

Talking Turkey

A new survey to help know how to manage the Brush turkey in suburbia. *Story p14.*

Art Show and Family Fair

The annual Glenaeon event is on again. Time to start Christmas shopping *Story p12.*

Green light for Right-turn Arrow

Castlecrag will finally get its right-hand turn indicator at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way. And this is without losing the 6 permanent parking spots along the north side of Edinburgh Road in front of Ganache.

The traffic light sequence will include simultaneous, "right turn only" arrows for traffic travelling both east and west along Edinburgh Road. This is what happens currently for north- and south-bound traffic on Eastern Valley Way. We were advised, early on in the discussions, that this cycle required the creation of a new, right-turn only lane in Edinburgh Road east. This leaves only 1 east-bound lane in front of the shops and so the parking had to go.

The reason for the new lane was to ensure that separation standards for on-coming traffic, undertaking diamond turns, is adhered to. CPA discussed this with RMS and were able successfully to argue that the separation, without the extra lane, was no worse than the north-south separation that currently exists.

As a consequence, the current right-turn lane in Edinburgh Road east will become "right-turn only". West- and south-bound traffic from Castlecrag will both use the



NO PARKING – 6:30am to 9:30am & 3:30pm to 6:30pm Mon–Fri

NO PARKING – 7:30am to 9:30am Mon–Fri

left-most lane, much as happens now whenever there is someone waiting to turn right. RMS has modelled the intersection extensively and have found this to be the best solution. In addition, they intend to monitor the intersection closely and make changes to the cycles if needed. Finally, to facilitate peak-hour traffic flow, there will need to be some extension of peak-time parking restrictions but only along parts of Edinburgh Road south.

We have achieved this result by constructive negotiation with RMS since January this year. The proposal was approved by the Council Traffic Committee on 15 August and ratified by the full Council on 10 September. Since there are no major roadworks required, we are hopeful that we will have the new indicator operational before Christmas.



90 years of tennis in Cortile. Veteran Lorna Fitzsimmon in action. *Story p9.*

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NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

8.00pm

Quadrangle Update

Dr Quek's developer team will provide an update on consultation with the Quadrangle Liaison Committee and local groups toward the preparation of a Planning Proposal for the Quadrangle site.

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.

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Vice Presidents Dr John Steel
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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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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

Thanks to CPA's new President for his patient, technical-based deliberations with the Roads and Maritime Services to finally achieve what many in the community wanted-the right turn arrow without widening the road, nor losing the parking. Safety concerns have been raised by the CPA since the 70's, so it is a huge relief that we should finally have a safer intersection.

Birds are a delightful and significant part of our life in Castlecrag. The kookaburras wake us in the morn and the cockatoos herald each sunset with their raucous carry-on. Recent sightings include the yellow-tailed black cockatoos gouging into banksia cones, and the brown cuckoo-dove. Please participate in the Annual Aussie Bird Count -a great activity for families to do together. Details in diary dates. Relax, sit in your garden or verandah for 20 minutes and simply observe and record.

Whilst on the topic of feathered friends, have you seen any yellow-tagged brush turkeys strutting about? I saw no 41 the other day at The Turret. I understand it's all part of the Citizen Science project referred to on page 14. We need to know how to manage them better in urban areas –

their re-landscaping skills are driving some people crazy!

Try to get out for a bushwalk to see the abundance of wildflowers in this beautiful Spring weather. More and more research shows that walking and being immersed in nature has restorative and de-stressing qualities, quite apart from the benefit of the physical activity.

On the subject of the Quadrangle development, I totally agree with the views of Carme Pinós, the internationally acclaimed architect. "We need to think beyond the building," says Pinós, who was recently in town for the Living Cities Forum. "Architecture is a social service, it starts with social responsibility."

This is precisely why the CPA has been in conversation with the Quadrangle shopping/housing complex development team- it is the gateway to our suburb and should reflect our culture and history rather than simply commercial gain. We think it's important to maintain a human scale on the site which reflects our local village atmosphere and needs. This is what we consider to be in the best interests of our community. Please tell us if we're wrong!

...with thanks Mr Leuning.



Keep *The Crag* coming to your door!

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From the President



This is my first President's Report since being elected as President at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in June. I take over from Kate Westoby, who has held this

position for nine years, and they are very big shoes to fill.

Much has happened since our last edition of *The Crag*. Firstly, I am very pleased that we have achieved a good result regarding the rRight-turn indicator at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way. This result is an excellent example of how good quality consultation can lead to an excellent outcome.

As to the Quadrangle development, the Quadrangle Liaison Committee (QLC) has now had several meetings with the Quadrangle development team (the

Q-team) and participated in two design concept workshops with other community groups. The Q-team presented three scenarios, ranging from five floors (one commercial floor at ground level and four floors of residential) to seven floors, depending on the size of the open space to be included. There may be up to three floors below ground containing the supermarket and parking. Attendees preferred the third scenario (five floors with an open space along the north side of the building) over the other two, but still felt that the proposal had too many floors. They pushed the Q-team to pursue ways to reduce the number of floors and to consider reducing the Floor Space Ratio (FSR) from their current 2.2:1 to something smaller.

It has been reported to us, by many of the shopkeepers in the Quadrangle, that they are experiencing reduced business levels and are "doing it tough". These shops contribute to the life and vibrancy of the centre and I ask all Castlecrag residents to give these shops your support.

The next General Meeting of CPA is to be held on 17 October at which the Q-team will present their latest thinking on the development to the residents more generally. I encourage all Castlecrag residents to come along to this meeting to hear what the Q-team has to say and to make sure they hear what you think. We had a massive turnout last time and I am hoping for a similar crowd on the 17th. The key to good outcomes remains resident participation, so please make sure you attend.

As always, CPA exists to serve the interests of the residents of Castlecrag. Our ability to do this depends on the continued publication of *The Crag* and on the size of our membership. Please, help us serve you by becoming members of the association. I can report that, after the last General Meeting, we signed up around 50 new members but we need many more. So, please log onto our website, download the application form and join. It costs only \$20 per year per person.

Paul Stokes

Locals getting Vocal



Singing teacher Louise McDonald has a community choir up and humming. 'The Local Vocals' sing a mix of contemporary genres as well as more traditional pieces. They've performed a couple of times, and are continuing to develop their repertoire and singing technique. Now they are looking for new members.

Enjoyment of singing is the only criteria. Those who have sung in groups would be aware of the inner glow one feels when

singing in unison or harmony with others.

"Being part of a choir increases your dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and endorphin levels – the quartet responsible for your happiness and well-being," enthuses Louise.

Crag resident Eleni (Helen) Levett has been enjoying getting out on a Tuesday night, even through the cold winter months. "I discovered when I joined the choir, that I can actually sing! Its good

fun and I love it. I have met some really interesting people from all age groups. We get along well together and have a social coordinator who organises outings to live performances."

The group meets Tuesday nights in Northbridge. For more information call Louise on 0452 006 693 or visit www.facebook.com/Sydney-Community-Choir-The-Local-Vocals-155925398436135/.

From The Mayor



What a great time it is to be a resident in the City of Willoughby. We have recently celebrated our month long Emerge Festival, with nearly 60 art, music, food and children's

events. It was our largest spring festival ever! Take a look at the Council's Diary Dates available on our website to discover more exciting events during the festive season and summer holidays.

Eastern Valley Way

Following my election commitment, I am pleased that a green arrow will be installed at the intersection of Easter Valley Way and Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag. I have followed this issue closely for a long time and it has taken a great deal of persistence from Council, the Castlecrag Progress Association and passionate residents over many years to achieve this outstanding result. Roads and Maritime Services have listened to our community concerns and the addition of a green arrow will make it easier and significantly safer to perform a right hand turn at Easter Valley Way. This decision is a significant win for our

community. Fortunately the impact on parking on Edinburgh Road will be less than first proposed.

Development Applications

There have been some changes to how development applications (DAs) 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, unless appointed to the Sydney Planning Panel. Councillors' focus will be on strategic planning and policy creation. This process applies to applications of all sizes including major projects such as the Quadrangle redevelopment.

I Love Castlecrag

As a local resident you can keep up-to-date with your village news, connect with community activities and groups and be part of the conversation with other locals by following the Facebook page I Love Castlecrag! The online community noticeboard is managed by the Better Business Partnership (BBP) a joint council service funded by Willoughby City, Ku-ring-gai and North Sydney councils.

BBP are looking for Castlecrag residents

to help maintain and update the I Love Castlecrag page. Volunteers will become registered volunteers with Willoughby Council and receive half day training with a social media expert.

To register your interest contact Nathan, BBP Team leader on 02 9777 7548 or nathan.john@bbp.org.au.

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



Walking down through Keep Reserve.

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Griffin Reserves Open Day

A crisp, sunny and windy Sunday morning in mid-August saw about 80-100 people of all ages milling around the Cortile Reserve for the recent Griffin Reserves Advisory Group (GRAG) Open Day, held bi-annually in one of the Reserves in Castlecrag's Griffin Estate.

There were photo displays, maps of walks and pamphlets about everything from brush turkeys to local native bees and plants. Two young girls played soft ukulele as people mingled. Bushland and Wildlife Officers from Council were on hand with loads of information and advice. Add to this mix the smell of frying onions with the sausage sizzle, lemon myrtle shortbread, tea, coffee and bit of a talk from those in the know about Bushcare and Griffin's work and philosophy. Oh, and the sights and sounds of two tennis courts full of young and old hitting yellow balls and having fun at the well-attended Sport's Club Open Day.

Two large walking groups, led by GRAG members Adrienne Kabos and Matthew Keigherty, set off in opposite directions, then passed each other down on the wonderful new circular walk below The Rampart, in Keep Reserve and Warner's Park. Recently completed by Council's Bushland team, it winds back up to behind the Community Centre. Now the kindergarten children can head straight down the back to their bushland adventures without having to go up on the road. What lucky children they are to have such a well-situated kindy! It's very pleasing to see the KU Educators take advantage of their location. They understand the value of children playing in nature and instilling risk-taking, resilience and a love of the local bushland with their award-winning Bush Kindy program.

The circular path begins (or ends) behind the community centre, where the Kindergarten and Library operate, and

where one votes on election day. From the car park, head down the right side of the Centre, behind the Library and follow your nose down the stone steps. There is a grassy open area with a look-out to Northbridge and Warners Park through the trees, also connected by a walkway off the end of Morotai Crescent. There is a significant rock shelter tucked into the cliff-line and regrettably, lots of privet -an unfortunate large weed tree with big plump berries originally brought out by the British. Birds love them and spread the seed lavishly. There is a lot of bush regeneration needed in this area, but it's great to see what has been done so far.



The track continues down some steps on the left, twisting and turning through rocks and trees. This connects to the track that runs along the top side of Warners Park. It travels west up to Eastern Valley Way, and east then northward up the hill to The Keep and back to The Rampart after crossing the little bridge that goes over the trickling creek. Unless it's raining, and then it babbles!

The group crossed the Rampart, climbed the stairs to The Turret and looped around by The Lookout and back to where it all began at The Cortile. One of the walkers who lives in Chatswood, said what she saw was a world away from hers. She was truly amazed.

One of the greatest gifts the Griffins gave Castlecrag was the public reserves with their linking pathways & tracks. Naming them from parts of a castle was an inspired touch.

An important role of the Griffin Reserves Advisory Group is to encourage visitation, promotion and enhancement of the Griffin Reserves. They certainly did this on their Open Day, and the group is to be applauded for their ongoing work, along with the Walter Burley Griffin Society, as custodians of the Griffin legacy. Look out for the next Open Day in two years' time!



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Beware the red card – don't be sin binned!

One recent Monday morning, a number of empty yellow recycling bins in Rutland Avenue had been fitted with either a red or green cardboard tag. The green one said GREAT JOB and the scanned bin number went into the draw for a prize. The red tag said Oops! The flipside revealed why. Those listed are the most common mistakes.

Council has been conducting a campaign to improve recycling and reduce contamination in bins. Over two months, 1500 houses across Willoughby were selected at random to be audited in two rounds and educated in correct recycling practice. Did you know, for example, blue bottles cannot be recycled? They, and all lids (plastic, metal etc) are to go in the red bins. WCC has recently conducted a four week promotion informing residents what the contamination issues are. Did the info come across your path? If you want to avoid the future shame of receiving a red tag and going to the sin bin, here's a few more reminders about what **NOT** to put in your yellow bin.

- Plastic bags and other soft plastics (e.g. plastic wrap and bread bags)
- Meat trays
- Food & dirty take-away containers
- Plastic toys
- Window or mirror glass
- Paint tins
- Foam or styrofoam
- Pizza boxes (unless clean)
- Bubble wrap
- Drinking glasses
- Crockery or porcelain (plates and mugs)
- Wax-coated fruit boxes
- Light bulbs

There is a growing awareness of the need to reduce landfill. This can't happen unless we reduce our waste and use of plastic, especially single use. It comes down to each household reviewing their practices and realising that ethically, we all need to play our part, even if it is easier to (say)

just throw the dead batteries in the (red) bin rather than keeping in a jar till you make a trip to the Community Recycling Centre at Artarmon. **The CPA is looking at ways to have a local drop-off point for these smaller items.**

Plastic bags and other soft plastics (e.g. plastic wrap and bread bags) can be taken to Woollies at Northbridge for recycling. Or save your bags for dog owner friends, who are now scratching around for poo bags, or resorting to buying them. On that matter, Willoughby Council is currently running a trial of a Pet Waste Composting System and results will soon be published.

Council is also offering 50% off the cost of worm farms and bokashi bins. If you don't want to compost yourself, but would like your kitchen scraps going to a good cause, take them down to the community compost bin in Warner's Park (see Dairy Garden report).

Unfortunately, Willoughby does not compost our kitchen scraps through the green bin. Penrith Council have implemented this to great success,

The Dairy Garden compost bin.



OOPS!

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Please flip up this tag for more information on recycling

get it sorted.

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL



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WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

Your yellow lid bin had items that are not recyclable. We would like to help you recycle right!

THESE ITEMS CANNOT GO IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN:

-  ☐ **BAGGED MATERIAL**
RECYCLING MUST BE LOOSE
-  ☐ **ELECTRICAL ITEMS**
-  ☐ **CONTAINERISED AND LOOSE FOOD**
-  ☐ **CROCKERY AND CERAMICS**
- ☐ **OTHER (SPECIFY):**

For more information on recycling go to www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Printed on recycled stock

 **NSW EPA** This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less: Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.

achieving great cost and environmental savings, and creating compost for sale. Our council has taken a different approach. Now, organic waste from about 40% of our red bins is sorted – extracted from the rest of the waste in our red bins at the Woodlawn bioreactor and composted to produce mine fill. Gas is extracted to create green energy. There's a great infographic from Veolia explaining this at <http://game.integratedbydesign.veolia.com.au/woodlawn/>

The Community Recycling Centre(CRC) at Artarmon is the place to take nearly everything else. This is a free service, just drive through and drop off household problem waste that cannot go in your kerbside bins. They take mobile phones, as well as the following items:

- Paint (oil and water based)
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Household batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Fluorescent light globes and tubes
- X-ray films
- Electronic Waste (eg. computers, TVs, electronic equipment and small electrical appliances). White goods not accepted

- Lead Acid Batteries eg car & motorbike batteries
- Motor and other oils (including cooking oils)

Why use the Recycling Centre?

Most of the items accepted at the CRC can be reused or recycled. By sorting our waste and taking it to a recycling centre, we are:

- keeping potentially hazardous waste out of landfill
- saving water, energy and other valuable natural resources.

Location: 8 Waltham Street Artarmon

Open: Sat & Sun 8am–4pm
Mon, Tues, Fri 8am–2pm

Pre-loved furniture can be picked up for free by the Bower Re-use and Repair Centre, an environmental charity in Marrickville ph 9568 6280. For more information visit: www.bower.org.au.

Finally, the Repair Café, now located at Lane Cove, is a wonderful enterprise that repairs broken household and personal bits & pieces. See diary dates.

LET NO WASTE BE WASTED!

ITEMS UNACCEPTABLE AT CRC

Household chemicals such as household cleaners, motor fuels, acids and alkalis, garden and hobby chemicals, will not be accepted at the CRC.

These items must be taken to a Household Chemical CleanOut event.

The next one locally is:

Bicentennial Reserve Car Park
Small Street Willoughby
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Castlecrag Sports Club turns 90!



Between the Parapet and Edinburgh Road lies one of Castlecrag's hidden charms, the Cortile Reserve and in it the Castlecrag Sports

Club, or better known as the tennis courts. It is a fabulous setting with shady gums, native bush, and a recently refurbished playground.

When Walter Burley Griffin planned Castlecrag, he provided land for a school, hospital, playground and tennis court in Cortelle Reserve, as it was then spelt!

On 18 June 1928 an agreement was executed between Willoughby Council and three trustees of the Castlecrag Sports Club, David Jenkins, James Cooney and Walter Burley Griffin, whereby the Council agreed to the construction of a court "for the lawful game or sport to wit, lawn tennis". Council advanced £110 to meet construction subject to repayment of £30 plus interest per annum until repaid. A single loam court was built.

In 1954 a second court was developed, this time the surface was of stabilised loam, ie loam mixed with cement. This lasted until 1984 when synthetic grass was laid on top of a cold asphalt base. In 1999 the courts were resurfaced again in the same way but this time the wire surround and base were replaced, and storm water retention pits built. In 1956 the current brick clubhouse was built with a loan from Council, which was repaid over the following years.



Today the Castlecrag Sports Club has about 140 Members. Full Members play on Saturday afternoons, Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Saturday mornings are set-aside for coaching by Michael Tebbutt. At all other times Associate Members make up their own sets and Court 2 is available for hire from the Castlecrag Cellars at \$15 per hour.

There are several groups that have long standing regular weekly bookings and so have a strong affinity with The Club. Local resident Mrs Fitzsimmons has in fact been in the books for over 30 years! So over 200 people play tennis regularly at The Club. Members will celebrate The Club's 90th birthday on Saturday 10 November at the Northbridge Sailing Club.

Castlecrag residents wishing to join should email castlecragtennis@bigpond.com. Experienced players can join as Full

Members and residents of any standard can join as Associates or Juniors.

The Cortile Reserve Bush Care group comprises club members and Castlecrag locals. Volunteers are welcome at 9-11am on the first Sunday of the month.

Philip Wensley, President

Lorna's 50 years of tennis at Cortile... and still counting

It was 1967 when a sprightly 32 year old Lorna Fitzsimmons first stepped onto the Castlecrag Tennis Courts.

Having just moved to her Edinburgh Rd address, the former school teacher was invited to join the Wednesday group by another tennis tragic, her older next door neighbour, Peg Nicholson.

Back then the surface was made of compressed loam and cement, and club

Left:

Emma Junge playing tennis in the 1930s.

Photo: Hermann Junge, Courtesy Walter Burley Griffin Society.

Right:

Zoe Newling at the ready with coach Michael Tebbutt.





Lorna Fitzsimmons with the tennis bookings record book.

members were required to "hose and bag" the court clean of gum leaves and debris before any match could take place – and after it as well, so as to leave it as close to level as possible.

"We hosed water on the surface and there were these big hessian bags that you had to drag across the wet court. It was one of the conditions of play." Recalls Lorna.

When Lorna joined, the Wednesday tennis ladies had been a continuous playing fixture in Castlecrag for 20 years already. Lorna has played on for a further 50 years and has no intention of giving up anytime soon.

"I think playing a sport is a great leveler. It doesn't matter how wealthy or poor you are, what level of education you have, how many children you have, or whether you're single or married, the tennis is the focus and that's why we're there. But we do really enjoy the company, the relationship and the community.

The Wednesday group has always been a competitive bunch. Each of them has been – and continue to be – excellent players.

"It's a very supportive community. It has been right from the beginning and that hasn't changed."

The Wednesday ladies continue to demand and play "excellent tennis". There have

been a few changes to the lineup as players moved away or given up. In one case one of the Wednesday ladies died suddenly on the court.

"My very dear friend Russella collapsed and died right beside me one tennis Wednesday 20 years ago as we brushed the court prior to the game. We remember her every year on that anniversary.

Each year her three sons and daughter come to the tennis court and bring flowers. If it happens to be a Wednesday they bring cake for us."

The arrival of artificial grass was a welcome upgrade – no more clay puddles after the rain and the improved drainage made for better tennis all round. "They're almost all-weather now, you can almost play in a shower of rain".

The clubhouse has not changed much over the decades. It's still the venue for Birthday and Christmas celebrations all packed and carried in on tennis day.

Lorna's Wednesday group has laughed and cried together over the decades with the many births deaths and marriages that have been celebrated and remembered over the years. They range in age from their 40's to Lorna's most senior 83.

"The younger ones often ask me will I be able to play when I'm your age and I tell them if you keep playing you will! If you stop you might not. My father played four times a week till he was 85 on doctor's advice."

"We're not off the court very much these days. We don't stop very long for cups of tea but there is always an opportunity to talk to somebody particularly if you've got something to talk about. The younger ones ask questions about children and the older ones ask questions about grandchildren. It's a wonderful interaction of information. There's always somebody travelling. If you want any travel information you don't have to go to a travel agent. Fiery discussions sometimes – the last one was on the Naplan as we have a few teachers in the mix."

"I often think I'd like to die on the Castlecrag Tennis court, though preferably with the racquet in my hand – not the broom."

The Wednesday tennis ladies, 1970s.



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Obituary: Christopher John Hopwood 6 November 1948 – 25 July 2018



Chris came to live in The Bartizan Castlecrag at age two, with parents Jesse and Phyl and older brother Peter. Jesse was a successful commercial artist and Phyl a social activist, campaigning for such issues as equal pay for women and Indigenous recognition. The family were community-spirited and actively involved in local affairs.

Chris attended the local Kindy in the Community Centre, then Castlecrag Infants School, Willoughby Public and North Sydney Boys High. In those days, community bonds were particularly strong. Most kids went to school together in their early years so everyone knew each other.

Chris's oldest friend, Wayne Davies recalls "I first met Chris 64 years ago. I came to Castlecrag in early 1953 as a 4 year old. The following year we met in infants school just down the road. Later we both attended Willoughby Primary, walking the whole way without parental supervision and certainly not chauffeur driven. In Castlecrag, which was still being built, we had great adventures exploring the bush which was still in abundance."

In 1968 Chris went on his first but not last adventure. He caught a cargo ship to Panama, hitchhiked to Tierra del Fuego, and walked into Machu Pichu over 14,000 foot mountains wearing thongs. Travelling and discovery defined the man thereafter.

Chris met his lifelong partner Ruth Kendon in 1980. He brought her to Castlecrag in 1983, buying a unique house next-door

to old family friend and local sculptor Bim Hilder's home and studio, who by then was in his 80's. The home had been built by Bim in 1934 for his younger brother, Ship's Captain Brett Hilder and family, in the style of a Captain's Saloon complete with porthole down the side. The house's eccentric style was a perfect match for Chris and Ruth, although Ruth would have preferred a bigger kitchen than her tiny ship's galley with outdoor fridge. In 1983, son Jesse was born at home as was daughter Kitty in 1986.

As well as being the original stonemason for the Haven Amphitheatre, Bim also designed and built the "Walter Burley Griffin Memorial Fountain" at the traffic island on Edinburgh Road and Sortie Port, which was dedicated in October 1965. Chris often called in to Bim's studio on his way home from school to see how the sculpture was going. This is when Bim passed on the knowledge and responsibility of the 'Secret Men's Fountain Business' to Chris.

As the story goes, Bim was preparing to transport the sculpture down to its resting place, and Chris asked, "How are you going to make all the shiny copper turn green?" Bim replied: "Need to give all the panels a light acid wash". "But how?" asked Chris. Bim shrugged nonchalantly: "Most natural method is urine." And so, it came to pass, (literally), that Chris' cohort would visit each afternoon to "lightly acid wash" the copper so that the sculpture was the perfect shade of blue-green verdigris on Dedication Day. The official guests did not need to know details.

This early civic responsibility set Chris up to give ongoing service to his community.

He was the unofficial "Keeper of The Fountain" for over 30 years until a few weeks before his death. He would clear leaf debris from the pump filter and jets each day and scrub it each week. Recently, finding the task beyond him, Chris recruited some locals to take over his custodian role.

Chris also campaigned to retain the Infants School via the Green Bans caravan picket that saved the site from medium density development in the early 1990s. He was part of the volunteer labour force which rebuilt the Haven Amphitheatre in 1992, and along with Ruth, was one of the merry band of 'Haven Helpers' called on to assist at performance times. Chris also maintained the bushy triangle on the corner of The Citadel and Edinburgh Road and weeded the bush at the back of his place.

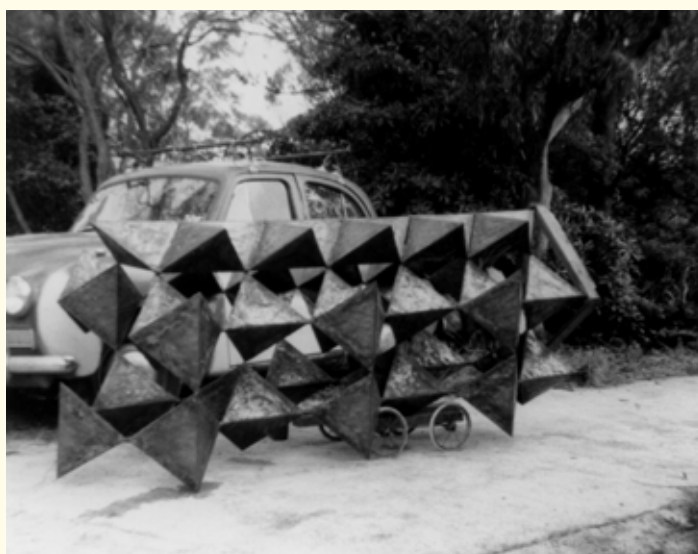
Chris was a real character and always vocal at public meetings – he was not one to be shy about telling one what he thought! Wayne summed him up well at the wake.

"Chris was an extraordinary individual as we all know. He was someone who cared not for the career path pursued as the Standard Operating Procedure on the North Shore. When I really got to know him was later, and as one does with late onset maturity that tends to affect men in particular, I realised how genuinely he walked gently on the earth, a characteristic that has always impressed me. Kindness masked by the gruff and blunt exterior, a man of much reading and awareness, a fellow who would contradict you for agreeing with him. (I gave up eventually.)"

With his distinctive long, red turned grey beard, Chris was a very bushy and established part of the landscape of

Edinburgh Road, with his loyal little yapping daschund by his side. He will be missed by many.

*Words by
Bruce Wilson,
Wayne Davies
and Lindy
Batterham*



*The fountain awaiting it's acid wash.
Photo: Harry Fox, 1965.*

Castlecrag Notes

Join us and sail!



Northbridge Sailing Club helps kids and adults to sail on the beautiful waters of Middle Harbour. You can find us in Bethwaite Lane, at the end of Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge. We are a small club with a big community; a place where children, teens, and people of all ages make friendships that last a lifetime. Our sailors range from fun relaxed sailors to those competing at State, National and World levels.

Our first junior learn-to-sail course starts these school holidays: Monday to Friday October 8th to 12th; as at the time of publication there are still a couple of places left. If full, fear not, our second course is on Sunday mornings from November 18th onward. Our first adult course starts October 20th.

Email publicity@nsc.asn.au or visit www.nsc.asn.au to learn more about our club and our famous Learn to Sail courses.

Val Bruce
Publicity Officer NSC

Warner's Park Café

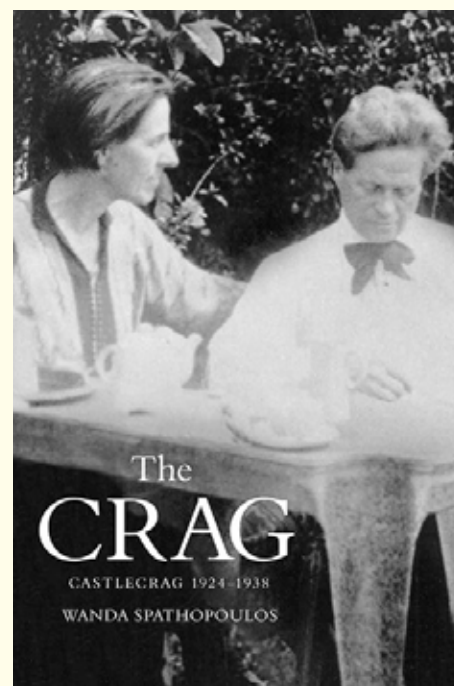
Great things are planned for Warner's Park. A DA for a café on the lower level of the old Bowling Club was approved by Council

in November 2017. With any luck we may be able to combine a walk through the bush with a café stop by mid 2019. There are bush tracks off Eastern Valley Way, Morotai Crescent, The Postern, Rampart, Redoubt, Barbette, Barricade, Scarp and Cheyne Walk via the boatshed, which all lead to The Outpost, where the new café will be located. There is a proposal to move the community gardens out into full sun and closer to the café. This would be useful for a sustainable café to grow their own produce. The revamped children's playground complete with flying fox, water play facilities, bbqs and picnic shelters will be an added drawcard to the area. Of course, one can also drive there, but it means going BTL (Beyond The Lights.)

Vale Wanda Spathopoulos (1922-2018)

Wanda (nee Herbert) was a child in Castlecrag in the days of the Griffins, moving here with her family in 1924. She passed away in January aged 95. Wanda had always planned to write a book about the early days and began in her 20's but life got in the way.

Thankfully, in her late 70's, Wanda finally put pen to paper and authored *The Crag - Castlecrag 1924-1938*. The 400 page account was published in 2007 by Brandl & Schlesinger and is a very good read, full of interesting anecdotes and a rare glimpse into the Crag's early community and cultural life.



Wanda's book, available for loan at the local library.

'Wanda Spathopoulos grew up nourished by the Griffins' imaginative humanism and recollects the community life, the excitement and the challenges that characterised the early days of the experiment.' Sylvia Martin, School of English UNE.

A memorial bench and plaque in Edinburgh Road, close to where Wanda grew up, is to be erected and dedicated to Wanda Maxime Spathopoulos.



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Castlecrag Notes cont...

Glenaeon Art Show & Family Fair



As always, the Glenaeon Fair is a great day out for families, featuring wholesome, fun and creative activities for children of all ages, plus unique market stalls, scrumptious food, a world-class art show, and many other treats.

Children can test their skills climbing the Jacob's ladder, throwing a ball at the Coconut Shy, or scaling the heights of the famous Lollipop Climb. They could also enjoy crystal mining, face painting, wooden toy making and much more.

There'll be delicious homemade and organic food, fresh home-baked cakes and traditional lemonade, plus a Coffee Hut, Chai Tent and Sushi Stall.

Entertainment will be provided by wandering minstrels and up-and-coming star performers on the main stage. Plus, there's a Storytelling tent especially for younger audience members.

This year, the Fair committee is working with a company called Ruzi to help reduce their environmental footprint by using reusable cups, plates and cutlery. Ultimately, the goal is to make the Fair a zero-waste event.

Hosted by the school's parent community, the Glenaeon Family Fair & Art Show is

also an opportunity to find out more about Steiner education, view primary and high school students' work and talk to teachers about the difference a Glenaeon education can make.

Friday 2 November

Art Show Opening Night 6pm–9pm

Saturday 3 November

Family Fair & Art Show 10am–4pm

Sunday 3 November

Art Show 10am–3pm



Men's Shed Business

The Willoughby Community Men's Shed has been making cutting/chopping boards for women who have had to go through Mary's House (Women's Refuge). The men have a need for timber to help make more. So this is a plea for any Australian Hardwood that you may have lying around, such as spare floor boards. Should you be renovating your kitchen any solid timber doors may also be of use. Contact Nick Ellis wcms@offcut.com.au or 0428 249 709

Armenian Church now meet at St James

The Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church approached the local parish, with a need for a place to meet. About 50 gather every Sunday morning for worship & a prayer

group on Tuesdays. The members support a group of refugees from Syria, some of whom are collected from Epping & driven to St James on Sunday, meeting after the St James Congregation have finished.

Motza Pizza



It's one Spring later than they'd hoped but Castlecrag's new Motza Pizza Restaurant is set and ready to open for business.

Pizza, Wine and Gelato are the specialties. The massive Italian import oven has been hoisted in – all 2 tonnes of it – with various parts arriving over several months.

It's now fully assembled and it's all systems go in the basement of the Griffin Centre, right next to the Cellars.

Glenaeon
Art Show &
Family Fair
All Welcome!

Art Show
Opening night
Friday 2 Nov
Family Fair
Saturday 3 Nov
Art Show continues
Sunday 4 Nov

Glenaeon
Rudolf Steiner School
Unfolding Individual Journeys

Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School
121 Edinburgh Road Castlecrag
www.glenaeonfamilyfair.com

GRS085

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

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School Tours from 9:30am
PRESCHOOL CAMPUS 118 Sydney Rd, Willoughby
• Thursday June 7 • Monday July 30
KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 2 CLASSROOMS
121 Edinburgh Rd, Castlecrag
• Thursday October 25
YEAR 3–12 CAMPUS 5a Glenroy Ave, Middle Cove
• Tuesday August 7 • Tuesday October 23

For more enrolment information call 02 9932 2325,
visit www.glenaeon.nsw.edu.au or
www.glenaeonpreschool.nsw.edu.au

Glenaeon
Rudolf Steiner School
Unfolding Individual Journeys

GRS085

cherishing childhood. educating for excellence.

The Houses of Castlecrag

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

273 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag

Castlecrag is a living history of single dwelling houses from before Griffin's time, the 1920's to today. The suburb started to develop in the 1860's with market gardens, boat sheds and fisherman's cottages.

The typology of houses can be approached in various ways like the organic approach relating to the site or as an object in the landscape. This latter approach follows the European design movement of the Bauhaus, which formed the basis of the Modern Movement in architecture.

The interpretation of the Modern Movement ⁽¹⁾ in architecture in Sydney in the 1940's and 1950's was portrayed by two schools of thought, the émigré architects who left Europe and came to Australia and the Australian architects who interpreted the Modern Movement by how people lived. Some of these latter architects were Sydney Ancher, Arthur Baldwinson ⁽²⁾ and John Brindley.

The Sydney architects related their designs to the site, the aspect and the orientation. From these architects, the transition zone, that zone between the inside and outside of the house, was created as they recognised that this is where people lived weather permitting.

John M. Brindley designed the house at 273 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag in 1955. This was his own house,

"Here the house and landscape have been united to provide a wide variety of spaces for the everyday activities of the family". ⁽³⁾

The house is set well back from the road with north to the rear. The design of the

house responds to the site by adopting the change in levels of the site in his design. This is also reflected in the roof plane which is a continuous one way sloping roof following the lay of the land.

The rear of the house is all glass with large timber framed sliding doors opening onto a covered outdoor area and a large stone flagged terrace with a swimming pool at the end (covered by timber). The house is bathed in sunshine all day. This is due to the northerly aspect taking in the glistening waters of Fig Tree Cove, the eucalypts and rock outcrops.

The design of the Brindley house is broken into two parts with a breezeway through the middle of the floor plan. The breezeway separates the living areas from the bedroom areas. The paving for the breezeway was continued for the outdoor terraces which tied the design together. Also in the living room is a large stone fireplace which separates the kitchen from the living area.

The current owners are only the second owners of the house. They added a wing at the front of the house to accommodate their young family. They love living here because the house and its surroundings become a unified whole which has provided a pleasant, comfortable family life style.

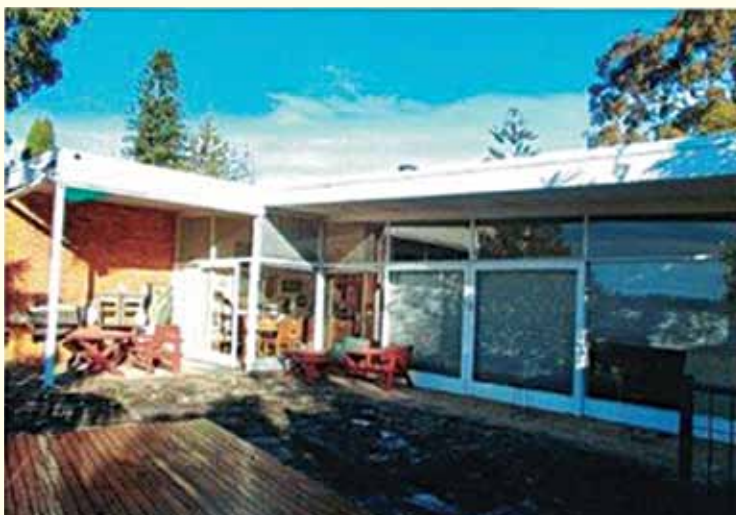


Photo: Ben Gerstel

Another building Brindley designed in Castlecrag is the St James Anglican Church at 184–186 Edindurgh Road in the 1960's. Inside the church is a relief by the artist, the late Bim Hilder ⁽⁴⁾, who was a stone mason and sculptor for Griffin.

Ben Gerstel

Ben Gerstel Architecture Pty Ltd

www.bengerstelarchitecture.com.au

References:

(1) *The Modern Movement in architecture came about with the following major historical events being the Industrial Revolution, new building materials, the advent of the German Bauhaus school of design and phrases like, "Form Follows Function".*

(2) *Arthur Baldwinson designed the house for the photographer, the late Max Dupain, at 23 The Scarp, Castlecrag. This house been renovated.*

(3) *An Australian Identity, Houses for Sydney 1953–63 by Jennifer Taylor.*

(4) *Bim Hilder also designed the copper Griffin Memorial Fountain at the intersection of Edinburgh Road and Sortie Port. This was to commemorate Willoughby Council's centenary year in 1965. It was commissioned by the Castlecrag Community Centre Committee. See photo page 10.*



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Community Garden, 2018



Joel, Kiki and David inspecting the brassicas (above) and experimenting with a hot composting technique (right).



Now is an exciting and productive time at Warner's Park Community Garden. It's great to have enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardeners, old and new, including some from Perma Patch with whom we joined forces early in 2018.

Winter brassicas, especially broccolini and cabbage, are looking brilliant. Healthy crops of potatoes, garlic and some broadbeans are on the way. Harvests of lettuce, mizuna, cape gooseberries and bok choy are happening.

The ever-present sulphur crested cockatoos and brush turkeys are sort of behaving, with the help of netting. Recently possums and rats have made inroads on one of our broadbeans beds. The interplay of wildlife with vegetable growing presents an ongoing challenge to our patience and ingenuity.

Having raised two garden beds over the past year, we're preparing to further improve the garden by raising and relocating an additional four beds to areas in the allocated space where the gradient is less steep, and by widening walkways between the beds to facilitate access. This project to improve functionality, accessibility and aesthetics if the community garden has been made possible by a fantastic grant from Willoughby Council's Community Small Grants Program 2018/2019.

Our objectives are to improve the quality of community facilities, increase opportunities for inclusion by people who have mobility



Still life with mizuna, bok choy and cape gooseberries.

restrictions or challenges, and to promote healthy lifestyle, social connection and sustainability.

Towards some of these ends, we've also registered as part of the sharewaste website, <http://sharewaste.com/share-waste>, inviting people to contribute their organic fruit and vegetable waste to the composting bins on site.

Thanks to all our gardeners and those who support us in many different but important ways to create, connect and educate.

New gardeners are welcome at Warner's Park on Wednesday mornings from around 9.30am. Weekend meets are on the first Saturday morning and third Sunday morning of the month.

*Mary Anne Veliscek
0430 173 722*

Can you 'SPOTTERON' a brush turkey?



A new Citizen Science project aims to engage keen bird watchers and the general public to report sightings of Brush Turkeys via the 'spotteron' app. Their whereabouts, behaviours, communal roosts and nest mounds are all of interest to researchers at The University of Sydney, Taronga Conservation Society, and the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

During the Great Depression (1930s), the Brush Turkey was once hunted for food and sport, and it disappeared from around major cities and towns. Over the recent decades it has made a dramatic comeback, as Cragites well know. It's no longer rare to see them walking down the street, in our gardens and throughout the surrounding bush. It is a complete mystery how this

forest bird has not only spread into suburbia but thrived in these highly altered environments.

The resurgence of the Brush Turkey has delighted many and caused despair for others, whose gardens have been uprooted and re-landscaped. The returned Brush Turkey populations in urban areas needs to be better understood, especially as calls for their management increase.

The data collected will help scientists understand Brush Turkey distribution, behaviour, movements, reproduction, and habitat use in suburban areas and how these differ compared to birds in their natural habitat. Meanwhile, laying down wire netting or big stones around new plantings seems to be the best solution for deterring them. Or perhaps Leunig's cartoon idea would work?

The project is running on the SPOTTERON Citizen Science platform, more information at: www.spotteron.com/brushturkeys.

Environment News • Environment News



Lookout Reserve – The Fairy Glen

Lookout Reserve is centrally located in the network of Griffin reserves. It has always been a well-used route for people travelling to and from the shops, bus and tennis courts (in Cortile Reserve). Named by the Griffins for its once beautiful outlook to Middle Harbour (now hidden by wide development built prior to the creation of the conservation area) it is also known by some local children as the fairy reserve.

With a grassy patch, mown for almost 60 years by resident John Gibson until only 6 months before his death last year, it is also a favourite spot for children's birthday parties. The Griffins would love this as they were very fond of children. Marion and Walter Griffin lived in one of the four Griffin houses adjacent to the reserve, and Marion planted the magnificent paper bark tree that is a majestic tree at the heart of the reserve. There is also a Firewheel tree believed to be a Griffin planting at the southern end of the reserve. The Glenaeon School teachers regularly bring their classes to the reserve to enjoy its ambience, leafy dappled light and rock ledges.

The Lookout Reserve Bushcare Group was established almost 3 years ago. We are a nice group but still small, chipping away at the weeds and slowly turning the balance in favour of the native plants. One of the weeds we have been tackling is the

dreadful Cobblers Peg with those annoying seeds that hook onto clothing and get transported great distances. We recently learnt from our Group's Council Supervisor Andrew Souter that just one Cobblers Peg plant can have many thousands of seeds, and that the seeds remain viable for up to 40 years! So eradicating these weeds, before they drop their seeds, significantly helps reduce subsequent infestation.

There are numerous other weeds including morning glory, sticky weed, wandering jew, flick weed, fishbone fern and weed grasses including ehrharta, paspalum and buffalo grass.

Twelve months ago we planted over 30 native plants provided by the Council and with a little watering during the hottest months 70% have survived and are set to return a neglected weed infested part of the reserve into an attractive bushy corner.

The Lookout Reserve Bushcare Group meets every third Sunday of the month starting at 9.00am and going until 12 noon with a break for morning tea between. Andrew is an excellent and very knowledgeable Council trainer and it is rewarding learning from him. As we are just a small group we would love others to join our team and also have the satisfaction of making a difference.

Adrienne Kabos

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

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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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

Sydney North Repair Café

First and second Sundays of the month 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Living and Learning Centre, 180 Longueville Road, Lane Cove
For more information contact Celia: 0412 784 172
repaircafesydneynorth.net or visit Facebook page

Bushcare Training Session 1

Saturday, 6 October 2018 1:00pm to 4:30pm
Warner's Park Community Centre
Bushcare Training Course for volunteers and people interested in
Bushcare. Includes weed identification, removal techniques and a
practical session. 9777 1000

Solar Made Simple

Tuesday, 16 October 2018 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Dougherty Centre Chatswood
With energy bills on the rise, it's never been a better time to look at
producing your own clean green energy for free at home. Come along
to this free information session to find out whether solar and batteries
are right for you. 9777 1000

Aussie Backyard Bird Count

Monday, 22 October 2018 9:00am to 9:00pm
Get involved in National Bird Week with thousands of others in the
quiet of your backyard or local bushland.
aussiebirdcount.org.au

Blue Film Screening, Eco-Market and Q&A

Thursday, 1 November 2018 5:30pm to 9:00pm
Zenith Theatre, McIntosh St & Railway Street, Chatswood
Free, but booking required: 9777 1000

Join WCC and Take 3 for an eco-market to stock up on local or
sustainable plastic-free goodies, followed by a special screening of
the award-winning feature documentary Blue. Following the film, join
in the discussion with co-founder and CEO of Take 3, Tim Silverwood,
a leading authority on waste & plastic pollution who also features in
the film.

Little Dragon Storytime - presented in Mandarin

Monday, 12 November 2018 10:00am to 10:30am
Chatswood Library
Songs, rhymes and stories presented in Mandarin. Free.

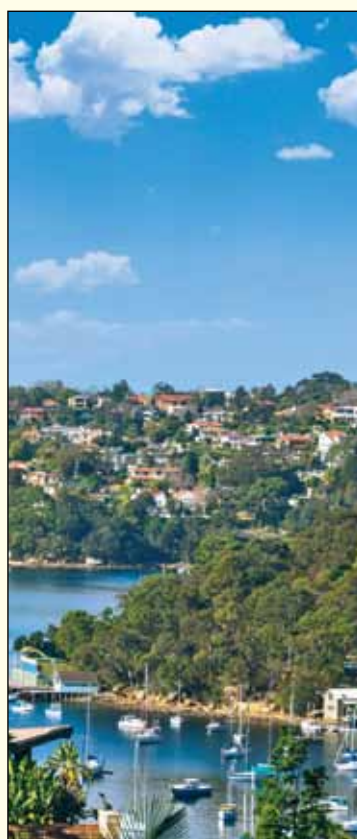
Wild Pollinator Count

Wednesday, 14 November 2018 9:00am to 12:00pm
North Sydney
Join WCC for this Wild Pollinator Week activity which will introduce
you to the world of insect pollinators in your vegetable garden or local
bushland. 9777 7871

WEPA Meeting

Tuesday, 20 November 2018 7:00pm
(Speaker TBA)
Marion Mahoney Hall, Glenaeon. All welcome, free, supper provided.

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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