

## Learning about History by going there

Local schoolboy wins a Premier's history prize. *Story p5*

## The Boatshed

With a rich history of restoring old timber boats. *Story p6*

## Baby Boom Church - end of an era

In 1955, with the baby boom at its peak, the little church at 12 Charles Street was bursting at the seams, with 60 attending Sunday services, and 119 enrolled in Sunday School. So many, that the younger class did not fit in the new church, still meeting in the garage of church members the Macleans.

A decision was taken to extend the hall, and in 1962, after 18 long years, the Macleans finally got their garage back. As is the way of things this was a turning point for the church, with the baby boom at an end, numbers soon started to fall away – but more on that later.

During the war, Australians had flocked back to the Church. But at war's end, the young suburb of Castlecrag still didn't have a church of its own.

A group of locals set out to change that, and on April 7 1946, Castlecrag Methodist Church, had its birth in the loungeroom of Mr and Mrs Eric Smith at 14 Charles Street. Attendance grew quickly, fundraising commenced, and later that year, the block two doors down was purchased, and a plan to build a church hall was hatched.

It took two years to secure government approval to build, and facing material shortages, a further two years to build this simple construction, which then opened on May 28, 1950.

Modest as it was, the hall's opening was a big occasion and Lady Hallstrom, wife of famous local entrepreneur and inventor of the Silent Knight refrigerator, was called upon to officiate.

Construction of the church building followed. The congregation kicked in with volunteer labour and the church was completed and opened on 11 October



*Auction day at 12 Charles Street*

1952. With the church built and the hall later enlarged, the community finally had a facility that met their needs.

Rob Stacey remembers this era fondly. "My earliest recollection of the church at Castlecrag was as a small boy in the early 1960's when I went down the hill with Mum to take refreshments to my father who was working on the new extension... each year, the church would hire a yellow and green Leyland bus from Willoughby depot to ferry the entire church family down to Balmoral for the annual picnic."

In 1977, facing declining membership, in keeping with a global push, The Methodist Church in Australia merged with The Presbyterian and Congregationalist Churches to form the Uniting Church. Many churches were shuttered and sold, including the Presbyterian Church on Sailors Bay Road and four others at Help, Archer, and Daisy Streets Chatswood, and Artarmon Road Artarmon. With a loyal following, our little church survived.

Over time the hall became an important resource for local services. For twenty years, it was the home of a highly regarded ballet school, led by the fierce

Mrs Bora, who was petite but "terrifying to negotiate with!"

In the new millennium, the hall hosted popular local businesses, including Physiocise, Pilates with Simone Selby, White Wolf Dojo and Le Petit Ballet.

Rachael Crompton owner of Dojo, said, "There was something special about that space, as soon as I walked in, I was taken by the feel of it and the morning light. We moved in and stayed, benefiting from the Uniting Church's commitment to community, for eight great years."

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## THE CRAG

is the community magazine of the  
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

PO Box 4259  
Castlecrag NSW 2068

emails to the CPA:  
[info@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:info@castlecrag.org.au)

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We welcome letters and contributions  
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Send to: [editors@castlecrag.org.au](mailto:editors@castlecrag.org.au)  
Letters should be concise (preferably less  
than 250 words).

Editorial guidelines are on the web page.

*Disclaimer:* The CPA and *The Crag* is not  
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### Design and print production

Meredith Shimmin ☎ 0416 078 832  
[meredith@shimmin.com.au](mailto:meredith@shimmin.com.au)

**Printing:** Clarke Murphy ☎ 9417 6444

## From the Editor

Spring has sprung and nature's perfumes  
fill the air. We're seeing more sunshine and  
feeling the warmth. Reports are that the  
leeches are fewer and slower but did not,  
unfortunately, disappear over winter!

Matthew's bird photos are a feature of this  
issue. He has captured some wonderful  
moments. I can't decide which shot I love  
most - the Superb Blue Wren looking at his  
reflection, the Butcherbird eating a moth  
or the Powerful Owl clutching a half-eaten  
ringtail with its fledgling looking on!  
Perhaps it's the delicate little Pardalote...

Speaking of birds, did you note when  
you first heard the Koel this Spring? It  
seems Jocelyn Chey was the first to hear  
the distinctive call on 9 September. Can  
anyone beat that? It would be useful to  
keep a local record of their arrival (and  
perhaps plan your holidays away around  
it!) Every year my dad would circle their  
arrival on the calendar that hung on the  
back of the kitchen door. It was always  
around the middle of September or close  
to the 21st. The raucous Channel-bill  
Cuckoo arrived soon after.

Craig's story of the boatshed brings  
back fond memories. There's a sense of  
timelessness that emanates from that  
place. In the 60's one could buy bait and  
hire a rowboat from the boatshed. It was  
a fun activity on weekends for kids to row  
around Sailors Bay together, and throw  
a fishing line over on the cork floater.  
We mostly caught leatherjackets which,  
in those days, were considered unfit for  
eating. Occasionally we'd score a bream,  
but it was mostly about bobbing up and  
down in a boat on the bay... and feeling  
the serenity.

At a recent CPA committee meeting, I  
was bestowed with the title of Cultural  
Officer in recognition of my work in the  
community over many years in that realm,  
and as support with regard to the way  
forward with my next proposed project.

As previously reported, the gigante Griffin  
puppets that have been on exhibit at the

National Museum for the last 11 years will  
soon be coming back to Sydney. Before  
they leave Canberra, the plan is, in March  
2023, to create a short, light-hearted film  
about the puppets escaping from the  
museum to the lake, before being packed  
up and trucked back to Castlecrag. At the  
lake they will meet dancers and musicians  
as well as discuss what has happened  
to "their" Canberra and Lake. They may  
bump into our local member for North  
Sydney, Kylea Tink as they stroll along.  
It's a work-in-progress involving lots of  
organisation, including applying for grants  
to make it happen, but it seems like too  
historic an opportunity to pass up!

So far, I have made one trip to Canberra  
to talk with museum staff, generate  
interest and see what's possible. The  
greatest expense will be the filming and  
editing. Is there a local videographer who  
would like to be involved in the project  
with the other volunteers? Or at least  
charge community rates? Perhaps you  
know someone who is studying film-  
making here or in Canberra? All leads  
and ideas welcome, and if you'd like to  
be involved in other ways, please make  
contact. This is a community project.

Next issue and longer-term, assistance  
will be needed in producing *The Crag*.  
I will be fully occupied with the Canberra  
project from now till April 2023, so the  
call is out for people to write articles of  
interest to the community. We also need  
an assistant editor. There's a number of  
retired journo's, writers, communications  
practitioners and students on the peninsula  
who can be shown the ropes. How about  
giving a bit of time locally, just as Matthew,  
Craig, Scott and our garden contributors  
have so competently done this issue?

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Lindy Batterham**

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We rejoice and give thanks for  
earthworms, bees, ladybirds and broody  
hens; for humans tending their gardens,  
talking to animals, cleaning their homes  
and singing to themselves; for the rising  
of the sap, the fragrance of growth, the  
invention of the wheelbarrow and the  
existence of the teapot we give thanks.  
We celebrate and give thanks.

*Amen.*





## From the President



Welcome to spring and I hope this update finds you well. This is my inaugural President's Report since being elected as President at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in

June. I wish to thank Paul Stokes, who has held the position for four years, stewarding many issues during that time, especially responses to Council's local centres strategy, redevelopment scenarios at the Quadrangle and achieving the right-turn indicator for the traffic lights at Eastern Valley Way. I look forward to working with Paul as our Secretary, the Association Committee, residents, and businesses within Castlecrag.

I live in Castlecrag with my family and remember since the 1970s spending time exploring the bush and Middle Harbour. I am experienced in aerial and terrestrial surveying - imagery and LiDAR as used in town planning, project governance of infrastructure and built environment projects. My other activities have involved the Australia Timor-Leste Business Council, 1st Northbridge Sea Scouts as a qualified Scout Leader, and contributing to the Australian Research Council Advisory Group - Linkage Project on Senior Living by providing guidance on the economic, environmental and social psychological evaluation of independent senior living alternatives for Australians.

During my time as a Councillor at Willoughby representing Sailors Bay Ward from 2017 to 2021, I secured notable motions by consensus, such as the Climate Change Emergency Declaration, Our Green City Plan 2028, the Integrated Transport Strategy, Covid-19 Pandemic Economic and Community Action Plan, Reserve Action Plans, additional funding for gross pollution traps to better protect Middle Harbour and to extend and maintain bushland reserves and walking tracks. I also secured motions regarding the Property Portfolio Strategy, The Concourse - fire safety program of replacing potential combustible external aluminium cladding and the unanimous Council objection and amendments to the proposed Beaches Link Tunnel.

Progress Associations and other community leaders met on Wednesday 31 August 2022 with Councillor Anna Greco to discuss Council's Advisory Committees. It was an opportunity to emphasise the important role that these Advisory Committees play in providing advice to Councillors - noting that Council has a newly elected Mayor and seven newly elected Councillors. Council has provided three confidential briefings regarding the Advisory Committees, which have been criticised by community leaders as being perceived as a method of controlling information received by Councillors, potentially leading to poorly informed decision making and displaying a disregard for transparent community engagement. The following was resolved unanimously by the 24 community leaders present on Wednesday 31 August 2022:

1. We reject Council's model of three omnibus committees as irrelevant, unrealistic, unworkable and a waste of time and resources.
2. Previous members should be asked if they would like to reapply for their advisory committee roles and that expressions of interest for new members to existing committees should be sought via public advertisement (including social media).
3. Depending on the expressions of interest reinstate those committees.
4. The committees should be reinstated before the end of 2022 for this term of council.
5. (Existing) Terms of reference to be reviewed at first meeting and submitted to council for approval.

Further, at the Willoughby Council meeting held on the 19 September 2022, the five community resolution points were ignored by Council and the vote did not land where the community was hoping. However, the passed motion included community consultation of the proposed omnibus model for 28 days. A report with community feedback is due back at Council in December.

As always, CPA exists to serve the interests of our Castlecrag community. Our ability to do this depends on the continued publication of *The Crag* and on the size of our membership. Please, help us serve you by either becoming members of the association or joining the committee.

**Denis Fernandez**



### NOTICE OF CPA GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, 19 October 2022  
7:30 - 9:00pm**

**Guest Speaker: Tim James  
MP for Willoughby**

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## From the Mayor



Willoughby Council has hit the ground running this year to build a more prosperous, sustainable and accountable city.

Thanks to everyone who provided

feedback on a proposal for new planning controls at The Quadrangle. The proposal includes an additional permitted land use of a residential flat building at the site in addition to height and floor space control changes. It's vital for Council to receive community input on proposals such as this which is why we held a webinar last month and accepted submissions on the Have Your Say website.

Since my last column, Council handed down its 2022/23 Budget. This was an ambitious budget which included the largest capital works spend in more than a decade since The Concourse was under construction. This \$57 million investment includes \$10 million to support the Willoughby Leisure Centre upgrade, \$1.95 million in playing fields, parks and playground works and \$205,000 to

renew and repair the Northbridge Baths. The Northbridge Baths upgrade has also attracted a \$150,000 Places to Swim Grant Program from the NSW Government. Upgrades will include replacing the rubber tiles on the perimeter boardwalk with soft fall, replacing the concrete stairs into the baths and further works including internal painting and repairs to the main concrete concourse.

This is being delivered without burdening ratepayers, who will be on average \$38 better off this financial year due to the five-year Infrastructure Levy coming to an end.

On the sustainability front, Council has powered ahead and flicked the switch to 100% renewable energy across all of our operations. This is a significant achievement as we pave the way to our next milestone – Net Zero by 2025.

We are looking at what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint across the board, including adopting solar-powered landscaping tools, replacing street lamps with LED alternatives or providing incentives for residents to switch to renewable energy with Council's Solar Bulk Buy program. The scheme has been highly successful with more than one solar system

installed per week since it was launched last year.

Now that Spring is upon us, Council has organised a range of popular community events with an environmentally-friendly and COVID-safe focus. Cyclists are encouraged to register for Biketober and get on their bikes throughout October. All participants go in the draw to win prizes while maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. To kick off Biketober, Council organised a Bike Repair Café event at Artarmon Reserve. Cyclists took the opportunity to tune-up their bike while enjoying free coffee. The Emerge Festival wraps up on October 9 with a massive pool party at the Willoughby Leisure Centre. This year the Festival restored the popular Chatswood StreetFair parade while residents and visitors enjoyed a packed program of community events.

There's plenty of entertainment opportunities in Willoughby in October. Hear the latest Australia's best community orchestra has to offer with Willoughby Symphony Orchestra's Parisian Rhapsody scheduled for 8 October at The Concourse.

<https://www.emergefestival.com.au/Home>

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## Tour of a Lifetime

Six Year 11 high school students, including Castlecrag local Gabriel Fernandez, scored top marks in a recent Premier's essay writing competition, with the prize being a tour of historic WWII sites in Japan and Hawaii as part of the ClubsNSW Premier's WWII Memorial Tour. The winning essays were selected from over 100 entrants across the state.

Gabriel shares his experience with us:

Over the Queen's birthday long weekend, I wrote a 1000-word essay responding to the question "Are the lessons of World War II still relevant today?". I responded with an examination of three lessons with case studies, and how they were relevant to the world today:

- The importance of dialogue in preventing conflict, investigating the increasing tension between the USA and Japan, during their expansion into China;
- The dangers of appeasement, observing Chamberlain's submission to Nazi Germany's territorial advances; and
- The immortality of nuclear weapons, exploring the consequences of dropping the 'Little Boy' atomic bomb on Hiroshima

It was only after submitting that I learned of the panel of judges, composed of a Vietnam war veteran, a university historian and a radio host. They were to decide on the winning entries through a cross-examination process where the works would be reviewed from various academic and historical perspectives.

A week after the submissions closed, I was contacted by the Minister for Transport and Veterans, David Elliot, letting me know that my essay was a winner. The prize? Funded by ClubsNSW, 6 students, myself included, were sponsored on a trip to Hiroshima, Tokyo and Pearl Harbour.



*Students show their respects at Punchbowl Memorial, Hawaii.*



*Bomb Shelter at Naval Base, Yokosuka, Kanagawa.*

Over 11 days we visited historical WWII sites, cultural sites and military bases.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to "ground zero" in Hiroshima, due to its powerful presence and historical meaning, Yokosuka US Navy base where we ended up in conversation with the Rear Admiral Karl O. Thomas of the 7th fleet (asking difficult questions about response to foreign activity in the Pacific), and standing just above the sunken deck of the USS Arizona, reading the names of fallen sailors.

Being able to partake in the trip was significant for both my historical understanding of WWII and my personal understanding of the impact of war

on civilisation. I am immensely grateful to ClubsNSW for sponsoring the trip, the members of government who accompanied us on the trip, the Premier (who let me film him fist bumping) and every Japanese and Hawaiian local who enabled us to have such an informative, safe and rewarding experience. The journey has easily been one of the most rewarding experiences of my high school life and I would highly encourage any future year 11 history students to apply for upcoming ClubsNSW history tours or to even dig a little deeper into history in general.

**Gabriel Fernandez**  
**Year 11 St Aloysius College,**  
**Milsons Point.**

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Other recycled timbers still are used in some restoration and construction work if suitable for purpose.

Though new materials like fibreglass and carbon fibre now dominate new boat builds, Castlecrag Marine staff don't disguise their preference for working on timber boats. "It's what we were trained to work and build with during our apprenticeships," explains New Zealand-born Jonas who "found" Castlecrag Marine via stints on the Royal New Zealand naval base in Auckland and another family-owned boatshed in picturesque Pittwater.

The marina's reputation is such that over the years it has been involved in restoring and, in some cases, virtually rebuilding some of the country's most famous classic timber boats including many from the legendary Halvorsen fleet.

Some date back to early last century, clearly outliving previous owners and thereby illustrating the old maritime tenet that you don't ever "own" a classic timber boat; you are (like Griffin home-owners) merely its custodian.

"There are no short cuts when it comes to timber boat repairs," says Jonas. "A lot of our work involves fixing up work that wasn't done properly in the first place. The quality of our workmanship is what we pride ourselves on."

Kiln-dried spotted gum (for structural hull work such as ribs and keels), oregon, teak and various veneers and plywood are the most commonly-used timbers at the boatshed for ongoing projects.



*Sailors Bay from the Boatshed*

The character of the boatshed has over time reflected the changing trends in the marine industry and society generally.

Bartlett can recall when the marina was essentially a storage shed for dinghies. As the recently reprinted book, *Castlecrag*, notes; "local boys often own small sailing boats before they have bicycles."

During the 50s, 60s and 70s, a myriad of new dinghy designs emanated from naval architects inspired by the local waterways. Then new boatshed owners began operating a fleet of rowing boats for hire to exploit Middle Harbour's many picnic spots.

For a period before new drink-driving laws were introduced in the early 1980s, the boatshed at Castlecrag was a social hub where boatowners, staff and neighbours congregated, especially for Friday 'happy hour'. Local mythology maintains the

boatshed 'pub' was the reason why a proposal to build a hotel was defeated when a residents' poll was conducted in 1955.



*Steve Bartlett worked his entire career at Castlecrag Marine*

Working there into the 1990s, Bartlett and Lapin can recall cruising yacht crews who dropped anchor in Sailors Bay and stayed to party on and live aboard for extended periods before Maritime authorities introduced new laws forbidding it.

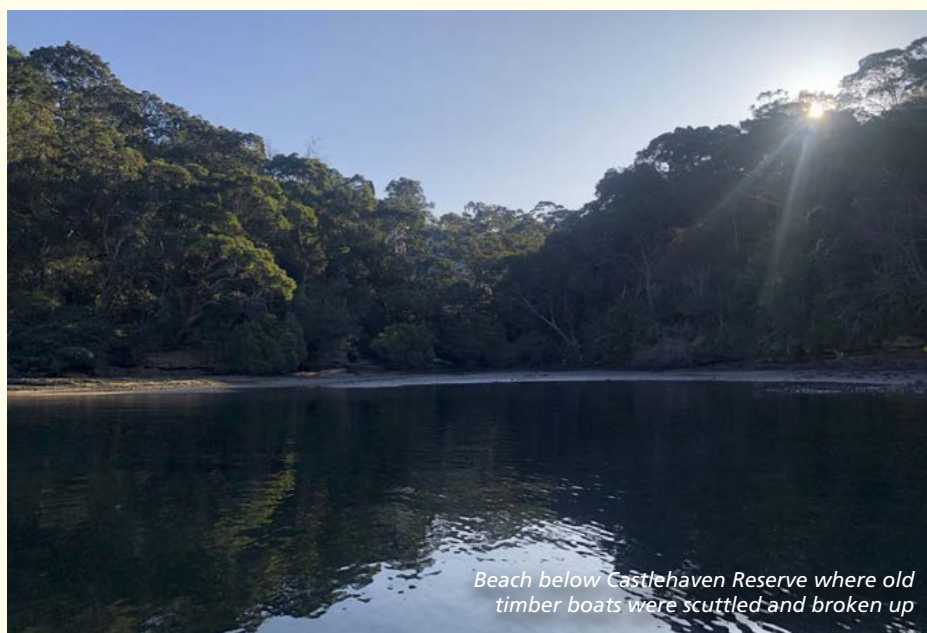
These days the boatshed staff are run off their feet. Such is the quality of workmanship and service they provide, boat owners have been prepared to wait during the prolonged poor weather that has dogged Sydney and, with Covid, disrupted work schedules during the past two years.

The feverish boatshed activity is in stark contrast to the bushwalkers and other strollers who just happen upon Mowbray Point and take in its Sailors Bay vistas.

And it's here that many have become boat owners when they decide they want to take a closer look at Castlecrag from the water.

[www.castlecragmarine.com.au](http://www.castlecragmarine.com.au)

*Words and photos*  
**Craig McCarthy**



*Beach below Castlehaven Reserve where old timber boats were scuttled and broken up*



## House of Birds

I photograph birds. I am not obsessive. It is mostly the birds that visit our house. I like to use the photographs to promote the value of the bushland that surrounds our house. I do a Bushcare newsletter and send it to anyone I feel I can interest in Bushcare and the bird pictures help.

The photos become a record of the different species that appear and when. I know that May 2017 was the first time we had seen a lyrebird appear in Keep Reserve. This Griffin Reserve is next to our house in The Rampart. Of course, the photos I show people are the more striking photos but I don't have to wander far to get a shot. The Lyrebird when doing its noisy dance for hours and days on end needs to take a break, feed in our garden and so wanders past.



Lyrebird



Brush Turkey



Spotted Pardalote

The Brush Turkeys appeared before I had bought a Canon 5D III, DSLR, so I am less certain about when they settled in to life in The Rampart. I am very aware that they seem to go through boom bust cycles, some years they are very plentiful, others not. While I don't photograph them too often anymore, sometimes the afternoon light looks sublime and I can't help but be enchanted by their presence close to our verandah.

Over the 20 odd years we have lived here, we have got to know the stayers, the Kookaburras, the Pied Butcher bird, the Magpies, Currawongs, Lorikeets and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos.

Other parrots are less frequent visitors, though the King Parrots seem to be almost permanent. I love their beauty, so photogenic, and we can easily observe when they produce offspring. I wonder how well they are doing? Less frequent are the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. Their haunting calls ring out across the valley heralding their arrival each winter when the Banksia and Hakea are in seed.



Black Cockatoo



Powerful Owl

Some birds have become regular like the Powerful Owls. As I write this, they have bred again producing two fledglings, last year it was one. These birds are very big and apparently need to consume a Ring-Tailed Possum a day to survive. They also need large enough tree hollows which Castlecrag (not to mention) Sydney has lamentably few. We hear them regularly at night and if I need to check where they are in the breeding cycle, I can ask a neighbour, our street's dedicated Citizen Scientist with the Powerful Owl Project, for an update.

Then there is the annual visit of the Channel-billed Cuckoo Birds. Raucous! We often hear their calls at 2am. What are they doing? Sydney siders now seem to post and discuss the date of their annual arrival after migrating from the tropics. Each year they are on the species list of birds I collect as part of the Aussie Backyard Bird Count (ABBC). This is a 20 minute daily bird count that happens for a week each October. The data helps science be better informed about what is going on with our birdlife.



And of course, there are the smaller birds, these seem to be much more prone to changes in vegetation cover and love to hide in the bushiest corners. They come into our garden frequently and sometimes in large numbers, but can be off before I have a chance to grab the camera. Equally frustrating; they don't often time their visit to coincide when I am doing the 20 minute bird count. Maybe this time it will be different. Sometimes though I can get a photo.

The Superb Fairy Wrens seem to be becoming more regular, they'll venture onto our verandah, or be busy looking at their reflections in our windows. The Spotted Pardalotes are stunning little birds and I am thankful for my zoom lens, it is a 100 – 400mm though I would like something longer. Other small birds like the White-browed Scrubwren are difficult to photograph in our wooded garden and surrounding bush. Seen just one time, the Black Faced Monarch flew into our windows and had to be cared for before it recovered and flew off. The Rufous Fantail, very pretty, we saw here last year for the first time. The Azure Kingfisher visited once years ago, no photograph unfortunately, perhaps next time.

The Aussie Bird Count is on 17 - 23 of October. Bushcare in Keep Reserve happens monthly. Tim James, the State member for Willoughby, is coming along to the October meeting Sunday 9th. It's just two hours from 9 - 11am and then morning tea, come along and bring your camera.

Words and photos  
**Matthew Keighery**



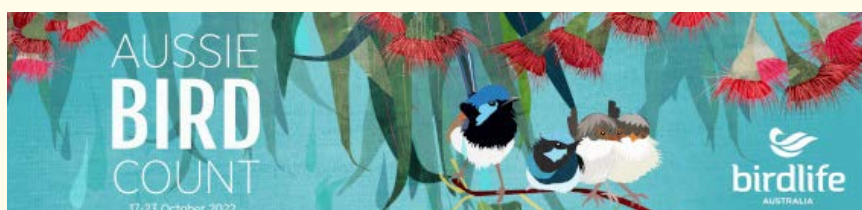
*Superb Fairy Wren*



*Black Faced Monarch*



*Rufous Fantail*



*Butcher Bird*



*Channel-billed Cuckoo*



*Whip Bird*



*White Browed Scrubwren*



## Baby Boom Church - end of an era from page 1

Under new Uniting Church branding, our little church continued to play an important part in the spiritual lives of locals. Typically, the minister would shuttle across from the manse in Northbridge for an 8.30am Castlecrag service before returning to run the 10am service at Northbridge.

A meditation session was held on Fridays. A sign of the open mindedness of the Uniting Church, it was open to allcomers, regardless of whether they were regular church goers.

The congregation was quite accomplished and a favourite of ministers over the years. From schoolteachers to doctors, company directors and entrepreneurs.

In addition to Hallstrom family members, the early congregation included Mayor Bob Dougherty. A larger-than-life character, he served five consecutive terms and played a large role in shaping Willoughby. During this period, Bob was also the Sunday school leader and organist – a busy man indeed.

Lorna Fitzsimmons was a loyal member for 55 years. She said "in its relatively short life, it had an immeasurable impact on people. A small church meant warm fellowship, and close friendships. It was a very supportive, and tight knit group."

Core members in recent years were locals Gordon and Margaret Hunter; Mac, Anette and David Robertson; John and Julie Graham; Lorna Fitzsimmons; Win Rodgie; Rodna FitzSimmons; Gwinneth Trail; Tom Ash; Peter Bettson-Barker; Janet and Ian van Graan; Gay, Merrie and Debbie Perkins; Bette Richardson; Nola Stewart; Fay Overton; Patricia and Robert Sheldon and Ian and Elspeth McNair.

In 2018, down to 10 regulars, the congregation opted to stop local services. The parent church in Willoughby kept the site going to support long running tenants. But by 2022 it was clear the resource could be put to better use, and they put the church on the market.



*The little church at 12 Charles Street*



*The church interior.*

**Castlecragdental**  
**99584557**  
 Dr Alex Dong & Dr Winnie Li  
 105 Edinburgh Road  
[www.castlecragdental.com.au](http://www.castlecragdental.com.au)

On June 4, this year, the church was sold at auction, bringing to an end over 70 years of faithful service to Castlecrag.

The funds raised will go to help a new congregation build, in a growing suburb, on Sydney's southwestern outskirts.

And so, the story ends as it began, with a new church being established to support the young families of a growing Sydney suburb.

**Scott Graham**

**Zachary Zeus**  
 Principal Consultant | Managing Director  
 Level 4  
 272 Pacific Highway  
 Crows Nest NSW 2065  
 Office 02 9007 9887  
 Ext 7004  
 Mobile 0405 386 605  
[zachary@bizcubed.com.au](mailto:zachary@bizcubed.com.au)  
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## Come You Spirits Return to Play at the Haven

*The Crag* Winter edition was published just prior to the professional theatre troupe *Come You Spirits* season at the Haven Amphitheatre. Those who attended the performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth*, in June, witnessed a wonderful and utterly unique theatrical experience only the Haven can offer. The audience was totally immersed in the words, sounds and action as the staging was extended to include the entire space - rocks, ledges, steps, bridge, creek, trees and bushes. The witches cauldron sat in the middle of the audience (keeping us warm) for *Macbeth*, whilst in *Romeo and Juliet*, the fair maiden lay dying on the bench beside us as the sun rose above the horizon on the crisp winter solstice morn.

By the time you read this, you may have missed their return for a Spring equinox season! The troupe will have performed a second season at the Haven, adding *The Tempest* to their repertoire of elemental, immersive theatre. They will be back again for their 3rd season, on 17 and 18 December, with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* added to their repertoire which will be performed at dawn on the summer solstice on Thursday 22 December. Definitely worth getting up for! It's a fabulous way to start the day!

Castlecrag is very lucky that Jo Bloom and Charles Mayer, co-founders of *Come You Spirits*, have fallen madly in love with the Haven Amphitheatre as a performance space. It marries with their desire to perform in beautiful environments - open to the elements and forces of nature. The wild spirit, passion and energy they demonstrate in their work is infectious. They bring Shakespeare alive! One comes away from their performance awakened, energised and with a huge smile on one's face knowing you've experienced something very special.

"Once in your lifetime, you must see these highly entertaining COME YOU SPIRITS productions, SHAKESPEARE is lucidly and magnificently performed. Minimalized cast, delivers maximized SHAKESPEARE. Highly Recommended" *Sydney Arts Guide*

"Shakespeare: mystical, spiritual, wild! They combines the magic and imagination of theatre with ancient healing techniques." *City Hub*

"Such a beautiful location cannot be overestimated in its importance, especially when engaging with as mystical a text as *The Tempest*." *Laura Heuston, Theatretravels.org*

By the way - did you know there is now a designated spot (dress circle!) for



*Jo Bloom and Charles Mayer in MacBeth*

wheelchairs and fold-up chairs up the top in the Barricade? It makes it much easier for folk who are mobility challenged and provides a good view down into the amphitheatre.

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**McGrath**

## Obituary - Anne McFarlane. 5 August 1954 – 25 July 2022



Anne McFarlane

Many will recognise Anne from being in her front garden in Edinburgh Road, or seeing her walking back and forth along Edinburgh Road and surrounding streets a couple of times every day for many years. She was an avid walker and only rarely flung open the old wooden doors of her little brick garage down the back, to take the Volvo out for a spin.

Anne's family has been part of the Castlecrag's rich tapestry for 3 generations. Her grandfather built the original house in Castlecrag in the early 1940s. Through the late 50's and 60's, in his retirement, old Mr Mac would lean on his front gate every afternoon, when school came out, and chat with all who walked by.

Anne's parents, Ken and Ruth, moved into the home after her grandfather's death in 1974. They added the cape cod storey and upon his retirement, Ken took up the family tradition of manning the afternoon post at the front gate to chat to the regular passers-by. Ken died in 1995 and around that time Anne moved back up from Canberra, to look after mother Ruth, who had also been known to enjoy a chat over the fence, but usually whilst weeding the garden.

Anne had a lifelong association and love for Castlecrag as well as an encyclopaedic knowledge of the suburb and its residents. A number of people who attended her memorial afternoon tea noted that they met her from chatting over her front fence, so Anne kept the family tradition strong.

Anne was rightly very proud of her career as a pharmacist and retained her professional qualifications to practice. Her appointments included being chief pharmacist at Woden Hospital and Darwin Hospital. She was awarded an ANZAC fellowship, published widely and wrote major reports as consultant on hospital pharmaceutical services. She later pioneered a correspondence course for pharmacy assistants that is now run by Charles Sturt University.

### Margaret Pavincich and Lindy Batterham

*Some of Anne's friends and colleagues have added a few words:*

Anne and I met in infants' school at Epping West Public School. I think we were drawn together as we were both rather shy girls, and also voracious readers, particularly of Enid Blyton. Anne lived just around the corner from me, and we often played together, especially on the McFarlane's pianola and on summer holidays at Pittwater. Even in those early days Anne produced beautiful handicrafts. We rekindled our friendship later in life and I loved her quirky sense of humour. Last year during lockdown we would call one another after the daily covid press conferences, which Anne referred to as the Glad and Brad Show.

**Beth Jenkins**

It was a great pleasure to work for Anne many years ago when she was the very successful Director of the Pharmacy department at Woden Valley Hospital in Canberra. She loved her job and her time at the hospital and put everything into her work. She will be remembered for her exemplary professionalism and for her kindness, helpfulness and good humour. A friend who will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her and working with her.

### Catherine Cregan

I was sorry to hear that Anne MacFarlane had passed away. When Anne invited me to join the Pharmacy department at Woden Valley Hospital in 1989, I joined two other former Castlecrag residents - not only Anne, but also Pat Gilchrist. Quite a coincidence! I grew up in The Battlement. Glad to see *The Crag* is still going strong.

### Morna Falkland (Sullivan)

I am sad to learn of Anne's death. I was a member of her staff when she was the talented Chief Pharmacist at Woden Valley Hospital. I appreciated her direct, no-nonsense style, often laced with wit and good humour, and remain grateful for her training and encouragement to this day. I grew up in Charles Street Castlecrag in the fifties and was interested to revisit a while back when some of the Burley Griffin houses were open for viewing. I would very much like my email address to be added to the list for circulation of *The Crag*.

**Patricia Gilchrist**





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## QUADRANGLE UPDATE

On 3 November, last year, Council approved the Planning Proposal for the Quadrangle site for forwarding to the State Department of Planning Gateway. It was subsequently returned to Council, for public exhibition, with little substantive modification.

The purpose of the Planning Proposal is to modify the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP) for the site. You will find the details of the Planning Proposal on the Council's website.

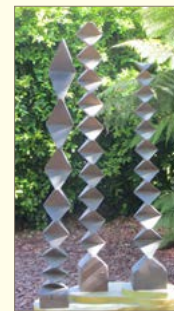
With public exhibition now concluded, the Proposal will go to Council, probably in November, along with a report from

the Officers reflecting submissions made. If Council accepts the Proposal, the changes to the LEP will be gazetted and then followed by the preparation and submission of a Development Application (DA) sometime in the New Year. During this process, residents will have another opportunity to interact with Dr Quek and his team over the details of the application.

Over the next few months, a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) will be finalised between Council and the developer. This agreement ensures that developers make a financial contribution towards some community infrastructure. In our recent submission to Council, which can be

found on the CPA website, we asked that consideration be given to the following suggestions:

- We would like the VPA to provide for community space, such as a meeting place, on the ground floor of the new structure. At present, the community is dependent on the goodwill of the Glenaeon School and/or the KU kindergarten to hold public meetings.
- The Griffin Puppets are returning from Canberra after more than a decade representing the Griffins' Castlecrag at the National Museum in Canberra. The Puppets need a new home and we would like to see them on public display in a suitable enclosure somewhere in the new Quadrangle.



- We would also like to see Bim Hilder's entry to the WCC Bi-Centenary Sculpture Competition realised and placed as an "Entry Totem" in the public open space as he intended.



## NOTES

### SHARING HERBS WITH POSSUMS



We love our Castlecrag brushtail possums - furry, cute, tree-climbing marsupials. And their close relatives, the ringtail possums, with a white end to their tails. Sometimes we see a baby Joey possum, clinging to its mother's back as it hitches a ride and learns about living an independent life.

But possums, which live naturally in the bushland, also inhabit our gardens; it's only fair; we've encroached on what was once their home and habitat. But they have developed a liking for our herb and veggie gardens too.

Here are a couple of hints to help us (and the possums) to share.

#### They don't like to eat:

Sage	Thyme
Oregano	Bay leaves
Rosemary	Chives

Green onions      Garlic chives  
Warrigal greens      Lemon grass.  
Mint (usually, but occasionally they find this tasty)

You can grow these with confidence that you won't find them munched to ground level after a night of possum banqueting.

#### BUT, BEWARE! They love to eat

Parsley      Basil  
Lettuce      Spinach (sometimes)  
Tomatoes

And many more veggies and herbs.

The ringtail possums (the ones with a white tip on their tail) love citrus.

If you are keen to grow this last list, you'll need to plant them where possums can't reach, or cover your herb beds with possum-excluding netting, or wrap a possum barrier around the trunk of your fruit tree.

You can see some excellent examples of netting frames at North Sydney Council's community garden at the old Coal Loader at Waverton. Or you could make your own from a frame covered with chicken-wire.

Of course, if you grow native plants in your garden, you'll have no problems, and the birds will be happy too.

Happy gardening!

**Lorraine Cairnes**



Local muso Arthur Lusher, performing at Fair 2019

### WE ARE SO HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE CASTLECRAG FAIR WILL BE BACK IN 2023!!!

Planning is underway to bring our beloved community fair back in October 2023. A Parapetian has stepped forward to Co-ordinate. Thank you Trish! Possibly Sunday 22 October but looking to see if there are local clashes. Stay tuned for confirmation of date, new and expanded locations, stalls, food and much more. If you would like to book a stall, are keen to join the team or sponsor this great event please contact Trish at trishlunn@bigpond.com. We look forward to bringing the community back together for a fun family day.



## Community Gardens: Warners Park in Spring

We are very much looking forward to warmer spring weather. The rain and cold this year have made it difficult for farmers and gardeners. Despite that, we had an abundant harvest of turmeric, yacon, snow peas, potatoes, pak choy and ginger.

Currently flourishing are rat tail radish, rocket, lettuce, silver beet, mizuna and cavolo nero. The daikon radish was very successful this year. Not too large and full of flavour.



*Duke of Edinburgh students, Enzo and Hugo*

The Duke of Edinburgh students who volunteer at the garden have been enthusiastic and helpful and have appreciated the gardening knowledge that has been imparted to them by our experienced gardeners. We hope this exposure may give them an interest in their own gardens in the future.



We are greatly appreciative of the continuing support of Losurdos and Bunnings. Losurdos supply compostables and Bunnings, via the delightful Joe Micali, with plants and equipment.



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## Hilary's Tips from Warners Park

It is time for planting warm season vegetables. You may want to start some of your seeds in small pots in a warm place and then transplant them into the garden. It's handy to know the seed germination temperature range of your seeds. You can look them up online. eg basil seeds will germinate from 18 - 27°C, some soil is colder than that, so start them in a warm spot in pots. Use anything that's in the right temperature range - a warm windowsill, a heat mat, etc. or place the pots inside a compost bin that has cooled down sufficiently (most vegetable seeds don't need light to germinate. Once seeds have germinated) they tolerate soil temperatures below 18°C. A cheap soil thermometer is helpful.

Our gardening days are from 10am Wednesdays and Sundays. Come and join us for spring gardening pleasure.

**Contact Hilary on 0414 502 771  
for further information.**



### Winter crops of snow peas and garlic



*The new garden shed gets expertly installed,  
thank you Willoughby Council for your support*

# Market Garden Park



*We joined in Willoughby Council's Fauna Fair on 28 August and had a wonderful shared day. All the seedlings and other goodies the MGP team brought along got a great response from those who attended*

Spring is always a very busy time in any garden and that also applies to our Community Garden. While La Niña rain and the local Brush Turkeys have presented challenges for some of our plantings, the Garden has continued to produce kale, spinach, good lettuce, green Asian vegetables, parsley, coriander, bountiful turmeric, sweet potato and other salad greens through Winter and into early Spring.

Our major project for the last quarter was the acquisition and installation of a sturdy garden shed. This was a shared effort that ran the gamut of working together, research, fundraising, project management and some hard work. We are very grateful to Willoughby Council for their support and expertise in building a hard floor and footings for our shed and also to Bunnings for their ongoing support of the Community Garden.

Neither rain, wind or hard work deterred the Garden members and Council experts from completing the job on the day.

From previous experience we know our Garden can produce a bountiful crop of potatoes but our local Brush Turkeys discovered our plantings and enjoyed them. So we tried our raised, accessible off ground beds; the Turkeys flew up and went to digging. New tricks will be required for future potato attempts.

It is a wonderful time to think of coming along to work and learn in a Community Garden. New seedlings are being planted and prior plantings, such as broad beans have grown and are progressing through flowering to produce bean pods. We are delighted to have new members join the team. We have weekend and midweek gardening sessions that you can participate in - Saturday and Wednesday mornings, for more info: <https://www.mgpcommunitygarden.com>

**Bronywn Guthrie**





## Free shirt, lunch and Bushcare Training Too Good to miss!

The WCC Bushcare Training Course is a valuable opportunity for new volunteers to learn the ins and outs of bush regeneration techniques and natural area management, plant ID and includes practical hands-on sessions as well. All new volunteers that have joined a group or sign up to join a group will be presented with their official volunteer shirt on the day as well!

### Bushcare Training dates

(you only need to sign up for one day)

**Friday 28 October: 9.30am - 2.00pm**

**Saturday 29 October: 9.00am - 1.30pm**

**Sunday 30 October: 9.00am - 1.30pm**

**Training will be held at the  
Mowbray Scout Hall, Avian Crescent,  
Lane Cove North.**

To sign up all you need to do is to email me: [moniquevan.vugt@willoughby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:moniquevan.vugt@willoughby.nsw.gov.au) with your preferred date to attend and please list any specific dietary requirements as we will provide morning tea and lunch on the day.

Please note there will be pre-course reading material, this allows us to run the training in just one session rather than over two days.



## CASTLECRAG BUSHCARE Meeting Dates

### First Monday of the Month

- Tower Reserve 9-12 noon  
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 9-12 noon  
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 9-12 noon  
Contact: Adrienne – 0409 997 076

### Fourth Sunday of the Month

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

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