

Shark Attacks in Middle Harbour.

So last century! Story p5.

Save the Date! Sunday 20 October

CastleCrag Community Fair. Story p3.

Is Council listening?



Artist impression looking east along Edinburgh Road from Eastern Valley Way. Image: Willoughby Local Centres | Architectus

Willoughby City Council has recently released its draft *Local Centres and Housing Strategies*, and is again inviting comment from residents. It follows the late 2017 "Have your say" process when many residents gave feedback on three possible planning scenarios for the shopping village.

Of the total number of submissions received by Council across Willoughby City on the eight Local Centre proposals, almost a third came from CastleCrag residents. This could reflect the passion and concern locals feel about the proposed development of our village. The report concludes: "There is a

strong desire within the community to retain the integrity of the design philosophy of Walter Burley Griffin for CastleCrag." (p18).

According to the report, Council has identified these to be the main issues voiced in the community feedback:

...continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 From the Editors
- 3 From the President
- 4 From the Mayor
- 5 Griffin Reserves Open Day
- 6 Beware the Red Card!
- 8 CastleCrag Sports Club Turns 90
- 10 Obituary – Christopher Hopwood
- 11 CastleCrag Notes
- 13 Houses of CastleCrag
- 14 The Dairy Garden
- 15 Environment News

NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 March 2019

8.00pm

Council's Draft Local Centres Strategy & The Quadrangle

Members and residents are invited to make presentations and to ask questions. There will not be a guest speaker.

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

RSVP to info@castlecrag.org.au if you want to attend or present.

THINK LOCALLY!

SHOP LOCALLY!

EMPLOY LOCALLY!

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

web page:
www.castlecrag.org.au

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

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

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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 We do not publish anonymous letters.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 Editor

If the construction of the Northern Beaches tunnel under Northbridge goes ahead, we will need to steel ourselves for the impact on our lives. Stirring up the old tip site with its buried asbestos content and other potential toxins is a great concern.

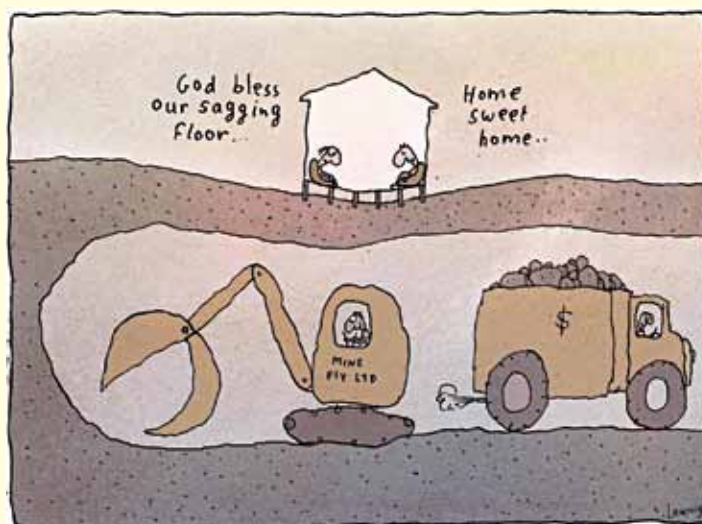
One has to wonder whether the project is of any great value to the people of

Northern Sydney. People on the Northern Beaches are reported as also questioning the value of this proposal. Momentum is mounting for public transport rather than a tunnel/tollway – a light rail or trackless tram from Dee Why to Chatswood via the Northern Beaches Hospital seems like a much more viable, cleaner and cheaper solution.

The greatest impact to Castlecrag residents during the projected six years of construction of the Northern Beaches tunnel would be for those who commute daily to or through the city or North Sydney.

Whether the dive site for the tunnel is on the right or left side of Flat Rock Drive, traffic lights will be installed at the bottom, to accommodate a reported 70 diesel truck movements per hour on and off the site which leads to an unavoidable increase in harmful vehicle emissions.

For those who travel south to the city and beyond regularly in peak time, can you imagine the impact of a laden B-Double starting from the bottom, less than two minutes apart, every day for five or more years, adding to the peak-hour traffic travelling over the Harbour Bridge?



...with thanks Mr Leunig.

Strathallen Avenue and Willoughby Road could also become choked.

Once the proposed construction is complete, Castlecrag residents will need to travel to Artarmon or North Sydney to enter the tunnel (with toll) to Seaforth. In my view, not worth our time nor money.

It seems the "All pain, no gain" mantra of the Northbridge 'Stop the Tunnels' group also has relevance to Castlecrag residents. It will remain more efficient for us to turn right at the lights and travel over the Roseville Bridge or left over the Spit Bridge, depending on our coastal destination.

Also of concern is the risk of heavy metal pollution to the biodiversity in waters and beaches in Middle Harbour and possible closure of swimming spots such as Northbridge Baths, due to digging and dredging.

It is understood the Environmental Impact Study will not be completed before the end of this year, yet the decision to go ahead already appears to have been made by the current government.

Madness!

Keep *The Crag* coming to your door!

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

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PO Box 4259
Castlecrag 2068

Queries to:
info@castlecrag.org.au

From the President



Since my last report there are a number of points of note. In my last report I mentioned that we hoped that the Right Turn Indicator would be operating by Christmas 2018. Since then we

have been advised by RMS that the new signal would be installed during the April school holidays. RMS explained that the delay was due to the plethora of cables and other services beneath the road.

The Quadrangle development plans are moving forward. The QLC met with Dr Quek and his team shortly before Christmas, last year, where we raised community concerns about the traffic and parking implications of their proposal. The Q-team undertook to provide us with a draft Traffic Strategy by early February 2019 which I hope to be able to share with attendees at the March General Meeting.

Dr Quek also wishes to get started on

a Design Excellence competition for the Quadrangle.

The terms of reference for the competition will be based on the concept plan, presented at our October General Meeting, with four storeys of residential space above a commercial floor at the level of Edinburgh Rd and the supermarket moving to the NW corner of what is now the parking area. The competition will be between 3 designers who will submit their designs to a panel of 3 judges who will pick the best design.

The intention is that Dr Quek's team will choose one designer and one judge, the Council will similarly nominate a designer and a judge and the community has also been asked to do the same. These nominations should take place in the next couple of weeks and the Q-team's expectation is to have a chosen design by mid-year.

The next General Meeting, on 20 March will be an opportunity for the Community to have an open and frank discussion about both the Council's Centres Strategy and about the implications of this for the Quadrangle. If you would like to make a presentation to the meeting, please let me

know so that I can include it in the Agenda. Otherwise, please come along to have your say. As always, we will be inviting the Mayor and our Ward Councillors to attend and I will also invite the Council General Manager to come along and take questions.

If you are a CPA member, don't forget to renew your membership fee and if you are not, please consider joining. Remember, if we need to have a community vote on any issue then only those members who are financial and have been members for 2 months will be eligible to vote.

Finally, the date for the bi-annual Community Fair has been set for **Sunday 20 October**. We need help with the planning (starting now) as well as volunteers on the day. Do you have experience in event management? Please step forward! There's lots to organise. Would you like to have your own stall, or help on the CPA book stall? We will continue with the Artists & Artisans theme and we encourage local artists and performers to strut their stuff.

Contact us with your enthusiasm at info@castlecrag.org.au.

Paul Stokes

Snippets from submissions to WCC

as published in their 2018 draft report Local Centres and Housing Strategies...

"Castlecrag has a unique history and charm. The proposed changes will modernise the area in a way that is not in line with its current heritage character."

"I have looked at the proposals and strongly object to any high-rise development of this area under review because it is out of character with the local community and is not in keeping with Walter Burley Griffin's desires for the area."

"I think that Walter Burley Griffith would be appalled at a proposed height of up to 5 stories."

"We hold strongly that the Griffin Centre is a structure of great historical and cultural significance to Castlecrag having been built in 1924 to plans approved by Griffin in accordance with his express wish that his new suburb should be able to provide basic services locally. It must be preserved."

"I do not want the commercial part of Castlecrag to go the way of many other suburbs and become anonymous."

"For many years Willoughby Council and The Castlecrag Progress Association have worked tirelessly to maintain the integrity of our unique and beautiful suburb. Please apply this same level of scrutiny and dedication to any changes to density and zoning to this concept study."

Is Council listening? Continued from page 1...

- Griffin shops subdivision and the retention of the fabric of Griffin Centre is important;
- There are traffic constraints into and out of the Castlecrag peninsula;
- Concern regarding a proposal by the owner of Quadrangle Shopping Centre;
- Concern that growth could destroy the unique "feel" of the centre;
- More public open space is needed;
- Careful traffic management is required.

Kate McCann, resident for over twenty years and whose husband grew up in the

suburb, remarked: "Council's draft strategy seems to have absolutely ignored the sentiment expressed in the vast majority of these submissions and has put forward a more aggressive development and re-zoning concept for Castlecrag's gateway. On the southern side of Edinburgh Rd, and into The Postern the proposal is to further increase the densities and heights of developments to up to five storeys. On the northern side, the concept is three storeys high, again with density increases. No studies have been carried out by Council on likely traffic, pedestrian safety, parking, heritage or

infrastructure consequences that will result, yet these proposed rezonings are in the final throws of public consultation".

Residents can and should respond again to WCC's second draft proposal for our village via the 'have your say' portal. It will also be on display at the Quadrangle, on Saturday morning 23 March, and the following Friday at Council. (see Mayor's report p4).

"If a majority of community views is again ignored, it will be evidence that the 'consultation process' is a sham" concluded Kate McCann.

From The Mayor



You're invited to information sessions, drop ins and roundtable discussions about housing and growth in local village centres, including the Quadrangle. Council's draft *Local Centres*

and *Housing Strategies* consider housing and retail needs for the next 20 years. It is available for comment until 16 April. Visit www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au to view the strategies and register for a roundtable discussion on 28 March or drop in to the Quadrangle 23 March from 10am to noon.

In September, Council approved recommendations from the Local Traffic Committee (LTC) to implement a right hand turn arrow at Eastern Valley Way. Following this decision Council received two petitions from the community concerning the reduction of parking to accommodate the new turn. These petitions were reviewed by the LTC on 28 November, the committee recommended that the project proceed with the initial recommendations. Council will review the LTC recommendation on 11 February. All minutes and agendas from the meetings

are available on Council's website. Roads and Maritime Services have indicated to Council that the project is due for completion by April. I will continue to keep you updated.

Recently the NSW state government has given local councils stronger powers to seize share bikes that have been dumped. Council's rangers are contacting share bike operators to remove bikes left in public spaces and impounding those bikes that have been abandoned. Residents may report a share bike that is a nuisance or causing a risk to public safety on 9777 1000.

Willoughby City's bushland team have released their much anticipated 2019 calendar. The calendar includes images of local Willoughby wildlife as well as gardening tips and all *Live Well in Willoughby* events for the year. Pick one up from Council's office, libraries or the Dougherty Community Centre. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer bushcarer, please contact Council.

The initial community consultation on the upgrades and renewal of Stoker Playground on Edinburgh Road has finished. A draft concept plan is being prepared and will be available for second round consultations in March. Council is reviewing quotes for Warners Park playground renewal with construction expected to start in late April.

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



Sadie Shepherd on the Griffin of Stoker Playground. Photo: Lindy Batterham

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Shark attacks in Middle Harbour

In the last century, seven people have lost their lives to a shark in Middle Harbour. Two of them were locals.

The first identified record was back in 1916. A Castlecrag man and his wife were swimming in shallow water off Sugarloaf Point at the bottom of Edinburgh road, when a shark attacked his arm. Despite his wife and a nearby neighbour (who responded to screams) dragging him to shore, he died almost immediately.

Two gruesome deaths occurred in 1942 around Bantry Bay. Two more fatal attacks occurred in 1955. Crag resident Bruno Rautenburg swam daily across Sugarloaf Bay until he was fatally bitten on the legs one early February afternoon by a tiger shark. Three weeks before Bruno's death, 13 year old John Willis died after he had his left leg and right calf bitten at Balmoral, around the same time of day Bruno was taken.

The sixth victim, William Murray, was also 13 when he died from having his right leg severed above the knee whilst skin diving with a family friend. That was in January 1960, near the old Roseville bridge. He survived initially, but died nine days after the attack in RNSH.

Middle Harbour is a drowned river valley and has some of the deepest holes in Sydney Harbour. Some reach a depth of 45 metres which provides an environment ideally suited to large fish and their predators. Footage of a three metre bull shark cruising around the mangroves and mudflats in the North Arm of Sugarloaf Bay was recorded in December 2009 from an inflatable kayak. It can be found on youtube. Ten years previously, a three and a half metre bull shark was netted off Castle Rock near Clontarf, documented and taken as a trophy to the Sydney Fish Markets.

Old timers would recall the last fatal attack in the North Arm of Sugarloaf Bay back in 1963. Actress Marcia Hathaway was

paddling in 75 centimetres of water and bitten twice on the leg before her fiancé, Fred Knight was able to fight off the shark. With the rest of their boating party, he tied tourniquets ripped from sheets to try to stop the bleeding, carried her back to their cruiser and motored towards Castlecrag boatshed. Long term resident John Vaughan recalls being down on Sugarloaf Point with his family that day,

"I saw the 28' cabin cruiser, VALETTA pass our pontoon motoring around to Castlecrag Boatshed with the wounded Miss Hathaway on board. If only those aboard had indicated distress we could have telephoned an ambulance to be waiting at the Castlecrag Boatshed."

The story goes that as they rounded Sugarloaf Point, Fred swam ashore to one of the houses on the Point, presumably around the corner from the Vaughans, frantically urging them to phone for an ambulance to be sent down to the boatshed.

Upon arrival she was transferred, but tragically the ambulance could not make it back up the steep hill. The clutch burnt out – locals tried desperately to push the van up the hill but it was in vain. She was carried up in the stretcher by a team of locals to wait for a second ambulance, but it was too late for Marcia. Fred was later awarded a medal of bravery for his efforts but his memory of the event could never leave him.

"For weeks afterwards, large baited hooks were set on drumline floats in an unsuccessful attempt to catch the shark that attacked Miss Hathaway. Noted celebrity and deep sea game fisherman, Bod Dwyer (TV programme, BP PICK-A-BOX) was one of many people who hunted the big shark," John remembers.

The story has been retold many times around the peninsula since that time as a warning. It's not usually the locals one



Marcia being carried up boatshed hill.

finds swimming in the bay, nor throwing the stick to Spot so she can paddle out to fetch.

These were gruesome deaths of people entering into the known habitat of the shark. However, given the number of paddleboarders & daytrippers jumping off boats into the bay over the summer months, and the dogs and folk who paddle about its shores, it is somewhat curious that it has been 56 years since the last fatal attack in Middle Harbour. Perhaps there are enough big fish in the sea to keep the sharks satisfied. Or maybe it's only a matter of time...(Jaws music begin).

Castle Rock bull shark.



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Obituary: Rose Hazelwood 1953 – 2018



Rose Hazelwood was born in Punchbowl, NSW. She attended the local Catholic Primary School, St Jerome's and went on to the Mary McKillop Catholic College in Lakemba. Rose married Frank in 1979 and moved to Castlecrag to the house on Eastern Valley Way where Frank grew up. Their daughter Anne was born in 1983.

The community suffered a deep shock late last year, when, after having been missing for 24 hours, Rose's body and bike were found down near the end of the peninsula, at the place she loved most in the Crag.

Rose was a familiar figure around the area for the last 38 years. She would often be seen around the shops, at her crossing in High Street or on her bike, delivering leaflets up & down the winding streets of our suburb and beyond. In the early days she would push a big heavy shopping trolley full of junk mail around on her delivery run. Rose was a stoically hard worker and very strong. She'd even push her trolley up The Bastion and Linden Way! Her sudden and unexpected death affected people deeply. In her own way she played

an integral role in the local bush telegraph network, connecting many of us to local happenings, updates and sometimes, if you were lucky, a bit of gossip!

In 2017, Rose was one of the twenty-odd people who stepped into the CRAGCHAT tent at the community Fair to be recorded for the CPA's oral history project. She was also a volunteer traffic controller on that day, ever happy to do her bit for the community she loved. In the recorded interview shown at her funeral, Rose said "Castlecrag is a great place to live." She referred to the fight for Castlecrag Infants school as being a significant episode in her community involvement. Anne, along with 29 other children, was enrolled to start in Kindergarten when, in late 1988, the news came that the school was to be closed, sold & rezoned for up to 64 townhouses.

Rose rallied to the cause and was an active member of the Save our School team. She helped distribute leaflets and newsletters. She attended every rally & public meeting. She & Anne were stalwarts on the 24 hour picket caravan roster that families

maintained for 3 long years in support of the Green Bans which had been secured for the site to deter potential developers.

Rose was a great advocate for children generally – one doesn't work as a lollipop lady for the money. She really cared about the safety of the children. She knew all their names (and their dogs!) who passed over her crossing. There was a huge outpouring of public grief which manifested in an impromptu memorial at the crossing, created by the children and their families. Mayor Gail pledged to have a memorial plaque created and placed at 'Rose's Crossing'. Referring to her role as a lollipop lady in her down-to-earth manner, Rose said

"I get great enjoyment from the children. The traffic can go hang itself half the time when they don't want to stop, but it's still a great job and I enjoy it."

Over 200 people attended Rose's funeral at St Stephens, Willoughby. It was clear that Rose was greatly respected by children and adults alike. Tragically, Frank had fallen early that morn and was taken to RNS Hospital where he had emergency surgery for a broken leg and so was unable to attend his wife's funeral! Frank has been in hospital & rehab since that day and has just now returned home still bearing crutches. Fortunately, he has some very caring neighbours to support him and it was beautiful to see 'Rose's Angels' rally around to organise the funeral and be there for Frank. Mary from the Pharmacy was particularly supportive of Frank during this time.

Rose was a mate to everyone on her patch and always had a friendly word to say. If not in earshot, Rose would raise her arm and give her characteristic wave of friendship and acknowledgement. She was a treasured member of our community and is sadly missed.

Lindy Batterham

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Obituary: Helen (Ilona) Beretz 1927 – 2018



Helen (Ilona) was born in Hungary. Following the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, she escaped across the Austro-Hungarian border in a van together with two others, one of whom was Eugene (Jeno) Beretz. Eugene's multi-lingual skills facilitated their release from the refugee camp in Austria and a transfer to Switzerland. Helen boarded with a Swiss family in Lucerne, where she promptly found work in a photography shop, as she had been a qualified photographer in Budapest. Eugene was working in Sion, a few hours away, but the two kept in touch. They married in Italy the following year

(1957) and in January of 1959, arrived in Australia.

Eugene, whose anti-communist views and political imprisonment left him stripped of his law and philosophy degrees, worked in manual jobs while Helen waitressed in Kings Cross, often taking photos of the customers and offering them for sale. In 1963 she opened her own photographic studio, Helen's Studio, in Parramatta Road, Petersham, and the couple lived at Ashfield. Eugene, whose fluent Italian (as well as Hungarian, French, German, Slovenian and English) was invaluable with the local community, acted as manager of Helen's Studio.

Helen's work often appeared in the local Italian newspaper, *La Fiamma*. She specialised in weddings and christenings among the Italian community. One of Helen's regular clients was MP Franca Arena, whose twin sons' christening photos were taken by Helen.

Around this time, Eugene saw an ad for Crown Land on a dirt track in Castlecrag, and fell in love with it, reminding him as it did of his birthplace along the coast in Fiume, Italy. They bought the land and in 1966 he and Helen moved to what would become 25 The Scarp, Castlecrag.

Helen and Eugene had a lively social life, inviting groups of Hungarian friends to their house on weekends where they would enjoy Helen's delicious cakes and listen to classical music. These musical

soirées took place in the special "music room" on the lower floor overlooking the rainforest, with its intricate Buddhist mandala decorations hand-carved by Eugene.

Next door to Helen and Eugene at 23 The Scarp lived Max and Diana Dupain. By all accounts there were many intellectual conversations between the two couples.

When not attending to Eugene's needs, Helen could be found in the garden tending her flowers or feeding the birds, sweeping the bottom terrace, reminiscing over photographs, climbing up and down five flights of stairs or preparing schnitzel in the kitchen. She was always immaculately presented – polished nails, groomed hair, heels, jewellery and elegant European attire.

Helen looked after Eugene until his death in 2011. Since that time, she succumbed to a gradual decline from dementia. With daily aged care assistance, she continued to live at home until a fall landed her in hospital. A few months in a nursing home and two falls later, she passed away on 26 August 2018.

It was my privilege to live next door to Helen for 30 years. My children and I were the lucky beneficiaries of many plates of Helen's famous poppyseed strudel and cheesecake.

Robin Blacklow

(with the assistance of Suzanne Voros, long-time friend of the Beretz's)

Obituary: Genevieve Ruth Jonas 1927 – 2018



Genny on a trip to Burma in 2007

Genny was born in New Zealand and trained as a Registered Nurse, Midwife and in Paediatrics. With her nursing qualifications she started a lifetime of

beloved home at 48 The Bulwark in 1956, taking great enjoyment in their native garden. One family member described Genny as "strong and stubborn with

travel, coming first to Sydney in the early 1950's where she met her husband to be, Warwick Jonas. She continued on to work in London but returned three years later, to marry and settle down with Warwick in Castlecrag.

They built their

warmth and humour".

Using her medical knowledge, Genny helped set up the original Medicare and Medibank. Later she moved on to medical health insurance in the private sector.

Many of you will remember Genny from her daily walks in sensible shoes to the shops via The Citadel. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010 and in care since 2012.

An advocate for local issues, Genny was involved in various societies and groups. She was the loved mother of Anne Marie, sister to eight siblings, Aunt to dozens and friend to many.

Vale Genny.

Anne Marie Jonas

High drama in the bush

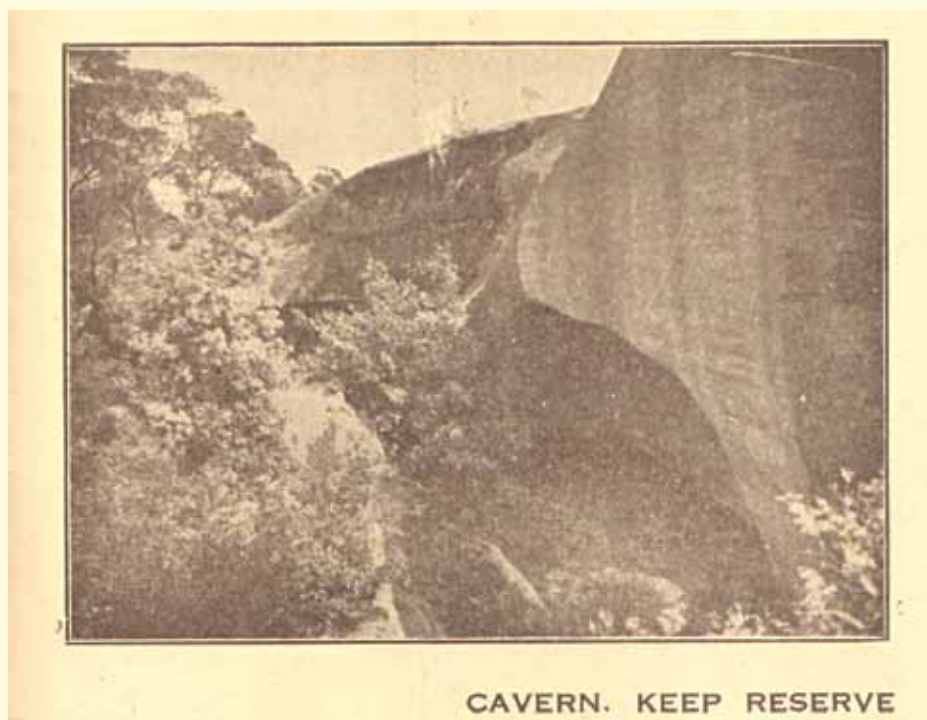
I have been bitten by a Red Belly Black Snake so please read on and I will tell you about it.

I am also a member of the Keep Reserve bushcare group. Keep Reserve straddles the track that starts in The Rampart and links Castlecrag to Warners Park and Northbridge. It is one of the largest of the Griffin Reserves stretching down to Warners and across to the backyards of people on Morotai Crescent. It supports its fair share of wildlife. I saw a bandicoot last night and a Lyre Bird this morning. I've seen echidnas and wallabies, Eastern Water Dragons and occasionally, we see a fox but snakes including the Red Belly are also seen.

My wife and I have lived in the Rampart for 16 years and have always participated in bushcare. Along with Council's contractors, the efforts of the Keep Reserve Bushcare group are slowly transforming the place. It is difficult to completely eradicate weeds, but those that can't be, are mostly being kept in check.

The Reserve gives a lot back. With other bushcaring residents we free up ground orchids and other native plants – the place radiates. The social comradery of bushcare is fantastic, we meet for 2 hours and then enjoy a morning tea, the 2nd Sunday of each month.

You can't find Keep Reserve on Google Maps. The name was never registered, and a large section of it was incorrectly named in the 1970s, by Willoughby Council, as Warners Park. After Griffin's death in 1937, the grand vision of what he had planned



Cavern, Keep Reserve – photo in 1920s marketing brochure: Lindy Batterham collection

for the subdivision slipped, including the original intent of the Keep in the Reserve system.

Successive additions to the Community Centre/Library pushed the line of buildings further into the Reserve and pedestrian access ceased. Fortunately, Council's bushland team have recreated access from the Community Centre into the Reserve and from Morotai Crescent, as described in *The Crag* #203.

The Griffins' vision for the Keep is slowly being realised. There is a Cavern in the

Reserve that was part of the original marketing material for the Griffin estate. It still exists but is supposedly part of Warners Park – this will change. Keep Reserve is a really important part of the Griffin legacy. The weeds and rubbish amongst this beautiful but hidden landmark are also being removed by the bushcare group.

Weeds are one problem that all Reserves face. But this is not the only problem that Keep Reserve faces. Lots of stormwater passes through the Reserve at multiple entry points. All this stormwater converges at the Outpost and can flood. The bush struggles. Residents can mitigate against this by not having too many hard surfaces but as well the proposed redevelopment of the shopping centre needs to take into consideration how and where the stormwater will go.

So back to the Red Belly bite.

I have seen Red Bellies occasionally in Keep Reserve, though only once while doing bushcare and it was a fair way from where we were working. It was typically shy. The bite I received happened a couple of years ago while my wife and I were swimming in the Snowy River. My wife saw it bite me and quickly hurled it out of the river on to the bank.

It was New Year's Eve, we were in a wilderness area well below Jindabyne and we had to drive quite a while before we could phone for help. Eventually we met an ambulance from Cooma – I was on the side

Members of Keep Reserve Bushcare group celebrating the new nest boxes Council recently installed to support fauna in the Griffin Reserves. Photo: Karen Keighery



of the road naked, defecating and vomiting as my body tried to eliminate the slowly spreading venom. I learnt a lot about a Red Belly bite. Like all snake bites, it spreads through the lymph system, and then the circulatory system. It is in the muscular system where it can be most dangerous as it can cause cardio myopathy and possibly permanently damage the heart. I was fine – nobody has ever died from a Red Belly's bite.

Hopefully, fellow residents, you are still reading. People seem to love hearing about snake bites, but I would like you to try bushcare – the unbelievably great Reserve system around which we live can be sustained with volunteer involvement and Keep Reserve is testament to that. Even if you do bushcare once a year, you can help!

Matthew Keighery.



*Cavern Keep Reserve photographed from the reverse angle to the 1920s photo
Photo: Matthew Keighery*

Boomerang Bags – helping to beat the use of plastic



You may have noticed that Boomerang Bags are now housed in Castlecrag's Fruiterer and IGA. Commendably, Zane

the Fruiterer got rid of his bio-degradable bags completely. He offers paper bags and Boomerang Bags.

Boomerang Bags have been locally made and is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level.

A group of like-minded women meet each Thursday from 2–4pm in *Cottage and Coast Café* with their sewing machines. Together they cut and sew the bags and then top up supplies into the Quadrangle.

Sometimes we forget our shopping bags or misjudge how much shopping we will actually do. In such a case a Boomerang Bag fills the gap, rather than pay for a plastic bag. They are free to use and all that is asked is you return them to the shop where you borrowed it. Hence the name boomerang – so make sure you bring it back!

If you have some time to spare and would like to meet these handy women, join them in *Cottage and Coast* on Thursday afternoons during school term time.

For more information contact Lucy Fisher-Cox on 0418 976 184 or Katja Gordon on 0409 500 230.

Zachary Zeus
Principal Consultant | Managing Director

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Crows Nest NSW 2065
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Ext 7004
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Who's hole is this?



Can you match the holes above to the creatures below. Answers on Page 15.



Cats Going Bush



Willoughby Wildlife Protection Areas (WWPA) are designated bushland reserves that have been selected because they provide essential habitat for our local native animals.

Cats are known to be natural hunters who can regularly cover a kilometre of travel in

a day and attack native wildlife which can decimate wildlife populations and diversity. Domestic cats face additional dangers outdoors, such as traffic, larger predators (like dogs, foxes and other cats) and feral cat-borne diseases.

Council has been informed that domestic cats and dogs have been roaming in the Northern Escarpment WPA in Castlecrag during the day and night, and they have also been seen in nearby Griffin Reserves. Local residents have also reported unwelcome visits from cats onto their property as well as dead native wildlife, which show signs consistent with cat attack.

If you are a cat owner, please

- Always keep your cat indoors at night;
- Take measures to keep your cat indoors, or within your property during the day;
- Ensure your cat is de-sexed;
- Register your cat;
- Don't feed stray cats;
- Contact the Cat Protection Society (CPS) about housing unwanted cats or kittens. Sometimes the local vets will take them.

The CPS provides information about keeping your cat on your property. Contact info@catprotection.org.au or phone 9519 7201.



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Castlecrag Notes

Carols at the Quadrangle

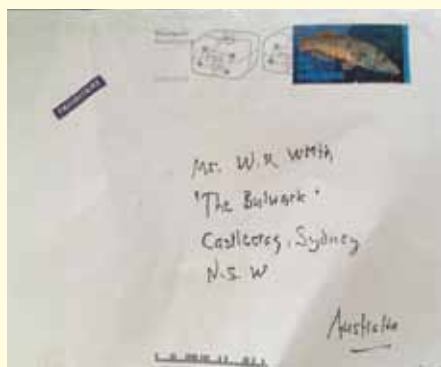
Around 200 people attended this event in the lead-up to Christmas and heard the Northern Voices Choir sing Carols. Ruth Kendon spoke eloquently in fond memory of Rose Hazelwood. Each of the shopkeepers decorated a Christmas Tree and attached a voucher which were auctioned off at the end – raising over \$2,000.00 for Rose's husband Frank. The Quadrangle restaurants provided food and drinks for everyone, and the enthusiastic gathering asked for it to be an annual event.



2018 Carols at the Quadrangle

Envelope mystery

Does anyone recognise the name and know the whereabouts of Mr W.R. W--th on this envelope? Please contact info@castlecrag.org.au



Community Library

One of the hidden treasures of Castlecrag, snuggled into the western wing of the Community Centre, is the library. It has been operating through volunteers since 1951 and boasts a wide range of books. It opens and closes faithfully each week on Tuesdays 3.00-4.30pm, Thursdays 2-5pm, and Saturdays 10-12pm.

Suggestions for new books are always welcome. Last year 229 new books were bought for the library - predominantly adult fiction and children's, also 18 children's

DVDs to add to the sizeable collection. It is the perfect place to introduce a child to a library, to share the love of books and how to treat them, with its comfy chairs to sit, read quietly and facility to borrow for free.

Very conveniently, books borrowed from WCC's Chatswood Library or Shorelink can be returned via the freestanding Book Box outside.

People able to commit to a regular roster warmly welcomed, even just for a couple of hours once a month. Phone Dorothy Fraser 0425 327 477 if interested in helping out.

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Castlecrag Notes cont...

New dance class for tots in The Crag

Do you have a young dancer in your family? One who naturally moves to music & loves to bop, twirl or leap around?

Le Petit Ballet is located in Northbridge and offers dance classes for children 1.5 to 8 years old. In 2019 they are introducing new classes for little ones at the Castlecrag Uniting Church on Wednesday mornings. However, Miss Laura does not sound like your traditional Ballet Ma'am. She explains her approach...

"We aim to make dance fun, through story and creative play. We love using props and age appropriate tunes allowing children to be children. Dance gives them a wonderful opportunity to express themselves, provides a sense of belonging and community, teaches problem solving skills and builds confidence. On a physical side, dance helps develop gross and fine motor skills, co-ordination, good posture and simply encourages children to move."

Above all, the best reason to choose dance for your child is to promote their happiness and joy... there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the smile on a child's face after an exhilarating class.

For more information contact Miss Laura by email at admin@lepetitballet.com.au, or phone on 0423 406 572 or visit www.lepetitballet.com.au



Singing in the Valley

Since August 2017, Natural Voices Northbridge has been meeting at Warners Park a couple of times a week to explore musical ideas and sounds and to enjoy singing together.

The underlying aim is to have people who are different in many ways come together using their voices, finding common ground and a meaningful shared connection in music-making. It is an atmosphere where people can use their voices without criticism and feel welcome. The workshop nature of the group means we do musical activities and play with musical material in a creative way. We use our whole bodies, often moving as we sing and stretching into the notes and phrases.

Each week is different, depending on who attends. We draw much of our repertoire from World Music, still quite simple, as participants build skills and confidence. We adapt the material, incorporating

movement and different dynamics in the music. Our workshops create opportunities to use our voices together to express how we are feeling at that moment and to develop physical range of movement and coordination.

Our group is a work-in-progress. We are not a choir in the usual sense. We are not preparing material for a performance. Rather each time we meet is an end unto itself with participants hopefully feeling both relaxed and energised at the end of the workshop. Newcomers welcome. No experience necessary, just a slight sense of adventure.

The sessions are run by Patty Zancanaro, a Northbridge resident and Registered Music Therapist.

2:00 pm to 3.30 pm Saturdays and Mondays. Northbridge Bowling Club, The Outpost Warners Park.

RSVPs required. Tel: 0407 278 696 or <http://naturalvoicesnorthbridge.weebly.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).

233A Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag

Our great suburb has houses that are hidden gems. One of these houses sits on the water's edge of the northern escarpment of Castlecrag. This cottage has the address of 233A Edinburgh Road. Its access is just past Stoker Park. Having been to visit, it is a piece of paradise.

This property and the adjoining one at 233 Edinburgh Road are up for sale.

The cottage at 233A Edinburgh Road dates from 1912 and originally started as a Hudson kit home. It has been owned by the current family for 80 years. It is one of three cottages located on the foreshore. Their only access is by walking down through the bush or by boat. The other two cottages are owned and rented out by Willoughby City Council.

The style of the cottage falls into the period of Federation architecture. However, it is not a red brick and red tiled roof house. The cottage is clad in timber. Other characteristics of the Federation period are the timber trim on the roof gable, the gable and hipped roof design, wrap around verandahs, timber columns, a bay window and vertically proportioned double hung windows. The original roof and verandah have been replaced with appropriate products.

The cottage is small and still has the pressed metal and ornate plaster ceilings. Originally the toilet was separate from the house and located further up the hill. There is now a bathroom in the house. There was also a gas plant on site where the original owners produced their own gas.

A tidal swimming pool is located next to

the property. This is now owned by the Roads and Maritime Services.

Previously, adjacent to the tidal pool was a public pool owned by the publican of the Willoughby Hotel located on the corner of Penshurst and McMahon Streets. This pool was dismantled prior to the construction of the house and the remnants of its walls are still obvious today. Also lead flashing can be seen in the rock face where the change sheds were situated.

The owner told me some fabulous stories about living there. When his father purchased the property in 1938, Edinburgh Road was a dirt track and the walk from the top to the bottom was like walking through a eucalypt forest. It was easy to navigate as there was no undergrowth like today.

Every day he would do the trek up the hill with his sister to Castlecrag Infants School. He remembers how quiet it was living so close to the water as there were not so many boats as there are today.

When he came home from school he would go out with his grandfather on his row boat and fish.

He remembers there were market gardens at the house next door. Also, in an earlier time, the house was used as a gambling den and for SP booking. The gambling table is still in the house.



Photo: Ray White

The cottage is listed as being historically significant in Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP). It has only had three owners. It is now waiting for a new owner to enjoy the amenity of the site, its remoteness and the surrounding peace and quiet.

Ben Gerstel

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Warner's Park Community Garden

Arguably gardening is the *raison d'être* for a community garden. But community gardens are about more than just soil, seeds, watering, weeding, digging, diagnosing, pruning and picking. People come together, we grow food, we try to promote good health and green urban environments, we communicate, we share, we encourage, we teach, we learn.

Over the past 6 months we've found ourselves increasingly in new territory. Things like garden design, bed-raising, contemplating and setting up water reticulation systems, paving and the like. Willoughby Council's grant to improve garden access, aesthetics and functionality is a key driver but there are other drivers too like easing the chore of summer watering.

Four of six beds have now been raised, with two to go. New paved spaces are also being built to relocate our wicking beds. Wicking beds are basically large containers with water reservoirs at the base that enable beds to be watered by drawing up water through capillary action.

Alongside the physical effort being shouldered by a few, and notwithstanding the usual winter holiday exodus, we've happily managed to up our crops. In the cooler months the highlights were lots of potatoes, broccolini and lettuce. Now we're harvesting corn, black zucchinis, green beans, roma and cherry tomatoes plus a few okra.

Pumpkin foliage is running rampant, yet there is but one actual pumpkin to show for all that. Go figure. Also in this period herb pots have been moved



David and Maggie with one of our zucchinis

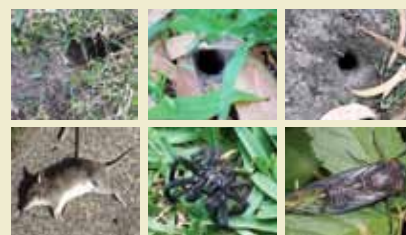
and replenished, plus we've upped our attention to the composting bins. Community contribution of organic fruit and veg waste continues to be welcome.

People-wise it's been great to have Jutta and her daughter Siwa join us regularly to make an active core group of around 15 gardeners. Finally, our eternal love-hate relationship with the resident brush turkeys has taken a turn for the better with the bed raising.

New gardeners are welcome to join us 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

Who's hole is that?



Could you match the creatures to the holes on Page 10?

- | | |
|-----|-----------|
| A-3 | Bandicoot |
| B-2 | Funnelweb |
| C-2 | Cicada |

Roma tomatoes ripening on the vine.



Corn in a newly raised bed, watering system in place.



Hairy corn, just days away from picking.



Environment News • Environment News



NSW Election forum on environmental issues in Castlecrag

The NSW State election is fast approaching (23 March). In collaboration with the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council, the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association Inc (WEPA) has invited the sitting members and local candidates from the North Shore and Willoughby electorates to participate in a non-partisan forum.

Come to hear your local candidates' views on the big environmental issues of our time.

Where: Glenaeon School Hall,
121 Edinburgh Road,
Castlecrag

Protection of the natural environment and decisive action to deal with climate change are emerging as key issues in the forthcoming State election. The community is calling on its future leaders to safeguard and restore the NSW environment for the benefit of our people, our economy and our sustainable future. On a local level, the proposed tunnel project will have huge ramifications for peak hour travellers into the city if 35 trucks per hour will enter Flat Rock Drive

WEPA and NPA NSW have asked candidates to address a number of important issues including:

- the **Northern Beaches and Western Harbour Tunnels** project;
- expanding and protecting our **National Parks**;
- the protection of koalas and the creation of a **Great Koala National Park**;
- the continued logging of **Public Native Forests**;
- the importance of a **green urban environment** to community health and well-being;
- measures to deal with **climate change**.

Equal time will be provided at the Forum for the sitting members and candidates to speak on these and other related environmental issues. This will be followed by an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the panel. The meeting will end at approximately 8:30pm.

All members of the public welcome.

Please feel free to bring neighbours, family and friends. No charge, supper provided.

STOP PRESS

Regrettably, our local member has declined the invitation to address her constituents at the WEPA forum. She has also set strict conditions around her attendance at the Federation of Progress Association *Meet the Candidates* Forum, to be held at 7pm Tuesday 5 March at Dougherty Centre. This event has always been open to the general public but the Premier has made her presence conditional that all attendees must be paid up members of local Progress Associations, citing security reasons and concerns about protesters.

Any member of the CPA who would like to attend this event needs to indicate this to the President via info@castlecrag.org.au so your name can be checked at the door by security.

CASTLECRAG BUSHCARE Meeting Dates

First Monday of the Month

- **Tower Reserve**
9-12noon
Contact: Jocelyn – 0402 158 518
or Lisa – 0404 806 406

First Sunday of the Month

- **Cortile Park Care**
8.30-11.30
Contact: Tim – 0403 883 254

Second Sunday of the Month

- **Gargoyle Bushcare**
9-12noon
Contact: Margaret – 0407 994 230
- **Keep Reserve**
9-12noon
Contact: Matthew – 0408 203 511

Third Sunday of the Month

- **Casement Reserve**
8.30-11.30
Contact: Vick – 0402 325 531
- **Torquay Estate**
9-12noon
Contact: Jo – 0419 234 235
- **Lookout Reserve**
9-12noon
Contact: Jessica – 0431 317 756
or Adrienne – 9298 3761
- **Retreat Reserve**
9-12noon
Contact: Jill – 0428 880 002

Fourth Sunday of the Month

- **Linden Way Reserve**
9-12noon
Contact: WCC – 9777 7875

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Diary Dates • Diary Dates • Diary Dates

Climate Change Talk – WEPA AGM

Tuesday 19 March 2019 7:00pm

Marion Mahoney Hall, Glenaeon

Our climate system is changing rapidly as a result of human activity with 17 of the 18 hottest years on record occurring this century. In Australia, we are already experiencing severe drought, increased bushfire risk, and unprecedented heatwaves. The changing climate is affecting all sectors – our environment, economy, food security, health, and communities. This talk will summarise the latest global and national trends in the climate and identify the most important observed and future impacts. It will outline what we need to do to achieve a stable climate by the second half of this century in terms of climate policy, but will also highlight the many exciting opportunities available ensure a viable future, both for the planet's species and our children.

Lesley Hughes is a Distinguished Professor of Biology and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Integrity & Development) at Macquarie University. Her research has mainly focused on the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. Amongst other appointments she is a Councillor with the Climate Council of Australia and a member of the expert advisory committee for Future Earth Australia.

Art Crawl

Thursday 21 March 2019 10:00am to 2:30am

Meet in the Foyer Gallery, Ground Floor, Willoughby City Council, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood

Join the walking tour through Chatswood and Willoughby and discover the fabulous art galleries on your doorstep.

Booking required via Environmental Educators 9777 1000
or email: env.educators@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Fauna Fair

Sunday, 31 March 2019 9:30am to 3:00pm

Curry Park, Chatswood

Wildlife are everywhere, from birds and bugs in your backyard to the wallabies and owls in local bushland. Join in this celebration of local wildlife, bushland and community.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to see live animal shows, hear expert talks by wildlife, plant and habitat specialists and visit information stalls on subjects from gardening to bushcare and pets. At this day in the park there are kids' activities, food to eat and community organisations to support plus ways you can be involved in your local community and the environment.

A free event for everyone to enjoy.

Contact: Liz Powell on 02 9777 7871

or email: liz.powell@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Northbridge Community Fireworks

Saturday 11 May 2019 Northbridge Oval

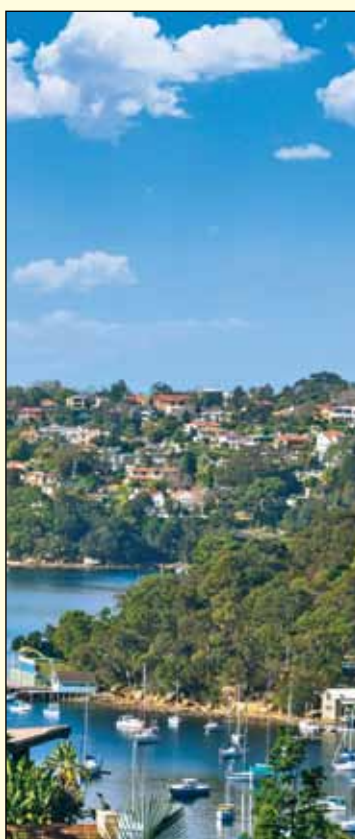
The Rotary Club of Northbridge will again hold the annual community fireworks event at the Oval. 100 per cent of profits raised go towards aiding disadvantaged youth and families in our community, local rescue services, as well as aiding medical breakthrough research. There will be lots of rides, entertainment and a variety of food to eat – so come on down. Be sure to mark this family friendly event in the diary.

Northbridge Rotary is keenly seeking volunteer assistance by members of the community – on the afternoon and/or evening!

Please contact Rob on 0417 139 884 to express interest.

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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