence in Victoria and Queensland where this has already occurred, that it is actually a



daysW with thanks to Mr Leuning

disadvantage to be merged – for many reasons – less representation and increased rates are just two of those. Many residents and councils are still fighting and we wish them luck.

### Proposed changes to the biodiversity laws

The state government is planning to repeal various acts, which have a proven record of protecting threatened species. If these repeals go through – and the govt has the numbers - then we will once again see an intensification of land clearing. Threatened species continue to be lost at an alarming rate. Please let our state MP's know if you are concerned. Closing date for submissions to the government's new Biodiversity Bill is 28 June.

### The Crag

Over the last year the CPA has been extremely fortunate to have 2 highly talented editors of *The Crag*. We have received numerous positive comments from residents over the content and style of our newsletter. Lindy Batterham has lived in Castlecrag for much of her life and has contributed significantly in many ways. She was our leader in our

fight to save the infants school and has been a pivotal member of The Haven Amphitheatre Committee for 30 years. Both her experience as an educator and in the performing arts has ensured quality performances for many years at The Haven. Sandra Odorisio has lived in Castlecrag for over 15 years and has many years of experience as a journalist. Both these people bring their many talents to the production of *The Crag*. I thank them for their great work.

### The Houses of Castlecrag

Thanks to Ben Gerstel (a local architect) we have been introduced to some of Castlecrag's architectural treasures. There will be more to come. If you have missed any of his articles you can always visit our website ([www.castlecrag.org.au](http://www.castlecrag.org.au)) to read past entries. We would also like to thank Ben for keeping an eye on DA's within Castlecrag to ensure they adhere to all regulations.

The editors welcome comments and ideas for *The Crag*. We hope you like our spruced up new look and will support its production by joining the association!

Kate Westoby

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## THE CRAG Mayor's Column



At the time of writing this column, the State Government has just announced the creation of 19 new councils across Sydney and NSW. At this time, Willoughby Council is not included in

the councils announced to merge, due to pending litigation by North Sydney and Mosman Councils. The Government has, however, given in principle support to a three Council merger of Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils, pending the result of litigation. The timeframe for this is currently unknown, and we await further decisions and announcements from the State Government.

During this time, I want to assure you all that Council will continue to work with our community 'business as usual' to deliver and improve local services and support, and will keep you informed of important developments.

Council is progressing proposed plans for the Haven Amphitheatre, endorsing baseline works that will make the site safe, publicly accessible, and usable as a low-key performance and passive recreation space within a bushland setting. These works should commence in the second half of 2016. Council is also moving forward with submitting a Development Application before 30 June for proposed plans to build a new stage. At its meeting on 9 May, Council committed \$544,000 in its 2017/2018 Long Term Financial Plan towards the stage rebuild, subject to matching dollar

for dollar from community donations and grants.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about **Vivid Sydney** returning to Chatswood again this year from 27 May to 13 June.

**Vivid Sydney** is such a wonderful event to offer locally to our community, that has remarkable cultural and economic development opportunities for the area. I hope to see many of you out and about enjoying the amazing collection of engaging installations and activities inspired by the fascinating creatures of Gondwana.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss with me please phone 9777 1001 or alternatively send me an email at [gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

*Gail Giles-Gidney*

## Time Travel in Castlecrag

In our modern age a mechanical slab of brilliant engineering can be your alarm clock, telephone, digital letter writer, music player and calendar all in one. We are often doing more at once in our downtime than ever before, but hardly feeling refreshed for it.

A few swipes on your smart phone screen and you're browsing the Sydney Morning Herald whilst checking 207 bus times on trip view and texting your best mate about next week's dinner party. You can be perusing on your iPad watching Netflix, while stalking your former high school friend's family trip to Bali.

If you feel like your brain is permanently split between email and Facebook, why not switch off the device, put on your flares and take a walk back in time to Castlecrag Library.

I am willing to bet that the majority of residents do not even know about this hidden gem. It is a branch of Council's Library network but largely run by a

wonderful band of local volunteer women who have been doing it for years. Its most digital possession is an electric typewriter! You can put on your flares and pretend to be a school child in the 70s again as helpful librarians stamp the return dates and paperclip index cards together.

The library specialises in contemporary fiction. It also has an extensive crime section, as well as many children's picture books and junior fiction. If you'd like to volunteer to help they could do with some new blood. Go down and visit.

You can find the library at the end of the Rampart closest to the shops, next to the KU Preschool where you usually vote.


The Library has limited hours and is open Tuesday 3pm to 4.30, Thursday 2pm to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 12pm.

Happy reading folks!

*Sophie Alais*

### NEW TITLES AT THE LIBRARY

Author	Title
Bloom & Grieve	Penguin Bloom
Barreau Nicholas	Paris Is Always a Good Idea
Bloom & Grieve	Penguin Bloom
Coben Harlan	Fool Me Once
De Costa Caroline	Double Madness
Deaver Jeffery	The Steel Kiss
Gregory Philippa	The Taming of The Queen
Kerrigan Kate	The Dress
Kidd Sue Monk	The Invention of Wings
MacBride Stuart	In the Cold Dark Ground
MacBride Stuart	22 Dead Little Bodies
Moon Josephine	The Beekeeper's Secret
Mosley Michael	The 8 Week Blood Sugar Diet
Nesbo Jo	Midnight Sun
Obermeyer & Koraiem	The Good Life
Patterson James	15th Affair
Robb J D	Brotherhood in Death
Rodrigues Deborah	Return To The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul
Toibin Colm	Brooklyn
Zanjani Sohili	Scattered Pearls



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# The Houses of Castlecrag

An interesting house in The Tor Walk is visited by Ben Gerstel. Ben is a local architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association ([www.architecture.org.au](http://www.architecture.org.au)).

## A Harry Seidler Gem 14 The Tor Walk, Castlecrag

Harry Seidler was born in 1923 in Vienna and died in 2006. He came to Australia via America where he worked for the architect Marcel Breuer. Seidler took what he learnt from Breuer and adapted it for the Australian condition. This took into account the climate and landscape. Seidler introduced International Modernism to Australia



Photo: B. Gerstel

Castlecrag has a varied collection of architect designed houses from Griffin's time to today. The suburb once had three houses designed by the late Harry Seidler. Only two remain, with 14 The Tor Walk being one of them.

This modest house is located at the end of Castlecrag and sits hidden amongst the trees. It was originally designed as a bachelor pad (it had no door to close off the bedroom) but went on to become a family home. The house has retained much of its original character and the planning of the house has not dated. I was lucky enough to meet a family member who has lived there all his life.

The house was designed in 1958. Seidler's early houses had similar features such as being modest in size, well planned and often raised off the ground. At that time, Seidler designed houses on the lower north shore in suburbs like Mosman, Cammeray, Northbridge and Castlecrag, all have stunning views of Middle Harbour like this

house. Sadly, some of these houses have been demolished.

"Most of the houses Seidler designed before 1970 have a predominant horizontal configuration, with all the living and sleeping spaces spread out in one plane opening out to embrace the landscape" (1)

14 The Tor Walk was designed over two levels and in two stages. The entry was on the ground level in the middle of the house. This level also included a laundry and a tandem garage. Stage 1 included a bedroom, bathroom, living room, kitchen and dining room on the first floor. A narrow deck runs along the front of this level to capture the views to the water, Clontarf and beyond.

Stage 2 added three bedrooms, a bathroom and a playroom. Since the site was quite steep, the second stage was built on a higher level connected to Stage 1 by steps in line with the steps from the entry. The whole house sits under a skillion, a one way sloping roof, which

reflected the lay of the land.

Since the house was small, areas on the ground floor have been enclosed and the front door has been relocated. A carport was added in the front yard as a driveway could not be built to access the tandem garage.

The house was built using grey concrete bricks some of which have been painted over time. The balustrade to the deck was originally chicken wire. To appreciate the view, the front walls of the house are completely glass with large glazed sliding doors and windows.

**Ben Gerstel**

**Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd**

Email: [bgerstel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bgerstel@optusnet.com.au)

### References:

1. *Harry Seidler House, Interiors 2*, 2003. The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd
2. *Essay: Harry Seidler and the Great Australian dream* by Chris Abel

Congratulations to the Walter Burley Griffin Society! Its new book, ***Visionaries in Suburbia – Griffin Houses in the Sydney Landscape***, has won an award at the National Trust (NSW) 2016 Awards in the category of Heritage Publications. *Visionaries* is edited by Anne Watson, designed by Adrienne Kabos, with contributions from nine authors.

It covers the Sydney houses designed by Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion Mahony Griffin, including those designed but not built. The book outlines the Griffins' radical ideas of urban planning in harmony with the landscape, with houses built in sandstone or the Griffin-devised knitlock construction, many of them at Castlecrag. It presents detailed histories of each built Griffin house in Sydney and features current and historical photographs of the homes and their occupants, providing delightful insights into the community life the Griffins fostered at Castlecrag.



Photo:  
Citadel house from the  
Hermann Junge archive

*Visionaries in Suburbia – Griffin Houses in the Sydney Landscape* is priced at \$59.95 and is available from good bookstores or through the distributors **Books at Manic** at [www.manic.com.au](http://www.manic.com.au). All Australian orders are free postage.

For further information about the Walter Burley Griffin Society and its work visit: [www.griffinsociety.org/index.html](http://www.griffinsociety.org/index.html)

## Discovery & Rediscovery – Heritage events then and now.

Castlecrag has a proud tradition of celebrating Heritage Week & Festivals. The range of events in any year directly links to the time and energy the local volunteers can put in.

People all over Sydney are drawn to our suburb. This year, as in many others, the Griffin Society organised well-attended events. On April 16 two large groups were led through the Griffin Estate in the morning. In the afternoon there was a standing room only conversation about life in the 30's & 40's that was recalled by those who were growing up here at the time. The discussion was prompted by a fascinating slide show of photographs mostly taken by the Leica representative to Australia at that time, Hermann Lunge, who brought his family to live here. His descendants have recently generously donated Lunge's Castlecrag photos to the Griffin Society so there will surely be other opportunities to see this wonderful collection.

Turn the clock back forty years to April 1976 to a much more ambitious 10 day "Castlecrag Heritage Festival", organised largely by members of the CPA. The starring attraction was the rebirth of the Haven Amphitheatre after forty years of darkness. There was a three week season of the now legendary "Salome", directed by the late great Howard Rubie.

By day, street stalls lined Edinburgh road and an information marquee was set up in the school grounds. Here maps, tickets and bookings were made. Several Griffin houses were open for inspection, and a photographic exhibition by Max Dupain depicting Griffin's Castlecrag was held in St James Church hall. In addition there were regular yacht cruises around Sugarloaf & Sailor's Bay. This was all organised by an enthusiastic band of local volunteers, most of them women.

1991 saw another memorable Heritage week event, this time an Open Day down at the foreshore cottages of Sugarloaf Bay.



Foreshore cottages on Sugarloaf Bay Photo: Lindy Batterham

This was the first white settlement in the area. Leonard Teale spoke to the gathering of about 100 people on the theme of *Heritage – why we should care*, which was recorded on video. This has been transcribed and excerpts appear below.

This year's events concluded on May 29 when one of these heritage-listed cottages held an open day. Participants experienced the beauty of the Northern Escarpment as they walked down the sandstone stairs from Stoker Park through the pristine Sydney Sandstone Forest of Coastal Red Gums (angophoras) to view this delightful cottage on the bay.

Lindy Batterham



*The late Leonard Teale was a local resident and one of Australia's best-known actors of his time. In the 60s & 70s he starred in Homicide, Seven Little Australians*

*and performed many poems and dramas for ABC radio, including The Man from Snowy River. He died in 1994 of a heart attack whilst on a walk at the bottom of Rockley Street, where a plaque now commemorates his life.*

Many of you have lived in Castlecrag a lot

longer than I have, and certainly would know a lot more about these cottages than I do, because we've only been here 15 years and so we're newcomers. But we do have a feeling, as I think practically everybody who's only lived here even for 6 months has a very special feeling about Castlecrag, and I think it's absolutely terrific of you to have come out today to support the idea of maintaining our heritage.

I think the first question that anybody has to ask when one hears about Heritage Week and Heritage Cottages and so on is to say "so what, big deal, who cares". Well I think there is a very good reason for caring. My belief is that history is the rear vision mirror to humanity. Like the rear vision mirror in a motor car if you are driving without a rear vision mirror you are in big trouble.

In the words of what I believe to be a proverb of the 19th century "History has a habit of repeating itself" and if we don't learn from history, if we don't learn from the rear vision mirror we are in deep trouble.

I believe history comes to us second hand through history books. Usually history is written by the victor and by academics who weren't there at the time, and that is why



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material evidence is so much more use to us, and so vital to us – so much more than the words written in history books.

Otherwise the whole science of archaeology is a colossal waste of time, otherwise the beautiful museum in Cairo that holds physical remains of the incredible civilization of about 3000-4000 years ago is a huge joke and a colossal waste of time if the written word is enough. You only have to go over there to Harold Reid Reserve and look back on here and you see how valuable and how beautiful it is. The people who have it in recent years have done their absolute best to maintain it. Yes there is a lot more to be done, but if this isn't kept and we only have to go by photographs and by words well then, as I say, the whole history of archaeology is a huge and unnecessary wasteful joke and I don't believe it is.

For those of you who are as new to the suburb as I am, maybe I can give you a little run down of the history of this place. This entire area on the northern side of the harbour was inhabited as far as we know by a tribe of Aborigines called the Cameraigals.

There is very little trace of them left except in some rock carvings and middens and the naming of the suburb of Cammeray but the Camaraigal were an extraordinary people. They were physically very strong upstanding people. It's suggested that possibly it was because they had one of the best hunting grounds – certainly one

of the best fishing grounds around. They extended right over to the whole northern side of the harbour to Manly and west to the Lane Cove River. And they had an extraordinary tax that they were able to take from people on the other side of the harbour. If they wanted to, they could extract one tooth from the people over Rose Bay way. I don't know if we can still do that! I don't think so!

It's interesting to me that the expansion of white settlement in Sydney was mainly on the southern side of the harbour to begin with and when it came up onto the northern side it was always around the water courses and around the edges and also around the spines of the various hills such as what is now Pacific Hwy & Military Rd.

This settlement here wasn't really settled until about 1880 and all along here from 297 to right down where was Horsley's Boatshed, there were a whole series of boatsheds just for weekend fisherman but the actual settlements didn't start here as far as we know until around let's say the turn of the century, which is why these are Federation houses and as I say if you can get over there and look back and see what it's like! I know many of you have already, as you go on that beautiful walking track that goes the whole of the way around the foreshore right to the point at Castle Cove. There were four families settled here – the Horsley's, John Morris, Frances Gordon and one other. The interesting thing to me

about 233 was that it became almost a centre for gambling, which is a very good Australian tradition historically. I believe you can still see the remnants of the illegal telephone cables that used to come down for the SP bookie who frequented the joint along there. There was also two-up played around here.

One of the very interesting things is that there was a fella called John Knight and I take it that's where Knight Place comes from – John Knight Smith who had the Willoughby pub. He was a great sportsman and it was he who built the first baths in this area – seawater baths along past 233 Edinburgh. He used to bring people from the Willoughby pub (which he owned) in various ways – drays and so on and so forth – to be able to go down the steps and to enjoy the baths there.

So there is a lot historically! Without going into any further detail about it, and there have been so many good books, well at least two to my knowledge, that have been written about Castlecrag. If you are really interested you can read about them there. You'll find them in the local library.

But this little patch here on Sugarloaf Bay is a beautiful little historic area which is unique. There is no other place in Australia that I am aware of that is so close to a big capital city 15 minutes away outside peak hour from the CBD and yet a perfect federation – little group of houses, and that to me is worth keeping. Why should it not be?

*Leonard Teale*



## Inspired by Marion Mahony Griffin...

...a young Sylvia Brose OAM founded Glenaeon in 1957.

The school's founding principles were

- **Design:** based on creativity embedded in learning.
- **Community:** warm and supportive classes based on close personal relationships.
- **A pursuit of academic excellence:** 2015 HSC results in top 6% of NSW high schools.



**Glenaeon**  
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### School Tour

Come and visit our Kindergarten to Year 2 classrooms at 121 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag at the following school tours – Thursday 19 May, Thursday 2 June, and Thursday 28 July.

Our Year 3-12 campus at Middle Cove is running tours on Saturday 4 June and Tuesday 26 July.

To book a tour or for more enrolment information, visit our website at [www.glenaeon.nsw.edu.au](http://www.glenaeon.nsw.edu.au) or call 02 9932 2325.



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## OBITUARY – Bill Donnelley 1 October 1923 – 19 February 2016



Bill and Margaret Donnelley were enthusiastic and active participants in community life. They lived in the Crag for nearly fifty years raising their four children – Brian, Susan, Clare and Celia deep down in the Griffin Estate. Bill had worked for ICI in Melbourne before becoming Personnel Manager at IBM Australia, moving the family to Sydney in 1961.

At first they lived in Mandalong Road, Balmoral while Bill and Margaret looked for somewhere to build. They looked at a block in Clontarf but eventually found the vacant block of their dreams at 53 The Bulwark. Luckily, Warwick and Genny Jonas at No 48 had prevailed on the original owners of No 53 not to cut down the big Scribbly Gum in the front yard, which they were planning to do, as the block wasn't selling and they thought this was due to the tree!

Bill worked closely with an architect to create their home. A Post and Beam style of split-level house was designed to cope with the steeply sloping site and to obtain views over Middle Harbour. Each flat roof was covered with pebbles, the aim being to have water on them for passive cooling – a modern idea at the time. The roof had a warranty of 25 years but lasted for 50. The flat roof style was necessary to comply with

stag horn ferns in some of the trees. Bill had an interest in orchids from early adulthood, which led him to climb up a gorge wall on a Blue Mountains bushwalk seeking a dendrobium orchid. This sort of "collecting" was common practice in those days. He fell and dislocated his kneecap, but it relocated after he was bounced on a stretcher out of the valley! Bill carefully nurtured his orchids with TLC and was inspired to see them growing wild in the Snowy Mountains in spring after the ground had been under metres of snow.

Bill loved the daily cryptic crossword puzzle – Margaret would help him from her seat across the table – she would read the puzzle and clues UPSIDE-DOWN and give the answers for him to pencil in!

Bill told the story of his teaching Margaret to drive the new Peugeot 203. As she approached an intersection too quickly for comfort, Bill calmly put his cigarette in his mouth and yanked on the handbrake with both hands. As the car screeched to a stop, he felt a burning sensation on his tongue – he'd put the wrong end into his mouth!

Bill was a founding member of the Haven Amphitheatre Committee and served for nearly 30 years. The couple were also members of Castlecrag Progress Association and the Conservation Society

the Castlecrag Covenant, to avoid blocking the view of the house behind at 2 The Bartizan, where the Hopkinson family resided.

The garden Bill created and tended was mainly native, there was a small pond, with orchids growing around it – plus flourishing

and regular attendees of meetings where they met many good friends. Margaret contributed to the cake stalls, and Bill participated in the weeding group for The Bartizan Island, as well as on the corner of The Bulwark and the Scarp many years before WCC's Bushcare came into being. He helped with care of the Amphitheatre for many years though in the 90's spent increasing periods caring for Margaret.

Bill was also a long-standing participant in the Castlecrag Playreaders, a group convened by the late thespian (and fellow Haven Amphitheatre Committee member) Ella Young. The group rehearsed then read a play in someone's living room to guests who then enjoyed discussion of the piece and a drink over supper. A favourite place for the playreadings in winter was the round living room with the big open fireplace in the Griffin house at the bottom of the Barbettes.

In the early 21st century Bill was in his eighties. He fell down from a garden retaining wall, and rolled on to the road fracturing his patella in a couple of places. He managed to leave the road safely and pull himself up the hill AND the first two storeys of the house. Margaret phoned an ambulance for him. He had two knee replacements that were mildly successful. Fortunately he chose to cut down on the gardening!

Margaret died on 15 October 2009 aged 85; Bill sorely missed her. He lived on in the house for a while but then sold up and moved to Northbridge Gardens in 2011. Not being quite over the hill, he kept his local ties and was a frequent participant in the burgeoning café culture of Castlecrag.

Bill died in the early hours of 19 February 2016, aged 92. His memorial service was a well attended and fitting tribute to his life.

*Lindy Batterham*

*Thanks to Brian, Clare and Celia for help in the writing of this piece.*

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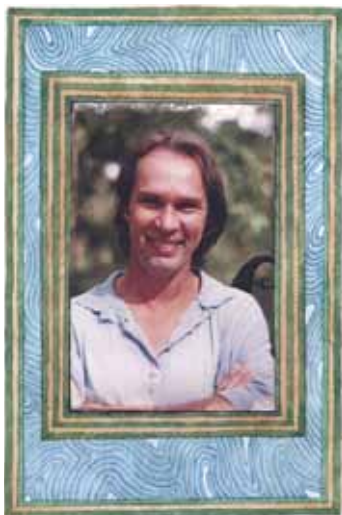
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## Kim Hunter Gamble 13 July 1952 – 19 February 2016



Left: Kim was well known for his flamboyant artwork borders  
Above: Sketch of the old Keller's old boatshed on Sugarloaf Bay  
Right: Cover artwork for 'Tashi' children's book series

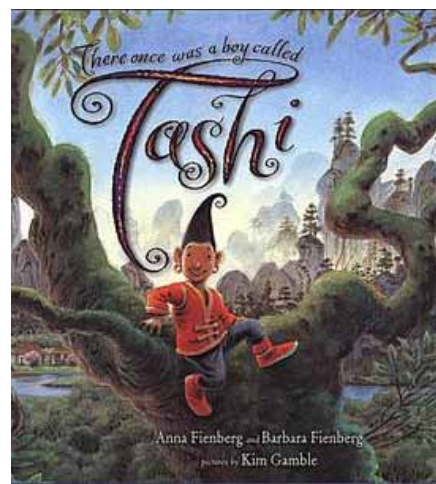
The Australian Children's Literature world has lost a major talent with the passing of artist/illustrator Kim Gamble. Among his many achievements, Kim was the creator of the character *Tashi*, who became the subject of a very popular children's book series.

Kim lived down on Sugarloaf Bay for much of the seventies and was a frequent visitor & house-sitter after that. In the 1970's, his close school friend, Francis Maratea from Chatswood High found one of the old fisherman's cottages to rent. Kim was immediately drawn to the area.

He rented a boatshed from Judith Keller (obit *The Crag* #194). The boatshed was demolished in the eighties, when

the Kellers and many other families on Edinburgh road sold the lower part of their land to the RTA to build the proposed freeway to Seaforth.

As an artist Kim found Sugarloaf and the bay a place of great inspiration, which, apart from spending time with good friends, is why he loved to visit. He was generous with his talent and created posters for our community and his friends. In 1998, 'under the influence' of Kate Westoby, Kim donated a beautiful large framed drawing in pastels to the Castlecrag Kindergarten which still proudly sits on the wall at the community centre. Look out for it when you go down to vote on July 2.



Kim's family & friends will miss him greatly. We will all miss out on Kim's creations that were yet to be imagined and drawn.

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## CASTLECRAG NOTES...

### KU Castlecrag Bush Kindy program

(Crag #193) KU Castlecrag has been honoured with a visit from a delegation of Swedish Early Childhood educators from Gothenburg. They are practitioners of forest/outdoor education and took the bushwalk down to Warner's Park with the children.

The Educators plan to build international relationships between the children so they can all share their stories of playing in nature. The Castlecrag children are sure to be amazed by their Swedish peers who go out to play in the forest in snow and up to -15°C temperatures – with their parent's encouragement! They teach the tots to "treat the forest as if you are in someone's home". The Swedes were impressed with our local bush kindy program and report they have learnt much from Australian practices too.

### Winter donations for Wayside Chapel

Last winter Peter Moffitt, Pete Townsend and Lorraine Cairnes delivered FORTY warm blankets, doonas, quilts, and sleeping bags from Castlecrag to the Wayside Chapel at Kings Cross. They filled the Subaru to overflowing. This was from a list of less than 30 Castlecrag email addresses: the Retreat Bushcare Group and some Castlecrag friends and neighbours. The Wayside Chapel had completely run out of blankets etc, and were very glad to have their community assistance store room replenished.

This year the Progress Association is initiating a new endeavour – the Wayside people said that they always need socks and underwear for their visitors, and their store also has racks for shoes. (Joggers and sturdy shoes of course, not high-heeled fashion items!) We are so lucky to have somewhere warm to shelter and sleep each night, and with our winter donations there will be street people and others sleeping warmer because of Castlecrag's contribution.

Drop your donations to 183 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag in the week 13-19 June or phone 9958 2127 with any further enquiries.

**Back n forth** has taken over from the short-lived trendy cafe **The Tor**. It has also applied for a liquor licence with the plan to open in the evening. Watch this space.

**Cottage and Coast** is also a new Homewares shop in the far corner of the Griffin Centre. Have a look and make Julie welcome. Once the kitchen is complete, she plans to operate a small cafe as an adjunct to its primary business.

### Meat Emporium

Paul Metcalfe joined us in the Quadrangle mid Dec 2015. When he saw this place, he says, he knew it was the right spot.

"We go to Frenchs Forest organic growers markets every Sunday & have been doing so for over five years. Now we have a base to operate from on the north shore, which is what our customers asked us for."

Paul is very particular about where he sources his products. The motto in the store is "no numbers, no nasties" so no preservatives, just all natural product. Some of their meat comes in from the family property in Upper Hunter Valley. He also buys some cartonned meat from Vic because it's in sync with what their customers want – pasture raised, pasture finished, chemical, hormone & antibiotic free meat, with the free range & organic status.

They house a new smokehouse – slow roasting brisket was cooking when I visited. Free range bacon & ham also come from the smokehouse. Shortly, Paul plans to launch a range of prepared meals – roast dinners will be ready to come out of the oven at 6pm every night of the week. Curries, stews and slow cooked meals will also be available.

### The Crag Doggie-Sitters Club

There has been a suggestion to start up a local Doggie-sitters club, using the model of a baby-sitter's club where, say, you look after a dog for a weekend and that gives you credit for a weekend's doggie day/night care, either with the same member, or perhaps another. One would need to ensure the dogs are compatible, perhaps by going to the park and visiting each others home a couple of times before the big sleepover, a bit like when introducing a child to day care!

A co-ordinator would be needed to set up a group email list and perhaps organise a local doggie meet to introduce each other and the dogs. Interested in such a club or volunteering to co-ordinate? Email: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)

## UPGRADING THE CRAG

**You may have noticed some changes in *The Crag*. They reflect our on-going desire to improve how the CPA uses this newsletter to provide a voice for the community of Castlecrag.**

**If you would like to see our project continue, we need your support. We need your feedback, your suggestions and, of course, your membership in the CPA.**

Your membership contribution, of only \$20 per person per year, will allow us to continue with the changes we have already made to *The Crag*, and to those still to come. It will also help us maintain and update our new website at [castlecrag.org.au](http://castlecrag.org.au).

If you are interested in helping please contact us at [info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au) and if you can't get to the next meeting, you can pay your membership by direct debit from your bank account to: Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. BSB: 062 138 Account No: 10006008



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# • ENVIRONMENT NEWS • environment news • ENVIRONMENT NEWS •



Left: Showing off the garden produce

Below: Biggest Wed morning garden group ever!



## The Dairy Garden

Last issue it was reported that nestled into the southern side of Castlecrag and only a short walk from The Rampart – through Keep Reserve along a section of the Griffin Federation Track – is Warners Park. Have you now discovered this beautiful green valley space which hosts (among other community facilities) 'The Old Dairy Community Garden'? The delightful ambience of the outdoor space here has been a real drawcard for a number of us to join this community garden. Autumn brings its own special light and colour to add to the mix.

If you have an interest in, or passion for, organic vegetable gardening and are able to spare a couple of hours on some Wednesday mornings from around 9–11am you're welcome to join us and share the journey of exploring local sustainability and camaraderie.

With indispensable support from wonderful community projects, bushcare and environmental staff at Willoughby Council, amazing co-ordination and drive from Janet France, and under the sometimes frustrating feet of the local brush turkeys, there's a small group of five to six Wednesday morning gardeners who attend when we can.

It's an opportunity to enjoy a friendly catch-up, water, seed-raise, weed, compost, fertilise, harvest and/or plant together. This is usually followed with a cup of tea and a little treat to eat. We're very pleased that our Wednesday morning group includes three Cragites: Maggie, Sophie and me.

The Council has recently gifted the garden with three raised beds into which we're planting potatoes, spinach, kale and more. This brings our number of raised beds to seven, having successfully established four 'self-watering' 'wicking beds' using re-cycled materials and some ingenious know-how.

It's exciting to see a promising crop of carrots coming along in one of the wicking beds. We're raising cauliflower and broccoli seeds for autumn/winter planting and have just planted lots of coriander seeds and broad beans. Over summer we had good butternut pumpkin and bean crops along with an abundance of cherry tomatoes. Right now there's heaps of salad rocket for harvesting.

As a group we like to share information and contribute to related community initiatives such as Neighbours Day, food sharing, seed saving and repair workshops.

In addition to the Wednesday morning meetings, the Dairy Community Garden meet at the garden on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month. See [www.thedairygarden.weebly.com](http://www.thedairygarden.weebly.com) or contact Janet France through the website.

Mary Anne Veliscek

## CASTLECRAIG BUSHCARE 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 209  
9-12noon  
Contact Keith Ferguson 0408 518 509

### Second Saturday of the Month

- Gargoyle Bushcare  
9-12noon  
Contact Cherrie Wilson 0478 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

- Casement Reserve  
8.30-11.30  
Contact Sue Burk 0404 470 443
- Torquay Estate  
9-12noon  
Contact Jo Nolan 0419 234 235
- Lookout Reserve  
9-12noon  
Contact Jessica Davis 0431 317 756  
or Adrienne Kabos 9298 3761

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## Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

### Vivid Sydney at Chatswood

27 May to 13 June Every evening from 5.30pm to 10.30pm

The Southern Hemisphere's largest festival of light, music and ideas, returns. The festival will transform the bustling Chatswood CBD into 'WildLight – The Bio-Kinetic City', an amazing collection of engaging installations and activities inspired by the fascinating prehistoric creatures of Gondwana.

Take a technology-led journey into the past via a world of projection, lighting effects and fantastic avian creatures. Watch futuristic 3D animations of prehistoric creatures playing across the facade of The Concourse or become part of the experience by taking control of mechanical dinosaur frames.

Vivid's youngest patrons can create their own unique deep-sea adventure by day at Chatswood Chase, playing with luminescent sea creatures in the Luminarium, operating daily from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information visit: [www.vividsydney.com](http://www.vividsydney.com)

### Traditional Basket Weaving with Karleen Green

Saturday, 11 June 11.00am to 2.00pm

Miller Street Market 220 Miller St, North Sydney

Join Indigenous artist Karleen Green to create your own small, coiled basket using lamandra grass and learn about natural dyeing techniques. Explore the history of Aboriginal weaving traditions and weave the Rainbow Serpent.

Cost: Free Bookings essential

Enquiries: Lisa McDonald 9922 2299

[lisa@northsydneycentre.com.au](mailto:lisa@northsydneycentre.com.au) or [northsydneycentre.com.au](http://northsydneycentre.com.au)

### Meet the Candidates for the North Sydney Federal Election

Tuesday, 21 June 7.00pm–9.30pm

Dougherty Community Centre

Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations Inc. will be organising this session. Here is your opportunity to discuss the issues affecting you with our Federal election candidates. Bring along your questions and be a better informed voter.

### Castlecrag Coastal Walk

Thursday, 23 June 10.00am to 12.00pm

Join Council's Landscape Architect, Jan Felton, for a walk through some of the lovely Walter Burley Griffin Reserves that hug the water's edge in Castlecrag. Some steep sections and uneven ground.

Bookings essential

Enquiries: 9777 7755

### Walk the Basin Track, Ku-ring-gai Chase

Sunday, 26 June 10.00am to 2.00pm

See it through the eyes of children. At the site you be told stories of times long gone by. There will be explanations as to how the rock carvings were used as a School room for Aboriginal Children. Bring your camera for the view from West Head. Amazing!

Cost: \$10.00 Bookings essential

Enquiries: Laurie Bimson 0438 877 509 [GuringaiTours.com.au](http://GuringaiTours.com.au)

### Life Drawing with Jannawi Dance Clan Girls, Gapala Yunupingu & Bianka Martin

Saturday, 25 June 2016 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Incinerator Art Space, 2 Small Street, Willoughby

Bring your sketch book and favourite drawing materials for a drawing session of Indigenous dancers, Gapala Yunupingu and Bianka Martin from the Jannawi Dance Clan. This workshop is for experienced drawers as there will be no formal instruction.

Cost: \$10 Bookings essential

Contact: Kathie Najar on 0401 638 501 or email [kathie.najar@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kathie.najar@willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

### Gundhay Art: Native Floristry Workshop with Amy Tracey

Saturday, 2 July 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Explore the beauty and endurance of Australia's diverse native flora with Indigenous designer and floral artist Amy Tracey, while piecing together a floral arrangement of your own. Learn how easily the elements and principles of design can be used to ensure that your creation is effortlessly harmonious. Not only will you leave the workshop with your creation, but also the skills to put together a piece for your next event or special occasion. All materials are supplied.

Cost: \$35 Bookings essential

Contact: Kathie Najar on 0401 638 501

### Animals of the Dreaming

Friday, 8 July 10.30am to 11.30am

Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest

Presented by Taronga Zoo combining Australian animal encounters with Aboriginal Dreamtime stories. Features Indigenous Guest Experience Officers. All ages welcome.

Cost: Free

Enquiries: Caitlyn Cox 9439 5122

### Spotlight Bushwalk Under the Stars

Friday, 15 July 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Have you always wanted to see a sugar glider or an owl? Try your luck on this fun family walk. There are some steep steps on this walk. Bring a torch. This activity is suitable for children 5 years and over.

Cost: Free Bookings essential

Enquiries: 9777 7755

### Willoughby Environmental Protection Association Speaker Meeting

Tuesday, 19 July 8.00pm

Glenaeon school hall. Speaker TBA

### For more information on events in Willoughby visit:

[www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au)

Some of the events listed are part of the annual Guringai Festival, celebrating local Indigenous history & culture. For the full program of events across all (now former) eleven Council areas, visit [www.guringaifestival.com.au](http://www.guringaifestival.com.au)

Diary Dates is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.

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