

Bleeding Bluetongues

What would you do if you found one? Story p8.

Quadrangle Design Excellence competition

Top architects invited to compete Story p7.

Big day out for all

Hopefully, the Biennial Castlecrag Community Fair at the Shopping Village on Sunday 20 October is already in your calendar!

It promises to be a great day. Stall spaces are all booked with community groups and organisations, local businesses (including a new home-based vet), artists and people selling a plethora of new and pre-loved wares. Art and Sustainability has emerged as a theme.

The WEPA stall is always popular with advice and sale of local native plants from ground covers to tall eucalypts, and the oral history CRAGCHAT tent will again be open to capture your stories of living in the Crag. Participate in art-making with the Willoughby Arts Centre or try your luck with the Fair Raffle – you could be

a winner of dinner at one of our local restaurants. For the kids, there will be a superjumping castle in the carpark, and a mini-farm petting zoo at The Quadrangle with cute and cuddly Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Chickens, Ducks and Miniature Goats to pat and feed.

A new addition to the fair this year is a Classic Car display brought together by local enthusiast Scott Graham. It's bound to be popular. With thanks to the generosity of the



One of the cars to be seen at the Classic Car Display at the Fair.

residents of The Parapet, the end closest to the shops will be closed off to allow for the display of these handsome cars. See story on p14.

SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

The **Traffic & Pedestrian Management Plan** dictates that Traffic Marshalls need to be in four different spots throughout the day of the fair. That equates to 26 hours. Please volunteer for a shift to help fulfil legal requirements and keep people safe by phoning Matthew on 0408 203 511 or email info@castlecrag.org.au.

Second-hand books will be gratefully received – phone Mark 0412 971 861 or Kate 0402 465 522 for pick-up.

People are also needed on the day to serve on the **CPA bookstall**. Please help – phone Kate 0402 465 522.

And **musicians, choirs, bands, singers, storytellers, entertainers and poets** all welcome to share your talent/artistry with us on the day. Get in touch through info@castlecrag.org.au.

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NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 November 2019
8.00pm

Design for Quadrangle Redevelopment

Dr Quek's developer team will present the result of the "Design Excellence" competition for the proposed redevelopment of the Quadrangle site.

Venue to be decided, depending on numbers.

RSVP asap by email to receive notification – info@castlecrag.org.au

All welcome.

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.

COMMITTEE 2018-2019

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Editor Lindy Batterham

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 Editor

Volunteerism is what drives a healthy community. Look at ours! We have librarians, bush carers, meals on wheels and boomerang bag makers. There are long-serving committee members of our community groups who spend many hours per week acting on matters that affect us and our environs, and others who quietly give their time and sometimes money to further the interests and enrichment of our community.

However, sometimes it feels like a lonely

place. Last issue the call went out for people to help on Fair day. Only one person, who doesn't even live here, offered. We need to do better than that!

A number of the articles in this issue end with a "call to action." As you will read, Carols at the Haven is back this year (hooray!) and bodies are also needed to help stage this event, so please Cragites, show us your community spirit and put your hand up this time. Better still, email us.

Letter to the Editor

The article "*Proposal for opening up old path in Griffin Estate*" [June 2019] is misleading. The words "old path", "reconstructing", "restored as a public pathway" imply that there was once a negotiable walkway between 34 The Bulwark and 20 The Scarp. There have even been assertions that adjacent neighbours had misappropriated public property, destroying valuable community assets.

Despite Burley Griffin's original plans, there has never been a traversable track or pathway there. The Council webpage correctly states "*No formal path currently exists at the site which will have construction challenges due to the steep topography, accessibility issues and existing stormwater pit/sewer services in situ.*"

These impediments to usage were not created by adjacent neighbours: they are geographic or were constructed by service

utilities during the area's development. The five utilities have an easement over the "walkway".

The steps from The Scarp are our steps leading to our pathway which the recent Council survey confirms is well within our property. The hedge is on our property. In the past, walking groups have used our pathway and steps, accessing Merlon Reserve via the steps owned by 18 The Scarp, not realising that they were trespassing.

In November 2012, we wrote to Council and CPA about this 'inadvertent' trespass which was encouraged by the distribution of old walking maps. In the 1990s, the Griffin Reserves Committee concluded that the "pathway" was not traversable and was not to be put on walking maps.

David Burke,
34 The Bulwark

Editor's response

The piece regarding the opening up of the Merlon Reserve pathway was written to advise readers that Council was seeking feedback via the Have your Say process, regarding a proposal for the construction of a path through Merlon Reserve. Most of that which was said was taken from the WCC website and the aim was to refer readers on to that site, which had further information, maps and a questionnaire.

The Griffin Reserves Plan of Management and the Griffin Reserves Advisory Group supports the construction of the Merlon path as a desired access from the ridgetop of Castlecrag to the foreshore. It was part of the original plan for the Griffin Estate.

...continued on page 3

Keep *The Crag* coming to your door!

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From the President



CPA and other community groups have continued the consultation with Willoughby Council officers in regard to the Draft Local Centres Strategy (LCS), most

recently on 4 September. The Planning Department has accepted, for presentation to Council, a heritage listing proposal for the Griffin Centre based on the Heritage Report commissioned by the Walter Burley Griffin Society. They have agreed not to change any of the current planning controls for either the Centre or for the "Old Squash Courts" office block. The controls for the Quadrangle site remain under discussion but it appears they have heard the Castlecrag's residents. The increase, to 5, in the maximum number

of storeys, as proposed in Option 4 of the Draft Strategy, has been dropped. Council has offered to continue active consultation with community groups leading up to the presentation of the final Strategy to go before Council in December.

The Quadrangle re-development process is continuing and Dr Quek has initiated a "Design Excellence" competition (see article on page 7). CPA and the other community groups continue to liaise with Dr Quek, and his team, and timeframes and the list of designers have been agreed.

The CPA Executive is comfortable with the process but we have made it clear that support for any outcome depends on the view of CPA's members. Accordingly, we have moved the date of our next General Meeting to 20 November so that Dr Quek's team, and the winning firm of architects, can present their design to the community. It will then be up to CPA members to decide whether their proposal is acceptable to us.

If you wish to have a say on the design for the Quadrangle, make sure you let us know if you intend to attend and make sure you are a financial member of the Association. Remember, you can only be counted if you turn up!

So far, over 60 people have told us that they want to attend. We expect that number to grow, so we have started looking for a bigger venue than the Glenaeon School Hall. When we find one, we will email the meeting location to you, but only if you email us first!

There's so much happening! See the back page for details of CPA's 94th anniversary community dinner. We have booked out Motza's Pizzeria for the occasion and hope to reach "House full" on the night.

Finally, please let me encourage everyone to come along to the community's big day out at the Fair. Even better, offer to help on the day!

Paul Stokes

Having Your Say ... Feedback on resident views

Since November 2017 CPA has been receiving submissions and otherwise seeking to measure resident attitudes to the proposed redevelopment of the Quadrangle site. We have received over 20 written submissions from residents following presentations by the proposed developer's team. We also had a vote among some 130 residents present at our March General Meeting in response to Council's Option 4 for the Draft LCS which envisaged a structure of up to 5 storeys and we have had a local school student carry out a survey of 50 residents on the question "Do you agree or disagree with the proposed development of the Castlecrag shopping precinct?". The results of these activities are shown in the chart below (the first 3 bars).

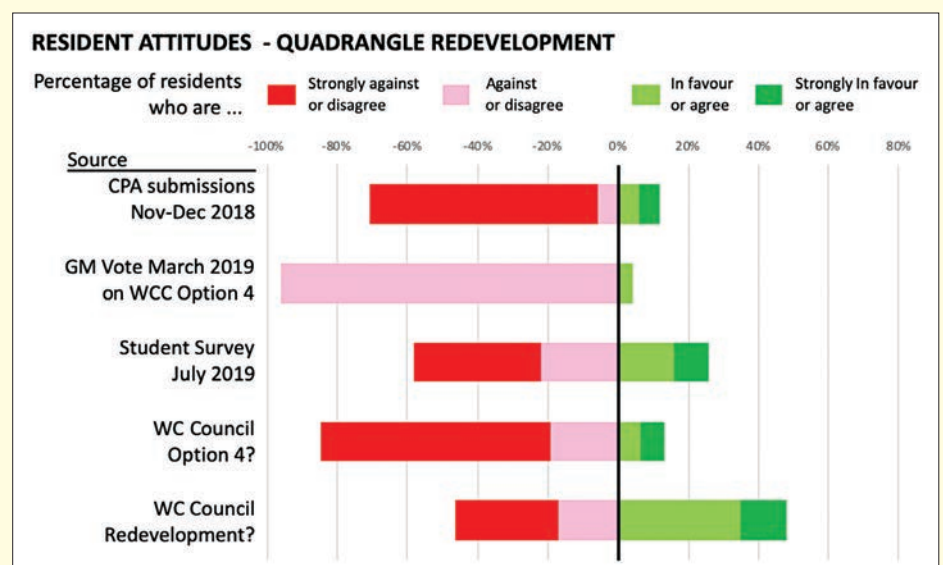
Over the same period the Council has been seeking resident opinions on its Draft LCS through a number of avenues including "Have Your Say" and "Round Table Sessions". There were 180 submissions from Castlecrag resident analysed by the Council. The responses to two questions are illustrated on the chart: "Are you in favour of, or against, increased heights

up to 5 storeys ... on the Quadrangle site (Option 4)?" and "Would you consider redevelopment of the Quadrangle?".

The feedback from residents appears to show a number of residents in favour of Dr Quek's proposal and Option 4. However, there is a very much larger group who are not just opposed but strongly opposed to 5 storeys. It is interesting to note that when

the question is just about redevelopment itself resident's views are much more evenly split.

CPA encourages all residents, on either side of Eastern Valley Way, who have not already made a submission, to please do so by sending us a note at info@castlecrag.org.au. Your view doesn't count unless you make it known!



Editors response *continued from page 2*

Council has recently informed participating residents of the result of Have your Say. 86 % of those who responded indicated that they would use such a path if it was constructed. However, a preliminary costing has been assessed by WCC to be in excess of \$550,000. Residents who know the site are sceptical about this figure, with one local remarking that WCC must be planning gold plated steps! For now, it seems, to the disappointment of many, the Merlon Reserve pathway construction has been put on the back-burner.

From The Mayor



Local Centres and Housing Strategies moving ahead

The local centres and housing strategies, which develop our long term planning, are moving towards the final stages.

There were 722 people who provided feedback online, in person and via email. Of these, 186 commented on Castlecrag – the highest number of responses for any of the eight village centres. It shows what an engaged community we have in Castlecrag.

Respondents said they want to see a variety of housing including smaller properties for those downsizing. Many people like the idea of 'shop top' housing. A key request is that the village character and conservation status of Burley Griffin's design be protected. However, there were mixed views about the Quadrangle and Edinburgh Road. Some were supportive of more cafes, while others were concerned about shadowing from taller buildings and increased traffic. Overall, people want to ensure the area is accessible and safe and retains its village character.

The next phase of Strategy finalisation

will include liaising with state government departments. Council staff aim to publish the final strategies by early 2020.

Stoker Playground

Council developed an improvement plan for this local treasure and asked for community feedback to ensure it's what you wanted. Staff will now tweak the plan based on feedback, with work to start on the upgrades before the end of the year.

Castlecrag Library

Castlecrag Community Library could not run without a dedicated team of volunteers. Thanks to all who contribute. Membership is free, so drop in and make the most of your local library.

Tennis

In 2018 Council audited all tennis venues and developed a strategy to guide management of tennis courts on Council land. It includes the two synthetic courts in Cortile Reserve that are leased to Castlecrag Sports Club. The strategy is open for comment until 30 September 2019. Visit www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au. We'll consider feedback and refine the strategy.

Right Hand Turn

The community is successfully using the new right turn bay and traffic signal to safely turn from Edinburgh Road onto Eastern Valley Way. Roads and Maritime

Services are yet to implement the street parking changes in Edinburgh Road which were approved as part of the project. Council officers are monitoring traffic movements and will pass on comments to Roads and Maritime Services.

Community Information Seminars

We've introduced monthly information seminars, providing the community an opportunity to hear about significant issues and projects.

Chaired by myself, each seminar features topics presented by an expert from Council, state government or other agency.

To receive updates on what will be covered, sign up to Council's e-newsletter or visit our website. A video of each presentation will be available for download for those who are unable to attend.

Emerge Festival

As we near the end of winter, Council prepares for our spring festival extravaganza of the Emerge Festival. Now in its 22nd year the Festival returns from 1 September to 13 October. Visit www.emergefestival.com.au for more.

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

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Haven to sing again this Christmas

Three years after it was demolished, the Haven stage remains unbuilt. Nevertheless, preparations are underway for our voices to sing again at the Haven Amphitheatre with Carols to be held on Saturday 14 December. Managed by WCC's Events Team with assistance from locals, the staging will be as it was in Marion's day, with singers perched on rock ledges around the glen.

Six players from the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra have been secured to accompany the community singing, and Santa has promised to drop in! Although compromised, it will be wonderful to breathe life back into our much-cherished community asset.

Regarding the future rebuilding of the Haven stage, the approved DA which includes zig-zagging ramps and an accessible toilet, remains unpopular. Whilst recognising the need for accessibility, it is felt by many in the community that such a structure would destroy the beauty of the bushland amphitheatre and so people have lost the momentum to raise the 50% of the cost to build it.

Melanie Smith, Community, Culture and Leisure Director from WCC stated that Council continue to look at ways of finding a solution that would enable a plan that can work. She recently attended a CPA committee meeting to update progress on



the Haven Amphitheatre. She described the process for the near future:

- A Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) would be established as an advisory body to Council for the period of the development of a Plan of Management (PoM) for the Haven. Once the PoM is complete the SRG ceases to exist;
- The SRG is to consist of:
 - a representative from each of the 6 local community groups;
 - plus 4 local residents each chosen against 1 of 4 criteria;
- The Plan of Management will seek to balance 3 key components of the site:

the bushland environment, heritage values and cultural aspect;

- The Haven PoM would work together with the Castle Haven Reserve Action Plan;
- It is intended that the SRG would be established by September/October 2019, with the Plan of Management to be put to Council in February or March 2020 before going on public exhibition thereafter.

SAVE THE DATE
Carols at the Haven
Saturday 14 December ~ 7:30pm

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Street Trees help keep us sane (at least some of us!)

Trees reduce urban warming and improve air quality but also make us feel better overall. Recent research* has indicated that adults with 30% or more of their neighbourhood covered in some form of tree canopy had 31% lower odds of developing psychological distress and 33% lower chance of developing fair to poor general health.

That's good news for us because Castlecrag has over 40% canopy coverage. Apart from the trees in our gardens and reserves, there are probably about 1000-1500 street trees in our suburb, and some of them are nearly 100 years old. The rumoured oldest tree is a Tallowood, a *Eucalyptus microcorys* (pictured right) in The Rampart near The Redoubt, where the path up to The Parapet begins. It would take four people joined to give it a hug!

The Griffins and their contemporaries are said to have planted over 1000 eucalypts in the 1920's, some of them still alive today. This includes the avenue of Lemon Scented Gums along the beginning of The Parapet which were one of the Griffins' favourite trees.

Marion planted the Coral and Cypress trees as a memorial avenue on both sides of Edinburgh Road from Raeburn Ave to the hospital circa 1938. They are tree species that grow in India, and it is understood that Marion planted them on her return to Castlecrag after Walter's death in India in 1937. Some of these have been removed – a recent loss is the one that was near the Dentists. It's partner across the road has also received its death notice. They are known to drop large branches and so are considered to be unsafe.

Currently, Willoughby Council is



undertaking a street tree inventory across the entire LGA. Over the last year more than 5000 street trees have been inspected and recorded in the inventory. Over 600 potential locations for the planting of new street trees have been identified and mapped. Initial data collection has been focused on areas identified as requiring additional canopy cover, such as the Artarmon Industrial area.

The Willoughby LGA as a whole has approximately 40,000 street trees. The project aims to develop a Tree Asset Inventory for its park and street trees to facilitate decision making, to prioritise resources and to maintain accurate historical data. Information being captured includes each tree's location (mapped in the

GIS), species and condition. This will assist Council in assessing maintenance needs as well as helping to plan for additional street plantings and renewals ensuring trees are managed as an urban forest.

Castlecrag is not likely to be inventoried until next year at the earliest. It's a huge project. But we can get started.

Do you have a favourite street tree? It's hard to choose only one, so here's a couple in Edinburgh Road to start the process. Please send in photos of your favourite street trees and their location, and we'll publish them on the CPA website and/or in *The Crag*. This will enable the creation of a photographic data base.

Let's help ensure that this significant asset is cared for and enhanced.

* Astell-Burt & Xiaoqi Feng, 2019, University of Wollongong



Left:
Lemon-scented gums at the corner of The Parapet and Edinburgh Road.

Right:
Another lemon-scented gum along Edinburgh Road, towards Sunnyside Crescent.

Local Climate Change action

A strong, local visual statement has been made in the form of a "Sticker" produced by the Castlecrag Conservation Society, with generous support from the community.

A member was so inspired by a photo of the Watergate waterfall that it led her to design this sticker to highlight the precious resources in our own backyard. Readers may recall the photo, taken by Adrian Spragg after heavy rain, appeared on the front page of the last issue of *The Crag*.

The stickers will be available at the Conservation Society's stall at the Fair for a gold coin. They are designed to go on cars, shop windows, letterboxes, refrigerators – to be displayed wherever possible to show your concern for the environment. The sticker highlights more than fifty years of residents' voluntary work to maintain our local Middle Harbour bushland, the Walter Burley Griffin history and our village lifestyle.

www.castlecragconservationsociety.org



...with thanks Mr Leunig.

Volunteering is fun

and a rewarding way
to be involved in

Carols at The Haven!

If you're interested in
flier distribution, promotions
or ushering on the night please email
kate.valente@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Design Excellence for The Quadrangle

Dr Quek has initiated a "Design Excellence" competition for his proposed development of the Quadrangle site. A number of community groups met with Dr Quek and his team in early August to agree on the structure and timing of the competition. These groups were: Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA), Walter Burley Griffin Society (WBGS), Friends Of The Haven (FoH), the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) and the Castlecrag Conservation Society (CCS).

Three prominent architectural firms have been invited to compete and are being briefed. They will each design 2 plans – one five and the other four storeys. They will then have 30 days to complete and submit their designs.

The design competitors are Richard Francis Jones from FJMT, Alec Tzannes from Tzannes Associates and Tim Greer from Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architectural Practice.

Dr Quek will be one of the five judges.

His team has nominated two other jurors – Richard Johnson as Chair and Diane Jones. Both CPA and WBGS were invited to nominate one each. CPA nominated Elizabeth Farrelly and WBGS selected Angelo Candalepas.

The jury will evaluate the submitted designs based on merit, and make recommendation to Dr Quek's company Greycliff in November 2019 for presentation to the community at CPA's November General Meeting. Make sure you attend.

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Wounded wildlife and feeding the birds

Sydney Wildlife was launched in May 1997 to care for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. It is also involved in educating the community about native wildlife and its habitat and is licensed to do its work by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is an entirely voluntary, charitable organisation and next month, a Rescue & Care weekend Course will be held nearby at the Coal Loader Sustainability Centre at Ball's Head in Waverton. (see box). Its website offers valuable information such as these FAQs.

What should I do if I find an injured animal?



Injured animals are very susceptible to stress, so they have to be handled carefully. To reduce the animal's stress as much as

possible, please follow this advice –

- Move the animal away from any danger and into a quiet, dark environment.
- Contain in a cardboard box with a small towel or blanket inside to provide warmth and comfort.
- DO NOT OFFER ANY FOOD OR WATER as native animals have very specialised diets, plus feeding an animal suffering from shock could be fatal.
- Note the exact location the animal was found – most animals are territorial and must be released back at the rescue site.
- Keep the animal as quiet and undisturbed as possible.
- Please call Sydney Wildlife immediately on 9413 4300 or take the animal to your nearest vet (there will be no charge). It is illegal to keep native animals taken from the wild – they must be passed on to an authorised, licensed wildlife carer.

Flying foxes and snakes

If you find a Flying Fox, or bat of any sort, do not handle or attempt to rescue it and if you find a snake on your property, please do not handle it. Call Sydney Wildlife immediately, unless it's one of our local harmless ones, such as a golden crown or green tree snake.

What can I feed the birds in my garden?

For Rainbow Lorikeets and other honeyeaters –

These birds feed mainly on nectar from flowers. This food source is quite complex and is supplemented with protein from pollen and insects. The digestion system of these birds cannot cope with processed sugar, seed, bread etc except in very small quantities. Do NOT feed honey or sugar mixes to these birds as it reduces their desire to seek out nectar from flowers. They become undernourished and more susceptible to disease. Vitamin deficiency can cause foot and leg paralysis and poor feather growth.

In summer these artificial mixtures deteriorate very quickly and become an ideal source for spreading bacterial infections amongst birds using communal feeding dishes. Previously, in winter, lorikeets dispersed in search of blossoms, but as a result of artificial feeding, many are staying in the colder climates and breeding throughout the winter. Winter babies have great difficulty surviving the cold.

Other problems of artificial feeding are overpopulation and competition for limited nesting sites, which results in the crowding out of smaller and less aggressive

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TAKE A FREE TRIAL CLASS

Wounded wildlife cont...



species. Artificially fed birds may become dependent on humans and lose their fear of predators.

For seed-eating parrots – eg Rosellas, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Galahs

These parrots require a variety of seeds and plant material in their diet. The common practice of artificial feeding, and particularly the feeding of sunflower seed, has resulted in many of these birds suffering a nutritional imbalance. Imbalanced diets often result in poor bone and feather development which may severely impede the animal's ability to fly and reduce its life expectancy.

The spread of disease is magnified in artificially fed populations. This is due to

which there is no known cure. Birds die a cruel death when most of their feathers drop out and their beaks grow too long to allow them to eat.

Feeding parrots results in their over-familiarisation with humans and not all humans treat them kindly. There is also a heightened risk of negative interactions between birds and the general population. For example, parrots that appear to be tame may be approached by children who are unaware of how damaging their bite can be.

Cockatoos and Corellas are regarded as pests in some areas of Sydney, although they are protected animals. Their playful behaviour often results in damage to property, which many of us have

the close contact between birds at the feeding site and the over-use of scarce nesting sites. Beak and Feather Disease is rampant in Sulphur Crested Cockatoos in the Sydney area. It is a highly contagious disease for

experienced with wooden railings and structures being attacked. Encouraging large flocks of these birds through artificial feeding exacerbates the problem.

For Kookaburras, Magpies, Currawongs and Butcher Birds –

These birds mostly eat meat, not beef or mince, but whole spiders, mice and cockroaches. Their diet is the whole animal, including fur, bones and organs rich in vitamins, minerals and fibre, all essential for healthy growth. Beef is a very poor source of calcium and many of the birds that come into care suffer from calcium deficiency. An over-abundance of these species causes a reduction in the small bird population on which they prey. This is why we now rarely see, for example, Blue Wrens and Finches in our gardens. Humans too often upset the balance of nature.

So in summary...

Please consider the birds' welfare, as well as your own pleasure, by providing clean water, plenty of bushy, flowering native plants and a safe, cat-free environment and sit back and enjoy the birds.

Remember it is unnecessary and cruel to feed our native birds.

Information sourced from www.sydneywildlife.org.au

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CASTLECRAG SPORTS CLUB

Between the Parapet and Edinburgh Road
lies the Castlecrag Sports Club

- Book a tennis court at the Castlecrag Cellars for **\$15 per hour**
- Call coach Michael Tebbutt on **0410 992 320** for lessons
- Email castlecragtennis@bigpond.com for membership



November 2019 Rescue and Care Course

Do you have a love of animals and would you like to play a part in protecting and caring for our native wildlife?

Becoming a trained volunteer at Sydney Wildlife might be just right for you.

The Sydney Wildlife team is made up of a group of people just like you. Sydney Wildlife volunteers are dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned native animals.



Find out more at www.sydneywildlife.org.au
or email training@sydneywildlife.org.au.

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Patricia Anne Starch 5 March 1940 – 5 July 2019



Patricia was born in New Plymouth, New Zealand to Eric and Mary Peake and was joined a couple of years later by her brother Terry. Known as Patsy to her family, she grew up in the towns of Paekakariki and Wellington on the North Island.

Patricia loved horse riding and swimming from a young age. She attended pony club events around Paekakariki and competed in many swimming competitions, even breaking the combined schools 50 metre freestyle record in 34 seconds, smashing the previous record by 10 seconds.

As a young adult in the mid 60's, Patricia took a giant, brave leap across the ditch and moved with friends to the Kiwi Mecca of the time – Bondi. Later, she met an American at the Marble bar at the Sydney Hilton and after a short courtship married Ken Starch back in NZ. They gravitated to the bushy north shore of Sydney and in 1969 started a family in Chatswood West with the birth of Kevin. It was perfect as it was a stone's throw to Lane Cove National Park where Pat was able to immerse herself in the Aussie bush.

Twin girls Karen and Janine were born in

1971 and their little abode was no longer suitable. They moved to Carlingford before discovering Castlecrag and settling in Rutland Avenue in 1987. In 1993 they moved to The Rampart.

Patricia worked in insurance, as a receptionist for a private investigator and later for NRMA. She showed her neighbours another side, her passion and skills in plant propagation and bush regeneration. Pat was also interested in genealogy, and spent a lot of her time researching her family tree.

She loved her coffee and could be found on any given day at the various cafes in the Crag. She spread herself around! One day Pat was observed bringing a big bunch of Flannel Flowers which she had nurtured from seed to Mori at Four Saints Café.

She distributed them to each table, to the customers delight.

Pat became a resident caretaker of Castlecrag's bushland and open spaces from the early 90s. She made a contribution to the Griffin legacy, being one of the original members of Willoughby Council's Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee in 1998. She was a founding member of the Casement Reserve Bushcare group as well as looking after, informally, the Lookout Reserve behind her home and the nature strip and road island on the corner of The Rampart and Redoubt opposite.

Pat had a talent for native plant propagation and raised many callistemon, lomandras and rare plants now thriving as mature plants in our reserves. Her specialty was successfully propagating flannel flowers, which can be quite a challenge. Her daughters fondly remember her as "the Queen of Flannel Flowers" and passed on her secret to success in this pursuit which was the use of smoked water to keep the seeds moist.

Pat was well known and respected by

Council's bushland team. Community Projects Leader Jan Felton remembered Pat proudly showing her a small, rare *Eucalyptus camfieldii* she had planted in the Lookout Reserve. She had propagated it from seed collected from a tree in Turret Reserve. Mandy Wilson, long-time Coordinator of the Volunteer bushcare programme noted:

"I remember Pat as a cheerful, positive, do-er. She was a great communicator, always getting in touch when there was a bushland issue which needed attending to in Castlecrag. I was always really happy to support her as she did so much to help the bush, with so little fuss, over so many years. She liaised with a lot of neighbours too. Very passionate supporter of our bushland."

Patricia's love for Castlecrag was evident in so many ways but none more so than the native flora. Her Flannel flowers are truly legendary and will continue to flourish in her absence.



Vale Queen of the Flannel Flowers.

**Karen Starch
& Lindy Batterham**

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Charles David Jagers 28 March 1941 – 27 July 2019



Charles grew up in Bermagui on the far south coast of NSW.

After completing his secondary education at Bega High School he was accepted into Civil Engineering at UNSW, which he completed via a cadetship with the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission (WC&IC).

Charles lived in Paddington while working and studying in Sydney and while there he met and later married his wife Marion (nee Geddes) before moving to Albury for his posting as WC&IC District Engineer at the age of 24.

The first of their three children, Melinda,

was born in Albury, followed by twins David and Mark just on their return to Sydney in 1970.

Following part time post graduate business studies, Charles left the WC&IC and entered the building industry. At his own instigation he moved to Darwin to run an arm of a Sydney based construction company involved in the post cyclone Tracey rebuilding of Darwin.

Upon returning to Sydney 4 years later (1979), Charles and family found a house on the waterfront in The Tor Walk, Castlecrag. Charles was to remain a Castlecrag resident for the rest of his life, the last 16 years of it in an iconic Eric Nichols designed house. Charles and family spent many years enjoying life on Middle Harbour with various boats and water craft.



Charles had an early interest in art and design and hoped as a young man to pursue architecture. Although he followed an alternative career, his love of architecture and design (particularly furniture design) remained an ongoing passion, later manifesting itself in architectural photography.

Castlecrag was an ideal backdrop for such passions, and Charles was always a strong advocate for Castlecrag. While his interest in the suburb extended into all areas – from sewerage pump-outs to right turn traffic arrows, he was particularly focused on development within the suburb. Not as an anti-development advocate but rather supporting architecture where it had merit and being active in ensuring a better outcome where the proposal did not meet the broader aspirations of Griffin's Castlecrag.

Three years ago Charles was diagnosed with a rare blood cancer and although he was on chemotherapy for most of that time, he was able to live a reasonably normal life.

He had a strong Christian faith and after a fairly sudden deterioration, died peacefully in Royal North Shore Hospital. He was very grateful for the many blessings he enjoyed in his full and happy life and will be greatly missed.



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R&W

Thank you Castlecrag!

Following the note in the last edition of *The Crag* requesting donations of warm blankets, doonas and clothes, to assist the clients of the Wayside Chapel and Missionbeat, the result was excellent!

Many warm items were delivered to the Tamblyn's in Edinburgh Road in late June, which were collected in Peter Moffitt's ute and delivered to MissionBeat at Surry Hills and to Wayside Chapel, which provides services for inner city street people.

MissionBeat does patrols to find and help the rough sleepers in the city and also on the northside.

We gave half the doonas, sleeping bags and blankets to each, but gave all the warm jackets to MissionBeat, and the other warm things: jumpers, beanies etc. to Wayside. At Wayside, a young man had just asked at reception if they had any sleeping bags (which they didn't, until we arrived) and, at receptionist Charlie's



Peter Moffitt and John Tamblyn load Peter's ute.

Lorraine Cairnes with the Missionbeat Van.



suggestion, we immediately gave Drew a lovely warm down sleeping bag from some generous donor in Castlecrag. I am sure he has been sleeping warmly since then, especially through the very cold spell in August.

Wayside Chapel and MissionBeat both sent their thanks to our community. It was a great roundup - about 30 blankets, doonas, and sleeping bags, 12 warm and waterproof outdoor-type jackets, plus a collection of woolly sox, beanies, jumpers, scarves (some hand-knitted) and even a pair of Ugg boots. The bags of items filled the tray of Peter's ute.

The stocks of winter things were low at both places at that time of year, so I would think that all of the Castlecrag items will now be in the hands of people who really need them.

Thank you for your generosity, Castlecrag. Let's do it again next year!

Lorraine Cairnes

Collect your Lids for Kids needing Limbs

Envisionhands is a program run by a charitable organisation that converts bread tags and plastic lids into prosthetic limbs for children in need. They make and donate 3D printed bespoke aids from the Envision factory in Melbourne, where the lids are cleaned and sorted into colours before being shredded and fed through an extruder. This creates a filament that can be used in 3D printing to produce brightly coloured prosthetics, which are then sent to children in need across a number of developing countries.

It is a wonderful initiative on three levels - it helps the environment, it helps kids with a disability, and the group employs disadvantaged people. Triple win! As a community, we can support them. The suitable lids are marked with a 2 symbol and shown above.



The ever-friendly Jason and Leanne from the Post Office have kindly offered to host a collection point for the lids and breadtags. We are hoping the cafes and restaurants will also get on board and that local children attending Willoughby Public School (or other participating schools) will transport them on to their school collection point from time to time.

While you're in the Post Office dropping off your collection, you'll see they have a lovely range of gifts. I want to buy myself one every time I go in! They're now open till 1pm Saturdays for that last minute panic when you realise you forgot to buy that present for the kids party! Mary's Chemist is also good for this, of course!

Lids4Kids

From this



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For more information check out:

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<https://envision.org.au/envision-hands/>

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Warners Park Community Garden



Brassicas is the collective noun for a range of cool season leafy crops grown over Winter. Tatsoi, an Asian brassica also known as rosette Bok Choi, has performed like a star in our garden this season. Its mild mustard flavour and dark green spoon-like leaves are well suited to salads and stir fries. Just beginning to flower now as it goes to seed, the yellow tatsoi flowers are great bee-magnets.

Other brassicas delivering right now are broccolini, kale and kohlrabi. We grew some stunning specimens of daikon radish this Winter.

Not a brassica, but another star this season has been Chinese celery. It's a smaller, thinner variety than the celery most of us are accustomed to, but more aromatic and strongly flavoured. Great for soups and stir-fries.

The pleasure of watching new growth is a big part of the beauty of gardening. A sea of healthy lettuces delights, and spying a bulb fennel showing off its swollen white tummy conjures a vaguely liquorice taste in my mouth.

Leeks, shallots and garlic are continuing their journey to maturity. A very long gestation for garlic means it should be ready in time for Christmas! And we've had success embedding cups of beer slops in the leek and strawberry beds to thwart slugs.

This year's mild Winter has allowed good progress with the ongoing project of garden improvement and bed-building. It's at the stage of adjustments to widen pathway access between a few of the initial beds. To help clear passageways the kaffir lime and mandarin trees have

been moved to large pots.

It wouldn't be gardening without a few flops. Potato and beetroot harvests were underwhelming. Most beetroot seedlings were savaged by caterpillars before they could get a foothold but we salvaged a few.

Looking ahead there are broad beans, runner beans, purple beans, sweet corn and lots of ongoing salad greens already in the soil with tomatoes, winged beans, cucumber, okra, eggplants, cucamelons, pumpkins and more in mind.

Compost bins are available in the garden for fruit and veg waste contributions - please read the signs indicating where to deposit. Newcomers are welcome on Wed and Sun mornings from 9.30am

Mary Anne VELISCEK – 0430 173 722



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These cars are classic!

On sunny days, a parade of old cars can be seen leaving their Castlecrag garages and heading out down Edinburgh Road on day tours. We thought it'd be fun to get them together at this year's Fair. We're expecting a wide range of cars from the quirky to the exotic to line the western end of The Parapet.

One of the cars featured is a 1962 Austin Healey 3000 (pictured right). This is a former race car I purchased from an Italian American car collector, who runs a large "import export" business at LaGuardia Airport. He had bought it at a Drug Enforcement Agency auction, after it had been seized in a drug interdiction effort. A secret compartment had been built in the rear of the vehicle.

A wag at the local car club suggested that Schappelle is the only appropriate name for a drug mule, so Schappelle it is. The Healey was regarded as a muscle car in its day. A standard EJ Holden at the time gave 78HP while the Healey put out 150 in standard form.

A second car is the lovely 1983 Citroen



2CV (pron. deux cheveax). Known affectionately as the "tin snail," the 2CV was France's most popular entry level vehicle for nearly fifty years. This car was brought back by Ed and Isabelle, its Sunnyside owners after a stint as expats in Paris where they used it for touring the French countryside. Today it's the perfect conveyance for a trip to Ganache for

some baguettes, and comes into its own in spring when its canvas roof can be rolled back for open top motoring.

There's also some seriously exotic fare there from the predictable Jaguars and Porsches to the obscure TVR, Riley and Jensen. Drop by for a chat, nothing more we love to do than talk about our cars!

Scott Graham

Anniversaries both happy and sad

This year marks 100 years since the first school, based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, was established in Germany. Glenaeon recently celebrated this anniversary at its Castlecrag Campus with a day of walks, talks, bread-making and stories.

One of the stories was told by long-term local and ex-Glenaeon parent, Donna Jacobs Sife. Her story described some of the history of the school site, and of the passionate fight to retain what was then the much-valued 40 year old Public Infants School.

This December is also the 30th anniversary of that closure and the ensuing four year campaign to retain it, which included what is understood to be the longest running Green Ban in Sydney. In 1990

the NSW Government forcibly rezoned the site to allow medium density housing, but community occupation of the site, together with the Green Ban, stymied any sale for this purpose.

Glenaeon bought the site in 1993 for \$550,000. The community tried to buy it back, but Glenaeon, understandably thrilled with their purchase, declined. The rest is history. At least most of the site is still a school and not 64 townhouses.

Today, community organisations meet in the hall a few times a year. After the centenary celebration we were informed that locals are welcome to use the grounds on weekends and the gates and a toilet are left unlocked for this purpose.

Saving the planet, one bag at a time...



The Boomerang Bag makers hard at work at Cottage & Coast Cafe every Thursday from 2.30pm.

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Torquay Estate Bushcare group

Torquay Estate sits on the north-eastern point of the peninsula. The Bushcare group was established in 2011 in the aftermath of a local resident employing casual workers to clear bamboo from an area of WCC Reserve below his property on the northern side. The attempted removal without knowledge

or experience created a large area of dangerous bamboo stumps and exposed the area to the invasion of secondary weeds.

A draft action plan for the site was developed in consultation with Council appointed Group Leader Andy Lawson. This included removal of invasive bamboo whilst encouraging the regeneration of native vegetation into the area and as far as possible maintaining wildlife habitats.

A dedicated group of neighbouring volunteer residents has continued to meet monthly over the last 8 years to slowly and continuously address the regeneration of the site, which has an interesting history, as it contains the degraded remnants of an old house. As a result, in addition to a vast biodiversity of weeds there is also an amount of human debris to be collected and disposed of including glass, rusted metal and plastics.

The site supports a diversity of wildlife with consistent evidence of wallaby scats, sightings of lace monitors, tawny frogmouths, possums and the inevitable brush turkey. In the early days, possum boxes were mounted in the taller remaining canopy trees to ameliorate the effects of the early sudden clearing that



had proceeded the slower regeneration project.

The fringes of the site offer relatively stable and undisturbed bushland habitats. There would appear to be an existing seedbank waiting to be restimulated. It is rewarding when the group is able to uncover and liberate native plants which have managed to germinate and grow underneath the invasive tangle of weed undergrowth.

The group has managed to completely eradicate bamboo from the initially cleared area and a healthy undergrowth of grasses and ferns has regenerated in its place, however high canopy trees are still absent.

The group adjusts to the requirements of the seasons and targets different species of weed in accordance with the fertility cycles of particular plants and the prevailing weather conditions. They are dedicated to the values of slow removal and regeneration procedures to restore the bushland to a state of self-sustainability and growth.

New faces (with hands) are most welcome on the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information phone Jo on 0419 234 235.

Jo Hastings & Mark Crew

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

- Gargoyles 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 – 0409 997 076
- Retreat Reserve
9-12noon
Contact: Jill – 0428 880 002

Fourth Sunday of the Month

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

Zachary Zeus
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Community 94th Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, 10 November 6.00pm

Motza Pizza, Griffin Centre

Join us to mark the 94th Anniversary of the Castlecrag Progress Assn in the place where the first meeting was held. On this day, in 1925, the CPA was formed, with Edgar Herbert elected as President and Walter Burley Griffin as a committee member in the basement of the Griffin Centre which now houses Motza Pizza. The object of the Association was stated "to do everything possible to further the interests of the district of Castlecrag."

Glass of Prosecco on Arrival.

Antipasto Platters with Olives, Burrata & Mozzarella Cheeses, San Danielle Prosciutto, Heirloom Tomatoes and House Bread.

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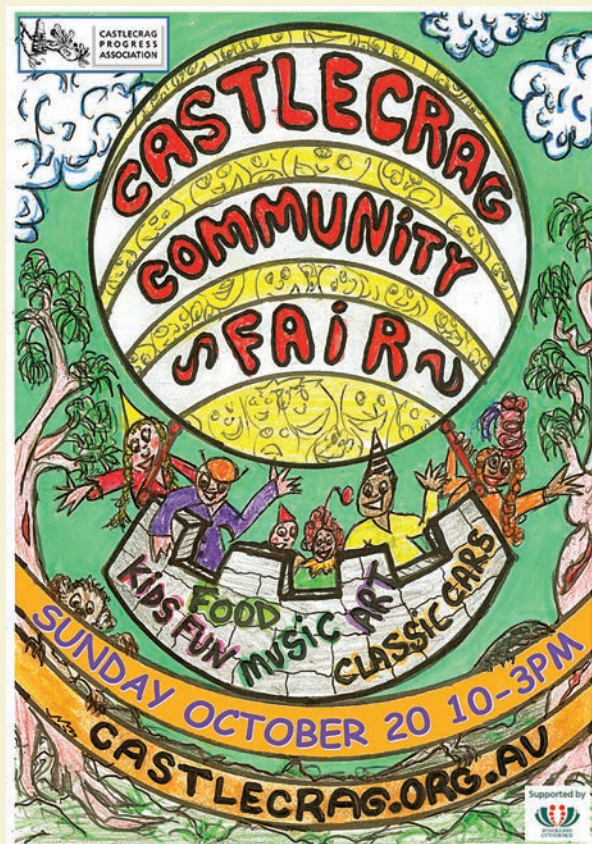
Book by email: info@castlecrag.org.au by 3 November or until sold out.

Payment at time of booking by direct transfer to:

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BSB: 032 199 Account No: 355621

OR by cheque to: PO Box 4259 Castlecrag 2068



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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