

## A Day in the Life of an Urban Historian



Shirley Fitzgerald and friends at the Glebe Rowing Club. Photo Bruce Davis

Almost 50 people gathered at the Glebe Rowing Club on Wednesday evening, 21 September to hear Shirley Fitzgerald, City of Sydney Historian, talk about her work. The date coincided with the usual meeting of the Friends of Benledi and the Glebe Library, and we were delighted to welcome them to join us on this occasion. We were also pleased to be joined by the secretary of the Heritage Group of Leichhardt District.

After we had enjoyed a preliminary drink, Shirley began by describing her work as part of the City's small history unit, and explained that the idea of having a city historian is a relatively new concept, particularly in the Australian context, and in fact for many people the idea of a historian as a profession is little understood – she is not a librarian, an archivist, or a heritage worker, although the work of these professionals impinges on her work too. At best a historian will recreate a good approximation of the past, and this may be approached from many angles. Urban history emerged in the United States in the 1920's. It covers all types of history – social, political, cultural, but with a focus on place - in this instance on Sydney. And so there is a geographical element to a historian's work too.

Quoting from one of her own books (*Sydney: story of a city*), she said:

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### Annual General Meeting 2005

Thirty people attended the Glebe Society's 2005 AGM, which was held on Sunday 28 August at *Benledi*.

It was a very relaxed meeting. Bob Armstrong read his President's Report. (See Insert in this *Bulletin*). As reports from the Convenors of Subcommittees had been published in our last *Bulletin* (7/2005), they were not read out at the meeting. Bruce Davis presented the Treasurer's Report, which shows that the Society's financial position is safe.

No elections were necessary for office bearers or the Management Committee. Bob Armstrong, Liz Simpson-Booker and Bruce Davis were the only people nominated for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Similarly, as there were three new nominations for the Management Committee, John Gray, Jan Wilson and new member Anne Fraser were elected automatically.

Bruce Davis continues to serve as Interim Vice-president, but as he is gradually

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# Change on the way for Wentworth Park



**The good, the bad and the ugly:** Left, the heritage listed tower, foreground, the kennels, and towering over all, the grandstand.

Change is afoot at Wentworth Park, and while there is no suggestion that greyhound racing will be relocated in the near future it seems likely that the appearance of the central section where the dog track is located could be greatly improved.

This section, which is referred to as “the Complex” to distinguish it from the park overall, is managed by the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust. The Trust recently began preparation of a Management Plan for the area, and the Glebe Society was one of a number of stakeholder groups invited to a workshop on 14 September at which consultants began teasing out a vision for the future of the Complex.

Trustees of the Complex told the workshop that the Trust already has plans to improve the Wentworth Park Road entrance by pulling down the existing turnstiles and providing a clear view of the heritage-listed tower which is to be restored. There was general agreement that many old and disused buildings could be pulled down and a better setting provided for the heritage buildings within the Complex.

The Alcatraz-like fences around the Complex also came in for dishonourable mentions, and the workshop agreed that the central section devoted to greyhound racing should be better integrated with the northern and southern ends of the park. However it appears that the grandstand is not negotiable at this stage.

Wentworth Park was proclaimed in 1885 and is one of Sydney’s oldest parks. It

was built on reclaimed land and originally was an integrated park with gardens and a cricket pitch complete with picket fence. It is said the first game of rugby league was played there, and it still contains many fine examples of original plantings, particularly the figs on the margins of the park and near the dog track.

The division of the park into three sections came in the 1930s when the dog track was created. The park is now administered by two

different authorities, with the central section under the control of the Trust (chaired by Susan Cleary, a member of the Society), and the two other sections under the control of the Sydney City Council.

It was apparent at the workshop that any plans for the future of the park as a whole will need to take into account a wide range of community needs, and that any

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## New convenor for Wentworth Park - page 9

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thoughts of dedicating the area to passive recreation only will meet a lot of resistance.

While greyhound racing is the main activity on the central section, there are also many other users, including the Eastern Suburbs rugby league club, local schools and community associations. Events that have been held there over the years range from Christmas parties for Glebe senior citizens, Spanish and Jewish celebrations, antique fairs, fetes and The Teddy Bears’ Picnic.

Representatives from Pymont remembered the time when Wentworth Park was referred to as “the big park” and was the centre for many community activities, and even circuses. The construction of the large new grandstand with its offices and function rooms had alienated the park from the people, and they would like it to become

a people’s park again.

A representative of the greyhound racing interests recognised the need for the Complex to become better integrated with its surroundings, and that many facilities need to be renovated. However he stressed that community use needs to be balanced by income-producing commercial activities, and satisfactory transport arrangements for patrons of race meetings.

As the Department of Sport and Recreation will move out of its offices in the grandstand in 2007, the Trust will have to find substantial revenue from new tenants. This might not be easy as legally the only uses of the area are for community or sporting purposes.

It appears that the greyhound racing community would like to hang on to Wentworth Park for as long as possible. The current licence agreement runs to 2007 with an option to extend for another 20 years, and the industry regards the “Wentworth Park brand” as a valuable commodity.

Given that the industry regards crowds of 500 to 1,500 as “viable”, compared to crowds of 15,000 in the industry’s hey day, and its admission that 90% of its income comes from “off course” (presumably the TAB), one might wonder whether the dog track is not merely a huge outdoor television studio situated in the middle of a once beautiful park.

While the improvements that are likely to emerge from the Trust’s Management Plan will be welcome, I doubt that they will diminish the Society’s desire to return the park to the residents of the Inner West.

- Bruce Davis



The grandstand from another angle, and one of the park’s many figs. Photos: Bruce Davis

# Council adopts the Foley Park Plan of Management

Following the update on Foley Park in *Bulletin 7/2005* (Annual Reports section), the Plan of Management for the park was considered at Council meeting on 12 September.

When we looked at the final plan submitted to Council, after exhibition and community comments had been received, we realised that three important issues raised by the Glebe Society had not been incorporated in the Master Plan. We decided to put these three matters before the Councillors again with a request that they be reconsidered.

The three points at issue were:

**1. The need to keep the main circular pathway**, and not incorporate 90-degree corners, which would either hinder the movement of vehicles required for daily park maintenance and services for children, or damage the grass (as now happens).

We felt that the acute angles were not aesthetically pleasing, and that the curvaceous character of the pathways should be retained.

**2. We preferred the present position of the playground**, as the revised location intrudes on the "Village Green" space as well as causing some of the 90-degree pathway corners referred to in (1) above.

The playground in its present position does not in any way impede the interpretation of the floorplan of *Hereford House* using stepping stones.

**3. We stressed the need to provide some sound-proofing along the Bridge Road boundary of the Park** – such as a thick hedge-like planting. Without this park users are exposed to the high number of vehicular movements on this road, which is classified by the RTA as a "main" road. This is contrary to the stated aim of creating a "calm green oasis" in Glebe.

We have now been advised that Council adopted the Foley Park Plan of Management on 12 September, together with a recommendation that our three issues in the Plan be reappraised at the design development stage.

Council has proposed the removal of the baby health centre, providing appropriate

alternative premises can be found.

After the Plan has been adopted by the Minister of Planning, Council has set the following target dates:

- Prepare design for stage 1 of works from December 2005
- Commence construction from November 2006.

The 2005/06 Capital works Budget includes an allocation of \$200,000 to commence design development and documentation. Council has allocated a further \$2 million in 2006/07 – 2007/08 to stage the implementation of the master plan over the next 3 years.

We look forward to being consulted in the design development stage.

- **Bobbie Burke, for the Foley Park Working Group.**

## Glebe poplars to go

The City of Sydney recently commissioned a number of independent arborists' reports to ascertain the stability of poplar trees following a major tree failure in Surry Hills.



Unfortunately the reports concluded that a number of trees need to be removed in Wigram Road, Parramatta Road, Catherine Street, Devonshire Street and Mt Vernon Street, Glebe.

The removal of the trees is a matter of public safety and will take place over the next few weeks.

Replacement trees will be planted immediately and the City has selected some advanced species of trees (not poplars) to replace them.

If you would like more detailed information on the findings in the arborists' reports they are available for inspection at the Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre at 160 St John's Road Glebe.

- **Jenny Underwood  
Glebe Place Manager, City of Sydney**

## East Glebe Foreshore Draft Plan of Management

The City of Sydney is updating the Blackwattle Bay Park Plan of Management (1999) and incorporating the adjacent open space from the Australand development between Cook Street and Ferry Road (which will be a new public park) to meet current legislative requirements. The Plan of Management will document guidelines for the development, use and management of these parkland areas and heritage buildings.

The new plan, to be known as the East Glebe Foreshore Plan of Management, will document guidelines for the development, use and management of these parkland areas and heritage buildings. Public meetings and a call for submissions were held in August to seek comment and input into the preparation of the Draft.

### How to get involved

The Draft Plan of Management is on display from September 20 at the One Stop Shop, Town Hall House, Sydney, and at your local City of Sydney neighbourhood service centres in Glebe, Kings Cross and Redfern. It will also be available as a download from the City website.

Comments should be provided by November 1. Details of a public meeting to be held in October will be advised shortly.

If you wish to provide comment please post, fax or email your written comments to:

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## Urban historian

“The ability to read the layering of the landscape of a city is one of the things that makes living in an urban place exciting. It is the thing that makes people passionate about heritage places... In making an inventory of what of Sydney’s past has survived it is not only the obvious buildings and precincts that make up the list. The eye which is attuned to the ways in which the city has developed will find endless traces ... But in these traces we can begin to imagine past lives, hear voices, discover connections with the richness of the life of the city... From all of these things we begin to understand where we have come from, why being a Sydneysider is different from being a citizen of Melbourne, or London or Bangkok...”

Shirley’s job description says roughly that she will know everything there is to know about anything to do with Sydney’s past and that she will be constantly available to anyone who wants to know. A tall order! Her work, accordingly, ranges from the apparently trivial, through being the corporate memory of a staff that is constantly changing, being familiar with the civic and corporate history of the city (which has itself seen many colourful and not so colourful personalities, such as John Norton, editor of *Truth* and City alderman, who claimed to have invented the word ‘wowsler’ when he referred to Alderman Waterhouse as the ‘white, woolly, weary, watery, word-wasting wowsler from Waverly’), its internal organisational history, advice on the naming of streets and parks (some traps for new players in this!), to finding historical evidence for the Council’s legal department.

The big picture history is of an ongoing power struggle between Macquarie Street and George Street for the control of Sydney. Generally in the balance between the three tiers of Government, in Sydney, as in local government everywhere, the direction has been to take power out of local control and entrust it to central government, often without democratic controls.

Shirley and her colleagues have written books about different areas within what is now the City of Sydney in the course of which, when she came to look at Pymont and Ultimo in the early 1990’s, she suddenly found the boundaries between history (the past) and politics (the present) dissolving when she

## Letter to the Editor

### The Valhalla



It is heartwarming news that the Valhalla Cinema has been put on the heritage list, but that is only the beginning, isn’t it? What are the possibilities that The Glebe Society and its many well-to-do members form a consortium with the future developer to reopen a revitalised cinema in the Valhalla? It must be possible to run this much loved local Art Deco moving picture house with enthusiastic volunteers and other fans. We really do need an arthouse cinema in Glebe.

I am happy to contribute my labour power between my other jobs, though I lack the funds to contribute financially to the project. What is the plan for the building that comprises the cinema, the cafe etc? Does anyone know?

I can never come to the meetings of the Society due to evening work on those particular nights, but I would like to be involved in any plans to resurrect the Valhalla, where I spent many happy hours for many years.

- Mia Campioni

encountered residents hurt and angry at the brutal collapse of their history that resulted from the State Government’s reconstruction of their place. Father Ed Campion had encountered something similar in the 1970’s with the residents of Woolloomooloo. Neither side of politics at State level has demonstrated concern for either heritage or community in this regard.

If there is one thing that history teaches, it is that nothing is achieved forever – whether civil liberties, democratic rights or heritage listings. Sometimes the last ditch role of history may be to act as a comfort in times of loss by getting the story on record.

Currently we are being told that Sydney is a City of Villages. At one level this is plainly not true. A city is an integrated place, whose residents make connections across many different trajectories. Its economic and social activities are hugely tangled across the whole, and its cultural ways do not change when you cross from one ‘village’ to the next. Or do they? We all recognise that places have a different ‘feel’ from other places. We have a concept of these places. It may be strong for some places and dimmer for others. You may be decidedly fuzzy about where one village ends and another begins, but you know Glebe is different from Newtown, Newtown is different from East Sydney and so on.

The challenge is going to be to maintain that complex fabric. Sydney is not an ancient city, but it is one with enough historical depth to challenge us, with complex layerings of housing stock and diverse land use patterns. The challenge for the next century will be to keep this complexity. The challenge for the

historian is to keep reminding people why it matters.

Shirley illustrated her talk with a number of amusing anecdotes, and kindly answered questions afterwards. The evening concluded with general chat over drinks and refreshments.

- Jeanette Knox

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## Annual General Meeting

converting his life style from inner city to sea change we do need a new Vice-president who can step up when Bob completes his two-year term of office. Any offers?

Bruce outlined the work of the group reviewing the Glebe Society Strategic Plan which incorporated a Vision for Glebe as well as strategic objectives.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Ted McKeown and Neil Macindoe for their work on the tramsheds DA.

After the formal part of the meeting, the gathering was addressed by Chris Johnson, former Government Architect and newly appointed Executive Director, Urban Renewal, Department of Infrastructure and Natural Resources. His talk, *Glebe in the World of Urban Renewal*, was very well received and stimulated wide-ranging discussion (see report on page 6)

The discussion continued while we enjoyed the refreshments, which were kindly provided by Susie Cleary, Lydia Bushell, Fay Mander Jones and Alison McKeown.

See page 11 for the full list of Committee Members, Sub-committee Convenors and other Glebe Society contacts.

- Edwina Doe

John Poulton, Heritage Specialist, City of Sydney, tells us the history of one of Glebe's little-known treasures.

## Glebe's other Tramshed - 431 Glebe Point Road



1947 Addition designed by David King. Photo: John Poulton

431 Glebe Point Road, often referred to as the Max Factor Building or the Traveland Building, contains a four storey inter-war brick building at the rear, with a six storey functionalist style concrete addition fronting Glebe Point Road.

The site forms part of the grounds of *Guildford Lodge*, where a villa was erected in 1842 for Richard Wilkinson Robinson, described in the title documents as being a "soap and candle manufacturer". In 1925, the site was acquired by Frederick Stearns and Company, a large pharmaceutical and cosmetic manufacturing company based in Detroit, USA. Stearns demolished *Guildford Lodge* and in 1927 erected a new building to manufacture pharmaceuticals and cosmetics under the trade name Nyal and Co. They appear to have had sufficient influence to enable Glebe Municipal Council to allow an industrial use in a predominantly residential area but the background to this is not known.

In 1947 architect David W King designed the Glebe Point Road addition to the building. The original drawings, which are kept in the City of Sydney Archives, are entitled *Alterations and extensions to laboratory premises for Frederick Stearns and Company a division of Sterling Drugs*.

Max Factor and Co occupied the building from 1960 until 1985, after which it was

used for secure storage as well as offices for Traveland Pty Ltd. More recently it has been used for commercial offices.

With subsequent changes in ownership and in the use of the building, alterations and additions have been carried out over time including the replacement of the original windows, installation of sun louvres, modifications to the main entry and the construction of an additional level. A swimming pool and recreational terrace were also added to the roof area. The interiors have been reconfigured for commercial tenancies but the significant mushroom columns have been retained.

### 1947 Addition and Tram Shelter

The 1947 addition was designed by David King in the inter-war functionalist style of architecture and it demonstrates key aspects of the style including clean sharp lines and horizontal bands of windows emphasized by concrete hoods. The strong horizontality of the building is broken by a strong vertical bay above the main entrance in Glebe Point Road, which has a tall glass brick window with vertical ribs. Whilst the 1947 addition is clearly out of scale with its Victorian surroundings, it is a local landmark and significant in its own right. It is representative of the application

of International Functionalist modernism to industrial buildings in the 1930s and 1940s.

In 1948 David King also designed the tram shelter which was incorporated into the front boundary of the property. It is constructed with reinforced concrete and has a distinctive cantilevered roof in keeping with the design of the 1947 addition. Although the tram service was discontinued along Glebe Point Road in 1958, the structure continues its original function by providing shelter for bus passengers.

### 2004 Development Application

A development application was approved by the City of Sydney in November 2004 to adaptively reuse the building for residential purposes. It included works to reinstate more of the original external appearance of the 1948 addition such as through the removal of the detracting sun louvres and the reinstatement of two flag poles on top of the parapet above the entry as per the original design.

The building is currently for sale. Whatever its future, every effort must be made to ensure that the building at 431 Glebe Point Road, which is an important part of Glebe's rich and diverse heritage, is retained and conserved.

### Architect David King

David King was born in Queensland in 1905, graduated from Sydney University and commenced practice in 1932. He became a corporate member of the Royal

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The 1948 Tram Shelter. Photo: John Poulton

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Australian Institute of Architects in 1933. He is probably best known for his design of the Australian Provincial Association Mutual Ltd (APA) twelve storey head office in Martin Place which was completed in 1937. It is characterised by polished red granite to the lower and ground floors, and a combination of moulded and extruded glazed terracotta bricks, including the roof floor and tower. It is a building regarded as of being of high architectural quality that makes an important contribution to Martin Place. Certainly for a time he was considered at the forefront of his profession.

Other buildings designed by his practice included APA Buildings in Newcastle and Wellington NZ, a number of industrial buildings including the Waugh and Josephson Industrial complex in Alexandria (since demolished), hotels for Toohey's Brewery and churches.

Of interest is the fact that David King's practice was located in the APA Building from the 1930s until his retirement in the late 1960s. What better advertisement is there to the design skills of an architect?

## References

City of Sydney Archives, *431 Glebe Point Road Glebe DA Plans 0027/47 and Box 50875 showing the 1948 Tram shelter drawings*

Decoration and Glass, *Who's Who, David King*, pp 61-62, September 1937

Noel Bell Ridley Smith and Partners Pty Ltd, *431 Glebe Point Road Glebe Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement*, 2004

Romey Peter, *Conservation Plan for the APA Building, 53 Martin Place, Sydney*, 1990

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APA Building, 53 Martin Place Sydney. Photo: John Poulton

## Chris Johnson's address at the AGM

# Sydney needs to respond to diversity

*The occasional address at this year's annual general meeting of the Society was delivered by Chris Johnson, Executive Director Urban Renewal in NSW, and known to many members in his previous role of NSW Government Architect. The following is a summary of his talk.*

Sydney has become a far richer and diverse city over the last 50 years or so and over the next 25 years we need to be planning for the city's urban renewal in a way that responds to diversity. In the 1950s we had a monoculture where suburban housing families - mum, dad and kids - was the norm across our suburbs. Indeed 50 years before this the average household had 5.3 people and today this is reduced to half that at 2.6.

But as well as the change in demographics of the average household size there has been a dramatic shift away from families as being the dominant housing unit. In the 1950s over half our households were families; by 2031 according to demographer Bernard Salt from KMPG this will reduce to 25%. The other 75% will be one and two person units, couples before they have children, the elderly (either is couples or singles) living much longer than previous generations, individuals preferring to live on their own or couples not wanting to have children, or gay couples - our city has become a much more diverse and complex demographic system. It is essential in response to these changes and those predicted that the planning for future growth accommodates not just the family unit but also a variety of other household units. Indeed it is highly likely that we will have an oversupply of family housing units into the future and therefore the primary purpose of building new units is to pick up the one and two-person households.

Sydney's urban renewal needs to be a balancing act between protecting suburban family housing, but also accommodating new housing units in more urban and cosmopolitan locations. The balance also needs to be between the natural system of rivers,



Chris Johnson addresses the AGM. Photo: Bruce Davis

waterways, harbour, landscape fingers and parklands and national parks offset against the built environment.

The task ahead is how to allow development to occur that is driven by consumer needs and market place demands, but also to give a certain amount of guidance from government to ensure we get good quality solutions as we move into a new world.

The way I see development occurring is in fact very similar to the character of our inner city suburbs. Glebe is a good example - we have natural features of waterfront parklands and the harbour itself; we have suburban detached houses, terrace houses, villas, apartments, commercial spaces, retail and community facilities. We have also have a balance between affordability and higher end housing. Glebe gives us a mixed-use suburb where family units can remain within the suburb but move to different housing types as age or relationships change. Glebe is a good case study for how Sydney's more monocultured suburbs can evolve over the next 25 years to provide for our changing cosmopolitan culture and our changing demographics.



# Can ideas from Copenhagen change Sydney?



Jan Wilson, the Glebe Society's Coordinator for the Glebe Point Road Revitalisation Project, writes:

The Lord Mayor has been discussing 'car free' days in the City on ABC radio. She also mentioned Jan Gehl, a noted urban designer who has been advising the City of Sydney. His thoughts on how cities can become more liveable and enjoyable might be of interest to readers.

Jan Gehl is a practising Urban Design Consultant and Professor of Urban Design at the School of Architecture in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has extensively researched the form and use of public spaces and put his findings to practice in a variety of locations around the world.

His company, Gehl Architects – Urban Quality Consultants, focuses strongly on the facilitation of public life in public spaces, often pushing the boundaries beyond common uses of the public realm. To Gehl, design always begins with an analysis of the spaces between buildings. Only after a vision has been established of what type of public life one wants to see flourishing, is attention given to the surrounding buildings and how they can work together to support public spaces.

His research on public spaces and public life began in Copenhagen, but was quickly applied to many other cities in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. His ideas and approaches to design for public spaces incorporate the cutting edge of technology without losing sight of what best supports and enhances people's experience of everyday life in

the public realm. He has also been advising City of Sydney future direction. His 10-step program is infinitely adaptable and appropriate for sections of Glebe as well as the CBD.

## 1. Convert streets into pedestrian thoroughfares

The city turned its traditional main street, Stroget, into a pedestrian thoroughfare in 1962. In succeeding decades they gradually added more pedestrian-only streets, linking them to pedestrian-priority streets, where walkers and cyclists have right-of-way but cars are allowed at low speeds.

## 2. Reduce traffic and parking gradually

To keep traffic volume stable, the city reduced the number of cars in the city centre by eliminating parking spaces at a rate of 2-3 percent per year. Between 1986 and 1996 the city eliminated about 600 spaces.

## 3. Turn parking lots into public squares

The act of creating pedestrian streets freed up parking lots, enabling the city to transform them into public squares.



Next to Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens is the pedestrian friendly Town Hall Square.

## 4. Keep scale dense and low

Low-rise, densely spaced buildings allow breezes to pass over them, making the city centre milder and less windy than the rest of Copenhagen.

## 5. Honour the human scale

The city's modest scale and street grid make walking a pleasant experience; its historic buildings, with their stoops, awnings, and doorways, provide people with impromptu places to stand and sit.

## 6. Populate the core

More than 6,800 residents now live in the city centre. They've eliminated their dependence on cars, and at night their lighted windows give visiting pedestrians a feeling of safety.

## 7. Encourage student living

Students who commute to school on bicycles don't add to traffic congestion; on the contrary, their active presence, day and night, animates the city.

## 8. Adapt the cityscape to changing seasons

Outdoor cafes, public squares, and street performers attract thousands in the summer; skating rinks, heated benches, and gas-lit heaters on street corners make winters in the city centre enjoyable.

## 9. Promote cycling as a major mode of transportation

The city established new bike lanes and extended existing ones. They placed bike crossings – using space freed up by the elimination of parking – near intersections. Currently 34 percent of Copenhageners who work in the city bicycle to their jobs.

## 10. Make bicycles available

The city introduced the City Bike system in 1995, which allows anyone to borrow a bike from stands around the city for a small coin deposit. When finished, they simply leave them at any one of the 110 bike stands located around the city centre and their money is refunded.

For more information, check out *New City Spaces* by Jan Gehl 2000.



Don't forget  
A Kite Kaleidoscope in Glebe  
see Diary on page 11 for more information



# Call in the Marines!

No doubt you have heard of the forthcoming Glebe Music Festival (11 November - 4 December). What you have not heard is that the US Marine Forces Pacific Band, established in 1918 and one of the most prestigious bands in the world, is coming to town. The plan is for them to perform free concerts in Glebe on Saturday 26 November starting at 12.30pm in the reserve outside the Glebe Library, corner of Wigram Road and Glebe Point Road. They will then march to Foley Park, corner of Bridge Road and Glebe Point Road, for another performance at around 1.00pm, then to Minogue Reserve, corner Francis Street and Glebe Point Road, at around 2.00pm. Permission has been sought for temporary "rolling" street closures to cause minimal disruption. Please encourage family and friends to come along for this unique experience.

In addition, the band is giving another public concert between 12noon and 2pm in Martin Place for the Council of the City of Sydney, on Tuesday 29 November. The band will also be performing concerts for the Children's Hospital, the University of Sydney and Bondi Beach Public School.

## The history of the band

The exact origins of the Marine Forces Pacific Band are unclear. It is believed that sometime before the 1920s Marines not assigned as musicians, but having musical talents, collaborated on their off duty time to rehearse and perform for base dances, social functions and military ceremonies. These activities eventually led to the establishment of the band circa 1918.

The band itself is one of the oldest American military units in Hawaii, even older than Marine Forces Pacific itself. Pictures indicate that the first title of the band was simply "Marine Post Band." The band played for official military ceremonies and provided entertainment for social events. The Post Band spent the next 75 years at Marine Barracks Pearl Harbour. When the Navy established Pearl Harbour as its own, the name of the band changed to "Marine Barracks Band." Other titles over the years include the "Pacific Area Marine Band, Territory of Hawaii" and the "Pacific Area Drum and Bugle Corps." In September 1944, by order of Lieutenant General H.M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, the band was renamed the "Fleet Marine Forces Pacific Band" and was attached to Marine Forces Pacific.

In 1993 the band moved from Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor to its present location at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Today, as it was in the past, the band is a versatile organization comprised of Marines with a wide range of musical talents. They come from all across America to do what they love – play music and bear the title "United States Marine."

*This information about the band was taken from: [www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/history/history.htm](http://www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/history/history.htm), which also has several pictures of the band.*

## A reminder of the other concerts

**Friday 11 November at 7.30pm** (Sway and Dan MacKay at Gleebooks),

**Sunday 13 November at 2.30pm** (the Conservatorium Music Ensembles at the Great Hall, University of Sydney),

**Friday 18 November at 7.30pm** (Donna Cain and Nicole Smeulders sopranos, Darren Saady piano and Jason Xanthoudakis saxophone at the Old Court House corner St John's Road and Talfourd Street),

**Saturday 19 November at 3pm** (Jive Kayana at *Margaretta Cottage*, 6 Leichhardt Street, Glebe Point),

**Sunday 20 November at 3pm** (Trish O'Brien cello and Simon Powis guitar at St Scholastica's, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe Point (note that Emily Duffill has been appointed to an orchestra directly from the Manhattan School of Music),

**Sunday 27 November at 3pm** (*Bel a cappella Palestrina Missa Papae Marcelli* and festive music), at St Scholastica's, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe Point,

**Sunday 4 December at 3pm** (Coro Innominata *Green and Pleasant Land*) at St Scholastica's, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe Point.

**Further information and booking forms are available at [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com) or book directly by email to [mcintosh@glebemusicfestival.com](mailto:mcintosh@glebemusicfestival.com) Tickets can be purchased at the door.**



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I wonder whether any other members have experienced similar frustrations to mine with our postal service.

Over the past eighteen months or so I have had the experience of several letters and one journal, correctly addressed to me, being returned to sender. I often receive other people's mail and recently I visited the post office to discover that a parcel which should have arrived had in fact arrived but no notifying card was left for me.

Although "snail mail" is now the poor relation in our IT world, it remains an important form of communication and deserves more respectful and efficient handling.

Should I feel paranoid or is this a common experience? If the latter, can we do anything about it?

- Daphne Degotardi (Cook Street)

Dear Editor

This morning for the first time ever I went on my daily walk along the Blackwattle Bay foreshore from Cook Street to Jubilee Park without meeting a single dog! Sometimes I pass 30 in the space of as many minutes. And, of course, in the park itself the canine outnumbers the human species. Without going into the argument about the effect of so many animals on the fragile foreshore, can we please have the park in the new development east of Cook Street declared (and enforced with a low fence and gate) a dog-free zone? There's virgin grass there and wouldn't it be great to be able to sit on it?

- Lyn Collingwood

## Congratulations...

to the following Glebe businesses:

**Phoenix Rising Books**, winner 2005 City of Sydney Business Award Music, Books & Stationery category, and

**Galluzzo's Fruit Shop**, winner 2005 City of Sydney Chamber of Commerce, Glebe Chamber of Commerce Award.





## Where have all the Blue Wrens gone?

Blue, or Superb Fairy-wrens were one of the first birds noted and described by early European visitors to Australia, but their numbers are dwindling.

How many are left in Glebe? Now is the time to find out with the help of a new website [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net) encouraging people to record their bird sightings and just launched by the Australian Museum in partnership with Birds Australia.

Local resident and member of the Birds in Backyards Committee, Judy Christie, helped create the site. "It's a fantastic tool to find out what's really going on. We still see Fairy-wrens but the 'bullies' of the bird world such as Pied Currawongs and Noisy Miners are making life increasingly difficult for the handful of small birds that are still around the inner west and hopefully still breeding.

"In the early 90s a family of Superb Fairy-wrens in Hereford Street was alive and well – indeed even bringing up a Fan-tailed Cuckoo in their midst, Judy observed. However it would be good to know how this family group of Fairy-wrens is still coping today."

The new website has a host of features to help identify local birds and support their habitats. You can also listen to recorded calls of 120 birds and you can use it to try to identify birds you might

have seen. If you visit the site, you can:

- check out the 'bird finder' and try out the interactive bird identification tools;
- learn about bird friendly spaces and where birds live, and how you can adapt your backyard to encourage more birds to live there;
- see featured bird groups which tells you about particular groups of birds and what they do – do some 'behave badly' or is this just their normal behaviours?
- become a member for free and receive free news updates such as survey results and activities.

Blue wrens are garden friendly and will eat your thrips. If you have dense shrubs as well as some open ground in your garden you may be likely to see them and some of the other common local birds such as Willy Wagtails, Silvereyes or the Little White Plumed Honeyeater. Go to [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net) and, to start off any local bird enthusiasts, the *Bulletin* includes the new edition of the birds in backyards mini poster.

**This article and the poster *Backyard birds of New South Wales* enclosed with this *Bulletin* were provided by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Community Support Program.**

## Glebe - the garden suburb

Glebe gardens won four out of seven awards in the 2005 City of Sydney Garden Competition.

Announcing the results on 21 September, Lord Mayor Clover Moore said: "These awards, now in their second year, are a way for the City to acknowledge the efforts of the many residents who take great pride in their gardens and local community.



"I am particularly pleased to see the winners of the Department of Housing Tenancy category were also the overall winners. It's also pleasing to see categories for those living in small



dwelling or apartments as well as a sustainable section for gardens demonstrating low water usage and easy maintenance."

The Glebe winners are:

**Mr and Mrs McLoughlin**, Glebe - Overall winner, and Category 6 Department of Housing tenancies;

**Ms Elizabeth Clarke** representing Lombard Street Glebe - Category 2 best multi-dwelling; and

**St Scholastica's College** - Category 5 best school or community garden.

## Society appoints Wentworth Park convenor

After a long gap, the Society once again has a convenor dedicated to pursuing our interests with regard to Wentworth Park. Anne Fraser, who joined the Management Committee only at the recent AGM, volunteered for the role at her first Management Committee meeting. Anne admits she is on a steep learning curve, but with the help of some long-time members, is rapidly familiarising herself with the issues.

Wentworth Park, which was managed by an administrator for the past four years, had a new 10 member Trust appointed in

May this year. It has three community representatives, and there are representatives from the National Coursing Association, Greyhound Owners Breeders and Trainers Association, Sydney City Council, Department of Gaming and Racing and Greyhound Racing NSW.

As mentioned on page 2, the Trust has commissioned a consultant to assist it to undertake a Management Plan. The Trust wishes to open the Complex to other more diverse activities. To this end the consultant has arranged a workshop for representatives from the community.

Submissions are also being invited from the community generally. The Society's submission is available on our website (click on News & Events and follow the link).

The consultants are working in partnership with the City of Sydney Council which has care control and management of the adjoining parkland.

The draft Management Plan will be put on exhibition for final comment from the community prior to being put to the Trust for adoption.

# News and Notes

## Welcome to New Members

Joe Mannix and Shelagh Bott were accepted as members at the September Management Committee meeting. We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

## Thirsty Thursdays

All members are invited to meet for dinner in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. The next two Thirsty Thursdays are on 6 October and 3 November, at *La Tavolaccia* Garden Restaurant, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel). There is no need to book, so just turn up. And BYO wine.

## Salvo's salvo

**John Gray writes:** I was walking along Ross Street just past the Salvation Army Citadel. Two uniformed Salvationists were proceeding towards Arundel Street. She was striding along in full regalia. He was decked in full regalia but confined to a motorised wheel chair. As I passed him I said, "Are you a member of General Booth's army?" "Yes, tank division," was his cheering reply. Made my Sunday.

## Tour of Rookwood Cemetery

Glebe Urban Research Association (GURA) is conducting a tour of the old section of Rookwood Cemetery on Sunday 16 October. The walk will be led by Max Solling and others and there will be a special emphasis on graves with Glebe connections. Meet at 1pm at the Cemetery entrance gates in East Street, Lidcombe. An informative pamphlet about the different denominational sections of the Cemetery, including explanations of the symbols used, will be provided.

## For sale - Oriental rugs

- room size: 1.58 x 2.53 m - \$650
- Turkish kelim: 1.15 x 1.8 m - \$100
- prayer rug: 1.15 x 1.8 m - \$250

Phone Fiona on 9660 0185

## City of Sydney Councillors

### Lord Mayor

Clover Moore MLA

### Councillors

Philip Black  
Verity Firth  
Chris Harris  
Marcelle Hoff  
Robyn Kemmis  
Michael Lee  
Shayne Mallard  
John McInerney  
Tony Pooley



Phone the Town Hall, 1300 651 301, for contact details.

## A recipe for...

The Glebe Society's very own catering expert, Kevin Treloar, has given us this recipe for a

## Flourless chocolate Kahlua cake

### Ingredients

500g Valrhona or Lindt dark chocolate, chopped  
6 eggs  
1 tablespoon cocoa  
3 tablespoons Kahlua  
165 g ground hazelnuts  
250 ml whipped cream  
Dutch cacao to dust finished cake  
Mascarpone for lashings

### Method

Preheat oven to 150 C (300 F)

Grease a 20cm round cake tin with melted butter then dust with flour. Shake off the excess flour. Line the cake tin bottom with oven baking paper. Melt chocolate in a double boiler being careful not to allow the chocolate to come in contact with the steam. The water needs to be just hot enough to melt the chocolate, any hotter and the chocolate will burn.

Place eggs, cocoa and Kahlua in a bowl and place over just simmering water. Beat mixture for about 6 minutes until foamy. Let stand off heat.

Fold the chocolate and ground nuts with the egg mixture until just combined. Fold in the whipped cream and place mixture into the cake tin. Place cake tin in a shallow roasting dish and fill the dish half way up the sides with warm water. Place foil around cake tin if it's a bit out of shape. Bake for 1 hour or until firm on top. Cool the cake in the tin until cold. Dust with Dutch cacao and serve with lashings of mascarpone.

*Dutch cacao refers to the Dutching process which incorporates an alkaline substance to reduce the acidity of the cocoa. This process also softens and darkens the ground cocoa. Dutch cacao has a very rich feel and appearance. The alkaline commonly added is calcium carbonate which is a naturally occurring mineral.*

## Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe  
Society Archives



Phone 9660 3530

# For your diary ...

**4-23 October, *Art and About***, Glebe Kite Kaleidoscope. Events include official launch at St John's Church garden, 10:45am, 6 October; sky installations/kites in St John's church and Broadway shopping centre, and kite displays in Glebe shops throughout the period; art kite event and workshop followed by kite flying sessions, Glebe Town Hall and Bicentennial Park, weekend 8-9 October; and community kite flying in Bicentennial Park Sunday, 16 October. Contact **Sue Ingram** 9692 8534 for further details.

**Thursday, 6 October**, 7pm, "Thirsty Thursday", dinner at *La Tavolaccia Garden Restaurant*, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel).

**Wednesday, 12 October**, 7:30pm, Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, the Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

**Saturday, 15 October**, walk in Annandale, 10:30am to 3:30pm. RAHS event, bookings essential. Call 9247 8001, or email [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au).

**Thursday, 3 November**, 7pm, "Thirsty Thursday", dinner at *La Tavolaccia Garden Restaurant*, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel).

**Wednesday, 9 November**, 7:30pm, Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, the Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

**11 November - 4 December**, Glebe Music Festival. For details, turn to page 8.

**Sunday, 20 November**, Glebe Street Fair.

**Friday, 9 December**, Glebe Society Christmas party. More details in next *Bulletin*.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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. Write to the address above or send an email to [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.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 in October. The deadline for contributions is **Saturday 22 October**.

## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

#### Management Committee:

President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

#### Committee Members:

Anne Fraser	9660 7560	John Gray	9518 7253
Jan Wilson	9660 2698		

#### 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
Environment and Open Spaces	Asa Wahlquist (acting)	9660 8261
Heritage	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Chris Hallam	9660 3670
Strategic Planning	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

#### Adopt-a-Park Contacts:

**Foley Park:** Bobbie Burke (9692 0343) **Kirsova Fay** & David Mander Jones  
**Paddy Gray Park:** John Gray

#### Other Contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
<b>Liaison with CityRags</b>	<b>Bob Armstrong</b>	<b>9660 4189</b>
<b>Liaison with COGG</b>	<b>Bob Armstrong</b>	<b>9660 4189</b>
<b>Liaison with FLAG</b>	<b>Jan Wilson</b>	<b>9660 2698</b>
<b>Liaison, GPR Revitalisation</b>	<b>Jan Wilson</b>	<b>9660 2698</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Sue Ingram</b>	<b>9692 8534</b>
<b>Social events</b>	<b>Jeanette Knox</b>	<b>9660 7781</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>Cynthia Jones</b>	<b>9660 2451</b>

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The GLEBE  
PO Box 100



SOCIETY Inc  
Glebe 2037

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY

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

Write to PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037 or phone the Secretary, Liz Simpson-Booker, on 9518 6186.

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

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### **Place Manager, Glebe, Forest Lodge & Camperdown:**

Jenny Underwood, 9298 3191 (direct), or 0414 617 048.

**email:** [junderwood@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:junderwood@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Glebe Town Hall Office:** 9298 3190, 8am-6pm

Mon -Fri

### **Sydney City Council Customer Service**

**Telephone (24 hours):** 1300 651 301

**email:** [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**website:** [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Dumped Shopping trolleys:** Bi-Lo - 9281 4511. Most

other major stores - 1800 641497. Pacific Services

- 0500 847 000 or [trolleys@pacificservices.com.au](mailto:trolleys@pacificservices.com.au).

**Aircraft noise:** 1800 802 584