

GRIFFIN RESERVES CASTLECRAIG PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

ROAD ISLANDS

Part Three - Inventory

2016



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L-1 - Sortie Port cnr Edinburgh Road

System

One of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

A small triangular shaped island, planted with local natives, surrounding a water sculpture by the late Bim Hilder, long- term resident of Castlecrag, who lived nearby on Edinburgh Road. The sculpture: A series of copper tetrahedrons one on top of another, over 2m high, stands in a shallow circular pond lined with small aqua mosaic tiles, surrounded by a circular sandstone plinth. Water flows from the top to bottom. A plaque reads: *In recognition of the life and work of Walter Burley Griffin American architect and town planner who settled in Australia 1914 after winning the Federal award for the design of Canberra. He planned and developed Castlecrag in 1921 and resided here with his wife Marion at No. 8 The Parapet from 1924 to 1937 the year of his death in India. Unveiled by his worship the Mayor of Willoughby Alderman L. F. McGinty, during the Centenary of the Municipality, Oct 23rd 1965.*

Maintenance

'Friends of the Fountain' Committee maintain island vegetation and fountain.

Role / significance

A key island and prominent in the vista along Edinburgh Road. It is located at entry to one of the road networks of the estates which commemorates Griffin through the work of a local artist.

Management policy

Council to continue to give support to the 'Friends of the Fountain' Committee. Continue to maintain good condition using local indigenous vegetation.



L- 2 - Sortie Port cnr The Battlement

System

One of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Triangular shaped island planted with local native trees and shrubs. Predominantly Lomandras and mulch make up the understorey with large stone boulders near the edge (probably left over from original road works). Low stone kerb exists flush with road surface to allow for continuous road widths from both the Battlement and Sortie Port. Located on island are plaques commemorating the contribution of Edgar Deans, and as well a plaque from the Castlecrag bush regeneration project.

Maintenance

Maintenance and bush regeneration by Council contractor.

Role / significance

One of a series of road islands along the Sortie Port and The Rampart circuit which screens houses.

Management policy

Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-3 - Sortie Port cnr The Bastion

System

One of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

This is a large triangular shaped island at the entrance to the lower network of roads in the Griffin Reserve System. Dimensions reduced many years ago for traffic management reasons. Low rubble stone kerb on high side and original sandstone rock ledge on lower side. The island has been planted with native trees including Casuarinas, Eucalypts, Callitris which are well established. A mown grass understorey is slowly being replaced working from the south east corner in order to restore the local native vegetation. Original native species still present: *Kunzea ambigua*, *Grevillea buxifolia*, *Callistemon linearis*, *Epacris micophylla*, *Cassinia* spp. *Casuarina distyla* (latter regenerating). A number of native species have been planted e.g. *Hakea gibbosa*, *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower) and *Acacia terminalis*. A few non-indigenous native species have been planted e.g. *Casuarina glauca*, *Melaleuca armillaris* and *Eucalyptus maculata* and are recommended to be replaced with indigenous species once they become senescent.

Maintenance

Council's Contractor.

Role / significance

One of the large islands located at an important intersection. This is an example of the use of local indigenous vegetation with a 'thicket' character on the road island used to screen houses.

Management policy

Continue to remove grass and regenerate those areas with local indigenous vegetation of low growing shrubs and groundcovers. Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-3

L-4 - The Barbette cnr The Bastion

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag showcasing the local natural bushland of the area.

Description

Large triangular shaped island with an appearance of a 'natural thicket', partly cut into rock on lower road side, with rough random stone to reinforce edge. The island is well covered with a diverse range of local indigenous vegetation with abundant regeneration of dormant seed after prescribed burn in 2008. Some of the species include Scribbly Gum *Eucalyptus haemastoma*, Callitris, Xanthorrhoea, *Pultenea flexilis*, *Casuarina distyla*, *Dodonaea triquetia*, *Smilax glyciophylla*, *Grevillea linearifolia*, *Acacia suaveolens*, *Lomandra longifolia* and *Dianella caerulea*. The successful regeneration of species on this island requires ongoing care using bush regeneration techniques.

Maintenance

Maintenance and regeneration by council contractor.

Role / significance

A major island which demonstrates Griffin's concept of a 'junction thicket' and showcases some of the local native bushland species.

Management policy

Continue to maintain 'bushland thicket' character, with careful bush regeneration practices. Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 4

L-5 - The Battlement cnr The Citadel

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Triangular shaped sandstone road island planted with native grasses, small and large shrubs. Original rock slab, approx. 40cm high which collects bulk leaf litter from roadside Liquidamber causing build-up of mulch and organic matter on rock surface. Several road signs are located on the island.

Ideally the build-up of organic matters should be removed and the tiny pockets left should be allowed to regenerate with species including *Kunzea ambigua*, *Actinotus helianthi*, *Acacia suaveolens*, *Pomax umbellata* and possibly *Acacia terminalis*. This is difficult to carry out while Liquidamber exists and leaf litter continues to accumulate.

Maintenance

Regular removal of organic matter from rock shelf, removal of weeds and regeneration by council contractor is required.

Role / significance

One of several islands which demonstrate the construction of roads by cutting through bedrock demonstrating Griffin's innovative engineering design.

Management policy

Council contractor to continue to support growth of existing local native species and maintain with regular removal of weeds and build-up of organic matter.



L-5

L-6 - The Citadel cnr Edinburgh Road

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag and helps to screen houses.

Description

This area was originally a separate island but was 'joined' to the eastern corner of Edinburgh Road to provide a safe intersection. Cut stone edge retains the plantings of natives done as part of the Castlecrag Bush Regeneration Project many years ago. Electricity pole and kiosk exist on the island, of which maintenance works have disturbed plantings.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

One of two islands in Edinburgh Road that have been joined to the mainland in order to facilitate traffic flows.

Management policy

Maintain character and continue plant cover to screen kiosk. Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-7 - The Parapet cnr Edinburgh Road

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

A small triangular shaped island edged by concrete kerbing located at the bend in the road, and prominent in the vista along Edinburgh Road. Three Eucalypts planted in a triangle with a low groundcover understorey are the basis of a designed planting scheme using Australian natives. The island has been extended by another small strip island edged by sandstone kerbing and planted with groundcovers. Two islands are separated by a pedestrian path. A small bronze plaque (designed by Bim Hilder) which reads *'Castlecrag Neighbourhood Bushland Regeneration Project'* is set into a small sandstone boulder.

A timber bench seat with sandstone supports is located on the main island and as well a bronze plaque which reads *'Joyce Batterham nee Deans (1916-2006) Treasured Community Elder, Pivotal in establishing Community Centre Library and Infants School'*. The school was located across the road at the now Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School. The island is known locally as the Isle of Lament (for the loss of public school).

Maintenance

Maintenance and regeneration by council contractor.

Role / significance

One of the examples of local bush regeneration project and which demonstrates the commitment of Council and local residents to the Griffin inspired landscape character.

Management policy

Maintain general character. Consider reintroduction of cut stone kerb when present concrete kerb needs repair. Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-8 - The Postern cnr Edinburgh Road

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural character of Castlecrag.

Description

This area was originally a separate island but has been redesigned to widen the entrance to The Postern and to enlarge the carpark adjoining the shopping precinct. The island is now represented by native planting with rock formations along the edge of the carpark which merges with street planting.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

Significance reduced as no longer a separated road island. Planting and curvilinear edge help to enhance the landscaped appearance of area as well as screen hard surface of car park.

Management policy

Continue ongoing maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor. Plantings to be more varied over time with less Lomandras.



L-9 -The Parapet cnr the Postern

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Triangular road island with upright random stone retaining wall marking the edge. Planted with local natives, shrubs, grasses and ground cover understory. Several signs exist on the island as a result of it being a busy intersection. The island has been extensively planted and needs ongoing maintenance to remove weeds.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

This is an example of the use of local indigenous vegetation with a 'thicket' character on the road island used to screen houses.

Management policy

Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 9

L-10 - The Postern cnr The Rampart

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Triangular island planted with established local indigenous natives including tall trees, shrubs, grasses and leaf mulch undercover. Sandstone edge on lower side retains soil and leaf mulch. Three poplars have been removed and the island is well maintained.

Maintenance

Maintenance and regeneration by council contractor.

Role / significance

This island together with island at The Parapet demonstrates the function of the islands in creating the natural landscape character and screening houses.

Management policy

Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 10

L-11 - The Rampart cnr The Redoubt

Description

This small triangular island of original sandstone rock outcrop which was cut to construct the road has a tapered retaining wall in random sandstone on the north side. Island has a good cover of local native vegetation and has developed a 'thicket character'. An electricity kiosk has been located on the island on a concrete slab. Follow up landscape works after construction have ensured that the islands plantings have returned to a healthy state. Generally the island is in good condition and receives some care from a nearby resident as well as maintenance and bush regeneration by Council contractor.

The island plantings provide a useful guide to sandstone ridge top species originally found in this location.

Maintenance

Maintenance/regeneration by council contractor.

Role / significance

This island, with its thicket character, together with remnant native vegetation on nearby verge rock outcrops, is a feature in the curvilinear circuit of The Rampart and Sortie Port and demonstrates Griffin's innovative engineering design and construction in relation to roads.

Management policy

Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor as required.



L-11

L-12 - The Outpost cnr The Palisade

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Triangular shaped island with tall trees, some of which may be original indigenous trees, and mulch understorey and grasses at similar level to the road surface. Edge is partly constructed with rough stone kerb.

The Outpost and the proposed extension of The Palisade were never fully developed. Only two lots have been built upon and the others have become reserve. This island demonstrates the practice of leaving islands of bushland at intersections which was applied throughout the estates.

Maintenance

Maintenance carried out by Council Contractor.

Role / significance

Tall trees demonstrate the scale of original vegetation in this area.

Management policy

Consolidate edge of island. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-13 - The Barbette

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

A circular island formed by cutting out the road surface and is edged in sandstone kerbing. Vegetation is a mixture of indigenous natives and exotics. Timber bench seat erected by Council and swing erected by locals create a focal point.

Issues

Existing native species should be kept and encouraged. Exotics should be removed gradually with priority given to invasive species e.g. Dietes and Agapanthus being removed first. Vehicles tend to ride over and cause damage to sandstone reinforcing the island edge. Council has reconstructed stone edging (in Nov. 2010) around island. Sandstone steps on two sides were installed to encourage island to be used as walk through to the pathway P-35 between 9 and 18 The Barbette which connects to Casement and Watergate Reserves.

Maintenance

Council contractor and occasionally some residents maintain island. Contractor gradually removing the Dietes and Agapanthus spp.

Role / significance

The Barbette island is an example of the use of local indigenous vegetation with a 'thicket' character on the road island used to screen houses. This island is significant in that it provides an amenity with bench seat and swing for residents and their children to gather. The Acacia believed to be *A. falcata* is a locally indigenous but uncommon species and should be retained.

Management policy

Move towards more indigenous species. Encourage interest from neighbours in maintaining site using a bush regeneration approach. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-13

L-14 - The Barricade

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Circular road island retained with low sandstone kerbing. Large trees that once existed here have been removed as well as Juniperus low cover and have been replaced with mostly local native which are sparsely planted. An electrical pole located off centre on island carrying overhead wiring prevents large trees being planted. Bollard with signage to foreshore reserve via access between nos.3 & 5 exists on the island.

Maintenance

Maintenance and regeneration carried out by council contractor.

Role / significance

This is an example of the integral part of the cul-de-sac design.

Management policy

Move towards creating more of a 'thicket' of vegetation cover. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 14

L-15 - The Barbican

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

A small circular island with a rough cut sandstone edge. Plants are a mixture of ground cover, ferns including *Calochlaena dubia* and some *Sticherus flabellatus* and tall shade producing trees including *Angophera costata*. Disused power pole to be removed.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

An integral part of the cul-de-sac design with a soft glen like character reflecting its topological location in the Griffin Reserves System.

Management policy

Maintain character. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-15

L-16 - The Bartizan

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

A circular road island which is well vegetated with mostly local indigenous natives. Original sandstone ground which has been cut to create the cull de sac and includes part stone retaining wall to about 1m high. Long term residents claim that the island was bare several decades ago. Over time it has been planted with species which have self-seeded in layers of organic matter. Species now present include *Angophora hispida*, *Alocasuarina littoralis*, *Ceratopetalum gummiiferum*, *Grevillea longifolia*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Callitris muelleri* and *Xanthorrhoea* spp. Bollard with signage and arrow to access pathway P-20 which leads to Oriel Reserve exists on the island.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

This is an outstanding example of the geometry of the estate design which also demonstrates Griffin's innovative engineering design and construction in relation to roads. This is an example of the use of local indigenous vegetation with a 'thicket' character on the road island used to screen houses.

Management policy

Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 16

L-17 - The Citadel

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Circular road island planted with mostly local natives trees including well established *Angophora costata*, shrubs, groundcovers and mulch cover. Original sandstone ground which has been cut to create cul-de-sac and includes part stone retaining wall from 70cm-1m high. Between 11 & 13 The Citadel, exists impressive cut rock wall approximately 3m high (irregular height) as well as between 15 & 13 The Citadel a cut rock wall approximately 2.5 high. One electricity pole (1840) with wiring extends over road to houses.

Maintenance

Council contractor.

Role / significance

An outstanding example of geometry in estate design which also demonstrates Griffin's innovative engineering design and construction in relation to roads. Its planting reflects the interests and efforts of local residents and Council.

Management policy

Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L-17

L-18 - The Redoubt

System

This is one of the road islands that contribute to the natural landscape character of Castlecrag.

Description

Circular road island planted with local indigenous low and tall shrubs. Original sandstone ground which has been cut to create road island in cull de sac and includes part stone retaining wall to make level. Appears to contain remnant native vegetation: *Kunzea ambigua*, *Acacia suavelolens*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Banksia serrata*, *Casuarina distylia*, *Lomandra longifolia*.

Maintenance

Council contractor and occasionally by residents.

Role / significance

A circular road island with partly exposed rock surface which also demonstrates Griffin's innovative engineering design and construction in relation to roads. This is an example of the use of local indigenous species with a 'thicket' character on the road island used to screen houses.

Management policy

Maintain 'thicket' character and where suitable retain bare rock surfaces. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.



L - 18

L-19 - Morotai Crescent

System

This island is located outside of the Griffin estates but connects with the pathways and replicates the cul-de-sac design.

Description

A small circular island at the end of the cul-de-sac. Electricity pole in the centre of mown grass - (almost a parody of the Griffin concept). A nearby resident advises that shrubs or trees have been planted in the past, but died or were removed.

Maintenance

Council.

Role / significance

An indication of the continuation of the Griffin ideas to the design of the subdivision adjoining the Griffin Estates.

Management policy

Consider a move towards low indigenous ground cover and shrub species. Discuss with nearby residents. Maintenance by Council.



L - 19

L-20 - The Bulwark cnr The Scarp

System

Roadside vegetation: part of the practice of leaving natural areas of bushland in order to screen houses.

Description

Road reserve at the intersection of The Bulwark and The Scarp, adjoining 50 The Bulwark. Vegetation is mostly indigenous, with both planted and regenerated plantings and several mature gum trees. This is a rocky steep sloping outcrop with sandstone kerb edge on the upper Bulwark side and random stone reinforcing the lower edge along The Scarp. Adjoining owner, 50 The Bulwark, has kept natural vegetation around the house which merges with the vegetation on the road reserve. Reserve is used for utilities – stormwater, sewerage and electricity kiosk. There is a walking track to safely link upper network of pathways to the nearby Haven Amphitheatre and foreshore. Drawing c1929 shows there was once a very small island with single tree. Road construction in 1940 followed the Griffin intent to minimise impact on natural landscape.

Maintenance

Council contractors.

Role / significance

Important natural landscape feature in the lower road system. This is an example of the Griffin practice in the Haven Estate of varying the width of verges and position of road surface to maintain the natural landscape.

Management policy

Maintain and regenerate the indigenous vegetation. Screen the electricity kiosk with plantings where possible. Maintain walking track, keep steps clean of debris and free from overhanging vegetation. Continue ongoing planting, regeneration, maintenance and weed removal by Council contractor.

