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OUR NEXT MEETING:

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 27 October, 2009

7.30pm for 8.00pm

Guest Speaker:

Steven Head,
*Infrastructure Services
Manager, WCC*

Seven will cover Council's infrastructure initiatives, traffic management responses and current bushland/ open space programs.

See page 11 for further information

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED to the Community Centre, The Rampart (down laneway near intersection with The Postern).

'Marion' and 'Walter' go to the Fair



'Walter' and 'Marion' ponder today's streetscape in the Chatswood CBD as the volunteer puppeteers prepare to guide them in the Street Parade. Photo Linda Cairnes www.lindacairnes.com

Giant puppet reincarnations of Marion Mahony Griffin and Walter Burley Griffin were the stars of the Street Parade opening the Willoughby Spring Fair on the sunny spring morning of Saturday 12 September. Operated by volunteers from the Castlecrag community, 'Marion' and 'Walter' showed off their recently completed restoration to a large and appreciative audience as they paraded through the streets of Chatswood CBD.

Each of the larger-than-life puppets measures 3.5m in height and 1.1m across the wheeled base. Created in 1989, with two community theatre pieces written for them and having been at the forefront of community events for 20 years, they naturally have suffered from wear and tear. We were fortunate in being able to enlist the professional assistance of Linda Cairnes, a specialist in processional art and gigante figures, to restore the puppets with help from Steven Gow from the Haven Amphitheatre Committee. Lindy Batterham co-ordinated the project.

The restoration work included cleaning and touching up their clothes, a 'facelift' and mounting them on wheeled bases to

facilitate their handling. Three puppeteers are required for each puppet: one to push the new wheeled base and one to manipulate each arm.

The Castlecrag Progress Association, the Haven Amphitheatre Committee, the Walter Burley Griffin Society and Willoughby City Council each contributed \$750 to fund the restoration. The community is immensely grateful to Linda and Steven for their professional work and the bright future now given the puppets.

Kate Westoby, President of the Castlecrag Progress Association, said, "I am delighted with the restoration of the Walter and Marion puppets, and I welcome their return. They are important cultural icons which symbolise the origins of Castlecrag and the special qualities of our community."

The puppets will make a number of appearances before doing us proud by becoming Puppets in Residence at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in 2011, where they will be centre-stage in a new exhibition about Australian communities featuring Castlecrag and other notable areas.

Editors

THE CRAG

is the community newsletter of the
Castlecrag Progress Association Inc.

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membership renewals to the above address.

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Community Bytes

Traffic Lights at Eastern Valley Way

Gladys Berejklian, State Member for Willoughby, convened a site meeting at 3pm on 18 September to address the long-standing issue of a right-hand turn arrow on the traffic lights at the corner of Edinburgh Road and Eastern Valley Way. It was attended by two representatives of the Roads & Traffic Authority led by Peter Crosby; Steven Head, WCC Director of Infrastructure Services; Councillors Gail Giles-Gidney and John Hooper; Kate Westoby, President of the Progress Association and four Committee members; and several local residents. Speakers highlighted the safety concerns arising from the present situation, noting that while congestion generated driver frustration during peak periods that led to dangerous actions, higher speeds through the intersection at other times increased the potential for a fatal head-on crash. Motorists did their best to assist by demonstrating a range of bizarre and illegal movements for the assembled onlookers.

Peter Crosby offered a sympathetic response to the issues raised. He noted that a right-hand turn arrow for traffic exiting Castlecrag would require a corresponding arrow for traffic travelling east on Edinburgh Road and this would increase delay times for arterial traffic flows on Eastern Valley Way. While there is no clear outcome as yet, the meeting was very positive and we remain hopeful of a solution. In the meantime Council will provide the RTA with upgraded traffic counts for this location and it will undertake modelling of right-hand turn arrows to

identify the optimal configuration and phasing for maximum traffic flow efficiency.

Willoughby Incinerator update

A number of residents have been enquiring about the restoration of the Griffin-designed Willoughby Incinerator in Small Street (see *The Crag* 160, p.1 and 168, p. 11). The higher than expected level of concrete cancer in the building and the decision by Willoughby City Council to restore the chimney to its original configuration have resulted in extension of the restoration works.

Nevertheless, Willoughby residents had the opportunity to inspect progress of the works during the Spring Festival as Council was given temporary occupation of the building for the Willoughby Sculpture Prize from Saturday 26 September to Sunday 5 October. During 2008, artists from across Australia were invited to respond to the theme 'rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle'. The theme was selected to relate to the exhibition of sculptures at the Incinerator site and in consultation with Council and its Sustainability Charter. From the 188 entries in the inaugural Prize, 48 were selected for exhibition by the panel of art professionals.

Of the selected entries, 28 were exhibited across the three levels of the Incinerator building and the remaining 20 were located throughout the surrounding parklands. Two unique site specific installations—a dragon fly over a reed bed near Flat Rock Gully and Geoff Farquhar-Still's multi-media installation inside the building—were also on display to engage directly with the location and history of the site.

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Community Bytes cont...

Northbridge & Castlecrag Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber has initiated a series of 'business showcase' events at which firms will make presentations on their products and services to other members. The inaugural event was a breakfast at Castlecrag on 30 September at which Gourmet Source, Ganache Patisserie Francaise and Momo Interiors/Oven Fairy entertained members with some of their delights and made presentations on their services.

A concern of Chamber members from Castlecrag is to improve the aesthetics of our shopping village through improvements to the northern streetscape. Improving the parapet and awnings on the shops from 83-93 Edinburgh Road and obtaining Council assistance in upgrading the footpath are on the agenda.

Griffin Reserves Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee meeting on 20 August focused on the updated Reserve Action Plan for Cortile Reserve. With guidance from committee member David Martin, the Plan seeks to enhance the role of this Griffin Reserve by seeking to improve access, native plantings and interpretation. A low-key non-sealed pathway north of the Sports Club pavillion is proposed and a range of improvements is planned for the western entrance, including plantings with native species, exposure of rock faces, a seat, an interpretative sign and a pram ramp. Consultation will be undertaken with neighbours regarding alternative boundary treatments.

Under the Action Plan, the Cortile Parkland Group would undertake additional plantings using local species listed in the Castlecrag Local Plant Guide, while steps to improve the screening at the rear of the tennis pavillion were proposed. The Committee is planning to use a variety of media to interpret Cortile Reserve to users and other residents, and specific details are to be considered at the November meeting. Council is planning to remove two unsound poplar trees, which display notices regarding this intention.

GRAC Minutes, 20 August 2009, WCC Cultural & Environment Committee Agenda, 21 September.

President's musings

The Residents' Forum at the Progress Association's general meeting on Tuesday 25 August was my first public engagement during this term as President. This forum provided an opportunity for residents to raise issues affecting our suburb and it was great to have all three of our Ward Councillors present to update us on matters before Council and to participate in the forum. A summary of the forum is presented on page 4.

Cr Gail Giles-Gidney advised the meeting of the Roads & Traffic Authority's proposal to construct a suicide prevention barrier on the Suspension Bridge at Northbridge. The RTA has held some meetings with community groups, but there is widespread concern that this consultation process has been too restrictive and that no feedback from the meetings has been provided. I attended a meeting on 31 August organised by Cr Giles-Gidney and attended by Gladys Berejiklian MP, Mayor Pat Reilly, Councillors, Council officers from Willoughby and North Sydney Councils and representatives

of community groups. An Action Plan was set in place and details are covered below.

The Annual Willoughby Spring Festival is always a busy time with a large range of interesting events. The Street Parade for the Spring Fair on Saturday 12 September saw the newly restored Walter and Marion Griffin puppets grabbing the attention of large crowds as featured on page 1.

Traffic and transport issues are always a topic of concern among residents, particularly the long-standing efforts by our community to gain a right-hand turn arrow at the Eastern Valley Way traffic lights. As reported on page 2, a site meeting organised by Gladys Berejiklian with support from Cr Gail Giles-Gidney to address this matter was held on 18 September. I extend a warm welcome to all Castlecrag residents interested in traffic and transport issues to attend our next General meeting on 27 October at 8pm at which Steven Head, WCC Director of Infrastructure Services, will be the guest speaker.

Kate Westoby

Proposed safety barrier on Suspension Bridge

As residents will be aware from the media, a major issue in Sailors Bay Ward over recent months has been the proposal by the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) to erect an obtrusive safety barrier on the heritage-listed Suspension Bridge between Northbridge and Cammerary. The RTA's proposal was in response to a recommendation by the Coroner following an inquest of a suicide from the bridge. Thanks are extended to the Northbridge Progress Association (NPA) for the use of material from its newsletter, *The 202*, in preparing this article.

A 'community consultation' meeting on 23 July rejected the options proposed by RTA because they did not suit the heritage value of the bridge. That meeting called on RTA to run a competition among architects to find a new design which would meet the Coroner's recommendations and community acceptance.

At a meeting on 31 August, Willoughby and North Sydney Councils joined with six community organisations in an effort to persuade RTA to seek an acceptable solution for the safety barrier proposed for the Suspension Bridge to prevent suicides. Mayor Pat Reilly emphasised the

community's serious concern about mental health and its support for suicide prevention. The meeting concluded that RTA appeared to be favouring its lowest cost option—a 2.3 metre high steel picket fence above the concrete walls of the walkway—despite its negative impact on the appearance of the historic bridge.

Senior officers from both Councils have since met with the acting RTA head in an effort to convince the Authority to adopt a more suitable design that respects the heritage standing of the Suspension Bridge. While a number of alternative designs have been put forward, The Crag understands that any response by the RTA will only occur as a result of high-level political direction.

The Castlecrag Progress Association joins its colleagues in the NPA and Willoughby City Council in urging residents who object to RTA's preferred design to write direct to the Minister for Roads at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, or email office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au urging him to ensure new options in keeping with the heritage bridge are adopted.

Editors

based on *The 202*, September 2009

Castlecrag Progress Association Inc. Membership Form

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2009

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Residents' Forum

As advertised, the Progress Association general meeting on 25 August was an open forum for residents to raise their concerns about issues affecting our suburb, with contributions from others on how these should be best addressed. Our three Ward Councillors, Adrian Cox, Gail Giles-Gidney and John Hooper, were in attendance and participated in the forum, as well as making presentations on issues before Council of interest to residents.

The issues raised by residents and the resultant discussion were as follows:

Powerline tree lopping:

Residents deplored the practice of lopping street trees for overhead power lines, particularly the poor standards of application, and noted that as the web of communications cables has increased, so had the volume of branches excised. It was claimed that the move to contractors has led to pruning that actually encourages faster inappropriate regrowth requiring further trimming annually not just triennially. Noting the imminence of the national fibrecabling network, the high maintenance costs of power poles and the 'Third World' appearance of the resultant streetscapes, a resident asked whether it was time to seriously look at under-grounding of all power and communication lines?

An assessment of under-grounding power lines made by the CPA several years ago recommended running lines down each street with branch cable conduits from each property boundary. It was proposed that Castlegrag be a case-study for a trial under-grounding of powerline cables.

Improving the Gateway to Castlegrag:

Suggestions were put forward on how the 'gateway' could be improved, including the erection of two flag poles for seasonal/event banners and a sculptural statement near the Quadrangle bus-stop incorporating the 'Together We Grow' logo encapsulating community aspirations. It was agreed that those promoting this idea should prepare a draft proposal and submit it to Council through the Ward Councillors.

Footpaths, kerb and guttering:

Discussion on whether our streets need

better kerb and guttering drew a range of views. Most felt that the priority should be on minimising concrete responses to managing run-off, especially the use of right-angle kerbing. It was agreed that dish-drains and other means of slowing water flow are preferable and that attention needs to be given to the full length of each artificial waterway, not just the bottom-end. Rubbish retainers, gross pollutant traps, sediment filters then nutrient filters are required along each artificial waterway.

There was concern that safe pedestrian passage is not possible along a number of local streets due to topography, artificial barriers, and thoughtless parking. Tackling the problem would require the identification and prioritisation of requirements for each street noting current and likely numbers of pedestrians (and ages), numbers and types of blockages, and possible solutions ranging from neighbourly discussion to Council capital works.

Dogs in parks:

Dogs being let off leashes in non-approved parks and failure to remove their faeces was raised as a concern. The recommended action is for residents who observe such disobedience of regulations to phone the Council Ranger immediately. Fines for these offences range to \$550 and up to \$1000 including costs.

DA 'Ambit Claims'

A number of residents raised concerns regarding what they saw as 'Ambit Claims' made in development applications (DAs) for buildings located within the Conservation Area and asked if such claims could be summarily dismissed by Council officers where clearly in breach of the DCP? It was suggested that applicants (owners, not architects or agents) should be required to sign a sworn covering statement for each 'major' DA that they have read the relevant Planning Instruments and to the best of their knowledge and belief, the proposed DA complies except to the extent listed in the statement.

It was suggested that such a requirement might assist Council where an ambit claim slips through outside the guidelines and becomes a 'precedent' for others to refer

to. A patently untrue statement would be a relevant consideration as to merits and court cases in a later Court challenge. It would also reduce the huge waste of time and effort by Council officers and neighbours and community groups, and reduce the instances of owners feigning/claiming ignorance of their architects' breaches of the DCP.

Council DA policies:

Queries were raised regarding the submissions made to Council by the Progress Association regarding policy proposals submitted to Council for height poles and photo-montages. The fluorotaping of trees planned for removal under Development Application proposals was also raised. Ward Councillors asked the CPA to send copies of the proposals to them for consideration and follow-up.

Bruce Wilson

CONSIDERING A NEW HOME IN CASTLEGRAG?

A series of free public lectures to be given by some of Sydney's leading residential Architects are currently being planned for late 2009/2010.

These hour long evening presentations at the Castlegrag Community Centre will offer people either considering designing and building a new home, or those who are interested in Australian Architecture an opportunity to see a selection of contemporary styles and approaches to housing design appropriate for Castlegrag. These lectures will be followed by an opportunity for you to meet the architects to potentially discuss your project.

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Dr Ian Caithness Francis OAM

Photo: Patrick Boland

As reported in the last issue of *The Crag*, Dr Ian Caithness Francis MB, BS (Syd), FRACS, FRANZCO, FASOPRS, PhD (NSW), has been awarded a medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to medicine as an ophthalmologist. He is an ophthalmic surgeon practising at Chatswood and has been visiting ophthalmic surgeon in the Ocular Plastics Unit at the Prince of Wales Hospital since 1996.

Ian, his wife Lindy and family have lived in Castlecrag since 1998, when they moved back to Lindy's original home in The Barquette where her family had lived since 1952. Ian's family has been in The Parapet since 1954.

Dr Francis has had a stellar career since graduating as a young doctor with MB, BS degrees from Sydney University and Royal North Shore Hospital in 1972. He trained in ophthalmology at Concord Hospital, Sydney Eye Hospital, in England and in America and was Visiting Ophthalmic Surgeon, Concord Hospital from 1980 to 1996 and Head of Ocular Plastics Unit, Prince of Wales Hospital from 1996 to 2001. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeons and a Fellow of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Among Ian's more interesting assignments has been three months as Assistant Field Director of the National Trachoma and Eye Health Programme (NTEHP) in 1977, followed by four months as the Locum

Ophthalmologist in The Gambia, West Africa during 1979 with the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

For the past 32 years Ian has been an ophthalmic surgeon, researcher and teacher. He has taught and mentored many young ophthalmologists over the years and his contribution to teaching was formally recognised when he was held 'Best Teacher in Ophthalmology', Prince of Wales Hospital, 2005 and received an Award for Excellence in Registrar Teaching, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, 2007.

Ian also runs a quarterly 'Writers' Group', where a group of 10 to 12 young doctors and medical students join him in writing scientific articles or journal correspondence for submitting to peer-reviewed journals. This assists younger doctors in obtaining registrar training positions in ophthalmology through published works.

By the end of 2009, Ian will have published more than 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including some textbook chapters. His first paper (published in 1981) was researched in 1977 with Professor Fred Hollows and Father Dr Frank Flynn when Ian was at the NTEHP. It described a population of Australian Indigenous people in Port Keats and Peppimenarti (now Wadeye), who had a rare form of corneal scar, probably related to lues disease.

One of his recent papers was on the dilated retinal veins seen in patients who smoke. Clinically, there is a high correlation between the number of cigarettes smoked per day and the severity of the dilation of these "Smokers' veins". Another highlight was his paper on using the grape as a model to teach ophthalmic surgical trainees how to do capsulorhexis, arguably one of the most important steps in cataract surgery.

Ian was awarded a PhD from the University of New South Wales in May 2008 based on his work, 'The Watery Eye', and he is currently a Doctor of Science candidate of

the University of New South Wales, his thesis being on 'Advances in Cataract Surgery'.

Jill Newton

Glenaeon Building Project for the Castlecrag Campus

Work is soon to commence on proposed new buildings at the Glenaeon Castlecrag campus. At this stage construction is intended to commence during the December school holidays.

The Federal Government has awarded Glenaeon two million dollars for construction of a multipurpose hall and library as part of the Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) grants scheme. It is also intended to replace the portable classroom with new learning areas.

David Jacobsen and Victoria Cummings of Baxter Jacobson Architects have designed the new works for Glenaeon, while Construction Managers Paynter Dixon have been appointed to oversee the design and documentation process. The project is due to be completed by December 2010.

DA approval for these federally funded new works is not required. Glenaeon has met with, and shown initial designs to, representatives of the Castlecrag Progress Association, the Walter Burley Griffin Society and also Willoughby City Council. As a result of these meetings the original plans have been modified to maximise the retention of important large trees and to accommodate Sydney Water's access to the sewer main. The Progress Association has made some suggestions concerning surfaces, colours and plantings, all of which have been advised and will be taken into consideration by Glenaeon.

The Progress Association congratulates Glenaeon on its intent to retain and further develop the junior school on the Castlecrag campus.



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Councillor's Viewpoint



The second Saturday in September saw the annual Willoughby Spring Festival Parade. It was bigger and better than ever. Featured in the Parade were the

recently made-over Marion and Walter Burley Griffin gargantuan puppets. Fresh from a shot of botox and a lick of paint the puppets waltzed and glided down Victoria Avenue. Congratulations to all concerned in the restoration and gyrations.

Civic Place Loan reviewed

The Civic Place Project continues to gather pace with local builders AW Edwards and is on budget and ahead of schedule. Funding part of this significant community asset is a CPI linked long term loan of \$30 million. The loan was taken out before the Global Financial Crisis and it was felt prudent to have the facility independently reviewed by financial experts.

Denison Financial Advisory was retained and spent two evenings reporting to Council on all WCC's investments and borrowings. The loan was stress-tested under many different financial models based on historical and worst case scenarios. Not only did the current loan appear to be the most appropriate facility, it was also concluded that the timing and 'price' of the loan was most fortuitous and extremely attractive.

As they say; when you're on a good thing, stick to it!

Adaptive re-use breathes new life in heritage buildings.

Two years ago Council purchased the former Presbyterian Church on Sailor's Bay Road and work is well underway converting the delightful building into a permanent new home for the Northbridge Library. The high vaulted ceilings will remain and the addition of a mezzanine level will create a light and airy elevated loft space.

Once fit-out has been completed the space will be handed over to the Library staff with

an opening date scheduled before the end of the year. There has been no decision yet as to who will occupy the rear area, but the intention is for low impact activity that is compatible with the neighbourhood.

Another heritage building on the verge of renewal is the remarkable Walter Burley Griffin designed Incinerator located in Small Street in Bicentennial Reserve. Set over three levels it cascades down the hillside and is an excellent example of Griffin's distinctive use of triangular design patterns and wonderful use of local stone.



It is currently being extensively refurbished for community use as an exhibition space, artist studios and café and was the focal-point for the inaugural Willoughby Sculpture Prize. The Sculpture prize's central theme is 'rethink reduce reuse recycle'. Of the nearly 200 entries from across Australia only 48 were selected for the exhibition, which ran from Saturday 26 September to Monday 5 October 2009 as a highlight of the Willoughby Spring Festival program.

Adrian Cox

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Contact your Ward Councillors

If you have questions or issues to raise with your Ward Councillors, they are happy to be contacted:

Adrian.Cox@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 9958 1135

Gail.Giles-Gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 0438 633 587

John.Hooper@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Or phone 0418 239 195

350 boats for the planet

Get involved - Send a message to the politicians going to Copenhagen!

350 parts per million is what many scientists and climate experts now believe is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere.

Until about 200 years ago, our earth's atmosphere contained about 275 ppm of CO₂. With the advent of the industrial revolution, powered by the burning of fossil fuels, pollutants such as CO₂ and other gases such as methane were released into the atmosphere. CO₂, the most important of these gases (now known as greenhouse gases), has increased rapidly to between 380 and 390 ppm.

The important thing to remember about climate change is that it is the rate of increase in CO₂ concentration that is the problem. Scientists now believe that earlier predictions of a safe upper limit were too high. Changes – such as melting of Arctic summer sea-ice and Himalayan glaciers, rising sea levels and acidification of the oceans – are already occurring more rapidly and at temperatures lower than previously predicted.

That is why some of the world's leading climate scientists have revised downward the safe upper level of atmospheric CO₂ to 350 ppm. Foremost climate expert, NAASA's James Hansen, recently wrote:

If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted, palaeoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppm.

United Nations Day, Saturday 24 October,

has been chosen by the international lobby group, 350.org, as a day of global climate action to bring home to politicians that 350ppm is the target they must fight for in Copenhagen, where the goal is to finalize a new climate change agreement. And as politicians are influenced by numbers it is important that there are lots of people taking part in local actions.

Continued on page 7

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Recognising Joyce Batterham



The restored traffic island (right) and the new garden area (left). Council has offered to take the smooth top off the new sandstone to achieve a natural finish in keeping with other sandstone elements in the Conservation Area. Bob McKillop photo.

During 2007 a group of local residents came together to identify a suitable means of commemorating one of our outstanding former residents, Joyce Florence Batterham, who passed away on 16 November 2006 (The Crag 162, February 2007). Joyce first came to Castlecrag in 1931 when she came to stay with her eldest brother Edgar Deans in the GSDA No. 2 House at 140 Edinburgh Road. She soon became enmeshed with the community and, following her marriage in 1941 to Bob Batterham, Joyce and Bob came to live here permanently.

Joyce joined with Edgar Deans, Frank Duncan and others in 1944 to establish the Castlecrag & East Willoughby Community Advancement Co-operative Society to raise funds for a community centre. That dream

was fulfilled in November 1947 when the centre was officially opened, after which Joyce turned her many talents to establishing a local school for the community. The efforts of Joyce and others in the community were rewarded on 30 June 1950 when the Castlecrag Infants' School was formally opened on the Edinburgh Road site. The government's decision to close the school at the end of 1989 aroused Joyce's deep sense of social injustice, and she and her daughter Lindy played leading roles in the community's fight to retain the school. With the sale of the site to the Gleneaon Rudolph Steiner School in 1994, many felt that a central link in our community activities had been lost.

The island at the corner of Edinburgh Road and The Parapet is one of the most significant in Castlecrag, providing a 'gateway' to the Griffin Conservation Area and an important vegetative vista to the two original Griffin houses at 140 and 136 Edinburgh Road. It also stands opposite the former Castlecrag Infants' School. In 1994 the community held a large ceremony here to mark the end of its long fight to retain the school as a public facility, at which ceremony the site was named the 'Isle of Lament'.

Accordingly, this island was seen as the ideal site to commemorate Joyce's contribution to the Castlecrag community. Discussions were held with Council officers in 2008 at which it was agreed that rehabilitation of the island and an increase in the planted area (back towards its original size) would be an ideal way to commemorate Joyce. Following further

discussions in January 2009, changes were made to the proposed design to provide an additional garden area to the north of the existing island with a pedestrian pathway between this and the existing planting. Council staff have now completed the restoration of the island and the new extension has been surrounded by sandstone, and an unobtrusive timber and stone bench will be erected in the garden. The Castlecrag Progress Association and the Walter Burley Griffin Society have jointly funded a commemorative plaque that acknowledges Joyce's contribution to our community. It is planned that a community planting event will be held later in the year when locally indigenous plants sourced by Council will be planted in the newly restored island.

Editors

350 boats

Continued from page 6

How you can get involved:

North Shore Climate Action Group, supported by Willoughby Council, is organising *Hope Floats* at Northbridge Baths. 350 paper boats will be launched at 3.50 pm and kayaks will make a 350 formation, which will be photographed from a nearby hill for the 350.org website. Arrive at the Baths with your boat at 3pm, preferably on foot or bicycle. The cafe will be open and toilets are available. To make a paper boat, visit ClimateClever News, September 2009 at willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Gay Spies

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LETTERS to the Editor

Glenaeon School Development, 1

The Castlecrag Progress Association (CPA), the Walter Burley Griffin Society and Willoughby Council were approached by the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School seeking feedback from community groups on its proposed new classroom block, facilities and school hall (see article re the project on page 5). CPA representatives met with Glenaeon on two occasions offering suggestions in relation to siting, building materials and landscape. The CPA then wrote to Glenaeon in support of its proposal, while noting the above suggestions.

The following two letters have been received in response to the proposed building works, with particular reference to the proposed siting of the school hall to the western end of the Edinburgh Road campus frontage. Older Castlecrag residents remember the school site as a dust bowl. The area proposed for the hall is not bushland. It is currently landscaped with native vegetation, some of it local, which was planted after the school opened in June 1950, commencing with the brush box. The major planting was undertaken in 1974. The School's proposal, which retains the trees along the street frontage, has the potential for much improved landscaping using local plants, and achieving greater diversity and habitat as well as a much more aesthetic outcome.

**James Fitzpatrick
Elizabeth Lander
Jill Newton
& Gay Spies
CPA Committee Members**

Glenaeon School Development, 2

I write concerning the proposals for redeveloping the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School's Castlecrag site. A redevelopment plan should enhance the amenity of the school and improve its interface with the community. A cursory examination of the site constraints and advantages clearly indicates that buildings on the site need to be as compact and subservient to the existing environment as possible. This will maintain as much of the natural

environment as possible and enhance the functional requirements of the school.

Early educational facilities must present a non-institutional feeling for the children so that the trauma of leaving the security and comfort of home is reduced. Unrelated buildings scattered across the site do not do this.

The proposed position of the multi-purpose hall (see *The Crag* 170, February 2009) has not considered these factors, but will present a continuation of the hard-edged built forms currently under construction adjacent to the school along Edinburgh Road. To address these factors it is necessary to:

- maintain a non-institutional appearance from Edinburgh Road;
- advantageously use land contours of the site to reduce the bulk of buildings; and
- ensure that school and public circulation routes are more integrated.

One way of starting to achieve this is to combine the new hall and the existing amenities building which is proposed to be refurbished and extended. If a new amenities facility were to be positioned under the northern side of the hall then the exiting contours would enable the amenities to be directly accessed from playground level. With the hall placed above then it can be more directly linked to the classroom circulation which is on a higher level to the playground, thereby integrating the hall more into the identity of the school. Also if the school is genuine in integrating more with the community then there should only be one entry point from Edinburgh Road, to the school and hall. This has advantages for pupil security and after hours access to the hall can still be separate from the school circulation routes.

Note also, if there are funding constraints then the Hall/Amenities complex can be built in two stages with stage 1 being the new Amenities and its roof could be used as part of the floor of the Hall in stage 2.

**Don Coleman
The Bulwark**

Glenaeon School Development, 3

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc fully supports the educational philosophy of the

Glenaeon Rudolph Steiner School and its desire to have a hall for students and parents that can also be used by the community, at the Glenaeon Castlecrag Infants Campus.

The Society has met with Glenaeon representatives on three occasions, and expressed its concerns regarding the proposed location of the hall on the last pocket of bushland left on the school site. We also emphasised the need for a masterplan for the site, now the school has sold two of its blocks of land.

The WBSG wishes to achieve a good outcome for the Castlecrag community, the school and its students (present and future). We believe this requires the aesthetic amenity of the site, which includes the bushland, to be maintained. This would also reflect the Griffin heritage of the location.

We have appealed to the school to value its precious pocket of bushland, retain it as amenity and a teaching tool, and preserve it by relocating the proposed hall away from the bushland. Now with construction of houses proceeding on the two neighbouring blocks, this bushland pocket is the last left on the ridgetop along Edinburgh Road. It has five Angophoras (Sydney Red Gums), only two of which would be retained if the hall was built in this location. There are also Eucalypts, Casuarinas, Acacias, 10 Kunzea (now rare in Castlecrag) bushes, and other small indigenous species.

There are other areas on the school site where the hall could be built including just to the north of the bushland. If located there, the proposed hall could be integrated with the proposed central assembly area, and all the bushland could be retained.

If the hall was to be relocated away from the bushland, the beauty of the bushland interface with the adjacent environment of Castlecrag and the Griffin Conservation Area will be maintained. This would achieve a win-win outcome for both the school and the Castlecrag community and be consistent with the school's educational philosophy.

**James Weirick
President
Walter Burley Griffin Society**

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RUBBISH, RUBBISH, RUBBISH – Part 2

Continuing from the article in the August issue of The Crag, this article provides a summary of current advice from WCC with thanks to Tejinder Gill, Waste Education Officer, for assistance.

RECYCLABLE WASTE

Definitions of acceptable material for the Recycling (Yellow Lid) Bins are constantly changing with improved sorting technology, with the result that much information provided in the recent past is now out of date. As a general maxim: IF IN DOUBT LEAVE IT OUT, since the inclusion of even a small quantity of unacceptable material in a batch for recycling can pollute the entire batch.

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Paper	
General and office paper (including staples and 'window' envelopes), cardboard (cartons preferably flattened), newspaper, clean pizza and other food boxes.	Waxed or oily paper, greasy pizza boxes, cartons with wax or metallic lining, metallic wrapping paper, paper towels, tissues or napkins (these are hydroscopic).
Glass	
Wine and beer bottles (including tight aluminium rings around bottles, removed by modern sorting technology), rinsed food jars (preferably with lids and plastic tops removed; labels may be left on as they will burn off during processing).	Broken bottles, toughened glass (eg Pyrex), drinking glasses, light bulbs, ceramics, mirrors, window or picture frame glass.
Plastic	
The main change to previous practice is that we are now advised to IGNORE the triangle symbols and numbers on containers because improved sorting technology has made them redundant.	
Hard plastic empty food and drink containers (rinsed, not squashed) with lids separated (leave plastic rings around plastic bottles as modern technology removes these in sorting), plastic cleaning product containers, Tupperware, small flower pots.	Soft plastic food containers (eg biscuit trays), plastic bags or wrapping, containers which have held hazardous substances or chemicals, small plastic items such as lids which block sorting filters. As a guide, nothing smaller than 90mm (the long side of a credit card) should be included.
Steel cans	
Empty rinsed general steel drink and food cans (test with a magnet).	Cans which have held noxious or hazardous substances (eg paint or chemicals).
Aluminium	
Clean hard aluminium trays and cans.	Aluminium cooking foil (unless squashed)



Percolators at WSN recycling centre.
Photo: WSN Environmental Solutions

Batteries

Single-use, rechargeable and phone batteries can be recycled free at Council's Help & Service Centre, Level 4, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood (Phone: 9777 1000) between 8.30am and 5pm weekdays

Car batteries and single use batteries can be taken to the Artarmon Transfer Station (fees apply) or dropped off at Department of Environment and Climate Change Chemical Cleanout events (see www.cleanout.com.au for locations and dates).

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Battery World, 5 Mitchell Road Brookvale (9939 2439) or 39 Church Street Ryde (9807 8582).

Compact fluorescent lights

Compact fluorescent lights [CFLs] should not be discarded into landfill; they should be disposed of through recycling, either at Council's Help and Service Centre (see above), through an e-waste collection or through a Chemical Cleanout event (broken CFLs should be wrapped in newspaper, bagged and put into the garbage as there is currently no separate system for their disposal).

Other WCC initiatives

- The Fridge Buyback programme (details www.fridgebuyback.com.au or 1800 708 401)
- Two e-waste drop-off events per year (the next will be on 14 November)

See the WCC website for details relating to waste management:

<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/A-Z-of-Recycling.html>

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Don Quixote? The Quest of a Sensible Man at The Haven Amphitheatre Castlecrag

From 27 November through to 5 December 2009

He does not suffer from insanity; he enjoys every moment of it!

Epicentre Theatre Company brings back to life "The knight of the Rueful Countenance" in this modern adaptation of Miguel de Cervantes' classic tale. Presented under the stars at the beautiful Haven Amphitheatre in Castlecrag, the play portrays the imaginary life of an old man in a nursing home who believes he is Don Quixote, the famous knight-errant. When his imaginary world collides with the "real world", his family and the medical staff will do anything to bring him back to his former life – even join him in his fantasy... Quirky and spectacular, this play blurs the fine line between Reality and Illusion.

Adapted and directed by French Canadian director Judith Bédard, this production features Gary Woods as Mr Quinn, our would-be knight, and North Shore resident Matt Cook as Sancho Panza.

What happens to the wide-eyed observer when the window between reality and unreality breaks and the glass begins to fly?
I guess you'll have to be there to find out!

Tickets are on sale at Roger Page Real Estate in Castlecrag, or by phoning **9975 6780**.
Adults \$25 - Concessions \$20

Dates: November 27, 29, December 4, 5 at 8 pm.
Matinees: Saturdays November 28 and December 5 at 2 pm.
November 29 and December 6 at 5 pm

Visit Epicentre Theatre Company's website for more details or to book online:
www.epicentretheatre.org.au

2009 Carols Spectacular Choir

Each Christmas Eve for the past 25 years, several hundred residents and their friends from Castlecrag and the surrounding suburbs gather at the magical Haven Amphitheatre to share in the celebration of Carols by Candlelight.

In 2009 The Haven is preparing for a truly spectacular Christmas Eve Extravaganza event in this magnificent setting. The Haven Amphitheatre committee will host a superb 14 voice choir, 'The Savoy Singers', with exceptional soloists and an orchestral ensemble for the evening. The Haven Committee is planning to capture the whole event for the community archives on CD and DVD.

Together with The Savoy Singers and a local school choir, the organisers are planning to rehearse a community choir to complete the singing experience and are looking for interested locals who would like to join in this important event. Visit www.thehaven.biz for details of the program and rehearsals. Please check the box below re joining and get involved.

Jack Metcalfe

A 'Community Choir' is being gathered to sing all the favorite carols along with the professional singers.

This will provide a strong lead to all the nearby audience. All ages are welcome.

Weekly rehearsals will start mid-November, probably Wednesday 18th at the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Please email Bruce and Karen Wilson at info@thehaven.biz with Subject line 'Community Choir'.

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Council News

Bus Tour to Eastern Creek Alternative Waste Technology (AWT) Facility

Willoughby City Council (WCC) has arranged for another bus trip to the Eastern Creek Alternative Waste Technology Facility on Monday 9 November 2009 from 8.30am-1pm. Participants will meet at the Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood.

WCC, as one of the first councils to use alternative waste technology for its waste, sends approximately half of its household waste to the Eastern Creek UR-3R (Urban Resource – Reduction, Recovery & Recycling) Facility. This facility captures bio-gas product from waste, not only producing green electricity, but also significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Learn about innovative technologies and see an example of a landfill where the remaining waste ends up.

The tour is free but bookings are essential (maximum 15 people). Contact Tejinder Gill, Waste Education officer on 9777 7730 or email tejinder.gill@willoughby.nsw.gov.au Please wear enclosed flat shoes and full length trousers.

Willoughby's e-waste

Willoughby residents can be confident that their electronic waste does not end up either in landfill or is illegally shipped to countries such as India or China where it becomes a danger to worker's health or to the environment.

While some other councils dither, waiting for agreement on a national e-waste policy and recycling options, Willoughby City Council has contracted for e-waste to be collected by PGM Refiners Pty Ltd, an Australian-owned waste and recycling company. PGM Refiners have built a state-of-the-art processing plant in Victoria, which has the ability to convert electronic waste into its recyclable components, making it the only facility of its kind in Australia.

PGM is using green technologies developed in-house to separate the e-waste into its major components, being plastic, printed circuit boards, PVC copper, steel and glass, which are then sent downstream for advanced reprocessing (except for CRT glass). The CRT glass is monitored for hazardous content (lead) then immobilised and compacted to approximately 10 per cent of its original volume to be disposed of in a licensed landfill. It has been a common practice by other recycling companies to send the CRT material to lead smelters. This invariably ends up as waste slag due to the low lead content in the glass.

PGM Refiners has developed facilities which recycle 95 per cent of electronic material collected. The recycled products are sent to companies in NSW and across Australia for reuse in their products. Part of the remainder is disposed of as hazardous

material which cannot be recycled. A small percentage is also reused overseas by precious metal companies.

Unlike many Australian companies, PGM Refiners abide by strict Australian laws and by the Basel Convention which governs the export of electronic waste material. No material is transported illegally to China or any other country. Council also chose PGM because the company is building a battery recycling plant in Newcastle, thus enabling council to support Australian job creation and to identify transparent routes for the final destination of its e-waste.

Make sure that you don't put your e-waste out on the nature strip - it will end up in landfill. Instead take it to Council's free collection point. The next event is on the weekend of 14th - 15th November, at Bicentennial Reserve, Small Street, Willoughby. 9am-4pm, proof of residence required.

You can drop off computers, monitors, DVD players, modems, laptops and notebooks, CDs and disks, TVs, keyboards, printers, video players, other computer parts, stereo systems, computer cables, scanners and fax machines. Items should be loose or in a cardboard box. Plastic packaging such as styrofoam and plastic bags will not be accepted. There is a limit of three televisions and three computer units per household. Large printers or photocopiers will not be accepted.

For more information phone Council's Help & Service Centre on 9777 1000.

Gay Spies

Council's future directions in infrastructure and open space

Castlecrag Progress Association General Meeting – Tuesday 27 October

The guest speaker at the Progress Association's General Meeting on Tuesday 27 October will be Steven Head, the Infrastructure Services Director at Willoughby City Council. Steven joined Council in late 2007 with 13 years experience in local government including roles at Ku-ring-gai, Parramatta and Warringah Councils, comprising both planning and service delivery functions across a wide range of Council's responsibilities. Prior to local government, he owned and managed a private business providing services in sports turf, amenity horticulture and facility management.

Steven has brought innovative approaches to his areas of responsibility, which cover open spaces and bushland, infrastructure and traffic management. He will outline the challenges facing Council and its response in areas such as road maintenance and building works, public transport and traffic management, and the enhancement of Willoughby's extensive areas of bushland and open space. He will also outline specific projects relating to Castlecrag and Sailors Bay Ward, such as work to upgrade library facilities at Northbridge, the proposed Market Garden Park development, traffic

management around schools and sporting facilities, and current programs to upgrade and manage our parks and bushland reserves. As well as this Steven will also respond to specific questions from the audience.

All residents are welcome and refreshments will be available from 7.30pm, so come along and during a relaxed social gathering catch up on what your Council is doing. The meeting is at the Community Centre, The Rampart. Parking is limited at the Centre, so please park in The Rampart or The Postern and walk down to leave space for disabled residents.



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Community Notice Board

Community Organisations

Castlecrag Progress Association:

'Representing the Castlecrag Community'

General Meeting: Tuesday 27 October from 7.30pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre with Steven Head as guest speaker on 'Council's infrastructure initiatives, traffic management responses and bushland/open space programs' (see Pages 1 and x). All welcome.

Further information: info@castlecrag.org.au

Castlecrag Community Library: Support your local library. Opening hours: Tuesday 3–4.30pm; Thursday 2–5pm; Saturday 10am–12noon. Phone: 9958 8395.

Castlecrag Conservation Society: The next meeting will be held on 19 November at 8pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre. Speaker to be confirmed. Information: Harold Spies 9958 8569

CragSitters: A local community group providing families with an opportunity to network and provide contact with available babysitters in the area. Information: cragitters@yahoo.com.au

Walter Burley Griffin Society: Annual General Meeting, Saturday 1 November, 3pm, at the Glebe Incinerator. Guest Speaker, Brett Odgers, Chair of the WBGs Canberra Chapter, on his recent trip to Walter Burley Griffin buildings and archives in the United States, together with iconic Frank Lloyd Wright buildings. Note: the date of this even may change, so please check the website at: www.griffinsociety.org.au

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA): The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 November at the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street at 8pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Bushwalk to Blue Mountains to be held on 8 November; details to be advised. See <http://wepa.org.au/> for information.

Other Events / Notices

Northbridge Progress Association (NPA): The next general meeting of the NPA will be held on Wednesday 9 December (AGM) at 8pm, St Marks Hall, Malacoota Road

Sydney Opera Society: Saturday 7 November at 2pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, cnr Laurel and High Streets, Willoughby. There will be a change of topic for this presentation, with the presenter to be advised. Further information: Shirley Robertson 9605 5851 or Nancy Fleming 9958 3110. The Society's annual Christmas party will be held on Saturday 5 December, 5pm at the Castlecrag Community Centre. RSVP please to Shirley Robertson 9605 5851.

WCC e-waste collection: Saturday 14 November from 9am to 4pm at lower car park, Bicentennial Reserve (off Small Street)—see page 11 for details.

Older Women's Network Chatswood: 'Walking for Health', Guided bushwalks for older women.

24 October through Ferndale Park from 10am–12.30pm. Meet at the entrance near 31 Grenville Street for a walk along the fern-clad Swaines Creek to the Dalrymple Street exit.

21 November, in Warners Park, Northbridge from 2pm to 4.30pm. Meet at the Park Centre at the end of The Outpost for a tour of the Community Garden and water conservation project, with discussion on bushcare and bushland regeneration during a short level walk in the surrounding area. Afternoon tea is provided.

There is a free return bus from the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood. Bring comfortable shoes, a hat, water and a walking stick for balance when walking in the bush. Bookings are essential, 9419 8007.

Hope Floats paper boat sailing event: Climate action event at Northbridge Baths, Saturday 24 October. (see page 6).

The Community Notice Board is a service by the Castlecrag Progress Association.
Please contact editors@castlecrag.org.au with details of forthcoming events and activities for inclusion.

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