



# Glebe Society Bulletin

ISSN 1836-599X

No.7 of 2014 (September 2014)

## **ANGRY and FRUSTRATED! Packed Community Meeting Reacts to UrbanGrowth NSW's Bays Precinct 'Urban Renewal' Project**

*Lesley Lynch reports:* The community meeting held in Glebe Town Hall on 4 Aug to defend the public interest in the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project announced by Premier Baird and UrbanGrowth NSW was a stunner. We expected about 40 people but over 200 rolled up, leaving standing room only in the main hall. Residents from all areas of the Bays Precincts communities were well represented. A preliminary statement and four resolutions were distributed for consideration of the meeting.

See the Glebe Society website for further details: <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=10071>.

The meeting was also well attended by our local political representatives and candidates. Clover Moore sent apologies but nominated the Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis as her representative and councillors Mant, Green, Scott and Doutney also attended. The Mayor of Leichhardt, Darcy Byrne, apologised as he was away, but nominated the Deputy Mayor Linda Kelly as his representative and councillors Breen, Porteous and Stamolis were also present. Local MPs Jamie Parker and Alex Greenwich were present as was ALP candidate Verity Firth.

The meeting was chaired by Genia McCaffery former mayor of North Sydney and President of the Australian Local Government Association. The organisers of the meeting (Lesley Lynch, John Brooks, Jane Marceau and Carolyn Allen) explained the context and their reasons for calling the meeting and introduced the four resolutions for which they were seeking community endorsement.

Discussion was lively and the community's mood pretty clear – disappointment, anger, frustration, determination.

A host of constructive ideas and some debate about tactics emerged both through formal resolutions and suggestions.

There was unanimity on all the main points set out in the tabled resolutions and they were endorsed – with amendments to add some new dimensions.

Some very smart suggestions surfaced. One suggestion was to contact as many of the experts invited to the 'Expert Summit' as possible and ensure they are briefed beforehand on the community views and concerns about community participation and the protection of the public interest in these publicly owned bays and foreshores..



Over 200 people attended a community meeting on 4 Aug to defend the public interest in the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project (image: Glebe Art Show twitter account)

Other ideas from the floor stressed the obvious importance of a vigorous social media element to the campaign, the unsuitability of the developer, business-dominated UrbanGrowth Board, the need for all our elected representative to be active on our behalf in this campaign, for the Indigenous Gadigal people's connection to the bays to be recognised in the principles and for Aboriginal communities to be represented at the summits.

At the close of the meeting Lesley Lynch said that she had taken as many notes as possible – as had other organisers – and that almost everything proposed was consistent with the tabled resolutions, and would strengthen them. She undertook to pick

up all suggestions and include them in the resolutions where appropriate and/or pick them up in the ongoing campaign. The meeting agreed with this.

I want to thank the Glebe Society for their support in getting this meeting to happen by finding a location and publicising the meeting; and to the City of Sydney Council for providing the Town Hall and equipment for the meeting at a discounted rate.

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## Is your community group able to help?

We have a small organising group which needs to be expanded quickly. In line with resolutions 2 and 4 from the meeting (see website), we invite all community organisations (excluding developer organisations) within the Bays Precinct to join the organising group to help with the formation of a Sydney wide people's coalition and the people's summit and to generally carry the campaign forward.

Contact any of the organisers:

Lesley: [llynch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:llynch@bigpond.net.au);  
John: [brooksjno@primus.com.au](mailto:brooksjno@primus.com.au);  
Jane: [jmarceau@inet.net.au](mailto:jmarceau@inet.net.au);  
Carolyn: [callen3@bigpond.net.au](mailto:callen3@bigpond.net.au);

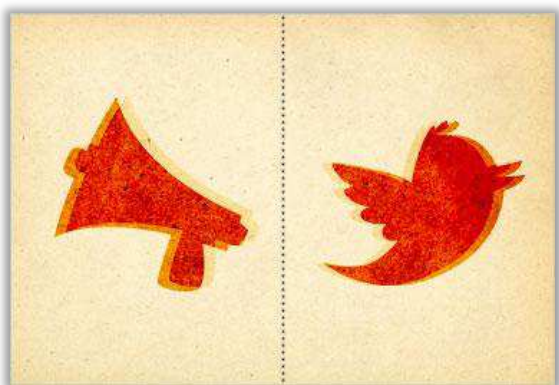
*Lesley Lynch*

Convenor, Bays and Foreshores

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## Welcome to Twitter – a how-to guide

The Glebe Society is now on Twitter! So what does this mean for members and how can members use Twitter? Hopefully the following article will clear some of the confusion surrounding twitter and allow members to start tweeting.



Twitter is a social network allowing users to express their views and communicate with others rapidly and with a minimum of formality. Twitter

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## Proposed changes to business voting in the City of Sydney

John Gray, Glebe Society President, wrote to the NSW Premier on 18 Aug about the changes proposed by the Shooters and Fishers Party to voting arrangements in City of Sydney elections. Below is an extract from John's letter:



*Premier, the Bill to alter voting arrangements in the City of Sydney is in direct contravention of the Government's commitment to restore value to community consultation. It privileges business interests over community interests and is in effect a gerrymander that devalues residents' votes ... I ask you to attend closely to proceedings in the Independent Commission against Corruption. As you do so, you will be struck by the potential for corruption and poor governance this Bill will unleash. I urge you to ensure that your coalition does not support this Bill but affirms that proper community representation is the bedrock of our democracy.*

Read the full letter at:

<http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=10053>

restricts the length of messages to 140 characters. This places big restrictions on what it can be practically used for and makes users construct short, concise messages. If a user wants to send a message longer than 140 characters, then it is probably best they use something other than Twitter.

Twitter messages, known as 'Tweets', are able to be read by any other Twitter user. If a user only wants to read Twitter messages then there is no need to register as a user. All you need to do to read Tweets is type [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) into your web browser and the Twitter page will be displayed. If you do want to send messages ('Tweet'), then you will need to become a registered user. Note that it does not cost anything to become a registered user, you simply go to [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) and fill in the details.

Once registered, a user is then able to post Tweets. A registered user is also able to follow other Twitter users allowing them to be informed of what

the other users are Tweeting. Registered users can also be followed by other users. By following other users with interests similar to your own, you are able to more easily stay in touch with what others are tweeting. There is no real limit to the number of users you can follow or have following you.

Sent Tweets (posted Tweets) show up in the user's Timeline. Users are able to review their own or anyone else's Timeline allowing them to see what they have Tweeted in the past. To see another user's timeline, all you need is the other user's username; known in the 'Twitter-sphere' as the user's 'handle'. Usernames or handles are in the form of @username, for example the Glebe Society's handle is @glebesociety. Try searching on @glebesociety to view the society's timeline.

A Twitter user is also able to reply to and re-tweet other users' tweets. Replies can be public or direct private messages (Direct Messaging). If unwanted messages (spam) are being received from an annoying user then messages from that user can be blocked.

Tweets may have hash tags inserted in them to help other users search for tweets on particular topics. Hash tags are denoted by the # symbol followed by a word or string of characters; for example, #Sydney or #glebesociety. Users searching for Tweets on a particular topic can search for Tweets containing the hash tag. For example, inserting the hash tag #glebesoc into Glebe Society tweets allows other users to search for tweets mentioning this hash tag. Searches for hash tags will find Tweets that include Tweets made by the Society itself and Tweets made by other Twitter users provided the Tweet includes the particular hash tag.

Due to the restricted message length, Twitter is often used to refer to updates or changes to media publications. For example, newspaper or publishing groups often post tweets of updates to online editions of newspapers including an internet link to the publication.

## ***Planning Matters – Neil Macindoe***

### **179 Glebe Point Rd**

Following representations from the Society the steel roller shutter has been removed (see *Jul Bulletin*).

### **Harold Park**

The Lord Mayor officially opened Harold Park on 29 July, and the first occupants moved in later in the week. The secondary entrance at Ross St is now open, but is left turn in and out only. The primary

Most web links (or URLs as they are more formally known) within Tweets are too long however, as they take up too many of the 140 available characters. For this reason, Twitter users tend to use what are known as micro URLs. A micro URL is simply a compressed or shortened form of a URL. To generate a micro URL, simply type the full URL into one of the many available micro URL generators available on the web (search for micro URL). For example, typing the URL for the Glebe Society's news page, [http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page\\_id=7989](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=7989) into the micro URL generator called [TinyURL.com](http://tinyurl.com) returns <http://tinyurl.com/otyeomw> (26 characters), which is much shorter than the full link. An example of a Tweet to publicising a Glebe Society news item could read:

'The Glebe Society has reported on its recent events night, see <http://tinyurl.com/otyeomw>'

If you have any questions regarding Twitter simply send an email to [twitter@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:twitter@glebesociety.org.au).

*Scott Calvert*  
Chief Tweeter

A summary of the society's Twitter details are:

- Email: [twitter@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:twitter@glebesociety.org.au)
- Twitter website: [twitter.com](https://twitter.com)
- Micro URL generator: [TinyURL.com](http://TinyURL.com)
- Handle (user name): @glebesociety
- Suggested hashtag: #glebesoc

### **Annual General Meeting**

**this Sunday (31 Aug)**

**11am – 1pm**

**Glebe Town Hall**



entrance, opposite Minogue Cresc, which will permit right turns, will probably not be open until next Feb.

### **25 Arundel St, former University Motor Inn**

In May I reported that a provider of student accommodation, Urbanest, had acquired this site, and lodged an application which was, in effect, a variation on the one approved by the Land and

Environment Court, based on the previous use of the site as a motel.

Council pointed out that this was not possible, as Urbanest should lodge a new application for the use of the site exclusively as student housing, and this they have now done. The proposal is quite large, with a total of 164 beds in one and two bedrooms.

Council does not have guidelines specifically for student housing, despite the number of proposals that have been approved. The Society has suggested developing such guidelines, and Urbanest has agreed to assist the City to do so. However, all this is too late for this application, which will therefore be assessed under the rules for boarding houses, which are permitted in residential areas.

The Committee discussed the proposal at its Aug meeting, and as a result, I lodged comments that asked Council to apply normal rules for multi-unit developments in residential areas. These include ensuring the amenities of nearby residents are protected, by reducing density if necessary, and Urbanest be required to meet its obligations for providing some parking, contributing fully toward Council amenities, providing rooms accessible to those with disabilities, and common areas and facilities at an appropriate level.

The University Motor Inn site has been derelict for some time, and a number of proposals, all of them unsatisfactory, were rejected until the Court found one it could approve. Of course it is desirable for the site to be redeveloped provided the nearby residents and the Bishopthorpe Conservation Area are protected. The site is close to the University of Sydney (and other universities and colleges) and there are a number of student hostels nearby, so student housing is a suitable use.

### **Bidura, 357 Glebe Point Rd**

The NSW Government has announced the proposed sale of the entire site of *Bidura*, former home of the architect Edmund Blacket while he was building the University of Sydney. The two buildings fronting Glebe Point Rd, Blacket's house and the ballroom built by his daughters, are Heritage Items, but the building at the rear is recent and has been the object of speculation almost from the moment it was built. The Children's Court is currently located there, but the main building was designed as a remand centre for young offenders, and was superseded by more modern solutions almost immediately. Community Services has used it for training purposes in recent years.

Some years ago there was speculation the building might be sold for a school or similar institution, but its design is difficult to adapt, although it includes a basketball court and swimming pool. If the site were sold for housing it is likely this building would have to be demolished.

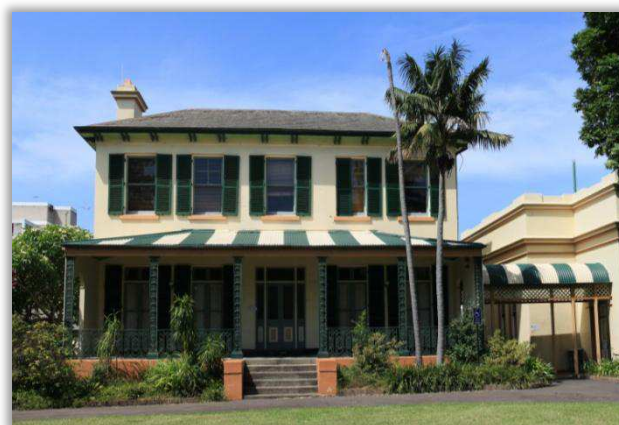
This would be no great loss, but of course it is necessary to protect the historic Blacket building and to ensure any new building at the back does not detract from its heritage value.

### **Better Planning Network**

On 17 Aug the President circulated the following email to members. I add my voice to his to encourage you to donate to what is essentially a campaign conducted by the Society and its fellow organisations:

*The Glebe Society is an affiliate of this very successful statewide community network, which was influential in the defeat of the NSW Government's proposed new planning bill. This bill would have restricted community engagement and privileged economic growth over social and environmental sustainability. In other words in its state campaign BPN fought for the very aims of the Glebe Society as expressed in our constitution. As a Society we have given donations, lobbying and advice in support of BPN. Right now BPN needs crowdsource donations so I implore you to check out their website, personally donate and invite your personal network to do the same.*

*Neil Macindoe*  
Convenor, Planning



For sale, *Bidura*, 357 Glebe Point Rd (image: Adam.J.W.C.)

## ***Glebe, Naturally***

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### **St Helen's Community Garden completed**

While the first two beds of St Helen's Community Garden were built in Dec, it was not until Jun that the whole design was completed. The garden attracts constant interest from local residents and visitors, with people wandering through the garden to keep track of the veggie plantings, or to sit on the convenient ledges for a rest or a chat. The gardeners are always pleased to talk to visitors, and encourage anyone who is interested to join the group, which meets Sundays from 10 to 11am.

The garden was built with the assistance of a Matching Grant from Council, supplemented by further funds allocated by Council when the need for a professional design was recognised.

The garden is planted and maintained, and the produce shared, on a collaborative basis. The garden has been planted with some winter crops and also green manure, but the major planting will be in spring, when St Helen's Gardeners will hold a community picnic to get the season started. The group is also planning to have a Sat afternoon gardening time as well as the Sun morning, beginning in spring.

The gardeners are often asked how they deal with passers-by picking the vegetables. In reality, this has been a very minor problem, and in fact we are more often given things than we suffer a loss. We have received a compost bin, seedlings, a garden chair and some donations, all of which we are very grateful for. We are trying to accommodate local needs by planting the long garden beds beside the path with herbs and salad greens which, when established, will be available for anyone to pick.

*Jan Macindoe, Convenor, Environment*



St Helen's community gardeners hard at work. (Photo : Jan Macindoe)

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### **Advanced Waste Treatment – Community Consultation**

The City of Sydney has released its draft Advanced Waste Treatment Master Plan. The City's resident consultation process was through in-depth workshops held over three weeks. A Glebe Society member, Koko Clark, took part in the process and was impressed by the research that the proposals are based on.

Koko says that she gained a better understanding of the current approaches to waste management, and the pressures requiring urgent change. For example, although the City has already reached the State Government target of diverting at least 60 percent of domestic waste from landfill, the total amount of waste continues to rise with the rise in residential population. What's more, commercial and industrial waste, which is the responsibility of businesses, is more than four times the volume of residential waste. At the same time, landfills in the metropolitan area can only handle a small proportion of the waste generated, and waste has to be disposed of further and further from the city, with rapidly rising costs and transport pollution and congestion.

The City's proposed strategy for advanced waste treatment is a combination of recycling and converting non-recyclable waste into renewable gas through high-temperature gasification. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill, supply gas to fuel the planned trigeneration network and contribute to the City's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the LGA by 70 percent. This could have wider application, with participation by councils and businesses within 250 km of the City's LGA creating the opportunity to avoid around 4.6 million tonnes of waste going to landfill.

The City hopes to have the first of the proposed waste treatment facilities operating by the end of the decade. It recognises that engaging the community in the selection of a location, and the conditions of its operation, will be one of the most challenging aspects of the strategy.

*Jan Macindoe  
Convenor, Environment*

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## Blue Wren Group: Coming Events

The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group will be meeting on Sun 7 Sept at the Wood Street Reserve, 9am to 11am. There will be a weeding working bee followed by a short walk. New volunteers are welcome. Wear closed in shoes and a hat, and bring water and something for morning tea.

Members might also be interested in two workshops being organised by the City of Sydney in Sept. On 20 Sept a bird surveying and identification workshop is being held in preparation for the annual spring bird survey: Sydney Park Pavilion, Euston Rd, St Peters, 2044 (behind Alan Davidson Oval) at 9.15am for a 9.30am start (11am finish). On Thurs 25 Sept a Bat Walk and Talk is planned: meet at the car park next to the brick kiln off Princes Highway at 5.30pm for a 5.45pm start (8pm finish).

*Jeanette Knox, Blue Wrens*

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## From the Terraces – by Liz Simpson-Booker

### The Decorative Arts: Peaks and Troughs

Some years ago, when I was living in a late Victorian terrace in Stanmore, I was visited by a nephew who had grown up in a small mining town in northern Tasmania. His major excitement was not seeing his aunt, but visiting ‘a terrace house’; followed by his amazement at the furniture and ornaments in it. I can’t pretend that our terrace contained anything other than a rather eclectic mix of possessions, acquired over time. But the house, and its spaces, loudly demanded consideration when, for example, decisions needed to be made about a new table, a jardinière or a sideboard. As the first port of call, the antique shop was a given.

A recent article in *The Economist* (24 May 2014) reported on the demise of antique shops in the UK. In just six years, the number of dealers has fallen by nearly 2,000. The reasons are complex but the article suggests that the biggest changes are social and cultural.

Closer to home, The Sydney Antique Centre closed at the end of June. The Centre’s method of operation, with many small, but specialised, antique businesses clustered under one roof, must have provided these marginal operations with a presence and a toehold in a market which has sadly dwindled over the years.

In Glebe, I am aware of at least two antique shops which have closed in the last decade or so.

Such shops seemed like Aladdin’s caves. They were crammed full of antiques: items from the past, which although made for a purpose, were chiefly valued for their workmanship and the beauty of their appearance. The very air smelled of dust and furniture wax while the contents suggested other, slower, modes of living and other, more complex, aesthetics. The impact made one pause to reflect on human creativity and invention; the endless striving for perfection and beauty.

*The Economist* article suggested there is a trend away from home-owners building antique



A mid-Victorian English paper mache clock, bought in Glebe about 1985. (Photo : Peter Thorogood)

collections over many years in favour of a more immediate approach of acquiring new items. It would seem that mixing a few old items, which complement the new – not vice versa – is now the way to go.

Immediacy, it seems, is everything. Even the venerable London museum of decorative arts and design, the V&A, is launching a Rapid Response collection, a curating initiative set up to reflect a fast-changing world, with lightning-quick technological and design developments. The collection will include objects such as the 3D printed gun, Katy Perry eyelashes and a pair of cargo trousers (with a political message about the exploitation of foreign workers). The V&A envisages a constantly-updated gallery which will be filled with objects that tell visitors something about the here and right now. The curator speaks of

collecting 'what people are interested in and what the press picks up on'.

Well, given the latter, there are new depths to be plumbed. The V&A concept certainly challenges our traditional view of a museum as a place or building for the keeping, study and exhibition of objects of scientific, artistic and historical interest. Again, closer to home, the Powerhouse Museum (formerly the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences) now uses an explanatory stripped-down by-line of 'Science and Design.' And the focus, the depth and breadth of the Powerhouse decorative arts collection? Difficult to say. My last visit there was deeply, deeply disappointing as we fought our way

past the queues for a Harry Potter exhibition only to find vast swathes of empty space, cleared of virtually all decorative arts exhibits.

These trends signal, in bright lights, that the decorative arts are currently at a very low point. Craftsmanship gives way to mass production: the industrial designer and the precision engineer are in the ascendant. And our Victorian and Federation houses are somehow learning to accommodate a new internal, streamlined, aesthetic.

*Liz Simpson-Booker*  
Convenor, Heritage

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## Database of 2037 plaques - a goldmine for the curious

The Glebe Society Plaques Database is now 'live'. There's a link from the dropdown menu under 'History & Heritage' or go to [http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page\\_id=10014](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=10014)

Several years ago, the City of Sydney set out to identify all the extant plaques in its entire local government area. City officers approached the Glebe Society to undertake the initial phase of this project. Our primary brief was to identify, photograph and record all the plaques installed in publicly available sites in Glebe and Forest Lodge. Our secondary brief was to assist the City in further developing guidelines for the project as it was rolled out across other villages.

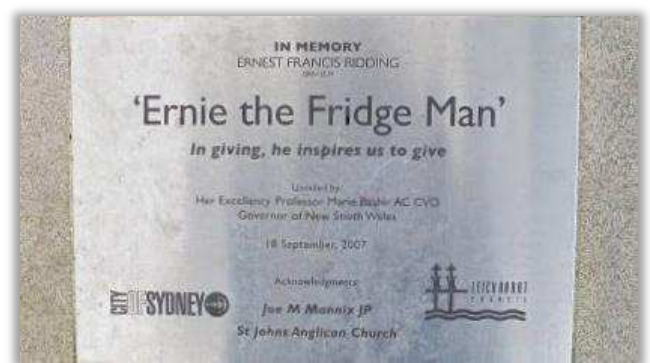
Such plaques offer a tantalising edit of a life: wording so brief as to be almost Twitter-like. Nevertheless, we hope they will stimulate further understanding and research.

These plaques are tributes by a community which has recognised and valued the diverse contributions of local legends. The plaques themselves recognise the effort in fundraising to make the recognition possible and the negotiations surrounding the

choice and significance of their placement. The plaques also suggest the hand of the artist/creator in their design.

If you know of a plaque in the area which is not on our database or you can provide additional information or a correction, please contact [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au).

*Liz Simpson-Booker*



Plaque for Ernie the Fridge Man, located in St John's Community Centre, 132a St John's Road. (Photo : Peter Robinson)

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## Who Lived in Your Street? Strathmore (part two) by Lyn Collingwood

*This article continues from the previous Bulletin.*

By November 1869 George Wigram Allen (1824-85) and Marian (1835-1914) nee Boyce (older sister of Maria McArthur who had lived there some years earlier) had moved from *Lynwood* in Ferry Rd to *Strathmore* where their two youngest sons (Walter Macarthur [sic] in 1870 and Cecil Stewart who died aged nine weeks in 1873) were born. Wigram Allen was a lavish host. In 1880 flags arching over the entrance to *Strathmore* welcomed

300 guests to daughter Adeline Marian's marriage to Alexander Leeper, principal of Melbourne's Trinity College, whom she'd met when he was teaching at Pendrill's school at Glebe Point. The service was held in the Toxteth Park chapel, draped in white, the path outside strewn with roses scattered by Sunday School pupils.

Eldest son of Toxteth Park's George Allen, a JP and a partner in his father's legal firm, George

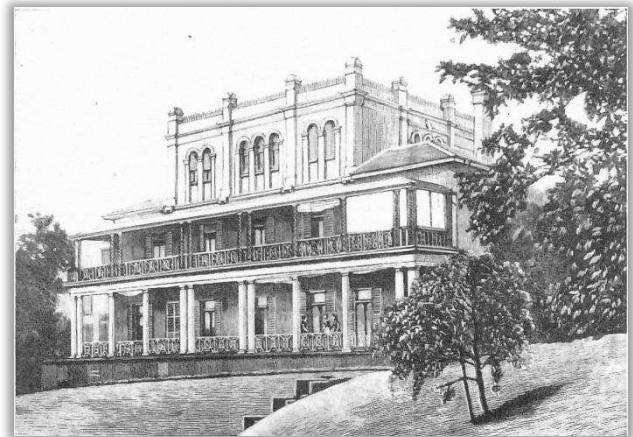
Wigram Allen was a Glebe bigwig and enormously wealthy. At *Strathmore* in late 1869 he penned his credentials as MLA candidate for Glebe and Balmain: his 30-year residency in the area; his ten-year period of office as Glebe's first mayor; his 13-year period of office as commissioner of national education; his support of the Public Schools Act and of immigration. Duly elected, Allen held portfolios in Henry Parkes' ministry, was knighted, and elected House Speaker 1875-82 (his successor was Glebe-born Edmund Barton). George Allen died in 1877 leaving his estate to his oldest son but George Wigram did not move across the road until 1881 when his additions to Toxteth Park house were completed: a ballroom, a third storey and a tower. Wigram Allen did not live long to enjoy these 'improvements' – of which his father would have disapproved. When he died four years later the Toxteth Park chapel was draped in black.

Lady Allen outlived her husband by more than three decades, dying in London survived by three daughters (Ethel, Ida and Mabel – Adeline had died in 1893) and six sons (Herbert, John Woolley, Boyce and Rex all living in England) and Reginald Charles and Arthur Wigram who remained with the family's legal firm Allen, Allen & Hemsley.

When the Allens vacated *Strathmore* other Wesleyans moved in: Andrew Garran (1825-1901) and Mary Garran (1829-1923) who worshipped in the Toxteth Park chapel. Before going to Darlinghurst in the mid 1870s they had lived in *Glenwood*, a big house set in five acres on Hereford St. By 1881 they had five surviving daughters (Mary E 1856-1930, Winifred I 1858-1935, Helen Sabine 1860-1959, Elsie Clement 1862-1949 and Lucy R born 1864) and a teenage son Robert Randolph (1867-1957). Two girls (Adelaide M 1869-77 and Beatrice B 1871-8) had died in childhood. Lucy was the only daughter to marry, the Garran name continuing through Robert and his four sons.

Andrew Garran was born in Bethnal Green, one of 13 children of a merchant Robert Gamman. After arriving in Adelaide in 1851 he was known by a reinvented surname, the original being perhaps too close to 'gammon' meaning both a cut of ham and a humbug. After editing newspapers in South Australia, Garran moved to Sydney where he became editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, added LLB and LLD to his BA and MA degrees, edited the *Picturesque Atlas of Australasia*, was a freelance journalist for *The Times*, an MLC parliamentarian, and an advocate of federation of the colonies. A Canberra suburb is named after his

son Sir Robert who became Solicitor-General to the Commonwealth and an authority on the Australian Constitution. (Robert's tertiary education was at Sydney University, in the late 19th century 'a very small affair').



Strathmore Glebe Point (Image: Garran 1958)

The Garrans had a holiday house at Lawson but, unlike the Allens, had to be careful with money. As soon as they moved into *Strathmore* the five daughters advertised for day girls and boarders for the Strathmore Ladies' School, an enterprise that lasted until the 1890s economic depression. The house was also a social hub. At *Strathmore*, Dr Garran played awkward host to Robert Louis Stevenson on one of his four trips to Australia from Samoa. The chronically-ill writer, a chain smoker and heavy drinker of coffee and alcohol, was an unsociable, eccentric guest.

Andrew Garran had in 1854 in Adelaide married chemist's daughter Mary Isham Sabine, a friend of social reformer and suffragist Catherine Helen Spence. In Sydney Mary was instrumental in forming the Boarding Out Society with two of her daughters, plus Lady Allen, Lady Windeyer and the wife of Congregational minister James Jefferis. The organisation, which took children from institutions such as the Benevolent Society and placed them with foster parents, was replaced in 1881 by the State Children's Relief Board. Mary Garran was an active member of the Relief Board until 1911 when she retired because of age and deafness. She was also involved with the founding and running of the children's hospital in Glebe (a major victory was its acceptance of women as Resident Medical Officers), and lobbied for higher education and, after the Sydney University Senate voted in 1881 to allow female students to study 'in complete equality with men', for a residential college for those students.



Hit by falling wool and wheat prices and failed building and land speculations, Andrew Garran found the upkeep of *Strathmore* too expensive. The mansion was rented out as a temporary women's college, with an initial intake of four undergraduates, from 1892 until May 1894 when the permanent Women's College was opened in the Sydney University grounds. In Mar 1894 the Strathmore estate, subdivided into more than 60 building lots, was put up for auction. The house was not sold but reverted to private use, its occupants being French consul Eugène Boivin, a Bonapartist, and Clemence Bercher Boivin, who had married in Paris in 1855 and arrived in Australia in 1884. Eugène was for over a decade a member of the choir of St Patrick's, Church Hill. He and his wife died in Balmain in 1907; both are buried in the Catholic section of Rookwood Cemetery.

Bounded by today's Avona Ave and Charlton Way, *Strathmore* and neighbouring *Avona* were bought in 1899 by the Church of England and turned into the Church Rescue Home, its matron Miss McGarvie. Additions to the property, including a chapel and nurses' accommodation, were completed in 1909. *Strathmore's* female inmates

operated a commercial steam laundry, were trained in 'the domestic arts', re-caned old chairs, and made sweets and lace quilts, often exhibited in the showrooms of Beard Watson & Co. Because the women were unpaid, the institution became largely self-supporting.

Vacated in Sept 1929, *Strathmore* was during the Depression an Unemployed Housing Fund hostel with sleeping facilities for 23 homeless families living on the dole. Each family was allocated a room, plus extra sleeping accommodation on the balconies, partitioned with calico curtains. No food was provided but newspapers enthused that 'sturdy bonny children' were playing in the mansion's reduced grounds. It was later leased as a home for boys in trouble with the Child Welfare authorities, and by the Home Mission Society.

Its grounds being progressively shrunk after the estate's subdivision in the 1890s, *Strathmore* finally succumbed to the demolisher's hammer to be replaced in the 1960s by featureless flats. A congregation at Malabar made arrangements for the stone to be recycled there as a new church, but it was delivered by the contractor as useless rubble.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: Allen, Boyce, Garran, McArthur, Tooth entries; *Australian Encyclopaedia*: Garran entries; Cemetery records; *Evening News* various issues; Garran, Sir Robert Randolph *Prosper the Commonwealth* 1958; MacDonnell, Freda *The Glebe: Portraits and Places* 1975; McArthur, Alexander *Transportation to Western Australia* pamphlet (London) 1864; NSW births, deaths, marriages online registry; NSW electoral rolls; Sand's Directories; Solling, Max *Grandeur and Grit: A history of Glebe* 2007; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues; Women's College website

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## **Bidura to be sold (image of Bidura on p.4)**

The *Australian Financial Review* reported (12 Aug 2014) that the NSW Government proposes to sell *Bidura* as the site is significantly under-utilised in its current state. The NSW Minister for Finance and Services, Dominic Perrottet is quoted as saying that he expects the property to generate significant interest from developers for a residential project.

There are several buildings on this site at 357 Glebe Point Rd. The Glebe Society is principally interested in the original house built in 1860 by Edmund Blacket who lived there with his family whilst designing the Great Hall at the University of Sydney. *Bidura* is a handsome villa in the Victorian Regency style, set back from Glebe Point Rd and fringed by gardens, a sweeping lawn and semi-circular driveway.

The building and its setting are regarded as having high architectural significance. *Bidura* is heritage-listed on the City of Sydney Local Environment Plan and is Classified by the National Trust.

*Bidura's* serene appearance belies its relatively recent past. The Government acquired the building in 1920 and it operated from that time (until 1977) as a children's shelter for state wards. The building was restored in 1980 and is currently used by the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Justice.

This house has high historic, architectural and social significance for the State.

Doubtless this story has a long way to run but I urge members to look again at the Blacket building and appreciate its stately elegance and setting. And I urge you to take a few moments to look at the Glebe Society website,

[http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?buildin\\_gs=bidura](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?buildin_gs=bidura), which has evolved as a blog for former child residents to tell of their experiences and contact others.

Liz Simpson-Booker  
Convenor, Heritage

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## Report on Glebe Society event: Browsing at 'The Library'

A guided tour of the State Library of New South Wales was the latest in our occasional Glebe Society series of getting to know Glebe's neighbouring landmarks.

Maybe you think of it as The Mitchell Library – and certainly, the imposing pillared building facing the Botanic Gardens houses the important Mitchell Wing of the State Library. But that is only part of the story ...

To find out more a group of Glebe Society members gathered at 10.15am on Thurs 21 Jul in the modern Macquarie St Wing of the Library to meet volunteer guide Zoe Middleton. What followed was an information-packed discovery tour of this incredible repository of books, art, artefacts, history, collections and memorabilia.

From this spacious white, light-filled building (designed by architect Andrew Andersons AO and opened by the Queen in 1988) we exited the library to hear about some of the statues that grace the exterior of the original stone building – it seems the most popular is 'Trim', Matthew Flinders' cat, perched on a window sill not far from his master!

Passing between the giant stone pillars at the front of the older section we entered what is now called The Mitchell Wing – built in several stages between the 1880s and 1964, by which time it had again outgrown its accommodation and the modern Macquarie St extension was planned.

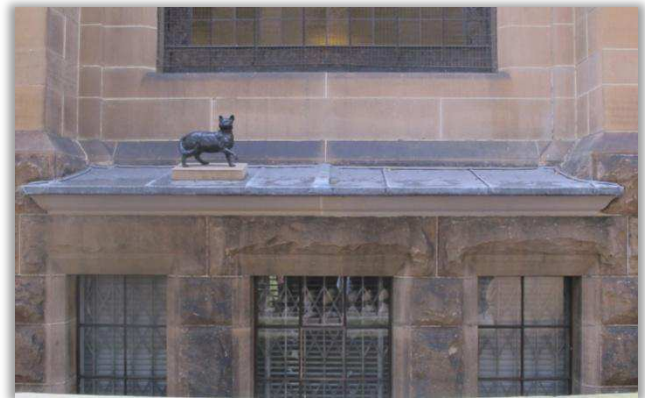
From the pillars to the panelled front doors, the marble mosaic reproduction of the 1644 Tasman Map in the foyer floor and the panelled Shakespeare room, the older building is a celebration of the history of knowledge, a striking contrast to the forward looking technology of the

new section. Cleverly, they coalesce to remind us how inseparable both aspects of learning are.

After our detailed tour and an impressive collection of knowledgeable and often humorous tales Zoe led us to the current exhibition of diaries and letters from World War I (*Life Interrupted*). Pointing out some of the more historically noteworthy, she left us to read the thoughts of those who took part in that war to end all wars – so many of whom did not make it back home.

Many Glebe Society members will have used the Library's extraordinary resources – perhaps to trace family history or to research a particular interest. If you haven't, click on <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>, and be amazed by what is available. But here a word of caution: it might be some time before you re-surface! The website is a mother lode of fascinating information.

*Erica Robinson, Events Coordinator*



Small statue of 'Trim', Matthew Flinders' cat, which perches on a library ledge, not far from the statue of her master. (Photo: Erica Robinson)

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## Glebe Art Walk and Craft Market – 6-13 Sept, Glebe Library and *Benledi*

The 17th annual Glebe Art Show opens on Fri evening 5 Sept with a much expanded program of activities. Art is taking over the length of Glebe Point Rd with cafes and galleries hosting talented local artists. Fifteen local businesses are involved showing a variety of artworks including etchings, photographs and paintings.

A map of the featured cafes will be available at the Art Show (and can be downloaded from <http://www.glebeartshow.org.au/>) and visitors to cafes will enjoy the art over their coffee or lunch throughout the 10 days of the Show. The artists are an interesting mix of experienced and emerging professionals. All have been featured in previous

Glebe Art Shows and many are prize winners. They will also have work in the 2014 exhibition.

One of the biggest shows will be at Blackwattle Cafe where Art Show founder and ex-president Robin Lawrence will be exhibiting with award winning artists Patrick Blake and Paul Procee. Glebe Deli Cafe will be hosting printmaker Seraphina Martin, Sonoma's minimal wall space will be filled by photographer Sally McInerney and Sappho will host last year's Open Prize winner Annabel Butler to name but a few.

Midway through the Show and as part of the Library's Creative Glebe initiative, this year's judge, highly respected artist and lecturer Ian

Chapman will be in conversation with Art Show President Peter Griffen (Wed 10 Sept 6-7pm; free but bookings essential).

And finally on the last day of the Show, Sat 13 Sept the Library terrace will be transformed into a craft market with hand made goods from local craftspeople from 10am to 4pm.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of local businesses: Glebe Chamber of Commerce, Futurepast Heritage Consulting, Dr David Nguyen, Glebe Picture Frames, the Glebe Society, Glebe Liquor and our new sponsors Belle Property Glebe, the Toxteth and Mirvac.

*Fiona Verge, Glebe Art Show*



Walking the walk for Glebe Art Show (Photo supplied by Sue Ingram)

## Thirsty Thursdays

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thurs of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We try to choose restaurants where we can share dishes, and have six to eight people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thurs 4 Sept at 7pm we will visit an old favourite, *Almustafa* Lebanese Restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thurs 2 Oct at 7pm we will go to *Brixton*, 95-97 Glebe Point Rd. (*Lien's*, which was mentioned in last month's *Bulletin*, has now closed down.)
- And on Thurs 6 Nov at 7pm we will go to *Kathmandu Terrace* Nepalese and Indian Restaurant, next door at 93 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email [thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au) or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Wed before the dinner to let me know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

*Edwina Doe*

## Subcommittee Annual Reports 2013/14

In the last *Bulletin*, we brought you the Annual Reports of the Planning, Heritage, Community and Blue Wrens sub-committees. In this *Bulletin*, we've included reports from the Environment, Communications and Transport & Traffic sub-committees.

### Environment – Annual Report

#### Events

The Environment Sub-committee undertakes to hold at least one event annually, open to both members and Glebe residents generally. Due to

## Glebe Voices

Mira Crouch, author and one-time 'New Australian' will lead a *Glebe Voices* session on Tues 14 Oct at 6pm at the Blackwattle Cafe (*Bellevue* in Blackwattle Bay Park), 55 Leichhardt St Glebe. Free entry.

Topic: **Is the Past Another Country?** An informal session offering a fresh view of the 1950s through a newcomer's eyes; with opportunity for comments and questions. More information in the next *Bulletin*.

### Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of play readings at the **Roxbury Hotel** St Johns Rd / Forest St, Forest Lodge:

*An Evening with Dame Mary Gilmore* and the man she replaced on the \$10 note. Devised and directed by Linda Beattie

Mon 15 Sept @ 7pm. Free admission. The kitchen is open from 5pm. Please try to order food as early as possible, we always start on time!

timing, both the 2013 and 2014 events occurred in the 2013 – 14 year.

In November three presenters gave illustrated talks about different approaches to growing vegetables at home. Jock Keene described his kerb garden in

Toxteth Rd which is known for its 'Help yourself' sign, and is appreciated by the many locals who do just that. Karin Steininger and Paul Aylwood talked about their aquaponic approach to growing vegetables on their back deck. Mark Driver from City of Sydney Council, who developed Council's footpath gardening policy, described the simple system and the grant available to assist.

Our May event focused on saving energy by using LED lights. David Winterton, convenor of the Sydney branch of the Alternative Technology Association, gave a comprehensive overview of LED lighting with a special emphasis on the application to homes like ours, which may have either modern or traditional light fittings. He also gave a practical demonstration of different types of bulbs and their effectiveness.

### Submissions

The sub-committee monitors and responds to Council initiatives which impact on the environment, especially for Glebe. We wrote submissions in response to the Council's Urban Ecology Action Plan and the proposed park along the cliff at the Harold Park development. We were pleased to receive a reply from Council that responded to our specific issues. We also made a recommendation for the Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*) in the grounds of *Bidura*, 357 Glebe Point Rd, to be added to the Register of Significant Trees and were very pleased when our recommendation was accepted.

### Parks

New developments and upgrades are making this year a very gratifying one in relation to Glebe parks. The final stage of the Foley Park upgrade commemorates the history of the site; the upgrade of St James Park (due to finish in early 2015) includes a children's adventure playground and an upgraded toilet and amenities building. The Sydney Secondary College extension of the Waterfront Walk is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The detailed plans for the new park beside the cliff in the Harold Park development will go to Council later this year, with work being undertaken in 2015.

### Advanced Waste Treatment

In 2012 many members attended a presentation about the City of Sydney draft waste treatment plan by Mark McKenzie, the Manager of Waste Strategy. A firm plan for Advanced Waste Treatment has now been developed, and member Koko Clark attended the extended community consultation. A report on the plan appears elsewhere in this Sept *Bulletin*.

### Collaboration with Heritage

Collaboration between the Heritage and Environment sub-committees continued with the publication of 'Sydney University – the Early Science Precinct' on Glebe Walks, joint involvement in sponsoring the Lone Pine project, and joint consultation on response to the DA relating to the garden in Hartford.

*Jan Macindoe*, Convenor, Environment

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## Communications – Annual Report

The Communications subcommittee was formed after the last AGM. The subcommittee coordinates and oversees the various communication activities of the Glebe Society including the *Bulletin*, the website and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. It has replaced the previous Website subcommittee.

In 2014 we have:

- Established a strategy for the subcommittee which supports the Society's 'Engaging Glebe' strategy and includes:
- Expanded engagement with Glebe and the wider community (eg by supporting other subcommittees in their communication and by building a Facebook and Twitter presence);
- Strengthened our base (including by engaging with new residents and by improving the ease of joining and renewing membership);
- Supported effective campaigns (eg by ensuring urgent and important campaigns are quickly and broadly communicated through the website and the various social media channels);
- Supported Glebe Society and other events (eg by promoting events; where relevant, outside the membership and outside Glebe); and
- Improved the efficiency of internal communication.
- Built the activity of the society's Facebook page (which was created in Jun 2012) to have significant reach into the Glebe community and with groups and individuals outside the community.
- Established the Glebe Society Twitter account (@glebesociety). Using this account, specific members of the society (eg president, planning convenor, the chief tweeter from the comms

s/c) can tweet. Tweets must be in line with the appropriate delegation.

- Updated the *Bulletin* Editorial Policy and the Advertising Policy. These were adopted by the management committee. A pricing scheme for *Bulletin* advertising was established and ads have been run in the *Bulletin*. As required by the new policy, these ads ‘must be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Society and, in the opinion of the Editor, be of particular interest or benefit to the readership of Glebe Society publications’.
- Made changes to the Glebe Walks website so that it is mobile-friendly and created a new walk for the University of Sydney early science precinct.
- Began a program of engaging with each subcommittee in turn to help with their communication (eg improving their part of the website, assisting with Facebook, Twitter etc). So far, this has been done with the Heritage subcommittee and we have worked with them to make significant changes to the Heritage web presence. We will work with other subcommittees in future months.
- Established the use of EventBrite for all event booking. As well as simplifying the booking process for the Society, this also promotes Glebe Society events to community members

(not necessarily Glebe Society members) who have attended similar (including non-Glebe Society) events. This helps to increase the reach of the Society.

- Completed a thorough review of the website and made substantial updates to its structure, content and style.
- Placed the contents of the new plaques database (collected by Society member Peter Robinson) onto the website and made it searchable.
- Established a Facebook page (and soon website) for Glebe Island Bridge in preparation for a major event to encourage protection of the bridge.

The current members of the subcommittee are: Virginia Simpson-Young (*Bulletin* editor), Peter Thorogood (technical coordinator), Phil Young (web content coordinator), Scott Calvert (chief tweeter and assistant web content coordinator), Jan Macindoe (Glebe Walks), Jan Wilson (chief Facebook poster), Carole Herriman, Bruce Davis and Bill Simpson-Young (convenor). We meet approximately monthly and welcome other members to join.

*Bill Simpson-Young*, Convenor, Communications

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## Transport & Traffic – Annual Report

Last year saw the release of two major transport reports commissioned by the State Government: NSW Transport's Long Term Transport Master Plan with its emphasis on public transport initiatives and Infrastructure NSW's 'First Things First' which recommended new road projects. The State Government adopted most of the public transport proposals in the Master Plan, including light rail in the CBD and to UNSW and Randwick. Infrastructure's WestConnex proposal was also adopted.

### Light Rail Extension

This year these proposals have begun to be implemented. Work has begun on preparing for light rail along George St between Central railway station and Circular Quay. In March, the light rail extension from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill was opened, and new rolling stock is now in use. The Glebe Society was generally supportive of the public transport proposals in the Master Plan, including the extension of the light rail network, as we believe that residents in Glebe and Forest Lodge

are best served by a high quality public transport system.

### Parking in Glebe and Forest Lodge

In 2013 City of Sydney released its Neighbourhood Parking Policy which sets out the City's approach to managing parking demands in all its precincts, including Glebe and Forest Lodge. Key principles adopted by the City are to prioritise parking for residents, businesses and their visitors and customers, and to actively discourage commuter parking in residential and commercial areas through parking controls and parking permits. The Glebe Society supports this approach.

The Glebe Society lodged a submission with the City pointing out that commuter parking and parking pressures were likely to increase in parts of Glebe and Forest Lodge and that the City needed to monitor the situation. Nevertheless we submitted that the City needed to respond to parking pressures in Glebe and Forest Lodge in a measured way, and that parking controls or tighter parking controls, should only be imposed where the City, in

consultation with local residents, clearly established their need.

Earlier this year, the City introduced timed permit parking in Boyce St and Bell St and in other streets in the Toxteth Estate, which limits parking to two hours from Mon-Fri from 8am to 6pm. This process involved consultation between residents in the area and the City, with the City taking submissions from residents before introducing the new restrictions. These parking restrictions are essentially designed to discourage all day parking by tradesmen working on the Harold Park development which was having the effect of limiting parking for residents.

### **WestConnex**

WestConnex, is said to be the largest transport project in Australia, linking Sydney's west and

south-west with the City, airport and port in a 33 kilometre continuous motorway. The NSW Government claims that the project will allow large sections of Parramatta Rd and surrounding neighbourhoods to be revitalised and upgraded. Stage 3 of the project involves a road tunnel from the Taverners Hill area to St Peters. The NSW Government has recently indicated that this stage will not be completed until 2023. The exact impact on Glebe and Forest Lodge of this Stage is still not clear although a recent report on WestConnex referred to the possibility of a road tunnel connection between the motorway and the City West Link that appears to impinge on Glebe. The Glebe Society will monitor this situation.

*Murray Jewell, Convenor, Transport and Traffic*

## **Community**

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### **Vale Peter Kolbe**



Peter Kolbe (Photo supplied by Lyn Collingwood)

Glebe Society and U3A member Peter Kolbe died on 11 Jul in the house he lived in from 1985: *Coreen*, 2 Leichhardt Ave. His amusing memories of numerous neighbourhood burglaries featured in the 'Who Lived in Your Street' article in this year's *Bulletin* No. 4. Peter's family and many friends farewelled him with a last drink at the Harold Park Hotel on 16 Jul.

Born in Madrid on 12 Apr 1942, Peter was the son of a German diplomat whose fascinating story as America's most important spy during World War II is told in Lucas Delattre's *A Spy at the Heart of the Third Reich*.

Peter lived in South West Africa (now Namibia) and South Africa before settling in Australia where he completed a doctorate in geochemistry at ANU in 1964. He was engaged in exploration work in Canada before returning in 1974 to take up a position as a Research Officer at Sydney University. In 1988 he retired but, determined to 'die educated', completed a string of courses in a wide range of subjects – the ancient history of Syria, climate change, music theory and bridge – and spent hours reading in the Glebe and WEA libraries. In his last years he rekindled his love of music and attended many musical concerts, particularly chamber music. Fluent in French and German, he sought out fellow speakers.

Always physically fit, Peter played tennis from his school days until Feb this year and will be sorely missed at the Roseville Tennis Club. He was also a keen cyclist and kayaker, and Glebe bocce player.

Peter is survived by his former wife Ursula, their children Karin and Paul, and grandchildren Anna and Robbie. Karin and Paul are now the owners of *Coreen*.

*Lyn Collingwood*

### **Welcome to New Members**

Jenny Burn

Kemble Walker and Rachel Dawson

Jean Callaghan

John and Jennifer Sargeant

James Kennard and Amanda Trettin

## For Your Calendar

### Sun 31 Aug, 11am. Glebe Society Annual General Meeting, Glebe Town Hall

Thurs 4 Sept, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Almustafa* Lebanese Restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Rd.

Fri 5 Sept, 6pm. *Glebe Art Show* opened by Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore, Glebe Library.

Sat 6–Sat 13 Sept. *Glebe Art Show* open 10–6pm weekdays, Sat 10am–4pm, closed Sun.

Sun 7 Sept, 9–11am. *Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group*, Wood Street Reserve.

Wed 10 Sept, 6–7pm. *In conversation with Glebe Art Show judge, Ian Chapman*, Glebe Library.

Mon 15 Sept, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.

Sat 20 Sept, 9:15am. *Bird surveying and identification workshop*, Sydney Park Pavilion.

Thurs 25 Sept, 5.30pm. *Bat Walk and Talk*. Start at car park next to the brick kiln, St Peters.

Thurs 2 Oct, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Brixton*, 95–97 Glebe Point Rd.

Wed 8 Oct, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.

Tues 14 Oct, 6pm. *Glebe Voices*, Blackwattle Cafe, 55 Leichhardt St Glebe.

Thurs 6 Nov, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Kathmandu Terrace Nepalese and Indian Restaurant*, 93 Glebe Point Rd.

Each Wed, 8:30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*, contact Susan Copeland on 9692 9161.

To see Glebe Society events open for booking at any time, go to  
<http://glebesociety.eventbrite.com>.

## The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

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Bulletin No.7 of 2014 (September 2014)

# The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037



Did you remember to **renew** your membership?

### Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110

### How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under ‘Membership’
- 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)



A Glebe sun shower (image: Virginia Simpson-Young)

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