



Harold Park rezoning

A win on open space but other issues lie ahead

Lesley Lynch and Neil Macindoe report on the decision by the City Council and the Central Sydney Planning Committee on the proposed rezoning of Harold Park.

On 20 July, we sent out calls to Glebe Society members and residents to show their support for the community position on the future of Harold Park at the Council Planning Committee and Central Sydney Planning Committee (CSPC) meetings. The response was terrific and neither gathering was in any doubt as to the community's views or to the strength of feeling on the matter.

We had three formal Glebe Society speakers at both meetings (Lesley Lynch, Neil Macindoe and John Gray) and numerous others spoke on an individual basis. The Pacing Club had two speakers. There was consistent support from residents for the overall Glebe Society position expressed through our community resolution and Harold Park principles document.

The Wins

The effort was worth it. While we have ongoing issues with the Council's draft controls, they did incorporate many of our core principles and thus there is a major win for the community. Most significantly, they will deliver us:

- 35% or 3.9 hectares of the site as public open space. This must be continuous and incorporate a full size sport field and a public garden.
- Recognition of the heritage status of the Tramsheds and a requirement that they be adaptively restored. 500 square metres of the restored Tramsheds is to be transferred to Council for community uses.

What's coming soon

Sunday 1 August, 10am to 12 noon, Tree Planting, Paddy Gray Park, Hereford Street. See flyer.

Wednesday 18 August, 10.30am-12.30pm, visit to Glebe Coroner's Court. See page 9.

Sunday 29 August, 10.30am -1.30pm - Glebe Society Annual General Meeting - Benledi. See page 5.

- Land sufficient for 50 units of public housing is to be made available at no cost.

We wanted other changes to the draft, but given all the pressures and the broad political context, it was a relief that both the Council and the CSPC endorsed these critical elements which go a considerable way towards protecting the public interest in this site and constraining the drive for maximum windfall private profit from the site. We have expressed our appreciation to



The Harold Park track: will the buildings along the Glebe cliff face be taller than the present houses? Photo: Rod Holtham

Council for its efforts to date.

However, there are two very big reasons why we cannot yet relax. We need to fight for further changes and there is, as of yet, no guarantee that the decisions made by Council/CSPC last week will not be over-ridden by the Minister.

Unresolved Concerns

The draft proposals fall short of our Harold Park principles on a number of critical points:

- We are opposed to the height of the buildings at the perimeter of the site (up to eight storeys) and consider a better configuration is possible
- We are concerned that the current controls will allow large scale retail/commercial activity (a major super market/retail complex) which would be devastating for our local retail centres and for impact on traffic
- We continue to argue that the public open space would be better located if it was not all on the Glebe side (including a 42.8 metre buffer along the cliff) and connected better with Forest Lodge and the existing parks

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We continue to think the traffic study significantly underestimates the impact on surrounding roads.

As it seems – at this stage – unlikely that we can convince the State Government to acquire the Tramsheds in toto, we are arguing that the dedicated space for community activities needs to be increased from 500 square metres to at least 1000 square metres. This is reasonable given the overall floor space of 7500 square metres.

We presented all these points at the meetings. We have a commitment that the planning controls will be amended to:

- leave open the final configuration of the open space – as long as it meets the stated criteria;
- prohibit large scale block retail activity;

and that:

- further traffic impact modelling will be done to incorporate Saturday traffic flow;
- the increase of community space in the Tramsheds to 1000 square metres will be considered

We got no movement on the heights of the buildings, although the two Green councillors refused to endorse the proposals because of the height, density and traffic implications. Staff presented a written response to our arguments on this (and a number of other points). Essentially they argued that good design could dramatically reduce the visibility and impact of eight storeys to simulate six storeys and that this range of heights was essential to maintain the density. The density (now 1200 units) is argued as necessary to meet state and council residential targets in the inner city.

Potential threats in the process

We have moved through an important, but preliminary and non-binding, stage of the rezoning process. The Council and the CSPEC have endorsed draft planning controls for the rezoning of Harold Park. Before these can go to the Minister for approval to move to the next stage, the Pacing Club has to agree with the proposals.

At this point they have refused to do this. They continue to argue for less

open space, greater density and for the inclusion of the land required for affordable housing into the open space allocation. They refute our argument that they should not be entitled to a windfall development profit from the Tramsheds part of the site.

If they don't accept the controls as endorsed by Council/CSPEC, they have the option of going directly to the Minister and asking him to intervene. The Minister then has the option of agreeing to intervene on behalf of the Club or of declining.

We must await the outcome of further negotiations between Council/CSPEC and the Pacing Club. Hopefully, if no voluntary agreement is reached, the current Minister will respect the Council/CSPEC processes and the very strong community opposition to Ministerial intervention – as Kristina Keneally did when she was asked to take control of the process last year.

As we understand it, these are the possible outcomes:

- The Pacing Club will come to agreement with the Council/CSPEC position and the proposals will go to the Minister. He can amend them. He will approve them to go on public exhibition for 28 days during which we can comment further. After that Council will consider feedback and proceed to make the final controls
- The Pacing Club does not agree. The Council will not proceed further. The Pacing Club asks the Minister to intervene and change the controls and/or take over the rezoning (a Part 3 process). The Minister may or may not act on this.

The best outcome for us is that the process proceeds under the aegis of the Council/CSPEC. In that case we could expect the public exhibition stage to be in September.

If there is no agreement with the Pacing Club and the Minister does not accede to any request to intervene, the Council will not rezone the site. Nothing will happen – at least until the State election.

The worst case scenario for the community is that the Minister agrees to intervene - now or after the election. Then, folks, it is battle stations.

Of course once the site is rezoned, the Pacing Club has to find a buyer and then we will have a DA process to go through - and that will almost certainly open up the design, density and building height issues. So don't go away yet!! in September.

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While we wait to see which of the above scenarios we are confronted with, the Harold Park working group will do some more intensive work to substantiate our arguments on the unresolved issues.

- Lesley Lynch and Neil Macindoe

Many of our members have renewed Have you?

Your membership of the Glebe Society for the financial year 2010/11 was due for renewal on 1 July. Members who forget to renew risk being deleted from the *Bulletin* mailing list and the opportunity to attend the interesting functions planned for the coming months.

Your renewal form was included in *Bulletin 4/2010*, or a new one can be downloaded from our website (click on the *News* item about renewals on our home page and follow the link).

You may renew online - browse to our home page and click on:

Join > Current members click here to renew your membership

to find out about the various options, or by mail to PO Box 100, Glebe 2037.

Community meeting backs planning principles

A public meeting was held on the cold and miserable evening of 7 July to gain wider community support for the Bays Precinct Community Reference Group's (CRG's) ongoing campaign to protect the bays and foreshores from further ad hoc development and to defend the public interest in this harbour precinct.

This meeting was notable for the alliance of key local community groups as joint sponsors: the Glebe Society, Pyrmont Action, Pyrmont Progress, Blackwattle Cove Coalition, The Balmain Association, The Annandale Association, Sydney University Women's Rowing Club and White Bay Joint Steering Committee. These were most of the community groups represented on the CRG.

Around 140 locals turned out and unanimously endorsed the following resolution.

This public meeting of residents from the communities adjacent to the Bays Precinct on 7th July 2010 endorses the Community Reference Group's Objectives and Principles for the future planning of the Bays Precinct as set out in their advice to the Minister for Planning (March 2010) and calls on the Government to:

- i) adopt these Objectives and Principles as the basis for an integrated strategic plan for the future of the Bays Precinct*
- ii) put a halt to one-off ad hoc planning/development decisions in the Bays Precinct pending the development of this strategic plan and ensure that these Objectives and Principles shape the implementation of already announced one-off developments*
- iii) overcome current fragmentation of responsibilities by establishing a dedicated Bays Renewal Authority. This authority is to include relevant expertise and strong community representation and to be publicly accountable and subject to relevant planning, heritage and environmental legislation*
- iv) act on its promise to set up a second stage of the Bays Precinct Consultation process to finalise the development of an integrated strategic plan for the Precinct in 2010. This process must include a formal and adequately supported community advisory committee with balanced*



The meeting approved the resolutions put by Lesley Lynch (at lectern) unanimously on a show of hands. Photo: Bruce Davis

representation from the precinct as a key player in this consultation process. There must be direct and effective linkage between this committee and the Bays Precinct Task Force.

The meeting calls upon the Premier Kristina Keneally and relevant Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition and relevant shadow Ministers to meet with the CRG members to discuss the CRG advice and the way forward.

The meeting also registered its concern that current or future governments would not respect the Objective and Principles protecting the remaining publicly owned foreshore land and harbour waters from further alienation, even if they were incorporated into future planning documents. It therefore decided to explore ways in which this public ownership could be more effectively protected. Proposals relating to this aspect will be the subject of further community discussion.

The CRG campaign working group will now act on the resolution and seek meetings with government and opposition as well as pursuing the final point asking us to explore options for making public ownership less vulnerable to developers and politicians.

We expect the Government to announce the promised Stage 2 of the Bays Precinct Process in the near future. They are running out of time for the planning process to be completed before the election - if they are serious about real community participation and

adequate provision of planning information. We will carefully assess the parameters and support for the community's role in the process when it is announced. We can only hope that after the appalling start to Stage 1, the next stage will be better thought through by Government, properly resourced and more respectful of the community's capacity to contribute.

Not surprisingly, there is a common purpose emerging between the CRG campaign and the Barangaroo campaign. After all if the CRG's proposed planning principles for the Bays Precinct had been in play for the Barangaroo site, the current proposal - including the excision of part of the harbour for a private hotel - would not have got off the ground.

Anyone wishing to be involved in our ongoing CRG campaign for a proper vision and strategic plan for the future of this Precinct can contact me (llynch@bigpond.net.au) or the convenor of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition, **John Brooks** (brooksjno@iprimus.com.au).

- Lesley Lynch

Gleebooks

At a recent book launch, Quentin Dempster described *Gleebooks* as 'the intellectual capital of Australia'.

Looking at their latest email, it's easy to agree with this. There are too many events to list in this *Bulletin*, so browse to www.gleebooks.com.au/ events to see for yourself.

Other Planning Matters

Café Otto, 79 Glebe Point Road

There is an application for this café, severely damaged by fire last year, to be rebuilt. As it was a Heritage Item, it has to be rebuilt in the same style. The Society has asked this be carried through as far as possible to the interior, and has also asked that the Victorian front garden be restored, as has happened with the adjacent No 77, also a restaurant/café.

Hellenic Herald building, 1-9 Glebe Point Road

At this stage the pergola has been removed, the lift shaft reduced in height, and the façade has been refinished so as to blend in better with the adjacent buildings. The Society is still concerned about the prominence of the air-conditioning ducts, but otherwise the changes

seem to be progressing satisfactorily in accordance with the decision of the Court.

Planning on the Website

The planning section on the Society's website has been updated, except for the bits on Harold Park because we are expecting a draft LEP to come to Council shortly.

Bellevue, 55 Leichhardt Street

The City of Sydney has called for expressions of interest from 'suitably qualified and experienced organisations for the operation of a Community Café at *Bellevue House*, 55 Leichhardt Street, Glebe' (SMH July 27). The notice states: 'Those lodging an Expression of Interest are required to demonstrate their capacity, financial and technical capability to operate the business within

the required timeframe, have had previous experience and success on similar sized businesses and demonstrate a commitment to environmentally sound principles'.

The closing date is 18 August.

Advertising bus shelter outside Glebe Town Hall

Following an objection from the Glebe Society this application has been withdrawn.

Stone retaining wall, Parramatta Road

Council is continuing work on this Heritage-listed wall, including replacement and repointing of stone blocks near the stairs at the Derwent Street end.

- Neil Macindoe
Planning Convenor

Wentworth Park: We can put away the ram's horn

Several years ago the then convenor of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC), Anne Fraser, suggested that we might have to take a leaf out of the Old Testament in order to get rid of the concrete block and barbed wire walls that surrounded Wentworth Park.

The Bible tells us that the Israelites marched around the walls of the Late Bronze Age city of Jericho for seven days, blowing their ram's horn trumpets and doing all the other things that Bronze Age armies did, and then ... 'the walls fell down flat'.

Anne told us that if it worked at Jericho it was worth a try in Glebe. She even suggested that we might improve our chances if we marched at midnight, presumably blowing *vuvuzelas* as ram's horns are a bit hard to come by these days.

Fortunately it has not come to that. The walls on the Glebe side of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex (the greyhound track) were replaced some time ago, and the entrance plaza refurbished.

Now it is the turn of the walls on the Wattle Street side of the complex. As this picture shows, the first step towards demolishing the old walls has been



Photo: Bruce Davis

taken, and signs giving credit to the City Council and the Trust that runs the greyhound part of Wentworth Park have been erected. In due course we also expect to see the in-fill in the railway viaduct arches removed, and the final stage of the project will be to replace the remaining sections of wall on the northern and southern sides of the park. Rather than thanking divine intervention we should thank Peter Mann, the CEO of the Sporting Complex, and two

Glebe Society members who represent the community on the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust, Susan Cleary (chair) and Ted McKeown. And of course Anne.

- Bruce Davis

PS - Maybe it was just as well we didn't rely on divine intervention as there is some dispute in archaeological circles as to whether the Israelites really did manage to flatten the walls of Jericho.

Annual General Meeting 2010

41st Annual General Meeting Notice of meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Glebe Society Incorporated will be held at 11am on Sunday 29 August 2010 at *Benledi* (next to Glebe Library) at 186 Glebe Point Road. The agenda for the meeting is published below.

Nominations for Committee

Office bearers of the Society and other members of the Management Committee will be elected at the AGM. A nomination form is available on the Glebe Society's website (click on the link in the News story about the AGM on the home page of our website) or by contacting the Secretary (email: secretary@glebesociety.org.au, phone: 9660 7873, or write to PO Box 100 Glebe 2037). Members are warmly encouraged to consider the benefits of active participation in the Society. Nominations close on Friday 20 August 2010.

Invitation

All members of the Society are invited to the AGM. Only **financial members** are entitled to vote.

Agenda

1 Present

2 Apologies

3 **Confirmation of the minutes** of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on 30 August 2009

4 President's report

5 Sub-committee reports

Some Sub-committee reports are published in this and the next *Bulletin*. Others will be provided to meeting attendees. Those Chairpersons and Convenors who are present at the meeting can provide updates and/or answer questions.

6 Treasurer's report

Motion: That the Auditor's report for the Glebe Society Incorporated for the 2009/10 financial year, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2010, and the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2010, be received.

7 Election of Office Bearers

8 Awards

8.1 Motion: That Tony Strachan be elected as an **Honorary Life Member** of the Society in recognition of both his work for the Glebe Society on major projects in the 1970s, and his continuing influence in the wider sphere of the development and acceptance of the concept of the value of our built heritage in particular.

8.2 Motion: That Bruce Davis be elected as an **Honorary Life Member** of the Society. His contribution to the Society has been across a huge range of issues, in an extraordinary number of capacities. It has been tireless, reasoned, rational, and effective.

8.3 Award: The Awards Subcommittee also recommended that Lyn Collingwood be awarded the **Glebe Society Commendation** in recognition of her contribution to preserving the history and heritage of Glebe.

9 Close of meeting

Guest speaker: We are delighted that *Médecins Sans Frontières* has accepted our invitation to send a representative to speak to members, following the conclusion of the formal meeting agenda. The Australian office of *Médecins Sans Frontières* is on the corner of Glebe Point Road and Parramatta Road in Glebe.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the talk.

Reports to the AGM

The Environment

It has been a quiet year for the Environment Sub-committee, with some steps backward as well as forward for the Blue Wrens group, and little progress on community gardens.

Biodiversity and the Blue Wren group

Paddy Gray Reserve, the small park between Hereford Street and Wigram Lane which the Blue Wren group is using as a demonstration site for small bird friendly planting, was flourishing until an unfortunate setback in January. Council's contractors pulled out more than half of the native plantings, causing consternation and shock to local residents and all who had been involved in the original planting. Council responded to community reaction and a series of meetings followed which has resulted in clearer training and guidelines for contractors, and the contractor undertaking to make good the damage. Sunday 1 August, National Tree Day, will see the plantings at Paddy Gray Reserve extended with community participation. Council and the Blue Wren group have been working closely together to plan this event. The members of the Blue Wren Group - Fiona Campbell, Judy Christie, Jan Craney, Tessa Copland, Jeanette Knox, Norma Hawkins and Andrew Wood - are to be congratulated on their persistence and hard work.

The Council is also progressing with biodiversity issues, with an appointment expected soon for a Manager of Urban Ecology and the City preparing to undertake an Urban Ecology Survey which will inform its Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan.

We are looking forward to a much more productive year in 2010-11.

Community gardens and City Farm

Progress towards a community garden or City Farm has been disappointingly slow this year. Although the City Council voted in November to allocate \$50,000 for an investigation of models

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Reports to the 2010 AGM



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and potential sites for a City Farm, the contract was only let in the middle of this year. Most other capital cities in Australia have a City Farm, which is a 'large demonstration site designed to educate residents, businesses and schools about sustainable living in an interactive setting'. The proposed City Farm would incorporate a community garden amongst other things. The City planners' design for Harold Park also includes an area identified as 'community garden'. However, as the development of the Harold Park site is contentious, and unlikely to be finished in less than five years, the community won't be digging up their carrots on that site any time soon.

However, the other community garden, or 'kitchen garden', which the Glebe Society has supported – at Glebe Public School – is about to take shape. The Glebe Society worked with the school on a submission to Council last year for funding for a kitchen garden, which was successful. The school has been slowly working on its plans, and the garden is due to be constructed on 30 July. The school welcomes community input into preparing and maintaining the garden. It is a great opportunity to ensure that local children can learn about fresh food – where it comes from and how to cook it.

- Jan Macindoe (Environment)

- Andrew Wood (Blue Wrens group)

Where to from here?

I am well aware that, apart from the great work of the Blue Wren group, we have not been breaking new ground as an environmental sub-committee for Glebe. I welcome input from members who have suggestions about where we should be putting our effort, and plan to invite interested members to get together to plan some new directions for the coming year.

- Jan Macindoe

Defect Reporting

As the City of Sydney Council now has procedures for identifying, rectifying and generally maintaining

all infrastructures for which it is responsible, it is no longer necessary for me to be involved with infrastructure defect reporting. I have therefore resigned from this now defunct role. This is my sign off!

- Margaret Sheppard

Arts, Culture and Media

2010 has been a year of less frenetic activity than the previous one for the Arts Culture and Media subcommittee.

The Tram at Glebe Library

The Glebe Sesquicentenary celebrations last year included the SesquiShow at Adagio Gallery. A spin-off from this was the donation of the much loved tram assemblage *Rocking on Down to the Point 1901*, by Cliff Simcox.

Cliff donated the work to the Glebe Society, and after lengthy negotiations with the City of Sydney, an agreement was reached for the artwork to be displayed in the Library for as long as it remains suitable for both parties.

Another nod to our historic link with trams can be seen in the length of tram track preserved in Glebe Point Road as part of the upgrade. We thank the City of Sydney for this.

Public Art Work

The third public art work approved for Glebe is the sunset illumination of the two big fig trees in Bicentennial Park at the end of Glebe Point Road.

Earth Versus Sky will illuminate the trees with colours of the spectrum opposite to those in the sunset sky, and operational only during those sunset hours.

An important feature of this installation with be the fact that the artwork, and in fact the entire park, will be powered by a wind turbine. This important practical and symbolic feature shows actual steps are being taken to wean ourselves off our dependence on coal fuelled power.

The turbine will add power to the grid continually, except during the sunset hours with most bird and flying fox

activity when it will be turned off.

Power will be drawn back from the grid to fuel the illuminations and on balance, enough electricity should be generated by the turbine to power the whole park.

Jan McCulloch

It was with deep sadness and disbelief that I had to announce the passing of Jan McCulloch, last November.

This energetic beacon of the Arts, Media and Culture committee had a vital role in making things happen. All our activities at a community level depended so much on her vitality and generous participation.

Her publication *Art Almanac* lives on with her daughters Penny and Helen, and other staff members, continuing the vision

- Susan Ingram

Website

I have recently replaced Vicky Marquis as website coordinator for The Glebe Society. Vicky is to be sincerely thanked for her three years of convening the Website sub-committee. Together with Peter Thorogood, our webmaster, she has co-ordinated a vast improvement in our website during that time. My goal is to continue the improvements to our website, and the priorities for the website include: ensure that Current Major Issues and News are up-to-date and well covered; that the Calendar of Events is up-to-date with events of interest to members; that is a simple process to do Event Bookings and Membership renewals online; and that the website is a valuable storage site of current and historical information about the Glebe Society.

Ongoing incremental improvements to the website will ensure that those priorities are fulfilled and are easily accessible to members.

One of our website's most valuable features is that new information about current important issues is often added on a daily basis, so it is worth checking regularly at www.glebesociety.org.au.

- Phil Young

Face lift for Town Hall

Glebe's much-loved and iconic Town Hall will undergo a \$6.8 million restoration - the first major upgrade since the Town Hall was built in 1880.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said Glebe Town Hall is an important civic building and we have a responsibility to protect it for future generations.

'We are breathing new life into the building and ensuring it's accessible and welcoming for the whole community so it can be used for meetings and events as well as local community services. Cr Moore said.

Improved access is being achieved by adding a new street-level entrance on Lodge Street, including a glass façade which will allow an abundance of natural light to flow through the building and an extra ramp on Mt Vernon Street.

The façade will be carefully restored, removing salt and water damage and repairing and remoulding the original ornamentation.

A new internal lift accessing all floors will be installed, and a new stairway added to supplement the restored original timber staircases.

To improve energy efficiency in the building and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, new fittings will be installed to save water and energy consumption.

'We are maximising natural light through the new glass façade and



Photo courtesy City of Sydney

improving ventilation to save on air-conditioning and lighting, and rainwater will be collected from the new roof for reuse in the toilets and garden irrigation,' Cr Moore added.

Glebe needs you!

At several community meetings recently I've heard people comment on the significant and positive role played by the Glebe Society. In particular we have taken a leading role in both the Harold Park and Bays Precinct campaigns.

This not surprising – in fact it's what the Society has done for years. Since the original members of the Society lay down in front of the bulldozers 40 years ago, we've tried to represent the community against bad decisions, and advocate causes and projects that make Glebe a better place to live. The Society has played a role in campaigns as diverse as the defeat of plans for expressways through Glebe and the preservation of the Glebe Estate, to the light rail and the creation of the foreshore walk.

Given the accumulated experience of our membership, the fact that we are well organised and can afford to spend money on a campaign when we need to, you could be forgiven for thinking that the Society can go on performing the role of community advocate for ever.

However this ignores one thing: if individuals are not willing to step forward to assume leadership roles in the Society our capacity to mount community campaigns will rapidly be eroded.

We are facing a major turnover at the top of the Management Committee at the moment.

Other work includes restoring the clock tower with its metal cresting and repairing the clock to working order, installing insulation, replacing the roof slate, reinstating original windows with improved seals, repairing heritage elements, and adding new bathrooms and catering facilities.

The Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre which currently operates from Glebe Town Hall will be permanently moved to the Glebe Library, allowing people to access two Council services from the one location. Once complete,

As many of you know, Liz Simpson-Booker stood down as Secretary at the end of last year and has not been replaced. Liz had performed that role for a decade so you can understand her wanting to take a break.

Lesley Lynch will stand down at the end of her two year term as President at the end of the year, as required in our constitution.

There also are openings on the Management Committee for a Heritage convenor and several committee members 'without portfolio'. And as I said at the last AGM, I wish to hand over the Treasurer's job at the end of this year.



There is no doubt that taking a leadership role in the Glebe Society can be immensely rewarding, but it can also be demanding. However convenors and sub-committee members can tailor their role to suit their own abilities and preferences; you will not spend your life attending meetings! The President and the Secretary must be committed, but they don't have

to shoulder their task single-handed. That's why we have convenors and committee members.

The AGM occurs at the end of August. Please consider how you can help ensure that the Society remains the great force for good it has always been in the Glebe community.

GLEBE NEEDS YOU!

- Bruce Davis

the restored building will house an early childhood healthcare centre.

Work is due to start in early August and is expected to be complete in early 2012.

Glebe Town Hall was built in 1880 and designed by Ambrose Thornley Junior, who also designed Glebe's Bellevue House. It is an excellent example of the Italianate style and is listed as a state significant building.

City of Sydney Media Release, 26 June

Who lived in your street?

The Sydney Lead Works, Bellevue Lane

The Glebe Society's Heritage Sub-committee in 2009 walked the suburb identifying sandstone structures. Rod and Leslie Holtham found and photographed the remains of the Sydney Lead Works. This prompted Lyn Collingwood to research the factory's history.

The Sydney Lead Works operated on a site extending from Bellevue Lane to what is now Wentworth Park Road from 1893 to 1930, its shot tower dominating the skyline. Here pig iron from Broken Hill was converted into sheet lead, lead pipes, lead wire, lead rods, bar lead, lead sash weights and glazing lead.

Manual labourers worked in searing heat and toxic fumes melting ingots of pig iron in huge pots, skimming impurities from the surface and controlling the release of the molten metal through taps and cylinders to roll out as sheet lead or mould into pipes. To make gunshot, lead and fuel was hauled to the top of the brick shot tower (demolished ca 1950). The metal was heated and poured through a colander, solidifying into balls as it fell into a water tank 58 metres below.

The company reduced waste to a minimum. When it was discovered that a carter employed to take away impure 'leavings' had managed to extract lead



Sydney Lead Works, 1906

from the residue, reprocessing equipment was installed.

In 1867 George Ekins Crane set up a building supplies business in Pitt Street. In 1893 G E Crane & Sons established the Sydney Lead Works. The engineer and architect was John J Stone. In 1902 excavation plans were drawn up by prominent architects Slatyer and Cosh and engineer/architect Herbert E Ross. From its Blackwattle Bay plant and Sheet Metal Works at 100-112 Harrington Street Crane & Sons processed marble and slate and manufactured lead products, tin pipes,

pressed metal ceilings and wrought iron balustrades, gates and window guards. By the 1920s it was also making sheet copper and brassware. In December 1930 the Sydney Lead Works sold its office partitions, safe, tons of scrap metal, assorted machinery and heavy plant – steam engines, cranes, rollers, coppers, winches and boiler – onsite and moved to Botany Road Mascot. G E Crane Holdings was listed on the stock exchange in 1959; its successor is the Crane Group.

First directors of the family company were four of George Ekins' oldest sons: Frederick, Henry Ekins, Alfred and Walter George. Walter (1856-1939) took on the position of managing director of the Sydney Lead Works. A founder of the NSW Chamber of Manufactures, councillor of Presbyterian Ladies' College Croydon, vice president of the Western Suburbs Hospital board, Mayor of Burwood, member of the Australian Metal Exchange, Walter at the time of his death had been connected with the YMCA for 40 years and was still a director of the family firm.

The turn of the twentieth century was a time of intense debate between Protectionists and Free Traders. Like many manufacturers who imported industrial machinery from overseas (their massive main boiler was made in Manchester), Crane & Sons distinguished between goods it needed and others in competition. In 1905 Walter argued for import duties on sheet lead, lead pipes and cartridges, but duty free status on cases, wads and sporting powder. The following year he complained that the market was being flooded with sheet lead from the USA and 'foreign' cartridges. (In the same period Blackwattle Bay's Austral Timber Company was lobbying for a higher duty on Norwegian wooden cases 'made with cheap labour' and New Zealand white pine for butter boxes.)

In newspaper advertisements the Sydney Lead Works offered 'best prices' for scrap lead, no doubt encouraging

opportunistic theft of the metal from local rooftops. Unnoticed for some time was systematic theft from its own premises. In 1929 Detective Sergeant Thompson made an arrest at Glebe. Charged with stealing '4 tons 11 cwt 2



The ruins of Sydney Leadworks today. Photo: Rod Holtham

qtrs' of lead (valued at £200) were lorry driver John McGaughey and employees Alfred Overlie, Henry William Smith and Harold Biffin. McGaughey was acquitted but Biffin, a labourer, and Smith, a nightwatchman living at Annandale, were convicted. Overlie, a 44-year-old fireman from Leichhardt who had been with the firm for 15 years, was bound over as he had a sister and widowed mother to support.

The Sydney Lead Works found itself in court on other occasions. In 1927 it successfully sued an insurer which had denied payment when a contract was lost to supply materials to the Wife-savers Washing Machine Company. The following year a 15-year-old stole an unattended company car in the city, lost control and careered into a Singer Sewing Machine shop window. The boy, 'who had only a slight knowledge of driving', said he had stolen the vehicle so he could get home.

- Lyn Collingwood

Sources:

Annual Review of Shipping and Commerce in NSW June 1903

Sands Directory 1928

Sydney Morning Herald 18.6.1892; 11.4.1905; 21.3.1906; 19.6.1906; 14.10.1912; 30.1.1917; 15.3.1923; 10.12.1927; 27.12.1928; 20.5.1929; 15.12.1930; 3.10.1939.

Coming Glebe events

Know your neighbourhood



Cruise our local bays and Harbour

Sunday, 31 October

Make a diary entry now for the afternoon of Sunday, 31 October, when we have reserved the heritage fleet ship *Waratah* for an afternoon cruise. From the water we will look at development sites, find out more about the proposals and plans, and enjoy refreshments.

Numbers are strictly limited, and the booking form will be included in the next *Bulletin*.

Walking Tour of Artisan Businesses in Glebe

Thursday 16 September, 1.30–5pm

Visit some of Glebe's small artisan businesses where hand-made techniques are still applied – including book-binding, a stencil gallery, jewellery design, floral design and a garden bookshop. We will travel by bus and by foot along Glebe Point Road to St Johns Road, finishing at Yuga Café for afternoon tea.

See the next *Bulletin* for more details.

Community Games

The Wentworth Park Community Games will be held for the third time on 12 September.

The Cup was won by Glebe and Forest Lodge on the first two occasions and thus resides in the Glebe Library. After two consecutive defeats the denizens of Ultimo and Pyrmont are keen to wrest it from us this year.

Details will be posted on the Games own website, www.wentworthparkcelebration.org.au, and in the Glebe Society *Bulletin*.

- Bruce Davis

Visit to the State Coroner's Court

Wednesday 18 August, 10.30am

Located in Glebe, this is an institution of state-wide significance. We often hear in the media of major coronial inquests at the Glebe Coroner's Court, which is situated in Parramatta Road together with the Mortuary and the NSW Department of Forensic Science.

The Glebe Society has organised a visit to the Coroner's Court where we will have the opportunity to sit in on an inquest and hear about the work undertaken by coroners, police, forensic pathologists, lawyers, counsellors and other professionals.

Following the visit, we will walk to *Deus ex Machina* Café further up Parramatta Road for lunch. This is a funky café attached to a motor bike shop, serving excellent food.

No fee for the visit, but lunch is at your own cost.

Bookings are essential – by Friday 13 August. See the enclosed flyer.

Where: Parramatta Road (near Ross Street), Glebe

When: Wednesday 18 August 10.30am –12.00pm followed by Lunch at Deus Ex Machina Café (corner Parramatta & Missenden Roads).

- Dorothy Davis

Blue wrens tree planting day

Don't forget the Working Bee on Sunday, 1 August to improve the habitat for Superb Fairy-wrens and keep them in Glebe. The planting is in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford Street, from 10am to noon, followed, we hope, by a sausage sizzle. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

You can also collect a free plant from the Glebe Library on Saturday 31 July from 10am to 4pm. Plants are available on a first come, first serve basis, one per person. The City of Sydney encourages you to do your part in helping and protecting our natural environment.

Brain food going cheap!

If you feel in need of some intellectual stimulus, or simply are interested in meeting new people with a common interest, City U3A may be the organisation for you.

City U3A is a voluntary non-profit organisation offering low-cost continuing learning to retired residents of the City of Sydney to help them stay active in mind and body. Membership costs only \$40, allowing members to attend any City U3A courses to 30 June 2011, for no extra cost.

Many courses are conducted in Glebe, and run by Glebe residents – see for example the Glebe walk mentioned below which will be conducted by Anton Crouch.

Telephone Jan Macindoe (9660 0208) for course bookings. Membership application forms available when you attend your first course session. More information is available at City U3A website <http://cityu3a-sydney.u3anet.org.au>.

Two walks in Glebe History Week

There's a Guided Walk for History Week on Tuesday 7 September. It starts at 10am, starting in Arundel Street, near the footbridge. Ring 9660 0208 for bookings.

Rock around Glebe – Tuesday September 14

Leader: Anton Crouch, geologist

This walking tour starts at the corner of Cook Street and Glebe Point Road, proceeds down-hill to Blackwattle Bay, follows the foreshore to the end of Glebe Point Road, examines the rock outcrops behind Hilda Booler Kindergarten and ends at the corner of Eglinton Road and Glebe Point Road.

Enrol by ringing me on 9669 0208 or email cityu3a@gmail.com.

Look for more details of these walks on the Glebe Society Website and in the next *Bulletin*

- Jan Macindoe

News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around 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 5 August** we can share paella and Sangria at *Spanish Tapas*, 26 Glebe Point Road.

On **Thursday 2 September** we will venture beyond Glebe again and go to *The Persian Room*, 52 Harris Street, Pyrmont.

And on **Thursday 7 October** we will go to *Cucina Calabrese*, 30 Pyrmont Bridge Road, Camperdown (on the old Children's hospital site).

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 members

The following people were accepted as members of the Glebe Society at the July Management Committee meeting:

- Peter Cochrane
- Janice Davies
- Suzanne Rickard
- Ben Slaughter

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

Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre

The Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre is moving permanently to the Glebe Library.

It will open in its new home on 9 August 2010 at 9am.

Glebe Music Festival

The 21st Annual Glebe Music Festival will be held from 28 October to 28 November. Performances will include a concert at Gleebooks, a soirée at Margaretta Cottage, and two concerts at St Scholastica's Chapel. Unfortunately there will be no concert at the Great Hall this year. Instead, a new venue will be explored – the Florilegium Garden Bookstore. The festival, which is directed by Dr E. David G. McIntosh, and is organised in conjunction with the Glebe Society. Full details will be published in future *Bulletins*.

Players in the Pub

The next moved reading at the Toxteth is *Maria Marten or The Murder in the Red Barn*, a melodrama penned during the 1828 trial of wealthy squire's son William Corder.

Where: Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road Glebe (upstairs Media Room, Ferry Road entrance)

When: 10 August, at 7pm.

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

We won't meet the candidates

The Glebe Society was hoping to hold a Meet the Candidates event before the coming Federal Election. We invited the major candidates, but unfortunately not all of them could attend. We hope to have more success before the State Election next March.

Exploring Leichhardt Heritage

The Heritage Group of Leichhardt District (HGOLD) has recently published *Exploring Leichhardt Heritage: Selected Walks in the Municipality*. The book costs \$20 and is available at Leichhardt and Balmain Libraries, at the Balmain Association and at Shearers Bookshop in Norton Street, Leichhardt and Journeys Bookshop in Booth Street, Annandale. **Sue Tronser** is happy to provide any further information you might require (9519 3268 or 0418 673 670).

Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please email editor@glebesociety.org.au

Our local Member of Parliament

State Member for Balmain, Hon. Verity Firth MP.

Office address: 112a Glebe Point Road, Glebe 2037.

Senior Electorate Officer: ph 9660 7586, fax 9660 6112, email balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.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 1 August, 10am to 12 noon** – Tree Planting, Paddy Gray Park, Hereford Street.. See flyer.
Thursday 5 August, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Spanish Tapas*, 26 Glebe Point Road. See page 10.
Tuesday 10 August, 7pm – Players in the Pub – Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.
Wednesday 11 August, 7.30pm – Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.
Wednesday 18 August, 10.30am – 12.30pm – Visit to Glebe Coroner’s Court. See page 9 and flyer.
Sunday 29 August, 10.30pm - 1.30pm – Glebe Society Annual General Meeting - *Benledi*. See page 5.
Thursday 2 September, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *The Persian Room*, 52 Harris Street, Pyrmont. See page 10
Tuesday 7 September, 10am – Guided Walk in Glebe for History Week. See page 9.
Wednesday 8 September, 7.30pm – Management Committee Meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.
Sunday 12 September – Wentworth Park Community Games.
Tuesday 14 September – U3A Walk – Rock around Glebe. See page 9.
Thursday 7 October, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Cucina Calabrese*, 30 Pyrmont Bridge Road. See page 10.
28 October to 28 November – Glebe Music Festival. See page 10.
Sunday 21 November – Glebe Street Fair.

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@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 at the end of August. The deadline for contributions is Wednesday 18 August.

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
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 (Acting Convenor)	Tessa Copland	9660 0446
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	Robyn Kemmis	9692 9440
Website	Phil Young	9692 9583

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Coming Glebe events – page 9

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