

## About the online Glebe Society Bulletin ...

### How to view the online Bulletin

The pages of the online *Bulletin* are almost identical to the printed version except for the use of colour.

You can use the index (*In this issue*) on this page to jump to individual stories, or you can scroll through the edition using the scroll wheel on your mouse, or the page-up/page-down keys on your keyboard. To return to the index, click on the blue triangle at the bottom of any page. The online *Bulletin* also has links that take you to websites or email addresses when you click on them. The layout is optimised for wide screen monitors so you can read two pages together.

### Do you have some pictures of Glebe that others should see?

Do you have some digital images that you believe others would be interested in? If so, email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au), and we'll assess them for a centre page spread in the Society's online *Bulletin*.

### Membership of the Glebe Society

<b>Individual</b> member	\$45
<b>Joint</b> (2 people, one address)	\$55
<b>Household</b> (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address)	\$60
<b>Concession</b> (student or pensioner)	\$20
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Download a membership form from our website ([www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au), click on Membership > New membership), write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037, or email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au).

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

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**Dumped Shopping trolleys:** Trolley

Tracker 1800 641 497

**Harold Park:** Mirvac hotline for residents 9080 8588

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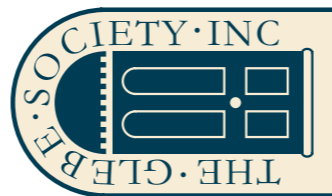
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The Glebe foreshore walk in January 2008. Photo: Bruce Davis

# Glebe Society Bulletin

3/2012 April/May 2012



# Glebe

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## Earth v Sky launched

We are getting used to wet weather, but the sky was clear as the sun was setting on Tuesday 24 April. From 5pm, a large crowd of Glebe residents, some with their dogs, started to gather near the giant Moreton Bay fig trees on the foreshore at the end of Glebe Point Road. They were there to celebrate the launch by Lord Mayor Clover Moore of *Earth v Sky*, the dynamic artwork featuring the City of Sydney's first ever wind turbine and new technology that samples the colour of the sky. Using this information, nine lights will bathe the trees in coloured light during sunset.

Before the launch, we stood around sipping coffee and meeting up with old friends. The children, and some adults, waved green and white windmills, representing the wind turbine. Then, as the sun was setting, Clover Moore and Allan Giddy, the creator of *Earth v Sky* addressed the crowd.

Clover Moore reminded us that this is the final installation under our Glebe Point Road Public Art Program, joining Nuha Saad's *Skippedy Skip* at Glebe Public School, and Nigel Helyer's *Wireless House* in Foley Park. All three works came out of extensive consultation with Glebe residents and businesses, which led to a call for proposals, developed by Michael Goldberg. The proposals were exhibited for public comment in September 2009, and were then assessed by a panel comprising Leon Parossien, chair of our Public Art Advisory Panel, and Glebe residents Sue Ingram and Janice McCulloch. Jan was the editor of Sydney's *Art Almanac* for over 25 years. Clover said: 'Sadly, she died in 2009, but I am sure she would be very happy that we're here today to witness the launch of *Earth v Sky*'.

Allan Giddy explained that *Earth v Sky* uses the world's first colour-sensitive light control system to invert the colours of the sunset and project them onto the trees. The newly developed technology takes a

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Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Allan Giddy unveiling the plaque. Photo: Phil Young

### Anzac Day service

The barriers around Foley Park that have hidden the War Memorial for the past few months have been removed, revealing a spruced up Memorial and a neat row of freshly planted rosemary bushes.

About 75 people gathered in Glebe Point Road at 7.30 am on Anzac Day. Many of them had seen each other at the launch of *Earth v Sky* only a few hours earlier.

Pastor Julie Brackenreg from the Glebe Community Church welcomed us on this 'brisk' morning. The ceremony, the 21st held here since 1992 when the Memorial was restored, followed the now familiar order of service. Max Solling gave a moving address which put a local human face to the events of World War I (see page 2 of this Bulletin and the Glebe Society Website), our President Mairéad Browne laid a wreath, Piper Rob McLean played the Lament and folk singer John Dengate played *There's a Long, Long Trail Awaiting* on his tin whistle.

- Edwina Doe

### What's coming soon

**Sunday 29 April, 5.30-7pm - Benledi** – Illustrated talk on Douglas Mawson. (Fully booked)

**Wednesday 2 May, 9.15-11.30am** - Blue Wrens Working Bee, Paddy Gray Reserve. See page 11.



An extract from Max Solling's 2012 Anzac Day address

## How WWI changed Australians' attitudes

Of all the legacies of war none is as subtle and elusive, or as important, as the changes it brings about in people's attitudes. It is from this perspective that the First War World is remembered most clearly in Australia: for the profound private and public grief it caused; for the new sense of national consciousness it created among the Australian population; and most significantly, for the legend of Anzac which it generated. ...

... After the war a concerted effort was made by the War Records Section of the AIF, Mitchell Library and other State libraries to collect diaries and letters of frontline soldiers, photographs, maps and other memorabilia. It had been the official policy of the AIF that each soldier be issued with a diary and camera. Writing letters and keeping diaries were a way for AIF soldiers from Glebe to manage and cope with the chaos that surrounded them at the front.

Some letters reflected a deepening weariness and sense of futility. *All my pals ... I came over with are gone, but seven out of the 150 remain, it's simply scientific murder, not war at all.* Eerie Neaves, a 25 year old cashier from Glebe, told elder brother Harry: *I keep smiling but I tell you it takes some doing ... the premonition I had when leaving Sydney that I will never see home again still hangs about me ... one would be unnatural to go through uninjured. If I get out with a leg and an arm off I'd be perfectly satisfied ... so don't get married until after the war.* Harry, a 30 year old grocer, had been killed in action on 16 November 1916, three months before Eerie wrote the letter. Eerie was killed in action in France on 6 November 1917. Born in Glebe,

the Neaves brothers attended Glebe school. On receipt of Harry's death certificate early in 1918, mother Emma Neaves sought advice about Eerie's death: *I understand he was one of seven who were in a dug-out, five of whom were killed, two instantly and three died of wounds.* On receipt of a cemetery book in 1921 Emma enquired: *We can trace just possibly where the two boys fell - but do not know so far whether their bodies were recovered to cemeteries - it may not have been possible. Some day we may know certainly.*

Bert Hopkinson, Glebe rower and draper at Anthony Hordern's Manchester department wrote from the front to brother Ainslie: *A line to let you know I'm still on deck by a heap of luck ... Fritz's army is like the rest, pretty well worn and the quicker the people who are running this joint take a tumble to themselves, the better for humanity. Australians are worn threadbare through over work, they have a permanent job in the lines to strafe the Hun, and the quicker they take a tumble the better. Men are not machinery.* Bert's luck however ran out. He was killed at Hamel on 8 July 1918.

Grief remained with people as they attempted to rebuild a world without those to whom they had been so fundamentally attached. Nineteen year old Percy Gibbs, a process engraver, who lived with his parents at 16 Charles Street Forest Lodge, enlisted in the AIF in August 1914. His father wrote to the Defence Department in June 1915: *I am informed that my beloved son Gunner P.L. Gibbs (No 282) second Battery, 1st Division has been killed in action. Will you please tell me if*

*the dreadful news is quite true? His mother and I cling to the hope that there may be a mistake and that our only child and only treasure in life is still alive. Please excuse this very unconventional note to a business department but I cannot write in a formal way just now. Yours truly, P. Gibbs.*

Similarly Ada Welling found it difficult coming to terms with the death in 1916 of son Ernest Welling, a warehouseman, who lived with her in Wigram Road. Two years after his death she sent this in memoriam to the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

*Oh the anguish of the mother  
Oh the bitter tears she shed  
When she heard her boy was missing  
And she wondered 'Is he dead?'  
Oh the weeks and months of torture  
Oh the agony and pain  
And she wept and prayed and wondered  
Would he come to her again  
'Killed in Action' came still later  
Oh the awful truth is bare.*

See full text at <http://glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=5629>



Pastor Brackenreg (left) listening to Max Solling's address in front of the newly uncovered Glebe War Memorial. Photo: Phil Young

*From the Terraces* returns from hibernation in order to report to members on heritage matters from a newly reformed and revitalised Heritage Subcommittee.

## Heritage – its contribution

*When next you find yourself wrestling with Victorian plumbing or you can't find a match for a broken Federation era path tile, you might console yourself with thinking about the real contribution you are making, in a micro- and macro-sense, to Glebe's heritage. Here is how the Heritage Council of NSW sees heritage:*

'... Heritage places are an irreplaceable asset – a non-renewable resource – with benefits to society, the environment and the economy. For society, heritage places represent those places most valued by communities because of their contribution to the sense of place and identity of neighbourhoods and as tangible links to Australia's past and its culture. Retaining heritage buildings also benefits the environment by re-using embodied energy and, in this way, reducing the energy consumption involved in development. For the economy, heritage properties provide the assets to support jobs and investment in the tourism, real estate and construction industries. Heritage places deliver both public and private benefits in these ways.' (Extract from **Heritage Council of NSW submission to the current NSW Planning System Review.**)

## Bidura – unintended consequences

The Glebe Society has always listed *Bidura* on its website as one of our suburb's heritage treasures. It was built c1860 by Edmund Blackett at 357 Glebe Point Road. Blackett and his family lived there whilst he worked on his University of Sydney commission.

But *Bidura* also served for a time as a girls' home from 1920. Rather to our surprise, the accompanying blog

on our website has served to provide an outlet for many of *Bidura's* former inmates to share their harrowing experiences in institutional care. It's a salutary experience to read at <http://glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=991-comments>.

The Heritage Subcommittee is planning two important events over the next 12 months to give members the opportunity to understand the architectural and social history of this important house. Stay tuned.

## Hall arches, curtains and flourishes

I recently visited a pre-WWI house which boasted a wonderfully decorative carved wooden Federation 'flourish' part way down the hall. It started me wondering about hall features generally.

Ian Evans' book, *The Federation House*, states that 'entrance halls had a *portière* curtain draped behind



An example of a Federation *portière*. Photo: Lucie Booker

the arch, forming the portal to a private realm into which few visitors were ever admitted. Most were ushered into the parlour or drawing room and entertained there by members of the family.'

Perhaps the decorative woodwork I saw was accompanied in its early days by a curtain or maybe the wooden feature was deemed to send a sufficient message on its own.

I remember a swagged half-curtain in the hall of my grandfather's 1915 cottage in the Sydney suburb of Carlton. The curtain, red velvet as I recall, seemed rather exotic in a house which could not otherwise be described as ornamented. My grandpa was an Englishman but did not stand on ceremony, so I had always assumed that this decoration was a vestigial trace of the curtain (also called a *portière*) used inside the front door of many English homes in an attempt to stop draughts.

Whether a vestigial draught excluder or a tacit visitor excluder, I suspect the Australian climate and our social mores have sadly rendered such features redundant.

## Exotics v natives in heritage gardens

A member recently shared with us his conflict about the plantings for the garden of his newly renovated terrace. We went to the Heritage Council's 'Maintenance' series (Information Sheet 9.1) for their advice.

It is suggested that the maintenance of heritage gardens 'should be based on good general horticultural practice rather than current fashion'. 'The concept of the original garden should be respected. Heritage gardens should continue to be planted with trees and shrubs which reflect the original species used in the design. The recent popularity of Australian native plants has led to the introduction of species such as *Grevillea* in heritage gardens which were originally planted with exotic species. The original character of the garden may consequently be lost or obscured.

'When replacing or adding plantings, select from the range of spe

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cies originally present in the garden, or at least from species which are similar in form and character and were in use at the time of the original planting. The pattern of planting in beds, rows or hedging should also match the original.'

### Heritage gardeners! Colonial plants database

The Historic Houses Trust is compiling a database which includes more than 11,000 listings of plants known to be available in the colony of New South Wales up until the 1860s. The database is compiled from several sources including Botanic Gardens records, nursery catalogues and manuscript plant lists created by colonists such as Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay (1767-1848). Go to [http://www.hht.net.au/research/colonial\\_plants](http://www.hht.net.au/research/colonial_plants)

- Liz Simpson-Booker

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digital snapshot of the twilight sky and projects contrasting hues onto the leaves and branches using LED lights, producing a changing display as the night progresses.



The wind turbine that powers *Earth v Sky*. Photo: Phil Young

The energy used to power the lights will be balanced by an elegant 18-metre wind turbine that feeds renewable electricity back into the grid. The turbine, featuring three eye-catching curved blades made from carbon fibre and fibreglass, is 300 metres from the trees on the shoreline.

## Glebe firsts

The theme for this year's National Trust Heritage Festival, held from 14 to 29 April, was 'Innovation and Invention'. Inspired by this theme, the Glebe Society has decided to put up a list of 'Glebe firsts' on its website with links to further information about each item. This list will include achievements by people or groups from Glebe or Forest Lodge where these have been the first of their kind in Sydney, NSW, Australia or the world.

Here are some candidates for the list. Please send in others or feel free to challenge or support any of those listed:

- First Prime Minister of Australia (Edmund Barton born in Glebe in 1849 became PM in 1901).
- Start of the Women's Liberation movement in Australia (67 Glebe Point Road, 1970).
- First refuge in Australia for women and children escaping domestic violence (*Elsie* in Westmoreland Street, established 1974).
- First attorney and solicitor trained in Australia (George Allen, admitted by the Supreme Court of NSW in 1822).
- First Rugby League club in Australia (Glebe Dirty Reds, 1908).
- First Aboriginal Australian to graduate from an Australian

Originally the job was expected to be done in a few months. However it took six years. Paradoxically the delay resulted in a better outcome - lights that will produce better colours but will be easier to maintain, and a better wind turbine. Glebe Society member Martin Lawrence, who was one of those concerned about the noise expected to be produced by the wind turbine originally selected, is pleased with the final outcome.

*Earth v Sky* will operate each night at dusk, with the lights programmed to switch on at sunset and stay il-

luminated for about 90 minutes. The turbine will operate silently and have no impact on local wildlife.

- First government acquisition and rehabilitation of property in Australia for low-income housing (Glebe Estate, rehabilitated 1974).
- First suburban rowing club in Sydney (Glebe Rowing Club, 1879).
- First public wireless house in Australia for community entertainment (Wireless House in Foley Park, 1934).
- First test cricketer to score a century in each innings of a test match (Warren Bardsley, playing for Australia against England, 1909).
- First Australian to become airborne in a self-designed and built aeroplane (L. J. R. Jones, 1911).
- A few notable *almost*-firsts:
- One of the first three municipalities (i.e. council areas) established in NSW (1859, the same year as Randwick, which was the first).
- One of the first branches of the Labor Electoral League, later the Labor Party. (1891, shortly after Balmain, which was the first).

Please send me your proposals for inclusion in the list (and feel free to dispute any of the ones above!) at [bsimyo@gmail.com](mailto:bsimyo@gmail.com).

- Bill Simpson-Young

luminated for about 90 minutes. The turbine will operate silently and have no impact on local wildlife.

Clover Moore and Allan Giddy then unveiled a plaque commemorating the launch. While they were talking, the lights had started to take effect. Because of the cloudless sky that evening, the trees were bathed in a subtle blue light, but people who saw the tests before the launch say that the colours are often much brighter. Take regular evening walks to the foreshore for a lucky dip.

- Edwina Doe

## John Street Reserve

The City of Sydney has plans to redevelop John Street Reserve, the little park near the tennis courts between Bridge Road and Hereford Street. Local residents are questioning the plans and the process that led to them. A resident action group, 'Friends of John Street Reserve Inc', was formed in December last year to oppose the current plans for a community garden.

The article below, submitted to the Bulletin by The Friends of John Street Reserve sets out the story so far from their perspective. For information on the next stage of consultations planned by Council see 'What next' at the end of this article.

### Local residents unite over plans for John Street Reserve

This article follows the City of Sydney Council's decision to effectively change the use of the much loved John Street Reserve from a passive recreation park and the Council's proposals for the tennis court complex upgrade. The approved concept decision for the Reserve fences off the most used, sunny, 40% of the Reserve to construct a series of 18 large brick/timber plots for a community garden, together with potting sheds, compost bins, water tanks and tables.



Some local residents enjoying John Street Reserve a few months ago. Photo: Fiona Campbell

The tennis court upgrade includes removal of the few parking spaces reserved for the tennis court users and a renewal of the tennis utilities building. This renewal will include a publicly accessible toilet despite its location in a quiet residential street and its proximity to primary schools and a preschool.

The residents support the concept of community gardens - particularly where they rejuvenate bleak unutilised spaces, replace ugly bitumen footpaths with verge gardens, reclaim waste areas and provide food support for those people genuinely in need. On principle we cannot, however, support existing rare and well utilised small public parks which benefit the **wider local community**, being effectively turned into the vegetable gardens of a select few.

Unlike St James Park, which faces a busy road, the rear section of John Street Reserve receives a lot of sun and provides an open grassy area protected from traffic and noise. This area is greatly valued by all park users as a relatively safe children's play area, as well as a space for people walking their dogs, sitting and reading, doing their exercises and socialising with neighbours and friends.

The recent decision by Council seems contrary to the original information provided to the community on its intentions and has raised increasing unease with each stage of the process. We are particularly concerned that clear and transparent assessment of the benefits and potential impacts on local community use and wildlife habitat has been reduced in favour of the desire to act quickly to deliver change.

#### The consultations, responses and some inconsistencies

An initial community consultation held in February 2011 included an invitation to a 'St James Park Community Open Day' (but did not include consultation on John Street Reserve).

A second consultation in August 2011 included an invitation to a 'St James Park Community Consultation Day' 'to seek comment on the concept plan' developed after the February consultation. This second, August, consultation now

also included John Street Reserve in the Concept Plan and **separately** identified:

- St James Park as 'an informal park with groves of trees, tennis courts and playground'
- John Street Reserve as 'an open grass area for kick about and active play'.

The invitation for this second consultation day stated the intention for John Street Reserve as:

'We are aiming to improve the park by: increasing grass areas to provide more space for recreation; installing new equipment and nature play elements for children; creating planting areas for native bird habitat; and improving connections between John Street Reserve and St James park areas'.

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# John Street Reserve

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The subsequent concept plan did not appear to address the above points and effectively ignored the impact on the surrounding residents.

A heritage study commissioned by Council described the reserve as being a well utilised area as did the Council's display panel on the consultations and the feedback forms provided to Council – yet the recommendations, in contrast, referenced the Reserve as being 'under-utilised'.

A feedback form at the August consultation invited responses to a series of questions, including 'Would you like to be involved in the community garden?' However, if residents were being consulted on the genuine proposal why didn't the question ask: 'Would you like the sunny portion of the Reserve replaced by a community garden?' – quite a different proposition!

## The report to Council and Developed Concept Plan

The report on St James Park and John Street Reserve provided to Council's Environment and Heritage Committee on 28 November recommended endorsement of a 'Developed Concept Plan' and approval, preparation and lodgement of a Development Application.

An 'Alternative Option Developed Concept Plan' was also included. This plan addressed some of the concerns highlighted by residents and incorporated:

- our on-site parking spaces (but which the report described 'will reduce the native habitat planting area) and are not recommended')
- the deletion of the proposed Community Garden area which

would 'then be open grass for passive recreation' but advised that 'this is not recommended'. (No reason was given).

## Community responses to the report

While there were some people who welcomed the proposals, many of the residents were incredulous at the report's reference to the 'overall support for the proposal', especially in relation to the proposals for the community garden and loss of parking.

In addition to written submissions prior to the Council meetings, 183 residents around the parks and in neighbouring streets signed a petition 'opposing the St James Park and John Street Reserve Developed Concept Plan' and to 'urge Council to adopt the Alternative Option contained in Attachment E to leave John Street Reserve open as a passive use park for the entire community and to retain the St James Park Tennis Courts parking for the tennis users'.

At the November Environment and Heritage Committee meeting 13 people spoke on the item, including 11 against the Developed Concept Plan. The issue was referred to the December Council meeting where the original Developed Concept Plan was endorsed.

## Blue Wren Report

Glebe has long been an important area for Blue Wrens and John Street Reserve was identified as being part of a corridor for this beautiful bird. The report, 'Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe & Forest Lodge: a community-based project', endorsed by the Glebe Society and funded through Council's environmental grants program, emphasises the importance of pocket parks in creating a corridor essential for small bird survival.

Recommendation #12 of the 'Superb Fairy-Wren report' was for a demonstration habitat garden to reflect the landscaping techniques and garden structures for small bird habitat, while supporting proposals to create a habitat corridor. The John Street Reserve was seen as an essential part of this corridor.

Council's 'Developed Concept Plan' provided minimal reference to habitat planting and the report offered few reflections of the aims for this.

Despite describing benefits of community gardens in a listing of strategies and implications, there was no reference to the 'Superb Fairy-Wren report' and no indication that the passive recreation area and creation of a demonstration habitat garden also supported these strategies.

## What next?

Residents around the park and in neighbouring streets (including a number of Glebe Society members) are now lending their support to a formal group, 'Friends of John Street Reserve'. The group is trying to engage Council to retain the parking for the tennis courts and keep the Reserve as a passive use green space for the **whole community** while proposing the alternative option of a habitat park suitable for the Blue Wren.

It is to be hoped that there will be **genuine** consultation on the future of the Reserve by Council.

- **Duncan Ball**  
for The Friends of John Street Reserve

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Working Group or Secretariat via the following email address: johnstreserveglebe@gmail.com

# John Street Reserve

## City prunes Murrayas in John Street Reserve

Long established murrayas (*Murraya paniculata*) in John Street Reserve were severely pruned by the City's landscape contractors on Wednesday 28 March. The six metre shrubs line the boundaries of the southern part of John Street Reserve and had never previously been pruned by the City. The Reserve is an important blue wren habitat and forms part of a corridor linking Glebe's wrens with those on the campus of the University of Sydney. The contractors told angered local residents that the pruning was in response to the 'imminent' developments in the Reserve which were approved by the City in December and include a gated community garden.

On the afternoon of Friday 30 March a meeting was held in John Street Reserve between the residents and five City employees, including Joel Johnson, Manager Reserves, Trees and Aquatic Facilities. City staff confirmed that the work-order was for the pruning of only three murrayas adjacent to a house in St James Avenue; residents were told that it was not intended that the

other murrayas be pruned and that their pruning was not related to the preparations for the installation of the 18 private allotments in the community garden.

There was discussion about the definition of a 'community garden' and it was agreed that it could include a 'biodiversity' garden in which the flora was established and maintained by the City with significant support from the local community, similar to the current management of Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford Street. Such a garden would have the support of local residents and would conform to the adopted recommendations of the Society's Blue Wren Report (*Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge: a community based conservation project. An initiative of the Glebe Society. Sue Stevens, 2008*)

The City is planning further consultations about its developments by door-knocking and surveying the opinions of residents within a 250m radius of the Reserve.

- **Norma Hawkins**  
and **Andrew Wood**



A murraya last year, before pruning. Photo: Duncan Ball



Norma Hawkins inspecting the pruned murrayas in John Street Reserve. Photo: Andrew Wood

## Déjà vu

Unfortunately this is not the first time that Council's gardening subcontractors have been out of control.

In 2004 a healthy magnolia was removed from the front of *Bendledi*. Council admitted that the tree appeared to have been removed in error.

In 2007 a plumbago hedge at John Street Reserve was trimmed very heavily. A local resident received a letter from the Mayor acknowledging the plumbago as sheltering blue wrens (at the time) and saying that future trimming would only be carried out if necessary for safety or access.

In January 2010 over 100 native plants were uprooted by Council contractors, destroying the small bird habitat in Paddy Gray Park that Council, the Glebe Society and the community worked together to create. Profuse apologies were offered, and concerns about systemic weaknesses in the management of the Park, and the failure to recognise the biodiversity of its plantings were discussed. The City agreed to develop a Management Plan for the Park, to include the use of dedicated, properly supervised, contractors with Bushcare training.

We are grateful to Council for taking care of the parks in Glebe and the rest of the LGA, and realise that mistakes can happen. However, I suggest we watch out for gardeners with chainsaws.

- **Edwina Doe**

For a video of the Reserve including the unpruned Murrayas Google 'UTube' and then search for 'John Street Reserve'.



# The Environment

## Glebe apartment owners face tough decisions

Bulletin 1/2012 included an article about the selection of Glebe Gardens, a 103-residence strata scheme, as one of the five schemes for the joint Council/NSW Government Smart Green Apartments Pilot Project. The project is now nearly complete. Glebe Society Member Jan Craney, apartment owner and utilities co-ordinator at Glebe Gardens, tells us more ...

The Glebe Gardens community has received some tangible benefits and its 120 page Final Report and Recommended Action Plan has been prepared. Now it faces some tough decisions.

The simplest, most obvious benefits result from the Waste and Recycling assessment. Actions fall into two categories: waste recycling and waste avoidance. Repainting the garbage room, using signed co-mingled recycling bins and waste bins, providing guides for residents and a clearly identified household clean-up collection area should reduce waste and mess and put Glebe Gardens into a lower priced category for waste collection. A win/win result! There are a few harder initiatives to consider such as installing a clothing bin, and reviewing our disposal of hazardous waste and communal composting.

Water, alas, is not so straightforward. NSW does not have a residence-based user-pays system within strata schemes. The Owners Corporation of each scheme pays an amalgamated water bill for both individual and common area water consumption, passing on the costs via resident levies tied to the value of each residence, not to individual water consumption. This means that single or dual person households greatly subsidise large households

and/or households where young adults or teenagers seem to need several long showers per day. In fact, it's estimated that baths, showers, basins, sinks and washing machines account for over 2/3 of the water consumption within strata schemes, greatly outweighing pools, spas, garden irrigation, cooling towers and commercial use. Installing water efficient showerheads is the single most effective solution to reducing water use. Glebe Gardens, with annual water bills of over \$40,000, has twice heavily promoted Sydney Water's subsidised Water-Fix which involves installing water efficient showerheads in individual residences, but with only modest take-up rates. Now that WaterFix is no longer subsidised it will cost at least \$180 per residence instead of \$22 and the chances of adoption are very slim, especially when it does nothing but rain, rain, rain! Further monitoring of consumption in different areas of the complex was really all that Sydney Water could suggest. Individual residence metering would cost millions of dollars.

Energy is the area for tough decisions involving expenditure, but fortunately Glebe Gardens now has lots of information to assist. The audit, action plan and five detailed business cases show us how to make energy consumption savings of 58%. Fortunately, to help us, recommendations are prioritised by payback period: under 2 years, 2-3 years and 4 plus years. The car park lighting upgrade, with dimming controls and the pool heating upgrade, despite their significant capital cost (a total of up to \$80,000) fall into the 2-3 year payback category.

Having spent considerable time prior to the project investigating possible car park lighting upgrade

options, and having obtained several quotes, I was interested and gratified that the expert environmental consultants came up with the solution I favoured: replacement of our double 36 watt fluorescent T8 globes and fittings with single T5 28 watt long life fluorescent globes and high performance reflectors. This is tried and trusted technology which I favoured over a LED solution in these circumstances.

The pool heating upgrade poses some challenges. By democratic vote, the 25m pool and toddler pool are heated all year round to about 25 degrees. Three options were investigated for us: higher efficiency gas boilers (a like for like replacement), a solar system and a heat pump. Boilers lock us into similar gas consumption and escalating bills. Solar will be quite expensive to install and operate, needing significant boosting except at the height of summer. A heat pump is estimated to save about 50% of our current gas consumption costs.

The Glebe Gardens Executive Committee is now faced with agreeing which of the recommendations will go forward and how. Fortunately there is some assistance within the Smart Green Apartments project for the implementation phases. And there seems to be advice on some existing and newly emerging subsidies and sources of low interest finance. But all that will be another story!

- Jan Craney

**Note:** For ideas about how to start the ball rolling by monitoring consumption of electricity, gas and water in your scheme, contact Jan Craney, Utilities co-ordinator, Glebe Gardens, on 0405 821 463 or [jancraney@bigpond.com](mailto:jancraney@bigpond.com)

## The story behind Elsie Walk



The entrance to Elsie Walk. Photo: Phil Young.

On Monday afternoon 28 May the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, will 'name' the laneway running between Derwent Street and Derwent Lane, adjacent to the western end of Glebe Public School, as Elsie Walk. The laneway was dedicated to Leichhardt Municipal Council by the School in 1993.

The naming of this laneway will recognise an important part of Glebe's recent history, as well as acknowledging the importance of the Women's Liberation Movement in establishing Australia's first women's refuge.

Founded in 1974, at a time of massive social change, *Elsie* was Australia's first refuge for the victims of domestic violence. Previously women and children in danger from violent husbands and fathers simply had nowhere to go when their home lives became unbearable.

*Elsie* was initially the product of two contemporary protest movements - the new wave of feminism and the conservation movement. People were starting to talk about violence against women, an experience that made people very angry and motivated women to do something about it. Meanwhile, unprecedented environmental activism by the Builders' Labourers Federation had resulted in 'green bans' which had considerably slowed the pace of

urban development and left many inner-city houses unoccupied.

A television program was aired about empty houses owned by the Church of England. Women scouted around the Sydney suburb of Glebe and came across a pair of cottages in good condition. One, in Westmoreland Street, was called *Elsie*. The women moved into the houses, claiming 'squatters' rights'.

Since its inception Elsie Refuge has operated under a collective framework. In 1975 the Commonwealth Government made funds available to the service following strenuous lobbying of the then Treasurer, Bill Hayden.

When *Elsie* celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 1992 there were 300 refuges across the country.

The suggestion to name the lane 'Elsie Walk' was made by members of the Glebe Community Action Group. There are several unnamed laneways in Glebe and the Group was keen to commemorate the importance of 'Elsie' in Glebe's history.

- Robyn Kemmis

## Only in Glebe ...

... could the NSW Reconciliation Council send out a general invitation to the local community to come to Tranby Aboriginal College (where they now have offices) and sit in the wonderful amphitheatre there to take part in Art Music Culture Community. Did you see the posters? I did, so I went to Tranby early one Sunday evening in March to attend the third in a series of Sundays in Glebe.

After an acknowledgement of Gadigal Country, we were greeted by Carla McGrath a member of the Council's Board who told us that their main goal in the series was to make everyone from in and around Glebe aware that Tranby is a space for the whole community. 'Our Place', they called it, and they had set out small lighted candles around the fence at the College to welcome

us. Carla said that the previous workshops on Basket Weaving, and Hip Hop, the Didj Playing, Mural Painting, Toolmaking and Family Art Day had helped build relationships with people and organisations in Glebe, and they were looking forward to furthering these connections.

Then came the performances ...

First was Black Tree. Described as a troubadour, this young Aboriginal singer has been involved in the music industry since he was 16. Though claiming to be very nervous, he performed beautifully, singing his own gentle ballads while accompanying himself on guitar. His first EP is due out later this year.

After a short break, the Stiff Gins took the stage. This duo has been one of the country's premier Indigenous acts for the last 12 years, and for someone who had never heard them before, they were a revelation. Nardi and Kaleena also write their own songs, and their stunning voices, amazing harmony and uplifting music, together with lyrics - nostalgic and political - that acknowledged Aboriginal history while remaining firmly in the present was wonderful to hear - what a class act! Their charming and often funny chatter between songs afforded a little insight into their lives.

Even the sausages were excellent, served on fresh sesame rolls - what more could you want!

For those who missed it on television, the last Sunday of the series had a showing of the film *The Tall Man*, followed by conversation - and there was much to talk about.

We thank the City of Sydney for the community grant which made these events possible. More please!

- Bobbie Burke

**Note:** Julian Boswell, Project Manager at the NSW Reconciliation Council, tells us that they will look at doing another series towards the end of the year or the start of next year. Meanwhile, look out for news about Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) and NAIDOC Week (1 - 8 July).



## Glebe Library's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday

The meeting room at Benledi was filled on the evening of Friday 20 April when staff, members and friends of the Library gathered to celebrate fifteen years in its present building. Margaret Whittaker, recently retired, introduced and interviewed three representatives of the COW (Concerned Older Women) group who shared their memories of Glebe in earlier days. Copies of their booklet *Stories of Glebe Women, Past and Present*, handed out to partygoers, made an appropriate souvenir. COW lobbies for improvements to services in Glebe, such as transport, and the COW-belles make and sell their craftwork to raise funds.

Margaret Whittaker then reminisced about her fifteen years as head of the library team, including the history of the Library, and a look back at its earlier location in Bridge Road. She shared her memories of the fund raising efforts for the building by residents, and the support for many years of the Friends of the Library group. She also underlined how much she had enjoyed being part of the Glebe community, and was looking forward to continuing to live in the suburb. After her talk she had enough breath left to blow out the candles on the Library's birthday cake and voices were raised for the traditional song.

A musical interlude of jazz from Barry Canham and his players followed, while we enjoyed a glass of wine and some nibbles and chatted with friends old and new. Then Max Solling presented one of his inimitable talks. He traced the history of the various Working Men's institutes, Schools of Arts and library services in Glebe from the mid nineteenth century until today. He concluded with a tribute to Bernard and Kate Smith, with special mention of their ground breaking book *The Architectural Character of Glebe*. Photographs from the Bernard Smith Collection held by the Library

formed a display around the walls as well as providing a continuous loop video display as a backdrop to the proceedings.

- Jeanette Knox

## How Glebe Library moved to Benledi

*The following is an extract from Max Solling's talk at the Library's birthday party*

... A group of Glebe activists which included Allison Chiew, Pam Grinter, Tanni Iverach, Robin Lawrence, Marie Mackie, Chris Newton, Heather Sykes and Ros Wheeler formed the Glebe Library Fighting Fund. Money from raffles, stalls and an Art Show and funds from the sale of the Bridge Road site went into a reserve fund. Council paid the Department of Health \$1.3 million for the *Benledi* site, selected architect Tim Schwager to design the new library and community facilities and accepted a tender from Build Corp Pty Ltd of just over \$1 million to build a 500 square metres library. Work began on 27 July 1996 and the library was officially opened by the member for Port Jackson, Sandra Nori on 19 April 1997. The library had disabled access, two internet computers, books, audio-

visual materials and story time for pre-schoolers. Meeting rooms were available for hire for community use. In its first week, 500 new members joined. The first floor was let to commercial tenants to subsidise the operating costs of the library. The Fighting Fund became the Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library and held functions and book fairs to raise money for Benledi House and Glebe Library. Margaret Whittaker, who had worked since 14 February 1966 at Bankstown Library, was appointed Glebe Branch Librarian in February 1997. Margaret had a staff of four assistants including one other qualified librarian. She believes public libraries have a major role to play in communities and their contribution to people's lives can never be underestimated. Her other great love is classical music, especially choral singing, and she is the subject selector of these books for the eight City of Sydney libraries. In 2008 Margaret was the recipient of the ALIA Study Grant Award where she visited thirty libraries in Sweden, England and the United States, investigating the feasibility of a free public music library for the City of Sydney. Margaret retired on 16 March 2012.

- Max Solling



Dear Editor

Congratulations to Jan Macindoe and the members of the Environment Subcommittee on their excellent Environment Policy and Action Plan as published in *Glebe Society Bulletin* 2/2012.

Resident action groups are necessarily parochial but don't need to be exclusively so and the more of us who can be persuaded of the importance of looking after our environment the better. In this case the Greens' slogan 'think globally, act locally' is very appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Ian Edwards

## Youth environmental action in Glebe

On the evening of Anzac Day an event took place in Glebe which is taking concrete community-based action to reduce the energy usage and emissions of local businesses. The event, called 'Repower Sapphos' was held at the Sappho Books, Café and Wine Bar. It was organised by the Inner West group of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) and the New Moon Blues initiative, and is part of an AYCC campaign called 'Repower Australia'. As part of the campaign, the local AYCC group is organising fundraising events in local businesses. After the event, the majority of the money raised goes to the business to help them reduce their carbon emissions (for example, by installing solar power and converting lighting from incandescent to LED) with a small portion going to AYCC for continuing their campaign. AYCC have their own volunteer sustainability officers who will help the business to improve sustainability and supervise the use of the funds raised by the event.

The 'Repower Sapphos' event included six local musicians, an auction of art created on the night by local artists, food, drinks and discussions of renewable energy. It was the first 'Repower' event to be held in NSW and one of the first in Australia.

AYCC wants Australia to be powered by 100% renewable energy and, rather than waiting for others to make this happen, these young people are actively working on it themselves and holding 'Repower' events all across Australia. If you know of other local businesses who may want to host fundraising events for reducing their resource usage, contact me at [alice.simpsonyoung@gmail.com](mailto:alice.simpsonyoung@gmail.com). I am a Glebe Society member, Sydney University student and a volunteer for AYCC.

- Alice Simpson-Young

## Glebe Society events

### Glebe Voices - investing in our communities

We had a packed house upstairs at the Ancient Briton on April 19 when Richard Spencer, a local resident with 20 years' experience in local and international community development, led a lively Glebe Voices discussion on how we can increase social cohesion in our communities.



Richard Spencer. Photo: Bruce Davis

We also had contributions from those operating several Glebe agencies about the good work being done in this regard. The achievements of Centipede, Glebe Youth Services and the Glebe Community Development Program are both impressive and inspirational. Richard gave practical examples on strategies for achieving 'great' communities and we finished the session with the sense that the conversations we had are just the beginning of further discussions and actions towards strengthening our community.

- Mairéad Browne

### Coming Events

#### A Turkish Experience

*Kapadokya Café*, Glebe Point Road - combined with the June Thirsty Thursday. Traditional Turkish home cooking and entertainment.

**Thursday 7 June, 7pm.** \$30 per person covers shared mezze plates

and main course, BYO fee, sweets and tea or coffee.

#### Film and talk at Benledi

*Waste Not* - 'an award-winning beautiful and emotional film' produced by the Total Environment Centre about garbage recycling in Sydney - including recycling of household waste; 'Reverse Garbage' community business; excessive packaging; toxicity of electronic waste; and a 'sustainable' house in the inner city. Showing of film and a talk on the City Council's approach to waste management. Early evening, **Thursday 28 June, Benledi.**

#### New members welcome ...

... and a talk by Deborah Cameron, former ABC Radio 702 morning host and now working in community consultation. **Friday 20 July, 6 - 8 pm**

#### Annual General Meeting

Guest speaker Lucy Turnbull - **Sunday 26 August, 11 am**

For more details all of the above, and bookings, see the next *Bulletin*.

- Dorothy Davis

### Blue Wrens working bee

Paddy Gray Reserve, between Hereford Street and Wigram Lane, beside 57 Hereford Street, Wednesday 2 May 9.15 - 11.30am (weather permitting, otherwise **Wednesday 9 May**).

Join the Glebe Society's Blue Wrens Group, members from the Glebe Bushcare Group, Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery and City of Sydney staff and contractors for a working bee at Paddy Gray Reserve (local National Tree Day site in 2010 and 2008). If you don't want to pull out weeds and add a few infill plants, come and have morning tea with the workers anyway, at about 10.30.

- Jan Craney



# News and Notes

## Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually 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 May** we will go to *Roxanne*, 39 Glebe Point Road.

On **Thursday 7 June** we will go to *Kapadokya Turkish Café*, 71 Glebe Point Road. See page 11 for more details.

And on **Thursday 5 July** we will go to *Fountain 77* at 77 Glebe Point Road.

Please email me or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Wednesday 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 April Management Committee meetings:

Verity Firth  
Laura Forsyth  
Jodie Hooper  
Bridgette Leech  
Reingard and Bill Porges

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

## Trivia night fundraiser for NAIDOC

A fundraiser trivia night for Glebe NAIDOC (the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) will be held on **Friday 1 June, 7pm for 7.30pm** at the Harold Park Hotel.

For bookings and enquiries contact Sarah Foulkes or Olly Loveday at Glebe Community Development Project phone 9692 9375

Make up a team of 10 or come as an individual. \$15 per person.

## Coro Innominata concert

Sospiro: Cardoso, Gesualdo and Monteverdi  
**3pm, Sunday 6 May** at St Scholastica's Chapel, Glebe.  
Google coro innominata for more information.

## The Wireless House – a clarification

Heritage Consultant Hilary Hewitt has drawn attention to the fact that the article *What makes something a heritage item?* (page 4 of Bulletin 2/2012) did not acknowledge the role played by the late Jan McCulloch in saving the Wireless House.

The fact that the Society initially supported the Council's plan and later, along with others such as Jan McCulloch, sought to have it overturned is widely recognised, and Jan's role is acknowledged on page 6 of Bulletin 1/2012. I regret that last month's article may have given the impression that the Glebe Society alone saved the Wireless House.

- The Editor

## Players in the Pub

Our first moved playreading in our new home is Oliver Goldsmith's classic comedy *She Stoops to Conquer* at **7pm on Tuesday 15 May**. The venue is upstairs at the Harold Park Hotel, 70A Ross Street Glebe. Seating is a mix of chairs with backs plus comfortable poufs. Admission is free.

Mine host Will Ryan is opening the kitchen for orders from 5.30 pm. The menu includes snacks and light meals (\$12-\$15) and chargrilled beef, lamb or chicken (\$17-\$20). There is a bus stop on Wigram Road for routes 433 and 370, and up the hill at the Ross Street shops for route 470.

## City of Sydney Councillors

**Lord Mayor:** Clover Moore MP

### Councillors:

Phillip Black  
Meredith Burgmann  
Irene Doutney  
Chris Harris  
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 ...

**Wednesday 2 May, 9.15-11.30am** - Blue Wrens Working Bee, Paddy Gray Reserve. See page 11.

**Thursday 3 May, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday – *Roxanne*, 39 Glebe Point Road. See page 12.

**Wednesday 9 May, 7pm** – Management Committee meeting, the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, Forsyth Street.

**Tuesday 15 May, 7pm** – Players in the Pub, Harold Park Hotel. See page 12.

**Friday 1 June, 7pm** - NAIDOC trivia night, Harold Park Hotel. See page 12.

**Thursday 7 June, 7pm** – A Turkish Experience, *Kapadokya* Turkish Café, 71 Glebe Point Road. See page 11.

**Wednesday 13 June, 7pm** – Management Committee meeting.

**Thursday 28 June, early evening** – *Waste Not*, Film and talk at *Benledi*. See page 11

**Thursday 5 July, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday – *Fountain 77* at 77 Glebe Point Road. See page 12.

**Wednesday 11 July, 7pm** – Management Committee meeting.

**Friday 20 July, 6-8 pm** – New Members Welcome evening and talk by Deborah Cameron. Venue tba. See page 11.

**Sunday 26 August, 11am** – Glebe Society Annual General Meeting.

## Contacting The Glebe Society

### Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:  
The Glebe Society Inc.  
PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037

### Website

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

### The Bulletin

We are glad to publish letters or articles on any matters of interest to Glebe, any topic raised in the Bulletin, or any issues relating to the Glebe Society, within the Guidelines published on our website. Write to the address above or email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au)

### Disclaimer

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

### Bulletin deadline

The next edition of the *Bulletin* will be published at the end of May. The deadline for contributions is Wednesday 16 May.

## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

### Management Committee:

President	Mairéad Brown	9552 2888
Vice President	John Gray	9518 7253
Immediate Past President	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Secretary	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

### Committee members (five elected positions):

Dorothy Davis (Events coordination)	9660 7873
Carole Herriman (Eglington Road Project)	9571 9092
Murray Jewell (Assistant Treasurer)	0416 978 608
Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214

### Convenors (ex-officio members of the Management Committee)

Bays and Foreshores/BCC	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Community Development	Robyn Kemmis	9692 9440
Environment	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Heritage	John Gray	9518 7253
History	Lyn Collingwood	9660 5817
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport & Traffic	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Website coordinator	Phil Young	9692 9583

### Other contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
Plaques Project	Peter Robinson	9660 1160
Press cuttings	tba	