

Big Problems down Flat Rock

More needs doing to identify contaminants. Story p5

What's in a name?

How and when we came to be Castlecrag. Story p6

A Second Coming For Bim's Studio

One of the main sets of the forthcoming Foxtel 10-episode TV series, *The Twelve* has been the sandstone garage of the house at 177 Edinburgh Road.

It was selected because Gabrielle Sinclair, Supervising Location Manager for local production house Easy Tiger working in conjunction with Warner Brothers Australia, could see its potential for conversion into an artist's studio for the series. Little did Gabrielle know when she approached the owners that the garage was built on the site once occupied by the studio of noted Australian sculptor, the late Bim Hilder.

As recounted in *The Crag* (No.210 February, '21), Bim produced many works and taught interested locals in the studio at 177 Edinburgh Road until close to his death in 1990.

Filming of *The Twelve* starring Kate Mulvany, Sam Neill, Marta Dusseldorp, Brooke Satchwell, Hazam Shammam and Brendan Cowell has proceeded periodically in CastleCrag since early December.

It is due to be screened on Foxtel here later this year after local filming wraps up in April.

Mulvany plays an artist named Kate who is charged with the murder of her missing teenage niece (thus the 'police' cars that have appeared out the front of 'Kate's studio' from time to time).

The Twelve are the jurors selected for Kate's trial in what Variety Magazine describes is a "powerful courtroom drama". It is based on the Belgian/Flemish TV series of the same name screened to critical global acclaim - and on SBS here - two years ago.

As a major high-end production, *The Twelve* filming days have necessitated a significant number of trucks and film equipment and other support vehicles monopolising parking and some footpaths towards the eastern end of Edinburgh Road.



Shooting of The Twelve / Photo: Mary Anne Veliscek

Nevertheless, Gabrielle has praised CastleCrag residents for their patience and understanding, noting the many walkers, joggers and cyclists who use it.

"It's a beautiful setting and cast and crew have enjoyed the experience of working here immensely," she said.

Craig McCarthy

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NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 6 April 2022 - 7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Glenda Korporaal

Author of *Making Magic*

- *The Marion Mahony Griffin Story*

... on Marion Mahony's contribution to CastleCrag and its culture.

Community Centre, The Rampart CastleCrag

Please join us for supper afterwards

ALL WELCOME

THE CRAG

is the community magazine of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259
Castlecrag NSW 2068

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info@castlecrag.org.au

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

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The Crag is a community newsletter and
we welcome letters and contributions
from residents about local issues.

We do not publish anonymous letters.

Send to: editors@castlecrag.org.au
They should be concise (preferably less
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Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

Disclaimer: The CPA and *The Crag* is not
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From the Editor

We welcome Mayor Tanya to the pages
of *The Crag*. This issue has been very
collaborative. Apart from our regular
contributors, John has written about how
Castlecrag got its name and Craig has filled
us in about the filming that has been going
on at his home over the last few months.
It would be interesting to hear whether
(after the event) the family felt it was
worth the hassle of moving out and having
to rearrange the garage and rooms of the
house for the filming of the series. We
may hear his reflections on the matter next
issue and whether he would recommend
the experience to others!

It will be fun to see our familiar streetscape
as the backdrop for this drama series. And
what a star-studded cast! Unfortunately,
it seems Sam Neill wasn't on set in
Castlecrag, which was rather disappointing
for the local ladies!

The article "Harry and the Shops"
developed from a list penned by our
ex-postie, Harry Fox, of all the shops and
shopkeepers along the northern side of
Edinburgh Road that he used to deliver
mail to. It is a pastiche of memories
inspired by Allan Porter and collected from

community members who grew up in *the
Crag* and still live here today.

It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of
the new Sunnyside Brushturkey Bushcare
Group. Back in the 50's and 60's when
Cracker night was a highly anticipated
annual event, a big bonfire would be
built on the flat rock where the team are
now working. The community (of mostly
unsupervised kids) would gather to let off
their fireworks that were mostly bought
with saved up pocket money at the
local newsagent- penny bangers, roman
candles, Catherine wheels, tom thumbs,
flower pots and rockets with milk bottles as
their launching pads. Miraculously, I don't
ever recall any accidents!

The Community gardens are buzzing with
activity and growth and provide inspiration
and a sense of community and friendship
that goes way beyond growing herbs
and vegies. Gardeners were delighted to
observe a young girl arrive at the Market
Park garden with her Grandmother,
clipboard and pens and proceed to study
and carefully draw a sunflower that they
had grown.

Enjoy the read and beware the blood-
sucking leeches lurking in your garden!

Photo: Mary Anne Veliscek



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From the President



Let me start by wishing all *Crag* readers a happy and prosperous 2022. It's been a tough time for everyone over Christmas and I am looking forward to a more normal year ahead.

As foreshadowed in the last edition of *The Crag*, a revised Planning Proposal for the Quadrangle site was submitted to Council last year by Dr Quek. At its 3 November meeting, Council passed a motion to forward the Proposal to the State Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) seeking Gateway Determination, subject to some amendments. The motion was supported by all the councillors present except one. We do not yet know when we can expect a decision from DPIE but in the meantime Dr Quek is actively engaged in negotiations with Council about the details of the Voluntary Planning Agreement. The CPA

is looking forward to an outcome that is beneficial to the residents of Castlecrag.

With the Council elections now complete, CPA would like to congratulate the new Mayor, Tanya Taylor. We hope she will continue the tradition of regular breakfast meetings (now by zoom) with the Presidents of the Progress Associations of Willoughby City. We also congratulate Councillor Hugh Eriksson on his re-election and the two new councillors representing Sailor's Bay Ward, John Moratelli and Hugh McCulloch.

As we all know, our State Member and Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, resigned from office late in 2021 and the by-election to replace her was held on Saturday 5 February. After nearly 3 weeks of counting, the Liberal-preselected candidate Tim James has won and will be Willoughby's next MLA. The main competition for the seat came from local independent, Larissa Penn. This was her second nomination for this seat. Last time she polled around 10% of the vote but this time she polled nearly 47% and, at one stage, it appeared that she might have won!

Larissa is the President of Naremburn Progress Association and was elected as Secretary of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations at the 26 January AGM. At the same time former councillors Stuart Coppock and Denis Fernandez were elected to the positions of President and Vice-President respectively. Denis has also joined the Committee of Castlecrag PA.

We plan to hold our first face-to-face General Meeting since the pandemic began, just before Easter, on 6 April at the Castlecrag Community Centre. We have invited Glenda Korpelaar to speak about Marion's contribution to Castlecrag and its cultural fabric. Glenda was to have spoken at our planned anniversary dinner at Motza's Pizza in November. Unfortunately, both COVID and the Council elections got in the way and we ended up having a Zoom Meet the Candidates meeting instead.

We invite you to come along and join us for supper afterwards. You don't need to be a member - everyone is welcome!

Paul Stokes

Street Library

The Progress Association installed two Street Libraries in the Crag back in 2016 that are now situated in the Quadrangle. A new shelf for Adult books has been attached to the wall at eye level for easier access, near the inside IGA entrance.

Upkeep has been maintained by a couple of busy people who would appreciate others pitching in to keep the shelves neat and tidy. Please take it upon yourself from time to time to sit and organise the children's books that get messed up nearly every day! Consider it your community service and please, only donate books that are in good condition.

Would you want to hold a stained, musty or mouldy book in your hands? No-one would, so please don't leave them at the street libraries. If you're a parent, please teach your child to be respectful of the street library and its books.





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From The Mayor



I am incredibly humbled and honoured to be elected as Mayor of Willoughby City. I thank the community for its support and for trusting me to serve you as Mayor.

I'm excited to get down to business with the new team of councillors and deliver Willoughby's vision. Congratulations goes to Councillor Brendan Zhu, elected as Deputy Mayor at Council's first meeting on 31 January.

As a Willoughby resident for more than 20 years, I love many things about our wonderful community. We are so lucky to live in such a diverse, vibrant and liveable city with our bushland, parklands, beautiful waterways, our historic sites, vibrant village centres, and the Chatswood CBD.

I appreciate our strong community spirit and the supportive nature of residents. The way we have come together throughout the pandemic has been remarkable.

It's wonderful so many of our residents have been getting vaccinated and boosted, and businesses continue to operate in a Covid-safe way. In these challenging times it's important to support local businesses so I urge everyone to buy local when you

can, and support the many fantastic casual eateries and restaurants on our doorstep.

Council is continuing to deliver services and projects for the community. Like many organisations, we have been affected by the recent strain of COVID-19. As a result of this disruption, staff and suppliers have been impacted, although we continue to work hard to deliver for the community in spite of these challenges. We appreciate your understanding and patience during these times.

There are many new exciting projects that have been completed or are in progress in our community. The project at The Haven Amphitheatre stabilised the upper and lower terraces with sandstone and improved access and safety for the natural performance space in this special bushland setting.

The Northbridge streetscape upgrade will enhance pedestrian safety and the visual quality around the shopping precinct. The pool facilities at Willoughby Leisure Centre will be upgraded in spring 2022 to create a modern and sustainable state-of-the-art facility. Before we close the pool temporarily, I encourage everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a swim as often as you can. The Artarmon Parklands Pavilion will be an exciting new facility for the community and we are working hard to deliver this.

We are excited to present some wonderful events and shows in Covid-safe venues, to

provide the community the opportunity to reconnect through live performances. A wide selection of musical performances, theatre and art exhibitions are on at venues throughout Chatswood and Willoughby. I have attended a number of shows recently at The Concourse and feel proud to have such a world-class venue, with world-class artists performing in Willoughby. To stay informed about all the upcoming shows please go to visitchatswood.com.au.

After a number of years of consultation and research, the upcoming new Willoughby Local Environmental Plan (LEP) will be on exhibition in coming months. All residents are invited to explore and learn more about what is built and where at haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au.

Council is also reviewing the current Community Strategic Plan: Our Future Willoughby 2028, which outlines our community's vision and aspirations and informs all decisions made at Council. We'll be consulting on the Plan over the coming months and the Plan will be placed on public exhibition in May.

I look forward to seeing you out and about in the community soon.

If you wish to discuss any Council issues, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at Tanya.Taylor@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au.

Mayor Tanya Taylor



Sugarloaf Moods / photos Josh Burgess



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Big Problems Down Flat Rock

In 2021 an Environmental Site Investigation Report for Bicentennial Reserve was commissioned by Willoughby City Council to investigate possible soil contamination concerns, and the risks involved in disturbing those potential contaminants by construction of the Beaches Link tunnel. The report has been published, and given the history of the site as an open tip, which is downstream from the old Hallstrom Refrigerator factory, public health concerns remain relevant and more testing needs to be done.

Local resident, Dr Wayne Davies has reviewed Council's report and has this to say on the matter:

Threat to public health will occur when tunnel excavations begin

This is not literally what the advisory from Willoughby Council stated in their summary. Instead it says: there is no immediate threat to public health... in other words right now as it stands the old toxic waste tip is safe for recreational use. What we do not know is the impact of massive excavations proposed for the downstream bushland to the east of the site. The Report goes out of its way to avoid mentioning disturbances to the site, save for the proposed upgrade of the Leisure Centre swimming pool.

Rather than being reassured, we should be alarmed that the proposed excavations will very likely pose a significant threat to public health. Let me remind everyone some of what lies below the verdant green cap and extends some 30 metres deep to the former valley floor.

Awareness of health issues was primitive in the late 1950s when burning of mixed waste emitted smoke, not only from the incinerator, but from smouldering fires in the open. Nowadays we know what went on or at least we have a better idea. PVC, like all organochlorines, should be burned only in a high-temperature incinerator to avoid making mutagenic dioxins. Endocrine disrupter and so-called "forever chemical" poly-fluorinated alkyl sulfonate (PFAS) should never be allowed to enter the environment but that is what happened when Hallstrom's refrigerator chrome-plating works discarded their spent



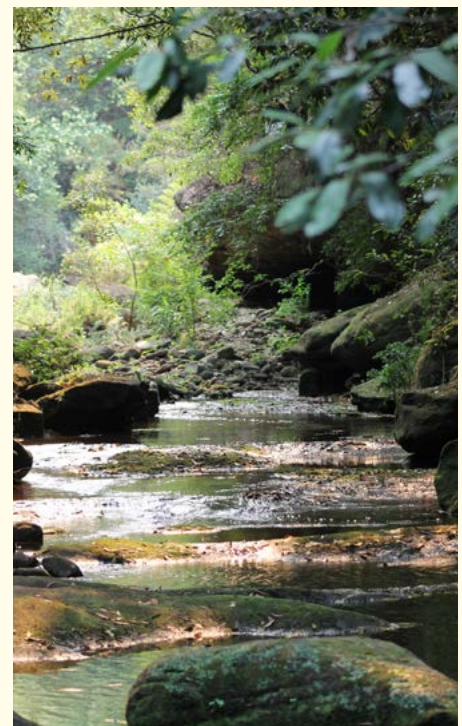
*The Hallstrom Refrigeration Factory in the foreground on Willoughby Road and directly opposite the tip site c1960.
/ Picture Historical Willoughby*

solutions that also contained carcinogenic chromium six. The Report is silent on the refrigerator factory and its legacy. How could this omission be accidental when it is known that Hallstrom chose the Willoughby Road site for its convenience to the Flat Rock creek?

The Report found a few sites of major exceedances which should be of concern but they likely only identified a minority of them. As the Report states "...where waste types were not carefully segregated and managed, contamination is likely to be heterogeneous..." meaning that there will be localised "hot spots" of highly concentrated toxic material. Finding these spots with only 20 boreholes is a matter of luck.

Having said that, there are some off-the-chart exceedances that are clear evidence of dumped industrial waste, including chromium (18 grams per kilogram), nickel and various hydrocarbons. Unsafe levels of benzo-alpha pyrene, a good indicator of coal-tar wastes, were found at various sites. PCBs were also found probably accompanied by dioxins, a common breakdown product of used PCBs.

As the report states: "Further investigation should be undertaken to the south east of the site boundary. This area has been identified as potentially being subject to landfill waste placement and has not been



Flat Rock creek / photo Meredith Shimmie

considered as part of this investigation..." How convenient.

More toxic hot spots certainly will be identified if the proposed excavations go ahead. In the interest of public health, Council must also dig deeper into the valley to understand the true nature of the risks. Talks are currently being held with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) who, if they live up to their remit, will insist on more thorough testing of the site to better understand the nature of the risks.

The report can be found on WCC's website <https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/News-and-media/Bicentennial-Reserve-Environmental-Site-Report>

Wayne Davies.

Wayne Davies has a PhD Chemical Engineering, and is a freelance consultant. He has written over 200 reports for private business and government in topics such as environmental issues and novel chemical processes. A recent report was for the Environment Defenders Office on the Barangaroo development site where there was a significant amount of buried coal tar from the former gasworks.

What's in a Name?



1920s promotional signage, 'Castlecrag/Edinburgh Castle'

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the name Castlecrag and why, in the Griffin Estate, our suburb has so many place names relating to parts of a mediaeval castle? The answer is found on a surveyor's map* from the late 1800's identifying the highest point on our peninsula as Edinburgh Castle rocks. Adjacent to this natural landmark, is the name Edinburgh Road.

In 1907, Willoughby Council renamed Mowbray Road East calling it Edinburgh Road after the 'Edinburgh Castle rocks' which were more prominent then, and highlighted on maps of the day, including the Parish map of Willoughby compiled by the Department of Lands.

In her Bicentennial publication, Community Historian Esther Leslie reported:

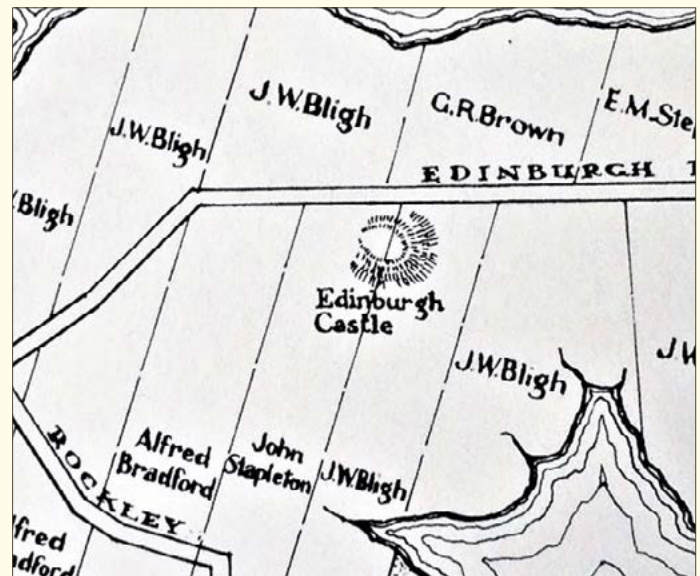
"Walter Burley Griffin is credited with the selection of the name, Castlecrag. The 'Edinburgh Rocks' were a prominent landmark and much higher than they are now (present Tower Reserve). They reminded him of the 'Castle Rock' on which Edinburgh Castle in Scotland stands. Griffin was well educated in a diversity of subjects and probably knew a good deal about geology. The 'Castle Rock' in Edinburgh is one of the finest examples to be seen of a 'Crag and Tail' or 'Craig and Tail' formation, i.e. a hill or crag a steep and often precipitous face on one side, with a "tail" sloping downwards, comparatively gently, on the other side...

"...The streets were laid to give each house a magnificent view. They follow the names of the parts of a mediaeval castle—The Bastion, The Battlement, The Bulwark, The Outpost, The Citadel".

The feudal castle appears on a rocky turret - a building growing out of the soil on which it is built...This was Griffin's vision of Castlecrag".

from ***The Suburb of Castlecrag A Community History Willoughby Municipal Council 1988.***

As 2021 marked the 100th year since the Griffins established the suburb of Castlecrag, it seems fitting that we celebrate its



Castlecrag - Peninsula - part Surveyor's Map
Circa 1860s - Edinburgh Castle Rock.

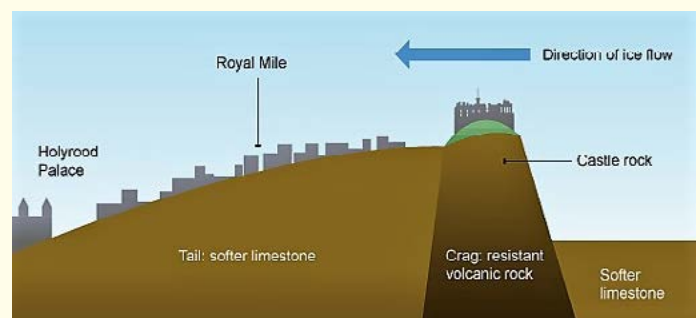


Illustration of Edinburgh Castle's, 'Castle Rock', 'Crag' and 'Tail'

establishment with a heritage plaque attached to the 'Edinburgh Castle Rocks'. My suggestion for the wording of such a plaque: 'Edinburgh Castle Rocks' This outcrop is responsible for inspiring Walter Burley Griffin in the naming of the suburb of Castlecrag.

John Vaughan OAM

Editor's note: The committee of the CPA thank John for his initiative. It has agreed to contribute funds towards the proposed heritage plaque and to seek Council's support in this worthy endeavour.



Far left:
Now there's an impressive crag!
Castellfollit de la Roca is a town in the Province of Girona, Catalonia, Spain. The basalt crag where the town is situated is over 50 metres higher than its surroundings, and almost a kilometre long. It was formed by the overlaying of two lava flows. The old part of the town is more than 1000 years old and is made up of squares, narrow streets, and shady corners.

Left: Stairs to the top of Tower Reserve

Protecting our Street Trees

The beauty of our local bush and street trees helped to attract many of us to Castlecrag. The larger trees are particularly important, not just for their beauty, but also to lower summer temperatures and to provide habitat for our indigenous animals.

Most locals are fiercely protective of our streetscape, but it seems not all, with some at times resorting to vandalism. Fortunately, based on recent experience, the Council seems committed to correcting the damage.

Charles Street has long boasted one of the best runs of mature gums in Castlecrag. A few years back, the ravages of time and recent storms had opened some gaps and the Council did some infill planting to address them.

In some cases, locals cared for the trees, watering them through a hot summer and they thrived. Sadly, in others, trees were damaged or removed. In one prominent case, Council responded with a replacement tree, only for it to die shortly after. They replaced it in turn and continued to replant. Some three to four trees later, in that same spot, the latest is now a great looking 4-5 metres in height. Another of the new plantings had its central trunk snapped about 18 months ago, but slowly recovered back to normal. Sadly, weeks ago, it succumbed to what looks like a repeat attack.

Upset locals reported the recent damage to council, and they leapt into action. Within days, Council Rangers carried out an investigation of this and the earlier incidents, spoke to residents and provided a notice highlighting penalties. Then, in early February, Council's Planning and Infrastructure team announced a plan to replant extensively along the street, with scribbly gums on the western side and Christmas Bush on the east. The plan has been shared with locals and feedback and support is invited.

It's reassuring to see Council's growing resolve to protect and enhance our streetscape. With the added engagement, we're optimistic that this new plan will stick!

*Charles St miss you stump
- they got rid of that too!*



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Harry and the Shops



The name of Harry Fox will be familiar to many people in Castlecrag. Harry was our beloved postie for 25 years up until his retirement in 1994.

A local resident, Allan Porter, recalls that Harry delivered the mail for 40 years, his previous rounds being in Willoughby. He was also a scoutmaster for 1st Castlecrag Scouts. As many would know, his close attachment to Castlecrag didn't end when he retired, as he involved himself in many neighbourly tasks and at one stage did the rounds of delivering *The Crag Newsletter*.

Allan had the good fortune of really getting to know him. Harry gave Allan his first paid job as a Christmas postie helper while he was at school. Back then, the volume of Christmas mail and parcels was enormous.

There were 11 regular postal deliveries weekly, two each week day and one on Saturday. Allan is happy that the friendship with this remarkable man remains to this day, and describes Harry as a man with a ready smile, never a whinge about anyone or anything, a twinkle in his eye and sparkle in his manner, always sharp and entertaining. Harry will be 93 years in May 2022.

With the changes planned for the shopping strip, it's good to have the help of Harry's great memory when we paused to reflect on the various shops over the years along the northern side of Edinburgh Road between Eastern Valley Way and Raeburn Avenue.

He made a list of the shops and their owners which has sparked memories from a number of the long-term residents. The period discussed is circa 1950-1990.

The first shops in this strip were completed in 1941-42 and the last in 1950. Over the next few decades a greater diversity of shops traded - in many ways a much more useful shopping centre than today. Almost everything one could want, except for a fish shop!

No. 77 Chandlers' Newsagency

For three generations this business was owned and operated by the one family, beginning its life in the Griffin Centre in 1937 and moving across the road to 77 in 1941.

Maurice, remembers that, in the 1940s old Mr Chandler would serve customers at the front counter in a 3-piece suit. His wife, crippled with arthritis, ran the Post Office and a branch of the Commonwealth Bank from a separate counter in the rear. She issued coupons during the War and dispensed child endowment payments and provided tax forms.

Son Doug would carry his mother in and out of a waiting car. He delivered newspapers, done by hurling them, rolled-up, from the front seat over the roof of his car leaving subscribers with the task of locating them on the front lawn or in the shrubbery.

Fabia recalls how old Mr Chandler would call her father to tell him a letter from the tax department had arrived and what it said. He checked people's letters and to decide which were important and needed quick delivery. It's said he even listened in on party lines that people shared with their neighbours, sometimes intervening in conversations.

Doug took over the newsagency from his father, running it for many years, and, in turn, handed on to his daughter Vanessa and husband John Francis who ran the business until the 1990s. It was perfectly situated for dashing in to buy a morning paper before catching the bus to work. The naming of Chandler Lane, to the rear of the shop, commemorates this family's long service.

No. 77A Mrs Hartshorn Hairdresser

No. 79 Stenning's Chemist

Mr Stenning employed kids on his bikes to do deliveries, including Tony, until the memorable day the handbrakes failed on the Sunnyside hill and he ploughed into the McClurcans' elegant car and carport to avoid the big drop over the cliff below.

Allan took a jar of leeches into Stenning's to sell for medical use. Older kids had suggested that it was a way to make pocket money. Disappointingly, the chemist was uninterested.

Lindy recalls how the tiny shop was filled with shelves of bottles and boxes of pills and potions. Mary worked there as a young pharmacist, buying the business after Mr Stenning retired.

She later moved the shop across the road to the Quadrangle.

When he was young, Paul would make an annual visit to Stenning's to buy a birthday of Tweed talcum powder for his mum.

No. 81 Sidney Raper Real Estate

This building remains in its original state, with the rounded side wall, and it still operates as a real estate Office, now Richardson & Wrench.

No.83 Alice Francis's Dress Shop

No. 85 Mrs Nolan's Cake Shop

Lindy remembers the pies, sausage rolls, finger buns, neenish tarts and white bread sandwiches sold from this classic Aussie cake shop. It functioned as the Infants School's "tuck shop". In all weather, six- and seven-year-old lunch monitors would be sent up to the shops with a washing basket to collect the lunches ordered that morning. Mrs Nolan made delicate little bird-shaped meringues that would crumble, when bitten into, spraying sugary powder all down your front.

No. 87 Maniscalco's Fruit Shop and Milk Bar.

The Maniscalcos followed The Rolf family as the Greengrocers at No. 87. Maurice remembers how the eastern side of the shop had a separate counter serving as a milk bar and candy shop. Ice-cream cones were 3d for a small one and 6d for a large one. Other 'vital' items included liquorice straps, rainbow balls, packets of sherbet with a liquorice insert.

Allan recalls the ice cream sundaes from the milk bar were a real treat. They were served in glass dishes with a stem and a real spoon. Each contained a large scoop of vanilla ice-cream covered with your choice of syrup – chocolate, strawberry or caramel (Allan's favourite), sprinkle of nuts and covered with malt powder. Nine pence in the old money. It was a great place to meet friends

No. 89 Kristek's Grocer and Delicatessen

Tony remembers Kristek's Deli as "rather fabulous" ... as were Mr. Kristek himself and wife Paula who together ran the place. They sold an amazing variety of stuff from Riga black bread to smoked eel. Mr Kristek used his knowledge of Baltic Sea currents to choose which range of tinned sardines to offer and he always had a story to tell, tall or otherwise, about every item. All the Europeans in Castlecrag and surrounds went there.

Harry and the Shops cont...

Kathy recalls that there were the two Kristek brothers, who always mixed their own coffee beans making special blends for different clients. They had lots of European foods, the most sought after being pickled herrings and black bread, that have disappeared from the market place.

Fabia remembers Kristeks' Deli and the Italian fruit shop as thriving businesses and important centres for casual meetings of residents. Both were important catalysts in early 'multi-culturalism' and providing a "beyond the white bread" experience of food. They even sold sour cream - a rarity in those days!

No. 91 King's Hardware

Tony remembers the hardware store was an Alladin's cave with a bit of everything. Paul bought birthday presents here for his dad.

Maurice recalls how, on one occasion, his mother dropped in to see if her order had arrived to be told "No! But when it hits the deck, I'll drum ya". He was an interesting character.

No. 91A Upstairs Pat McGrath the Hairdresser

Tony can remember that the barbershop was handy but found the obligatory sports conversation a problem, at least for him. Paul recalls how, as a small boy, he had to sit on a small padded plank, across the arms of the barber's chair, to have his hair cut - short back and sides, of course.

No. 93 Kings Butchers

Maurice remembers the crest on the door that read: Secundus Nulli (second to none). Many fondly remembered the beautifully raked sawdust-covered floor and drawing patterns in it with their feet.

Joyce went into labour one afternoon, whilst buying lamb chops for dinner at the Butchers. It was then run by the Medway family. She managed to catch the 203 bus home and call up her friend who drove her to RNSH. Lindy was born 20 minutes later! Lucky it wasn't an hour earlier, on the sawdust floor!

Along with the Real Estate Agent, this is one of the few businesses along the strip

that have retained their identity. Now called Castlecrag Meats, it and a few of the other shopfronts still have the original pressed tin ceiling in the awning and the black tiles on the outside walls that give the street frontage the character and style in which it was originally designed.

Thanks to Fabia Claridge, Maurice Craig, Allan Porter, Kathy Rosenmeyer, Paul Stokes and Tony Taussig for your memories.

Were you around in those days and have memories to share about that shopping strip? Or other memories you recollect? *The Crag* is always keen for contributions.

In addition, James Cryer has been assembling a timeline of Castlecrag and is keen to collect your amusing/scandalous anecdotes. After several years, he's nearing completion - and is now looking for a proof-reader if you have the skill and time!

jamesc@jdaprintrecruit.com.au



Three of the original shopfronts along the northern side have been reconstructed over the years, with more to come.
/ photo Mary Anne Veliscek



The proposal to redevelop the 3 middle shops with 2 floors of housing up top has been submitted to WCC.
Image taken from DA.

CASTLECrag

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Castlecrag Notes

The Strava Art Challenge is on!

The Crag #211 included an image of a wallaby submitted by James Cryer which he created whilst cycling around the suburb using the Strava app.



Adrian Spragg was inspired by James's contribution and has retraced and refined the wallaby whose spine sits along Edinburgh road. Adrian has become quite clever with his creations and paddled in his kayak around the bays to create a Cammeray coyote! On his bike in Northbridge he cycled for 9.2 km to map out a crouching dog! Or is that a tiger...

James is working on another surprise around the foreshore in his kayak for the next edition. What other images could be created locally using the Strava app? All entries gleefully received!

Crag Kayakers.

Noticing the many kayaks and paddle boards tied up around the Crag foreshores,

local resident Anna Nilsson had an idea that turned into the Facebook group Crag Kayakers.

Now, with 81 members, Crag Kayakers provides a connection hub for locals interested in lending, renting, borrowing, selling or sharing kayaks and stand-up paddle boards. You can find them by searching for Crag Kayakers on Facebook.

Having found each other via the site, members need to work out the specifics to make it happen for them via direct messaging and/or personal contact.

It's a great way to foster resource sharing, community link ups and perhaps some more Middle Harbour Strava Art!



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Castlecrag Dog Sitting Exchange Group.

This group has been initiated by Yit Sun. Its members are keen to look after each other's dogs. Ideally, doggies and their humans get to know each other before their stay, so owners can rest easy that when they are away on a fun holiday, the dogs are also having a grand time with a best mate.

The group, accessed by the above name on Facebook, works on an IOU system, not a paid service. The intent is to bring together neighbours whose dogs enjoy each other's company and build an ongoing relationship so fur-babies have a second (or more) familiar holiday home and stress free 'doggy holidays'. Wonderful community initiative, Yit!



Living in Leechville.

Maybe we need a new name for the suburb! Many residents are experiencing way too many encounters with these horrid bloodsuckers, especially those who adjoin bushland. And not only in the garden, but inside too! People have found them climbing the walls, in the bathroom and even in the toilet! The stuff of nightmares!

They were also active last summer - I recall having to implement a strategy which involved standing on a chair in the garden (and constantly checking) in order to hang out the washing. However, this summer, with all the rain, they have become even

more abundant and widespread. Quickly swiping them off your body with a plastic card seems to work best, but the bite can itch for a week, and more than one Castlecrag resident has been hospitalised with a nasty infection after a bite. It's not very Buddhist, but one has to admit to a certain level of satisfaction watching them writhe to their death in a salt bath after removal. Revenge can be sweet!

Ethics Teachers Needed. Free training!

Willoughby Public School is oversubscribed for Ethics classes this year and is desperately seeking some more volunteer Ethics Teachers. People receive full training by Primary Ethics. Suitable volunteers should have an interest in children's education and the development of critical thinking skills.

Ethics classes are on Wednesdays at WPS and you will need about an hour in total a week to prep and teach the lesson. You may be a parent, grandparent or supportive member of our local community.

If you want to help more children benefit from this valuable program, please visit www.primaryethics.com.au to find out more about the program, and email the WPS Ethics Co-ordinator, at willoughbypsethics@gmail.com

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mÄLK



Mälk cafe castlecrag

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Located in Castlecrag Quadrangle shopping village

Forget Home Delivery – Home Takeaway is the New Thing!

Willoughby Council, in partnership with RecycleSmart, has recently launched a wonderful pilot initiative for residents to have items such as textiles, batteries, soft plastics and e-waste collected directly from their front door and recycled for free.

Sugarloaf Crescent resident, Gay Spies put the claim to the test when she recently used the service. Her front door is over 120 stairs down a steep slope from the road.

"They came all the way down to my house which makes recycling so much easier. They also take a greater range of things than the Community Recycling centre, including clothing and textiles and other hard to recycle items. I'm already planning my next pickup!"

Powered by a user-friendly smartphone app, RecycleSmart is a convenient solution to a challenging issue. Until now, many household items could not be recycled in the yellow bins for kerbside collection.

The RecycleSmart pilot program can also be accessed via their website and will complement the existing kerbside collection in Willoughby by managing four major categories of household waste:

- Soft Plastics
- E-waste (electronics, mobile devices)
- Textiles (clothing, fabrics)
- Small household items and appliances (batteries, light globes, coffee pods, toasters and many more)

Previously, in order to properly recycle these items, residents were required to take separate recyclables to various locations including retail stores or recycling centres. Without a home collection service many of these recyclable items ended up in the red general rubbish bin for kerbside collection, destined for landfill. Up to 20 per cent of the average red bin contains items that could be recycled.

In just over two years, RecycleSmart has diverted over 95,000 kilos of waste from landfill, and completed over 23,000 Power Pickups.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Residents can book their Power Pickup in three steps.

1. **Download the RecycleSmart app (or visit the website)**
2. **Gather the recyclable items and leave up to two bags of recyclables at their door**
3. **Book their collection with three quick clicks on the app (or website).**

A local, friendly driver will come and collect them, ensuring every item is properly recycled. Even down and up 120 steps!

Residents can subscribe to a monthly Power Pickup for FREE (up to two bags per month) or book on-demand for \$2 per bag.

"We are here to change the way people feel about recycling so they recycle more things, more often. We achieve

that by making recycling digital, fun and easy. We believe recycling should be something you look forward to doing." says Giorgio Baracchi, CEO and co-founder of RecycleSmart.

Almost sounds too good to be true! Thank you, Willoughby Council. A very worthwhile initiative!

Download the RecycleSmart app wherever you get your apps or visit: <https://www.recyclesmart.com/>

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1. **Schedule a pickup**
2. **Pack your bags**
3. **Leave them outside**

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

Sunnyside Brushturkey Bushcare Group

An energetic new Bushcare group is gathering monthly to restore the Sunnyside entrance to the Northern Escarpment to its native state. Known as the Sunnyside Brushturkeys, the group boasts 15 members and is growing.



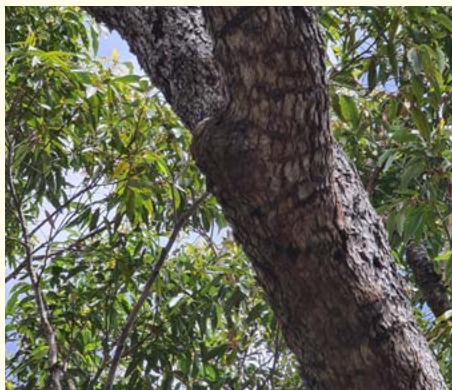
The Sunnyside Brushturkeys

The reserve is a commonly used access point to the larger Northern Escarpment area, and the crossing to Harold Reid. Aside from its visibility, the site is also important because of the wide variety of flora and fauna. In our small area, we've seen three types of orchid, wallabies, bandicoots, brush turkeys and possums and there's lots of scarring on one of our bloodwood trees from sugar-gliders. However, today for most people, first impressions are mixed, with lots of weeds on the street-frontage, gradually working their way downhill into the bush beyond. We want to take control and reverse this process to protect this important bush environment for locals and the native fauna to enjoy.

We've been delighted by the level of commitment from Council's Bushcare team. In addition to providing two professionals (with a combined 50+ years of experience) to coach us on our monthly outings, they visit regularly to undertake cool burns in areas undergoing regeneration. Its early days, but we've already seen a big impact on the infestation of Mother-of-millions *Kalanchoe delagoensis* that encircle the large rock platform near the street entrance. We're about halfway around the perimeter and there's no regrowth evident in the areas we've worked. Some early work is also being done on the footpath to remove Couch and other invasive grass species. There, it's great to see how well the native *Microlaena* grass is responding to the burns.

We meet at 9am on the second Sunday of the month near the reserve entrance on Sunnyside. If you'd like to join us, come along, or drop me a note at scott@particlesales.com with any questions.

Scott Graham words and photos



Bloodwood with scarring from Sugar-gliders



Phil with "Dragon" burning the Mother-of-millions



Hyacinth Orchid -Dipodium punctatum

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 8.30-11.30am
Contact: Tim – 0403 883 254

Second Sunday of the Month

- Gargoyle Bushcare 9-12noon
Contact: Margaret – 0407 994 230
- Sunnyside Brushturkeys 9-12noon
Contact: Scott – 0431 462 588
- Keep Reserve 9-12noon
Contact: Matthew – 0408 203 511

Third Sunday of the Month

- Casement Reserve 8.30-11.30am
Contact: Vicki – 0402 325 531
- Torquay Estate 9-12noon
Contact: Jo – 0419 234 235
- Lookout Reserve 9-12noon
Contact: Adrienne – 0409 997 076

Fourth Sunday of the Month

- Retreat Reserve 9-12noon
Contact: Jill – 0428 880 002

Callout for pics:

Have you photographed Sugar gliders or orchids in Castlecrag? If so, please send them to editors@castlecrag.org.au so we can keep a track of and document what beauties are hiding out there.



Bonnet Orchid- Chryptostylus Erecta

Community Gardens - Market Garden Park (MGPCG)

How exciting to see our accessible garden beds project reach fruition. Four 'off the shelf' water-saving wicking beds were customised in a Crag carport during the 2021 lockdown to raise them to a height where wheelchair users and people with mobility impairments can comfortably enjoy the pleasures of gardening.

It's been a wonderful example of a community working together. We're grateful for the goodwill and generous voluntary contributions towards design, project management, building, varnishing, shovelling soil, leveling, concreting etc.

Michael is pictured (below right) collecting radish seeds for next season from our new beds. Rare as it is to see such fully accessible community facilities in community gardens, they have huge potential to enrich people's lives. Thanks to Willoughby Council's small grants program for funding this project.

MGPCG has 6 Crag members including Linda (pictured), Ann (pictured with her mum, Saw Imm) and Ally (pictured with Sophia) whose Duke of Edinburgh experience with us has been superb. She writes, "We have learnt so much about how to care for our planet through composting, reusing and making natural, non-toxic products from and for the garden .. things that .. help us reduce our carbon footprint and food waste." Ally's enthusiasm for learning, for the relationships and the gardening itself is a breath of fresh air.

Our early tomato crop was successful but fruit fly caused problems as summer progressed. One lesson might be to get in and plant early. Lettuces, silverbeet,



Crag resident and MGP member, Ann (left) with her mum and fellow garden member, Saw Imm

radish, beans and basil have been abundant. Some terrific eggplants, cucumbers and zucchinis have been shared. We're watching with anticipation as butternut and Kent pumpkins shape up.

On 20 November 2021 we participated in the Garage Sale Trail which turned out to be a vibrant, fun 'fair' day. Looking ahead, MGPCG is participating in the Edible Garden Trail on 26 March 2022. You might like to drop by and visit.

From time to time Covid has required us to modify our gardening schedule, but we're now back to regular Wednesday and Saturday meets from 9.30am down the end of Mowbray Place. For more information visit our website mgpcommunitygarden.com or contact Janet on janetfrance753@gmail.com

Mary Anne Veliscek words and photos



Crag resident and Duke of Edinburgh student, Ally (right) with friend and fellow garden member, Sophia.



Selection of garden herbs including sorrel, rosemary, thyme, and warrigal greens.



Tomatoes 20 Nov 2022



Garage Sale Trail



Michael tending the new accessible beds

Warner's Park in Summer

Wow, what a summer for produce! We had so much rain and warmth we could almost watch things growing. Cucumbers are a fine example of this. We have picked 20 on a Sunday then just as many four days later. Two of our young gardeners made short work of a few of them.

The beans were also prolific. Cucamelons are also promising a great crop. It's been a good season for growing an interesting variety of tomatoes.

Thai pea eggplants are a tasty addition to curries. The pak choy grew well and is still providing us with healthy greens. Lettuce, rocket and spring onions have been good for salads. We grew four different varieties of lettuce and the herb garden is flourishing.

Local fruit shops continue to provide us with generous amounts of spent vegetables and fruit as worm farm feed and for compost. The worm farms have had gourmet offerings of late.

Recently we conducted a Zoom planting session at the garden for the class of a local school. Several mothers have attended the garden with their children -



Gourmet food for worm farm

it is always a delight to share in children's enthusiasm as they enjoy the planting and harvesting.

Three year 9 students have volunteered at Warners as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards. They have been most helpful and are interested in learning new skills.

We meet Wednesdays and Sundays at 10am. Come join us.

Hilary McDonald words and photos
0414 502 771

AUTUMN GARDENING TIP:

Many people ask us "Why is it hard to grow coriander". But it's actually easy - if you have the correct instructions.

1. The problem is that some brands of coriander seed say to plant Spring to Autumn, others say Autumn to Spring, etc. The truth is that if maximum temperatures get to the high 20s for a few days your crop will quickly bolt to seed. Therefore, plant the seed any time between April and early September.
2. Coriander doesn't transplant well. Ignore those punnets of seedlings, and plant seeds directly.
3. Keep the soil moist.



Cucamelon crop



Tilly and Audrey enjoying cucumbers



Zoom planting session for primary school class.



Raised beds



Making compost beds

