



# Glebe Society Bulletin

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No.7 of 2013 (September 2013)

## What do the Federal candidates say?

The downstairs meeting room at Glebe Town Hall was barely large enough to seat the 150 or so people who came on Monday 26 August to meet the candidates for the electorate of Sydney in the 2013 Federal Election.

The meeting was chaired by the Glebe Society's President, John Gray, who acknowledged the original owners of the land. He welcomed those present, who ranged in age from about eight to 80 and who included, among others, Glebe Society members, Glebe residents, members of Get Up (who had planned to hold their own meeting but came to ours instead) and many others.

All nine candidates were invited, and five were able to attend. They were, in the order in which they were drawn to speak:

1. Peter Boyle, Socialist Alliance
2. Joanna Rzetelski, Independent
3. Tanya Plibersek, Labor
4. Dianne Hiles, The Greens
5. Lesley Mason, Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)

Three other candidates sent their apologies. They were:

Sean O'Connor, Liberal  
Leah Gartner, Bullet Train for Australia  
Jane Ward, Independent

The five candidates who attended had previously been given five prepared questions to address, either separately or in total, in an uninterrupted five minutes.

The primary questions focused on climate change, public housing, infrastructure development, education and health services, and required the candidates to provide responses related principally to the local electorate's interests.

The summaries which follow indicate the emphasis each candidate placed in his or her responses, and are presented in the order given.

### **Peter Boyle - Socialist Alliance**

Peter commenced by recognising the importance of Aboriginal people's acceptance of economic migrants and 'boat people' to Australia, then went on to indicate that we are facing a climate crisis, primarily due to the market's failure to address the

problem. He indicated that investment in renewable energy, with a 100% renewable target in 10 years, and social investment to address sustainability issues, in public housing, health and education were priorities of his "social justice" platform.



Peter Boyle (image: VSY)

### **Joanna Rzetelski – Independent**

Joanna indicated that clean energy was a priority but that retention of jobs in industry must be part of the needed structural change. She carried this idea forward to the question of housing, where she emphasized the need for measures to address the causes of homelessness, while maintaining adequate public housing availability. Her references to education suggested that a holistic approach was needed in that sector so that no level would suffer funding losses.

### **Tanya Plibersek - Labor**

Tanya addressed all five areas under review by referring to the Labor Government's record, quoting many statistics to illustrate her answer. Some of the developments given particular weight included local improvements such as the provision of 21,000 new public housing dwellings, 1000 of which are in Sydney, the building of Annie Green Court in Redfern, funding for the Chris O'Brien Cancer Centre at RPA and major federal expenditure on rail infrastructure, the national disability insurance scheme, the NBN and education.



Tanya Plibersek (image: VSY)

**Dianne Hiles - The Greens**

Dianne began by reference to Paul Keating’s landmark Redfern speech, and used statistics to show how deep divisions still exist between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians’ life opportunities. She continued by labeling the toxic nature of the ‘national debate’ surrounding the asylum seekers issue but concluded that while ‘planning, vision and finance’ were essential to our need to act now for the future, the environment was of paramount importance and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.



Dianne Hiles (image: VSY)

**Lesley Mason - Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)**

Lesley chose to preface her address by placing ‘traditional values’ at the core of her platform. This was manifest in her support of small business, protection needed for the most vulnerable, such as through public housing, the abolition of the carbon tax in order to reduce living costs and an unapologetic “pro-life” stance which extended into aged, palliative and mental health care areas. She also agreed that

education and infrastructure needs should be addressed.

Following their initial statements the candidates, collectively and individually, were asked to address a number of questions from the audience. These ranged from the question of asylum seekers where all agreed that present public disinformation was colouring the debate, through nuclear power which no-one expressed support for, to defence spending where views differed widely. The need for a carbon tax also saw mixed response, as anticipated along party lines.

There was, however, general agreement that the quality of political debate and decision-making in Australia was hampered by the role of vested interests including the media.



Lesley Mason (image: VSY)

A question from a young participant regarding animal rights drew focus to the need for sustainability in our economy and the importance of global influences on our local practices. The final question, relating to workplace legislation and the importance of this to a strong economy and a fair and equitable society highlighted yet again, the inadequate distribution of wealth within our wider Australian community and drew varied responses from the candidates, largely according to their own political philosophies.

The meeting proved that we can have civic conversations in our Town Halls. We were all struck by the candidates’ discipline and the respect they showed to each other.

*Edwina Doe and Janice Challinor*

Forum  
Fostering the arts in Glebe & Camperdown  
Monday 2 September 6-7.30pm  
Glebe Town Hall  
RSVP: jamie.parker@parliament.nsw.gov.

# Report on 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

About 40 members attended the Glebe Society's AGM on Sunday 25 August, in the beautifully renovated Glebe Town Hall. They were welcomed by our President, John Gray, who pointed out that the meetings in 1969 which led to the establishment of the Glebe Society were also held in our Town Hall.

John started proceedings by acknowledging the passing of three good friends of the Society in the past year; John Holt (Blue Wrens Group), Peter Pockley (science broadcaster) and John Dengate (folk singer).

John Gray started his President's Report by saying that the Society's concerns at its formation were strategy, policy and communication – still our main concerns. The full text of John's report is on page 4. Subcommittee reports were accepted unanimously.

All nominated Office Bearers were elected or re-elected. See the updated Management Committee list on page 15 of this *Bulletin*.

Lesley Lynch was elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Society. Commendations were awarded to Jan Craney, Peter Thorogood and Jane Marceau (the latter not present) for their contributions to the objects of the Glebe Society.

Our guest speaker was Corinne Fisher, who started the Better Planning Network exactly a year ago. Read about her talk in next month's *Bulletin*.

After the meeting closed at 1pm, we enjoyed the sandwiches and savouries provided by Erica Robinson and her team, while talking to old and new friends.



Lesley Lynch (right) is given flowers by Jan Macindoe on receiving Honorary Life membership of the Glebe Society (image: Bruce Davis)

## Glebe Society Sponsors New Prize at 2013 Glebe Art Show

The Glebe Society has offered a new prize at this year's Glebe Art Show in September.

The Glebe Society Prize of \$300 will be awarded to the work which best captures the spirit and character of Glebe. Works will be considered in all categories open to the Show, painting, printmaking / works on paper, drawing and photography. The Prize will be announced at the official opening of the Show on Friday 6 September.

Full details and entry forms are available on the Art Show's website: [www.glebeartshow.org.au](http://www.glebeartshow.org.au)



## Glebe Society Website revamp



The Glebe Society Website has been completely revamped and looks fantastic! Check it out at <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/>



## President's Report to the AGM

This has been a year in which the Glebe Society has been very active in policy analysis, community engagement and strategy development. The core of what we do is heritage, environment and planning. Support for Heritage at Federal and State government level continues to decline; agencies' staff and funds are cut, and it would seem that heritage is seen by State politicians as a subset of planning or, worse still, assets to be sold. Our challenge strategically is to enthuse all of Glebe with the broad meaning of heritage and how it binds us together.

Environmentally we have been able to work effectively with the City of Sydney. Our propositions on trees, parkland, gardens and the like caused civil conversations between the city and us and we resolved matters. Sadly, this is not so with the NSW government. For example, we were actively involved with the Bays Precinct Task Force but the community principles and policy recommendations proposed were largely ignored. In planning we maintain a separate but professionally sound relationship with the City of Sydney but the NSW Government demonstrates a wilful refusal to listen. The proposed planning laws are an example of this. They are based on economic sustainability and ignore environmental sustainability. We do not live in an economy. We live in a society. As the laws threaten heritage, proper planning and communities, they threaten Glebe.

The Glebe Society has joined with over 400 other community organisations in the Better Planning Network so community voices can be heard. When the State ignores community advice on its proposed new planning system and council amalgamations we build networks, improve technology and strengthen community influence. This requires a new decentralised approach to community power.

The Glebe Society enters its 45<sup>th</sup> year recognised by a very senior Local Government Official as "the most influential local community organisation in NSW". I hear this sort of comment too frequently to believe it is gratuitous praise. We do good work through our policy analysis, professional submissions and rational influence. We have worked long and hard to gain this reputation. We have a proud history. As I write this we have 313 members and another 70 or so who we anticipate will renew shortly. So there are not many of us, but we get things done. My job today is to tell you what we got done in the last year and to enthuse you with what we will get done in the future.

I am not going to reprise the reports from sub-committees; rather I shall pick out themes. **The first**

**theme is strategy.** During the year we commenced developing *The Glebe Society Strategy 2013 to 2019*. Among other things we held a strategy day in which we developed ideas for the years leading up to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I wrote to all members with a discussion paper of proposals and received feedback. This will now be distilled into a draft strategy which will be publicised in the *Bulletin* later this year. You will be asked to comment and then the strategy as amended will be implemented.

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Glebe.***

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We started our strategy review by looking at the Glebe Society Constitution, for we recognised that if there were significant objects we were not addressing, then the Glebe Society or the Constitution needed to change. The Glebe Society constitutional objects are:

- (a) **to improve the amenity of Glebe** by:
  - (i) seeking to achieve wide representation from the diverse communities of Glebe;
  - (ii) providing opportunities for members to express their views on issues affecting Glebe;
  - (iii) opposing (by lawful means) development detrimental to heritage values or contrary to community interests;
  - (iv) promoting a better transport system, both public and private, including upgrading facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
  - (v) achieving public access, both pedestrian and cycle, to the entire waterfront of Glebe;
  - (vi) making Glebe a cleaner and healthier environment;
  - (vii) encouraging the village atmosphere and community spirit in Glebe; and
  - (viii) arranging social functions and community activities;
- (b) **to preserve and enhance the natural and architectural character of Glebe, and to encourage sound town planning, architectural and conservation practices;** and
- (c) **to stimulate interest in the history and character of Glebe, and to foster study of**

### **and research into the history of Glebe and its environs.**

We considered these against likely contextual changes (demographic, social, technological, economic) and determined that the constitution remains sound and that:

1. The Glebe Society's core business of heritage, planning and environment will be under considerable threat from State indifference or opposition to community voice, developer influence and changing demographics. Therefore its strategy must strengthen this core.
2. The Glebe Society's strengthening of its community engagement must increase so that its influence is broader in Glebe and beyond.
3. The Glebe Society must strengthen its technology capability and benefit from new technology.
4. The Glebe Society is strongest when activist, and must conserve The Glebe Estate and the character of Glebe.

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### ***The Glebe Society enters its 44th year recognised by a very senior Local Government Official as "the most influential local community organisation in NSW"***

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**The second theme is policy analysis.** Every Glebe Society submission to a minister, CEO or an inquiry is signed off by the President. Typically this requires many hours of subcommittee or project work before the final draft is discussed at Management Committee and a motion agreed. This year these included analysis and correspondence concerning the Bays Precinct Taskforce Report, Environment Planning Act, Environmental Defenders' Office, Glebe Community Development Project, Glebe Island Development, Glebe Island Bridge retention, placing Glebe Island Bridge on the Heritage Register, Harold Park Tramsheds, Heritage Fleet, response to Infrastructure NSW Report, Local Government Intervention Bill, NSW Long Term Transport Plan, Planning Green Paper, Planning White Paper, Maintenance of The Glebe Estate, Opposition to the Amalgamation of Councils, Super Yacht Marina and the Trees Policy. During this year I started putting all such correspondence and reports on the website, so members and guests can see our position; debate and publicise it. Not all policy matters produce correspondence nor end on the website.

Let me cite one significant example. It is not unusual for developers to claim, in a general way, that they have community support for their proposals. However, during at least one forum this year this claim was more specific and included the Glebe Society. The Glebe Society made it very plain that it never supports private development that has not been through standard Development and Public Tender processes.

The Glebe Society has subcommittees for Bays and Foreshores, Blue Wrens, Communications, Community Development, Environment, Heritage, Planning, Transport and Traffic. Each of these works with officials and community, within its terms of reference to represent us. I cannot begin to list the presentations, meetings, correspondence and plain hard work each of these does. I can tell you that when you see a planting day in a small bird corridor like Paddy Gray Reserve look out for Blue Wrens. Getting better access to the Glebe Society through its website, Facebook page or via email? Communications was there. As you notice murals, support for Centipede, laneways named, think of community development. New community garden, new street trees, parklands debates - think environment. You get the picture. Each of these sub-committees does a mountain of work for Glebe.

And then there are projects like archives, *Bulletin*, events, plaques, history and we chair the Coalition of Glebe Groups. We work directly with the broader community of Glebe in matters like NAIDOC week and Tranby, LGA candidates' forum, New Planning System Community Forum and the nomination of the Glebe Identity, Mark Weisser, for a Lord Mayoral Commendation. In all of these there are members of the Glebe Society and members of the Glebe community, who just get on with it. Because you are civic-minded you work, unnamed. Thank you all.

**My final theme is community engagement.** What works? What makes communities better? Let me quickly mention some sound research on this. In books such as *Making Democracy Work* and *Bowling Alone* Robert Putnam shows empirically that communities which work and build networks together are stronger, healthier, safer, more sustainable and more pleasant. He emphasises that it is the links across community that matter, not the top down controls. For example in *Making Democracy Work* Putnam shows in a 20 year study that the hierarchical appeals to Government, Church or Mafia made in the South of Italy failed communities. At the same time *Emiglia Romagna* in mid-Italy achieved effective governance and prosperity through linking across communities and just getting on with it. How can we just get on with it?

Here in Glebe we have a diverse community. Rich, poor, young, old, newcomers, old stayers, eccentrics and, I have been told, a conservative or two. That is why I live here. I like my bread with grain in it. And yet we have some who claim there is a border at St Johns Rd that divides Glebe; the Glebe Society members are gentry. Well as Wittgenstein said, "If there is to be a border to thinking you have to think either side of it so as to define it". He meant of course that we create such borders with our language. Putnam observed this in his *Bowling Alone* as he noted the futility of such characterization. No, there is one Glebe. We make it.

We start with us, members of the Glebe Society. The first part of our community with which to engage, is us. Talk to other members and their network. Tell your neighbours what we do. Involve them. Get involved in some small part of the Glebe Society. Make communication two-way. Contribute to

strategy. Help improve communications. Recommend projects. Do stuff in your street; build guerrilla gardens, start house name history projects and so on.

Cross link with other groups in Glebe, either as a Glebe Society project or individually. For example I am very proud that the Glebe Society appointed Ambassadors to community agencies this year who advise on grants and form cross links, that we helped initiate Friends of Centipede. If you can, let me know what you are doing but I offer the Jesuit advice, if you are true to core principles, "It is easier to ask for forgiveness, than approval".

I am also reminded that d'Anton said "Where have they gone? Has anyone seen them? I must catch up to them for I am their leader".

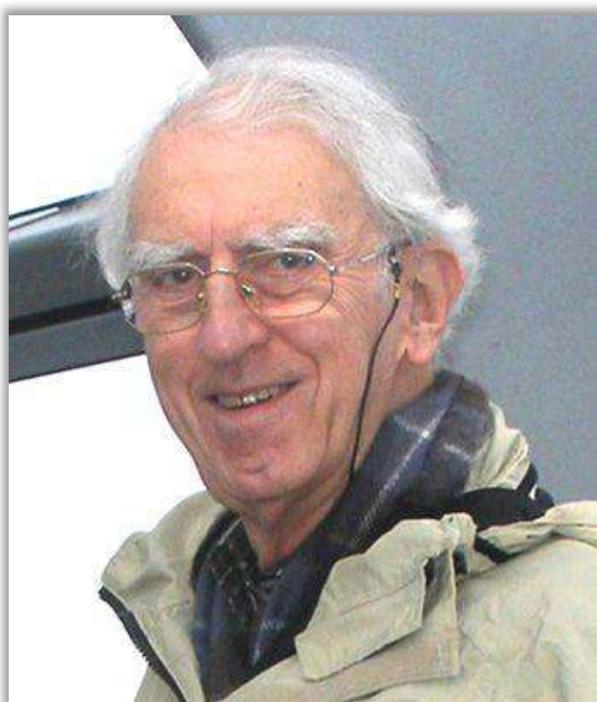
John Gray

## Glebe Farewells ...

### Vale Peter Pockley

Peter Pockley, a familiar face at any Glebe Society event, died on Saturday 17 August at home, aged 78 years. The Glebe Society will miss him as a member of our community who gave more than he took. We offer our sympathy to Jenny and the family.

Robyn Williams, the ABC Science Show presenter, gave a wonderful eulogy at Peter's funeral at the St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Gordon on Monday 19 August. Extracts from the eulogy appear below:



(image: <http://www.australasianscience.com.au>)

*[Peter] gave a lifetime to the effective communication of science. Even before broadcasting he'd penned a decent chemistry textbook. At the ABC he set up programs such as Insight, The World Tomorrow (which was the predecessor of The Science Show), Heritage (a series that led to the setting up of the Heritage Commission under Malcolm Fraser), Innovations, and specials on PNG.*

*And on air Peter was marvellous. During our Apollo coverage, as the hours of continuous live commentary continued, a fine producer with no inclination to flatter wandered into the studio, stopped and listened, and said simply: "Gosh, he's good!" And he was.*

*Peter was versatile. After the ABC he went on to universities to set up science communication and training facilities, at University of NSW and University of Technology, Sydney. He wrote for the journal Nature, Australasian Science and was on the board of Questacon, recorded long interviews for the National Library of Australia archive and did plenty of freelance work for me and many others in the ABC.*

*And any enemy had to be the biggest windmill on the hill. No small targets would do. The general manager of the ABC, Sir Talbot Duckmanton, assorted Vice Chancellors, even the head of CSIRO were taken on - sometimes with success. Later, for instance, it was charming to see the former CSIRO head Geoff Garret, now Chief Scientist in Queensland, approach Peter Pockley and say to this Don Quixote who'd vanquished him, "OK Peter, that's behind us, now let's work together". Peter looked doubtful.*

Finally, Peter never stopped being cross about the way we science writers are being marginalised by the philistines. He fretted, sometimes too much, about our fate and we admired him for it.

All this was recognised a couple of years ago by the awarding of the Academy medal, the supreme achievement in our field. Peter postponed hospital

treatment to receive the award from the Governor General.

I'll always treasure Peter's steadfastness, his loyalty, his unswerving love of family and friends, his talent and pioneering spirit. It was a brave and significant life.

Robyn Williams

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## Vale John Dengate

Another sad loss for Glebe has been the death of renowned folk singer and activist, John Dengate, who died suddenly on 1 August 2013, aged 75. John's most recent involvement with the Glebe Society was when he played the tin whistle at our Anzac Day memorial.

You will recall that the *Bulletin* has been running a series of interviews with Albert Mispel about the protests against the radial expressways that threatened Glebe in the early 1970s. John Dengate penned a song on this topic called *Take Your Bulldozers Away*. The lyrics are reprinted with kind permission of Dale Dengate, with thanks to Christina Mimmocchi.

### Take Your Bulldozers Away

You can take your bulldozers from under our noses  
We're not near as gutless as Cutler supposes  
Build your expressway a bloody sight less way  
and take your bulldozers away.

D. M. R. to the devil.  
Swallow your drivel and shovel your gravel.  
Green bans now and forever will keep your  
bulldozers away

You can take your bulldozers to Pharoah and  
Moses,  
you'll find demolition is no bed or roses.  
We're not going to live with your North-West  
Distributor.  
Take your bulldozers away.

D. M. R. to the devil.  
Swallow your drivel and shovel your gravel.  
Green bans now and forever  
will keep your bulldozers away.

You can tell your authorities that their priorities  
don't meet the needs of our urban majority.  
Hands off that terrace row! Spare Glebe and  
Ultimo!  
Take your bulldozers away.

D. M. R. to the devil.  
Swallow your drivel and shovel your gravel.  
Green bans now and forever will keep your  
bulldozers away.

If you'd like to listen to a lively rendition of this protest song, go to:

<http://www.christina8arms.com/nff.html>, and scroll down until you get the list on the left of songs recorded at the National Library of Australia in 2010 for a project coordinated by Christina Mimmocchi. You can then scroll down within the list and click on the song title *Take Your Bulldozers Away*.

If you'd like to know more, we refer you to the obituary written by Warren Fahey, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 19 August 2013.



John Dengate at the 2009 40th Anniversary Party of the Glebe Society (image: Phil Young)

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## Vale John Holt

John Holt, a member of the Glebe Society and resident of Wigram Rd and Mt Wilson, died peacefully at home on 24 June 2013 aged 82. He is survived by his wife, Mary. As he came to appreciate and enjoy the many elements of this diverse, convenient and appealing suburb, he became a keen and kind supporter of the Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee.

John was a wonderful person: dignified, respected, caring and with a passion and determination for the things he thought were right. He was an impressive, visionary veterinarian, who developed the St George Animal Hospital, Carlton into a showpiece practice that from the 1960s set the standard for small animal veterinary practice in Australia. He built a group of

six practices in Sydney and employed and mentored many veterinarians during the following decades. John and other like-minded practitioners established the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association and in 1986 he became the President of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, to this day the only Australian to have held that position.

Outside his professional life John represented Australia in the shooting team at the 1960 Rome

Olympics and he and Mary were generous supporters of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. He was a shy and modest man, who avoided the limelight and was uncomfortable when his achievements were recognised. John will be sadly missed.

*William Porges and Andrew Wood*

## **Planning Report: September 2013**

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### **Tramsheds Development Application**

The Society has made a formal submission to Council on the Tramsheds proposal, which can be found in full on the first page of the website: <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=7516>.

There is no room to reproduce it here, but in summary it objects to the scope, size and impact of the retail activities, the incorporation of parklands into the retail zone, access to the community space, and the vehicular link between the Tramsheds and the residential development. The Society also asks for solar panels on the roof and more parking for bikes.

### **Montrose, 20 Glebe Point Rd**

This Heritage Item, almost continuously used for medical purposes since the 1860s, has the remains of stables at the rear. The owner, who has generally done an excellent job of restoring the main building, made application to increase the height of the stable building, on the rear lane, to three storeys. The Development Control Plan limits the height of rear lane buildings, and consequently the Society objected. The City has now refused the application.

### **No. 2 Derwent Lane**

For similar reasons the City has also refused an application to build a three storey residence/studio at the rear of a shop near Derby Place.

### **Glebe Affordable Housing Project**

A number of residents, including myself, spoke against this Cowper St proposal at the Central Sydney Planning Committee on 1 August, but to no avail. The Society has opposed the height and density of this application from the beginning, as well as the whole notion of allowing private developers to build private dwellings on land that has been publicly owned since 1947. Unfortunately, because it is land vested in the Crown, it is not possible to change the proposal without the consent of the Department of Housing.

While the story is not yet over, and the site has been vacant a long time, it is likely we will end up with something out of character and scale with the rest of Glebe.



*Neil Macindoe*

## **Happenings**

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### **Glebe Voices at Tranby**

It was a very informal *Glebe Voices* session at Tranby Aboriginal College on July 8, when members and friends came to hear Darlene Hoskins-McKenzie (the Interim Chair of the Tranby Board) speak about the impressive history of the College, the oldest provider of indigenous education in Australia.

*Tranby*, a post-Regency style cottage, was built in 1858 by George Allen, in the grounds of the Toxteth Park Estate. Currently the College offers four Diploma courses: Legal Advocacy, Business (Governance), Applied Aboriginal Studies and Community Development.

We met in the Alf Clint Room, named after the Rev Alf, who founded the College in 1958. Darlene spoke about the various programs and about Tranby's aspirations for extending its work and reach with younger Aboriginal people, including those in urban communities.

A lively discussion followed Darlene's personal comments on aspects of the proposed amendments to the Preamble of the Australian Constitution, and we learnt (not surprisingly) that Aboriginal people do not speak with one voice on political matters, any more than non-indigenous people do. Contrasting views on the Constitutional proposal were canvassed, with discussion of Sections 51 and 121 which some

Aboriginal people view as more urgently in need of change.

The Society is grateful to Tranby for welcoming us and hosting our contribution to NAIDOC Week. It was a stimulating and enlightening evening. Perhaps there will be more?

*Bobbie Burke and Mairéad Browne*

*Editor's comment: See "What do you know about Tranby?" on page 13 of this Bulletin.*

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## Updates from Blue Wren Subcommittee

### John St Reserve

The City has appointed Sue Stevens as a consultant to review its proposed Development Application for the establishment of a habitat for blue wrens and other small birds by creating a biodiversity demonstration garden in John St Reserve. Sue is well known to the Society as she was the author in 2008 of the report entitled *Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project*, which can be read on our website. The City is also undertaking flood modelling of the Reserve and investigating whether the retaining wall on the western boundary is secure or whether it will need to be rebuilt. The results of core sampling of the Reserve, a former industrial site, showed that the first 30-40cm of the surface soil is contaminated, and it will need to be removed and replaced with clean topsoil.

### Orphan School Creek

Friends of Orphan School Creek, including members of the Subcommittee, met at the Wood St playground from 9am on Sunday 28 July (National Tree Day) to carefully plant 150 tube stock, mostly grasses, to strengthen habitat and inhibit weed growth. The City

of Sydney, through Raewyn Broadfoot, Volunteer Co-ordinator, provided the plants. Some tools were lent by the Glebe Bushcare Group who are based in the old Rozelle Bay Nursery in Chapman Rd, Annandale. The event took advantage of the moist and freshly mulched soil and the team also removed newly emerging annual weeds including Fleabane and Erharta. We also took the opportunity for a quick walk to admire the many flowering plants such as wattles, hardenbergias and pandoreas, and then to chat and socialise over morning tea. In addition, we caught up with parents from Forest Lodge School who are planning to apply for a sizeable grant from City of Sydney to commence habitat planting in the School grounds.

*Andrew Wood*

*Editor's comment: I googled "Orphan School Creek" and the first hit describes it as a "storm drain". Not so! Look at this beautiful image of native vegetation in Orphan School Creek:*



Orphan School Creek (image: Newtown Graffiti)

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## From the Terraces: Glebe – 1910s to the 1930s

The Sydney Moderns exhibition, currently showing at the Art Gallery of NSW (until 7 October), celebrates our city as it rapidly expanded into a cosmopolitan metropolis. Between the 1910s and the 1930s, there were significant developments: the Sydney Harbour Bridge, a new underground train network, new architecture and, for artists, new ways of seeing.

As I wandered around the exhibition, I pondered what, if anything, was going on in Glebe during those years, given (a) that our built environment is characterised as Victorian and Federation and (b) that at the start of the 1910s, our suburb was said to be fully built out. Well, it turns out, quite a lot was happening.

Demolition is a notable Sydney (and Glebe) tradition. Between 1910 and 1930, John Verge's legacy here of elegantly restrained Regency villas seems to have got

the worst of it: his *Forest Lodge* in Bridge Rd (built 1836) was flattened, as was his *Glenwood* in Hereford St (built c1837). Also demolished was the original *Hereford House* (Edward Hallen, architect, built 1829), located where Foley Park now stands. Foster and Solling mention nine other early houses built between 1835 and 1857 which were demolished between the 1910s and the 1930s.<sup>1</sup> Possibly fewer tears were shed at the closure of Glebe Island Abattoirs in 1916.

After decades of building on new subdivisions, Glebe moved into a period of consolidation and refinement of infrastructure. Electricity replaced gas lights in Glebe in 1911 and across Rozelle Bay, the White Bay power station, which dominates Glebe's northern skyline, was commissioned in 1917.

The tower of St Johns Bishopthorpe was completed in 1911. Edmund Blacket's son, Cyril, was the architect and was at pains to produce a design which would look back to, and complement, his father's design for the Victorian Romanesque church begun in 1868.

Some of the few new dwellings continued to look back to the Federation style, but much of the new building in Glebe at this time took on modern lines. There was general optimism about the future following the end of the Great War. The Diggers' Memorial in Glebe Point Rd (1921) was designed by Glebe resident, architect and alderman, William Martin. It is regarded as a good example of the Inter-war period of architectural design with formal, balanced composition.



War memorial, Glebe Point Rd (image: Wikimedia Commons)

One can see at various points along Glebe Point Rd the influence of Art Deco with its characteristic decorative, non-functional elements, stepped arches, stepped gables, strong geometrics and streamlining. The former *Currency Lass Hotel* at 90 Glebe Point Rd (1858) was updated with an Art Deco retail frontage (c1925) complete with sunrise motifs and keystone chevrons (see images below).

The former *Astor Cinema* (now *Valhalla*) at 166d Glebe Point Rd was built in 1932 on a parcel of land which formerly belonged to *Rosebank*, the latter still extant at 2a Hereford St. The development of an apartment block at 164 Glebe Point Rd (around 1939) alienated further land from the grounds of *Rosebank*. Both Nos. 164 and 166 exhibit Art Deco features,

although those of the cinema are far more dominant with its stepped parapet and strong horizontals.

The former industrial building at No. 431 Glebe Point Rd stands on the site of the demolished *Guildford Lodge* (1842). The site contains a part four storey brick building erected in 1927. Twenty years later, the six storey Glebe Point Rd frontage to the building was constructed in the Functionalist style.

The Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator (1932) demonstrates the architect's ability to combine functionality with design excellence. It is characterised by strong verticals, a stepped parapet and chevron inserts. Originally the incinerator was to be located on higher ground overlooking Harold Park but objections from residents forced its relocation to the shores of Blackwattle Bay.

The Railway Viaduct (1910-22) across Wentworth Park provided a separate railway network to allow freight trains to traverse the metropolitan area independent of the passenger train network. This brick structure, with its elegant arches stepping across parkland, is an excellent example of high standard engineering construction.

The impact of the Great Depression was felt strongly everywhere, not least in Glebe. Joblessness and grinding poverty brought social problems and an increased crime rate. Villas morphed into boarding houses and landlords neglected their assets. The Council and the Church embarked on redevelopment projects. Rafts of Inter-war public housing sprang up in the south-eastern (St Phillips) area of Glebe which was one of the earliest areas of settlement.

In just over a decade, by the 1940s, the transformation was complete: Glebe was considered a slum and ripe for wholesale demolition ...



Liz Simpson-Booker

1. Foster, M and Solling, M, A Semi-Rural Retreat: Places, People and Society in Glebe 1828-1861, Part I, *Leichhardt Historical Journal*, No 23, 2002, p 12



Currency Lass Hotel prior to art deco renovation (image: ANU digital archive)



Currency Lass Hotel after art deco renovation (image: ANU digital archive)



The building today – Spar Express convenience store (image: "dunedoo", Flickr)

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## Good things happen when they are community initiated!

As reported in the August *Bulletin*, Mark Weisser was acknowledged for his community work in Glebe. The inspiration to recognise Mark Weisser was the action of one society member, Mark Cashmore, a “regular” on the foreshore with his dog, Dingle. City of Sydney was approached to ascertain how Mark could be recognised. The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore wrote a letter of appreciation. Robyn Kemmis, Deputy Lord Mayor, formally read the letter in the presence of a very large group of local residents, Glebe Society members and accompanying dogs on Friday 19 July at 5pm.

It had been a very cold wet day and it was uncertain as to how many people would brave the weather. The weather improved dramatically and everyone arrived! Robyn read Clover’s letter to Mark surrounded by an enthusiastic crowd. Everyone cheered and clapped in recognition of Mark’s contribution to the community. Apart from walking his own dog, he also walks neighbours’ dogs, and collects copious bags of rubbish from the streets and the shoreline. The City collects 19 bags each week from his house. In addition Mark, on his daily peregrinations, brings cheer to people with his extroverted and unique salutations. He is also known to converse in German with backpackers on the bus.

Mark’s response included a personal account of the impact of marijuana on his life and his subsequent health. He then treated us to a song and stepped on the sandstone parapet, faced the Anzac Bridge, eloquently praised the sunset and “flew” into the bay. It was high tide! There was some initial concern as to whether Mark could swim. His mother reassured us that he

was a very strong swimmer. He swam back to shore and was helped out to a spontaneous rendition of *For he’s a jolly good fellow*. Everyone moved off into the darkness feeling very exuberant about our much cared for local identity.

What is significant? A very simple event and the initiative of one person brought a large group of locals together to recognise Mark and in so doing, celebrate the value of community.

*Jan Wilson*



Mark Weisser and Deputy Lord Mayor, Robyn Kemmis (image: Tom Psomotragos)

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## A fond farewell

With the retirement of Richard and Beverleigh Greentree, Glebe has lost a well-respected and unique couple.

Richard has been in his dental practice at the corner of Glebe Point Rd and St Johns Rd for 47 years, surely a record. Beverleigh has owned Mag’s of Glebe for 30 years.

Beverleigh’s connection started with her grandparents who became part of the Glebe community in the early 1900s. They lived in a large terrace with stables at the back located in Bridge Rd just down from the corner of Ross St. Beverleigh’s grandmother was an excellent horserider and drove a sulky to do her errands.

Beverleigh was born in Glebe where she spent her early childhood until her family moved. However, the

connection with Glebe continued as Beverleigh’s mother had an antique shop that was in the premises now occupied by Richard’s dental surgery. Beverleigh helped her mother in the shop before she established Mag’s.

Richard and Beverleigh will be fondly remembered for their contribution over the years to the Glebe community.

We wish them a very happy and healthy retirement. Their plans include trips to Western Australia to see their grandchildren, spending time with Richard’s 97 year old mother who lives in Victoria and a planned overseas trip in 2014 to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

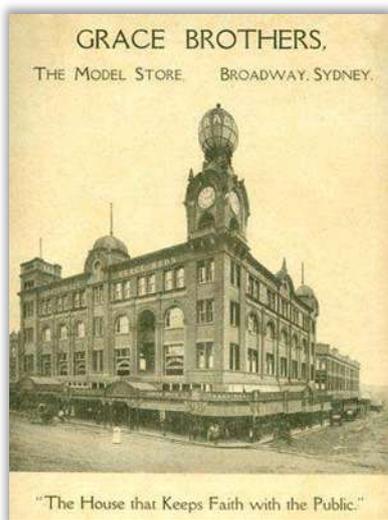
*Beverley Chan, Glebe resident*

# Out and About

## Glebe's Broadway Star

Michael Lech, Curator with Sydney Living Museums (formerly Historic Houses Trust) will trace the rise and fall of Sydney's iconic department stores – including Glebe's Broadway star, Grace Bros. Hear how the two Grace brothers started selling door to door, finally building the iconic stores that still grace Broadway and Bay St, plus developing suburban retail centres that changed their customers' shopping habits.

Tuesday 22 October, 6pm, Glebe Town Hall. Cost \$15, see this issue's flyer or online listing for details.



(image: Sydney Living Museums)

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Glebe Music Festival

This year's Annual Glebe Music Festival, the 24th, runs from Friday 8 November to Sunday 1 December, in conjunction with the Glebe Society and the Council of the City of Sydney.

An insert in this *Bulletin* provides details of the program and a booking form.

Tickets can be booked in advance or obtained at the door for all performances. Further details available under "Events" at [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

David McIntosh

## Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of moved and costumed readings:

Our "Dear" *Relations* by Mona Brand, directed by Lyn Collingwood

This play is an Australian comedy about the commercialisation of Mother's Day and Father's Day.

*When?* Monday 23 September, 7 pm.

*Where?* Upstairs theatre at the Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd/Forest St, Forest Lodge.

*Cost?* Free admission.

*Other details?* Kitchen is open for orders from 5pm.

Players in the Pub performers are members and friends of *New Theatre*. John Dengate, whose life is commemorated in this *Bulletin*, had a long association with the New: from 1967 when he wrote a song about My Lai for *On Stage Vietnam* to 2007 when he played The Swaggie in *Reedy River* to mark the theatre's 75th birthday. His *HMAS Melbourne* (to the tune of *Wild Rover No More*) offended some in the *Exposure 70* audience. But others joined in the chorus with gusto:

So it's duck for cover  
Quickly before she arrives;  
Here comes the *Melbourne*, my jolly brave tars,  
So swim, swim for your lives.

Lyn Collingwood

## What do you know about Tranby?



On Indigenous Literacy Day, come along to an hour's discussion:

### Tranby Conversations

*When?* Wednesday, 4 September, 6 for 6.30–7.30.

*Where?* Tranby College, 13 Mansfield St.

Ask questions, and hear CEO Belinda Russon talk about the history of the College, its current projects and how we, the local community, can support the College in its plans for the future. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Bobbie Burke

## 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 5 September we will go to *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
- ✓ On Thursday 3 October we will go to *Mengen Sofrasi* Turkish Kitchen, 107 Glebe Point Rd.
- ✓ And on Thursday 7 November we will go to *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd, which has recently moved from Balmain.

Please email [thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au](mailto: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

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### A welcome for next year's kindy kids

Glebe Public School is hosting an event to welcome next year's new starters. It will take place on Sunday 8 September 2013 in the Glebe Public School in the playground, from 1 to 3pm.

Meet the school community, tour the school and enjoy a sausage from the BBQ. Also, learn more about *Headstart*, the free nine week Readiness for School program starting in October.

For more information, please contact Glebe Public School, 9660 4549; [www.glebe-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.glebe-p.schools.nsw.edu.au).

Rozzie Hecker

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### Planting Day

Glebe society members are invited to join Glebe's Blue Wrens in a small habitat creation event. We will be planting flowering shrubs amongst the grasses and scramblers and other shrubs flourishing from our recent plantings.

*Where?* Paddy Gray Reserve (between Hereford St and Wigram Lane, just down from Walsh Ave).

*When?* Wednesday 11 September from 9am.

Our aim is to provide habitat for Superb Fairy-wrens and other small birds now scarce in Glebe and other parts of inner Sydney. This will contribute to habitat corridors in the Glebe and Forest Lodge areas.

Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen. Bring your own trowel if possible. If not, one will be provided.

There will be onsite assistance with planting techniques and ways to encourage small birds into your garden.

Andrew Wood

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### Volunteers needed for Glebe Art Show 2013

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Glebe Art Show will be opened on Friday 6 September at 6pm by Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore. The Art Show will be held at *Benledi* and Glebe Library from Saturday 7 until Sunday 15 September.

We will be registering and then hanging the works from Monday 2 to Wednesday 4 September and minding the show while it is running.

If you have a few spare hours and would be interested in joining us we would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact our Secretary, Fiona Verge on [fverge@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fverge@bigpond.net.au).

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## "Bernard Lane" naming honours Glebe Society founder



# Bernard La

Bernard and Kate Smith were founding members of The Glebe Society, and were prominent in campaigns in the early 1970s to retain the fabric of the Glebe Estate, and to stop a freeway through the suburb.

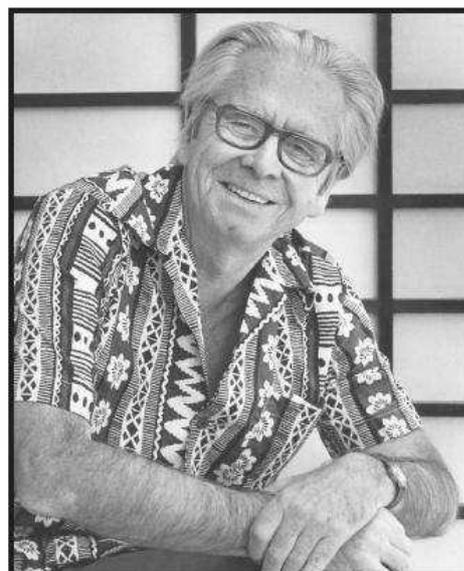
They wrote *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, published in 1973, and made widely known the notion of a new architectural style – FEDERATION – which flourished around the turn of the 20th century.

To honour Bernard's memory the City of Sydney has approved the naming of a lane off St John's Road as BERNARD LANE. The lane runs along the back of 80-85 Broughton Street.

Join the Glebe Society celebration and official naming of  
**BERNARD LANE**  
on Sunday 22 September, 2013  
from 2 - 3pm

Smith family members will reminisce about Bernard and Kate's time in Glebe, and Glebe historian, Max Solling, will speak about their resident activism.

This project is supported by The Glebe Society Incorporated



Bernard Smith  
1916 – 2011

## Letters to the Editor



Unknown person, *Edenhurst* (image provided by Susan Mortimer)

### Bulletin brings family together

Following your article by Anne Flood on the Wood Family at Margaretta Cottage I received an email from a long-lost second cousin who was able to give me some additional information about the Wood Family. A friend of hers had mailed the copy of the Glebe Society Bulletin and she had read about her grandfather Trooper Arthur Coulter who was in the Machine Gun Section of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment with my grandfather Frederick Wood.

Arthur Coulter married Hilda Wood, my grandfather's sister, and had four children – Harry, Allan, Rosa and Louisa Coulter. Jeanette McAndrew (Darwin) who emailed me is the daughter of Harry Coulter. Subsequently I have visited and emailed a number of my second cousins who live in Culcairn, Wodonga, Talbingo and Beechworth all of which are a short distance from Wagga Wagga. We have started to generate a Family Tree starting with Emily and Henry Wood who had ten children – the eldest Hilda (born about 1894) and Frederick (my grandfather) born 1895.

Here is a photo of an un-named person standing in front of 6 Leichhardt St. As you can see the name plate on the house is Edenhurst. It looks like a piece of timber was placed over Margaretta Cottage. You can see the fancy scrolls at each end of the name, and

the same scrolls appear on the present cottage also attached above. Apparently Edenhurst was the name of one of Henry Wood's prize racehorses.

With regard to Henry Wood running for the NSW state parliament, I have attached the results from the 1935 election for the seat of Glebe showing Henry Wood stood as an independent and received 24.54% of the vote. Quite an achievement.

1935 Results			
Glebe - 1935 (Roll: 16,024)			
Retained by Labor Party			
Not contested by both major parties			
Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Carlton, William Joseph (Elected)	Labor Party	8,846	59.04
Dowing, Thomas Joseph	Communist	566	3.78
Lewis, Bertie Edgar	Independent	1,894	12.64
Wood, Henry Alfred	Independent	3,676	24.54
Formal Votes		14,982	
Informal Votes		338	2.21
Total Votes / Turnout		15,320	95.61
Notes: Sitting Labor MP Thomas Keegan did not contest the election.			

Glebe 1935 election results (image provided by Susan Mortimer)

We are now following up on other children of Henry and Emily Wood – including the family of Arthur Wood, who was the 9<sup>th</sup> child of Emily and Henry Wood with grandchildren at Wodonga and the youngest Rosa Wood who was born in 1915 when my grandfather was at Gallipoli. We are working towards developing a Family Tree and tracking down the other children of Henry and Emily Wood and working towards a Wood Family reunion in November 2014 at Glebe.

Susan Mortimer

Letters to the Editor, and other contributions to the *Bulletin*, are always welcome. Email, me, Virginia, at [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au)



### Welcome new members

Koko Clark  
Judith Daley  
Kathy Trelease

## For your Calendar

Fri 30 Aug; 6-8pm; *Glebe Society New Members' Night*, Harold Park Hotel.  
 Mon 2 Sept; 6:30-7:30pm; *Forum: Fostering the arts in Glebe & Camperdown*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Wed 4 Sept; 6 for 6.30-7.30; *Tranby Conversations*, Tranby College, 13 Mansfield St.  
 Thurs 5 Sept; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday; *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Fri 6 Sept; 6pm; Opening of 16th Annual Glebe Art Show, *Benledi*. (Show open Sat 7 - Sun 15 Sept).  
 Sat 7 Sept; 2pm; *Dick Whitaker talking about Sydney by Gaslight*; Glebe Town Hall; Cost: \$2.  
 Wed 11 Sept; 9:00-11am; *Planting day, Paddy Gray Reserve*, Hereford St; Details: Jan Craney, 9660 2174.  
 Wed 11 Sept; 7-9pm; Management Committee Meeting; Glebe Town Hall.  
 Sun 22 Sept; 2-3pm; *Naming of Bernard Lane*, off St Johns Rd.  
 Mon 23 Sept; 7pm; *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel, Forest Lodge.  
 Thurs 3 Oct; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Mengen Sofrasi Turkish Kitchen*, 107 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Tues 22 Oct; 6pm; *History of Broadway's Grace Bros*, Glebe Town Hall. Cost \$15, see flyer.  
 Thurs 7 Nov; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday; *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Fri 8 Nov – Sun 1 December; Glebe Music Festival, see flyer.  
 Sat 7 Dec; Glebe Society Christmas Party. Details to be confirmed.

### The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

#### Management Committee

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Minutes Secretary	Rosalind Hecker	02 9660 7056	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Tess Nicholls	0418 206 807	treasurer@glebesociety.org.au

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	Jock Keene		
	Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214	bsimyo@gmail.com
	Martin Wandmaker	0439 666 005	mwandmaker@yahoo.com

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Glebe Society History	vacant		
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**Bulletin No.7 of 2013 (September 2013)**

# **The Glebe Society Inc**

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

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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](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- ✓ write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037; or
- ✓ email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

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

Telephone: 9265 9333 (24 hours)  
Email: [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Abandoned shopping trolleys**

Trolley Tracker: 1800 641 497