



Glebe Society Bulletin

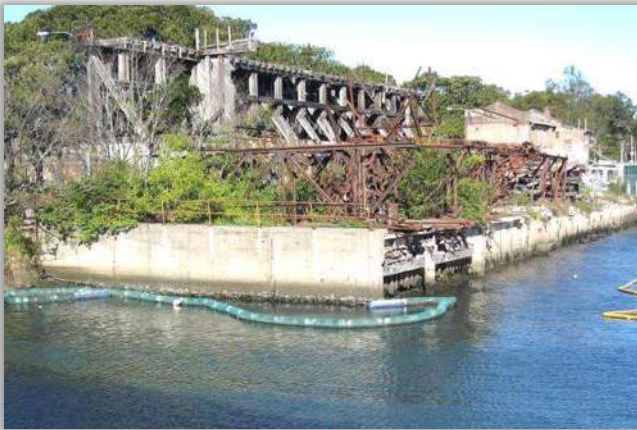
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The Challenge of Unsolicited Development Proposals: 'Destination Blackwattle Bay'

Lesley Lynch gives us an update.

The foreshores of Blackwattle Bay are likely to see a major new development phase in the next few years. As much of these foreshores is publicly owned, the community rightly expects that it will have a strong voice in decisions as to future uses/development and that the public interest is protected. This, of course, is not a guaranteed outcome.



Looking southwest from the fish market along Bridge Rd, Blackwattle Bay
(image: <http://daviding.com/>)

The big catalyst for change will be the likely relocation of the cement operations (Hansons and Hymix) from Blackwattle Bay (possibly to the publicly owned Glebe Island) and the freeing up of foreshore sites for new, non-industrial uses. This has been discussed for some years and was advocated by the recent Bays Precinct Taskforce Report.

The future use of the strategically located Glebe Island itself is also in play – albeit with a few years delay imposed by the Government's unilateral decision to temporarily re-locate the Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre there.

Not surprisingly, developer interest in these valuable sites will be intense. The community will need to be a strong balancing player.

Intense engagement and lobbying by residents' groups (Glebe Society and Pyrmont/Ultimo group) and a supportive Sydney Council, have ensured that

the community has done well out of earlier phases of redevelopment of Blackwattle Bay: the foreshore walk made possible by imposing a setback on commercial residential development; the restoration of the heritage *Bellevue Cottage* as a popular foreshore café; the conservation and re-adaptation of the Burley Griffin incinerator as a spectacular community centre; the Blackwattle Senior College (a very fortunate battle to have won – given the current pressure on public school places in the inner west). More recently, resident and rowing/dragon boat groups have protected the public interest in development plans for the Bank St foreshores with new facilities for dragon boating, a planned park and a modified relocation of the Sydney Heritage fleet. The industrial boat repair workshop will remain in Rozelle Bay until a suitable site is found.

However, it will be more difficult for community groups to exercise influence or achieve a similar mix of public and private benefit for the next redevelopment phase in Blackwattle Bay, given the new planning laws proposed by the O'Farrell Government and its general approach to development approvals. It is slightly cheering that the Premier and Planning Minister have just announced a short delay in their planned schedule for this legislation to allow some amendments in response to widespread community opposition; but so far there is no indication these changes will be other than peripheral. The new legislation will remove most existing planning protections for the publicly-owned Bays Precinct foreshores. In this context, the biggest threat to the public interest will be **unsolicited** commercial development proposals.

Sunset Soiree

6 pm Friday 1 November
Glebe Rowing Club
Annual Fundraiser for Centipede

Generally speaking, an unsolicited commercial development proposal does not deliver the best outcome for the public good.

The continuing Barangaroo/Packer Casino saga stands as a stark and depressing example of how the public interest can lose out to private commercial interests when these processes are in play.

The Glebe Society is deeply concerned that the next phase of Blackwattle Bay (and Glebe Island) redevelopment might be driven by unsolicited commercial development proposals without the constraints of enforceable master plans, without an open and competitive tendering process and with no channels for meaningful community input.

Our concern is driven by a deal of current lobbying activity relating to the emerging opportunities in Blackwattle Bay. This centres around the potential freeing up of the Hansons/Hymix sites, the longstanding desire to upgrade the Fish Markets and the ongoing negotiations of the Elias Group to get development approval for their proposed on-shore entertainment, retail and support functions associated with their Occasional Cruises Business at wharves adjoining the fish markets (B1, B2).

Its bad policy to endorse an unsolicited commercial development proposal in relation to publicly owned lands or assets. ... It is an uncompetitive, non-transparent process which has no provision for real community input. It is also conducive to corruption.

For some years a local developer, Robert Dean, has been advocating a plan for a commercial redevelopment of these Blackwattle Bay sites –known as FishBank. As far as I know, it has not previously been supported by any government agencies or Sydney City Council; nor was it supported by the Bays Precinct Taskforce.

Recently the proponent sought and gained agreement from the Elias group to amalgamate their proposals. An unsuccessful approach was also made to the Fish Market management to join the proposal. Our understanding is that lobbying of the fish market tenants continues. The Glebe Society earlier this year declined an approach to lobby Government in its support.

The FishBank proposal has now transformed into a considerably larger unsolicited proposal titled *Destination Blackwattle Bay*. (DBB) We have not

seen any documentation of this proposal but understand it incorporates the B1,B2, Hansons/Hymix, part of Bank St – and that there are hopes the fish market can be included eventually.

The lobbyists associated with the earlier FishBank proposal have indicated they have met with Government agencies and ministers and have had a positive reception. We understand they may have intimated that they have community support for their proposals.

Presumably these meetings will be sought in relation to *Destination Blackwattle Bay*.

The Glebe Society is concerned that this proposal might gain Government endorsement and lead to a development decision prior to the development of the long promised strategic plan for the Bays and without any wider canvassing of options for the future use of this largely public asset and with very limited community input.

This is **not** an objection to the *Destination Blackwattle Bay* proposal *per se*. It is **not** an objection to private commercial development on the foreshores. We have supported, and will continue to support, appropriate commercial development in the bays, as long as it does not involve the alienation of public ownership by sale or long term lease and is consistent with the community planning principles for the Bays Precinct.

Our fundamental objection is one of principle: that its bad policy to endorse an unsolicited commercial development proposal in relation to publicly owned lands or assets. We have an abundance of historical examples which show this is not likely to generate the best public benefit outcomes. It is an uncompetitive, non-transparent process which has no provision for real community input. It is also conducive to corruption.

As for the specific proposal, there is no public information available for us to have an informed view on it. The previous version (FishBank) incorporated high rise residential and/or hotel development on the fish market site and we had doubts about that being compatible with a sustainable fish market or the most strategic use of this foreshore site.

The Glebe Society at its last meeting decided to write to the Premier and relevant Ministers indicating: our opposition to any unsolicited commercial development proposals in relation to public lands or assets in the Blackwattle Bay; our strong support for open and competitive tendering for development proposals for the Bay and the urgency of an integrated enforceable master plan for the Bays incorporating the community planning principles.

We will also be strongly defending the specific public interest principle that was developed about a decade

ago to protect the rapidly diminishing Sydney Harbour foreshores in public ownership and incorporated in to the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005. This principle asserts that in all planning decisions relating to Sydney Harbour and its Foreshores the public good will have precedence over private benefit.

Other Bays Matters

The Fish Markets have recently lodged a minor variation to their prior DA for improvements to the site – the variation addresses access and traffic flow. Some work on the improvements is underway although much of it is not visible being focussed on repairs and waste management. From Glebe’s perspective the improvements to the outdoor eating area will be the most visible and welcome.

Rozelle Bay Roads and Maritime Services has a tender process underway for the improvement of pedestrian and cycle access from The Crescent to the corner of James Craig Rd. This will involve a new footpath and cycleway and improved lighting and landscaping. Work is expected to start this month.

Exhibition Centre on Glebe Island

Construction has commenced. There is meant to be ongoing community consultation. I doubt that Glebe will be included in this unless we push. There will be parking for 1000 vehicles.

Completion of the temporary facility is scheduled for February 2014.

Implementation of the Bays Precinct Task Force Report

As previously reported, the Government has accepted a small number of recommendations from the BPTF report. It indicated its intention to establish an implementation group to oversee this and explore reactions to other parts of the report. Nothing has happened in terms of community involvement in any of this.



Lesley Lynch
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores

President’s Column



Don’t forget that I also have a [President’s Page](#) on our website. It contains all major correspondence and news about projects. It is updated regularly.

Loel Adams has been appointed to the vacancy of members’ representative on the Management Committee that was unfilled at the AGM. The five members’ representatives are Loel Adams, Rozzie Hecker, Jock Keene, Bill Simpson Young and Martin Wandmaker.

Read and comment on the Terms of Reference for Environment, Heritage, Planning, Transport and Traffic Subcommittees that I have loaded onto [President’s Page](#). Under our constitution, subcommittees are sections of the Glebe Society given authority by the Management Committee. Under our policy the Management Committee consults directly with the membership on these matters. Have your say.

There are always interesting projects happening in our subcommittees. If you have an interest in one of the areas covered by a subcommittee, chat to the convenor. If you have a project in mind outside these areas chat to me.

Check out the membership project which is loaded on my page of the website. The aim is to continually improve membership experience. You will see that I lead the project and each of the members’ representatives will continually improve communications by representations to the communications sub-committee, welcoming new members, staying in touch at least quarterly with members, considering social needs of membership, encouraging involvement and reviewing satisfaction of members. What are your experiences? What opportunities exist to improve the membership experience?

John Gray

Welcome New Members
Benjamin and Catherine Armstrong
Christine Bates

Community

Friends of Centipede

Friends of Centipede was established with the support of The Glebe Society in 2012 to help finance the work of Centipede.

Centipede provides stimulating activities in a caring environment, as well as nutritional breakfasts, after school snacks and dinner at Glebe Public School for children in need.

To this end its annual fund raiser function has been booked for 1 November at Glebe Rowing Club.

Please consider supporting this worthy endeavour by attending the *Sunset Soiree*. Details are included in the flyer.

Friends of Tranby

Friends of Tranby continues to reach out to the wider community through Tranby Conversations, which are proving to be informative about Tranby's work.

The Launch of Kevin Cook's book *Making Change Happen* will be held at Tranby on Friday 27 September at 4pm, and the Friends are hosting a

Meeting and BBQ with Indigenous Advocacy students on 17 October.

Recently 10 students and two staff members visited China 10 Vietnam under its Federal Government AsiaBound programme.

FLAG

FLAG has convened a 'Community Stress' Working Group which acknowledges that community stress has multiple causes, requiring a multipronged approach in an attempt to alleviate stress and conflict within the community. Four areas have been proposed to FLAG as strategies to consider for implementation by FLAG members and others in the community in a coordinated and collaborative way.



Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development

Blue Wrens

We attended the launch of the City's *Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan* at the Royal Botanic Gardens on 24 August and support the approach and recommendations in the *Plan*. The Glebe Foreshore Walk East to Orphan School Creek is identified as one of the six priority biodiversity sites in the local government area, and the *Plan* also recognises the need for habitat connectivity and linkages, whether through backyards, public parks or streets and transport corridors.

Five members of the subcommittee accepted the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, to attend an enjoyable *Thank You Reception* for City of Sydney volunteers held at Sydney Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday 27 August.

Following an invitation to all members of the Society and adjacent residents (by letterboxing), a successful planting day, in conjunction with the City of Sydney, was held from 9am at Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St on Wednesday 11 September. The subcommittee funded the work of a consultant, Robbie Renu from Cornucopia Nursery, run by the community organisation Mars Inc (native nursery and land care specialists), who with the City selected 200 native shrubs and advised on their planting sites in the Reserve; the City paid for the seedlings. Eighteen

people, including staff from Cornucopia, attended. The subcommittee has purchased a hose and established a roster of members to continue regular watering of the seedlings until next month by which time they should be able to survive the approaching hot, dry weather. Rain will be very welcome!



The team at the conclusion of the planting morning in Paddy Gray Reserve on Wednesday 11 September (image: Andrew Wood)

The Society and the subcommittee have written to the City of Sydney supporting an application from the

Parents and Citizens Association of Forest Lodge Public School for a Matching Grant from the City which would provide funds to plant native flora in the school grounds. The aims are to provide habitat for small birds, including blue wrens, and also for the newly established plantings to form part of a 'blue wren corridor' linking our suburb with similar habitats on the campus of the University of Sydney.

Future events include at 10am on Wednesday 9 October an on-site meeting with the City of Sydney, operators of Sydney Light Rail and local residents to make recommendations concerning the content of a Master Plan for future native species plantings in Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves and the contiguous Glebe light rail stop. And, together with Sophie Golding (Urban Ecology Coordinator, City of Sydney), a spring bird survey in Glebe, commencing at 7am on Sunday 3 November (further details in next month's *Bulletin*). Following the survey we will gather at a local cafe for breakfast.

Congratulations to Jan Craney

Jan Craney, former convenor of the Blue Wrens subcommittee, was given a Commendation Award at the Glebe Society AGM this year.

In 2006 the backyards of St James Ave and John St Reserve were identified as a blue wren 'hot spot'. Bulbuls, willy wagtails, silver eyes and other small birds were also commonly sighted. In the following year, Jan wrote an article for the *Bulletin* entitled 'Un-sizzle summer for our local Superb Fairy-wrens' and she had joined a Group of local residents that gave a presentation to the Society regarding the concept of a project to preserve biodiversity and in particular to retain and establish habitats for blue wrens. Their plans were endorsed by the Society; the Blue Wren Subcommittee was established and it made a successful application to the City of Sydney for an environmental grant of \$10,000.

About half the grant was used to employ a consultant ecologist, Sue Stevens, who wrote a landmark report entitled *Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe & Forest Lodge: a community based conservation project* (2008). The remaining funds were used to purchase over 500 wren-friendly plants for a community planting day in Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford St on National Tree Day (27 July 2008). Jan had a major role in the organisation of the planting day which was attended by more than 250 people! Since then she has taken a special and continuing interest in the Reserve and has taken responsibility for the further community planting days and working bees that have been held annually since 2010. These ongoing events have proved to be some of the most

popular and best-attended community events held by the Society, especially as they involve lots of children. More recently, Jan lent her expertise to her local community as they convinced the City to establish a biodiversity demonstration garden in John Street Reserve, which will re-establish a habitat for blue wrens and other small birds. She has also taken on the difficult task of ensuring that the City's original plans for a wren-friendly garden around the Glebe Town Hall are implemented. In all of these occasions Jan's know-how and capability has fostered good relations with the staff of the City of Sydney, who have the responsibility of managing our parks and their biodiversity.



Norma Hawkins (centre) presents Jan Craney with a bunch of flowers at the AGM. President John Gray (left) holds a copy of the Commendation. (image: Bruce Davis)

Jan has been an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member or convenor of the Blue Wren subcommittee since its inception. Her leadership skills have enabled her to make numerous oral presentations to meetings of the City of Sydney, including its Environment Subcommittee, as well as to staff from Parks and Gardens. She has also helped write the Society's responses to many reports published by the City (including *Open Spaces and Parks*, *Street Tree Master Plan* and *Greening Sydney Plan*).

Jan Craney is a most worthy recipient of the Society's Commendation.



Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens

Environment

Lead contamination in soil

Members may have noted with concern an article in the Sydney Morning Herald of 7 September titled 'Lead threat to children from home veggie patches'. Lead contamination of soil in the inner-city, including Glebe, can be a particular danger to children and may arise from soil being walked into the house from gardens or streets. The article notes:

A study following five Sydney families over 15 months has discovered a direct link between lead contamination in soil and contaminated lead inside the house, with family members and pets likely walking it in. The study found summer is particularly dangerous, as dry weather creates more contaminated dust that easily moves around.

The problem is exacerbated if vegetables are grown directly into contaminated soil.

The simplest solution in relation to vegetable growing is to build raised garden beds with new soil. Members who may be concerned about the proposed community garden at St Helen's will be pleased to learn that raised garden beds will be used, and that in any case the soil has been tested and found safe for vegetable growing.

The Glebe Society website, at the Local Issues/Environment page, has an article on 'Lead Paint – An Important Reminder for those renovating in Glebe'.

References: SMH article <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/lead-threat-to-children-from-home-veggie-patches-20130906-2tan9.html#ixzz2eHqvDSQm>; Glebe Society website article <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=733>

Urban Ecology – Glebe highlights

The City of Sydney has released the final draft of its Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan. Urban ecology is described as 'the study of the relationship between living organisms and their environment in an urbanised context'. The City's vision for the Plan 'is to restore and conserve resilient urban ecosystems that support a diverse range of locally indigenous flora and fauna species, and in so doing to create a liveable City for all of its inhabitants'. (p4)

Glebe features significantly in the Plan. Our suburb holds a number of examples of remnant indigenous vegetation as well as planted and naturally regenerating plant communities. Most importantly, Glebe Foreshore Walk East to Orphan School Creek is nominated as one of the six high-priority sites identified to be given special attention for their biodiversity values.

Examples of indigenous vegetation in Glebe, either remnant or re-introduced, include: Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest species in Orphan School Creek and St John's Anglican Church grounds; Coastal Saltmarsh along Johnstons Creek Canal and Rozelle Bay foreshore; possible remnant Eucalyptus botryoides in Lewis Hoad Reserve, and planted and naturally regenerating stands of Mangrove in Bicentennial Park and The Anchorage.



Elements of Coastal Sandstone Outcrop Complex at Lewis Hoad Reserve (image: Jan Macindoe)

Glebe Foreshore Walk East to Orphan School Creek covers a number of pocket parks adjoining Johnstons Creek Canal – AV Henry Reserve, Minogue Crescent Reserve, Lewis Hoad Reserve, Canal Reserve, JV McMahon Reserve, Wigram Road Reserve and Spinder Reserve in Leichhardt LGA – as well as the major waterfront parks. This corridor is nominated as a high-priority site because it displays:

- a relatively continuous area of open space from the Glebe Foreshore to Forest Lodge, a distance of 2.5 kilometres
- remnant and re-introduced endangered species
- very high flora species diversity as a result of bushland restoration works
- diverse fauna habitat features
- high potential to expand bush restoration works
- the greatest potential to provide an almost continuous habitat corridor in the LGA
- potential for naturalisation of Johnstons Creek Canal.

The contribution of the Glebe Bushcare Group to bush regeneration along this corridor is acknowledged in several places in the Plan, as is the work of the Blue Wren Group at Paddy Gray Reserve.

Ernest Pedersen Reserve, in Ferry Road, is also given as an example of a pocket park at which habitat planting and other habitat enhancements could be undertaken.

Actions and timeframe, stretching over the next 10 years, for the enhancement of the Glebe Foreshore – Orphan School Creek corridor cover such things as the establishment of representative patches of likely original vegetation communities, incorporating bush restoration and habitat enhancement principles into landscaping of new open space, and naturalisation of Johnstons Creek Canal (already approved as part of the Johnstons Creek Parkland Masterplan).

Grow it Local

Interested in growing vegetables and herbs on your balcony or footpath?

Then mark Thursday 14 November, 6 - 7.30pm, in your diary.

Meet fellow residents with experience of footpath gardens, hydroponic systems, vegetable beds and more, and share your interests.

Venue: St Helen's Community Centre. More information in next month's *Bulletin*.



Jan Macindoe
Convenor, Environment

History and Heritage

Who Lived in Your Street? Claret Joseph Emblem (1886 - 1961) – Harold Park scandal!

'Mick' Emblem was an alderman who survived several Glebe Council scandals. First elected in December 1925, he was returned to office until 1941, but failed to gain preselection in 1944, the year of the last full election for the Council before its absorption by the City of Sydney in 1948.

Over the years Emblem allied himself with different Labor Party factions. Of the 12 aldermen elected in December 1925, 11 were Labor and most, like Emblem, Catholic. A supporter of Mayor Bill Walsh, a bookmaker who lived in the Toxteth estate, Emblem was re-elected in December 1928, four months after 29 candidates had vied for Labor preselection in 'pantomime scenes' at Glebe Town Hall. During the Depression NSW Premier's Jack Lang's proposal to withhold interest payments on British loans and reduce interest on domestic ones, the 'Lang Plan', split the State Labor Party from its Federal counterpart. In the 1931 and 1934 local government elections Emblem was a successful pro-Lang candidate, but in 1937, after Dr H J Foley had become Mayor and local Party boss, he contested for Foley Labor against State Labor. In 1939, following an investigation into its affairs, Glebe Council was sacked and an administrator appointed. In 1940 Emblem scraped in as a supporter of the McKell unity party 'Official Labor') in opposition to the Langites but lasted only one year. In another switch of allegiance, Emblem was one of the 12 candidates nominated by Lang in 1944 following the latter's expulsion from the Labor Party. None of them won. In all, Emblem was a Glebe alderman 1925-39 and

1942-44. Unlike most of his fellow councillors he was not a Justice of the Peace.

Accusations of misconduct in the period 1926-9 when Bill Walsh was Mayor included 'liquid refreshment' as an expenditure item in the Mayoral allowance and the use of Council labour to repair the Mayoral home. It was during Emblem's first term as an alderman that the NSW Trotting Club, owners of Harold Park, with no documented authorisation expanded their borders and encroached on public land, erecting turnstiles on Ross St and The Crescent.



Claret Emblem (image: City of Sydney)

In 1935, after Mayor Foley had moved to have the turnstiles and fences destroyed, Emblem was questioned in court about the events of 1927. He stated that he had no memory of a bribe being offered to Walsh by the Trotting Club. The matter was

complicated by the Club's claim that a lease existed, and that Foley and other aldermen had tried to extort a bribe of £1200 (£100 for each alderman) to drop the issue. The judge noted that Emblem's recollections were 'very vague'. After various court actions, the Trotting Club was, in May 1937, ordered to restore public access.



Harold Park raceway 1938. Claret Emblem was embroiled in a scandal involving the NSW Trotting Club about the time this photo was taken (image: Sam Hood, State Library of NSW)

In 1938 a former Glebe Council employee brought an action against Foley, alleging breaches of the Local Government Act. An instance was the use of a Council car by Alderman Emblem for a trip to Springwood. In 1940 a report on Glebe Council was tabled in parliament after its affairs had been placed in the hands of an administrator. One finding was that for years Council engineer L Carey had been paying aldermen much of the commission he received on loan moneys spent on public works. Carey said this was under pressure from the aldermen on the grounds that he was already on a good wage and could afford to do so. The dealings had started in 1928 when Carey had given Mayor Walsh £30 to be split with aldermen Emblem and Cecil Dwyer (Emblem stated that Walsh had kept it all). In 1936 Carey made up individual envelopes containing cash and insisted that aldermen

come in person to his office to pick them up. According to Carey all did so, with the exception of Emblem.

'Mick' or 'Clarrie' Emblem was born at Moruya, the son of William and Catherine Emblem, and christened Claret Joseph but had adopted 'Clarence' as his official first name by 1907 when he married Mary Ellen McMahon. Their three children, Mary Irene Nora, William Bryant and Rita May, were born in 1908, 1909 and 1911 respectively. The family lived in a wooden house in Corben St Surry Hills before moving to 61 Lombard St Glebe in 1917. From 1918 to 1932 they lived at 13 Hereford St. They then moved to other addresses nearby: 2 Victoria Rd, 182 Glebe Rd, 23 Acacia Rd, then 75 Wigram Rd. From 1955 until his death on 15 June 1961 Clarence lived at 2 Allen St. His widow, 'Nellie' died aged 78 on 25 March 1968.

Glebe was home to Clarence's widowed mother who by 1921 had moved to 188 Bridge Rd with her son William Howard, a driver. At her death in 1935 the two were at 6 Hereford St. Other extended family members – surname Donnelly, Brunton, Comerford, Creevy – lived locally and worshipped at St James Church.

For most of his adult life Clarence Emblem worked as a 'service marker'. It seems likely that his job was to place a mark where a utility was to be connected or repaired.



Lyn Collingwood

Sources: *Australian Encyclopaedia*; Cemetery records; Glebe Council *Mayor's Report* 1937; Hogan, Michael *Local Labor* 2004; NSW births, deaths, marriages online registry; NSW electoral rolls; Sands *directories*; Solling, Max *Grandeur & Grit* 2007; *Sydney Morning Herald* 8.8.1928; 27.6.1935; 5.10.1938; 7.10.1938; 1.6.1939; 17.5.1940

From the Terraces

Glebe's Outlook

Glebe, with some notable exceptions, is basically a 19thC residential suburb. Our eyes are attuned to our domestic architecture – its low rise and its decorative embellishments such as Victorian iron filigree and decorative Federation woodwork. Warehouses and commercial buildings, on the other hand, often equate in our minds with 'strictly utilitarian'. But historically this is not entirely so. There is beauty to be found in some of these old commercial buildings; they also serve to remind us of the history they represent.

However, it is as we *look out* from Glebe towards Ultimo and Chippendale, we can see some notable examples of the Federation Warehouse. Whilst not strictly 'our patch', we are nevertheless the visual beneficiaries as we move in and out of Glebe.

The Federation Warehouse is predominantly to be found in Sydney. Its roots stem from medieval church architecture. In the 1880s, it was adapted by the Chicago architect Henry Hobson Richardson, and subsequently it was translated to the local context. This resulted in iconic, sturdy buildings, usually brick, with windows grouped together between brick

piers which finished near the top of the façade in round-headed arches. One of the principal exponents of this style was the architectural firm of Robertson & Marks. Interestingly, the latter, Theodore Marks, was articulated as a young man to Glebe's own George Mansfield (who designed *Toxteth House* additions, *Toxteth Lodge* and *Emslee*).

It was in Pyrmont and Ultimo, closer to Darling Harbour wharves and the railway goods yard, where substantial warehouses and commercial buildings were erected as the country recovered from the severe depression and drought of the 1890s. Harris and Wattle Sts boast some stunning examples of the Federation Warehouse, which rise effortlessly above the lanes of fast-flowing traffic.

Bay St is an eclectic mix, but offers some wonderful examples of the Federation Warehouse and its successors. The frontage of No.44 takes up an entire block and its now bricked-up archway suggests a loading dock or perhaps access to an internal courtyard for horse-drawn carts.

Further down Bay St at No.30 is an elegant conversion of a former commercial building. The four-storey brick structure has a narrow frontage with strongly emphasised piers and arches, a string-course and a stepped and decorative parapet.



No.30 Bay St
(image: Martin Lawrence)

At the end of Glebe Point Rd, the loss of footpath trees near Victoria Park has opened up a view of a landmark commercial building in City Rd. Built about 1924, it was formerly the Grace Bros Store Warehouse. It is currently the *Instituto Cervantes*. It is a handsome symmetrical six-storey brick building, enlivened with rendered horizontals, with street-level arches being reproduced in shallower form on the top storey.



22-24 City Rd
(image: Martin Lawrence)

Some evidence the city's commercial revival can be seen in Glebe in its more modest extant warehouses. Green's Wool Store (1905) at 22 Bridge Rd, has a handsome utilitarian solidity. The painted rendered masonry highlights the pilaster-like verticals and the string courses emphasise not only the name of the building but also the tiny sheep's head carvings. The curve in the upper string-course offers a brief nod to the arches which were a feature of the Federation Warehouse.



Green's Wool Store, 22 Bridge Rd
(image: Martin Lawrence)



Liz Simpson-Booker
Convenor, Heritage

Memories of Glebe

Rob Durroch wrote to the Glebe Society, 'I was sorry to learn of the death of Peter Pockley: I remember him well, and dining in his house in Mansfield St, round the corner from where we lived in Toxteth Rd'. Rob also told us that he has just finished writing his *Lifebook*. An edited version of an extract is provided below:

We had some Paddington friends – Luke and Marigold Marsden-Smedley; they had a nice terrace in Hargrave St [Paddington], which was just the sort of place we wanted. Luke had helped found the Paddington Society, whose objective was to save Paddington from inappropriate development, and help preserve its Victorian charm. His father had founded the Chelsea Society in London.

Right next to Sydney University was the inner-Sydney suburb of Glebe, where my mother had grown up. It was as depressed as Paddington and Balmain had once been. Perhaps we could find a nice, undone-up terrace there. We started looking around, and visiting local estate agents. As an area, it looked promising, with little or no sign of gentrification. We looked at a few places, then an agent took us to see a big, almost derelict terrace in Toxteth Rd, in, nevertheless, the better part of Glebe. The price he quoted was at the top end of our price range, but when we offered \$13,500, it was accepted. Assuming we could raise the finance, we had our terrace house. Then, through the good offices of a bank manager who was dying of cancer, we got the necessary loan. ... We had the terrace of our dreams. I looked forward to 1968. It promised to be an interesting year. And I was not yet 30.

We were plotting to launch a Glebe Society in our and adjacent suburban purlieus. ... Bliss was it that dawn to be alive, and heaven to be living in Glebe, within walking distance of the university.

One night Sandra was at a meeting at Newington College ... protesting against the harassment of the headmaster, Doug Trarthen, for his alleged anti-Vietnam stance. There she met another protester, whom, she discovered, also lived in Glebe. It turned out that he was about to become the new Professor of Fine Arts at the university, set up through the Power Bequest. His name was Bernard Smith, and he lived in the next street to us, Avenue Rd. They discussed how to foster a community spirit in Glebe, and Sandra told him about Luke Marsden-Smedley, who was the Treasurer of the Paddington Society, and his suggestion that we should start a similar society in Glebe. I was working on the subs-table that night, but when I got home I gave my enthusiastic support to the idea. We met with Bernard and his wife Kate, and

decided to try to form the Glebe Society. Thereafter Bernard and Kate became close friends, and I decided to enrol for his new Fine Arts course the following year, which also became the year the Glebe Society was founded.

*Now, in the late 1960s, [Glebe] was poised – we believed – to follow the example of Paddington and Balmain and come back up in the world. The main push upwards came from the university. Already some staff had moved in and bought up houses. Bernard and Kate Smith were among the first to realise the potential of the area. However, Bernard had an additional interest in Glebe, and that was in its architecture. Bernard's new Fine Arts course was to consist in its first year of three elements – painting or the visual arts, sculpture and architecture. This interest was to culminate in a major work on the local architectural heritage in Glebe, published a few years later, *The Architectural Character of Glebe*. And it is here that I have another story that should be told, which will not be told elsewhere, for only I know it, now that Bernard is dead.*

And it is here that I have another story that should be told, which will not be told elsewhere, for only I know it, now that Bernard is dead.

Shortly after we formed the Glebe Society, of which Bernard became President and I became vice-president, the two of us were walking one Sunday around what we regarded as 'our territory'. Bernard had called for me, and we walked down Toxteth Rd, looking at the local houses, and then turned left into Bell St. We stopped on the next corner, Boyce St. Bernard looked across at the house on the opposite corner, a big bungalow called Montana. 'You know what that style of house is called now?' Bernard asked, somewhat rhetorically, as if musing to himself. I said: 'No, Bernard.' (My Fine Arts course had yet to start.) 'We would call it Queen Anne style,' he went on. 'Yes, Bernard,' I agreed. 'That's not a very appropriate name for a style of Australian architecture,' he added. 'Yes, Bernard,' I said. He thought for a moment. 'It was probably built around the turn of the century,' he added, and then thought for another moment or two. 'I think it should be called Federation style,' he said, authoritatively. And so it has been, ever since. But I was present when it was first named so.



Montana, 36 Boyce St (image: Glebe Society)

My role in the society was primarily political and organisational. Sandra became the secretary of the society, and, with Bernard and me, made up the management committee of the society. As I said, we had both become very interested in politics, and Glebe presented us, on our doorstep, with an example of how a local area worked, politically, and sociologically, too. We were in fact at the centre of an ongoing political/social experiment in Glebe. One concern we had was about the ethics of the very process of gentrification. Was it a good thing, or a bad thing? Although today the upgrading of the slum areas of Sydney would be regarded more in the nature of rescue and preservation, and thus praiseworthy, there was in the late 1960s some social and political resistance to it, and concern about it.

Were we destroying local communities, which had been there for decades, and forcing out long-term residents through our buying up of their houses, so making it too expensive for them to live there? I at least knew, from my mother's background, the tight-knit, working-class social environment of the traditional Glebe areas. Was I helping to destroy the very thing we were ostensibly trying to preserve? My concerns were, not surprisingly, shared by the existing political and social power-structures in Glebe, and one of my roles was to identify these structures and interest groups in the community, and open lines of communication with them. It was the political character of Glebe that I was interested in, more than its physical character. Here lay part of the Labor heartland of inner Sydney. We new middle-class intruders tended to be seen as dangerous interlopers, especially in Balmain, where trendy middle-class activists were disrupting the local, and traditional, political scene (led, however, by militant 'greenies', even 'Trots'). The established Labor hierarchy feared they might be losing control of their political backyards.



Rob Durroch

Happenings

Forest Lodge resident, James Smythe, wins inaugural Glebe Art Prize

James Smythe of Forest Lodge was awarded the inaugural Glebe Prize by Glebe Society President, John Gray, at the opening night of the Glebe Art Show at *Benledi* on Friday 7 September. James' work, *Glebe Foreshore – Morning*. The Glebe Prize, sponsored by the Glebe Society, is awarded for the artwork which best captures the character of Glebe. The Society is sponsoring the prize to encourage artists to create more artworks of Glebe and to consider and explore the character of Glebe.

The judges chose the winning artwork for its evocative portrayal of an iconic view from the foreshore familiar to many Glebe residents and visitors. It captures the heritage values that the Glebe Society works to protect, captures the idea of a working harbour, captures - and is a very beautiful painting.

Bill Simpson-Young



James Smythe with his winning artwork, *Glebe Foreshore – Morning* (image: VSY)

New Member's Night

On Friday August 30 The Glebe Society took pleasure in inviting our most recent members to the 2013 New Members' Night. This year we returned to the Harold Park Hotel for our annual get-together – the hotel's upstairs lounge a spacious setting for an informal getting-to-know-you party.



Dorothy Davis tallies the scores for Quiz Master Katharine Vernon at the New Members' Night. (Image: Bruce Davis).

Following last year's *True or False* Glebe/Forest Lodge quiz we again chose the 2037 area for a light-hearted test of local knowledge. Six teams, all a mix of 'old' and new members were given 14 unidentified photographs of the area. Some were current, others from an interesting collection of local views taken 40 years ago by Allan McEvoy. All were provided by Katharine Vernon and Phil Young and proved a considerable challenge – especially the large *then and now* 'spot the difference' views over Wentworth Park to Blackwattle Bay. Katharine's contribution of

Out and About

Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We visit a different restaurant each month, varying cuisines. Put these dates in your diary now.

On Thursday 3 October we will go to *Mengen Sofrasi* Turkish Kitchen, 107 Glebe Point Rd; on Thursday 7 November we will go to *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd, which has recently moved from Balmain; and on Thursday 5 December we will visit *Mamak Village* Malaysian Restaurant, 25 Glebe Point Rd.

Please 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

compiling the photographs and copying them for the teams was a mammoth task, made even more impressive when at the last moment she came to the rescue as Quiz Master.

TGS President John Gray's team took out the prize (a shared bag of Caramello Koalas!) for highest number of correct answers. No, absolutely no favouritism was involved (*hint*: but if we have another local knowledge test next year I'd want Wayne Carveth on my team!)

TGS member, local historian and actress Lyn Collingwood created an entertaining *Who Am I?* sketch based on one of the photographs – an ex Methodist Church in Arundel St, Forest Lodge, where Margaret Whitlam's parents were members of the congregation. **[CORRECTION: Margaret Whitlam's parents were not members of the Methodist Church in Arundel St Forest Lodge. Margaret's mother was orphaned as a child and lived next door to the church with her uncle.]**

In the last *Bulletin* (October 2013) the report on the New Members' Night incorrectly stated that Margaret Whitlam's parents were members of the Primitive Methodist Church congregation. Margaret's mother lived next door to the Church with her parents and for a short period during WWI with her new husband, Margaret's father.

A big thank you to hotel manager Josh Stewart, whose staff provided a range of delicious snacks over the evening, manned the bar and helped set up the lounge for the team game.

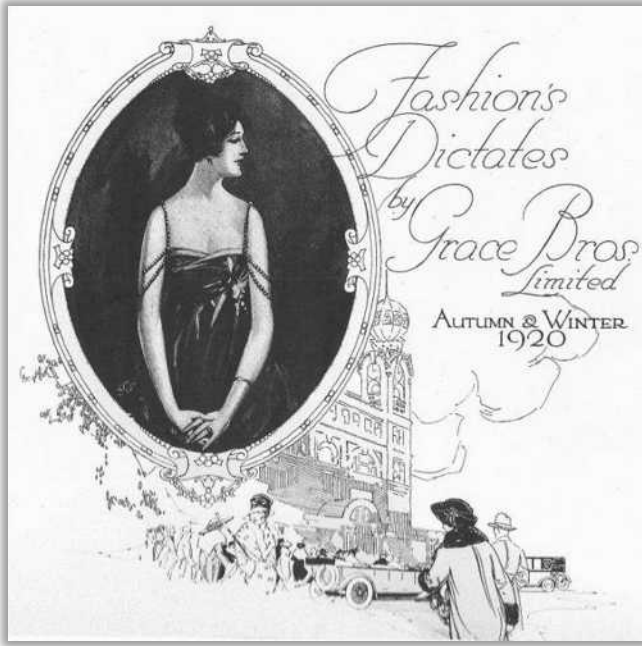
The Harold Park is a corporate member of The Glebe Society, so a special thanks to 5th generation publican Will Ryan, who again provided the use of the lounge for the evening.
Erica Robinson

Glebe's Broadway Star

Hands up if you remember when Bay St's Broadway was not a shopping centre with over 150 different shops, supermarkets and businesses, but one giant department store, Grace Bros.

That department store was one of Sydney's great success stories – the creation of two young Englishmen in their 20s, who in 1885 started with a small shop on Broadway that they developed into the landmark five storey department store they opened on the Bay St corner in 1904. Although no longer Grace Bros. this and the sister building they later built on the opposite corner still dominate the landscape today, their ornate clock towers a striking Sydney landmark.





Grace Bros catalogue, 1920 (image supplied by Erica Robinson)

The Grace Bros story is a fascinating tale of talent and determination – the story of two brothers who set out for the new world, one for Australia the other for America, to try their hand at retailing. The deal was that whoever ‘made good’ first would send for his brother to join him and in the early 1880s Joseph Grace wrote to younger brother Albert to join him in Sydney. From a start hawking goods to railway workers the two were able to open the small shop that grew steadily to become one of Sydney’s retail giants.

Michael Lech, curator with Sydney’s Living Museums (previously the Historic Houses Trust), has made a study of the fortunes of Sydney’s department stores, and has agreed to talk to us about them, and Grace Bros. in particular.

Join us at Glebe Town Hall at 6 pm on Tuesday 22 October to hear the story of the rise and fall of Grace Bros and Sydney’s other landmark retail giants like Farmers, Anthony Horderns and Mark Foys as they faced, and failed, the retailing challenges of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Only one, David Jones, remains.

Grace Bros doubtless had many staff who lived locally. If you know someone who worked for GBs, please bring them along, and join us for refreshments after Michael’s talk – cost \$15 per person, bookings essential via the flyer in last month’s *Bulletin*, or online at:

http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=7570&event_id=25

Erica Robinson

WANTED: Volunteers for the Glebe Street Fair

The Glebe Street Fair is on again on Saturday 17th November and this year is its 30th anniversary. Last year’s street fair was a vibrant, colourful day of food, music, festivities and fun with over 250 stalls and around 100,000 people. This year’s is likely to be similar if not even bigger.

The fair is organised by the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and is a not-for-profit event with proceeds going to local community projects.

The Glebe Society is looking for volunteers from the Glebe community to help with the fair on the day. There will be a wide variety of jobs available including providing information to visitors, helping with stage management for the music events, taking photos and videos, helping direct stall-holders during the early morning setup and lots more. If you can provide 2 to 8 hours of your time on the day, contact Bill Simpson-Young at bill@glebesociety.org.au.

If you don’t know the fair and want to see what it’s like before agreeing to volunteer, watch the short video at <http://vimeo.com/63865022> to get a sense of what to expect. For more details of the street fair, see <http://www.glebestreetfair.com/>.

Bill Simpson-Young

Remembrance Day in Glebe

Refurbishment of the Diggers’ Memorial is due to finish shortly. This substantial work has been undertaken by Council and has involved significant restoration of the structure and its curtilage.

Members and friends are invited to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held at the unveiled Glebe Diggers’ Memorial on Monday 11 November at 11am. Red poppies will be available.



Glebe War Memorial (image Sardaka)

Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of moved and costumed readings in the upstairs theatre at the Roxbury Hotel St Johns Rd and Forest St, Forest Lodge. The play is *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Lyn Collingwood. The play has been described thus: ‘Wilde at his most wittily serious and subversively moral’.

Players in the Pub will take place on Monday 21 October at 7pm. Admission is free. The kitchen is open for orders from 5 pm.

Lyn Collingwood

Art & About at Glebe Library

Discover your inner artist, with City libraries housing an art station where you can draw, paint, or write to your heart’s content. Take your creations home or leave them with the library to become part of a digital gallery – and keep an eye out for some sneaky artists popping in to the library.

- Monday and Wednesday: 9am to 7pm
 - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9am to 6pm
 - Saturday: 10am to 4pm
 - Closed on Sundays and public holidays.
-

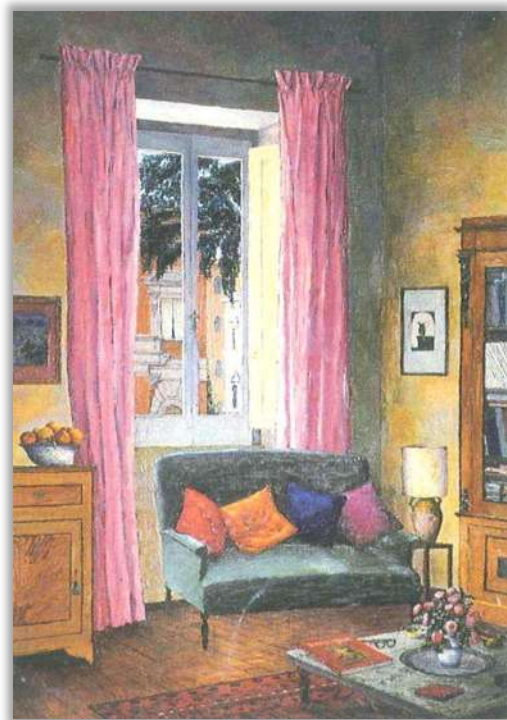
Janet Venn-Brown 89th birthday retrospective

Internationally renowned artist and well-known Glebe resident, Janet Venn-Brown is celebrating her 89th birthday with a retrospective exhibition at the Tap Gallery in Darlinghurst from 14 to 20 October.

Janet lived and painted in Italy for 40 years; where she painted interiors of well known artists and associates – something she continues to do today. The

exhibition will be opened by Peter Manning who is writing Janet’s biography, a political book about Janet’s intriguing life. For more information about the exhibition, see <http://www.tapgallery.org.au>

Editor’s Note: As well as being an artist, Janet is an author. A particularly interesting work is *Per un Palestinese*, published in 1979. This book is an homage to her partner of eight years, the Palestinian activist Wael Zuaiter, who was assassinated by Mossad in 1972. You can read more about this tragic chapter in Janet’s life at <http://tinyurl.com/3hdey9u>.



Interior of Justin O’Brian’s house, by Janet Venn-Brown (courtesy: Tap Gallery website)

Extending the Glebe Foreshore Walk

The City of Sydney has developed a concept design to extend the Glebe foreshore walk to complete a missing link in the path around the Glebe Peninsula.

The City of Sydney’s website lists these key features:

- New sea walls to stabilise the harbour’s edge
- Three metre wide shared path for pedestrians and bike riders
- Tiered terraces and wide steps to provide access to the water’s edge
- Over 50 new native trees including eucalypts and black wattle
- Hundreds of shrubs and native grasses
- Niches, rocky embankments, new saltmarsh and mangroves for local marine habitat
- Energy efficient lighting to improve safety for

pedestrians after dark

- New bike racks, extra seating, new rubbish bins and new signage
- New storage facilities for the outrigger canoes

In order to construct the new sea wall and pathway, whilst ensuring that any contaminated soil is safely capped, many of the existing trees will be replaced with new plantings. Where possible, trees on the perimeter of the construction works will be retained, and a large fig tree has been identified for relocation.

For more details, including how to comment on the plans, see:

http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/125035/GlebeForeshoreStage5Exhibition.pdf

For Your Calendar

Thurs 3 Oct; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Mengen Sofrasi Turkish Kitchen*, 107 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wed 9 Oct; 10am; *on-site meeting Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves and Glebe Light Rail Stop* re proposed native plantings.
 14-20 October; *Janet Venn-Brown 89th birthday retrospective*, Tap Gallery, 45 Burton St, Darlinghurst.
 Mon 21 Oct; 7pm, *Players in the Pub: An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde, Roxbury Hotel
 Tues 22 Oct; 6pm; *History of Broadway's Grace Bros*, Glebe Town Hall. Cost \$15, see flyer.
 Fri 1 Nov; 6-8.30 pm; *Sunset Soiree*, Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Rd. Free event. See flyer.
 Sun 3 Nov; 7am, *Glebe Spring Bird Survey followed by breakfast in a local cafe*.
 Thurs 7 Nov; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday; *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd.
 Fri 8 Nov-Sun 1 Dec; *Glebe Music Festival*.
 Mon 11 Nov; 11am; *Glebe Diggers' Memorial* ceremony, Foley Park.
 Thurs 14 Nov; 6-7.30pm; *Grow it Local*; St Helen's Community Centre.
 Sat 17 Nov; *Glebe Street Fair*
 Sat 7 Dec; *Glebe Society Christmas Party*. Details to be confirmed.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

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The Glebe Society Inc

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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.

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Neighbourhood Services Centre

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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