



## NEWS UPDATE September 1992

### Symphony at the Haven Amphitheatre

Sunday 27th September

The **SBS Youth Orchestra** will be treating audiences to two Spring Concerts at Griffin's own **Haven Amphitheatre, Castlecrag**, amidst the angophoras and tree ferns.

The SBS Youth Orchestra was formed in 1988 and has been highly acclaimed by critics and the public. They played for the Queen earlier this year and have just returned from a most successful tour of the South Pacific. The orchestra comprises over 70 musicians aged between 13 and 21 and the first violinist, Natalie Chee, has recently won the ABC Young Performer of the Year Award.

The **first concert** is a family prom, commencing at 12 noon, and will include compositions from Vivaldi, Rossini and Wagner. Tickets: \$8 adults, \$5 children and concessions, \$22 family.

The **second concert** is *The Good Listener* program and will commence at 3.30pm. It will cater to more mature tastes and feature Dvorak's *Symphony No.6* as well as Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie* and other works. Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 children and concessions.

There is no parking at or near the amphitheatre, but The Haven shuttle bus will provide transport from the Castlecrag shops and Castlecrag School at regular intervals prior to the performance. Alternatively, if you wear sensible walking shoes, you can park your car in Edinburgh Road near the corner of The Citadel and make the 8 minute walk to the amphitheatre. Walk to the end of The Citadel, take the little path down the hill to the corner of The Bartizan and The Bulwark, and then walk down The Bulwark and turn left into The Scarp. There in front of you will be the amphitheatre on the corner of The Scarp and The Barricade.

Tickets are available from Gossips Cafe in The Quadrangle Shopping Village Castlecrag and at the (open air) 'door' on the day. Phone bookings are on 958 5997.

### "Heritage Watchdog Sinks its Gums in" – apt words

The article carrying this heading on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 25th August along with a segment on the 7.30 Report ABC TV the following day were very timely in light of the fact that New South Wales' heritage system is presently being reviewed.

The Heritage Council of New South Wales has prepared a Discussion Paper on the Heritage System Review and asked for public submissions. >>>>>

The opening words of the *Herald* article by Heritage Writer Geraldine O'Brien state that "Fifteen years ago when the Government set up the NSW Heritage Council, it gave it what is still possibly the strongest legislation in Australia – in the words of one conservationist, 'all the teeth in the world'. Yet the Council now has the appearance of a shabby, tired and toothless tiger. It seems increasingly powerless to save major items of heritage value, and is increasingly bogged down in debate about 'economic viability' and 'financial hardship'. Heritage values appear to come a poor last."

The Society sent a detailed five page submission on the Heritage Review Discussion Paper. The submission praises the Heritage Act and states that "From the Society's experience the shortfalls in the preservation of New South Wales heritage do not arise from inadequacies in the Heritage Act, but from an unwillingness to implement the Heritage Act".

A seminar to develop options was suggested in the Discussion Paper and we sincerely hope that this Society will be invited to participate in such a seminar.

## Mahony Masques – Enthusiastic Review

Melbourne audiences are presently being treated to a new play directed by Peter King and performed by his theatre company *Going Through Stages*.

*Mahony Masques* is showing at Theatreworks, St Kilda and has been very well received by audiences and critics alike. The play is about Marion Mahony Griffin. As King puts it: "It is a celebration and mourning of this astonishing woman". The play seeks to explore the Australia we might have had if the Griffins (both Marion and Walter) had been able to bring their creative vision of the country to fruition.

We understand that *Mahony Masques* may be coming to Sydney at the end of the year. We will inform you further at our AGM.

## AGM to be held at Willoughby Incinerator

We thank the tenants of Willoughby Incinerator, architects Design Six Pty Ltd, and the owner Willoughby City Council for permission to use the western driveway and grassy treed surrounds for the Society's AGM on Sunday 25th October. Guest speaker **Trevor Waters** will talk about **Willoughby Incinerator** and draw comparisons with **Pymont Incinerator** which was built in the same year. With the Pymont Incinerator now demolished the Willoughby Incinerator assumes even greater significance as the only incinerator designed by Griffin still left intact in Sydney. Credit must be given to Willoughby City Council for their care and foresight.

## Gore Hill Walls – Mockery or Memorial?

The Gore Hill Freeway stretching for 3km through Sydney's lower North Shore was opened last month complete with concrete sound barrier walls many of which contain replicas of the tile patterns from the Pymont Incinerator.

While it is good that there is an appreciation of the beautiful tile patterns from the incinerator it seems ironic that this appreciation comes after the demolition of the incinerator and along a six-lane expressway which is so far removed from the narrow winding roads of Griffin's town planning in nearby Castlecrag.