



Glebe Society Bulletin

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Glebe Society endorses BPN's 'Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW' – please add your support

Glebe Society Planning Convenor Neil Macindoe reports that the Better Planning Network (BPN) has produced a *Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW* that lays down basic principles for good planning in our state.

Good planning may well be under unprecedented threat in NSW right now, as noted by the Society's new President, Ted McKeown, in this *Bulletin's* President's Column.

The Management Committee of the Glebe Society has endorsed the Charter and is asking all members and friends to do the same. The full Charter is available here: <http://thecommunitycharter.org/the-community-charter-2/>, but we have reproduced the main principles below. You can endorse the charter here: <http://thecommunitycharter.org/individuals/>.



Is this the sort of development the people want for our foreshores?

An artist's impression of developments planned for the Bays Precinct. (Image: <http://news.domain.com.au>).

Planning for People: A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW

Our vision

A planning system that thinks of both today and tomorrow; is built on fairness, equity and the concept of Ecologically Sustainable Development; guides quality development to the right places; ensures poorly designed developments and those in the wrong place don't get built; and protects the things that matter, from open spaces, bushland and productive agricultural land to much-loved historic town centres and buildings.

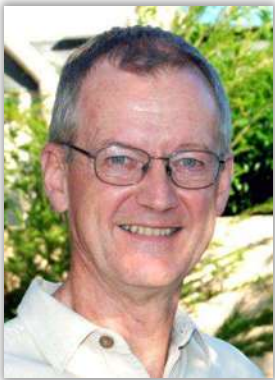
Good planning is governed by the following principles:

- the well-being of the whole community, the environment and future generations across regional, rural and urban NSW;
- effective and genuine public participation in strategic planning and development decisions;
- an open, accessible, transparent and accountable, corruption-free planning system;
- the integration of land use planning with the provision of infrastructure and the conservation of our natural, built and cultural environment; and,
- objective, evidence-based assessment of strategic planning and development proposals.

These principles will guide a planning system that:

- respects, values and conserves our natural environment and the services it provides;
- facilitates world-class urban environments with well-designed resource-efficient housing, public spaces and solar access that meet the needs of residents, workers and pedestrians;
- provides housing choice, including affordable housing and sufficient housing for the disadvantaged, in a diversity of locations;
- celebrates, respects and conserves our cultural (including Aboriginal) and built heritage;
- protects and sustainably manages our natural resources, including our water resources, fragile coastlines and irreplaceable agricultural land for the benefit of present and future generations while maintaining or enhancing ecological processes and biological diversity;
- retains and protects our crown lands, natural areas, landscapes and flora and fauna for the benefit of the people of NSW; and,
- gives local and regional communities a genuine and meaningful voice in shaping their local area and region, its character and the location, height and density of housing. Provides certainty and fairness to communities.

President's Column



Well, here we are again! It seems like yesterday, but I am reminded that I was nearly a quarter of a century younger when I last took over as President of our Society. And the Society was nearly a quarter of a century younger too, though the issues confronting Glebe were remarkably similar. Then, as now, the price of

liberty was eternal vigilance.

There is no doubt that the problems facing Glebe are driven by the same kinds of forces as they were when the Society was formed in 1969 – greed and a misplaced sense of entitlement on the part of the State Government. At least now we don't have to face a hostile Council, although how long that will last, given the new Bill to gerrymander the voting system in favour of big business and against the interests of residents, is anybody's guess. I imagine we will have to man the barricades on that issue again before too long.

Back in 1969, the issues that gave rise to the Society were the proliferation of hideous three-storey walk-ups in place of Victorian terraces, and the lunatic radial freeway proposals that would have cut Glebe into three without alleviating the traffic congestion they were meant to solve. In 2014 and 2015 I think the major issues we will have to confront are:

- the Bays Precinct 'urban renewal' spearheaded on behalf of the Government by a consortium of developers going by the name of UrbanGrowth NSW; and
- the apparent aim of the government to balance its books by selling off every public asset it can, particularly public housing, without any regard to the social upheaval it is leaving in its wake.

Community

Elsie – 40 years on yet the fight is still not won

The wet weather didn't deter more than 200 people gathering at Minogue Park, Glebe on Friday 29 August at 'high noon'. They were there to make their voices heard; voicing protests about the state government's changes to the delivery of Women's

The Government has to be made to realise that it cannot simply pay lip service to community consultation, which should be the starting point of any rational urban planning exercise – not, as the Government appears to think, a box to be ticked after the planning has been done. For this reason, the Society is right behind the Better Planning Network, and its recently released *Planning for People – A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW*. Lesley Lynch and her Bays and Foreshores Subcommittee, as well as Neil Macindoe (Planning), are driving this on the Society's behalf, but I can see a massive effort being required by us all if reason is to prevail.

Having got that off my chest, I should perhaps introduce myself to those of our members (and there is a refreshingly large number of you) who don't know me.

Alison and I came to Glebe in 1972, having joined the Society a year earlier at the suggestion of Alan and Andrea Robertson, two of the foundation members. We lived first in Albert St, Forest Lodge, then in Boyce St, moving to Glebe Point Rd 24 years ago. We both served on the Management Committee in various roles including Treasurer and *Bulletin* editor, and I was elected President in 1991. I am only the second recycled President, the other being Bernard Smith, our 'founding father' – a hard act to follow.

I practised as a solicitor in the City for over 40 years, retiring in 2008. Since then, I have kept busy with the Society, as a member of Rotary, and as a student and teacher at U3A courses.

We have three grownup sons, and three grandchildren, two in America and one here. Our Glebe granddaughter attends Forest Lodge Public School, where her father and uncles were also students – the start of a genuine Glebe dynasty!

Ted McKeown
President

Services, brought about through its 'Going Home, Staying Home' policy (GHSB). There was widespread concern by those present that the new policy could wreak devastation on the lives of vulnerable people.

'Speakout to Save Women's Refuges' was organised by the No Shelter Collective to mark the day that several Women's Refuges closed; and

from which many others will no longer be able to operate as feminist services. In Glebe, the state government has transferred management of the first women's refuge, *Elsie* (1974) to St Vincent De Paul. All staff have been made redundant. Other Women's Services that will no longer operate as independent feminist services include *Delvena* on the North Shore, *Dolores* in Bondi, *Marcia's* in Campbelltown and others in Moruya, Bourke, Bega, Taree, Tweed Heads, Wagga Wagga and Forbes.

Over twenty people expressed their deep-seated anguish at the loss to women's well-being that could result for the GSH policy. One speaker, Christina, was a member of the original collective that occupied premises in Westmoreland St and founded *Elsie* as a safe haven for women fleeing domestic violence. Christina painted a grim picture, and one that no-one wishes to see revisited. Christine Bird of the No Shelter Collective reiterated that 87% of people seeking these Women's Services were survivors of domestic violence.

Lola, formerly a volunteer at the Tempe Refuge, gave a migrant woman's perspective. Coming largely from male-dominated, conservative communities, 'they don't have a choice', she said. Other speakers included survivors of domestic violence who'd used the services, indigenous women with children who'd depended on those services and workers whose skills would now be unavailable to women at risk. Speaker after speaker identified the difficulties women seeking help and safety may face in the future under the GSH changes.

Support for the calls to the state government to reinstate funding to women's services also came from the Australian Services Union. Assistant Secretary Elaina characterised funding cuts to Women's Services as an aspect of a conservative political agenda that aims to reduce expenditure on human services. Further political support for Speakout was vocalised by Jamie Parker, the Green member for Balmain, who stated there was a need to defend Women's Services in order to 'move forward as a country'. Verity Firth, our endorsed Labor candidate, observed the inequity that may result – inequities seemingly overcome since that great year of action, 1974 – and gains which must not be lost. The attendance by Linda Burney, the Shadow Minister, also attested to the importance of the issue. Wendy Bacon recognised that there is a public right for women and children to be safe.

Eva Cox, while noting that the general trend of larger organisations 'eating up' smaller ones was not confined to the services sector, stressed the need for clear demands to be made if successful outcomes were to eventuate. Eva Cox said that it is essential to 'differentiate between 'Women's Services' and 'Services for Women'; the difference being that 'Women's Services' are services run by women, with women's welfare the prime consideration. She opined that funding must be restored and the management of these services returned to Human Services.

Further changes to services are scheduled for 31 October, at which time more action to protest the changes will be made. Future action could take the form of a sit-in or occupation of premises due to be closed. This will be determined by discussion amongst the No Shelter Collective but whatever its form, until women's services funding is fully reinstated and the range and availability of the services strengthened to answer the specific needs of women at risk the wound will continue to fester.

Can you lend your voice to right this wrong?

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community



An Elsie founder, Christina, rues recent changes. (Image: Janice Challinor).

40th anniversary of the Glebe Estate – Official celebrations 10 October

Community interest continues in the 40th Anniversary of the *Glebe Lands (Appropriation) Act (1974)* and the Park (corner of Catherine St and Mt Vernon St) which commemorates the salvation of the Glebe Estate. The park was recently mown by a generous but unidentified member of the public, just in time for the anniversary day on 6 August. Other community members 'yarn bombed' the trees in the park several days prior to that date to raise awareness. Unfortunately an unknown

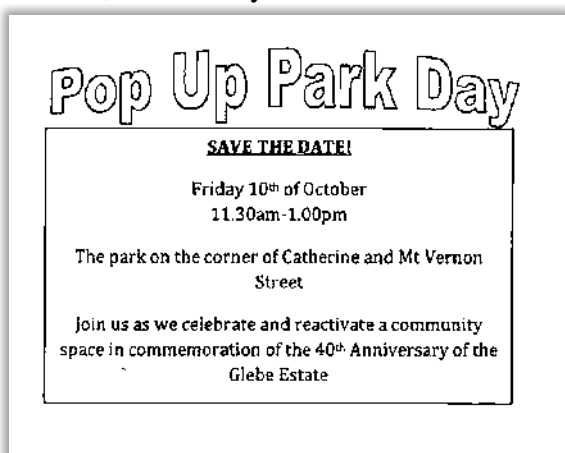
person saw fit to remove this colourful reminder the day prior to the anniversary; although a trace of yarn bombing remains.

Despite this curmudgeonly act community impetus to celebrate has continued. On Friday 10 October (International Tenants Day), we citizens of a wonderfully diverse and valued suburb have the opportunity to meet and mingle with our neighbours in celebrating a significant event for Glebe. It will be at the 40th Anniversary celebration morning tea at the Tom Uren Park, to be held between 10 and 11.30 am that day. The park is located on the corner of Catherine St and Mount Vernon St, Glebe. The winners of the Glebe Community Photography competition will be announced and refreshments will be served. This celebration is open to all comers.

So make haste into the streets of Glebe to capture your favourite image of life in Glebe, and email it together with an entry form to 40yearsglebe@gmail.com by 3 October. Entry forms are available at Glebe Library, the Old Fire Station and the Glebe Town Hall. They are also available at the Glebe Community Development Project's Facebook page. Happy snapping!

So if you would like to show your support for the work of Tom Uren in his successful 1974 efforts to save the Glebe Estate for public housing, and to join community members in reflecting on its significance to our present day environment, please join us for a cuppa on the 10th!

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community



Glebe Ambassador Project

At the March Management Committee meeting 2013, Ally de Pree Raghavan (Glebe Community Development Project) and Kate Brennan (Glebe Schools Community Centre) presented a proposal for grant application assistance from volunteer

Glebe Society members to act as ambassadors. Three members took up the option to assist. Here is a story from one member, Geraldine Barnes.



I was unsure of what to expect after an encounter on Glebe Point Rd 12 months ago with Jan Wilson, who told me about the Glebe Society's new Ambassador Program. Would I, she asked, be interested in turning a lifetime of applying for research grants to ambassadorial use for the Society on behalf of the Glebe Schools Community Centre? Any doubts I might have had about my eager acceptance of the role were put to rest at my first meeting with the Centre's dynamic and resourceful Facilitator, Kate Brennan, who briefed me on its wide range of initiatives to support and develop educational capacity, cultural awareness, and life skills in young children in the Glebe area. Funding opportunities are limited, and the capacity of Kate and her team to mount a successful program package of this scope is extraordinarily impressive.

In the forefront of the Centre's programs is the Glebe Kidz Club, a Monday afternoon group which meets the need for affordable after-school activities for children in the Glebe area. The Club was launched in 2011 with an \$8000 Matching Grant from the City of Sydney and enjoys free use of the St John's Centre and some staffing assistance by the St John's Aboriginal youth worker. Mothers provide the Kidz Club afternoon tea on a rostered basis – fresh fruit, nutritious sandwiches, and sugar-free fruit juice – and Club members participate in workshops and activities ranging from arts and crafts to digital skills, indoor/outdoor games, and local excursions.

A couple of visits to the Kidz Club showed me just how it could be done, with a modest budget and pitching in by parents and volunteers. Parents I spoke to, who come from a diversity of backgrounds, commented on how its relaxed and undemanding structure particularly benefits children with learning and social difficulties by the opportunity to interact with their peers in a more comfortable 'out of school' environment.

A just announced grant from ClubsNSW, along with support from the Glebe Public School and St. James Primary, will keep the local school bus running for another year. This service is essential for children in the Glebe Estate and surrounding areas whose families have difficulty in getting their kids to school. It also makes it possible for them to

arrive in time to take advantage of Centipede's Good Start Breakfast Club, onsite at the Glebe Public School, and to begin the school day with the necessary energy to focus on learning.

Proposals currently on the funding wish list include a junior version of the Redfern Gamarada ('Comrades' in the Gadigal language) Men's Self-Growth Program and bus driver training for Community Centre staff.

My introduction to the work of the Glebe Schools Community Centre over this last year has been a wonderful process of learning about and understanding the needs of local children and how community collaboration, cooperation — and the ongoing challenge of successfully matching project applications with the most appropriate funding sources can help to fulfil them. As Kate Brennan recently commented to me, 'the strength of the Ambassador program is its ability to be long term

History & Heritage

'From the Terraces' by Liz Simpson-Booker: A Column about Columns

Do you remember your gasps of amazement when you first saw the Parthenon in Athens with its fluted columns or the tiers of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns of the Colosseum in Rome?

On reflection, it would seem that half of Europe's precious treasures are held up by columns which owe their style to the Classical Orders of architecture: the simple Doric, the scrolling capital of the Ionic and the 'feminine' Corinthian with its acanthus decoration. These detached, slender, vertical load-bearing elements, circular in cross-section can, in the hands of an inspired architect, play with perceptions of space, create a sense of order and impose an atmosphere of grandeur.

One is struck by the sense of harmony created by the simple Doric columns of Bramante's exquisite *Tempietto san Pietro* in Rome; by the majesty and enfolding arcs of Bernini's Doric colonnade at St Peter's; by the elegance of Palladio's Ionic supports for the pediments of *Villa Rotunda* in Vicenza; and by the breathtaking geometry of the paired Corinthian columns on the portico of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

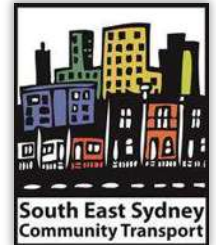
Thudding to earth from these dizzying heights and closer to home, column-spotting in Glebe can yield a surprising number in the neo-Classical mould, albeit in a slightly more modest context. The obvious candidates are the front entrance of the newly restored Glebe Town Hall which is supported by paired Corinthian columns. The old Glebe Post Office has sturdy paired Doric columns

as the ambassadors learn more about the services and are able to more succinctly articulate the needs of the community and good fit of programs.'

Geraldine Barnes

South East Sydney Community Transport

South East Sydney Community Transport is a not-for-profit community organisation based in Ultimo which services local residents in Glebe. It provides a free shuttle bus service every Thursday and Friday that operates from Redfern through to Glebe and is funded by the City of Sydney Council. For more information, go to <http://www.sesct.org.au/> or call Frances Lim on 8241 8000.



forming the loggia. Domestic Doric, either as full height columns or as colonnettes, is also in evidence.

Such columns are typically made of stone, brick, concrete or stucco. However perfect we may think the Classical Orders to be, the column has of necessity evolved with technological changes. In the 19th century cast-iron columns became common in domestic architecture.

There are many examples in Glebe of very slender, round cast-iron columns, often with moulded low-relief patterns, sometimes geometric, sometimes with trailing floral motifs on their shafts. These use a small neo-Corinthian capital which sits below the adjoining decorative cast-iron brackets. Unhappily, there are many instances (eg, *Benledi*) where the cast iron brackets and valances have been removed, leaving the capital adrift from its decorative and connective functions and marooned, apparently inexplicably, part-way down the column.

There are also many examples in Glebe of the elegant grille or plate column which is a thin, flat, decorated support of cast or wrought iron. These grille columns create a perfect linear conjunction with decorative cast iron brackets (corners), valances (or fringes) and balustrades. Grille columns create an airy lightness and also add to the delightful play of patterns and shadows that can be seen on verandahs and balconies as the sun moves across the sky.

Bidura (357 Glebe Point Rd), *Tranby* (13 Mansfield St) and *Margaretta Cottage* (6 Leichhardt St) show the grille column to advantage, as do *Montrose* (20 Glebe Point Rd) and the former *Atelier* site nearby. A stroll along Derwent St and Arundel St will also provide delightful examples of the grille column.

Perhaps piers, pilasters, pillars and posts might be the subject of a column for the future...

Liz Simpson-Booker
 Convenor, Heritage



Grille columns, Tranby (image: Glebe Society)

Centenary of World War I

Book by Glebe Society member: 'Glebe and the Great War'

A Glebe Society member, Rod Holtham, has authored a booklet called *Glebe and the Great War* which is now available at the Glebe Library. The booklet contains an extensive list of those from Glebe who served in WWI, complete with their regimental numbers, so those interested can follow up the full details through the National Archives database or the Australian War Memorial website.



A detail from the cover of Rod Holtham's *Glebe and the Great War*, depicting Chateau Wood Ypres in 1917 (Image: Frank Hurley, former student of Glebe Public School)

Remembrance Day in Glebe

World War I Centenary: In this special year, members and friends are warmly invited to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held at the Glebe Diggers Memorial on Tues 11 Nov 2014 at 10.45am.

Red poppies will be available (gold coin donation appreciated).

Liz Simpson-Booker
 Convenor, Heritage



Glebe war memorial: detail of trachyte entry and the marble angel (image: <http://www.icssydney.com.au/>)

'Who lived in your street?' by Lyn Collingwood

Edwin Randolph Magnus (1861-1931) and Lilian Magnus (1865-1941)

The recent proposal to remove the giant magnolia at *Hartford* 244 Glebe Point Rd aroused my interest in one of Glebe's most distinctive mansions, and the man who named it after his birthplace.

Hartford on the subdivided Toxteth Estate was built for dentist E Randolph Magnus (his preferred name), the driving force behind the establishment of Sydney's Dental Hospital. In 1898 Edwin, his wife Lilian, their three young sons and Lilian's widowed mother Elizabeth Gillam moved to Glebe

from single-storey *Lingwood*, presumably named after the area in London where Lilian was born and now part of Meriden School Strathfield.

'Scottish Baronial' *Hartford's* features included multiple public rooms, two bathrooms, five bedrooms plus a nursery and servants' quarters (Protestant 'help' included a housemaid, general servant, parlour maid, cook and laundress). During the Magnus family's occupancy gardens and lawns were established, a conservatory and bush house

built, and a croquet court laid out. An adjoining allotment fronting Allen St – big enough for tennis courts, stables or a cricket pitch – was not developed.

Edwin Magnus was born in *Hartford*, Connecticut. After graduating DDS from the Philadelphia Dental College, he had by 1891 set up practice in Sydney where in 1894 he married Lilian Watson, mother of Edward Oliver (1887-1952). Rudolph Piercey (1895-1958) and Alexander Noel (1896-1967) were born at Strathfield; their sisters Eugenie ‘Gene’ Lilian Florence (1899-1977) and Sylvia Elizabeth Mary (1904-73) at Glebe.

After the passing on 1 Jan 1901 of the Dentists Act allowing for dental practitioners to be licensed in Australia, the country’s first dental school was established by the University of Sydney in rented city premises. Most of its teachers had been trained in Philadelphia. In Sept 1901 Edwin and his younger brother Frank Douglas became core members of a committee to establish a dental hospital providing free care to those who could not afford it. Within a month they had received donations of two dental chairs and a vulcaniser, and a subcommittee had begun organising fundraising balls and theatricals, with a list of subscribers (including Glebe’s George Boyce Allen).

The dental hospital idea was controversial. Some saw it as of particular benefit to the poor who couldn’t afford to pick and choose their foods. Some hoped it would increase numbers in the armed forces — volunteers were rejected because their teeth were bad and with bad teeth they couldn’t eat battlefield food. Others saw the hospital as a threat to those in private practice: a service at RPA Hospital was abused by people who could afford to pay something, and there were dentists who pulled out teeth for nothing or a nominal charge. To those who said the enterprise was a waste of taxpayers’ money Edwin responded that it was a charity. He told the parliamentarian who claimed dental students would be given free rein to practise on people that only qualified dentists would treat patients.

On 17 Oct 1902 the hospital was officially opened by the governor who was taken by Edwin on a tour of its four rooms on the first floor of 219 Elizabeth St. Three days later the first patient was seen. Within its first two years the hospital treated over 12,000 people, mostly with extractions and fillings. A decade later these were still the most common procedures; a few facial restorations were undertaken.



Magnus in the original four-room dental hospital ca 1902 (image: Report of United Dental Hospital 1903)

Edwin, inventor of several dental appliances, was the United Dental Hospital’s chief honorary dental surgeon, President and Life Governor in its formative years. By 1912, when it was relocated to Chalmers St, he was dealing with ongoing problems of finances and changing staff. Temporary financial relief was obtained with a one-off government grant plus matched public/private moneys.

A fellow oral surgeon at the hospital and councillor with the NSW Odontological Society was Edwin’s brother Frank who had also trained in the USA. Frank’s son Everett in turn became an honorary dental surgeon at the Dental Hospital and at RPA (but his chief claim to fame was as chief forensic witness in the sensational ‘Pyjama Girl’ case. He identified the victim – preserved in a formalin bath for a decade – from the composition and location of her seven fillings). Edwin’s brother-in-law George Louis Gillam was the Dental Hospital’s Secretary.

In 1915 Edwin attended a dental congress in San Francisco in connection with the Panama World’s Exposition. In the same year the first of his sons went to war. In July medical student Rudolph embarked on the hospital ship *Karoola*; in April 1916 Alexander, also a medical student, left with the light horse field ambulance; and in June 1916 Edward Oliver Watson (who had graduated in dentistry from Sydney University in 1909 and was in practice with his stepfather at *Wyoming* Macquarie St) went to the Front with the Army Medical Corps’ dental unit, leaving behind his new

bride Hazel Fraser née Fry. Alexander returned to Australia in Nov 1917 and resumed his studies at Sydney University, graduating ChM MB in 1923. Captain Watson, mentioned in despatches, returned in Oct 1918. Rudolph, a sergeant, was seriously injured in France in 1917 but also made his way back home.

‘Artistic modern residence’ *Hartford* together with its contents was put up for auction in 1907 but not sold until ca 1909. The Magnus family then lived in their new *Lingwood* — a landmark building at Chatswood until fire swept through it in 1914. They were at Elizabeth Bay before (apart from Edward Watson who stayed in Sydney and ‘Gene’ who moved to New York) settling in Western Australia where Rudolph and Alexander became prominent

medical practitioners and Sylvia married surgeon Eric Kyle. E Randolph Magnus died at Perth on 9 Dec 1931; his widow on died 27 Feb 1941 at Bassendean.

The story of *Hartford*’s second owners – who lived there for four decades – will be told in the next *Bulletin*.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: Cooke, Anne *Visions of Parnassus: Meriden’s First 100 Years* 1997; *The Dental Hospital of Sydney* 1903; NSW electoral rolls; NSW births, deaths, marriage online registry; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues; United Dental Hospital of Sydney *Report* 1903, *Annual Report* 1912-14; University of Sydney alumni website; *West Australian* 11 Dec 1931.

Events

Glebe Voices

Coming Up: A Summer Evening by the Water - Mira Crouch at the Blackwattle Café

Now that the clocks are going forward, the next *Glebe Voices* session has been scheduled to take advantage of summer evenings at the delightful Blackwattle Cafe on the waterfront at Glebe.

Mira Crouch, a long-time Glebe resident, will discuss the question *Is the Past Another Country?* based on her experiences of Sydney in the 1950s and offer a fresh view of a pivotal period in our history. This decade was crucial for Mira as she began her transition from *alien* to *citizen*. Her highly personal reminiscences of those early years as a New Australian will draw on her latest book *Almost Home*.

Come and take a journey into our past as seen through a newcomer’s eyes. Comments and questions will be most welcome.

Blackwattle Cafe (*Bellevue* in Blackwattle Bay Park), 55, Leichhardt St Glebe.

Tuesday October 14 at 6.00 pm. Free entry but attendees are encouraged to order from the choice of light meals and beverages available.

Contact: browne.mairead@gmail.com.



Report on August Glebe Voices: Martin Lawrence on the UN Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

On an exceptionally wet evening we had a most enlightening address from Martin Lawrence who, given his research knowledge on ocean acoustics, was asked in 1994 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to assist with a technical matter related to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Travel to Geneva was mooted - an opportunity that he ‘jumped at’ and which led in a few months to him being made chairman of the group of experts working out what was needed to monitor the oceans. Subsequently, when Vienna was chosen as headquarters for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation he was offered the job of managing the ocean part of the monitoring network.

Martin described the monitoring methods, and the other uses of monitoring such as tsunami warning. He gave us insights into the negotiations behind the treaty – which countries were involved, and which are signatories.

Many questions were provoked by this interesting and informative talk, ranging from data retention to isolating the source of signals; Martin could have been kept on his feet answering questions well beyond closing time.

Our thanks go to Yuga Café for hosting this event.

Carole Herriman

'One Vote One Value' Rally

Rain did not deter them! Hundreds of people, amongst them familiar Glebian faces, rallied in Town Hall Square on Saturday 6 September to protest against the proposed bill concerning council voting amendments that the Shooters and Fishers Party are sponsoring.

While only a limited number were able to gain entry to the Town Hall room to which the rally was shifted at the last minute due to the weather, the mood was one of unity of purpose; to prevent the amendment which could lead to significant disenfranchisement in terms of an individual vote's value.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore, Sydney's Independent MP Alex Greenwich, and NSW Opposition Leader John Robertson were numbered amongst a range of business, union, local government, political and community representatives who addressed the crowd. Just as the weather cleared as the morning progressed, so it appeared did the resolve of the community to defeat this proposal, which is being seen as another step in the current conservative political climate of NSW.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community



Verity Firth and Cr Linda Scott (Image: Janice Challinor).

'Glebe Grunge and Glory': Garage sale supports Friends of Centipede

'Glebe Grunge and Glory' is the title of the garage sale event being jointly held by the Glebe Society and the Glebe Justice Centre on Saturday 25 October 10am to 3pm as part of the Australia-wide Garage Sale Trail. Our event will be held at the Glebe Justice Centre, 37-47 St Johns Rd.

You can find us on the Garage Sale Trail website at <https://www.garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/glebe-grunge-and-glory>

How can you help?

De-clutter your home and offer your pre-loved household items for sale or donation, or volunteer to help out for one hour on the day. Contact Jan Macindoe, 9660 0208 or macindoe@bigpond.net.au

Sellers are being asked to make a donation to Friends of Centipede and support an important local service.

About Centipede

Suzy Velkou, from Centipede, provides some background:

Centipede is a not for profit Before and After School Care Centre for children attending Glebe Public School. Approximately 70% of the children attending Centipede live on the Glebe public housing estate and many of them live in families who are totally dependent on Centrelink for their income – with the corresponding poverty meaning hardship for many of the children who come to Centipede. Access to fresh food, holidays, sporting teams, and just being able to experience life outside Glebe are not readily available to these children. Centipede does a fantastic job of caring, nurturing and helping these children to live positive lives, to believe that education is a vital part of their growing up and that they can do anything they put their minds to.

Friends of Centipede is the fundraising arm of Centipede and strives to enhance the Centre's minimal budget through raising awareness of Centipede and its many activities for the children who attend.

Jan Macindoe
Convenor, Environment



Thirsty Thursdays

Glebe Society 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 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 2 Oct at 7pm we will go to *Brixton*, 95-97 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thurs 6 Nov at 7pm we will go to *Kathmandu Terrace* Nepalese and Indian Restaurant, next door at 93 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thurs 4 Dec at 7pm we will go to Tommy's Beer Cafe, 123 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

Players in the pub

Next in our popular series of playreadings at the Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd / Forest St, Forest Lodge is *The Magistrate*; a farce by Arthur Wing Pinero directed by Lyn Collingwood.



Monday 20 Oct, 7pm. Free admission. The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please try to order food as early as possible ~ we always start on time!

Lyn Collingwood

Reports to Annual General Meeting

Outgoing President's Report

Our outgoing President, John Gray, gave this inspiring address to the AGM in August.

At this AGM I will argue that the Glebe Society faces challenges as great as when Askin chose Glebe as the site for a motorway. But the Glebe Society is now better prepared to turn them into opportunities. Today's report won't be used for detailed recapping of what we have done during the year, for I have reported these matters monthly on our website and in our *Bulletin* as well as all significant correspondence and minutes.

As I prepared for the AGM I read reviews of books by Bob Brown, Paul Kelly and Mark Latham. Though Brown's was more personal than the others I found that I agreed with their consistent diagnosis of the community's problems. They recognise that people do not trust political parties, are sick of news cycle politics and detest venality.

I do not agree with their solutions. Latham prescribes less government and more experts. Kelly seeks a charismatic leader, civil politics and reasonable media. Brown no more than hints that the community may have the answer. I am going to extend the inference from the last of these, in a realistic way. I am for strong community engagement and non-aligned political influence. You know, we have done well with our community campaigns, learning from each and adapting for the next. To illustrate this let's look at an almost completed development, Harold Park; and a yet to begin development, *Bidura*.

Yes, as I look at the Harold Park Development I see a lost opportunity for truly innovative design. I see high towers and architectural mediocrity. But I also see that we had a real effect on ameliorating the worst effects. How? The Glebe Society held public meetings, consulted widely and influentially. There

were real threats that the Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, may have called it in as a state significant development and then..... who knows what may have happened. But the Glebe Society involved the community, which was strong, the City was strong and our local member was strong. The community gained much green open space and the Society talked with the developer and argued variations before Council as matters progressed. Is it ideal? **No, far from it.** Is it much better than it would have been had The Glebe Society not engaged the community. **Too right.**

Recently the state government announced it would sell the *Bidura* site on Glebe Point Rd. This is a significant Heritage property with a large, brutalist concrete, court and detention centre behind it. Are you confident that the community will be properly consulted, that heritage will be protected, that there will not be over development in this heritage precinct? If you are confident, then you were not watching closely as Millers Point was sold off with neither economic modelling nor effective social needs analysis and in direct nullification of a heritage order. You were not watching whilst a Bill was prepared for the NSW Parliament that will diminish the worth of each resident's vote in the City of Sydney.

The privileging and the protection of market interests accelerate. We are no longer surprised when the ICAC reveals yet another case, in which the political and business classes see corruption as a rule of the game. We hope investigative journalists will do the work we pay our Parliaments to do at the same time as we see market interests cut back their capacity to do so. We ruefully suspect that developers run this state.

'Things are crook in Tallarook, And also in Sydney town!'

What can be done when the community is 'officially consulted' about new planning laws, then ignored by the NSW government? What can be done when the community is simply ignored about the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project? What can be done when the heritage precinct of Millers Point and its deserving people are violated? What can be done when commercial votes become more than twice the value of your vote as a resident? What can be done when we are consistently Barrangaroo'ed?

As Brown, Kelly and Latham recognise we increasingly live in a [network society](#) – directly connected by technology but increasingly hollowed out; as loyalty to public institutions declines and power becomes asymmetrical.

It is by using this network society that we determine 'What can be done?' By doing so we will demonstrate how political institutions must be remade. Three realist propositions are necessary. We must:

- use our technology cleverly,
- use our influence with the political power structure,
- use our experience in campaigns beyond postcode 2037 and learn more.

Technology enables very rapid communication, which is unfiltered by professional politics or media. Groups rally around causes and make a new civic society. This is happening globally as memberships of political institutions decline and community based-movements increase. But does it gain results?

It is working for Glebe. In the last year in NSW we saw an unjust planning bill rejected because people engaged, used technology and formed a network. This ensured that community consultation and environmental principles would not be sacrificed for economic growth. We placed sufficient pressure on our political institutions to gain withdrawal of the Bill. Delay may be the only tactic when power is uneven.

The demand for remaking political institutions is yet dimly heard so we must be clear headed and doggedly persistent in our actions. The NSW Government did not learn from its planning experience; rather it seethes at our interference in **its** game. We need political institutions but they are **our** institutions. **We make them.** Ignore injustice and corruption and it becomes institutionalised.

What can be done? It starts locally and it starts with us.

Consider this challenge. The biggest urban redevelopment project in Australia will occur in our own Bays Precinct. Eighty hectares of public land and foreshores will be developed. The task is entrusted to the Urban Growth Corporation, chaired by John Brogden with four developers on its Board. The Premier has announced an Experts' Summit in November and that the people will be told in February of its outcome. This is an obviously flawed plan. It treats us as dopes. I cannot imagine what any planning expert will say when told, 'The community has not been consulted. You determine what it will get'.

Consider this opportunity. Community organisations like The Glebe Society will band together in a broad network and set out principles, aims and needs. Sydney is a world city and given proper community engagement it will ensure that this development is a world ideal in proper process and innovative outcomes. We learned how to do this during our planning bill campaign, in which our network set out planning principles and now a consultation charter. The community will not wait to be told by the Experts what we need. It will have consulted widely and with experts on successful processes. It will have met. The City of Sydney has responded to the community request and will financially support a People's Summit before any Experts' Summit. The Experts' Summit can learn from it and work with it to gain a result Australia will be proud of. This campaign is moving so rapidly I have asked Lesley Lynch to speak about it at today's meeting. But already it is shaping as fulfilling the three realist propositions I set out. The Glebe Society used its excellent technology to get people to a public meeting, used its influence with City of Sydney and Leichhardt Municipal Council, one of our most experienced campaigners is working with groups around the Bays suburbs and beyond.

What are we doing?

Everything we do now is based on the imperatives of engaging with community and networking widely. It is now the way we do things.

After extensive consultation and member involvement The Glebe Society adopted its [Strategy 2013-2019: Engaging Glebe](#). Our engagement has interweaving skeins: our membership, Glebe community, neighbouring communities (such as the Bays suburbs), neighbouring institutions (such as University of Sydney, the City of Sydney), similar interest groups

(such as RedWatch, National Trust) and statewide groups (such as the Better Planning Network). These sorts of broad ranging relationships work because of good hard working people with good organising capacity and a sense of ethical professionalism. The Glebe Society has earned such a reputation, guards it ferociously and acts strategically. Each of us can do a bit and encourage others to do a bit. Share [Strategy 2013-2019: Engaging Glebe](#) freely. People do not have to be members to realise that communities must stick together.

In considering our achievements for 2013/2014 this strategy is foremost. To make it work we have done a series of little things from which big things grow.

Our communications are more direct, immediate and involving. Check out our [Website](#), our [Facebook](#) and our [Twitter](#). You can find the terms of reference for each subcommittee, all policies, activities, affiliates, campaigns, correspondence, minutes, *Bulletins*. Anyone can access these and I ask you to encourage non-members to do so. We are proud of our work and confident that this sort of engagement serves us well.

By working in the Better Planning Network, lobbying politicians and publishing our views, the Glebe Society has seen the new planning legislation defeated. This remarkable example of community engagement rose up in less than eight months from a vanguard of eight to over 450 agency members. Make no mistake, the legislation would have taken away most community consultation, seriously threatened our heritage and predicated our planning law on the values of the market and economic growth. All of these are inimical to our constitutional aims. We therefore invested people and money in this campaign. We got a result. It is not over, but we have learned how to do even better, next campaign.

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation evicted the Glebe Youth Service (GYS) just before Christmas 2013. Glebe rallied and The Glebe Society was proud to work with all of Glebe to point out how significant GYS is to Glebe's community. GYS is back with improved premises but difficult leasing arrangements. The Corporation revealed its lack of appreciation of how Glebe works.

Of course the Corporation is not alone in its 'one size fits all' approach. Most Government agencies fund, allocate, run and dispose of programs without deep knowledge of our community. But Glebe is well organised and it is not beyond our capability to produce evidence of Glebe's needs and capacities.

The Glebe Society is working with other Glebe agencies and the neighbouring universities on this matter. It is strategically imperative that our institutional neighbours work with us so that learning, research and community enhancement eventuate. We have ongoing projects with University Deans, community agencies and others concerning these matters.



(Image: <http://www.sbs.com.au/>).

The Society has prepared a first class request to the Federal Government for funding for a World War I Community History Project. It will use this magnificent Glebe Town Hall to display the effects of the War on Glebe. We should hear the outcome within months.

We instigated the Glebe Island Bridge Celebration Project. The National Trust, City of Sydney, Leichhardt Municipal Council and The Glebe Society propose that the Glebe Island Bridge remain closed for several hours on an appropriate weekend so that the community can walk upon it, celebrate its heritage and recognise its significance as a transport link between the City and the North West. Negotiations continue with Roads and Maritime Services.

The Glebe Society is remarkable. Its work is professional, measured and influential. Its constitutional aims can be distilled down to: protect heritage, environment and community of Glebe. Our individual members quietly get on with work in the community. They are not always wearing their Glebe Society hats but they do us credit nonetheless. Tom Uren Pop-Up Park was recently cleaned up. Peter Robinson compiled a database of all the plaques in Glebe, which we share on our web. Our Ambassadors work with community agencies helping with grant applications and advice. Our subcommittees produce submissions, reports and, correspondence and get things done. Our officers ensure that governance and finance are sound. Our management committee keeps us working towards agreed strategy. Let's not forget

our Events group, Editor, Web Coordinator, Facebooker, Chief Tweeter. I want to thank all those people who make The Glebe Society what it is.

As President you don't run The Glebe Society, you run after it. I am proud to have been in the race. Thank you.

John Gray, 31 Aug 2014

Bays & Foreshores – Annual Report

The last two Bulletins included annual reports from subcommittees. Here is the final annual report – from Bays and Foreshores convenor, Lesley Lynch.

Glebe Society activity relating to the Bays and Foreshores over the last 12 months has again been inextricably linked with wider developments as well as local activities.

- On a positive note, this year has seen considerable progress on the long awaited extension of the **foreshore walk around Blackwattle Bay to Bridge Rd.**
- On a more mixed note, we are seeing a major **transformation of Rozelle Bay.** The combined on and off shore facilities for super yachts and power boats are being built and their impact on the Bay is becoming visible. The approvals for these developments were won by their proponents in past years and the best we can say is that we helped impose some constraints on the initial proposals.
- The first of the **dry boat storage buildings** is well under way and will be completed soon. It will hold 300 power boats and is a bald and uninspiring addition to the foreshore. There will eventually be a second building to accommodate another 400 boats.
- The Glebe Society and local residents managed to get some changes to the proposals for the extensive land based developments associated with the **Super Yacht Marina.** The proposals went well beyond the nominal description of a maritime activity and were akin to a commercial licensed club with extensive entertainment facilities.
- In November 2013 we tried again to constrain some aspects of this development with a last minute, detailed submission (plea) to the Planning Assessment Committee (PAC). To no effect. This development is proceeding – albeit slowly – and will have considerable negative noise impact on the nearby residents and park users. The floating marina will have capacity for 36 berths – well beyond the original approval for 15. Not much is yet visible, but the huge and complex (because of the need for deep water pylons) base slab has been laid.
- The PAC required the proponents to establish a **Super Yachts Marina Community Liaison Committee** and the Glebe Society was invited to participate in it. After some hesitation, we

joined in January 2014 in the hope that we would access useful information around the construction and ensure that the development stayed within its approved parameters. It has only met once since then. Some useful information was provided by a consultant. I doubt that it serves much purpose at all.



(Image: <http://www.superyachtmarina.com.au/>).

- In the longer term, our focus will be on ensuring that construction does not breach any of the approvals and that, once in operation, such controls as we achieved on operating hours and noise levels are respected.
- There have been several further sallies in the ongoing debate over the future of **Glebe Island Bridge (GIB).** In September 2013 Transport NSW published a cost benefit analysis of options for GIB by ACIL Allen Consulting. We responded with a deserved demolition of the narrow parameters and methodology of the report which failed to deliver on the Bays Precinct taskforce recommendation for a comprehensive review. We heard no more, but can be certain this report lives on in Transport and will surface again as justification for the long planned demolition of GIB. Support for adaptive reuse is strong – including from both Councils.

The Bays Precinct Saga

- Given ongoing inaction from the Government on the Bays Precinct Taskforce recommendations and the invisibility of the announced 'Implementation Committee', our major focus for the first part of the year was on monitoring and registering our in-principle opposition to unsolicited development

proposals for large parts of the Blackwattle Bay foreshores – including the Fish Markets. The oft-floated FishBank proposal morphed into a larger unsolicited proposal ‘Destination Blackwattle’ in alliance with the Elias group and supported by lobbyists with close connection to Government. Our understanding is that this – and maybe other unsolicited proposals – has gained some government support.

- In July 2014 the new Premier and Minister for Planning announced **the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project (BPURP)** to be run by UrbanGrowth NSW. While pleased at the decision to develop the long argued for strategic plan for all (as it turned out, ‘some’) of the BP, we were outraged at the exclusion of the community from the front end of the process.
- With colleagues from Pyrmont and Balmain, we called a public meeting to defend the public interest in the renewal process. It was hugely successful and endorsed strong resolutions including principles to protect the public interest, a demand for community representation at the November ‘Experts Summit’, a ‘People’s Summit’ and a Sydney-wide campaign.
- Both City of Sydney and Leichhardt Councils were approached and have supported the resolutions, as has our MP Jamie Parker and the member for Sydney (Alex Greenwich) in Parliament; and Verity Firth got the ALP NSW conference to endorse the principles. City of Sydney has committed considerable resources to assisting us convene the People’s Summit and generating supporting academic input.
- We have written a strong letter to the Premier and Minister for Planning and await their response. Urban Growth responded and we have had a constructive meeting with the CEO

and senior staff. **This has resulted in a commitment to invite 20 community representatives to the ‘Expert’s Summit’.**

- We have met with the Urbanism Discipline Group at University of Sydney to plan collaborative work for the Summit. This will include an interactive web discussion platform.
- This week we were surprised by a new announcement from the Premier and the Minister for Planning setting up a high powered committee to develop a strategic vision for the harbour foreshores from the Bays Precinct to the Royal Botanic Gardens. This made no reference to the UrbanGrowth Bays project. It seems Urban Growth were not aware of this development. We are still trying to unravel the implications of this new body for the Bays Precinct project.
- Our immediate focus is development of a campaign alliance – within the Bays Precinct community and more widely across Sydney – to influence this project and seize the opportunity to make it an exemplar ‘for the restoration of integrity, transparency, community engagement and respect for, and proper protection of, the public interest into NSW’s planning and development processes’. (letter to Premier)
- A people’s summit will be held – either before or after the Government’s Expert’s Summit.
- The Glebe Society website will be a central information portal for this campaign.
- This campaign is hugely important. It cannot be run successfully by the Glebe Society, nor the collective Bays Precinct communities. We must have the kind of reach and muscle that was drawn together in the campaigns to block the expressway and to save the Glebe Estate. The Glebe Society is well situated to play an influential role.

Lesley Lynch

Convenor, Bays and Foreshores

Do we have your email address?

Each month a brief email is sent to all members with breaking news about issues that are of interest to members. It includes items that arrived too late for the previous *Bulletin*, advance notice of coming events, as well as updated information on important issues that the Glebe Society is working on. It also includes links to the Minutes of the most recent monthly meeting of the Management Committee, and the latest colour edition of the *Bulletin*. If we don't have your email address, send an email to secretary@glebesociety.org.au or call Carole on (02) 9571 9092. As an additional service to members who have Joint or Household memberships, we are happy to record multiple email addresses so that emails can be addressed individually to each member of a household.

Also, if you would like to join the growing number of members who choose to save trees and receive their *Bulletins* by email only, please let Carole know.



For Your Calendar

Thurs 2 Oct, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Brixton*, 95-97 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wed 8 Oct, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Fri 10 Oct, 11:30am, *Pop Up Park Day*. Park on corner of Catherine St and Mt Vernon St.
 Tues 14 Oct, 6pm. Glebe Voices: *Is the Past Another Country*. Blackwattle Cafe, 55 Leichhardt St Glebe.
 Sun 19 Oct, 10am-4pm. *Big Fun in a Little Forest*. Forest Lodge School Fair
 Mon 20 Oct, 7pm. Players in the Pub: *The Magistrate*. Roxbury Hotel, St John's Rd
 Sat 25 Oct, 10am-3pm. *Garage Sale Trail: Glebe Grunge and Glory*. Glebe Justice Centre, 37 - 47 St Johns Rd
 Thurs 6 Nov, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Kathmandu Terrace Nepalese and Indian Restaurant*, 93 Glebe Point Rd.
 Fri 7 Nov, 6-8.30pm. *Sunset Soiree* for Centipede, Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Rd.
 Tue 11 Nov, 10:45am. *Remembrance Day Service*, Diggers Memorial, Foley Park.
 Wed 12 Nov, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 4 Dec, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Tommy's Beer Cafe*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
 Each Wed, 8:30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*, For details, 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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The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

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; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



City skyline at sunset (image: Bruce Davies)

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