

NEWS UPDATE

March 1996

*Marion as Other: talk by Judy Wells on Thursday 28 March at 8pm
Uniting Church Hall, 20 Charles Street, Castlecrag.*

Judy Wells who is studying at the University of Newcastle will talk on Marion Mahony Griffin and society's marginalisation of her, despite her significant achievements in her own right as an architect. The Society's General Meeting will commence at 8pm and Judy as guest speaker will talk after this brief meeting.

Conservation and the Griffins: This one-day conference held at Newman College, University of Melbourne, on Saturday 24th February had a wealth of interesting speakers and an audience of more than one hundred.

Newman College's archivist/librarian **Jane Carolan** is to be congratulated on organising such an excellent and stimulating conference. **Jeff Turnbull** who gave a guided tour of the college explained that Griffin was commissioned in 1915 to design the Catholic college and it was completed in 1918. During the 1960s modernist trend, much of the Griffin-designed furniture was intentionally left out in the street for people to help themselves, with very little retained by the college. Thus it was a delight to see that Jane Carolan had located and organised the return of a lot of the Griffin-designed furniture to the college. Jane has also written and published a booklet titled *The Collegiate Furniture of Walter Burley Griffin* which is available from Newman College, University of Melbourne. (cost \$5 plus postage).

Professor David Dolan, Director of the Centre of Cultural Heritage Studies, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, gave the opening address, pointing out the dual readings of the title of the conference - conservation of the Griffins' work, and also the interest the Griffins took in conservation. David also stated that Perth had a claim to Griffin heritage because Griffin had designed an impressive building for the Young Australia League Memorial Institute in Perth, but unfortunately the Institute built a neo-classic building instead so these plans were never realised.

Assoc. Professor Peter Proudfoot from the School of Architecture at Univ. of NSW, and author of *The Secret Plan for Canberra* gave a controversial talk on Griffin's symbolism and links to Aboriginal cosmology.

This was followed by a fascinating talk by architect and conservation consultant **Arthur Andronas** who has been responsible for the recent conservation work at Newman College. His slides showed the sorry state that existed before conservation work began. The twelve spires (representing the twelve apostles surrounding the centre spire crowning the large dome at the central cornerpiece of the college) had been specified by Griffin to be constructed in reinforced concrete but had been built in B-grade Barraball sandstone. This was weathering and exfoliating so badly that they were removed in the mid-1940s leaving only the stump of the centre spire. Arthur Andronas with the help of computer drawing extrapolation, has recreated the spires in

reinforced concrete as specified by Griffin. They were hoisted into place to crown the dome in the early 1920s and beautifully complete the elegant stature of the college as Griffin intended.

The exfoliation of the Barrabal sandstone on the main buildings has also been a problem. Here too Griffin specified reinforced concrete but the Barrabal sandstone, which varies from B to D grade but does not come in A grade, was used instead. Consequently the sandstone on one facade had weathered so badly that Griffin's design intent of a smooth surface with sharply defined lines, had been lost. Arthur Andronas stated that the only solution in 1978 was to replace the stone but this was too expensive and not necessarily desirable because Griffin had specified concrete and not sandstone. Andronas in the 1990s recreated the dressed stone finish using hymix concrete and stainless steel reinforcing - the end result being remarkably like that of the dressed sandstone. Other conservation work at the college has also included replacing corroded reinforcement bars in the terraces and replacing broken paving tiles on the terraces.

Following this talk, **Christopher Vernon, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at Univ. of Illinois, USA**, gave a fascinating talk on *Landscape as a Living Organism: the Griffins, Ecology, Conservation and Landscape Architecture*. Well before Griffin won the Canberra competition he was involved with the Playground Association committee which organised walks of the natural remnants of the Chicago area. This committee included scientists and geographers and gave Griffin his early exposure to ecology. With this knowledge and the explosive suburban growth of the early twentieth century, Griffin was propelled to preserve natural remnants and to rehabilitate ecosystems as at Mason City. In August 1914, the year after he arrived in Australia, Griffin joined the Naturalist Society of NSW, largely comprised of botanists and scientists, which organised bushwalks. Griffin quickly developed a deep and abiding passion for Australian flora and said that no tree equalled the beauty of the eucalypt. Marion made an elegant system of drawings of native trees and 100 pages of plant lists.

Although many people were studying native plants Griffin was one of the first to use them in planting. Newman College retains Griffin's landscaping plans for the college that include a wide variety of native plants. Christopher Vernon in association with Robert Boden is researching the suitability of Griffin plans for planting in Canberra.

Anne Watson, Senior Curator, Decorative Arts and Design, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, spoke about the Griffin Exhibition that will open at the Powerhouse in November 1997, travel to Melbourne in April 1998 to coincide with the Griffin Exchange Program and then go to the Arts Institute of Chicago in early 1999. The exhibition will focus not only on the design aspects of the lives of the Griffins but also importantly on the social aspects.

Associate Professor Robert Freestone, School of Planning and Urban Development, Univ. NSW, spoke about Griffin's interest in preserving important elements of the built environment and how, with Ida Leeson's encouragement, he joined the campaign to preserve Hyde Park Barracks and had a letter concerning the need for its preservation published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* June 18 1935.

Judy Wells, University of Newcastle, then spoke about Marion Mahony Griffin and the fact that despite her very significant contribution she has been marginalised, and the way she marginalised herself. Judy will be giving this very interesting talk at the next General Meeting of the Society on 28 March, 8pm at the Uniting Church Hall, 20 Charles Street, Castlecrag.

Professor James Weirick, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Univ. of NSW, gave the concluding talk on *Castlecrag and Conservation* and spoke of the many ways that the Griffin architecture at Castlecrag had been compromised, and the need for a new respectful approach. Griffin's fundamental design concepts had a spiritual not a material impulse, and so when they are compromised by development and materialism they lose their soul and can cause major intractable problems. Professor Weirick called for a new approach to be devised for the conservation of Griffin's work at Castlecrag. "*With Griffin you have to have an ideal and recreate the ideal, recreate the philosophical approach*".

The conference was closed by Victorian MP **Kevin Andrews** who lived at Newman College as a student for five years and who felt an affinity with the Griffins and the significant contribution they made.

Community consultation for the Griffin Reserves Plan of Management:

Willoughby City Council (WCC) has engaged consultants **Meredith Walker** and **Michael Lehany** to prepare, with community consultation, a Plan of Management for the Castlecrag Griffin reserves, walkways and road islands. A community meeting to discuss issues was held on 29th February and this will be followed by site meetings at each of the reserves on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March at the following times:

Cortile	Saturday 9th 9.30am (behind Edinburgh Road and The Parapet)
Lookout	10.00am (behind The Parapet and Sortie Port)
Casement	11.00am (off The Redoubt and The Barbette)
Embrasure	12 noon (behind The Bastion, The Battlement, The Bulwark)
Tower	1pm (off Edinburgh Road) (bring lunch)
Buttress	2.30pm (off The Citadel and The Bartizan)
Oriel	3.30pm (off The Bartizan)
Gargoyle	4.00pm (behind The Battlement and The Bulwark).
Turret Sunday 10th 9.30am	
Keep	10.30am
Watergate	11am (foreshore reserve along The Rampart and Th Barbette)
Sailors Bay Park	12 noon (at the parking area)
Haven Amphitheatre	1pm (bring lunch)
Retreat and Castlehaven Reserves	2.00pm
Cheyne Walk	3.30pm
Linden Way Reserve	4.00pm

The draft plan will then go on public display in early May and go to Council for adoption at the end of June. After many years of neglect we congratulate Willoughby City Council for initiating this plan, and for engaging such well-qualified consultants - Meredith Walker is a heritage planning consultant and Michael Lehany a landscape architect and heritage consultant.

Management Committee Report (to the AGM, 26th October 1995)

The Society has had another eventful and productive year.

At each of the three **General Meetings** held during the year, there has been a very interesting guest speaker:

- at last year's AGM, Anna Rubbo about Marion Mahony Griffin and the research Anna has done in the USA;
- in March, conservation architect Scott Robertson spoke on the conservation work on the Stella James house, or Griffin Lodge, at Avalon for the National Trust;
- in August, Anne Watson, curator from the Powerhouse Museum, spoke about the international exhibition on the Griffins planned for 1997, that Anne is curating and that will have a strong social history emphasis.

GSDA No.1 Dwelling was sold at auction for \$465,000 in February and the separate dwelling sold a week later. HHT has said that they broke even on the project and that considering the two-year exposure of the house's conservation versus the cost of an exhibition, it was a very successful project. So much so that HHT are now looking for another temporary acquisition.

The **Chicago Art Institute** visited Australia in February and James Weirick took them on a guided tour of the Griffins' Castlecrag. We learned later from the organisers that many people thought the tour was the highlight of the whole Australian trip.

In April, as part of Willoughby City Council's **Heritage Week** program, two guided tours of the Griffin Castlecrag walking tracks and reserves were given by Sean Lander and Adrienne Kabos. Also in Heritage Week, the Society became the recipient of a Sydney Electricity/National Trust Heritage Week award for our book. At a luncheon at the Museum of Contemporary Art we were presented with the award - a framed print by Jenny Kee. The book has now sold more than 800 copies.

It was good to see the long-delayed book, **Walter Burley Griffin: Landscape Architect**, written as a Masters thesis by Peter Harrison twenty years ago, at last published this year by the National Library. Also at the National Library, the exhibition **An Ideal City?** opened, and is now on display at the Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street. This exhibition shows 46 of the surviving entries in the 1912 competition to design Canberra, and is the work of the National Library, Australian Archives, and the National Capital Planning Authority.

Concurrently, the Australian National University organised an Urban History/Planning History Conference 26-30 June at ANU at which there were several lectures directly related to the Griffins' work. It is excellent to see so much interest and well-deserved attention at long last being paid to the Griffins.

Willoughby City Council in November last year established the Heritage Information Committee. This committee resulted partly from the Heritage Seminar that the Society organised with the Art Deco Society in October 1993. Trevor Waters and Adrienne Kabos represent the Society on this committee as alternates.

It was disappointing that WCC then chose to remove 50 heritage properties including the Duncan House from its draft heritage LEP just before it lodged it with the Dept of Planning.

The Society is pleased that WCC has recently appointed consultants Meredith Walker and Richard Lehany to prepare a conservation plan for Griffin's Castlecrag reserves, walkways, road islands and nature strips.

The **Festival** commemorating the 75th anniversary of the GSDA held on 27th August was an enormous success, attracting hundreds from outside of Castlecrag including some who had travelled from Canberra and country areas for the day. Many thanks to all who helped: the committee and members of the Society, helpers from the Castlecrag community, and the Haven Amphitheatre Committee. Without their help the Festival would not have been possible. The Festival took nearly nine months to plan, so it has been a very intensive year for the committee. Sincere thanks to retiring committee members Colleen Fry, Trevor Waters and Lisa Purser, and welcome to new members Maggie Chambers, John McInerney and Anna Rubbo.

The new committee elected: **Adrienne Kabos** (president), **James Weirick** (vice president), **Kerry McKillop** (secretary), **John Kabos** (treasurer), **Max Bourke**, **Maggie Chambers**, **John McInerney**, **Sue Randle**, **Howard Rubie**, **Akky Van-Ogtrop**, **Anne Watson** (committee).

Following the AGM, guest speaker **Professor Carrick Chambers**, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, gave the following fascinating address:

Bushland Legacy: a Social Responsibility

As I thought about this talk I kept feeling how much easier my task would have been if I could have spoken directly to Walter and Marion and asked them questions, the answers to which would help me understand their interpretation of Australian vegetation, of Australian scenery, and some of their long-term expectations for Castlecrag. Griffin wrote in an article *Occupational Conservation* in the 1935 edition of *The Wildlife Preservation Society's Journal*: "*The motive of the suburban development (his estate in Castlecrag) has been the permanent preservation of the pristine loveliness of some five miles of remnant of rock-bound woodland coves, through the diligence of numerous interested owners and appreciative rangers. ...The whole of the shores, the predominant heights, the caves and sculptural rocks, are embraced in a connected system of local reserves, which separate and screen the lots apart....*"

He goes on to write (remember this is 1935): "*The acid soil of the Hawkesbury Sandstones underlying the Middle Harbour Headlands has furnished what is undoubtedly the cleanest, most delicate and varied ligneous evergreen perpetually blooming flora extant. For these reasons no vegetation could be better to live with, free as it is of rank growth, brambles, nettles, burrs, weeds or plants seasonally untidy. Moreover, it will persist through drought without watering and recover from abuse without help, provided the peculiar nature of the soil is respected and manures and exotic seeds are kept out.*" He went on to state: "*Not the least important factor in the conservation of nature here is, however, the covenant-controlled housing to prevent obtrusive and obstructive buildings and enclosures.*"

We live in an age of increasing concern for our bushland legacy, and also of increasing appreciation of the subtleties of our Australian landscape. But there is greater pressure to develop sites more intensively, to cover more ground with buildings, and as can be seen at parts of this peninsula and in other places, to destroy every remnant of bushland by redeveloping large wall to wall houses on each site.

On the more positive side, the past fifteen years has seen a great increase in the number of people actively involved in bushland management, and there has also been a parallel increase in seminars, conferences and training for this long-term management. At this stage, looking at Sydney in the broader sense, some Councils appear to be a long way ahead of Willoughby in developing such long-term plans for the management of their bushland. However, we must appreciate that Willoughby has at least put some resources into the hands-on work to be done in bushland management.

There appear to be two types of change occurring to bushland on the Hawkesbury sandstone. Sadly, the native species appear to be in decline. The challenge to reverse this decline is our social responsibility, if we are to preserve the true character of this Peninsula and its bushland legacy. Many of these changes are subtle and gradual, and, regrettably, we don't yet fully understand all the causes behind them.

It is the deliberate changes which give me particular concern for they are the result of planting large trees and shrubs from other areas. So many of those brought from elsewhere, even though they might be native Australians, have dense canopies; they are opaque; whereas one of the great features of most of the large native trees of this Peninsula is that they are transparent; they have open canopies; one can enjoy the views through their foliage. Just stop to think of *Angophora costata*, the red gum, *Eucalyptus sieberi*, Silver Top, *E. haemastoma*, Scribbly Gum, and perhaps to a lesser extent *E. piperita*, the Sydney Peppermint, to name just a few. All these species under most conditions tend to be transparent. From where you are sitting in this beautiful outdoor theatre, a Griffin legacy, you will see the sky and glimpses of the Harbour, through the Angophoras. The views can be enjoyed through the subtlety of constantly changing branches and foliage.

My plea is not that we must be absolutely pure (the Griffins didn't have that attitude to plants). But what we plant must be with care and thoughtfulness and if it is to be larger long-term framework trees, then certainly we must do everything we can to maintain the genetic stock of Castlecrag.

There is no doubt that managing urban bushland is complex and still relatively poorly understood. Phenomena such as runoff from gardens carrying enriched water, especially soluble phosphates and many other elements foreign to the landscape in this area, drainage from garden fertilising and probably, most of all, from the faeces of cats and dogs and other domestic pets, and the run-off from roads and other hard surfaces, are undoubtedly changing the soil regimes in urban bushland especially on Hawkesbury Sandstone. The effect of this enriched run-off is particularly noticeable in the gullies and streams which have provided very favourable habitats for foreign invading plants and animals. One can see evidence of the powerful and detrimental effects of run-off in many parts of Sydney and certainly by taking a boat trip around the Castlecrag Peninsula, one can identify very quickly where there are overflowing drains, poorly designed conduits, as well as identifying those properties whose owners regard the bushland below them as a place to dump rubbish. The consequent enrichment has resulted in a vigorous growth of weeds which show up as a quite different texture and colour from the natural vegetation of Castlecrag.

I ask you to consider the significance of this bushland resource:

- It has educational value which reminds us of where we are and of the qualities of the native habitat that we have invaded.
- It is a resource for those who wish to learn and appreciate more about their natural environment.
- It provides, especially in a suburb like Castlecrag, a wonderful environmental setting.
- It is a place for survival of truly original inhabitants, that is the plants and animals.
- It provides an awareness to a wider society of our inheritance.
- It is a reminder for future generations of the historic setting of this great harbour and its city and it gives some degree of continuity with the past.
- Its existence contributes to an environmental balance.

On the other hand, urbanisation on this bushland peninsula has resulted in:

- Encroachment onto the bush; sometimes unnecessary clearing, but of course inevitable clearing for the site of a house and its immediate surrounds.
- Nutrient enrichment and increased run-off.
- Weed invasion.
- The dumping of garden waste, shoots and propagules some of which grow, especially as nutrients increase.
- Excessive storm water from the roofs of houses and from other hard surfaces carrying with it nutrients, weeds, seeds, propagules, rubbish, etc, all potential pollutants.

There is a need for community awareness about these problems:

- A willingness to prevent further encroachments.
- Prevention of dumping, especially of garden refuse.
- Careful control of urban freshwater runoff and total prevention of nutrient enrichment.

The native species that belong to the Hawkesbury Sandstone are amazingly adapted to extraordinarily low levels of nutrition. The soils derived from the Hawkesbury Sandstone are amongst the poorest soils known anywhere in the world, that is in terms of growing European agricultural crops. It was for this reason that the first settlement, the first farm on the Australian continent, on the site of the now Botanic Gardens, failed. In 1788 they planted wheat which yielded much less seed than that actually planted. The colony itself nearly failed. No doubt they were puzzled by this, because the land had supported a tall woodland and after it was felled and fired, the first growth would have been vigorous. We now know that a tomato seed planted in pure Hawkesbury Sandstone soil will develop as a small plant to the third leaf stage before it collapses and dies.

I think you will understand from that that the task of managing this bushland, especially when it becomes degraded, is complex. Restoration is only part of the story. We must address the causes of the problems such as water-carried nutrients and particularly increases in the level of phosphorus. Such increases lead to the support of the more mesic vegetation of native and especially introduced species. *Pittosporum undulatum*, a native species, becomes a weed; just as the introduced privets from Europe and China, and the Camphor Laurel, become major weed trees and the local xeromorphic and xerophytic plants, so beautifully adapted to the periodic dryness and the extraordinarily low nutritional status of the Hawkesbury Sandstone, are replaced. Add to this the change in the fire regimes, and the habitats become more and more mesic, further inhibiting the germination and growth of the once-dominant species of *Eucalyptus* native to this habitat. The result is a gradual reduction in diversity. The eucalypts are not regenerating and so are not replaced. Some of the introduced berry-fruited trees and shrubs increase enormously, being eaten and dispersed by native birds. The populations of these native birds such as the Currawong drive out the smaller insectivorous birds and so we lose the balance in controlling insect pests, further exacerbating the decline of native plant species and the invasion of better-adapted weeds. Heavy shading leads to a loss of under-storey shrubs which further reduces the protective habitat for the useful small birds.

Well, it is a gloomy scenario. We must insist that sewer overflows in wet weather are not the result of illegal stormwater disposal. We must absolutely insist that construction activities have a program of total prevention of run-off and soil erosion into bush, stream and bay, prior to permits being issued for building. Regrettably one doesn't have to move very far from where I am talking to see all these problems blatantly exhibited.

There are already existing Planning Ordinances that give Councils responsibilities for many of these issues. The State Environment Planning Policy 19 (SEPP 19) is designed to protect bushland and urban areas and ensure that Management Plans are prepared for these areas, bearing in mind the need to make sure wherever possible that there is maintenance of fauna habitats and corridors. There is also mention of the control of domestic animals, and of course we should expect from our Council performance targets for each area of bushland and some positive moves to control severely degraded areas. It is ironic that some of the most degraded areas on this peninsula are areas owned by government as potential highway reserves; reserves we hope will never be used for that purpose.

While Councils need to be vigilant, most important of all are the educational programs which remind all those who live in these areas of the amenities as well as the fragility of places such as Castlecrag; and these amenities are not just the proximity to the CBD and a nice view of Middle Harbour, but rather it is an association with a very special history and a continuity which enables us to live with the natural environment. Any of you who have been on walks organised by the Griffin Society or the Castlecrag Conservation Society or WEPA will I am sure have been fascinated with all the features of interest on this small peninsula; its integrated system of reserves and pathways is unique. There are heritage sites, aboriginal sites, early European sites and much of this interest has come from the legacy of the Griffins

Since Federation in 1901 a greater appreciation of what was truly Australian further helped in the preservation of native vegetation. Walter Burley Griffin and Marion after they had settled in Australia, very quickly came to appreciate the Australian qualities of our natural landscape. We see this in some of their plans for Canberra and drawings on silk by Marion Griffin. But we see this appreciation much more developed in the layout and their approaches to the subdivision of Castlecrag. Here was an ideal; keeping continuous foreshore reserves, not so much by directive of government, but as part of a new idealism by a developer. As well the roads and the subdivisions along them follow the curves and the bushland reserves were linked by walking paths, often with steps cut into the sandstone to enable easy access on the steep sites.

Not only do we inherit one of the most imaginative sets of street names, coming as they do from the parts of a medieval castle but equally, scattered through the area which drops from over 280ft at Edinburgh Road to sea level, we have bush reserves, also with related names, but perhaps much less known than the street names: **The Keep, the Turret, The Cortile, Watergate, The Embrasure, The Retreat, The Oriel, and The Tower Reserve**, to name just a few.

In addition to the Griffins' influence on the design of the first houses and the creation of a community, the most lasting has been the conservation of the natural landscape. The location of almost all the early Griffin houses was high on the tops and high on the slopes, almost all of them on land that had been somewhat denuded by firewood gatherers and probably also by periodic bushfire. It was a regeneration landscape. However, contemporary photos by Max Dupain and by Burley Griffin certainly show that less than halfway down the slope even as high as the 200ft contour, much of the land was still forested.

So we inherit a series of carefully thought out (but in engineering terms, non-conforming) curvilinear roads. While not necessarily slavishly following contours, these certainly follow and are very sensitive to the geomorphology, cut only where necessary into the sandstone, and with the retention of significant native plant reserves, so that almost all properties in the Castlecrag and Haven Estates enjoy either a bush setting or at the very least a bush outlook, and most also have a view or at least a glimpse of the waters of Middle Harbour.

Retaining so much natural and regenerating landscape involved a totally different mindset from the normal harbour, or for that matter non-harbourside, subdivisions. Several years ago Dr Marilyn Fox described Sydney as the green archipelago of urban bushland islands. *The green archipelago* is certainly a vivid way of describing the bushland left behind in patches by the path of urban expansion. It is clear from the planning of Castlecrag that the Griffins were concerned, arguably long ahead of their time, to avoid the short-sighted overdevelopment and over-clearing of forest for urban development. Clearly they were not anti-development, but they were very pro-environment.

Today those of us who are concerned about how we are going to manage this bushland legacy can see problems with the Burley Griffin model for Castlecrag. One of the challenges for managing our suburb is that much of the remnant bushland has a much too high perimeter to area ratio, which results in greater interfaces between the bushland and the urban environment. I am sure you will all recognise that in most bushland reserves adjacent to urban development, the edge is usually more disturbed than the centre, with more weed species and greater weed invasion. Throughout Castlecrag there are narrow corridors and many of these no longer have a genuine core, sometimes destroyed by unthinking persons who want to enhance views, sometimes simply because of lack of regeneration of native species. But even these are useful wildlife corridors and hopefully with social concern supported by municipal responsibility, they will eventually be restored and better maintained.

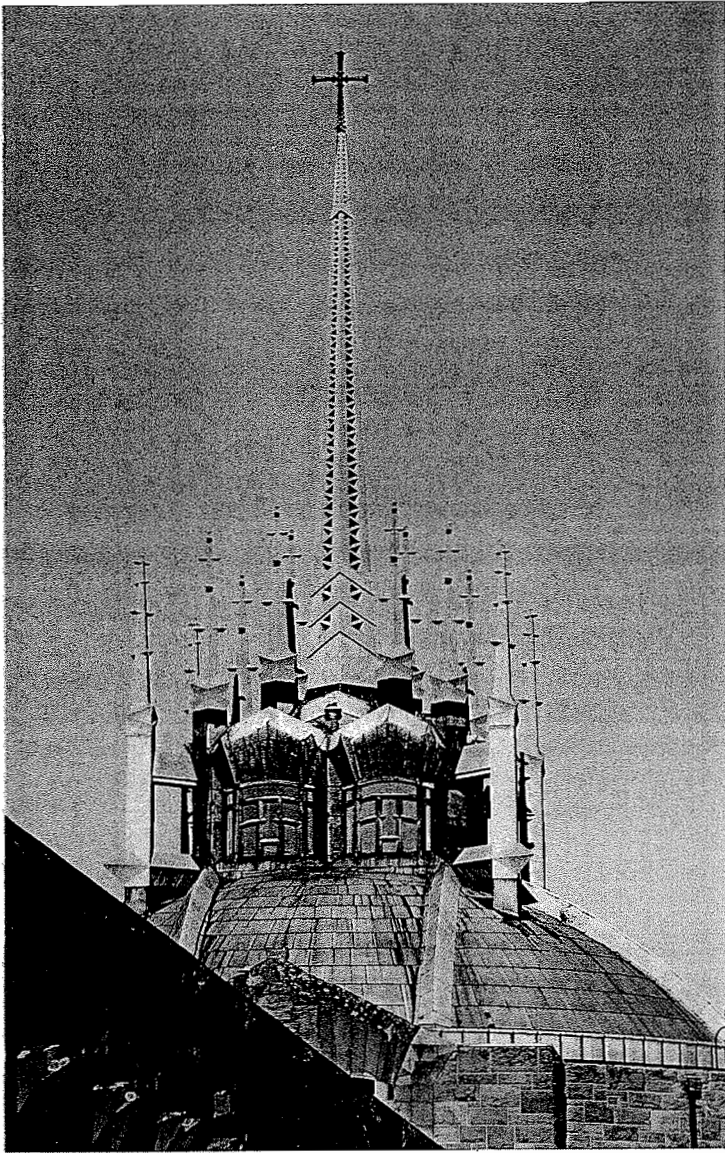
Clearly the Griffins after settling in Australia came to respect, wanted to conserve and utilise, the Australian landscape in special ways. In the publication last year of the researches of the late **Peter Harrison, Walter Burley Griffin: Landscape Architect**, Harrison writes: *By the time the Castlecrag project was launched the Griffins had discarded exotic notions of landscape embellishments and had developed such a reverence for the natural Australian landscape that its preservation was adopted as the dominant theme in their ideas of the community environment.*

Let me then remind you of the Griffins' objectives for the Greater Sydney Development Association. It was the development of *high class residential suburbs conserving the maximum of their natural beauty with adequate access to the waterfronts for the public...and the construction of buildings and other improvements, aesthetically in keeping with surroundings so far as possible of the native rock and subordinate to the natural features of the land.*

Those of us living in Castlecrag are privileged to be in a geographically most interesting environment, a product of the mind, or should I say minds that planned our capital Canberra. As those of you who have visited the exhibition recently in the National Library in Canberra and in Sydney at The Barracks, will have read: *"Griffin planned a Capital City for Australia which expressed democratic ideals in physical form. He created a classic geomentric plan in the 'city beautiful' tradition, using complex symbolism to illustrate the nature of democracy. Walter's strength was in designing houses and communities. He described himself as a land planner as well as an architect."*

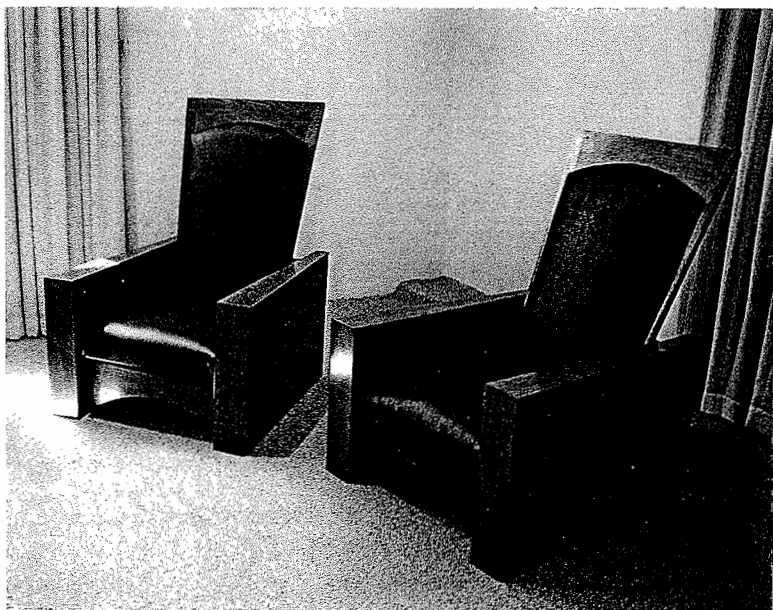
Our duty is one of collective social responsibility to protect this legacy and if we are going to do this we must learn how to manage the natural vegetation; we must respect the rocks and geomorphology; we must prevent those who would wilfully force this area into dual occupancy and clear surviving bushland for further development, adding further to the pressures of edge effect on the remnant vegetation. I am sure the protection of this legacy through responsible bushland management is something to which all members of this society aspire.

Professor Carrick Chambers



Above: The spires of Newman College reconstructed to Griffin's specifications in recent conservation work.

Below: Arm chairs designed by Griffin for Newman College, University of Melbourne.



General Meeting

Thursday 28 March at 8pm
in the Uniting Church hall,
Charles Street, Castlecrag

AGENDA

- * Welcome
- * Apologies
- * Minutes of last General Meeting
- * Matters Arising
- * Treasurers Report
- * Alteration to rules: to consider and if thought fit to pass as a special resolution that which is set out at the bottom of this page
- * General Business

Guest Speaker Judy Wells

will talk on

Marion as Other

Marion Mahony Griffin, a talented architect in her own right was marginalised by society and marginalised herself.

- * supper

Proposed resolution:
that the rules of the Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated be altered by adding at the end of the second sentence in rule 11(d) the following words "and must be to a fund, institution or organisation which is itself approved under subsection 78(4) of the Income Tax Assessment Act".