



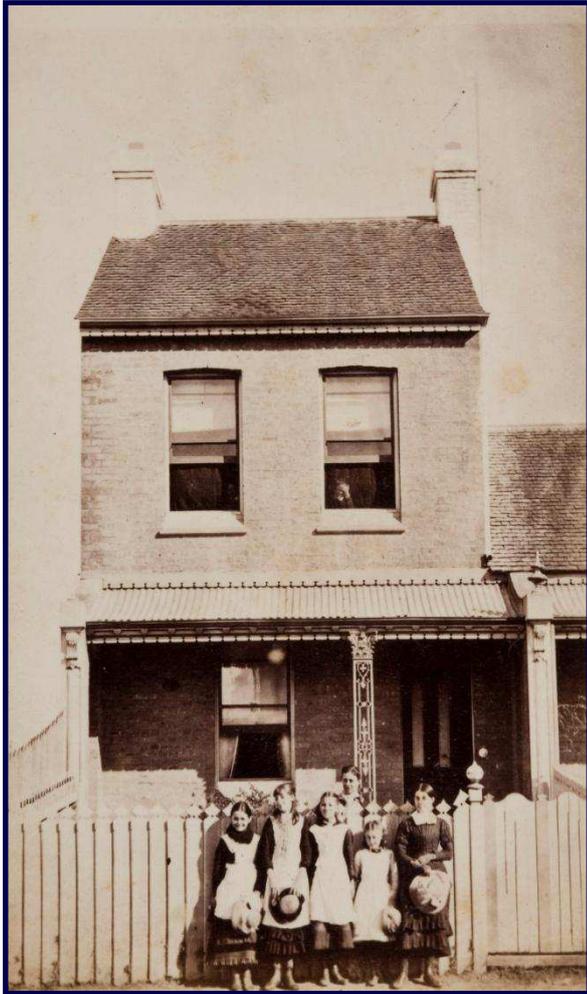
Glebe Society Bulletin

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Why is the Glebe Estate important?

Vanessa Witton and John Gray write about the local and national significance of the Glebe Estate



No.94 Derwent Street, Glebe, around 1874 / photographer unknown (Source: Historic Houses Trust)

In the Glebe Estate, we have a rare amalgam of community, history and heritage. Generations of families have lived within its borders, it has been the subject of a ground-breaking urban restoration project and its heritage streetscapes will tell future generations how inner-city workers lived in the 19th century. Today, most of its 700 houses are tenanted by Housing NSW clients. People of the Glebe Estate have stories

about lack of maintenance affecting their well-being, building deterioration and a lack of respect for the precinct. But the hard-pressed Housing NSW has many sites throughout the state where similar claims could be made. It has insufficient maintenance funds for contemporary housing stock; heritage stock makes additional demands. Thus the Glebe Estate housing stock crumbles and the so-called “broken window effect” brings a spiral of deterioration in respect for property and community.

The Glebe Estate is a key to the identity of Glebe and is of national significance. This was recognised in 1976 in the original Register of the National Estate, as follows:

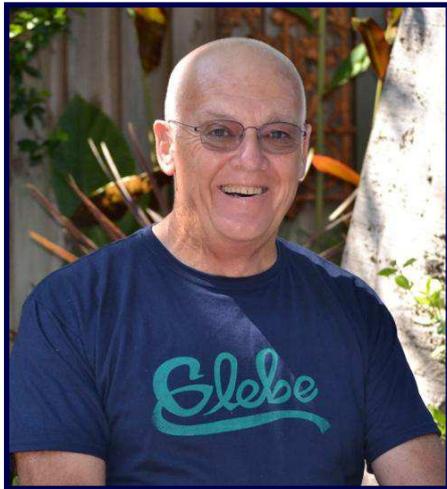
Glebe is a history of early Australian urban architecture. As a townscape it is handsome, coherent, and largely complete. The scale and character have been little disturbed by modern intrusion. About one fifth of the houses have been acquired and restored by the Australian Government. Glebe seen as a whole is a significant part of Sydney’s heritage and character.

That is right, about one fifth of Glebe. The Glebe Estate, keys “the history of early Australian urban architecture”, and Glebe’s identity. In this respect, the Grattan Institute showed that heritage preservation is not a mere gentrification project; it strikes to the heart of identity and sustainability and enriches communities.

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.

Continued on page 5

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



John Gray, President
(Image: Di Gray)

There is a lot to report so I shall be brief. Some items are explained fully in this edition or on www.glebesociety.org.au

- ❖ The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, attended the Management Committee meeting on 13 Feb.
- ❖ The remarkably refurbished Glebe Town Hall will be re-opened by her on 2 March 2013. This City of Sydney event will be conducted between 10am and 1pm.
- ❖ Complementarily the businesses of Forest Lodge are promoting their wares and services in Lodge St until about 4pm. Vouchers, things for the kids, and face painting will be there.
- ❖ The Glebe Society will conduct its management committee meetings at Glebe Town Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, 7pm to 9pm commencing April. Any

member can attend; just let the Secretary know beforehand.

- ❖ You should pencil in the evening of 13 April for an exciting Glebe Society event at the Town Hall. More later.
- ❖ Thanks to those who replied to my call for involvement in community processes. Meg Wallace has joined a team helping residents with the Mitchell St Fete. Janice Challinor has joined the Board of FLAG. We need a member to serve on a subcommittee of Friends of Centipede
<http://www.centipede.org.au/friends-of-centipede.html>
- ❖ I have written to the Premier and the Planning Minister regarding the delay in releasing the Bays Precinct Taskforce Report and the critical need for strategic planning of bay development. Minister Hazzard wrote back to me in *Panglossian* prose. My letter and his are on the web.
- ❖ Watch very carefully the Local Government Review Panel's work and consider how amalgamations and changed boundaries might affect Glebe.
<http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Circulars/M12-01.pdf>
- ❖ The strategic review panel will meet in workshop in April and we will have a draft strategy for your comment soon afterwards.
- ❖ I have taken over as Chair of the Coalition of Glebe Groups for 2013 and will let you know of its activities during the year. Its first meeting was on February 20.

John Gray

BAYS & FORESHORES

The Glebe Society has had an active Bays and Foreshores subcommittee for a very long time. It has been a significant player in achieving major improvements on our foreshores over the years. We have seen a transformation of much of the Glebe foreshores of Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays with expanded public parks and the fabulous Foreshore Walk. There has also been a slow but significant improvement in the water quality over the years and even some fragile re-appearance of mangroves indicating improvement in the ecology of the bays. The

bays are still sufficiently open to allow a continuation of traditional rowing activity and the emergence of enthusiastic dragon boat groups – and I notice a steadily increasing number of kayakers. Residential developments at the end of Glebe Point Road and in Blackwattle Bay have not been allowed to cut off the foreshores from public ownership and access. The extension of the foreshore walk from the Boathouse restaurant to Pyrmont Bridge Road along an excision from the Blackwattle Campus of Sydney Senior College is visibly underway.

BAYS & FORESHORES (CONT.)

It has been largely a success story. But it is not a finished one.

The future uses of much of the foreshores in both Bays are still to be decided. Development is proceeding on a number of existing uses which have some disturbing elements or potential.

The successful application for the over-development of the onshore entertainment facilities for the Super Yachts Marina on the Balmain side of Rozelle Bay will certainly have a negative effect on the enjoyment of the foreshore parks – if we are right in our prediction of the resulting noise levels. The temporary relocation of the Darling Harbour convention centre facilities to Glebe Island will have a major traffic flow-on impact – even though Glebe will be less affected than Pyrmont and Balmain/Rozelle residents and users of the Anzac Bridge. We still await a finalised DA from the Elias brothers for their planned development of B1, B2, and wharves near the Fish Markets. The artist's impression we saw two years ago in the media raised alarm bells on a number of fronts (blocking views and non-maritime uses).



Proposed marina for Rozelle Bay (Image: Sydney Morning Herald)

There are also emerging opportunities.

There is serious talk of Hanson's and Hymix cement operations moving from Blackwattle Bay – possibly to Glebe Island – in the near future. This would free up foreshore land for new and more appropriate uses. The Fish Markets will probably stay at the current site for the foreseeable future, but planning for a major revamp has again stalled in favour of a minor upgrade. The relocation of the nearby cement operations may reactivate a broader discussion.

There is already one unsolicited private development proposal which seeks to take advantage of these expected moves and get approval for an integrated development of the fish markets and adjoining sites – FishBank.

The Glebe Society – and other community groups – had hoped that by now we would have had an acceptable strategic framework – including strong planning principles – to guide planning and decision-making for these valued Bays sites. The report of the Bays Precinct Task Force (BPTF) has been with the Government for months. We understand it has been on the Cabinet agenda for several meetings but has not yet been discussed.

We are still waiting to see the extent to which the BPTF report reflects the community input. More importantly, we also await the Government's response to the report and the community's strongly argued views.

Without an integrated strategic plan, development decisions will continue on a one-off, ad hoc basis. We will have to monitor them as they emerge and argue for the application of good planning principles for each one.

Current indications are that this will not be easy. The new NSW government's approach to planning decisions to date does not augur well for its acceptance of the key planning principles the community has consistently argued for over the last few years.

The endorsement of the Packer Casino proposal without tenders and the extraordinary and botched harbour helipad approval (albeit withdrawn in face of a wave of community rage), don't generate a lot of confidence in the Government's commitment to reasonable transparency, community consultation or basic good governance processes to protect the public interest (eg: open tendering).

We will continue to wait for the Government to reveal its reaction to the BPTF and the community's input to the Task Force. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor individual projects as they emerge. With each one we will advocate they conform to the strong planning principles supported by the community and the existing Master Plans.

Lesley Lynch

PLANNING MATTERS

25 Arundel St and 417 Glebe Point Rd

These two applications for student housing dominated the holiday break. However, they are very different. The former University Motel in Arundel St is well situated for student access, and provided the amenity of nearby residents is protected and the student accommodation is of good quality the Society has been quite supportive.

Durham Court in Glebe Point Rd is a very different matter. The last five years have seen a succession of applications, all exceeding the planning controls. It is difficult not to conclude that calling the current proposal “student housing” is another attempt at overdevelopment, and consequently the Society has supported residents in opposing the application.

Unfortunately there is no Development Control Plan specifically for student housing. Given the proximity of so many educational institutions, and the particular needs of students, the Society has requested the City prepare appropriate controls other than those currently exercised under the Boarding House DCP.

Ross St, Forest Lodge

Ross St between Parramatta and Bridge Rds is controlled by the Roads and Maritime Authority, and linked to the Crescent to form a major north-south traffic route. At the Parramatta Rd end it passes through Glebe's most important industrial belt, and the Bridge Rd end hosts the Forest Lodge shops. It is also one of four important pedestrian connections to the University of Sydney (the others being Bay St/Victoria Park, Derwent St and the Barton Footbridge).

Its mixed character, diverse functions and heavy traffic have resulted in uncertainty about how to treat this important street. It contains a number of unusual and important buildings (eg., Salvation Army Hall, original Sydney YHA/Free Presbyterian Manse) including some of early date and some in timber. The Society fought a successful campaign to preserve the group of buildings on the corner of St Johns Rd known as Fine's Corner. There is now increasing pressure for new development, and because it is zoned Business it is difficult for us to protect residential buildings. The City recognises the problem, but

has yet to come up with an overall plan for this section of Ross St, and I think we now have to campaign for one, no matter how difficult it may be to find good solutions.

Further Extension of Light Rail

Before Christmas the State Government announced a couple of major transport initiatives. One is WestConnex, which will be dealt with in the Traffic Report, but the other included the extension of Light Rail through the CBD to the Quay, with a traffic-free zone between Bathurst and Hunter Sts, and another extension through Surry Hills and along Anzac Parade to the University of NSW.

These routes were part of the original Glebe Society Light Rail proposal in 1980, and we should benefit from them greatly, not least because it will improve the connection between the Harold Park development and the City.

Neil Macindoe

Light Rail Wins Out



Sydney Light Rail (Image: Mal Rowe)

The final NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan was released by the State Government in December last year and for the most part is good news for Glebe residents with real access to the CBD by light rail proposed. Following submissions on the draft Master Plan and the release by Infrastructure NSW of its plan, the State Government has settled on its major transport initiatives for the next 20 years.

The final Master Plan confirms the initiatives previously announced, including integration and improvement of the public transport system.

The new and significant announcements are:

- ❖ Light Rail down George St to Circular Quay and to Randwick and UNSW, with the bus tunnel option for the CBD proposed by Infrastructure NSW rejected,
- ❖ A second harbour rail crossing adopted,
- ❖ WestConnex motorway project proposed by Infrastructure NSW adopted.

Light Rail will become a real public transport option for the first time and is significant for Glebe. It should reduce traffic pressures from the Harold Park housing development and will be a viable alternative to cars and buses and so will take pressure off the roads in the inner city.

On WestConnex, there does not seem to be any direct impact on Glebe. The proposed motorway itself does not encroach on Glebe and it seems unlikely that the planned road connection between the motorway and City West Link will be built through Glebe.

Murray Jewell

Why is the Glebe Estate important? (Cont. from page 1)

The Glebe Estate is important because it has always been a low income community and today's tenants continue that history. This community has been protected from high-rise development by timely political action of groups including the Glebe Society and has therefore benefited from the human scale of the precinct. It enriches all of Glebe.

From the earliest days of the Glebe Society the significance of the Glebe Estate community and the rehabilitation of Victorian housing were seen as worth fighting for. We can proudly say that we were prime movers in the Glebe Estate's rehabilitation. It is no less important today when we find this project in disrepair. Peter Strickland, whilst President of the Glebe Society, recognised the Victorian Glebe Estate as "the oldest, largest and most important urban renewal project yet undertaken in Australia". We have a remarkable social, cultural and capital asset. It is unarguable that it has deteriorated and no solutions to its demise have been proposed.

For these reasons, the *Bulletin* will run a series of articles that set out a story of the Glebe Estate. These will emphasise heritage, national significance, community and integrated analysis of its problems. To set context we commence with a brief history.

A Brief History of the Glebe Estate

Prior to European invasion the area we know as the Glebe Estate was the land of the Wangal and Cadigal clans. After white settlement these traditional Aboriginal peoples were displaced. In 1790 this land was surveyed and named the Sydney Glebe lands. Governor Arthur Phillip gave the original 400-acre (1.6 km²) land grant to Reverend Richard Johnson, Anglican Chaplain of

the First Fleet. Thus the land was "a glebe", fully owned by the Anglican Church. Its original purpose was for a church and school (never built) and as the chaplain deemed it unsuitable for agriculture, the land was not touched for about 30 years.

By 1824 free settlers began arriving in Sydney and wealthy emancipist families were hungry for land. Four years later the financially pressed Church of England sold all but three land lots at public auction. One was given to the Bishop and became known as Bishopthorpe, and the other administered by St Phillips parish in the city. The land was subdivided and leased: St Phillips Estate in 1842 and Bishopthorpe in 1856. These two precincts became part of the 19-hectare Glebe Estate, which is divided by and includes a section of Glebe Point Rd. Other named precincts of The Glebe Estate include "Parramatta Rd" (between Catherine St and part of Arundel St), "School" (in the small pocket around Glebe Public School) and "Wentworth Park".

People came to The Glebe Estate to escape the city's appalling living conditions. From the 1830s a variety of housing was built on the land in a ribbon development of workshops, factories, and working men's cottages.

The severe drought of 1841 brought economic crisis, which led to land subdivision and drew settlers back to Sydney. The following year two lots in St Phillips were divided into 32 allotments on 28-year leases, and a variety of working men's cottages were erected. St Phillips was always more closely settled, with tenants vulnerable to typhoid outbreaks and closer to the slaughterhouses on Blackwattle Bay (later reclaimed as Wentworth Park).

Bishopthorpe became the more socially prestigious area with longer leases, and this is reflected in its architecture: substantial houses, larger land, higher ground, wider streets. The earliest houses still standing in Bishopthorpe are 1840s post-Regency style matchbox terraces at 146-156 St Johns Rd. By 1856 Bishopthorpe (then farmland) was subdivided into 238 allotments on 99-year leases stipulating no more than two houses on one allotment. Wooden housing was banned. Jane Harden, Bishop Barker's wife, insisted on tree-lined streets with names from the Lake District, home of the Romantic poets who were her friends. Housing development steadily continued after the subdivision and rows of cottages spread, many following early colonial vernacular designs. Almost all of this housing remains.

The 28-year leases in St Phillips expired by 1870 and its weathered wooden houses were demolished, with new 45-50 year leases offered in the one and two storey slate and brick terraces which replaced them. These were advertised for mechanics and tradesmen in view of expected immigration to Glebe after the gold rushes. Large dwellings in Bishopthorpe served as boarding houses for transient workers who moved to Glebe to be close to city and harbour employment. The Glebe Estate was fully developed by the time of the 1880s building boom.

The temperance movement of the late nineteenth century and the prohibition of hotels and factories on church leases ensured there were no pubs or factories built in St Phillips. This contributed to the preservation of the Estate's unique residential village character. By contrast, in Bishopthorpe there were many pubs by 1890.

After WWI, the Glebe Estate began to decline. Hotels and shops closed on Glebe Point Rd and by the 1930s the Estate was notorious for its poor condition, street gangs and crime. Rents were cheap, fixed at 12 shillings 6 pence per week when unemployment was high. Long-term tenants living on low incomes occupied most of the houses, which were falling into ruin.

Although the Church demolished and rebuilt some of the houses, it was a neglectful landlord. Low rents meant low maintenance. The Estate collected insufficient revenue to allow proper restoration. Tenants were protected under the NSW Landlord and Tenant Act 1948-68, and at least one third were paying rent as low as \$6 per week. So by the early 1960s when the non-

renewable 99-year leases of many of these houses were returned to the Church, the houses were dilapidated: infested with termites, with leaking roofs and dangerous wiring.

During this decade an architectural company was commissioned by the Church to draw up a redevelopment scheme for the Estate but this was not put into practice. The Church was clearly trying to solve the Estate's problems, and was concerned about poverty, but lack of money meant its attempts were poorly coordinated and lacked any long-term vision. The Church believed the government was responsible for low-cost housing. Negative Australian newspaper and television reports ensued regarding the poor standard of housing and rising rents on the Estate.

In 1962 the better-resourced Sydney City Council stepped in and constructed John Byrne Court (now 34 Wentworth St Glebe) a 12-storey block of 120 flats for low-income earners.

By the early 1970s there was increasing concern that the Estate's unique Australian architectural townscape was at risk. Its long-established community, who had passed down their homes from one generation to the next and who were loyal to both the Estate and each other, was on the verge of being forcibly displaced.

Resident inner-city action groups which had risen in greater numbers during the 1960s and 70s led by the Glebe Society, lobbied both government and Church about the need to protect the community, and to preserve and restore the historic buildings on the Glebe Estate. The Glebe Society presented Leichhardt Council with an outline plan for the residential development of the Glebe area in September 1970; Council encouraged the Commonwealth to purchase the Estate.

In 1971 the Church began to sell off some of its land in a piecemeal manner to existing tenants who were able to purchase or to investors. 125 Glebe Estate dwellings were sold over the next three years.

Next month, Vanessa Witton and John Gray continue their exploration of the Glebe Estate, from Tom Uren's vision for urban renewal to a passionate plea to protect the Glebe Estate for its contribution to Glebe's identity. (References provided next month)

FROM THE TERRACES

Valuing streetscapes

Over the years, your scribe, like millions of others, has been dazzled and seduced by the grand houses on the tourist trail overseas. These mansions have widely varying histories, offer differing contributions to architecture and its traditions and some display extraordinary collections within their walls. Against all odds, the successive custodians of such great houses (be they descendants, heritage groups or local volunteers) have found the drive, finances, artisanal restorative and curatorial expertise and vision to maintain them. The visiting public have been the great beneficiaries, gaining understanding of history, lifestyles, sensibilities and interests of previous owners.



Glebe Estate houses (Image: Phil Young)

In Glebe, we have a rather different – and larger – challenge. We have not just single buildings that have (or should have) heritage status, but we have whole streetscapes which form part of the suburb's history, heritage, sense of place and character. These are the Victorian streetscapes of cottages and terraces. Their often modest and utilitarian nature, the patterns of their mechanical reproduction and economical land-use give us a different narrative to that of the grand houses: they tell us much about the hardships and physical demands of Victorian life and how our inner city areas developed in terms of reach, transportation and facilities.

Peter Strickland, one-time President of the Glebe Society, wrote in his preface to the 1989 reissue of the Smiths' *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, that *The character of Glebe depends not on the preservation of a limited number of houses that might be regarded as good examples of their*

kind. It is the totality of the built environment, the streetscapes and settings that really matter.

As Vanessa Witton and John Gray point out in their article on page 5, Glebe was recognised forty years ago on the Register of the National Estate as a "history of early Australian urban architecture".

In recent years, our federal legislators in their wisdom have walked away from a leadership role in heritage matters. The Register of the National Estate (RNE) has been abandoned in favour of a suite of national heritage lists, accession to which can be described as glacial, at best. The RNE, whilst having no regulatory clout, afforded significant status and *éclat*. Suburbs like Glebe and Haberfield have yet to be formally recognised once more at national level.

Nevertheless, as residents we are the beneficiaries as we live in the midst of our virtually-intact 19th century streetscapes. Perhaps propinquity occasionally dulls our perceptions of our unique environment; the reaction of tourists and new visitors to Glebe is a salutary reminder of how special it is. As we walk around our suburb, we can quietly celebrate our individual and collective will to preserve, maintain and understand our environment and the past.

Liz Simpson-Booker

Clashing sandstone

Letter to the Editor

I heartily endorse Liz Simpson-Booker's exhortation to "indulge in your own bit of sandstone spotting" (Glebe Society Bulletin, 10/2012).

To help in this, members can take advantage of two Glebe walks which include numerous sites at which Glebe's Hawkesbury Sandstone is well exposed in situ. See:

- ❖ <http://www.glebewalks.com.au/Rocks-Of-Glebe-Point.html>
- ❖ <http://www.glebewalks.com.au/Pocket-Parks-of-Glebe.html>

The matter of the use of sandstone in upgrades of the Glebe streetscape is controversial. The availability of Hawkesbury (Pymont) Sandstone for building purposes is very low and the material

Continued next page

is expensive. In many places, “foreign” (Western Australian?) sandstone has been used – see the foreshore at *Bellevue*, where the clash between the new sandstone and the seawall is glaring.

Also, the sandstone used in the recently established kerb extensions in Glebe Point Rd is of low strength and unsuitable for the purpose. It crushes under heavy vehicular load. The kerb at the intersection of Glebe Point Rd and Eglinton Rd failed within weeks of the work being completed.

The good news is that the Council has done a particularly good job in its use of sandstone in Jubilee Park. The location is Stop 7 on the *Rocks of Glebe* walk – behind Hilda Booler Kindergarten. The site is of both geographic and cultural heritage significance and it was being eroded by the stormwater flow from Alexandra Lane. The completed work, including pedestrian access from the lane to the park, retains the sense of tranquility of the site.

Anton Crouch

GLEBE EVENTS

A Uni course without exams!

No study required – just a pair of comfy shoes.

When: Thursday, March 14 – join us at 10am under the Clock Tower for a guided walking tour of Sydney University’s most beautiful buildings.

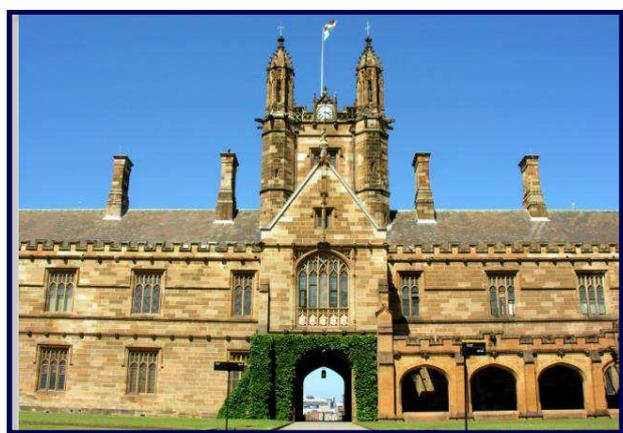
After the 90 minute tour we’ll stroll down through Victoria Park to the popular *Gardener’s Lodge Café*, recently opened to give on-the-job experience for indigenous students from Eveleigh’s Yaama Dhiyaan Hospitality Training College; friendly atmosphere, good food and courteous helpful staff.

Snacks and lunches are from \$10 to 20 (I can vouch for the Seafood Linguine!), plus juices, soft drinks, teas and coffee – inside the Edmund Blakett designed lodge, or on the terrace overlooking the lake.

Cost: Tour \$10, refreshments ordered and paid for individually.

Numbers are limited, so **bookings are essential** by March 8 – details in the flyer enclosed.

Erica Robinson



Clock Tower, University of Sydney (Image: David White)

Glebe Voices

The first Glebe Voices for 2013 will be held on Wednesday 20 March at 6pm at the *Blackwattle Café* (bottom of Leichhardt St Glebe).

Our guest speaker is John Williams who has had a lifetime’s involvement in the antiques trade. He has worked as a valuer, and has run his own dealership in different Sydney locations. As part of his work as a dealer he undertook occasional auctions for estate clearance, but since 1974 he has concentrated solely on conducting auctions.

John’s topic will be *Stories from the Salesroom*.

The Blackwattle Café will offer a choice of two light meals and the format of the evening will allow for members and friends to eat their meal during John’s presentation.

This is an informal evening, and questions will be welcome. No bookings are necessary, but please note that due to Council restrictions the café premises must be cleared by 8pm.

Carole Herriman

Josie and the Emeralds concert

When and where? 23 March; 4pm, Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Rd.

Presented by The Glebe Music Festival, this concert features the renowned USA *viola da gamba* player, Mary Springfels. Hear Renaissance gems by Weelkes, Jenkins, Tye, Parsons and Byrd; and new music by Brooke Green, including the premiere of *Traveling to the Question* inspired by Hildegard of Bingen, Nick Cave and Martin Heidegger. **Cost:** from \$25 to \$30 (incl. GST and booking fees); <http://josieandtheemeralds.com/>.

Glebe Society Christmas Party

A party in a church? Our Christmas Party on 7 December was not held in a traditional church, but in a new modern space created on the site of the old St Barnabas, burnt down seven years ago. It provided an interesting and beautiful setting for our annual Christmas function, with its soaring ceilings, wood panelling and Broadway view.

A highlight of the evening was a re-creation of part of the history of St Barnabas church and the correspondence via noticeboards between the church rector and the publican across Broadway. Glebe Society member Lyn Collingwood and an actor friend performed for us outside in the entrance to the church among the stones and relics saved from the original church.

Around 80 people enjoyed sangria and champagne and a variety of Spanish tapas – and talked of the past year in Glebe and 2013 plans

Dorothy Davis

Christmas raffle prize winners 2012

| Prize and Donor | Winner |
|--|----------------|
| Two tickets to Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party | Bryce Walker, |
| Ian Thorpe Aquatic and Fitness Centre: three months membership – value \$320 | Lyn Milton |
| Sydney Fish Market Seafood School; Two cooking classes – value \$240 | Di Gray |
| <i>Restaurant Atelier</i> ; 22 Glebe Point Rd – \$200 voucher | Lesley Lynch |
| Wentworth Park Restaurant; Wentworth park sporting complex Dinner with wine for 4; value \$240 | Jan Macindoe |
| <i>Two Peas Restaurant</i> ; 198 St Johns Rd, Forest Lodge – \$100 voucher | Carmel Kanaley |
| <i>Naggy's Cafe</i> ; 333b Glebe Point Rd – \$75 voucher | Erica Robinson |

NEWS & NOTES

Glebe Town Hall re-opens

View the restored building following the first major upgrade since it was built 132 years ago. The City of Sydney has revived this historic building, ensuring it is more accessible, sustainable and welcoming. The \$10.2 million restoration has rescued valuable heritage features.

Come along to see the improvements, including the exciting discovery of 130-year-old ornate plaster carvings uncovered in the main hall during restoration works. There'll also be entertainment, refreshments and a welcome by Lord Mayor Clover Moore.

The City of Sydney also presents the Forest Lodge Village Festival, with guided tours of the Glebe Town Hall on Saturday 2 March, between 10am and 1pm. Forest Lodge businesses are joining the celebration with alfresco dining. With roving performers, face and face painting.

The Mitchell Street Fete

The annual Mitchell Street Fete is being held on Sunday 24 March. This Fete is organised by local residents and community groups as a grass-roots celebration for all who live in Glebe and Forest Lodge. This year's theme is *Showcasing Local*

Talent and will include activities, performances, presentations and displays for all ages. The Glebe Society is assisting Centipede, the local community agency which provides before and after school programs at the Glebe Public School, in mounting a display of artworks by local children and adults.

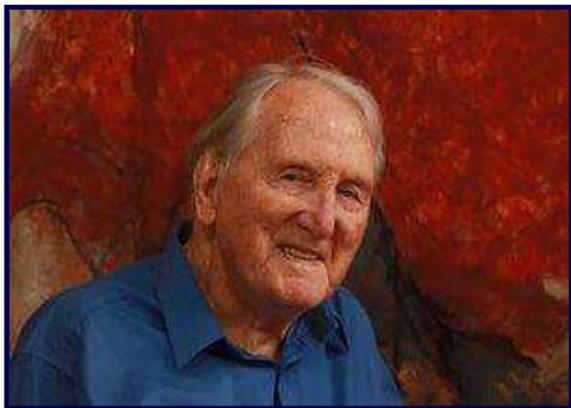


Mitchell Street Fete (Image: Ally de Pree-Raghavan)

When: 10am - 2pm, Sunday 24 March. **Where:** Forecourt of the Peter Forsyth Auditorium, across from *Badde Manors*, between Franklin and Francis St. **Cost:** All activities are free and food will be available at a low cost.

The organisers are seeking volunteers to help with children's activities; conduct surveys of visitors to the Fete; act as marshalls and help provide information and direction to visitors on the day; and take photos of the event. If you are willing to help for a minimum of one hour, then please contact Katharine Vernon on 9692 9583.

Tom Uren AC



Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, Tom Uren. *Image: Jacky Ghossein)

On Australia Day it was announced that Tom Uren would receive the highest honour his nation can bestow on a civilian: Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for "eminent service to the community, particularly through contributions to the welfare of veterans, improved medical education in Vietnam and the preservation of sites of heritage and environmental significance". Tom cares about justice for people and is a leveller. His deep concern for community is coupled with a fine appreciation of urban places and the identity they confer. Tom is an honorary life member of the Glebe Society and displays values that we in the Glebe Society aspire to. See *Glebe Society Bulletin* 7/2003 (on our website) to read Tony Larkum's nomination of Tom Uren for honorary life membership.

Ref: Tony Wright, *Tom Uren, a man of letters: POW, MP, AC, SMH*, 26 January 2013 [online]

World class medical research in the heart of Glebe

The Woolcock Institute of Medical Research is a medical research facility located in the very heart of Glebe, at 431 Glebe Point Rd. The Institute has been conducting respiratory and sleep

research since 1981, when it was associated with the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. In 2002 it changed its name in honour of the late Professor Ann Woolcock AO, the eminent respiratory scientist and clinician whose career was cut short by breast cancer in 2001.

The Glebe Society was chuffed to receive an invitation from the Institute's Executive Director, Carol Armour, to a cocktail party followed by a lecture by Professor Jeffery M. Drazen, Editor-in-Chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). The event took place on Wednesday 30 January 2013 at 6pm.

Prof Drazen presented on the topic *200 Years of Medical Breakthroughs: Complex Medicine Made Simple*. We were treated to a whirlwind tour of medical breakthroughs as revealed in the pages of the NEJM, which claims to be the oldest continuously published medical periodical, having been established in 1812.

Prior to the presentation, Chairman, Mr Robert Estcourt, welcomed the Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie R Bashir AC CVO, who spoke in glowing terms of the Woolcock Institute's international reputation.



Mr Robert Estcourt, Prof Jeffery Drazen with Her Excellency Professor Marie R Bashir AC CVO. (Image: Woolcock Institute)

The Sleep and Circadian Research Group at the Woolcock Institute is conducting exciting new research looking at the effect of a medication and weight loss in treating patients with sleep apnea.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please call PhD candidate Julia Chapman to discuss it further, on 9114 0449 or via email at julia.chapman@woolcock.org.au.

Virginia Simpson-Young

Glebe Society Comings and Goings

Thank you, Bruce!

At our February Management Committee meeting Bruce Davis formally handed over the role of Treasurer to Glebe Society members, Laura Forsyth and Bridgette Leech.

Bruce became Treasurer at the start of 2003. The job entailed much more than collecting membership fees and writing cheques. He managed a complicated membership/banking program that only he understood, from which he prepared detailed monthly and annual reports and printed labels for Bulletins. At some stage, on the advice of the Auditor, he changed over to MYOB, but the system was still so comprehensive that even the Auditor couldn't understand it.

Other people helped from time to time, but it was always left to Bruce to sort things out.

The Treasurer's job is a thankless and a tedious one. Bruce has always done the job diligently and thoroughly with no hiccups. He will be a hard act to follow.

Read more about Bruce's work for the Glebe Society on page 7 of Bulletin 8/2010, via our website.

Edwina Doe

Welcome to our new Treasurers

Who are we? Bridgette and Laura – better known as the “young girls” in our block, we live in Cook St and are loving our transition to Glebe. We have been in Glebe now for around 18 months and were drawn to it by its love of community, buzzing café atmosphere and beautiful streets. As best friends and flatmates, we both lead very busy lives, from working 9-5 (more like 7-7) in the city to starting a small business on the side, to drinking good wine, eating glorious food and enjoying the company of our wonderful friends. We both grew up in the “Shire” and visit our families there regularly. We have a strong faith and are passionate about seeing a change in our community.

Why did we join the Glebe Society management committee? This may be biased, but we have the best neighbour (shout out to you ML), and as newbies to Glebe we asked her about ways to get involved in the community; she suggested we join the Glebe Society. After a few wines with

John and his lovely wife Di, and good conversation we were asked to come on board and take over from the existing Treasurer Bruce (who did a wonderful job and should be highly commended). And so the story begins ... we look forward to contributing to the life of Glebe.

Bridgette Leech and Laura Forsyth



Bridgette Leech and Laura Forsyth, Glebe Society Treasurers.

Welcome to new members

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

- ✓ Robert and Mel Dixon
- ✓ Jeff Dutton
- ✓ Cr Linda Scott

We look forward to seeing you at future Glebe Society functions!

Players in the Pub

The team are working on this year's program. As soon as we're up and running again I'll email our loyal audience members.

If you'd like to be put on the email list (or have changed your e-address) please let me know: lyncoll1@optusnet.com.au.

Lyn Collingwood

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 7 March we will go to *Flavour of India*, 142a Glebe Point Rd.

new line On Thursday 4 April we will go, by Light Rail if you like, to *The Persian Room*, 52 Harris St, Pyrmont.

And on Thursday 2 May we will go to *Despana*, 101 Glebe Point Rd.

Email thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au 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

The Black Bean tree at Bidura: a new addition to the Register of Significant Trees

The City of Sydney maintains a Register of Significant Trees which “recognises the most historic and significant trees within the City of Sydney local government area”. Late last year the City called for suggestions for inclusions on the Register and the Environment Subcommittee nominated the Black Bean, *Castanospermum australe*, at *Bidura*, 357 Glebe Point Rd.

Our recommendation was based on the contribution that the Black Bean tree makes to the setting of *Bidura*, which is an Item of Environmental Heritage. Its heritage listing includes the comment:

This is the last remaining 1850s villa within a garden setting on this side of Glebe Point Rd. The building has historical associative significance for its association with colonial architect Edmund Thames Blacket and R M Stubbs, F Perks. The site has high archaeological potential as an early villa site.

Specifically, the garden is referred to in the listing:

The garden setting, established trees and reinstated picket fencing along the frontage are important streetscape items.

The Black Bean in front of the ballroom is approximately 12m high and 3m in circumference (1m from ground), suggesting that it is possibly as old as the ballroom, which was build in the 1910s.



Black Bean tree in grounds of Bidura. (Image: Jan Macindoe)

Jan Macindoe

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor: Clover Moore

Deputy Lord Mayor: Robyn Kemmis

Councillors:

Irene Doutney

Christine Forster

Jenny Green

Robert Kok

Edward Mandla

John Mant

Linda Scott

Angela Vithoulkas

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 CALENDAR

Saturday, 2 March, 10am-1pm; Grand Opening of Glebe Town Hall and Forest Lodge Festival.
 Saturday, 2 March, 7.30pm; Thomas Talmacs Orchestra, The Café Church Space, 37 St Johns Rd.
 Sunday, 3 March, 9am - 3pm; Electronic waste collection, City's Bay St Depot at Ultimo.
 Thursday, 7 March, 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Flavour of India*, 142a Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday, 13 March, 7-9pm, Management Committee meeting, St Helens Community Centre.
 Thursday, 14 March 10am; Glebe Society Event: University Walking Tour (see enclosed flyer).
 Tuesday, 19 March, 6.30pm; Gleebooks Literary Events: David Malouf on *Harland's Half Acre*.
 Wednesday, 20 March, 9.30am -1pm; Introduction to Social Media, Glebe Library.
 Wednesday, 20 March, 6pm; Glebe Voices: John Williams, Blackwattle Café.
 Saturday, 23 March, 4pm; Josie and the Emeralds, Glebe Town Hall, <http://josieandtheemeralds.com/>
 Sunday, 24 March, 10am-2pm; Mitchell St Fete.
 Thursday, 4 April, 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *The Persian Room*, 52 Harris St, Pyrmont.
 Wednesday, 10 April, 7-9 pm, Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thursday, 11 April, 6.30pm; Grumpy Old Sheilas: *Political Correctness Gone Mad?*, Harold Park Pub.
 Thursday, 2 May, 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Despana*, 101 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday, 8 May, 7-9pm, Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

| Management Committee | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| President | John Gray | 02 9518 7253 | president@glebesociety.org.au |
| Vice President | Jan Wilson | 0408 207 784 | janwil@bigpond.com |
| Past President | Mairéad Browne | 02 9552 2888 | browne.mairead@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Margaret Cody | 02 9692 9384 | secretary@glebesociety.org.au |
| Treasurer | Laura Forsyth | 02 9228 9386 | treasurer@glebesociety.org.au |
| Treasurer | Bridgette Leech | 02 9248 5555 | treasurer@glebesociety.org.au |
| Committee members | | | |
| | Andrew Craig | 02 9566 1746 | acraig@awedwards.com.au |
| | Rosalind Hecker | 02 9660 7056 | rosalindh@alpha.net.au |
| | Jeanette Knox | 02 9660 7781 | jk2037@bigpond.net.au |
| | Bill Simpson-Young | 0411 871 214 | bsimyo@gmail.com |
| | Phil Young | 02 9692 9583 | phil@ancest.com.au |
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| Community Development | Vacant | | |
| Environment | Jan Macindoe | 02 9660 0208 | macindoe@bigpond.net.au |
| Heritage | John Gray | 02 9518 7253 | mso@bigpond.net.au |
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| Plaques Project | Peter Robinson | 02 9692 9995 | peterrobinson4@optusnet.com.au |

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The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

Postage
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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 |

How to join

- ✓ download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- ✓ write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037; or
- ✓ email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

Community Contacts

Neighbourhood Services Centre

Manager: Nick Hespe
Office: Glebe Library, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri.
Phone: 9298 3191 or 0400 627 714.
Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone: 9265 9333(24 hours)
Email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Abandoned shopping trolleys

Trolley Tracker: 1800 641 497