



What will happen to our Quadrangle?

The newly formed Quadrangle Liaison Committee (QLC) has begun consulting with the developers of the Castlecrag Quadrangle site to ensure the Castlecrag community's interests are protected in the upcoming DA proposal.

The first meeting between the committee and the development team took place in April with another in May.

The QLC was formed following an unprecedented standing-room turnout at the Castlecrag Progress Association's (CPA) General Meeting on March 7 when over 250 local residents crammed into the Glenaeon Steiner School hall to hear what new owner, Singapore-based Developer, Dr Stanley Quek has planned for the Castlecrag shopping village.

All seating and floor space filled quickly, and the overflow of locals continued to gather outside to listen through doors and windows.

Dr Quek was not at the meeting himself, preferring to send 3 representatives; Planning Consultant Brian Elton, Architectural Consultant Michael Neustein, and Architect Bruce Swalwell are all engaged by Dr Quek in the planning phase of the redevelopment.

Willoughby Council's Planning Manager, Ian Arnott, was also present and outlined the Council's position for retaining "character, identity, community and vibrancy" in the suburb as key to its place in the Greater Sydney Plan.



It was standing room only at the CPA General Meeting on March 7. Photo: Karen Phipson

The Quadrangle plan

Dr Quek's team is in the very preliminary stages of formulating the development and detailed some of their research findings – most notably that the 3,000 odd residents of the suburb had remained stable over the decades, with a disproportionate number of retirees and empty nesters living here, and offered a forecast prediction that the suburbs population would fall.

Michael Neustein, advised the forum the shopping centre is "slowly deteriorating, and there is difficulty in retaining tenants", adding that the needs of the community will be respected in any development.

"Nothing we do with the centre will happen without that consideration" he said. The audience was not so easily reassured with a robust question and answer session following the presentations.

Most interest centred on the height levels being sought by the Quek development, and the impact additional population to the suburb would have on the already struggling traffic flow, as well as its impact on the long sought right-hand-turn entry to Eastern Valley Way from Edinburgh Road.

Residents challenged the development team on issues of increased traffic flow,

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NOTICE OF CPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 27 June 2018

8.00pm

Election of Office Bearers

Screening of a selection of oral histories recorded at the 2017 Fair.
Memories from longer-term residents as well as the reasons
some of our younger locals love living here.

This is an ongoing project of the CPA.

In the Marion Mahony Hall, Glenaeon School, 117 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag
All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

COMMITTEE 2016-2017

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- Vice President** Dr John Steel
- Secretary** Dr Paul Stokes
- Treasurer** Diana Jones
- Committee** Lindy Batterham
Ruth Kendon
Gay Spies OAM
- Editors** Lindy Batterham
Sandra Odoriso

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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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

The prospect of development at the Quadrangle has certainly sparked conversation within our community.

The March gathering of Castlecrag locals to hear from the development team and discuss potential concerns for the Quadrangle development, demonstrates the passionate and diverse range of views held about this site.

No-one can argue that the Quadrangle is ready for a facelift, yet traffic flow, unit density and amenity are all important considerations in getting this right.

So we ask that you seize this opportunity to look to the long term good for the broader Castlecrag community – the elderly, the young families, the school students who enjoy the privilege of living in this unique place – and express

your view. The Castlecrag Progress Association has assembled a consultation group to represent the interests of the community with the goal of helping to shape a modern quadrangle that even our founder – the very progressive Walter Burley Griffin – would be proud of if he were designing it for today.

On a grateful note, we would like to pay tribute to the wonderful Kate Westoby for 35 years service to the CPA, 9 of them as president.

Kate has been a tireless worker for the Castlecrag community, and while she will be stepping down as President, Kate is not leaving us altogether, but if elected, will continue to be involved as a committee member of the Progress Association.

The Editors

What will happen to our Quadrangle? ...continued from page 1

loss of services during construction, population growth and its impact on the village atmosphere of Castlecrag.

Ian Arnott, advised the crowd that a recent community consultation process revealed an early qualified support within the community for a development with a maximum of 2 storeys of residential accommodation above any redeveloped commercial level of the village.

Mr Neustein noted that no plans have yet been drawn up, but that any new residences would be strata units.

On the question of any potential changes at the Griffin Centre, Ian Arnott was quick to reassure the meeting that Council had already received community feedback about the importance of protecting and retaining the historically significant centre.

Brian Elton offered an early promise that any new development may also include the gift of some additional space to allow for a dedicated turning lane. "Potentially the developer would give some leeway for a

slipway left" he said. On the question of how long it would take to build the new development, Mr Neustein said it would take between 18 months to 2 years from DA approval.

Mr Neustein added that there is an understanding of the need for transition arrangements for some key services during the building phase, suggesting that they could be temporarily relocated nearby.

The QLC is made up of residents: John Steel, CPA Vice-President; Paul Stokes, CPA Secretary; and Lindy Batterham, CPA Committee member and editor of *The Crag*; with Gabrielle Morrish, Urban Designer & Architect; along with Stuart Frith, Financial Analyst; and Luke Hastings, an Economist-Lawyer.

Dr Quek's Quadrangle Development team hopes to have a preliminary design available for community discussion by the end of June, but they expect it is likely to take up to 2 years before a finalised DA will be submitted to Council.

Keep *The Crag* coming to your door!

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Visit www.castlecrag.org.au or post form below

I wish to renew / apply for membership fo the CPA Inc., and enclose payment of: \$20 per person \$
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From the President



It is with a mix of pride and some sadness that I tell you that this will be my last column as President of the Castlecrag Progress Association. I was 25 years old when I first joined, and these past 35 years of involvement in our unique community have been filled with many happy memories of the important work we've done, the fun times we've had, and the many battles we've fought!

The CPA is known as a force to be reckoned with. We stood up to fight the freeway proposal that threatened to cut through our peninsular suburb and obliterate our bushland and we won. I can't tell you the feeling of joy and victory I felt at having been part of that campaign. In 1989 the CPA supported the SOS*C-RAG campaign to save our local public school, even setting up a telephone tree of locals

who – at the first suggestion of any potential threat of demolition – would trigger a chain reaction that could muster a noisy protest group at the school within ten minutes of the first call being made. While we sadly lost the battle to retain the public school, with the help of Green Bans our actions prevented the site being sold for development of medium density housing (up to 64 townhouses) and the community bonds were forged ever stronger for the defeat.

There have been many battles, many causes, and many celebrations to look back on.

I'm most proud of the revitalisation of our beautiful bushland over the last 3 decades. Together with the Conservation Society, the Progress Association has tenaciously fought for the protection of the wildlife and the flora that has at times struggled to survive here. The wallabies have returned in numbers, green tree snakes abound, (one surprised me in the bath only recently!), the birdlife continues to flourish and I hope it won't be long before we can once again enjoy the magic of phosphorescence in the bay. It's a dim memory for me now, but when certain algae proliferate in the bay there is an upside-down northern lights effect where the water sparkles under moonlight. I hope to see it again as water pollution continues to be addressed.

I also look forward to the return of performances on a rebuilt Haven stage.

A new President will be elected at the AGM on 27 June and our immediate next challenge is the development proposal for the Quadrangle and I urge any of you who haven't already become members of the CPA to please do so.

At this meeting there will also be the premiere screening of some of the oral histories recorded at last Spring's Fair. Among them will be Clare Ringbauer, who will share memories of her childhood during the second world war recounting how trenches were dug at Willoughby Public School for the students to practise for air raids. Vera Dunn recalls how her family were part of the drift of Jewish Europeans from the Eastern suburbs to Castlecrag in the 50's and 60's.

My family – Mark, Emma, Jessica, and Jake have all been enthusiastic supporters of my role and I thank them deeply for their help, especially Jake who continues to diligently deliver *The Crag* to the 170 households beyond The Pinnacle. If elected, I will remain on the committee, but for now it's time for someone else to step up.

Thank you all, it's been a wonderful privilege for me to lead this special community group.

Kate Westoby

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From The Mayor



It's a very exciting time for Willoughby City as we enjoy Vivid Sydney – the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas – until 16 June.

Last year over 105,000 people visited

Chatswood to enjoy the world famous festival, injecting \$4.2 million into the local economy. If you haven't already done so, I hope many of you get out and about to enjoy this wonderful event that has remarkable cultural and economic benefits.

Community Strategic Plan

After six months of community consultation, 12 pop-up stands and 5000 comments from you, we have a final draft of the Community Strategic Plan that will inform council activities for the next 10 years. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

You can view comment at our libraries and at www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au until June 11.

Development Applications

There have recently been some changes



to how development applications are processed. DAs are now determined by the Sydney North Planning Panel, the Willoughby Local Planning Panel or by Council officers.

In accordance with state government legislative changes, Willoughby Councillors are no longer involved in the determination of development applications. Councillors' focus will be on strategic planning and policy creation.

Traffic Lights Eastern Valley Way

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has suggested a new right turn bay on Edinburgh Road, westbound direction, at the intersection of Eastern Valley Way, Castlecrag. It aims to improve access, safety and traffic flow. RMS collated public feedback comments and will be meeting with Council officers to discuss. We will keep you updated.

Volunteering



We recently marked National Volunteers Week, recognising the impact volunteers make by giving

their time generously. Willoughby City Council has over 630 volunteers who in 2017 spent around 25,000 hours volunteering. A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers. In Castlecrag there are plenty of ways to volunteer. Get involved in Bushcare, local libraries or deliver meals on wheels.

Find out more: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/community/volunteering.

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

Haven Amphitheatre development

The Haven Amphitheatre DA has finally been approved, but there are still concerns that the access provisions over-ride the heritage qualities of the reserve. The CPA is working with Councillors potentially to put forward a Section 96 amendment to bring about changes to the DA that would make the access provisions less intrusive on the bushland glen.

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Can you help the Gargoyles?

The Gargoyle Bushcare Group has been running for 9 years. With the guidance of our trainer, Andy Lawson, we have been working to return the reserve to predominantly native species through active management and removal of invasive weed species. We have focused on bush regeneration along the creek line running from The Battlement to The Bulwark and pushing out into the greater reserve and along the tracks that lead in and out of the reserve – the footpaths of Castlecrag.

Progress can be slow when you meet only once a month as weeds grow fast! Sometimes it feels like we may never reach our goal! Our job is made a little easier however with many of the neighbours surrounding the reserve taking an interest

in bushcare in the Gargoyle reserve, and actively removing the weeds on their properties bordering the reserve. This community assistance really helps us in reaching our goal, as we have fewer weeds from private property re-invading the reserve. The more residents who actively manage the weeds on their properties the healthier and more resilient our precious Castlecrag reserves will be.

We are always looking for new volunteers to come along and participate in our bushcare sessions held on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 9am-12pm. Drop by to check out our progress and find out what you might be able to do to contribute to the health of our reserves on your own property or with the group.

Cherrie Wilson



Keep Watch in the Neighbourhood

Castlecrag residents are being encouraged to participate in a Willoughby wide initiative to reinvigorate Neighbourhood Watch in the Willoughby Local Government Area following a recent series of brazen break-ins in our suburb, and at nearby Castle Cove where a 105 year old woman recently frightened burglars trying to enter her home in the early hours of the morning. According to Chatswood Police, the very elderly lady called out to the intruders as they were

trying to enter from one of the windows. They took off in a hurry leaving some damage to the window frame.

Willoughby Neighbourhood Watch is an online group of community members, dedicated to making community living safer for everyone. The group is partnered with Chatswood Police, to ensure that we all do everything we can to help everyone in the Willoughby Council district to be, and feel, safe. The focus is anything that relates to crime, crime prevention and looking

out for your neighbours. There are regular posts on the Facebook Group about what's happening locally, and stories and tips to help you stay safe, and we invite members to also share recommendations, questions, and pictures.

For more information visit our **Facebook** page: www.facebook.com/groups/WilloughbyNeighbourhoodWatch/ or our **Website**: www.willoughbyneighbourhoodwatch.com



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The Houses of Castlecrag

Ben Gerstel is a local architect and volunteer guide for the Australian Architectural Association (www.architecture.org.au).

Photo:
Ben Gerstel



46 The Parapet, Castlecrag – White & Black House

Architects are always interested in seeing what other architects can do and how they unwrap a client's brief. This house attracted my attention. It is one of two identical houses built around the 1920's during the interwar period. These single storey houses were small with a square footprint with a covered porch at the front. The current owners have lived here for about 30 years and knew they were always going to add a first floor. Their architect was Robert Weir from the firm, Weir Phillips Architects.

The site did not provide many options to extend out at the ground level. The solution was to continue to build upon the footprint of the existing house.

The clients' brief was to embrace the orientation of the house, allowing the inside to be bathed in sunshine and bring the outside greenery in. Timber and glass were to be incorporated and stone kept to provide a warm feeling inside. Another request was to maintain and incorporate the existing internal timber paneled doors, some with leadlight glass.

Robert's knowledge of Frank Lloyd Wright's early works inspired the scheme. This is because these two houses were built at the same time as the Griffin houses in

Castlecrag. Elements the architect focused on from Wright were wide eaves for the roof and regular spaced windows. To maintain continuity, the new windows replicate the design of the existing windows. The design of the first floor creates a rhythm through the window repetition and the regularity of the battens. More windows were added and openings enlarged to the existing house.

The existing house had a stone base with cavity brick walls and a terracotta tiled, pyramid roof. To sit the first floor on the ground floor, the architect continued the existing brick walls to the underside of the new first floor windows.

The new first floor addition is bricked to the window sill and then is light weight construction, consisting of timber wall framing with light weight cladding like timber. In this house, the external cladding is sheet plywood with expressed rough sawn timber battens to cover the joints of the plywood sheets. This gives the extension a handmade feel. The deep eaves and change to light weight at the window sill allow the first floor extension to recede, retaining the low scale appearance of the original house.

When the first floor timber windows were installed, they came to the site primed with white paint. The clients thought the windows would be white. Later, when they came to site, they did not expect to see the first floor to be completely black including the cladding, battens, windows, gutters and downpipes. The architect designed the scheme to emphasise the recessive nature of the first floor.

As a result, the architect achieved a very different and dramatic first floor addition, whilst sympathetic with the existing house and meeting the clients' wishes. The owners have grown to love the look of the house. This is an excellent example of adding a major addition to an existing house whilst maintaining many of the elements of the existing house. Striking yes, but not out of place especially in a conservation area.

Ben Gerstel

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Environment News • Environment News

Runaway flames

Fire got away during a controlled burn on the northern escarpment last month when flames rekindled twice overnight. Local resident Mark Crew was able to get the worst of it under control until Fire services arrived and made sure the embers were completely doused and made safe.



Lace monitor

This friendly lace monitor is a regular visitor to the northern escarpment. Affectionately named "goanna"

by the neighbours she is often under siege by the local sulphur crested cockatoo brigade who shriek and swoop whenever she plods into view.



Lyre Birds

Another encouraging sign that nature is content in our part of the bush is the recent rare sighting of a wild lyrebird quite near the Rampart.

Local resident James Cryer was quick enough to snap the bird and have proof!!

Right-turn Indicator at Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way

A number of letters have recently appeared in the NST regarding the Right-Turn Indicator at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way and it is clear that the issue is confusing.

CPA has been in discussions with RMS, since March this year. It wants the indicator on safety grounds, to prevent cars turning right from Castlecrag "running the gauntlet" of oncoming traffic while providing better safety for pedestrians.

RMS stated that a dedicated Right-turn lane is needed to ensure adequate separation of oncoming traffic undertaking the diamond

turn and this requires permanent loss of parking along Edinburgh Road. It should be noted that a Left-turn slip lane does not help resolve this problem.

CPA's view is that no more separation is required than already exists for current East-West and North-South diamond turn flows, and a dedicated Right-turn lane, and removal of parking spaces, is not required.

CPA communicated this proposal to RMS in March and they advised recently that a revised proposal to reduce the parking loss was being discussed with Council.

The RMS has no further progress to report.

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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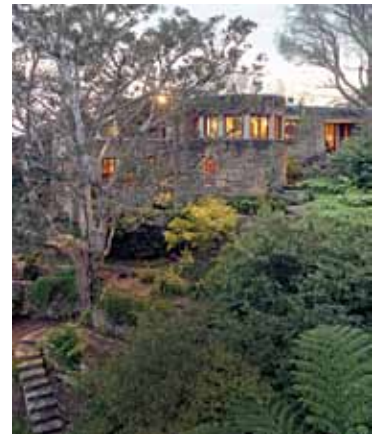
Walter Burley Griffin's celebrated 1929 Fishwick house in Castlecrag was honoured to host a cocktail party for The Historic Houses Association of Australia as part of a new nation-wide initiative to collaborate with, and support private owners of important heritage houses .

Among the sixty guests were prominent experts from the UK and France, heads of the major national and state heritage organisations and representatives of state and local government agencies.

The cocktail party preceded a two-day inaugural conference at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with over 200 people attending. The chair of the HHA, Tim Duddy, said that participants from most Australian states were "the royalty" of those interested in preserving the country's most important and treasured historic houses.

For more on the new approach of the HHA see www.hha.net.au

*Fishwick House
Photo Eric Sierins*



Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

School Holiday Bushland Adventure

Monday & Tuesday, 10,11 July 10:00am–12.30pm

Celebrate Naidoc week and practise some bush survival skills and make some bush art. Meet in the bush carpark after turning right at the very end of Small Street, Willoughby. Bookings essential. Call Emma Hayes on 9777 7755 or email bushwalk@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Kinder Dreaming: Indigenous Storytelling Experience

Tuesday, 17 July 2018 11:30am–12.30pm

Chatswood Library on The Concourse, Lower Ground, 409 Victoria Ave. Interactive program with games, stories and live didgeridoo playing to celebrate and introduce little ones to Australian Indigenous culture. Suitable for children aged 3-6 years and their carers. Call Willoughby City Library on 9777 7900.

Cortile Reserve Open Day

(entry from The Postern or The Parapet)

Sunday 19 August, 2018 10:00am–1:00pm

The Griffin Reserves Advisory Group invite you for a FREE Sausage Sizzle, coffee, tea and biscuits.

Meet your local community and share information about the Griffin Conservation Area. Guided Walk and Music.

Everyone welcome!

Sausages kindly provided by Castlecrag Meats

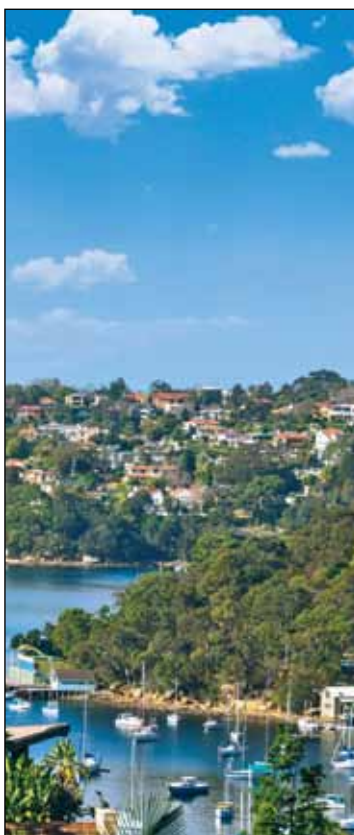
Wildflower Walk

Sunday, 26 August 10:00am–12:30pm

Call Emma Hayes on 9777 7755 or email bushwalk@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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