



CASTLECRAG
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION

THE CRAG

A voice for the community since 1925

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No. 199

JUNE 2017

Forced Council Amalgamations.

Off to the High Court of Australia.
See page 2.

Dog Attack on Northern Escarpment.

Native fauna threatened.
See page 11.

Castlecrag's artistic voice lives on

Castlecrag has a proud history as a bohemian enclave, an idyllic retreat for the many creative artists who have made their homes here over the decades.

The Griffins' legacy has been their radical urban planning, stone themed homes and the Haven Amphitheatre. A myriad of painters, poets, musicians, architects and actors have been drawn here by the tranquility and inspiration offered in this most beautiful location. The recent *Artistic Voices* exhibition (p5) documents this well.

The late sculptor, Bim Hilder, lived and worked for over seventy years on Edinburgh road, opposite the church. On the local front, he designed the fountain at Sortie Port and the mural in St James church foyer. Among other commissions, he built huge floats for the annual *Waratah Festival Parade*. One could watch over the weeks as they took shape in the laneway. Bim made hand puppets and for decades performed *Punch and Judy* shows in his backyard and around the place. They are presently on display with the Marion and Walter gigante puppets in the Castlecrag part of the *Landmarks* exhibition at the National Museum of Australia, extended now for another two years.

Recorded in the *Castlecrag* book from the 1970's, Bim recalled:



"My first introduction to the Griffins and community life on Castlecrag was when his whole staff, dressed as Aztec gods in all their splendour, arrived at a small club called Pakies on a 'Mexican' evening. Most of the people who frequented this club were interested in the arts in some way and several of these had bought land on the Castlecrag peninsula."

In this edition we showcase just a few of the artists in residence in the 2068 postcode.

We hope to have some of these local artists – and many more – showcasing their works at this year's Castlecrag Artists & Artisans Fair, now set for October 15. Any local artists within the postcode interested in selling their creations at the fair should contact Simone Selby on 0421 369 643 to book a berth.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

7.45pm

The North District Plan of the Greater Sydney Commission

GUEST SPEAKER:

Greg Woodhams

Executive Director City Planning, GSC

Combined meeting with Artarmon Progress Association

In the Artarmon Library Community Hall (behind the Old Church/ New Library)
139 Artarmon Road (access via Tindale Rd), Artarmon

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

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info@castlecrag.org.au

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

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Write to us

The Crag is a community newsletter and we welcome letters and contributions from residents about local issues. We do not publish anonymous letters. Items should be sent to the editors by email to: editors@castlecrag.org.au. They should be concise (preferably less than 250 words for letters). Please include your email address or phone number as we may need to edit items to fit the space available. Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

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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

There is a proud history of being vocal about issues that concern us, so it is not all that surprising that our community, and people in our midst, featured strongly in the various local activities for the Heritage Festival *Having a Voice*. There have undoubtedly been more than a few polties and councillors over the years who would have preferred Castlecrag voices not be heard!

The recent announcement that the challenge by Woollahra Council to a forced amalgamation with its neighbours has been escalated to the High Court of Australia bodes well for Willoughby's continued independence. Willoughby has proven to be "fit for the future" and recently received an award for Excellence in Operational and Management Effectiveness, so there seems to be no



With thanks, Mr Leunig

valid financial, nor cultural reason for the NSW Government to force us into an arranged marriage.

This issue highlights three local artists, and sets the scene for our upcoming Artists & Artisan Fair in October. We are keen to hear from artists of all artforms. Finally, we note the recent passing of Robert Sheldon, his obituary will appear in the next issue.

Editors

Battle in The Battlement

Willoughby Council is facing a test of its planning powers as it seeks to ensure that two households in the Battlement bring down unauthorized front walls built on public land. The properties are located within the Griffin Conservation Area (GCA). The management policies state "Maintain and where possible reinstate natural topography, landforms, the natural ecology/drainage ways ..."

The GCA was created in 1996 to protect the southern side of Castlecrag designed by Walter Burley Griffin. It is a unique area of international renown. The overriding principle of the Griffin design is the subordination of the built environment to the natural landscape.

An on-site meeting with one of the owner's architect, neighbours, Councillors' Hooper and Erikson, the Walter Burley Griffin Society (WBGS) and Progress Association (CPA) inspected the new structure outside one of the properties in December last year. It found the unauthorised structure encroached onto public land and it had

been built up too high above the natural rock platform. Council ordered that it be reduced in size.

Concern from WBGS, CPA and neighbours was also expressed about another wall, recently built on a neighbouring property, which also encroaches onto public land, built right up to the roadway. Google Earth proved to be a useful tool as it provided clear images of the streetscape before construction of the walls.

Neighbour Jenny Rathmanner is one of many local residents concerned at the prospect of a damaging precedent being set.

"I think it shows a blatant disregard for the Walter Burley Griffin Heritage conservation regulations. These two encroachments on public land have been built without Council approval and are not in keeping with the Griffin vision of an open green vista. Both walls are overwhelming to the streetscape.

"Council should ensure that the public land be restored to its original condition and the open streetscape returned to the original vision of Burley Griffin," Jenny said.

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From the Vice President

President Kate is having a well-earned break in the UK and Europe so it has fallen to me to step into the breach.

The Annual General Meeting in March was well attended by members and friends who came armed with penetrating questions for our guest speaker, Federal Member of Parliament for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman. Trent focussed on the challenges and priorities for the Turnbull Government as he saw them. They included major overseas developments, balancing the budget and housing affordability. A lively discussion followed including some spirited questions about refugees on Manus Island & Nauru, the proposed Middle Harbour Tunnel, continued government support for the Adani coal mine and changes to the Marriage Act.

Progress on the Haven Amphitheatre reconstruction has continued, albeit too slowly for some of us. Significantly, Council has decided to fund separately the accessibility elements necessary for disabled patrons, currently estimated to cost about

\$300,000, although cheaper, less intrusive options are being explored by the Haven Amphitheatre Committee.

Funding for the stage and undercroft is to come from the community with Council matching, dollar for dollar, what the community raises. *The Carnival* was a sterling effort but there is still a long way to go with raising our half of the \$1m. All ideas and efforts welcome!

The bi-annual Castlecrag Fair will be held later this year on Sunday 15th October. Please note change of date. The focus this fair is on the Artists and Artisans that inhabit our community and the hope is you will support them by shopping early for your Christmas gifts. We have many talented local artists and we are putting the call out for them to show their unique wares at the fair.

We are also showcasing young performers this year with a busking platform. We want to encourage up and coming performers to strut their stuff in a supportive setting. In fact anyone is welcome to perform an act,

even if you're a granny. Contact Simone on 0421 369 643 to book your place.

We are watching, with interest, the proposed Beaches Link tunnel under Northbridge and Middle Harbour to Balgowlah and the Wakehurst Parkway. Although the proposal claims to improve public transport for the Northern Beaches by reducing bus travel times by up to 40%, the major emphasis is on reducing congestion for private vehicles. Criticism has centred on the reinforcement of Sydney's already high dependence on the motor car rather than an integrated metro rail-bus option for the Warringah Peninsula.

Finally, we welcome you to our next general meeting on 21 June. We are joining with Artarmon Progress Association to hear Greg Woodhams, now with the Greater Sydney Commission, talk about the North District Plan. Greg previously worked for many years at WCC as Director of Environmental Services, so he is very familiar with our area. If you need a lift to Artarmon please let us know (*contact details p2*).

John Steel

THE CRAG Mayor's Column



Willoughby Council is continuing to work for and with our community while we await further developments on a potential merger with Mosman and North Sydney Councils.

Latest developments include Ku-ring-gai Council winning its appeal in March against the State Government's proposal to merge Ku-ring-gai with Hornsby Council. In May, Woollahra Council was granted special leave by the High Court to appeal against the State Government's decision to merge that council with the municipalities of Waverley and Randwick. No hearing date has yet been set.

Congratulations to the Haven Amphitheatre and friends on the fundraising event, 'The Carnival' held at The Concourse in February. The event raised \$58,000 of community donations for the new stage at the Haven. In the meantime, Council and consultants have been fine tuning the stormwater

requirements for creek protection under the new stage. In April, a grant application was lodged with the NSW HeritageNearMe program; maximum grants available are \$100,000. Council's draft budget for next year includes a funding commitment of \$544,000 which, along with matching community donations of \$544,000, brings the total funding to \$1.088M and makes the future of the new stage more realistic.

I met with Premier Gladys Berejiklian in May to discuss many issues affecting Willoughby residents and once again raised the issue of the right hand turn from Edinburgh Rd to Eastern Valley Way. Gladys assured me that she is progressing this with the RMS.

In recognition of our commitment to provide the best possible services with efficiency I am very pleased that the success of Council's Business Improvement Program has resulted in Council receiving the *Excellence in Operational and Management Effectiveness* award at the prestigious Local Government Awards in April. Started in 2015, the Program has resulted in estimated costs savings of \$175,000 in the 2015/16 year, increased staff efficiency and compliance, improved customer service and other positive flow-ons to the local community.

Our residents can now recycle various

types of problem waste free of charge, at a newly opened drive through Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre, in Artarmon. You can drop off household problem waste that cannot go in kerbside bins – everything from paint to mobile phones, fire extinguishers and more. This is the first centre of its kind to be opened on the North Shore and a very exciting collaboration between five Councils and the State Government's NSW Environment Protection Authority.

For further details on opening times, and what materials can be dropped off, visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about this year's *Vivid Sydney* at Chatswood from 26 May to 17 June. The buildings, streets and laneways of Chatswood will be reinvented as a funky, retro-futuristic smart city as technology and light fuse with 19th Century steam-powered machinery. I hope to see many of you out and about at this wonderful event that has remarkable cultural and economic development opportunities for our local area.

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.

Gail Giles-Gidney

A Celebration of local voices



Save our School campaign

Did you catch any of Willoughby's events at the recent National Trust Heritage Festival? In it's 37th year, it is one of Australia's largest and longest running annual community festivals. Castlecrag has played a part in just about every one of them. The 2017 theme **'Having a Voice'** immediately rang bells for this community!

The **Community Voices of Willoughby** exhibition in the Council Foyer was curated by Library Services. It looked at the history and issues that have concerned local progress associations, societies and environmental groups that have contributed to the lifestyle in the Willoughby area.

Castlecrag Progress Association was well represented with photos, newspaper clippings and cultural objects from various campaigns, including stopping the expressway and Seaforth bridge, the save our school campaign, the Foreshore Building Line to preserve the Northern Escarpment from overdevelopment, as well as the present campaign to support the rebuild of the Haven Amphitheatre stage. You can still catch Community Voices, as it has now relocated to the Library at The Concourse.

The **#MyWilloughby – Photo Exhibition** was in the same foyer. Entrants were encouraged to submit photos of their neighbourhood, capturing personal stories of the area. Two local photographers

who made it to the finalists were Therese Haywood's *Kookaburra* and Justin Davison's *Sunrise and Food Fight*.

Artistic Voices is another exhibition of local interest at the Willoughby Historic Museum and covers professional artists across many artforms. It will be on display till September. It demonstrates that the district has a long and rich heritage of artistic endeavour that reflects the cultural diversity of the city, but the exhibition really only touches the edges. Castlecrag's artistic heritage in particular shines through, with many of the exhibited artists having lived, or are still living, in the Crag. A seed was planted with the thought that Castlecrag could hold its own **Artistic Voices** exhibition and the upcoming fair will be a step in that direction.

Top: 'Kookaburra', Therese Haywood

Bottom: 'Food Fight', Justin Davison



Max Dupain



Staircase, House (Bairich 1), Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag
Photo by Max Dupain

It has been written that **MAX DUPAIN** was one of Australia's most revered photographers. His work has been collected world-wide.

Max lived in Castlecrag photographing the city from the late 1930s through to just before his death in 1992. Mostly he was interested in recording the architecture, the landscape, the beaches and the cities of Australia.

Simple & direct

Beginning in the mid 1930s, Dupain took on most genres: portraits, nudes, still life and in particular, architecture. Later in his dramatically lighted portrayals expressed abstract qualities, emphasising the simple shapes and design of a structure.

Dupain's philosophy could be summed up in two words, simplicity and directness. With this in mind, Dupain remained an adherent of black and white photography.

A display at the Willoughby Historic Museum

An Open Day at the Foreshore Heritage cottages

saw a regular flow of people down the 298 steps from Stoker Park on a balmy April day. Featured in *The Crag* #194* this was part of the first settlement of the area in 1883, comprising a boat building outfit and in 1901, a Hudson (Timber) Display home. Both cottages hold many stories and have been meticulously restored and lovingly cared for by the current families. All make the trek up the steps every morning through rain, hail and summer heat to get to school or work. When young Hannah & Emma grew up in the cottages in the 90's, they would run up the hill, hop on their bikes and ride to Willoughby Primary. The Blacklock boys, Erryn and Liam were hiking up and down the steps from an early age and now it's Sophie and Annabel who walk the hill and

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Jan Felton at The Pinnacle bus stop

ride their bikes to Willoughby. No wonder Sophie just won the cross-country and is off to the zone carnival! They are a stoic lot down there in Sugarloaf Bay!

Having a Voice was the theme of the WCC Heritage Festival Castlecrag Walk. Forty-odd people, a few of them local, explored the tip of the peninsula with Council's Landscape Architect Jan Felton. Jan gave a run-down of the history of the place and discussed how residents led by the Progress Association continued the Walter Burley Griffin ethos and used their 'voice' to save Castlecrag from having an expressway through it. Snaking down Edinburgh road from the Pinnacle Hill, houses designed by significant architects were noted.

After exploring the new park that takes one down to the bay, the walkers continued right down to Sugarloaf Point's northerly



The Duncan House, The Barbette

tip, and saw the house with the wavy roof & ceiling designed by Hugh Buhrich in the 50's. This received the 2015 NSW Architecture Award – Enduring Architecture Award.

The walkers were exceptionally fortunate to have Hugh Buhrich's son Neil who lives in the house give an impromptu talk about his father and his work and very generously invited those interested to view the interior of the main living area, definitely a highlight for many and very much confirming the enduring sense of community still found in the suburb. Thanks, Neil.

Inspired voices – the Griffin legacy at Castlecrag drew people to our suburb to participate in this walk. Hosted by the Walter Burley Griffin Society, two large groups were led by highly knowledgeable members of the WBGS around the Parapet to the Redoubt, through the reserves and



James Smallhorn outside 140 Edinburgh Road

walkway to the Barbette and Bulwark, to the Haven Amphitheatre, then up the path to the Citadel heading back up the hill. Recordings of Walter's words were played to bring a sense of his philosophy and the special qualities and aspects he implemented at Castlecrag.

A new family were moving in to the Duncan house in the Barbette, and they spontaneously invited the walking group in. Not even the furniture had arrived so people were privileged to see the bones of the original Griffin house and its more recent addition at the front.

The owners' generosity of spirit was again greatly appreciated and duly noted. One could tell they are honoured to be moving into the Griffin Conservation Area and feel privileged to be living in a Griffin home.

**Previous issues of The Crag can be found on CPA website www.castlecrag.org.au.*

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Three practicing Artists in our midst



Pooch Pawtraits by Shona Parker

Shona was not permitted to study art at school, her parents forbade it, preferring that she focus on more academic subjects, which lead to an international career as a Creative Director in the advertising industry. But Shona has always painted as a hobby... and painting dogs has become her passion.

Shona Parker

Painting Dogs has always made me happy. I have 2 dogs, Murphy and Bruno, both Labradors. Murphy is 8 years old, and Bruno is a 3 year old chocolate Labrador – a rescue dog – who is the world's maddest dog and will eat anything and everything and has required a few visits to the vet for retrieval of the odd shoe or scarf.

My career as a professional artist really came about by accident 3 years ago when I ordered a portrait of my dog from an online site. It took six months to arrive from China – I hadn't realized it wasn't local – and when it did arrive it was a massive canvas and the portrait was about ten centimetres square.

I was so disappointed, but I thought I couldn't send it back, I would just paint over it myself instead. So I painted Murphy in the sitting room and hung it at my home. As people saw it, they asked me to paint their dogs.

I would paint dogs for charities and fundraisers and I realised pretty quickly that this is what I wanted to do. That was what truly made me happy. It's the unconditional love that you can see in their eyes.

People love their animals and when you can give someone a picture, particularly if it's an animal that has past away, and they can see their dog's character and personality in my painting, it's just so rewarding to me.

I work from photographs. The better the photo the better the portrait. I will sit with my dogs and draw up the base picture first. I've dabbled with water colours and I've dabbled with oils but I mostly use acrylics as they're faster drying and they're easy to blend. On average it takes me two weeks per portrait before I'm satisfied to say it's finished.

Best reaction so far?

This week I delivered the fourth painting I've done for a customer of mine and I told her that I just love her dog, and she said to me that she could really see that in the painting. It made me feel fantastic... absolutely fantastic!

Friends, Jo Nolan and Jane Guthleben, transitioned into professional art after leaving established careers in Law and Journalism. They recently exhibited at the **107 projects in Redfern** gallery.

Jo Nolan

I was a lawyer – a commercial litigator – before I was an artist. My father was an artist so I grew up in amongst it all. I often painted with my father. It was something we did together when I was young. When I finished school I went off and became a lawyer and practiced for ten years. I enjoyed the Law. It was challenging, but I don't think it necessarily nourished my soul.

It was only after my father died very suddenly that I thought I would return to study the History of Western Art and as a natural progression, I have gone back to doing it.

I paint in water colours, acrylics and sometimes oils. At the moment I'm focusing on abstraction and studying the history of western art.

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Jo Nolan in her studio

I feel very contented when I'm painting. I can lose myself in time, and I feel relaxed when I'm doing it.

Commercial litigation by contrast is all consuming. I think it's very difficult to shift gears from work into the home environment. I have 4 children at home aged 16, 14, 11 and 9 and I am lucky enough to have a room at home where I can paint and where the kids can come in and share the space.

I did have a studio away from home for a time, but often the time available to me to work is quite patchy so this way makes me more productive.

I can't really say I'm making a living out of my art yet. I'm really just at the beginning of my art career (if you can call it that) and I am about to showcase my work at my very first exhibition.

I'm thrilled, very excited. It's showcasing exclusively the works of a group of female artists and the theme is all about "multi-tasking"... about balancing needs and time and interests and obligations. All of those things that are the reality of how we all have to practice, particularly in modern times.

Can anybody be an artist? I don't know. I think it's something that is available to everyone to explore. I think people are born with certain potential to do things and we all make choices about what part of ourselves we choose to develop and I think I made certain choices. Now I am just trying to return to what feels intuitively right for me.

Jane Guthleben

I paint mostly in acrylics and oils. I paint objects. I guess I'm a still life painter but I am trying to explore the power or the meaning embedded in an object.

I am always in love with the latest thing that I am painting and right now I'm working on a series of flannelette shirts. For me it's a series of clothing that has Australian identity but is also about work. I grew up on a farm so it partly relates back to work on the farm.

The tartan in the flanny can on first glance might have a threatening connotation to it if you relate it back to Scottish tartans, which are about clans and were worn into battle. The flanny is also iconic in the way that it is part of bogan culture. It's a bit of an opposite to the painting world which is all about high brow culture and fine art and galleries.

I'm painting these for the *Multitasking* exhibition at the **107 projects in Redfern** gallery. This is my first curation project. I've booked the space, arranged the insurance, chosen the artists, chosen the theme, and loosely negotiated what the works will be ... but there's still a lot of flexibility on how the show will look.

There are 9 artists in the exhibition. Jo is one of them. It's work from a group of artists who are juggling a lot of stuff along with their art practice.

One woman is putting her mum into a nursing home, another has a newborn baby, another is recovering from cancer so everyone has this added pressure but they're still driven to make work. I think that's reflected in the work that they make. All of these artists are unrepresented by

a gallery and it was a way of giving them some recognition while recognizing that it is hard to squeeze all that in and still have some kind of voice.

The most gratifying thing for an artist is selling a work. Its one thing for your favourite Aunty to buy a work, its quite another for somebody to see something in your work that they're willing to hand over hard earned dollars for.



Jane with one of her 'flannelette' paintings

I used to feel really weird about calling myself an artist because it sounded a bit pretentious to me. I used to work as a journalist so calling myself an artist after being a journalist seemed like a weird transition so, for a while I was a journalist who also painted. I think there is a mystique about the artist that they should be in a beret and its all very mysterious. I would prefer to call myself a painter.

I drew a lot as a kid, I did HSC art and painted a lot through that period of my life and then when I was at uni I experimented with other types of craft such as silk painting and screen printing, but really I returned to it, like Jo, once I started having the kids, (three of them now 21, 19, 16 all still living at home) as a way of snatching back some of my own time in the wee hours after they'd gone to bed. It was some way of getting back to my own world that was purely about me. I'd love to make a living out of it.

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Search is on for a Starter at Northbridge Sailing Club



Rick McFee has spent over a decade waving off the Sunday afternoon races as official starter/finisher for Northbridge Sailing Club, but since his retirement last year the volunteer-run club has had no luck in finding a regular replacement, or indeed a roster of replacement starters. Rick says "It's a great job, lots of fun and wonderful people, but I can't do it anymore."

Northbridge Sailing Club is a community focused club, enabling sailors from 7 to over 70 to learn, progress and enjoy the sport of sailing on picturesque Upper Middle Harbour. Members pay subscriptions to join, and by doing so agree to participate in the roster of duties from laying out the buoys to manning the club house canteen.

Club Vice Commodore Simon Bellamy, also a ten year veteran at NSC, is calling for anyone with an interest in enjoying an afternoon on the water with a very sociable group of sailors to give it a try – no experience necessary.

"People with previous sailing experience would be great but it could equally be someone who is a non sailor. You're not learning to sail you're learning how to start and finish a race! Anyone who is interested would be trained, and the club would facilitate the gaining of a power boat licence if necessary for the on-water starts from the committee boat. They won't be left on their own, we would nurture a new starter."

Hopefully a roster could be formed so people would commit to say one in four Sunday afternoons (12.30pm start) from September through to April.

A starter's job is quite precise. On arrival at midday the starter consults with the Officer of the day and senior sailors to decide where the course should be laid according to the prevailing winds. The officer lays out the buoys while the starter and an assistant record all of the boats that are intending to take part.

"That's actually done electronically.

Members log in to the system with sail number and name and it's ready and waiting on the day. We take a paper copy to check against the line-up at the starting line before the Starter conducts the start using the standard international rules flag sequences, combined with hooter to sound out the 5-minute countdown to the commencement of the race."

"Any week there would be between 15 and 20 boats taking part depending on the conditions. The final job for the day is to record the finish times as the boats cross the line by noting the sail number of every boat that finishes in order of arrival. It's all wrapped up between 4.30–5.00pm – average go-home time."



Anyone wanting more information is asked to contact Vice Commodore Simon Bellamy on vicecomm@nsc.asn.au.

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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).

62 The Bulwark, Castlecrag

Architects can take a house that no longer functions as it should and transform it into a well designed, inspirational home. This is what happened to 62 The Bulwark.

Griffin planned the urban design in Castlecrag where the roads follow the contours. These streets are narrow and winding and because of the terrain, the houses are either pushed up the site, or pushed down to below or near below street level. The house at 62 The Bulwark is one of the latter.

The original two storey brick contemporary 1960's house which faced south, had some dark and cold rooms. The architects, Stanic Harding, took this house, with no sense of entry, a limited connection to the views to Sailors Bay and the bush to the rear and transformed it into a modernist, award winning, cutting edge house for the time.

To address issues of the existing house, some time was spent studying the path of the sun on the site. From here, the architects' design virtually rebuilt the house on the original footprint, retaining only some parts of the external walls, and a few internal walls mainly on the lower level. The layout of the house had to be logical and more useable and maximising the positive elements of the site.

The resultant planning has provided a design with a 4.5 metre high, north facing glass wall and bi-fold window in the living room to pull the sunshine deep into the house. To help facilitate the penetration of the sun, the ceiling in the living room is raked to further increase the amount of winter sun in the living room. This glazing addresses a northern courtyard. The

architects have kept a corner banquette seat from the existing layout of the house with now a frameless corner window which highlights a superb view to Sailors Bay.

The relocated kitchen opens onto the western side of the courtyard to appreciate the morning sun. The kitchen has been raised up by a few steps to separate it from the dining area and to provide a line of sight over the dining room to the window in the stair well.

The house now has a generous openness to it achieved by high ceilings and the large areas of glazing which also allows cross ventilation. The house can be open to the point that once or twice birds have flown right through the house! The staircase has a long, narrow window which frames the view of the trees and bush from the inside.

The main bedroom, ensuite, walk-in robe and study / bedroom are located on the middle level with secondary bedrooms on the lower level. There is a skylight over the main bedroom so the clients can see the stars at night.

The bath in the lower level bathroom directly connects with the outside in that the sill of a large sliding window directly above the bath is flush with its top.

Due to the sloping nature of the site, the terraces to the rear connect directly into the bush reserve and the architects have included an elevated timber roof terrace over the roof of the house as a



Photo: Paul Gosney

further entertaining area. This roof terrace provides direct views to Sailors Bay and to the Spit beyond.

The clients now have a house they love and one that respects both the natural and built environment, evidenced by it being shortlisted in the 2004 Willoughby City Council Heritage Awards.

Ben Gerstel

Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd

bgerstel@optusnet.com.au

References:

Architectural Review Australia 2000

Inside Out Magazine Autumn / Winter 2005

Vogue Living October / November 2001

Living in Sydney by Taschen 2001

100 More of the World's Best Houses edited by Robyn Beaver, Images Publishing 2005

100 Amazing Sydney Houses Part Two, The Sydney Morning Herald



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CASTLECrag NOTES...

Chinese food craving

The locals have been without their much-loved Chinese restaurant for far too long! *Prosperity Garden* didn't flourish but now we have *Dynasty Kitchen* promising daily Yum Cha & Chinese BBQ Takeaway. And seafood. Yum Oh! Due to open early July so you'd better sharpen up those chopstick skills.

Back issues of *The Crag*

Looking for bower-birds who have kept past issues of *The Crag*. We are collaborating with Council's local studies and updating our archives. Five issues are missing out of 199 published, which fall between 1987 and 2001. **They are numbers 51, 83, 100, 102 and 138.**

We would be really happy to hear from you if you have any of these past *Crags* so they can be scanned and added to complete our collection. You might even get a free lunch if you have a number of the issues!

Dog Attack on Northern Escarpment

Just as *The Crag* #198 hit the streets with the *Wildlife in our Backyards* feature, news came of a vicious attack on a swamp wallaby on the Northern Escarpment. The injured animal was found near the bay with severe lacerations and puncture marks on the face, head and upper torso.

It's believed it was a dog attack. Thanks to Lisa and Richard, the wallaby was taken to Taronga Zoo Wildlife Hospital however it was injured beyond recovery and was euthanised.

Spotto!

A very observant local (possibly a retired English teacher) has pointed out not one, but two spelling mistakes printed on signs in the suburb. Have you noticed them? First person to email findings will win lunch for two at a local café.

Street libraries

The box and shelves at *Cottage & Coast* are overflowing with a high turnover of great books. The adult street library is now open 24/7, just for shiftworkers and insomniacs looking for something to read! The kid's box in *The Quadrangle* has been bringing pleasure, especially to patrons at *Butterfly*. It is a great opportunity to teach children to respect, care for and take responsibility for a community service that's for them. Please help them to leave books neatly stacked and close the doors.

Castlecrag Library

There was a great response to the call-out in *The Crag* for new volunteers at the library. Reportedly they have a number of excellent new helping hands. Good news.

The Griffins' Castlecrag: popular culture in the 1930s, 40s and 50s



Theo Junge and his dog in a roadster outside the Griffins' Mower house, Castlecrag c1930.

Photo: Hermann Junge, courtesy Linden Junge

To celebrate History Week and its 2017 theme of 'Australian popular culture', the Walter Burley Griffin Society is organising a panel of former residents to discuss living in Castlecrag in the early years of the Griffin-inspired community. To accompany the discussion there will also be a slide show of photographs from the 1920s and 30s from a recently-discovered collection.

When: Sunday 10 September, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Cost: Adults: \$20; Concession and WBGS Members: \$15

Bookings essential. Further information will be posted on www.griffinsociety.org at end of July.



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David P and David C at work on the new raised garden bed

The main harvests over the past few months have been several varieties of lettuces, green beans, figs, citrus, cucumbers, bell chillies and a few eggplants. Pumpkin and marrow foliage took up lots of space without delivering much.



It's always fun and games trying to outsmart what seems like a dozen brush turkeys with whom we share the vegetation space down at Warners Park.

The yacon plants mentioned last quarter are very tall, healthy-looking and sporting yellow Autumn flowers as anticipated. It all looks on track for healthy tuber roots to be dug up in the months ahead. Yacon is a yam-like vegetable described as a cross between a fresh apple and watermelon, high in fibre and low in calories.



New gardeners are most welcome to join us at Warners Park on Wednesday mornings from around 9.30am. Weekend meets are on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Visit www.thedairygarden.weebly.com or contact Janet France through the website.

Mary Anne Veliscek

The Dairy Community Garden May 2017 Update

Good Friday marked the biggest achievement of our Summer period. Dairy Gardeners brought to fruition a long-held dream and raised the first of our large garden beds to 600mm. Weeks of summer rain played christening games on our sitting stacks of oiled Australian hardwood planks until it all came together at Easter.

We're appreciating a seriously durable bed, held in situ with metal stakes and filled with a gravel base. It then swallowed 3 cubic metres of organic soil before being finished with metal edging to hold the plastic lining in place.

Woo hoo for more back-friendly gardening and less weed/grass encroachment.

A big thank you to everyone involved for your civic-mindedness, and an honourable mention to David Carolan for his generous design impetus, his time and his labour.

The new bed is being inaugurated with a spell of magnificent autumn weather nurturing along broad beans, broccoli, radish and hosts of tiny lettuces. Among the things we have planted in other beds are lots of leek seedlings, some red cabbages and a new curry plant.

CASTLECrag 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 Sunday of the Month

- Gargoyle Bushcare
9-12noon
Contact Cherrie Wilson 0478 181 182
- 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
- Retreat Reserve
9-12noon
Contact Lorraine Cairnes 9958 1213
or Jill Newton 9967 4933

Fourth Sunday of the Month

- Linden Way Reserve
9-12noon
Contact WCC 9777 7875

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Repair Cafe

Sunday, 18 June 1:00pm–3:00pm

Chatswood South Uniting Church Hall

Corner of Mowbray Road and Pacific Highway, Artarmon

Enjoy afternoon tea at the Repair Café, running the first and third Sunday of every month. Skilled volunteers can help you get your hems re-stitched, tools sharpened, gadgets fixed, jewellery repaired or shoes mended. Donations are more than welcome.

The Aboriginal Experiences:

Young Mob Leaders Program, World Vision

Monday, 19 June 2017 7:30pm–9:30pm

North Shore Temple Emanuel, 28 Chatswood Avenue, Chatswood

Mark Thorne, a Gamilaroi and Ngemba man, joined World vision in July 2014 and is now a Young Mob Facilitator in the Young Mob Leaders program. He will be joined by some current program participants.

Mark was part of the program in high school and will speak about this and about the benefits he sees for himself and now for the young people he works with – some of whom are in juvenile detention – in terms of the development, growth, resilience, strong spirit and confidence that Young Mob brings about in Young People. Organised by Jews for Social Action – North shore Temple Emanuel in support of the Guringai Festival.

Bushfood Collection, Stories and Landscapes

Sunday, 25 June 2017 10:00am–12:00noon

Warners Park, The Outpost, Northbridge

Learn about Willoughby's local Aboriginal history and bushfood

collection. Karen Smith from the Aboriginal Heritage Office and Jessica Sinnott from Koori Kinnections will share their wealth of knowledge focusing on food collection by Aboriginal women Families or Clans. Enjoy a relaxed discussion in a lovely setting, a short bush walk and bushfood morning tea provided.

Bookings essential. *Suitable for all (children aged 5 and up).*

Contact: Emma Hayes on 9777 7942

or email: emma.hayes@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Tree Species Walk for National Tree Day

Sunday, 30 July 2017 12:00noon–1:30pm

Warners Park and Watergate Reserve,
The Outpost, Warners Park, Northbridge

Come for a guided walk looking specifically at some of the interesting tree species in the area. Discover how these trees have evolved, how they manage different environmental stresses and how they are identified. Meet at the National Tree Day site.

Bookings essential.

Contact: Emma Hayes on 9777 7942

or email: emma.hayes@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

3D Card Workshop

Thursday, 10 August 2017 1:00am to 3:00pm

Learn how to make enchanting pop-up cards, experimenting with different embellishments. **Bookings are essential.**

Cost of the workshop is \$4 per person and payable at the event.

Contact: MOSAIC on 9777 7952 or email

or email: mosaic@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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