

The Future of Harold Park



Photo:
Bruce
Davis

Because of the importance of any development on the Harold Park site the Glebe Society Management Committee has decided to encourage further discussion, firstly within the Society itself, at a meeting of Society members on at *Benledi* on Thursday, 8 April, and secondly with the entire Glebe community at a public meeting at St Scholastica's on Wednesday 21 April.

Background information about Harold Park and documents relating to the meetings are published on pages 1-4 of this *Bulletin*. Decisions made at the first meeting will be presented to the second meeting as the position of the Glebe Society.

The story so far

Background

The area now known as Harold Park was created by filling the swamp and alluvial plain of what is now Johnston's Creek canal and its tributaries, which flow into Rozelle Bay. At white settlement it became part of the Allen Estate, and the relatively fertile soil was used for market gardens and orchards.

From 1899 the land was first rented and then sold for various recreational purposes, and finally became the private holding of the NSW Trotting Club (incorporated 10 October 1902) and its principal racecourse (known from 1929 as Harold Park). The title 'Park' is misleading. It was never public land and never a park, unlike Wentworth Park, which was and still is both.

The grandstand and track were extended in 1994. At that time the Club also agreed to allow construction of an all-weather hockey field inside the track. This agreement was never honoured. After considerable public resistance the Court allowed access to the track across parkland. From the 1960s attendances were declining as was the industry generally. Various developments were proposed to make the site economically viable, and all were rejected.

In 1988 the Trotting (Harness Racing) Club acquired the Tramsheds from the State Government, originally to turn them into stables. This never eventuated. The Tramsheds, built in 1904-9 and closed in 1958, are the largest surviving in Sydney. There was a scandal when the Tramsheds were leased for a nominal sum to the NSW Harness Racing Authority to avoid

paying rates. The Tramsheds are Heritage listed. Of the Paceway, only the ticket office has been identified as of heritage significance.

The recent history

1. In 2009 the Harness Racing Club decided to relocate to the Menangle track, which is already operating. They decided to sell Harold Park, and as a first step sought a rezoning by the Minister for Planning.
2. There was a lot of resistance, led by the Glebe Society, and the State Government agreed to leave the process in the hands of the Central Sydney Planning Committee, on which the City of Sydney is strongly represented, but where the State Government has a majority. However, the Committee is also serviced by the City.
3. The City has held two public consultations, the first in September 2009 and the second in February 2010.

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What's coming soon

Sunday 28 March – 1.30-5pm - Tour - A Temple, a Chapel and Two Churches.

Thursday 8 April - 6.30pm - *Benledi* - Glebe Society meeting about Harold Park.

Sunday 18 April - 2-4.30pm - Afternoon Tea at *Lyndhurst*.

Wednesday 21 April - 6.30pm - St Scholastica's - public meeting about Harold Park.

Sunday 25 April - 7.30am - Anzac Day service at the War Memorial.

Harold Park

... continued from previous

What happens next?

1. A draft rezoning plan is due to go to Council in June.
2. The final plan is expected to be exhibited about September 2010, allowing a final round of comments.
3. Once the plan is approved and the broad planning controls are in place, the Club can sell the site and a developer can submit a detailed development application (DA). We will need to remain engaged during this entire process.

The Glebe Society believes the consultation process to date has been inadequate, mainly because a lot of essential information arrived too late or was not provided. There is time before June for the Glebe community to get together and have a better discussion of the issues, and hopefully produce a better result, and the Society is providing a forum to make this possible.

- Neil Macindoe
Convenor
Harold Park Working Party

Glebe Society meeting to discuss Harold Park, 8 April

The Harold Park Working Party, chaired by Neil Macindoe, has identified a number of principles (see below) for the future development of Harold Park. It is proposed that these should form the basis of discussion leading to a resolution to be put to the meeting of the Glebe Society on 8 April.

The resolution, as passed at this meeting, will be put to the public meeting on 21 April.

Draft Principles

1. No building should be higher than the cliff face.
2. Public Open Space should be at least one third of the site.
3. The density should be lowered in accordance with 1 & 2.
4. Access should not be across parkland.
5. Layout should encourage easy access for pedestrians and cycles.
6. Access to surrounding areas should be improved.
7. Open Space should be secure and sunny and connect with existing Open Space.
8. All development should be sustainable and energy efficient and protect privacy and amenity.
9. There should be no dwellings within the 100 year flood limit.
10. Provision should be made for affordable housing, including student housing.
11. The Tramsheds, including the forecourt, should be restored to include community use, garden and bird habitat.
12. Public transport should be upgraded and include integrated ticketing.
13. The Harness Racing Club should not profit from the sale of the Tramsheds.
14. A design competition should be held at the DA stage to ensure the most creative result.



Harold Park viewed from The Crescent. Photo: Rod Holtham

Harold Park

Notes on Harold Park Working Party meeting, Monday, 1 June 2009

First published in Glebe Society *Bulletin* 5/2009

Present: Noelene Bearn, Janice Cave, Tony Gardiner, Dianne Gray, Lesley Lynch (President), Neil Macindoe (Planning Convenor), Chris Rolfe.

Members of the Working Party introduced themselves and their interest and concerns about the site. The Working Party agreed that preparation of a Masterplan was essential and the best way to ensure a good outcome from the site. Many issues were discussed and they are grouped under the appropriate headings.

Heritage

Agreed that conservation of the Tramsheds is a major priority. It may be best to deal with them as a separate site, as in the City's Urban Design Study. Chris raised the issue of the war memorial that used to be on site, removed some years ago (Neil to follow up with Max).

Agreed Tramsheds are best suited to community uses. The cost of restoration meant services for the wider community, such as police and RTA, and also neighbourhood business, may need to be incorporated. The large area meant artists' studios and performance space could be included. The space in front of the Sheds was suitable for related outdoor activities.

Agreed the Ross Street row of federation semis, no longer owned by the Club, should be preserved.

Open Space

Janice briefed the Working Party on the need to reclaim open space lost when the track expanded.

Agreed the paceway overhanging the canal should be demolished, and an open space corridor along the canal created including the area affected by a 100 year flood. An all-weather hockey field, promised but not delivered, did not have to be located at ground level as the surface is artificial. Janice noted land between the carpet warehouse and viaduct is now owned by City and proposed for parkland, and additional open space was required for new residents on the Paceway site as well as existing ones.

Access

Noted the site has good public transport connections (three bus routes, light rail) but frequency and access, including pedestrian and cycle, needed upgrading especially near the hill adjacent to the light rail station.

Agreed vehicular access should be via Ross Street from Wigram Road and via a reopened Canal Road (originally tramway) from The Crescent. Existing access across the park should be curtailed. Maxwell Road should be pedestrian and cycle access only, except for future dwellings to be constructed along Maxwell Road near the top of the escarpment.

Agreed the Ross Street corridor be upgraded for bikes and pedestrians to connect to shops and the University of Sydney, and access to light rail needed to be more direct than the recent disabled path.

Paceway and Housing

Agreed the University of Sydney was a desirable occupant. Lesley and Neil reported on a recent meeting with University planner Colin Rockcliff that while the University of Sydney was still interested, it had several irons in the fire and was not ready as it did not yet know its full requirements. The University of Sydney was happy for Masterplan to go ahead, and if site went up for sale was likely to make a spot decision, based on need for student housing (Janice drew attention to University Village on Carillon Avenue).

Agreed student housing was most desirable, as it generated least traffic. Seniors housing, especially along the community integrated lines developed by the Benevolent Society, was also suitable. These and other forms of affordable housing could easily be incorporated because of the size of the site and good access.

Agreed density of housing could be different from the surrounding area. In part, height could exceed existing controls along escarpment. However, building should not extend higher than

the top of the escarpment, or impede views or impair amenity of existing residents atop escarpment. However, elsewhere on the site building heights should respect contours and orientation of surrounding area, reducing to 1 or 2 stories adjacent to Wigram Road and the Crescent. Over-development on the Children's Hospital model was specifically rejected. All development should be sustainable and energy efficient.

Infrastructure and parking

Agreed the Working Party did not have sufficient information about utilities and services on the site, and nature of the ground, to make specific judgments, and will ask the City to provide appropriate details and information on how these will affect development. However, there appears to be a rise in level toward the escarpment making this area safe from inundation, and excavation may allow some parking to be located underground.

Consultation

The combined development sites are by far the largest in Glebe and the effects must be carefully managed. It is essential that following preparation of a Masterplan the views of residents are widely and actively canvassed. The views and cooperation of Leichhardt Municipality, especially Annandale, should be sought in addition to those of Forest Lodge and Glebe. The Masterplan should be exhibited at several centres for at least a month and the entire area letterboxed. It should also be the major focus of a Community forum.

- Neil Macindoe



Tramsheds quietly decaying - a vent about to topple. Photo: Bruce Davis

Harold Park

Harold Park workshops 'unsatisfactory'

First published in Glebe Society
Bulletin 1/2010

The presentations by the Government Architect's Office (GAO), acting as consultant for the City of Sydney Council, were unsatisfactory for a number of reasons. The technical reports essential to making decisions were not available, and consequently residents were often unsure whether they had any basis for objection. Moreover, there was no provision for questions except within groups, and often there was no answer available anyway.

The presenter showed insufficient regard for the context of the site. It is entirely within the Johnston's Creek Valley and surrounded by the Glebe, Forest Lodge and Annandale ridges, all Conservation Areas, including many heritage items. There are other heritage items to the north, including the Tramsheds, which are part of the site; the light rail viaduct and Jubilee Park.

Most importantly, the parklands of the valley extend almost from Parramatta Road to the Rozelle Bay foreshore, and include an extensive area earmarked for open space between the carpet factory and the viaduct. The valley also contains the main north-south transport routes. There are a large number of public viewing points across and along the valley.

It became clear the GAO proposal was both too dense and too high to retain the character of the valley, and related poorly to the main features with which it should connect most strongly.

Built Form

It also became clear from statements by the City's Director of Strategic Planning that the number of dwellings proposed was greater than necessary. It also became clear that any structure over six storeys above ground impacted severely on the privacy and views of surrounding dwellings, ie anything higher than the grandstand cliff had adverse impacts. The grid pattern is unresponsive to the character of the valley and lacks a clear traffic and pedestrian circulation pattern. In addition, there was no information about resident parking which could



The Harold Park stables. Photo: Rod Holtham

impact substantially on building height and location. In general, the configuration, location, height and circulation associated with proposed residences were unsatisfactory.

Access

The necessary improvements to pedestrian and cycle access were either absent or vague. Access to the Tramsheds is proposed to be across parkland, whereas the preferred route is to reopen and extend the original access, known as the Canal Road, via a controlled intersection with The Crescent. Part of this route is also recommended for conservation in the Heritage Study. This route could also provide some access to the residential part of the site, taking some of the pressure off the Ross Street entrance. Another reason to restrict development is that all the major surrounding intersections are at or above capacity, as is all the public transport except light rail.

Open Space

The proposed open space along the base of the cliff has many problems. It would create a narrow wind tunnel and, because of the high buildings next to it, would be invisible unless you were actually in it. Thus there are security problems as well as major overshadowing in the mornings. The space appears to double as an access route. It has no relationship to the existing Johnston's Valley Parklands. And, in addition, at 2.75 hectares it is a much smaller area than would be justified by

the scale of development.

Tramsheds

Although these are recommended partly for community use (state and local) in the Sustainability Study, there was little mention of this in the presentation. The curtilage should include the entire forecourt, which does not preclude reinstatement of the gardens, recreational use and low plantings for small birds.

The Tramsheds are the most distinctive part of the site and should be the focus. They can provide a range of amenities for the new residents on site as well as for the surrounding community, so all types of access, including from the new development, need to be carefully thought out. The in-situ trams can be restored on site or used on the extended light rail.

Many residents are unaware the GAO proposal includes a large new building next to the Tramsheds, zoned mixed use but intended to house a five storey car-park and extensive commercial element, both in association with the Tramsheds. This is the only mention of parking in the studies, except to point out parking opportunities in the surrounding streets.

Conclusion

At this stage the Harold Park Working Party believes the entire project should be extensively rethought and redesigned, taking far greater notice of resident comment than has occurred so far.

- Neil Macindoe

Convenor
Harold Park Working Party

Planning matters

Nicholas Dattner, 41 Bridge Road

Council approved this proposal (see *Bulletin 10/2009*), but with the floor space ratio reduced from 2.4:1 to 1.8:1, effectively eliminating an entire mezzanine. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

The Abbey and Reussdale, 156-160 Bridge Road

Reussdale, the Gothic cottage, is beginning to regain some of its former glory. All that remains to be completed is the garden. Work continues on the interior of the church.

Hellenic Herald Building, 1-9 Glebe Point Road

More recent members may appreciate a recap of the history of this site. The unreformed Leichhardt Council approved a massive overdevelopment in 1979 that included a lift shaft rising two storeys above the already out-of-scale printing and office building. After considerable effort the Glebe Society discovered the plans had been 'accidentally' approved, and began a campaign to have it demolished.

The owner, assisted by his solicitor, fought a cat-and-mouse game over

many years. Every effort to have the shaft reduced was resisted, and further work on the building was completed while they attempted, often successfully, to have such work retrospectively approved. Even decisions of the Court were circumvented in this way. Perhaps the outstanding example was the erection of a pergola on the roof one Sunday morning, with Glebe Point Road closed by the offending crane.

Finally, however, the City of Sydney Council took a firmer line than Leichhardt, and the Glebe Society gave evidence at a Court hearing that resulted in various orders, including the demolition of the pergola and the lift shaft, and the replacement of the unsuitable materials on the façade. This work is currently under way (hence the scaffolding) and we hope the City will insist on its completion. Meanwhile the ownership of the building has changed.

115 Hereford Street

This old stone cottage has recently been sold, and the Society has alerted Council's Heritage Advisor, so it can be assessed. Its present occupant, Roberta Johnston, played a leading role in the extension and replanting of the Orphan School Creek Gully, and is moving to Gladesville. I began the campaign to acquire additional land from the Chil-

dren's Hospital in 1984, and Roberta formed FROGGS (Friends and Residents of the Glebe Gully), initially as a sub-committee of the Glebe Society, after the Hospital closed. One event she organised sticks in my mind: she persuaded the composer Martin Wesley-Smith to write an Ode to the Gully, which was performed by the Song Company in St John's Church Hall. Roberta's campaigning was always unconventional!

11-19 Glebe Street

This section of Glebe Street is one of our oldest. It has eight Heritage Items, including many early stone cottages fronting the footpath directly. It is also one of the newest, with an innovative, if slightly controversial, public housing development by the noted architect, Phillip Cox (of Darling Harbour fame). The sole industrial site in the street is proposed for an uncontroversial residential conversion to eleven units with basement parking, and its modest Art Deco façade will be preserved. Not all residential conversions, especially in such sensitive areas, create so few problems. We are fortunate to have former president Andrew Craig living in the street to keep an eye on things.

- Neil Macindoe

Second term courses for City U3A announced

Unfortunately the beginning of first term this year was too early to be announced in *Bulletin 1/2010*, but here is the information about second term courses, which begin on 20 April.

Upstairs at the Toxteth, long-time Glebe Society member Mira Crouch will present *Socialising with Dead White Males* (Marx, Durkheim and Weber) on Wednesdays, while Anton Crouch will run a Film Discussion Group on the last Wednesday of the month.

At the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, Glebe Society member Jan Wilson will run a course for the inner urban gardener entitled *Visioning Your Outdoor Room* on Thursdays.

The Mitchell Library turns 100 this year, and City U3A joins with the

Friends of Mitchell Library in a series held in the Dixon Room at the Mitchell (various presenters) on Tuesdays.

At the Reg Murphy Centre at Kings Cross there is Tai Chi on Wednesdays and a Book Discussion Group on the last Friday of the month. Chinese Calligraphy will be held at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, on alternate Thursdays.

This is our second year of operation and the range of venues and courses has increased, but our groups are still small, friendly and welcoming. For information about enrolment ring Jan Macindoe on 9660 0208.

Neil Macindoe
City U3A President

Superyachts' super plans?

Tony Larkum draws our attention to this snippet in a weekend newspaper:

'Meantime, the "boatification" of Sydney's long-neglected Rozelle Bay continues. Expect many more Sunseekers, as the UK marque has its east-coast Australian offices here. And Sydney Superyacht Marina has a new development application for an upgraded marina, shops and restaurants in a lobster-tail-style building. The idea is to create a boardwalk, boating hub and public venue overlooking the aforesaid luxury craft. Sure beats the alternative across the Bay.'

Tony comments: 'Seems like someone is trying to stir the pot. Who knows about this?'

Anzac Day

Rod Holtham writes: *Next time you walk past one of the two War Memorials in Glebe pause for a while and think about the names listed and how each one of them is a real person with a story. This one is about the Sharpe family and I have called it...*

A mother's grief in the Great War

Times were tough for a Glebe widow during the 1890s as unemployment was high and the effects of the recession worse for the poorer residents of the working class areas. Ellen and Richard Sharpe had produced three fine sons before she was widowed in 1895 and regrettably for Ellen the boys were all still under the age of 10. They had a roof over their heads in Mount Vernon Street opposite the Glebe Town Hall and Ellen would do any work a decent mother could to feed and secure the future of her three boys. She managed on her own until marrying again in 1906 to Michael Hogan and by then her eldest son, Samuel, was a young man of eighteen. Ellen and Michael had no further children.

The war in Europe was the prevailing news in 1915 and Australian troops were being withdrawn from the 'failed' campaign at Gallipoli, when Ellen's two youngest boys volunteered and embarked on the troop ship Mooltan in December 1915. Richard, 25, and Murray, 23, were both fit young men and had been working in the carrying industry when they felt the urge to go to the aid of Mother England. Murray had married and he and new wife Ethel lived in a rented house in Leichhardt where she had borne him two children.

A sense of adventure and loyalty to the mother country drove many young men



Tyne Cot Cemetery Paesschendale, France

to volunteer but also community pressure was felt by all able bodied men of the time. Ellen's eldest son Samuel had chosen not to volunteer at that stage but he too would come to volunteer about six months later.

The youngest son Murray was the first to be killed after surviving for 18 months on the western front in the 1st Infantry Battalion in France. A matter of days before he was killed his older brother Richard rejoined the same unit, after serving as a Military Policeman in France. Richard died in October 1917 near Ypres fighting with the same battalion as his younger brother. Murray's name appears on the Villiers Bretonneux Memorial and Richard was buried in Tyne Cot cemetery at Paesschendale.

Ellen wrote to Australian Military Command in May 1918 pleading for her eldest son Samuel to be repatriated to Australia. She wrote '*as he is wounded and in England I think I have helped the Empire by losing two sons and a third being wounded*'. Samuel was indeed

repatriated to Australia but not until October 1919 and not before he was again sent to the front lines in France in July 1918.

In October 1921 Ellen wrote again pleading for an increase in her £1 per fortnight pension. She wrote '*His father died 26 years ago and I had 3 sons and 2 was killed at the war and Pte Samuel Sharpe returned unfit and I just buried my second husband*'. There is no record saying whether she got her pension increased.

Goodness knows what happened to Ellen after 1921 but she could have moved on and remarried again. Samuel continued to live in the area until he passed away in 1942.

Lest We Forget

- Rod Holtham

(From information drawn from the National Archives of Australia)

Anzac Day Service

Glebe War Memorial – Glebe Point Road

7.30am, Sunday 25 April

There will be some new faces at this year's Anzac Day Ceremony. Rev Paul Perini, the new Rector of St John's Church, will officiate and the talk, *The Cost of Peace*, will be given by Rev Anthea McCall, Lecturer at Ridley College, Melbourne.

What won't change is that everyone is welcome and that morning tea will be served at the back of the church after the service.



Who lived in your street?

Philip Coleman Williams (1830-1911)

by Lyn Collingwood

Two places were dear to Cornish immigrant Philip Williams: his native county and Glebe in his adopted land. Near the end of his life, when living in *Penbeagle* on the corner of Derwent and Arundel Streets, he wrote a newspaper 'Letter to the Editor' with memories of the Glebe he knew over half a century earlier, hoping that the 'old-time lore might interest the young and middle-aged'. At the time of writing he had built up a successful ironmongery and furnishing business in Forest Lodge.

Philip and Mary (née Gill ca 1829-1914) Williams landed 'on the sandy shore of Sydney Cove' as assisted migrants (they paid £4 towards their passage) on 3 July 1853 on the *Meteor*. Philip, a carpenter, was from Bodmin, his pregnant wife from St Stephen. They knew Richard Goldsworthy and Philip's cousin who were already living in the colony. The first of their dozen or so children, Mary Louisa, was born on 10 September 1853 and given a Wesleyan baptism in Surry Hills although her parents' official religion was Church of England. After moving to Glebe their local church was St Barnabas.

Their first home was in Glebe Street amid 'a cluster of slab huts, and wattle and daub, with a few weatherboard cottages'. Philip enjoyed sitting 'after a scorching hot day' in the Shaftesbury Gardens attached to the *Lady of the Lake* hotel on the corner of Bay and Greek Streets, 'the joy of Sydney and Glebe, with its brass band of music of an evening', a swing and outdoor stools and tables. These were Sydney's only public gardens. Otherwise, Glebe Point being 'the home of the Sydney elite', for a change of air you had to go to Kurrajong, Hunter's Hill or Kissing Point. Prominent features inside the pub were a circular counter and a 'statue of a black boy over the mantle'.

Innkeeper James Simpson was the licensee at this time. A 'model publican' who never opened on Sundays, he was elected to Glebe's first council in 1859. When the *Lady of the Lake's* wealthy owner Robert Hancock took



St Barnabas' Broadway, where Philip Coleman Williams and his family worshipped, ca 1870. The Church burned down in 2006.

over, the place became a haunt for derelicts, outlaws, vagabonds, thieves and 'haybag' women. Nevertheless Philip Williams had 'an old-time regard for the old tavern', destined to close under a new licensing Act of 1908. As a result of pressure from the temperance movement, strengthened by female suffrage, over 70 metropolitan hotels, categorised drinking holes rather than places offering accommodation, were shut down.

By 1863 Philip Williams had moved to Glebe Road where he remained until 1870, variously describing himself as joiner, carpenter or builder. After a brief sojourn in Lyndhurst Street he set up as an ironmonger on Parramatta Road next to the *Queen's Arms* on the corner with Bay Street, and by 1880 was advertising himself as an 'ironmonger and oil and colour man'.

From 1885 to 90 he lived at *Penharwood* 178 Hereford Street, between Cross and Ross Streets, with a business address at 15 Parramatta Street. His son and business partner Philip Coleman jnr established his own ironmongery at 65 Rofe Street Leichhardt but faced bankruptcy by the mid 1890s). In July 1903 Philip and Mary registered two firms on Old Canterbury Road (sic) Forest Lodge: P C Williams ironmongery and furnishing, and Williams & Company ironmongery and furnishing.

After leaving *Penharwood* Williams named his last house on the corner of Derwent Street and Parramatta Old Road (now Arundel Street) after another

Cornish town – Penbeagle. Philip died on 26 March 1911 survived by his wife and seven children. Mary died on 28 March 1914, leaving 22 grandchildren. Both had funeral services at St Barnabas and both were buried in the Wesleyan sector at Rookwood.

The Williams' loyalty to things past is seen in the naming of their houses and children. The middle name of their second son Joseph who died aged 18 months in 1867 was Penharwood. Richard Goldsworthy, one of their original contacts in Sydney, was commemorated in daughter Emily's middle name.

Philip and Mary's children included Mary Louisa who settled at Bowral after marrying John Downing Sherriff, widower of her younger sister Emily Goldsworthy (1858-79); Emily Jane (1857-1936) married Morden Pinnington and died at Mosman; Alice Maud Clara (1860-1940) married John B Doutry and died at Mosman; Rosetta (1862-80); Philip Coleman born 1863; Joseph Penharwood (1866-7); John A R born 1867; Alfred Ernest born 1870 and Adeline Agatha, who died soon after birth in 1872.

- Lyn Collingwood

Sources:

NSW cemetery records
NSW electoral rolls
NSW register of births, deaths, marriages
NSW State Records register of firms
NSW State Records register of shipping
Sands directories
Sydney Morning Herald 3 April 1908

A new St Barnabas Church coming soon

On Friday 19 February, Robert Forsyth, the Bishop of South Sydney and a former rector of St Barnabas, made the first sledgehammer blow to begin demolition, in preparation for a new \$15 million church, complete with a billboard.

From *The Sydney Morning Herald*
20-21 February.

Getting to know new members



Nilukshi and Indika Nanayakkara

Nilukshi and her brother Indika are recently joined new members who are renting an apartment in the University Hall building on the corner of Parramatta Road and Glebe Point Road.

Nilukshi studied at the University of Sydney, and is an accountant. Indika is an engineer, working in the telecommunications area. As a student Nilukshi lived in the University's International House.

Following her studies she returned to Sri Lanka for two years. Her immediate family lives in the coastal city of Galle, an old port successively colonized by the Portuguese and the Dutch. Galle, on the most southerly part of the island, was devastated by the 2004 tsunami, and Nilukshi and Indika's mother lost four members of her immediate family

Her two-year visit to Sri Lanka served to prove how Australianised Nilukshi had become, and so she returned to Sydney which is now her home.

Apparently Indika is the cook at their place, but Nilukshi's interest is in baking. She mentioned a delicious-sounding sticky pineapple cake.

Despite a busy life-style, Nilukshi finds time for salsa dancing, and her search for volunteering opportunities led her to the Glebe Society. We look forward to seeing them both at Society activities, and will be glad to have Nilukshi's volunteering contribution.

- Carole Herriman

Truly a Wireless House

Foley Park had a major re-opening in September 2009 by Mayor Clover Moore, with all the pomp, speeches, and community celebrations that the City of Sydney council is so famous for. However, many locals were disappointed that little mention was made on that day of the rejuvenated Wireless House.

So the Glebe Society pushed for a 're-launch' of the Wireless House and such an event was held on Sunday 21 March. Dr Nigel Helyer, sculptor and sound-artist, attended the event and spoke to the small crowd about his role in ensuring that the Wireless House was saved from demolition. He said that he was originally told by Council that it was to be demolished and that any artwork that he was interested in creating could be built on the foundations that would be preserved. Nigel was not impressed, and proposed a far more ambitious plan which the Council finally accepted. He pointed out that, to the best of his knowledge, our Wireless House is the only such purpose-built building in the world.

You can listen to Nigel Helyer's talk on the Glebe Society's website. Go to www.glebesociety.org.au where you will see the news item 'Listen to Nigel Helyer talk about the Wireless House'.



An important feature of the rejuvenated Wireless House is the playing of a random selection of historic radio soundtracks provided by the National Film & Sound Archives. Additionally, a small group of local volunteers has been working on collecting oral histories that recall the 'old days' of Glebe. Today the Wireless House also provides free internet access to those in Foley Park who have wi-fi on their laptop, iPhone or smartphone, so it can now truly be described as a wireless house! Your laptop must have wireless capability. Once you've got your computer started in Foley Park, go to the settings for available wireless connections, and select 'Unwired Free Internet'. Then open your web browser, be that Internet Explorer, Firefox, Mozilla, or whatever you prefer to use.

- words and photo by Phil Young

Dinosaurs in Foley Park



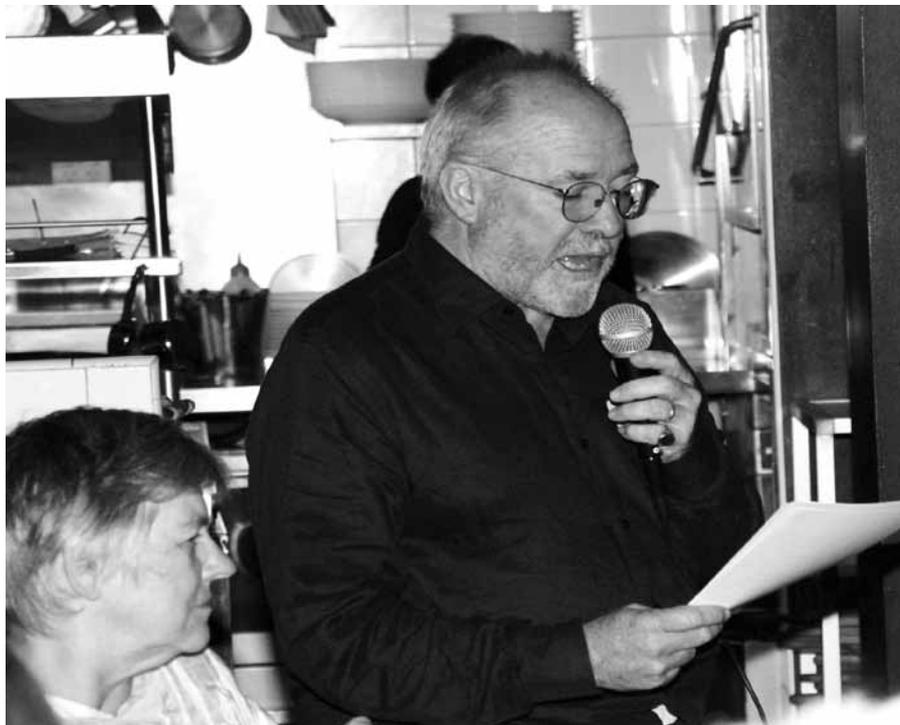
Dinosaurs in the park, including Neil Macindoe, Carole Herriman and Edwina Doe.

Photo: Jan Macindoe

Edwina Doe writes: The City of Sydney's Good Neighbourhood BBQ in Foley Park on Sunday 21 March attracted a wide variety of Glebe residents, children and dogs. The star turn was a very realistic dinosaur, brought to the park by Erth Dinosaur Petting Zoo. It walked among the picnickers, roaring and waving its head, to the delight of most of the children and adults present.

Glebe events

Members reminisce about great meals in days gone by



John Newton recalls many of the great eating places in Glebe. Photo: Bruce Davis

The *Glebe Point Diner* was filled to capacity with Glebe Society members on Tuesday 16 March to enjoy a wonderful meal and to be entertained by John Newton's talk about the history of Glebe's restaurants. John Newton is a well-known Sydney food and restaurant reviewer, and he recounted for us some of the first restaurants of Glebe as well as some of the more recent. He brought back to us many memories of names like *Rasputin*, *Darling Mills*, *Cafe Troppo*, *Toni's Deli*, *Il Crostino*, *the Crepe Connection*, *Morgan's Feedwell*, *Tien*, *Kim Van*, *Bassetts*, and *The Abbey*. John pointed out that the first chef's hat award in Glebe by the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Good Food Guide was given to the *Mixing Pot* in 1986.

John described how in the 1970s eating out in restaurants became 'habitual'. He pointed out that in 1976 there were just seven restaurants in Glebe but in 1980 there were 17, in 1986 there were 32 and in 2001 there were 50.

An advance notice of this event was sent by email to Glebe Society members in the middle of January and the event was so popular that it was sold

out by the end of January, long before we could advertise it in a *Bulletin*. If you missed out, look out for news of a repeat performance, or listen to John's talk on the Glebe Society Website.

Go to www.glebesociety.org.au and you'll see the news item 'Listen to John Newton's talk at the *Glebe Point Diner*'.

- Phil Young

The Future of Harold Park

The Glebe Society is concerned about the Government Architect's preferred option for Harold Park.

Come and have your say at a public meeting at St Scholastica's Hall (entrance corner Avenue and Arcadia Roads - same place as workshops and polling booth).

**Wednesday
21 April at 6.30pm**

All welcome

**Make sure the City and the State
Government get the message!**

Talking Heads At Toxteth

Friday 30 April, 2010 at 6 for 6.30pm in the upstairs function room of the Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Putting Community Back into Politics

Panel:

Verity Firth - Member for Balmain, former Deputy Lord Mayor, Council of City of Sydney

Lawrence Gibbons - President, Pyrmont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce, Group Publisher - *Sydney City News*, *City Hub*, *Inner West Independent*, *Bondi View*

Lesley Lynch - President, The Glebe Society

Jamie Parker - Mayor, Leichhardt Municipal Council

Join us for dinner after for a '*buy one get one free*' meal deal.

Donation: \$10/ \$5 concession.

Dinner reservations essential - contact katebarton3@optusnet.com.au or 9518 5560 for further information.

Players in the Pub

7 pm Tuesday 20 April: *The Third Secretary* by Ralph Peterson. Directed by Harley Connor. Inspired by the Petrov affair, described by Gough Whitlam in his introduction to the published version of the play as 'the Great Australian Spy Drama ... its real producers Senator Joe McCarthy and John Foster Dulles ... Australians were just the stage managers in an outlying provincial theatre'.

This is the next in the popular series of occasional moved play readings in the comfortable Media Room, upstairs in the Toxteth Hotel 345 Glebe Point Road (corner Ferry Road) Glebe.

7 pm Tuesday 4 May: A stage version of the classic Bette Davis movie *Now, Voyager*, directed by Nicholas Papademetriou. By kind and generous arrangement with Warner Bros Australia.

Free admission. Two main meals for the price of one on Tuesdays.

News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We visit a different restaurant each month, varying cuisines. Put these dates in your diary now.

On **Thursday 1 April** we will go to *Naggy's*, 333 Glebe Point Road.

On **Thursday 6 May** we will have a Turkish meal at *The Cushion House*, 73 Glebe Point Road.

And on **Thursday 3 June** we will try the Mexican cuisine at the *Flying Fajita Sistas*, 65 Glebe Point Road.

Please email me or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Tuesday before the dinner to let me know if you are coming, and if you are likely to be late.

- Edwina Doe

Welcome to new member

Sybil Jack was accepted as a member of the Glebe Society at the March Management Committee meeting.

We look forward to seeing her at future Glebe Society functions.

Living in Harmony - Glebe Community Mural Launch

To commemorate this year's Festival, Glebe community members will paint a mural promoting harmony and diversity outside the Peter Forsyth Auditorium. Come along to the mural launch and see a showcase of paintings from local community workshops.

Saturday 24 April, 1 - 3pm

Peter Forsyth Auditorium, Francis Street - corner of Franklyn Street, Glebe

Enquiries: Nicholas Costaras on 9246 7319

A part of the Living in Harmony Festival - Monday 22 March to Saturday 1 May.

From City of Sydney Website

Coro innominata - Sacred Light

3pm, Sunday 2 May 2010

St Francis of Assisi Church, Paddington
Guest Musical Director - Elizabeth Scott

Choral composers have long been inspired by the joyous idea of eternal light, at once radiant and serene. For the contemporary American Morten Lauridsen it is a universal symbol of illumination and through his *Lux Aeterna* he hoped 'to add a measure of joy, richness and transformation to the lives of both performers and listeners'. Guest conductor Elizabeth Scott will lead us in a meditation on light with Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and works by Monteverdi, Schütz and Eric Whitacre.

To order tickets email coro@innominata.org or call 0413 440 173. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Community consultation on Housing Department's plans for Camperdown

There will be a community consultation workshop about the Master Plan which was submitted by Housing NSW to the City of Sydney for the block bounded by Pymont Bridge Road, Layton Street, Lambert Street, and Lyons Road. Camperdown.

Date: Wednesday 31 March, 2010, 6pm - 8pm

Place: Rydges Hotel Camperdown (Bligh Room A & B)
9 Missenden Road, Camperdown.

To assist with event planning, please RSVP by Monday 29 March 2010 by calling Elton Consulting at 1800 046 606 or emailing: camperdown@elton.com.au.

Tony Larkum's book available at Glebe Library

There was an article in Bulletin 1/2010 about Tony Larkum's book *A Natural Calling: Life, Letters and Diaries of Charles Darwin and William Darwin Fox*.

A copy of this book is now available at the Glebe Library.

Yaralla Open Day

10-3pm Sunday 2 May 2010

Nullawarra Avenue. Entrance opposite The Drive, off Concord Road, on the banks of the Parramatta River at Concord West

Further information: www.concordheritage.asn.au

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor: Clover Moore MP

Councillors:

Phillip Black
Meredith Burgmann
Irene Doutney
Chris Harris
Marcelle Hoff
Robert Kok
Shayne Mallard
John McInerney
Di Tornai

For enquiries: Please contact the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.



Forest Lodge
Public School

Home of The Glebe
Society Archives



Phone 9660 3530

For your diary ...

Sunday 28 March – meet 1.30pm - A Temple, a Chapel and Two Churches, starting at the Sze Yup Temple in Edward Street.

Thursday 1 April, 7 pm - Thirsty Thursday - *Naggy's*, 333 Glebe Point Road. See Page 10.

Thursday 8 April - 6.30pm - *Benledi*, 186 Glebe Point Road - Glebe Society meeting about Harold Park.

Wednesday 14 April, 7.30pm – Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

Sunday 18 April, 2-4.30pm – Afternoon Tea at *Lyndhurst*, Darghan Street. See page 1.

Tuesday 20 April, 7pm - Players in the Pub – Toxteth Hotel. See Page 10.

Wednesday 21 April, 6.30pm - St Scholastica's - public meeting about Harold Park. See Page 9.

Sunday 25 April, 7.30am - Anzac Day service at the War Memorial, Glebe Point Road.

Tuesday 4 May, 7pm - Players in the Pub – Toxteth Hotel. See Page 10.

Thursday 6 May, 7 pm - Thirsty Thursday - *The Cushion House*, 73 Glebe Point Road. See Page 10.

Wednesday 12 May, 7.30pm – Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

Thursday 3 June, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - the Flying Fajita Sistas, 65 Glebe Point Road. See Page 10.

Wednesday 9 June, 7.30pm – Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

Contacting The Glebe Society

Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037

Website

The Society has a growing Website (www.glebesociety.org.au) for the information of members and anyone with an interest in Glebe. The Website will only flourish if members use the site. Send contributions or comments to webmaster@glebesociety.org.au

The Bulletin

We are glad to publish letters or articles on any matters of interest to Glebe, any topic raised in the *Bulletin*, or any issues relating to the Glebe Society, within the Guidelines published on our website. Write to the address above or email editor@glebe.society.org.au

Disclaimer

Views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of The Glebe Society Inc.

Bulletin deadline

The next edition of the *Bulletin* will be published at the end of April. The deadline for contributions is Wednesday 15 April.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Secretary	tba	tba
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members:

Andrew Craig 9566 1746	Dorothy Davis 9660 7873
Carole Herriman 9571 9092	Liz Simpson-Booker 9518 6186

Sub-committee Convenors:

All sub-committee convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

Arts, Culture and Media	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Bays and Foreshores	Tony Larkum	9660 7030
Community Development	Robyn Kemmis	9692 9440
The Environment	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Heritage	tba	tba
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport, & Traffic	Andrew Craig	9566 1746

Other contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Bruce Davis	9669 7873
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	9660-6104
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Event Coordination	Dorothy Davis	9660 7873
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Liaison with CoGG	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Website	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592

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The **GLEBE**  **SOCIETY Inc**
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037

*Postage
paid*

Membership of the Glebe Society

Individual member	\$45
Joint (2 people, one address)	\$55
Household (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address)	\$60
Concession (student or pensioner)	\$20
Institution or corporate	\$110

Download a membership form from our website (www.glebesociety.org.au, click on Join), write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037, or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please contact the Secretary.

Community Contacts

Manager-Neighbourhood Services Centre: Glebe, Forest Lodge, Camperdown, Ultimo & Pyrmont: Nick Hespe.
Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Glebe Town Hall Office: 9298 3187, 9am-5pm Mon- Fri.

Sydney City Council Customer Service
Telephone (24 hours): 9265 9333
email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped Shopping trolleys: Trolley Tracker 1800 641 497

Waterway Garbage: NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592