



Vale Glebe Post Office

Something happened on 19 December 2010 that roused the Glebe community into unified action. No, Australia Post did not make an announcement that they were planning to close Glebe Post Office. Australia Post never had any intention of informing the community. The Communications Electrical Plumbing Union (CEPU) Branch Secretary gave a statement to the *Sunday Telegraph*. This was the first we knew about the intended closure.

On the following Monday, some concerned people decided to take action. They included members of the Glebe Society, other residents and business owners. What ensued was a flurry of letters written to Australia Post Board, our elected members and Senator Conroy. He happened to be overseas for the entire time we were campaigning. Meetings were also held with all of our elected members and the State Manager of Australia Post.

The major public action was to hold a rally on Thursday 20 January to 'Save Glebe Post Office'. This was preceded by media coverage in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, including an Opinion piece by Elizabeth Farrelly, the *Inner West Courier*, and on ABC Radio, thanks to Deborah Cameron. The community was informed by distribution of 3,500 flyers and by posters in shops. An army of volunteers stood outside the Post Office talking to residents and getting signatures for the petition. As a result, we had a very successful rally with close to 600 residents in attendance. Speakers included the State Member Verity Firth, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, Councillor Meredith Burgmann, President of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce Sofi Lidgren, and the Federal Member Tanya Plibersek. At the rally, petitions with nearly 5,000 signatures were handed to Tanya Plibersek in order that she hand them to Senator Conroy when Parliament resumed. Police from Leichhardt Area Command were present and gave full support. The community, as one, sent a strong message to Australia Post and Senator Conroy that the proposed closure was unacceptable. The Glebe Society gave its wholehearted support to the campaign, both financially and philosophically.

The resolve to get full postal services restored in Glebe has failed so far. Australia Post wrote to Tanya Plibersek on Tuesday 1 February stating that Glebe Post Office would close on 4 February and that a Community Postal Agency operation would be established in Lucky 7



Speakers at the Rally. From left: Clover Moore, Verity Firth, Robyn Kemmis, Tanya Plibersek and rally organiser Jan Wilson.

Photo: Phil Young

Convenience Store at 179 Glebe Point Road. In the same statement, it was noted that additional services may be introduced. This facility will only offer stamps and envelopes and does not meet the needs of the local community.

The Glebe community showed its strength in mounting a united, strategic and professional campaign. Further options for action may include legal challenge and investigation of Australia Post Corporation Act.

Members can still write to Senator Conroy and to Ahmed Fahour, CEO and David Mortimer, Chair Australia Post Board. It is important to ask the hard questions for which we seek answers.

- Jan Wilson
For POGA (Post Office Glebe Action)

Meet the Candidates Friday 11 March

Hear what the major candidates have to say in what is likely to be a close and interesting contest for the State seat of Balmain.

The Glebe Society will sponsor a 'Meet the Candidates' event in the Glebe Public School hall on Friday, 11 March, 7.00 - 8.30pm. The three major candidates will be present.

Candidates will be invited to introduce themselves and address a short list of topics provided beforehand by the Glebe Society. The audience will have the opportunity to write down their questions which will be collated during a short break and presented to the candidate panel for response.

- Liz Simpson-Booker

Pack your picnic basket and potter along to the

Underneath the Arches community picnic

at Wentworth Park, 5 pm 27 February. See enclosed flyer for details.

Glebe Post Office

The history

Max Solling's speech at the rally

On 21 July 1990 a newspaper advertisement offered a choice piece of real estate in St Johns Road, Glebe. It was Glebe Post Office which was sold to Wah Shing Industrial Australia Pty Limited for \$1,360,000 on 19 December 1990. The vendor was the newly created Australian Postal Corporation, with its sole shareholder the Australian Government under instruction from P J Keating, that true believer from Bankstown. What on earth was happening? Selling off our Post Office? Isn't anything sacrosanct? But this was small time compared with flogging off the Sydney GPO.

What was out of control was a new ideology called economic rationalism, a doctrine which says that economies, markets and money offer the only reliable means of setting values on anything, and which set out to destroy our public and social institutions to make it so. Make no mistake economic rationalism has a dark side, but whatever we create we can change to better serve our purposes.

I can't think of a more critical social institution and amenity at the very heart of the suburb than Glebe Post Office. There are compelling reasons why this crucial amenity must remain. Glebe has always housed people right across the economic spectrum and it is this diversity that gives the place a soul. There are always customers in the Post Office and among the most regular users are the old and the disadvantaged, and with new residential developments at Harold Park and elsewhere, the populations in Glebe and surrounding neighbourhoods will increase significantly.

For the record Glebe has had a continuous postal service since 18 June 1852, 159 years ago, when John Clissold became its first postmaster. This building opened on 8 January 1886, 125 years ago. The proposed closure is the last straw, an outrage which surely would have stirred Henry Lawson to break into verse, in A Word to Texas Jack.

An' when they go, as like as not, we find we're taken in,



Some watched the rally from a distance.

Photo: Bruce Davis

*They've left behind no learnin' -
but they've carried off our tin.*

Having sold off our Post Office, the Australian Postal Corporation's handsomely paid executives are telling us we're not economically viable, they're going to close down the service and we should trek off to that dingy little thing at Broadway.

The old style PMG Department post office had everything to do with public service and not-for-profit. The post 1989 corporatised, economic rationalist P J Keating model is a very different breed and it speaks a new language where the profit motive looms large.

Welcome to the world of Gordon Gecko where CEOs receive obscene salaries in a society where the gulf between rich and poor is widening. So what does the future hold for the post office? Frankly things look pretty bleak. The Australian Postal Corporation's new CEO, who comes from NAB, lamented in 2010 they only made \$103 million profit, a 60% fall on the previous year. Isn't that shocking. We all know nobody is more adept at retrenching staff and closing down branches than our trading banks. They are beholden only to their shareholders; staff or customers don't get a look in. Our new CEO told the Senate estimates in October 2010 there will be 1,000 retrenchments in the coming financial year; we can only guess the number of post offices to go.

It's up to the federal Government, Australia Post's sole shareholder, to tell the Corporation to pull its head in.

Any organisation's culture, Richard Sennett tells us in *The Culture of the New Capitalism*, depends on how ordinary people make sense of an institution, not the explanation that those at the top decree.

The demise

There it stands in its newly painted livery, no longer swathed in overhead power lines and with a freshly paved footpath. There it stands as a symbol of civic pride, with its paired ionic columns and its cool loggia. There it stands, as architect James Barnet intended, ready to play its role as an essential service in the community.

Purpose-built, spruced up and ready for business for another 100 years...

And then along comes Australia Post in Rampant 7-Eleven Slash-and-burn/Frankly-Scarlett-I-don't-give-a-Damn mode.

The Glebe community remains affronted by the lack of consultation over the closure of its beloved and essential Post Office; it remains affronted by Australia Post's uncompromising stand at the expense of community; and it remains affronted by Australia Post's refusal to recognise its role as a service provider.

Even more disturbing is that our community pain will doubtless be experienced by many other towns and villages around Australia over the next few years as Australia Post continues to ply its mantra of self-sustainability, guaranteed by clever innovations such as dump bins filled with fluffy toys.

Meanwhile, unlucky Glebians will be assessing the new arrangements at the Lucky7 Convenience store and also at Broadway (a queue of 30 people snaking out the door, at last report) and the search for new tenants for the Old Glebe Post Office has begun. The matter is with a local estate agent - our *Hands Off* sign has been taken down, but is in safe keeping for another issue, another fight.

Jan Wilson and the team of feisty Glebians who gathered around her deserve our admiration and thanks for a vigorous, sustained and multifaceted protest campaign. Our thanks go also to all those individuals in the community who rose so magnificently to the occasion with letter-writing and rallying.

Vale Glebe Post Office

- Liz Simpson-Booker

Planning Matters

115 Hereford Street Forest Lodge

This large lot, which contains a circa 1860 stone cottage, has been subdivided. The proposal is for a new dwelling, with a carport at the front and hence a deeper setback than is normal. This contravenes the Development Control Plan, and also has an adverse impact on the Conservation Area and adjacent heritage item, so the Glebe Society has objected.

Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre turns 50

I attended these celebrations, which included Eamon Sullivan cutting an enormous cake, on 28 November. Although I now swim at Victoria Park, I know the Leichhardt pool is very popular with some members and I continue to take a special interest, as the transformation of the pool to its present character was a particular project of mine when I served my first term as Councillor.

Margaret Telfer Building 71 Arundel Street

In the first *Bulletin* of the year there are often more planning items than usual because of the length of time since the last full report. This item is fairly typical, as it is the third attempt by Vodaphone to install a telephone tower on this building, which is owned by the University of Sydney although separated from the main site by Parramatta Road. For some unexplained reason Vodaphone considers this to be a better site than anywhere on the main site, although it is close to heritage items and to the University's own kindergarten, Laurel Tree House. We have pointed all this out and hope the University will find a more suitable site.

Hellenic Herald Building, 1-9 Glebe Point Road

As mentioned in previous *Bulletins*, this building was for many years an eyesore which the Society fought hard to have remodelled (*Bulletin* 2/2010, page 5 and *Bulletin* 6/2010, page 4). Please have a look at it now. The objectionable lift shaft has been greatly reduced, and the

impact of the building transformed by more appropriate finishes to harmonise with adjoining buildings. This is just one of the many ways in which the Society works for, and achieves, a better result for all of us.

City Plan on Exhibition

We have been waiting for this for a long time. It is four years since discussions began. Now is your opportunity to have a say. The Plan will be on exhibition until 4 April at Glebe Library and on the Council website. The Society met with Council officers to discuss its likely impact on Glebe on 15 February.

Awnings on Glebe Point Road

Members who attended the Glebe Coroner's Court will recall that the case being discussed was the death of a man in Balgowlah who was sheltering from a storm under a shop awning when it collapsed (*Bulletin* 7/2010, page 2). One result is that the Society drew the attention of the City to some awnings in Glebe Point Road that appeared to be insecure. Some of these have since been replaced, but where they have not the City has now sought court orders and the case should be heard soon.

Harold Park

The rezoning of Harold Park to Mixed Use was approved by the City on Monday, 7 February. Unfortunately I was unable to attend because of an operation, and no substitute could be found. The main change is that, in response to concern expressed at the Public Meeting convened by the Glebe Society, and also in meetings with Council officers, the amount of retail space has been reduced by 50%, which means reduced traffic impact and reduced impact on other retailers. The RTA has also accepted the primacy of access from The Crescent. This means that we can expect the next stage, a Development Application, fairly soon.

However, to this point we have not been able to secure any reduction in height or density. These will be among a number of outstanding matters we will continue to pursue in discussions with the developer.

Members are probably aware the Paceway was sold to the developer Mirvac on Friday, 10 December. Naturally we expect Mirvac will wish to discuss any proposal with the residents. We had successful discussions with this company about their development in Lombard Street some years ago. See the report on the first meeting with Mirvac below.

- Neil Macindoe

Harold Park meeting with Mirvac

As mentioned above, the developer Mirvac bought Harold Park from the Paceway before Christmas. At the meeting with Council Planners during the Rezoning exhibition, the planners said they would ask Mirvac to have discussions with the Society. In the meantime, Society member John Gray contacted Gary Flowers, CEO of Mirvac, who he knows, and this no doubt hurried things along. We also forwarded information about the Society and copies of the resolutions from the Public Meeting so Mirvac would be aware of the community's concerns.

Liz Simpson-Booker, Lesley Lynch and Neil Macindoe represented the Society at the meeting on 21 January, and Adrian Checchin (Senior Development Manager) and Stuart Penklis (Harold Park Project Manager) represented Mirvac.

The meeting took place shortly after the flooding of the Brisbane River in Queensland. In recent years Mirvac, which is a residential developer and also has a large commercial portfolio, has undertaken large scale projects along the River which, until the floods, was enjoying a renaissance. As the Harold Park site is part of the floodplain of Johnstons Creek, and is also bisected by a heritage-listed culvert from the Ross Street-Wigram Road catchment, we specifically asked Mirvac to review flood mitigation and stormwater management for the site.

There was also discussion of the Tramsheds. Some of Mirvac's projects have included major heritage buildings, and their portfolio includes the Broadway Centre, part of which is heritage listed. They were adamant that they see them-

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selves as residential developers, and they were not interested in incorporating any large retailers in the Tramsheds. They see them as providing services for occupants of the site and local residents. They are, however, keen to receive suggestions, and the Society will convene a public meeting soon with a specific focus on the adaptive reuse of the Sheds.

The Society has been pursuing reduction in the space available for commercial development, and Mirvac seemed happy to agree to this, although they protested when Council's Planning Committee, on 7 February, not only cut the commercial space in half but imposed a maximum size on particular enterprises. This is one aspect we will need to watch closely, because of the potential for commercial development to generate traffic, especially in conflict with pedestrian access to the Tramsheds and Open Space.

In general it is clear that Mirvac has not yet fully developed their ideas for the site. We raised a number of the key issues from the Public Meeting, but it didn't take long to see that Mirvac was mainly concerned not to have conflict with the City, and hence we may have difficulty persuading them we have a better plan.

Mirvac is keen to begin the project, and wants to see the 35% Open Space established quickly to avoid a dustbowl effect. Nevertheless, there is quite a lot of excavation and levelling to be done, and the project is large and complex. Like all such projects, the construction phase will affect our lives for quite a few years. This being the case, once a Development Application is approved it would be to our benefit if Mirvac starts quickly, does all the work and does not go broke. We also need to ensure that Council keeps its end of the bargain, especially regarding Open Space and The Hill. However, we also want to ensure that the DA reflects the community's views as much as possible.

There are many issues that need further discussion, and we have agreed to further meetings, with the next on 25 February, involving more Working Party members.

The Acting President presented Mirvac with copies of public resolutions and other representative documents prepared by Liz, and a copy of Bernard and Kate Smith's book, *The Architectural Character of Glebe*. The Mirvac people were suitably impressed.

- Neil Macindoe

Sydney Super Yacht Marina



Super yacht in Rozelle Bay.

Photo: Bruce Davis

A Major Project Assessment was opened for exhibition on 2 February and will close on 4 March 2011. Essentially, it is for the redevelopment of the land-based component of the Sydney Super Yacht Marina. The redevelopment consists primarily of two two-storey buildings and a four-storey car park. The purpose is to provide maritime facilities as well as mixed-use facilities. It is a \$31 million project.

The proposed development can be viewed in hard copy at Glebe Library or at Leichhardt Council, or online at the NSW planning website (Google NSW Planning /Major Projects/Super Yacht Marina). The detailed project description, online, is contained in the folder titled 'Environmental Assessment'.

A preliminary meeting of the Bays and Foreshores Sub-committee, chaired by Bob Armstrong (acting for Tony Larkum), has been held to commence Glebe Society action on this issue. Following this, several Glebe Society members met with the principal officers of the Sydney Super Yacht Marina. A number of issues were clarified in the ensuing discussion.

Following a preliminary examination of the documentation, and the discussion, the biggest issue seems to be Noise Control.

The main points of concern appear at this stage to be:

1. *Noise.* The noise modelling performed for the assessment shows an expected breaching of the standard allowances for parts of Glebe. Glebe has the closest residences to be noise affected. The noise can be constrained, eg by live bands not performing outdoors at night. This issue will need to be examined carefully and suggestions made for operational constraints imposed by the Government. The bottom line on noise control is that there should be **no outside music after 7pm.**

2. *The multi-use nature of the proposed project.* This issue interacts with the noise problem. It is the potentially large number and range of non-maritime activities that might occur that could lead to the noise problems. The maritime activities, ship chandleries and brokerages for example, seem to be very appropriate. While the current directors assured us that they do not expect to embark on a large number of other activities, it would seem prudent to have this built into a control.

The overall appearance of the development is much more attractive than the much larger dry-boat store that is approved to sit behind and to the side of the Sydney Super Yacht Marina. In reality, the planned buildings are likely to reduce the ugly impact of the yet to be built dry boat storage.

However, both ventures contribute to the uncertainties of outcome associated with the uncoordinated development of the Bays.

Traffic in the area is going to be a problem due more to the new Cruise Passenger Terminal than to the Super Yacht Marina.

Next steps:

The community consultation process has been totally inadequate and poorly directed. There are on-going discussions with the officials regarding either a public meeting at *Benledi* or a display at the Marina with the operators of the Super Yacht Marina agreeing to meet with groups of a dozen or so residents at a time.

Tony Larkum, Convenor of the Bays and Foreshores Sub-committee, will coordinate and prepare a response from the Glebe Society. Glebe Society members are encouraged to also submit individual submissions.

- Bob Armstrong

Glebe Island to Rozelle Bay via Barangaroo

John Brooks is convenor of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition. This is an edited version of the second part of his commentary during our cruise around the Bays Precinct on the steam tug Waratah on 31 October last year. Some of the issues about which John spoke have since moved on – see Bob Armstrong’s report on the planned expansion of the Super Yacht Marina (page 4) and Lesley Lynch’s comment on the Community Reference Group (CRG) report (page 6).



John Brooks
Photo: Bruce Davis

North along the eastern side of Glebe Island

You are now looking at one of the most desirable pieces of real estate in Sydney. The car ferry facility has been moved to Port Kembla and this area has no specific use and is now used mainly for ship maintenance (the former HMAS *Adelaide* has been berthed there for ages).

The first task given to the Community Reference Group (CRG) was to advise on the best location for the Cruise Passenger Terminal (CPT) which, we were told, had to be moved from Barangaroo. This site was our first choice. It has better traffic access potential, and the residents of neither Balmain nor Pyrmont had any objections. But we were told that we had to provide for two ships on occasions and they could not be berthed end-to-end here on this side of Glebe Island, and the 30 metre security exclusion zone would not allow ships to pass through the Glebe Island Bridge when a second ship was berthed there. (This exclusion zone does appear to be very flexible in Circular Quay.) So we said, ‘Why not locate the berths either side of Glebe Island so that one terminal could service both ships?’ The response was that the harbour there was too shallow. So the only remaining option was in White Bay.

Cruise Passenger Terminal (CPT)

White Bay Wharf 5 is the area designated for the CPT. This has caused the greatest amount of argument, particularly amongst Balmain residents.

Architects’ drawing of the proposed terminal [went on public exhibition last year]. The plan leaves the travelling crane supports in place and suspends a wavy roof between them with glass

walls. The design and layout for the CPT were presented for the second time [in October] with the ‘concession’ of public access on ‘non-ship days’, but with access by a stairway from Balmain. This attracted much criticism because:

- steps do not allow easy access for cycles or disabled;
- there is no provision for any cafes or other food service outlets, other than a kiosk that will operate for cruise passengers; and
- provision for long-term car parking for 180 vehicles is located on prime waterfront land, and that area will be taken up by temporary terminal ‘tents’ on the odd occasions when there are two cruise ships in port.

There is no provision for public transport to the CPT.

Balmain residents’ groups are still protesting about the CPT being located in White Bay. Others support the location but with the above criticisms. At the last meeting [in 2010], we asked why a separate public access road could not be constructed behind Wharves 3 & 4. The answer was ‘security’ to which our response was ‘nonsense’.

The Environmental Assessment mentions the use of the CPT for private functions of up to 2,500 people. We raised the question of noise, particularly for residents across the water in Pyrmont. That appeared not to have been considered.

Bailey’s refuelling depot

Just before Balmain point is the site for Bailey’s refuelling depot. It has been approved, with the details of the lease to 2020 still being negotiated. The



Dianne Gray on watch.
Photo: Bruce Davis

works going on at present are to do with strengthening wharf piling. The facility will be used to transfer fuel oil for shipping from storage tanks into barges that will ferry it to the ship being refuelled. The CRG wants this site to become a headland park.

Then across to the Barangaroo site and to Goat Island

We are now heading towards the top of White Bay and looking at the other side of Glebe Island. Immediately on our left is the edge of Glebe Island that will not be developed as additional wharfage. Further in are the bulk storage wharves that are the remaining key cargo operations in Sydney Harbour. Glebe Island Wharf 7 handles sugar and gypsum that go to factories in the inner west of Sydney and also bulk salt. Glebe Island Wharf 8 is the main bulk cement port for deliveries to Blackwattle Bay, Alexandria and Erskineville. Thus moving the Hansons and HyMix concrete batch plants out of Blackwattle Bay to somewhere near this wharf has many advantages and is under discussion – it just needs money. The Sydney Harbour Maritime Forum estimates that all these bulk cargo activities keep up to 7,500 trucks off our highways.

At the head of the bay is the disused White Bay Power Station that is being considered as a potential community centre/cultural precinct/heritage centre

Continued on next page ...

What’s coming soon

Sunday 20 February, 11am - 3pm – *Love Your Park*. See page 9.

Sunday 27 February, 5-8pm – Underneath the Arches picnic at Wentworth Park. See page 9 and green flyer.

Friday 11 March, 7 – 8.30pm – Meet the Candidates, Glebe Public School.

Saturday 2 April – starting at 10 - 10.30 am from the Glebe Library garden – Waterfront Tour. See page 9 and blue flyer.

Sunday 10 April, 10am and 12 noon from Rozelle Bay – *Waratah* Cruises. See page 9 and blue flyer.

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etc. Again all that is needed is money or a local Peggy Guggenheim.

One suggestion was to move the Sydney Heritage Fleet here as it could have relevance to a heritage centre. But that would mean moving the Fleet from land owned by NSW Maritime and transferring responsibility to Sydney Ports Corporation, and that appears to be a sticking point.

Go further inland and we get to the Rozelle rail marshalling yard that was going to be set aside as a depot for the now-defunct Metro system. This area has great potential for residential development built over the rail yards and linking Rozelle and Annandale and producing revenue for the State.

Turn around and head out of White Bay along the Balmain foreshore

We are now moving along the Balmain foreshore past White Bay Wharves 3, 4 and 5. White Bay 3 takes imported vegetable oils that go to Marrickville and Mascot for margarine and cooking oil manufacture. White Bay 4 is used for the import of specialised lubricating oils that are unloaded to special oil barges that are then towed up-river to Silverwater. At other times these wharves are used for vessel repair, construction (new Iron Cove Bridge, Port Botany submarine cable), and vessel lay-up (temporary berthing).

Back into Rozelle Bay, through Glebe Island Bridge along where the luxury yachts are moored

This area was to accommodate visiting super yachts for the Olympic Games in 2000, but later became a permanent fixture. It is to be expanded as it is a much better earner than the Heritage Fleet and is seen to be a better fit with the proposed Dry Boat Storage facility. The practice of mooring large vessels using bow (or stern) anchor lines protruding into Rozelle Bay causes a lot of angst for rowers who have difficulty seeing them in early mornings or heading west in the evenings.

If Hansons/HyMix were moved out of Blackwattle Bay there is still some doubt that the Glebe Island Bridge could be closed and opened on a schedule for the luxury yachts, although that is what happens with the Spit Bridge. Opening on demand would be expensive, but if you own one of these floating gin-palaces you may be prepared to accept a user-pays arrangement.

The Bays Community Consultation

On 5 February the Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, belatedly released his response to the community consultation on the future of the Bays Precinct (*Report on Outcomes, Stage 1 Consultation Process*).

The report was slipped out without fanfare. It is too late to be of any significance in the life of this Government. And most depressingly, its proposed planning principles for the Bays Precinct are bland and weak where they most need to be tight and

strong. We can only hope that the next Government of NSW will be more strategic and imaginative and responsive to the public good in its approach to the Bays Precinct and planning.

And perhaps they will respond to our recommendation for a formal community input into the next stage of consultation on the Bays Precinct.

- Lesley Lynch

See the Glebe Society Website for further information and comments on the Government's response..

'Gentrification' helped keep developers at bay

I first heard the term *gentrification* ('Grunge gives way to gentrification in streets of Newtown' and 'Locals lament suburb that once was', January 15-16) in the 1980s, when it was used as a term of abuse by Department of Planning types who were irritated by newly arrived middle-class residents of Glebe determined to not let the government destroy the character and amenity of their suburb.

It was the so-called gentry who forestalled the planned degradation of the area and, ironically, the rapid and complete removal of the older, working-class residents by the town planning laws that the government of the day proposed.

Members of the Glebe Society, particularly Tony Strachan and Peru Perumal, were responsible for the Whitlam government's acquisition of the Glebe Estate from the Anglican church and its preservation as a huge inner-city residential area for low-income earners. Another Glebe Society member, Albert Mispel, devoted almost every waking hour to subverting the Askin government's plans to force an expressway through the middle of Glebe. This road would have displaced 25 per cent of the suburb's residents, cut the suburb in half and destroyed many heritage buildings.

Glebe Society members conceived the idea of the waterfront walkway around the suburb and the Bicentennial Park at Glebe Point and worked tirelessly for many years towards their realisation. Many other members have volunteered their time and skills for more than 40 years to stave off threats of inappropriate development that would have damaged the character, amenity and social mix

of one of Sydney's most valued heritage areas.

It is simplistic to suggest that gentrification is wholly damaging to low-income residents and such suggestions play into the hands of governments and developers bent on destroying the character and amenity of inner city areas for private profit.

Alan Robertson Aranda (ACT) (Letter to the Editor, *SMH*, 17 January)

Attention all mangrove lovers

One wonders how many people are lovingly watching the growth of the mangroves on the western side of Whites Creek on Rozelle Bay. Despite the notice that says that they were planted in 2008, they were in fact planted by popular demand in November, 2006. Subsequently many of them died and I have been infilling up to the present time with fresh saplings. As a result the area is now covered with several healthy bushes. However, not every one is careful about maintaining them and I suspect that dogs are the main problem. Over the New Year (2010/11) celebrations, I discovered several sizeable branches torn off and left on the ground around one of the bushes. Fortunately, that bush had enough branches to survive, but if this happened to some of the younger saplings that would be the death knell – as can be seen for several leafless stumps.

So please, no dogs in the area and if you see dogs there please warn their owners!

- Tony Larkum

Glebe Society Members Lyn Collingwood and John Spruce wrote this obituary which was published in the Sydney Morning Herald's Timelines on Thursday 20 January.

Immigrant patriarch wrestled a new life from fertile soil

Frank Galluzzo was the patriarch of Glebe's oldest retail business and a member of the second generation to run the fruit and vegetable market at 187 Glebe Point Road. His father started it in the 1930s and his sons now continue the business.

Francesco Giovanni Galluzzo was born on June 25, 1926, at Martone in Calabria in the southern region of Italy. When Frank was six months old, his father, Salvatore, left for Australia, seeking a better life. He soon found work at the Arena grocery in Mitchell Street, Glebe, which was the largest fruit shop in Sydney. Later he decided to go into business for himself, as Galluzzo's Fruit Market (now Galluzzo & Sons).

Salvatore rented the premises where the shop still operates and in 1934 sent word for his wife, Caterina, and young Francesco to join him. They arrived aboard the *Otranto* in October 1934. Young Frank had a tumour in his thigh and almost the first thing he did in his new country was spend several months in Camperdown Children's Hospital.

Then, in 1935, he was enrolled at Glebe Public School. He left school at 15 to help in his father's growing business.

In 1952 Salvatore bought the property they had been renting, which included living quarters for his growing family. In 1949 Frank married Melina Arena,

whom he first met in childhood in Sydney. The Arena family lived in Woolloomooloo and helped Italians when they landed at the wharves. Melina's father later owned a barber's shop on Glebe Point Road.

Frank recalled the poverty of Calabria, where his house had a dirt floor and a special treat was the cheese rind brought home by his grandmother who worked for a well-off employer. In contrast were the best meatballs he ever tasted, at the Arenas' home after his ship docked in Australia.

Galluzzo wrestled at Glebe's Police Boys Club, played rugby league for Forest Lodge CYO and followed the Balmain Tigers.

Melina Galluzzo died in 2005 and had a huge funeral, as did Frank last month from St James Catholic Church, Glebe.

The Galluzzo shop won the 2011 *Sydney Morning Herald* Good Food Shopping Guide's award for best greengrocer in Sydney.

Galluzzo is survived by brother Tony and sister Rose, children Catherine, Sam, John, Michael, Tony, Joseph and Damian, 18 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Joseph and Damian run the fruit shop. Other siblings went into dentistry, pharmacy and law

- Lyn Collingwood and John Spruce



Melina and Frank Galluzzo

This letter was published in the Herald on 22-23 February...

Avocado wizard

Ever since I first moved in to Glebe, in the mid-1980s, I'd never buy an avocado from anywhere but Galluzzo's. Frank Galluzzo (Timelines, January 20), grumpy old man, with a wicked sense of humour, was my avocado wizard. I'd pick one from the tray, give it to him and he'd squeeze it ever so gently and say, 'Tomorrow, 2pm'. He never failed. He's been an iconic figure in Glebe, loved and admired by many of his faithful customers. The end of his life was not unexpected but we'll really miss him. Luckily, through his sons Joe and Damian, and their young, energetic assistants, Frank's spirit still shines.

Richard Ratajczak, Forest Lodge

Australia Day Awards 2011

We congratulate the following people with Glebe connections who received awards in the Australia Day honours:

Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO was Lord Mayor of Sydney in 2003, when Glebe was transferred from Leichhardt to the City of Sydney, and was instrumental in the construction of the Blackwattle Bay foreshore walk and the restoration of *Bellevue*. She has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia. Her citation is: *For distinguished service to the community, particularly through philanthropic contributions to, and fundraising support for, a range of medical, social welfare, educational, youth and*

cultural organisations, to local government, and to business.

David Robert Gaunt AM is well known to Glebe people as the proprietor of *Gleebooks*. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia. His citation is: *For service to the arts through the promotion of literature, particularly as a supporter of Australian authors, and to the bookselling and publishing industries.*

Roger Smalley AM, a Glebe resident, was made a Member of the Order of Australia. He is a composer and pianist and Emeritus Professor at the University of Western Australia. His citation is:

For service to the arts as a composer, concert pianist, educator, mentor of emerging musicians and advocate for Australian and international new music.

Joe Mannix OAM, an Annandale resident and a member of the Glebe Society, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. His citation is: *For service to the community through advocacy roles with a range of disability and social welfare organisations.*

Also, **Professor Ron McCallum AO**, the Chair of Radio 2RPH (Radio Print Handicapped, which broadcasts from Glebe) is Senior Citizen of the Year.

Stay young in mind

Many members of the Glebe Society are already members of City U3A, the University of the Third Age for the City of Sydney LGA, and have been enjoying its courses and activities during the first couple of years of its existence. Ted McKeown is the current President of City U3A, following in the footsteps of Neil Macindoe. He invites any of our readers who are not already members, and who fall into the appropriate category, aged 55 or thereabouts (or older) and retired or semi-retired, to join the U3A and to participate in the current program.

An application for membership can be downloaded from the website at www.cityu3a.org.au, and details of the courses and activities appear in the current newsletter, also available from the website. In summary, these courses and activities include:

- My favourite ethnic eating place – second Wednesday of the month
- Guided city and bush walks – third Tuesday of the month
- Last Friday book group
- Yang style Tai Chi
- Philosophers' Café (discussion group)
- An introduction to *Film Noir*
- The development of jazz

If you have any questions about City U3A or its activities, please contact me on 9660 3917.

- Ted McKeown

Flinders' 1804 map of Australia

A campaign has been launched to bring home to Australia Matthew Flinders' 1804 map of Australia. 2014 is the bicentenary of the death of Flinders. The 1804 Flinders map is significant for Australia as a nation.

It is a priceless part of our national heritage, it is important that it be returned to Australia and exhibited.

For more information and to find the online petition Google *Flinders petition*.

From Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc e-bulletin no. 78

Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party

The Glebe Society's Christmas raffle was drawn during our Christmas Party at the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant on 10 December. I was taking the photos of each of the evening's raffle winners being drawn by Verity Firth, our local State Member and Minister for Education, and when the 1st prize was drawn—two tickets to the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party at the Sydney Opera House—the winner was me, which is not what I expected! Thankfully someone grabbed my camera whilst I stood in huge surprise and delight when my name was called and went up to receive my prize. I was excited to say the least.

Each year recently the Glebe Society has been fortunate to be given two tickets to the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party. This is no ordinary party. Firstly the location is extraordinary – it is at the pointy end of the Opera House forecourt, right there with the very best view of the fireworks, the Bridge and the illuminated boats that sail past during the evening. The entertainment for the evening was excellent – the cast of the current hit *Jersey Boys* appeared on stage and were impressive. The sparkling wine flowed all night.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore personally welcomed everyone, probably 800 people, as they entered. Given the space available, it is not a crowded



Phil Young and Katharine Vernon

event. Perhaps more important, the guest list is not for A-List celebrities. Most of the invitees are those in the community who have offered services to the City of Sydney in some way, along with the City of Sydney councillors, representatives of community groups and Clover's campaign supporters. Tickets to this party cannot be bought so they are considered to be very valuable by some. We are very grateful to the Lord Mayor for offering the two tickets as a means of raising money in support of the work of the Glebe Society. I can certainly recommend that you buy a few raffle tickets in next year's Christmas Party raffle for a chance to win a great prize.

It was a fun night and the fireworks were absolutely stunning from this vantage point. It was a truly memorable experience and Katharine and I welcomed in the New Year with a big bang!

- Phil Young

...and our Christmas party was also a gas

About 90 members and friends gathered at the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant at the Sydney Fish Market on 15 December for our annual Christmas party. Given this is a Chinese restaurant, this was something of a break from tradition. Members found themselves sitting at tables designated by the signs of the Chinese zodiac and scoffed up a banquet from which turkey and plum pudding were notably absent. Needless to say a good time was had by all, particularly those who won raffle prizes, who included Jan and Geoff Davies (2nd prize - two gift certificates valued at \$155 each for cooking classes at the Sydney Fish Market School), and Susan Griffin (3rd prize - a voucher for \$75 at Claudio's Seafood), in addition to Phil and Katharine (see above).



Happy party goers (from left) Lesley Lynch, Cr John McInerney, Verity Firth MP, Bruce Davis and Ross Ingram.

Photo: Phil Young

Our thanks to the prize donors and Dorothy Davis and her team who made it possible.

Coming Glebe events

A twilight community picnic

Underneath the Arches

at Wentworth Park 5-8pm Sunday 27 February

A community picnic has been organised by the Glebe Society and Pyrmont/Ultimo Community Associations to celebrate the 'liberation' of the enclosed arches of the heritage-listed viaduct which crosses Wentworth Park.

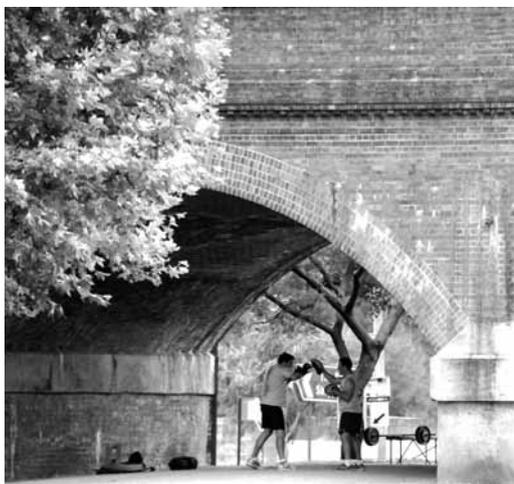
The City of Sydney has removed the infills from the viaduct and created more vistas towards Blackwattle Bay.

The Wentworth Park Trust has also contributed to the opening up of the site with new palisade fencing replacing brick walls.

The picnic is **BYO everything** (food, wine, water, rugs, chairs, glasses etc).

This is a free event, but please RSVP by 24 February to president@glebesociety.org.au or phone 95 186 186.

See the green flyer and be part of the celebration!



Since they were opened up the arches have been used for all sorts of activities, ranging from boxing training to temporary housing.

Photo: Bruce Davis

A community arts initiative

Come and help decorate a park

Come and help other local Glebe residents decorate the M J Dougherty Reserve on the corner of Mitchell and Wentworth Streets, Glebe on Sunday 20 February, 11am - 3pm.

You will have read in *Bulletin 9/2010* that the Glebe Society co-sponsored a community arts project known as *Love Your Park* together with the City of Sydney Council. Through this project local residents have come together to create and decorate over 100 tiles which have now been fired and are ready for attaching to the bare concrete walls of the park.

Whilst we hoped to complete this project late last year the final day's effort was held over and is now taking place on Sunday 20 February between 11am and 3pm. On this day we will be gathering in the Reserve to help attach the tiles and celebrate the wonderful art that

has been created by local children and adults alike.

Feel free to come and give a hand on the day and share the BBQ lunch which will be provided.

- Katharine Vernon



A Glebe resident shows off a tile made for the park.

Photo: Phil Young

National Trust Heritage Festival Glebe events

The events below will take place in early April, forming part of a state wide National Trust Heritage Festival themed about water and the stories that have flowed from its presence and use.

Saturday 2 April - Glebe's Historic Waterfront - A Guided Tour

The tours will start from the Glebe Library garden from 10 am to 10.30 am and take approximately 3 hours. The tours cost \$25 which includes notes, maps and refreshments.

Sunday 10 April - Waratah Steam Tug Inner Harbour Cruises

- First cruise departs at 10am sharp.
- Second cruise departs at 12 noon sharp.

Meet at the Sydney Heritage Fleet Shipyard, James Craig Road, Rozelle. Each cruise will cost \$30 and the actual cruising time is 90 to 100 minutes. Please bring your own refreshments.

See the Glebe Society Website, the enclosed blue flyer and next month's Bulletin for more details. Bookings are essential for both events – RSVP by Monday 28 March. Inquiries: Judith Ahlqvist, 9566 4871.

Seeking volunteer Tour Guides...

...for the tour on 2 April - *Glebe's Historic Waterfront - A Guided Tour*.

This is perhaps your opportunity to brush up on some colourful local history as well as introducing it to many outsiders. We anticipate the majority will be National Trust members from beyond our shores. Written material will be available on the web and there will be an on-site tutorial on Saturday 26 March from 10am to 12 noon. We anticipate 100 bookings which will need the services of 8 to 10 Tour Guides. *Interested? Contact Judith Ahlqvist on 9566 4871 or jahlqvist@eircom.net.*

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 3 March we will share a meal at *Almustafa Lebanese Restaurant*, 23 Glebe Point Road.

On Thursday 7 April we will eat at *Fountain 77*, the Italian Restaurant at 77 Glebe Point Road (next door to Otto).

And on Thursday 5 May we will go to *Darbar Indian Restaurant*, 134 Glebe Point Road (cnr St Johns Road).

Please email me or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Tuesday before the dinner to let me know if you are coming, or 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 February Management Committee meeting:

Janice Challinor, Win Childs, Ann Curthoys, John Docker, Jane Fissenden, Jonathan Gillis, Patricia Loughlan, Alastair and Alison Johnson, Annette Sneddon and Meg Wallace.

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

Players in the Pub

Here are the next plays in the series of popular moved readings at Glebe's Toxteth Hotel. Presented by members and friends of Sydney's New Theatre, these are not static readings but theatrical presentations using minimal props and furniture.

15 March - *Mujeres de Arena (Women of Sand)* devised by Humberto Robles, presented by Sydney Action for Juárez

Contemporary documentary theatre in English and Spanish, with music, on the plight of young women factory workers in the Mexican town of Juárez near the US border.

19 April - *The One Day of the Year* by Alan Seymour directed by Rodney Delaney

This Anzac Day drama was rejected by the 1959 Adelaide Festival directors who feared it would offend the RSL. The author will be attending this reading of his work, now an Australian classic.

Tuesdays at 7 pm in the upstairs Media Room (enter via Ferry Road stairs) Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road. Free admission. Two main meals for one on Tuesdays -- orders from 5.30 pm.

House sitting

I am a high school teacher recently migrated from Belfast. At present I am looking after David and Fay Mander-Jones' house until mid March. I am interested in further house sitting in the area.

- Orlagh Nogher, 0449 640 479

An Inside View

A series of recent paintings by Glebe Society member Janet Venn-Brown is on show in the Historic Houses Trust Members Lounge, The Mint, 10 Macquarie Street, Sydney until 24 March, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

This exhibition showcases paintings from the Clyde Bank commission (not for sale), together with a series of recent paintings of interiors of Vaucluse and Elizabeth Bay houses as well as some Glebe interiors. Most of these works are Tempera on paper and are priced under \$1000.

An Edwardian Summer

This Museum of Sydney exhibition, which may be of interest to Glebians, runs until Tuesday 26 April. An entry charge for the exhibition applies.

Sydney lawyer and identity Arthur Wigram Allen (1862-1941), lived at Toxteth House. He was a tirelessly enthusiastic photographer, and fascinated by the social and technological changes occurring during his lifetime. His talent for amateur photography produced extraordinary pictures that offer a fresh insight into the Edwardian years in Sydney.

Sydney Vintage Tramway Festival 26-27 February 2011

Marking 50 years since the closure of Sydney's tramways. Enjoy rides and displays of unique vintage public transport.

Cost: Adult \$15, Child \$8, Concession \$10, Family \$46.

Hours: Saturday 26, 9am to 9pm, Sunday 27, 9am to 5pm.

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 20 February, 11am - 3pm – *Love Your Park*, corner of Mitchell and Wentworth Streets. See page 9.

Sunday 27 February, 5-8pm – Underneath the Arches Picnic at Wentworth Park. See page 9 and green flyer.

Thursday 3 March, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Almustafa Lebanese Restaurant*, 23 Glebe Point Road.

Sunday 6 March – Clean up Australia Day.

Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

Friday 11 March, 7 - 8.30pm – Meet the Candidates, Glebe Public School.

Tuesday 15 March, 7pm – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

Saturday 26 March, State Election Day and Earth Hour (8.30pm).

Saturday 2 April, starting at 10-10.30 am, from the Glebe Library garden – Waterfront Tour. See page 9 and blue flyer.

Thursday 7 April, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Fountain 77 Italian Restaurant*, 77 Glebe Point Road.

Sunday 10 April, 10am and 12 noon from James Craig Road, Rozelle – Waratah Cruises. See page 9 and blue flyer.

Wednesday 13 April, 7.30pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

Tuesday 19 April, 7pm – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

Thursday 5 May, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday - *Darbar Indian Restaurant*, 134 Glebe Point Road.

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 March, The deadline for contributions is Wednesday 16 March.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

Management Committee:

Acting President	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Correspondence Secretary	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592
Minute Secretary	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members:

Dorothy Davis 9660 7873, Carole Herriman 9571 9092,
David Mander Jones 9552 4172, Margaret Sheppard 9660 4121

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	
Membership	Cheryl and Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Andrew Craig	9566 1746

Other Contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Bruce Davis	9669 7873
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
Website	Phil Young	9692 9583

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



Postage
paid

Membership of the Glebe Society

Individual member \$45

Joint (2 people, one address) \$55

Household (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address) \$60

Concession (student or pensioner) \$20

Institution or corporate \$110

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

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

Community Contacts

Manager-Neighbourhood Services Centre: Glebe, Forest Lodge, Camperdown, Ultimo & Pyrmont: Nick Hespe.

Office: Glebe Library - 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Phone: 9298 3191

Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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