

THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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Seventy five years of community development



January / February 1999

Because of the recent summer break, this issue of *The Crag* is mainly to inform you, the resident, of upcoming local business, meetings and events on the agenda as the year boots up for 99. Important items arising are the integrated topics of the WCC Draft Development Control Plan and the second public meeting of Council's Traffic Control Plan, both of which will ask for your considered input.

Council's Draft Development Control Plan

Willoughby City Council has prepared a draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for dwelling houses, dual occupancies and boarding houses in Residential Zones. This DCP, No. 16, provides more detailed planning controls and guidelines for proposals involving dwelling houses under the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 1995.

DCP16 applies to the whole of Willoughby City and will repeal several existing planning instruments applying to specific areas, including DCP3, Castlecrag. The intention is to provide clear and easily understood controls and guidelines to assist residents wishing to construct new houses or alter existing ones, thereby improving the assessment and approval process through better compliance with community standards.

The Castlecrag Progress Association believes that the proposed DCP16 is a very important planning instrument, and we wish to make a response to Council on the draft that incorporates the views of a wide cross-section of residents. We received the draft DCP just before Christmas and have requested an extension of time until the end of February in order that we can discuss the matter at our February General Meeting. The Committee is undertaking a detailed review of the document, with the aid of comments made by residents in a series of workshops undertaken in 1993 to review DCP3. The draft DCP16 will be the main topic on the agenda for the CPA General Meeting on 23 February (see Notice).

Interested residents are asked to review the draft DCP16 document BEFORE the meeting. Copies have been placed in the Castlecrag Library and are also available in the Willoughby City Library, Chatswood.

Bob McKillop, President

Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to: Prof. David J Burke, Castlecrag, Officer (AO) in the General Division, for service to Science and Medicine in the field of Clinical Neurophysiology, in the areas of research and education.

Assoc. Prof. Neil Buhrich, Companion (AC), Department of Psychological Medicine, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, for service to Psychiatry and to the community.

Also to Janice Crosswhite, an Australia Day Ambassador who officiated at ceremonies in Batemans Bay, NSW.

New Council Meeting Procedures in place

From 1 February 1999, Willoughby City Council has initiated a three-month trial of new meeting procedures, intended to streamline routine business matters through a formal committee system. Six committees have been established covering broad areas of Council business and these will meet on a rotational basis on the first and third Monday of each month.

Full Council meetings will be held on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The six committees are:

- Finance and Administration
- Transport and Access
- Community Development
- Environment, Recreation and Open Space
- Arts and Cultural Development; and
- Economic Development.

Existing Council committees will be subsumed into these umbrella committees or continue as sub-committees of the relevant committee. The six major committees of Council will have full delegations to resolve issues except those items under Section 377 of the Local Government Act that cannot be delegated. However, safeguards have been put in place to ensure that any issues that may be controversial are brought before full Council.

Only unanimous decisions by Committees become resolutions and any items that involve dissent or a change from the recommendation on the business paper, become recommendations to the full Council.

There are between five and eight Councillors nominated to each committee. The intention is to make Council's business more accessible to the public. All committees are open to the public and any member of the public may address the committee Chair. It is expected that committee procedures will be less formal than full Council, but there will be formal business papers and reports available prior to the meeting.

Business papers and minutes of meetings will be available through Willoughby City Library, the Council website: <http://www.slsw.gov.au/plb/lbbs/willoughby/> or the Council information line, Tel 9777 1000. Background papers on the new Council meeting procedures are available from Nick Tobin, Tel. 9777 7500.

Bob McKillop, President

Our Foreshore Building Lines

The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning has referred the FBL issue to the Sydney Harbour Design Review Panel. This panel has been set up to advise the Minister on key sites on Sydney Harbour and the Parramatta River. No further action is expected until this committee reports.

1999 is International Year of the Elderly

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 7 March

Volunteers Wanted!

As usual, Castlecrag will hold clean-ups from Sunnyside Crescent along the reserve, the Castlecrag bus stop car park, Rockley Street Reserve, Sailors Bay mudflats and possibly other sites as well. For details of a site near you and to register as a volunteer, please phone Willoughby Council Environment Officer, Fiona McDonald on 9777 7681. The usual checklist applies: your hat, sunscreen and sound gloves, wear strong, enclosed shoes and bring a drink.

It would be great to see some new faces at all the sites. More hands make much lighter work and a cleaner environment.

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) Annual General Meeting

To be held Monday 8 March at 7.30pm in the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth St, Artarmon. The Guest Speaker will be Francis Grey, Economist on the topic: "Managing Natural Resources: Who pays and who benefits?" Mr Grey is a Melbourne consulting economist who has worked with the Commonwealth Treasury and has an extensive background in economy and the environment and in economics and public policy.

Heritage Week Bushwalk

On Sunday 18 April there will be a bushwalk to Explosives Reserve & Press Park, Castle Cove, organised by WCC Heritage Information Committee and lead by Gay Spies. Bookings are essential through Willoughby Library.

Griffin Houses Placed on Heritage Register

Two neighbouring Walter Burley Griffin houses in Castlecrag were recently placed on the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission.

The houses, known as the *Moon House* and the *Cheong House*, were built in 1922 for Melbourne Chinese investors in Griffin's company, the Greater Sydney Development Association (GSDA). Chin Wah Moon was a herbalist practising in Little Bourke St, Melbourne, and Cheok Hong Cheong was a superintendent of the Anglican Church in Melbourne, a great social reformer and one of the leading campaigners against the opium trade.

The *Moon* and *Cheong* houses are sited on adjacent blocks on the ridgetop of Castlecrag and still retain some of their once-magnificent views of Middle Harbour. Professor James Weirick from University of NSW has described Griffin's plan for Castlecrag as an "idealistic venture of living intimately with the natural landscape of bush and water". Griffin designed

NEXT CPA GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 23 February 1999

at the Community Centre, 8pm
the Agenda will include:

- Willoughby City Council's Draft Development Control Plan
- Castlecrag Transport Project
- Castlecrag's Millenium Project

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING ON LOCAL TRAFFIC Thursday 4 March 1999

at the Community Centre, 8pm

The second public meeting in Castlecrag is organised by WCC traffic consultants, Transport & Traffic Planning Associates, with Mr Ken Walsh, who asks residents to contribute ideas for: "sympathetic devices for a special suburb — solutions, not just problems".

CPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 28 March

at the Community Centre, 2.30pm

many public reserves into the Castlecrag subdivision to retain the peninsula's significant landforms, foreshore bushland and Middle Harbour views. The *Lookout Reserve* runs in front of the *Moon* and *Cheong* houses with a connecting walkway to the street running between them.

Griffin's design philosophy in Castlecrag was to subordinate the built environment to the natural beauty of Sydney's bushland. Thus one of his aims was to have no fences. Neither house has fences, but they are stepped on their sites so as not to interfere with each other's privacy.

Both houses are built of sandstone with flat roofs and both have unusual and unique decorative features. The *Cheong* house has banks of windows punctuated by square columns and dramatic vousoirs that rise from the two living room windows. The *Moon House* has bold crystalline elements that are decorative surrounds for all the windows and that also effectively shade the windows from the midday summer sun.

The placement of these two very significant houses on the Permanent Register of the National Estate is a fitting recognition by the Australian Heritage Commission of these two fine Walter Burley Griffin houses with Chinese connections.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership fee is \$10 per person (\$5 for students and those on a fixed income). Membership is for the calendar year and is renewable from 1 January 1999. Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Name: _____ \$	Signature: _____
Name: _____ \$	Signature: _____
Name: _____ \$	Signature: _____
Address: _____	Donation _____ \$

Our Constitution stipulates that a member of the Association must be a natural person who is a resident or ratepayer of the area (designated in Rule 1.3) being over the age of 18 years and has been approved for membership of the Association by the Committee. Two months membership is obligatory for a member to be eligible to vote. The names of the people applying for membership should be supplied with the membership fee. A person who was a member in 1997 will automatically be eligible to vote in 1998 as soon as the 1998 membership is paid (as long as the qualifying period has elapsed). A 'family' cannot be a member because a 'family' is not a real person. If a company owns a property in Castlecrag, then the directors of the company do not qualify for membership of the Association if they live outside Castlecrag.