

## Terrific Summit! Now What??

*Report on the Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit 2014 by Lesley Lynch,  
Glebe Society Bays and Foreshores Convenor*

The People's Campaign to protect the 'public good' in the Bays Precinct mega-project has had one victory to date. (Let's hope it is not our only one!). We got community members inside the Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit at the Australian Technology Park on 19 and 20 November and they made their presence felt.

It was a terrific Summit. I had been sceptical about what could be gained from a series of brief presentations from overseas experts who had no (or little) knowledge of the Bays Precinct or the compromised political context around development in NSW. In fact almost all the presentations from the overseas experts were both fascinating and highly relevant. UrbanGrowth had gathered an impressive array of experts from around the world with hands-on experience of very similar urban renewal projects and their analyses of what worked and what didn't were sharply relevant to our context.

There was good space for interaction and input from the floor – including capacity to text questions and comments to speakers and panels and to key in thoughts for the record. Speakers were available for further discussion at 'talking tables' between sessions – and they were packed. We made a number of very useful contacts.

The mood was slightly marred at a few points when (local) chairs were unnecessarily dismissive of comments and questions from community members relating to the omission of the Leichhardt Mayor from any formal role in the proceedings. (Mayor Rochelle Porteous did get some strong statements on the record from the floor.)

Finally it must be noted that it was a lavishly resourced Summit: huge numbers of support people, security (not sure of the purpose), props, technology, documentation, and FOOD.



**Lord Mayor Clover Moore on a panel at the Summit. Clover Moore used her keynote address to illustrate the City's many successful urban renewal projects that have integrated community input, delivered bigtime for the public good, won recognition for innovation and quality and been financially viable.** (image: <http://clovermoore.com.au/revitalising-bays-precinct/>)

### Lessons for NSW

The most positive and most exciting aspect of the Summit from our perspective was the broad affirmation from many of the international speakers of the core principles and values that the community has been advocating for years and which are now embodied in the people's campaign. Many speakers flagged the imperative of upfront and ongoing community engagement if you want good outcomes in such projects and many described how one could both protect the public good and negotiate viable public/private financing and investment arrangements.

Some messages I extracted included: go for the best outcome FOR the world, not best IN the world; don't squander this extraordinary site with consumption uses (eg mass housing) rather, invest for productive uses; be cautious about rushing to build housing; use more sophisticated criteria than capital and profits for such a site;

mix rich with poor – affordable and social housing featured in most redevelopments; go for quality; make the shared commons the focus not a peripheral dimension; develop parks and public space first; recognise poor access to the Bays site as a critical problem so action access and transport infrastructure first; human scale for foreshores; don't accept unsolicited proposals.

The CEO of UK Regeneration and current policy adviser to the UK Minister for Cities drew applause from the audience with a throwaway line that she could not understand why anyone would contemplate demolishing the Glebe Island Bridge, given the Bays site had major access problems. She speculated if it was just pandering to a bunch of rich folk with super yachts.

It was refreshing that across most international presentations (and some of the local ones) there was a non-contentious acceptance that the public good had a high priority in the planning and decision making for these kinds of sites.

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## The 'imaginary' 16,000 housing units

The media furore about the now 'disappeared' 16,000 housing units for the Bays was a bad look for the Summit opening. This was announced on the first day by the Treasurer. As we were convening to discuss future options from a 'blank canvas' this was a bit of an embarrassment for the Government and UrbanGrowth. Both the Premier and the Planning Minister Pru Goward used their welcoming addresses to deny any such figure existed and emphatically reaffirm the blank canvas was still blank.

We were pleased to hear this. But it's a little hard to believe. Either the Treasurer let the cat out of the bag or he was irresponsibly misbriefed by somebody. This is a major project which is part of an even bigger project. It is inconceivable that Treasury has not done extensive modelling around the economics and has not established a bottom line figure for the revenue return to Government. Given recent experience, it is highly likely that the preferred modelling would incorporate quick returns that can be got from selling off public land to developers for high- and medium-rise housing.

We will have to wait to see what the emphatic statements by the Premier and Minister actually mean. Housing will be an important part of the

development of the Bays – but the question of where, for whom and how many units should be part of a considered and integrated plan and not a rushed grab for quick cash returns to Government – or profits to developers. But it did shake confidence in the Government's management of the planning agenda once again.

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## 'Don't worry about the finances!'

No community member heard the Treasurer make this statement as we were excluded from day one of the Summit where the key discussions on 'financing and investment of major urban transformational projects' occurred. I was very surprised and irritated to discover that this critical area had been carved out of the Bays Summit and segregated into an experts-only event.

Obviously the financial and investment arrangements for this project will be a major determining factor. To exclude the community from this discussion was unacceptable and diminished the positives and the trust that came from including us – albeit belatedly – in the Summit. To date we have no serious response to queries as to why this occurred. It felt a little like being kept away from the 'serious' stuff.

This unexplained exclusion of the mere citizens from the finance day does not augur well for meaningful engagement of the citizenry post the Summit.

The Bays Precinct Sydney  
International Summit 2014

**MAKE  
NEW**

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## Where to now?

We do not know whether this largely terrific Summit was a bogus stunt, or a genuine effort to try to do things differently in NSW.

We have strong assurances from the senior staff of UrbanGrowth that they are determined to be consultative and to oversee a proper process. The Premier and the Minister in their brief

appearances at the Summit gave a similar message. But there is not much in past practice or current approaches to development to suggest a radical change of direction is in the air. Nor is it clear how much influence UrbanGrowth will wield in the longer run.

As a follow-up to the Summit, the People's Campaign has put a number of specific and reasonable recommendations about principles, process and governance to UrbanGrowth and the Government for immediate action. The Government's response will be an indicator as to how serious they are about engaging with the citizens of Sydney in the Bays project. We have called on them to:

- Endorse and act on the community planning principles for the Bays Precinct Urban renewal Project.
- Diversify the composition of the UrbanGrowth NSW Board to include community and professional and academic directors to balance its current domination by developer and big business interests.
- Sustain the positive and consultative spirit that was strongly manifest in discussion and process at the Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit and immediately establish a meaningful and substantive consultative mechanism to engage the community and citizens of Sydney in the ongoing planning process for the Bays Precinct.

UrbanGrowth is planning a Sydneysiders' Summit to be held **after** it submits a draft strategic plan on the Bays Precinct to the Government in April or May 2015. This will only permit a post hoc debrief, not an opportunity for further considered input to the draft plan. So we have called on UrbanGrowth to:

- reschedule the Sydneysiders' Summit to at least two weeks **before** the delivery of the draft plan to the Government to allow the community to have direct input to and influence over the content of that plan.

As noted, financial and investment arrangements put into place for the Bays project will largely determine what is possible and who benefits from the outcome. NSW Governments increasingly abuse 'commercial-in-confidence' agreements to impose a cloak of deep secrecy over financial dimensions of development projects. When the projects relate to public assets this is an affront to democracy. It fundamentally compromises proper accountability and too often – as we have repeatedly witnessed in recent years – is an open door to corruption.

This excessive secrecy also deliberately obscures the relative outcomes for the public good and private benefit. We have therefore called for far greater transparency in this area:

- Recognising that the Bays Precinct urban renewal project relates to publicly owned lands and assets, the People's Campaign calls on the NSW Government to commit to a high degree of transparency in relation to financial arrangements and relative outcomes and provides accurate and meaningful reports on these to the citizens of NSW throughout, and at the conclusion of the project.

Finally, having had no answer yet to our letter of 21 August to the Premier and Minister, we again invited the Government to:

*'work with the people of Sydney to make this highly strategic, urban renewal project for the Bays Precinct a pilot 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.'*

If the Government was listening to the clear messages from the international experts it brought to the Summit, we could expect positive responses to these requests.

*Lesley Lynch*  
Convenor Bays and Foreshores



**Don't forget!**  
**Glebe Society Christmas Cocktail Party**  
**Monday 8 December**  
**(see enclosed flyer for raffle prizes)**

# Planning Matters – Neil Macindoe

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## Better Planning Charter

If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to sign this Charter at <http://thecommunitycharter.org/>. It is important to keep up the pressure on the State Government in the lead up to the State Election in March, so any changes to the planning legislation are in accordance with the needs of the wider community, not just developers.



The Government Motor Garage at 7 Bay St Glebe in 1953 (image: State Library of NSW)

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## 87 Bay St

This site actually fronts Wentworth Park Rd and hence overlooks Wentworth Park, and is the former NSW Government Motor Garage site, now used mainly by a Beauty College. It adjoins the site proposed for the Glebe Affordable Housing Project, which fronts Cowper St. This latter Project remains controversial, and there has

been no action this year, so the site is still vacant. Neither site is included in the Conservation Area.

In previous *Bulletins* I reported that in response to an approach from the owner, the City had decided to rezone 87 Bay St, with the aim of permitting greater height and density, but including a significant amount of affordable housing.

There was a competitive design process, and the results were presented to the Committee last May. In October the proposal was advertised. It consists of a two-storey podium, mainly for commercial uses, and a series of towers to accommodate 213 units, of which 25 are affordable.

There are some other public benefits in the proposal, including widening of the Wentworth Park Rd footpath and a colonnade, plus a wide pedestrian corridor with landscaping and seating through the middle of the site to connect with the future Affordable Housing Project. This also provides a recreation area for the students at the college.

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## 23 Avon St

The Society has objected to the addition of a third storey to this dwelling because it would be visible above the ridge line.

*Neil Macindoe*  
Convenor, Planning



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## President's Column – Ted McKeown

First of all, let me thank Murray Jewell most sincerely for standing in for me as President while I was away in the Solomon Islands doing work for Rotary in October. For anyone interested in tanks and toilets, I'm your man! But Murray did a great job in keeping the Glebe Society pot on the boil.

My next happy task is to thank Jeannie Foyle for volunteering to step into Tess Nicholls's shoes as

Treasurer – and to thank Tess for doing such a great job. Jeannie has a hard act to follow, but with the financial records being in such good shape, the transition has been totally seamless. Jeannie was in fact a foundation member of the Society in 1969, though she looks far too young for this to have been possible.

Undoubtedly, the most significant matter this month has been the so-called Bays and

Foreshores Experts Summit on 19 and 20 November. The development of this huge site is going to affect all of us and our families for the next 30 years at least, and it is important that the government gets it right by actually listening to the community – the real ‘experts’ when it comes to planning how our future is going to evolve.

Please have a look at Lesley Lynch’s report on page 1 of this *Bulletin*.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas Cocktail Party on 8 December.

*Ted McKeown*, President

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## **Community Notes – Janice Challinor**

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### **Opening of Glebe Aboriginal Cultural Space**

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 11 November, a large crowd gathered at the Glebe Town Hall for this combined event. The creation of the Cultural Space has been an important ongoing project for the Glebe Community Development Project, so all concerned are to be congratulated on its coming to fruition.

Exhibits include interesting photographs, stories and artefacts provided by Glebe residents, and it is well worth a visit to the Town Hall to learn more about the importance of maintaining this strong and vibrant culture. Glebe is reputed to be the third largest Aboriginal community within the Sydney Metropolitan area and a valued part of the diversity that characterises Glebe.

Fiona Smith, a Glebe resident and the manager of NAIDOC Week in Glebe spoke at the launch, reminding the audience of the importance of celebrating community through this forum. It was pleasing to see many local representatives from both local and state governments attending the event, and joining the Glebe community in celebrating this important development.



Fiona Smith at the opening of the Cultural Space at Glebe Town Hall (image: Janice Challinor)

### **‘Cadre plus shops’ – an initiative to support Mental Health in the Glebe Community**

The Glebe Society has joined a number of interested parties such as the Glebe Justice Centre, Glebe Police, ARAFMI, the City of Sydney, Partners in Recovery, the Glebe Community Development Centre, Broadway Shopping Centre management and others in investigating the initiation of a project to support Mental Health and wellbeing in the Glebe area. The objective of this program is to educate and inform the community about positive service provision and constructive interaction with mental health consumers in our midst. As this initiative develops further, information will be made available to readers.

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### **The Glebe Youth Service**

Glebe Youth Service has had funding for its successful ‘After Dark’ program renewed for 2015. The After Dark program is run by the Glebe Youth Service on Friday night at the Peter Forsyth Auditorium from 6.30pm to 10.30pm and on Saturday night at Glebe Youth Service from 7.30pm to 11.30pm, and is co-funded by the City of Sydney and the NSW Government.

Some of the service's other programs include: drop-in centre, pathways education for Year 7 to 10 students, sport and cultural activities, music and video production skills, computer skills and Boyzone and Girlzone programs.

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### **Soiree for Centipede**

The annual ‘*Sunset Soiree*’ for Centipede was held on Friday 7 November at the Glebe Rowing

Club. A little over 50 people in attendance enjoyed live music provided by local chanteuse Hannah Robinson, the well-chosen words of Glebe Public School's principal Vicki Pogulis and a most convivial evening under the full moon. This was enlivened by the auction of some incredible donations by local Glebites such as a weekend in Katoomba, a garden consultation, two days in a villa on Fraser Island, a guided night-time tour of Centennial Park and a trio of original photographs of Circus Oz performers in action.

Glebe Society stalwart Jan Macindoe and Glebe Justice Centre CEO Stuart Davey also presented a cheque from the proceeds of their jointly managed Garage Trail Sale to Centipede.

While not as well attended as past functions it was wonderful to see our community representatives Hon Tanya Plibersek, Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition, Cr Robyn Kemmis, Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney and Verity Firth, endorsed Labor candidate for the State seat of Balmain all finding the time to attend and support this very worthy venture. At the time of writing the net proceeds were approximately \$5000. It is hoped that a good number of the 39 people who had not renewed their membership of Friends of Centipede by that evening will soon choose to do so. It is a registered charity and as such all donations are tax deductible.



Friends of Centipede Committee members, Jonathan Allen and Janice Challinor, with Tanya Plibersek (centre) (Image supplied)

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## Some reprieve for Refuges

On 30 October 2014, Jamie Parker MP announced that 'Full funding and buildings have been restored to Detour House (in Glebe), Young

People's Refuge, Stepping Out and Community Restorative Centre women's program in the Balmain electorate. My thanks go to all the community organisations which have been involved in the campaign.' SOS Women's Service's spokesperson Roxanne McMurray who was named in the Edna Ryan Awards for community Leadership in 2014 said, 'Jamie locked in his support right from the start of the campaign, and all of our staff and clients are very grateful for his help in ensuring continued funding for these essential services'. This campaign was strongly supported by the Glebe Society.

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## The 'Old Butcher's Shop'

Plans for the refurbishment of these premises, on the corner of Franklyn and Glebe Streets by City of Sydney propose a very welcome addition to Glebe community services. The refurbishment aims to create a small public use space, opening out onto 'Elephant Park', which could be very beneficial for community meetings, and as a much needed venue for 'tweenies' (8 – 12 year olds) and their parents for some after school activities. At present this demographic falls between the cracks of Centipede and the Youthies.

The Glebe Society has written to City of Sydney in support of this proposal.

*Janice Challinor*  
Convenor, Community



The old butcher's shop on the corner of Franklyn St and Glebe St. The venue is being refurbished by City of Sydney. (image: Virginia Simpson-Young)

# History and Heritage

## 'From the Terraces' – Liz Simpson-Booker

*A grab-bag of heritage-related sightings (but no Santa!)*

### Sight Lines

The late Sir John Betjeman described the Sydney Opera House as 'A regatta in full flight, arrested at the water's edge'. In less than a dozen words the Poet Laureate managed to capture the essence of this unique building, its function as a venue for soaring artistic expression and its relationship to its environment.

Descending abruptly from these exalted heights and closer to home, what has come to rest on the edge of Rozelle Bay is a boxy, bland and monumental dry boat store. It is the first – and smaller! – of two that are mooted to dominate the northern side of the bay.

Until recently, the view from Bicentennial Park and the northern end of Glebe Point Rd, across Rozelle Bay, was dominated by the 'green belt' of trees which fringe Victoria Rd and by the vertical lines of the vast White Bay Power Station which was commissioned 1917 and decommissioned some 66 years later. This heritage-listed industrial power-house was built in the Federation Anglo-Dutch architectural style. The two remnant chimneys which are still visible above the dry boat store serve to remind us of the presence of this, the longest-serving of Sydney's metropolitan power stations.

Doubtless the aesthetic and historic sensibilities of foreshore walkers across the bay were very far from the mind of the designer of this monolith. Certainly, the dry boat facility has significantly changed the sight-line towards the north from Glebe. Storage operations are due to commence this month.



Dry Boat Store (2014), looking north from the Glebe foreshore [photo : Martin Lawrence]

### Unsightly!

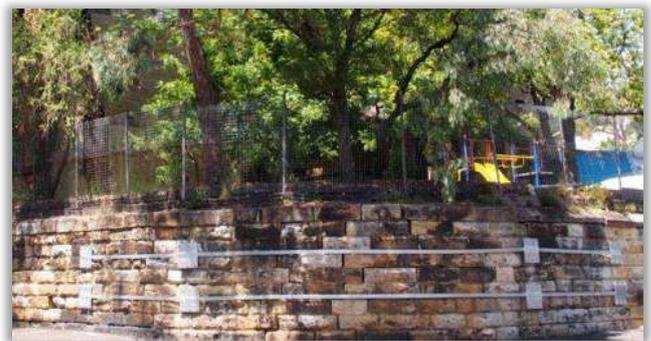
Recently Forest Lodge Public School arranged for some stabilisation work to be carried out on the beautiful sandstone retaining wall on the corner of Ross St and Charles St.

I have been advised that the wall had started to bulge outwards and posed a potential safety risk, especially if there were a period of extended and heavy rainfall.

Unfortunately, instead of tackling the underlying problem and rebuilding the retaining wall, it has been braced in the most appallingly crass manner. Whilst the mechanics might be effective, the repair totally disrespects the history, the material and the setting (the Ross St cutting has handsome sandstone retaining walls on both sides at this point).

An engineer's report was sought before the work was carried out. However Council was not advised. No heritage expert's advice was sought. Presumably, a watching brief on the retaining wall will be maintained and if further work is required, the Department of Education and Training will, as a result of Council's enquiries, be mindful of its heritage responsibilities.

Ross St carries significant, and increasing, amounts of traffic and it is mortifying to think that visitors and commuters might conclude that the management of the repair of this high-visibility site represents how we in Glebe conserve and maintain our precious heritage.



Forest Lodge Primary School sandstone retaining wall: gross repair (Photo : Martin Lawrence)

## Eye-Popping: John Woods Whittle, VC DCM

Tasmanian John Woods Whittle was a veteran of the Boer War. He returned to Australia in 1902 and shortly after enlisted into the Royal Navy, serving as a stoker for five years on various ships on the Australian Station.



After naval service Whittle served in the Army Service Corps, the 31st Battery and the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment before transferring to the AIF, joining the 12th Battalion on 6 August 1915.

Whittle was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on two occasions, near Boursies and Lagnicourt, France. He was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace in 1917.

In 1934 he saved a small boy from drowning in an ornamental pool in University Park; although Whittle departed without giving his name, the deed became widely known.

John Woods Whittle died in 1946, aged 63, at his home in **27 Avenue Rd**, Glebe, and was buried at the Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney.

The Victoria Cross and campaign medals awarded to John Woods Whittle were auctioned in Sydney on 20 November. The price was an eye-popping \$596,250.

### Seeing *Bidura* in its Setting

Recently, the NSW Finance Minister announced that, as part of the State's asset sale, it was proposed to sell Edmund Blacket's former home *Bidura*. The site, at 357 Glebe Point Rd, also contains 1980s additions in the form of the Remand Centre and Children's Court. Tenders closed on 13 November.

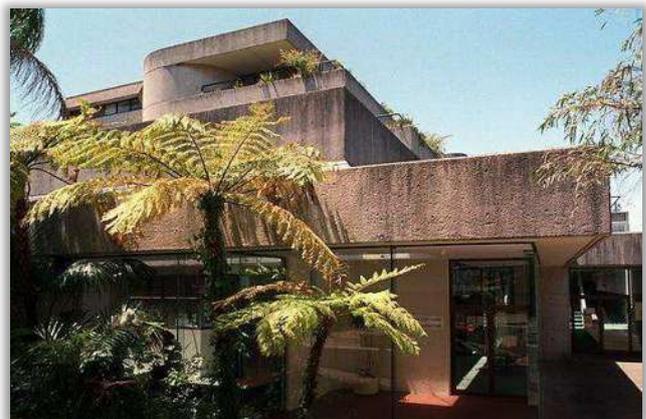
It should be noted that *Bidura* is listed on the Local Environment Plan and on the National Trust Register. Unfortunately, it is *not* listed on the State Heritage Register, thus depriving it of the highest level of protection. *Bidura* is of historic importance as being built by, and the home of, Australia's greatest ecclesiastical

architect and the architect of the Great Hall at Sydney University, Edmund Blacket. *Bidura* is also of social importance as a children's home for 50 years.

As I have noted previously, the transfer of property from State to private hands isn't necessarily a bad thing. The State has proved itself to be an indifferent and careless property owner on many occasions. However, in private hands, the fate of *Bidura* will be very much up to the Council of the day to ensure the preservation of the house and its curtilage<sup>1</sup> and that any development at the rear of the property is sympathetic and appropriately scaled.

The issue of curtilage certainly resonates in Glebe. For example, *Lyndhurst* (John Verge, 1837) once stood on a broad swathe of land which extended down to the water. Unhappily, today it is so hemmed in it is hard to find a suitable spot from which to appreciate the elegance of this marine villa, originally built for Dr James Bowman, principal surgeon of Sydney Hospital and son-in-law of John Macarthur.

1. *Curtilage*: The High Court of Australia defined curtilage as: 'Any building, whether it is a habitation or has some other use, may stand within a larger area of land which subserves the purposes of the building. The land surrounds the building because it actually or supposedly contributes to the enjoyment of the building or the fulfillment of its purposes' (reference: Royal Sydney Golf Club v Federal Commissioner of Taxation (Cth) (1955) 91 CLR 610 at 626)



Brutalism meets Blacket: The Bidura Children's Court  
(Picture: Angelo Soulas; Source: The Daily Telegraph)

Liz Simpson-Booker  
Convenor, Heritage

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## Remembrance Day 2014

About 60 people gathered at Glebe's Diggers' Memorial for the Remembrance Day service on Tuesday 11 November. It was heart-warming that children from Glebe Public School and officers from the Fire Station were present.

Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis spoke about the origins of the One Minute Silence, Max Solling reflected on the history of the start of World War I and its impacts on Glebe and Lyn Collingwood read a poem written by a soldier in the trenches.

The service was organised by the Glebe Society on behalf of the Glebe community. Our thanks to those who facilitated the event.



Ted McKeown, Glebe Society President, addresses the gathering at the Remembrance Ceremony at the Diggers Memorial on 11 November. (Image: Janice Challinor)

Below is the poem that Lyn read, preceded by Lyn's introductory remarks:

*During the Great War there were long stretches of boredom, especially in the daytime as most action was at night. How did men pass the time? There were the routine tasks of filling sandbags, repairing barbed wire, wiping slime off the shells, shaving, delousing, hair cutting. And leisure activities: letter writing, reading, smoking, gambling especially two up and cards, singing, drinking the rum ration, souvenir hunting and making 'trench art' vases and tobacco jars out of shell cases. Cavalrymen groomed their horses and organised equestrian events, and at Gallipoli both men and horses*

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## Glebe Island Bridge

*A second life as a pedestrian and cycle conduit: it isn't rocket science!* The Glebe Society has established a website at <http://glebeislandbridge.com> to celebrate the potential of the heritage-listed Glebe Island

*bathed in the sea. There were athletics carnivals and concert parties with featured artists like 'The Shrapnels'. In 'cushy' sectors in France soldiers fished, milked cows kept in trenches, and in the early days of the war went into the villages to buy chocolate, beer, champagne, eggs and the Paris Daily Mail. They drank coffee and cocoa in jam tins from roadside stalls, and in the French winter – when icicles hung from the dugouts – slid over frozen ponds and had snowball fights.*

*Some officers had pianos in their dugouts, and no doubt many had chess sets. This poem by Australian gunner 379 was written in 1917 when incessant rain made the Menin Road a quagmire of slimy mud. It may have been inspired by watching an improvised game.*



### Chess by the Menin Road<sup>1</sup>

by Henry Weston Pryce

White and black, Black and white  
Move and move – tis lots of fun!  
Little pawn and lordly knight  
Mingle till the tourney's done  
Hour by hour the game goes on  
To and fro the pawns we fling  
First a pawn and then a king  
Oft the end may seem in sight  
But the play is never done  
Rook – bishop – pawn – knight.

Black and white, White and black  
One must lose and one must win  
Move them out and move them back  
While the Watcher stands agrin  
White as Death and black as Sin  
Lie the men – tis lots of fun!  
Here's a box to put them in  
When the game is lost and won.

1. Published in Pryce's *Your Old Battalion: war and peace verses* dedicated to his brothers Alan and Charlie who did not return.

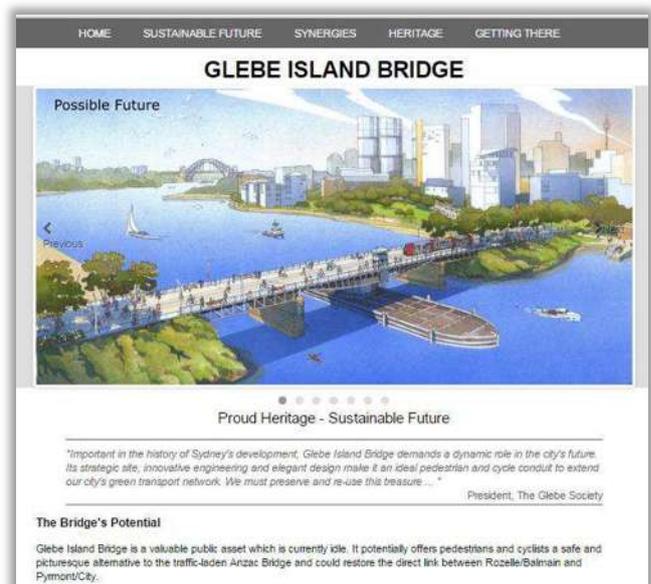
*Liz Simpson-Booker and Lyn Collingwood*

could also restore the direct link between Rozelle/Balmain and Pyrmont/City.

The website explores opportunities for the bridge's sustainable future, potential synergies with Council and State projects to ease traffic congestion and discusses the bridge's heritage. We argue this can occur in conjunction with managed maritime access to the bays. We also point out that Glebe Island Bridge's sister bridge at Pyrmont carries over 5 million pedestrians a year.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Peter Thorogood, Graham Jahn, Jeff Cooke, Mary Hendriks and Martin Lawrence in developing this project.

*Liz Simpson-Booker*  
Convenor, Heritage



The new website for the Glebe Island Bridge (<http://glebeislandbridge.com/>)

## **Rearview: Noreen Hayes**

*Rearview* is a project undertaken by the Glebe Society's Heritage Subcommittee, with the purpose of capturing the memories of long term residents of Glebe. We realise it is important to record and archive this precious social history. Over the next year, various residents will be interviewed, and short articles published in the Glebe Society Bulletin.

Heritage Sub-committee member, Margaret Cody, interviewed Glebe local, **Noreen Hayes**:

*I was born in Cannock, NSW, a country girl. We arrived in Sydney in 1950, and I lived in one room with a kitchen, at 128 Glebe Point Rd, with my sister, and mother. We nursed a sick brother for 10 years. Then we moved to 101 Wigram Rd.*

*Then, in the early 1970s I moved to Hereford St, where I have lived for over 40 years. My employer gave me a loan and expressed surprise at a woman buying a house.*

*My earliest memories are:*

- *Searching for the Catholic Church, St James; the trams; and walking home from the city. We used to admire the shop windows on the way, being country girls.*
- *Hereford St then had three little shops which are now all gone, and a factory. There was a biscuit factory on the corner of Bridge Rd, opposite the old Children's Hospital. There was also a defence/army site. Now there are*

*new terrace developments, and there are units in place of the Children's Hospital.*

- *Transport was different. There were trams which then were replaced by buses. Now we also have light rail.*
- *The mix of people is different too. There were students in share houses, not just families. Then it was more working class, now it is more mixed; for example, I have students on one side in my street, and a gay couple with kids on the other side.*

*I miss the people who have gone, but I enjoy the colourful characters of Glebe.*



Norren Hayes, long term resident of Glebe, who features in this month's *Rearview*, a social history initiative of the Glebe's Society's Heritage Sub-committee.

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## Exhibition: Spirited - Australia's Horse Story

Australians have lived with, loved and depended on horses since Europeans first settled on the continent. These beautiful animals have been trusted companions, partners in the thrill of the chase, reliable workers, and a source of pleasure, freedom and adventure for thousands of people.

*Spirited: Australia's Horse Story* explores how horses have helped to enrich our lives, build our society and shape our environment. The exhibition invites Australians to reflect on the enduring and sometimes complex relationships between people and horses: on the farms and stations, in the town and at the track, in the ring and on the battlefield.

See 500 historical artefacts that tell the nation's horse story, including icons of Australia's thoroughbred racing history, horse-drawn vehicles and riding equipment, and trophies won by leading equestrians and rodeo stars.

The exhibition is open at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra until 9 March 2015. For

further information, programs, admission prices and opening hours, visit:

<http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/spirited>.

*Liz Simpson-Booker*  
Convenor, Heritage



Horse drawn wagons at the wharves at Circular Quay, c.1890s (RAHS Photograph Collection)

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## Glebe, Naturally

### Taking part in the Garage Sale Trail

The Garage Sale Trail is now a major event held annually across Australia 'to promote reuse, reduce waste to landfill, enable new neighbourly connections, provide a platform for fundraising, inspire creativity and stimulate local economies', as its website explains. Members of the Environment Subcommittee felt that that sounded like something Glebe could get into, and we were particularly pleased when the Glebe Justice Centre enthusiastically agreed to partner with us. To reinforce the community focus we decided to use the event to raise funds for Centipede Before and After School Care.

We called our garage sale 'Glebe Grunge and Glory' and were able to use the Glebe Justice Centre building on St Johns Rd as the venue. Held on Saturday 25 October, a dazzling range of pre-loved goods was offered for sale or donation. The Glebe Justice Centre was a very comfortable venue with many couches for both sellers and buyers to relax on.

As well as supporting re-use of household goods, we raised \$350 for Centipede and were pleased to be able to present a cheque to Friends of Centipede at the Sunset Soiree on 7 December.

*Jan Macindoe*  
Convenor, Environment



'Glebe Grunge and Glory': Glebe Society participates in the Garage Sale Trail. (image: Jan Macindoe)

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## News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee



Commencing at 6.45am on Sunday 26 October 2014 and under the leadership of Sophie Golding, Urban Ecology Coordinator, City of Sydney, 16 keen birders

undertook a bird survey in seven of our local parks or reserves. The weather was warm and sunny. Highlights included finding three fledgling magpie-larks (peewee; *Grallina cyanoleuca*) in a nest located on a branch of a Morton Bay fig overhanging Johnstons Creek in Jubilee Park, a magpie using the pedestrian crossing outside Glebe Town Hall to cross St Johns Rd, and a report from local residents of Jarocin Ave that a pair of blue wrens, male and female, visits the street about twice a week, where the vegetation includes a number of Lilli Pillis. At the completion of the survey we all gathered for breakfast at a Glebe cafe. Our survey results will be analysed by Ms Golding and will be published in a future Bulletin.

At our recent Subcommittee meeting, we welcomed Ajenta Vijayanayagam, the newly appointed Environmental Specialist for Transdev Sydney. Ms Vijayanayagam has been appointed to Transdev on an initial six months contract and will assume responsibility for ensuring the company adheres to the environmental aspects of its licensing requirements from the NSW Government. Transdev is keen to work with local bushcare and environmental groups to restore and enhance the habitat for flora and fauna along the light rail corridor. The planned work to be undertaken adjacent to the Glebe light rail stop was discussed, particularly in the light of the formation of the *Palmerston Ave and Surrounds Landcare Group*. It was agreed that Ms Vijayanayagam would be invited to attend future meetings of the Subcommittee.

The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held a successful weeding day, attended by seven volunteers, on Sunday 19 October. Also, seeds were collected from the native flora in the park on Saturday 8 November. Seedling tubes were

provided so that the seeds could be taken to members' homes and germinated; the resultant seedlings will be utilised in the park or will be planted in members' gardens. The Glebe Bushcare Group continues to gather each Wednesday morning from 8.30am. Further weeding and planting has occurred on the northern side of the wetlands near Johnstons Creek and on the eastern side of the Creek near the bridges.

In John Street Reserve work has commenced on the restoration and repair of the wall on the western boundary of the Reserve. Sue Stevens (the consultant who wrote the Society's 2008 report *Superb Fairy Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project*) has advised the City on suitable native plantings for sites adjacent to the wall. In Paddy Gray Reserve, a continuing issue is the need for the City to establish a regular, published, maintenance program for the Reserve and for the necessary work to be performed by trained bush regenerators. It was agreed that the Society would write to the City asking for it to improve its care and maintenance of the Reserve.

A member of the recently formed *Palmerston Ave and Surrounds Landcare Group*, was invited to attend our November meeting and reported that an inaugural meeting of the *Group* had occurred the previous evening and its members had agreed to establish a work plan with the City and Transdev to enhance the flora of the Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves, and the Glebe light rail stop. It was agreed that the Subcommittee would lend the *Group* our hose so that watering of new plantings could occur and also to provide financial and artwork assistance with preparation of flyers for future distribution to local residents by letter boxing. It was also agreed that a member of the *Group* would be invited to attend our Subcommittee meetings.

Andrew Wood  
Convenor, Blue Wrens

This is the last Glebe Society *Bulletin* for 2014. The next *Bulletin* will be the March 2015 edition which will be released on 26 February 2014. Copy deadline will be 18 February.

## News and Events

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### Good news: Commonwealth Bank to return to Glebe!

The Commonwealth Bank (CBA) and Elliot Pty Ltd, developers of the bank's previous 201-205 Glebe Point Rd location, have reached agreement for the bank to return to its old site.

'We are committed to restoring our presence on Glebe Point Rd as soon as possible and have recently signed a lease with the new development at 201-205 Glebe Point Rd. We hope to be open by mid to late 2015,' Mark Jones, CBA Regional General Manager told The Glebe Society in a statement.

In its original development application for five residential apartments for 201-205 Glebe Point Rd, Elliot Pty Ltd, wanted to split the ground floor into two small shops, forcing the bank to look for a new location on Glebe Point Rd.

'This announcement comes after an extensive search for a suitable replacement location,' says Jones, 'and although we appreciate this timeframe is some time away, we are pleased to

be able to bring a new state of the art branch to Glebe.'

The Commonwealth Bank, Glebe Point Rd's only bank, opened at 201-205 Glebe Point Rd in 1975 and closed in early September.

*Peter Robinson*



Former Commonwealth Bank building, Glebe Point Rd (image: Peter Robinson)

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### Glebe Street Fair 2014

Despite a worrying downpour of rain the 31st anniversary of the Glebe Street Fair saw the expected thousands of visitors head to Glebe Point Rd to enjoy free entertainment across three stages, more than 250 stalls and the 100 or so businesses that line the street.

The well-behaved crowd, estimated by organisers and the police to be more than 100,000, peaked at around 1.30pm, walking shoulder to shoulder but moving efficiently throughout the Fair, taking the time to chat with the stall holders, pick up some lunch from the local cafes, and enjoy a dance by stopping to listen to the variety of music emanating from the stages. The street was still filled with people at the event closing time of 5pm.

The forecast of early rain was never going to stop this event. Everyone was so excited about the prospect of fine weather after the deluge last year. Even before lunchtime, there was no doubt that the expected crowds were arriving, and we certainly turned on a great show for them.

*Roselle Gowan*

### Creative Director, Glebe Street Fair



Scenes from the 2014 Glebe Street Fair (images: Glebe Street Fair)

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## Glebe Voices

### The Girl from Oz - Stories From Wonderland

Gale Edwards, internationally acclaimed theatre and opera director and the Creating Director of *The Boy from Oz* with a career spanning 40 years will share tales of the immense struggles, achievements, the lows and the ecstatic highs of being Australia's first, pioneering, female, Theatre Director.

Blackwattle Cafe (*Bellevue* in Blackwattle Bay Park) 55 Leichhardt St Glebe. Free entry Wednesday 18 February 6-7.30 pm



Gale Edwards (Image: James Croucher, The Australian)

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## 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 8 January at 7pm (please note the date) we will go to The Nags Head, 162 St Johns Rd.
- And on Thursday 5 February at 7pm we will go to *Darbar*, 134 Glebe Point Rd.

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

*Edwina Doe*



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## Players in the Pub

The last playreading for 2014 at the Roxbury Hotel St Johns Rd/Forest St Forest Lodge:

### **Sweeney Todd, the Barber of Fleet Street; or, The String of Pearls**

A Legendary Drama in Two Acts.

George Dibdin Pitt's original melodrama, directed by Peter Talmacs.

Monday 15 December at 7 pm.

Free admission. The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please try to order food as early as possible –we always start on time!

2015 marks the sixth year of our moved and costumed readings. We continue at the Roxbury, playing every third Monday of the month, commencing 16 February.

*Lyn Collingwood*



## For Your Calendar

Monday 8 December, 6pm. *Christmas Cocktail Party*. The Grandstand Bar, Sydney University.  
 Monday 15 December, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd/Forest St, Forest Lodge.  
 Thursday 8 January, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, The Nags Head Hotel, 162 St Johns Rd.  
 Thursday 5 February, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, Darbar, 134 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Wednesday 11 February, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Monday 16 February, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd/Forest St Forest Lodge  
 Wednesday 18 February 6-7.30 pm, *Glebe Voices: Gale Edwards*, Blackwattle Cafe.  
 Wednesday 11 March, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Wednesday mornings, from 8:30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*. Jubilee Park, Sue Copeland: 9692 9161.

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### 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](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)



Wall art on a terrace wall, corner of Bridge Rd and Taylor St, Glebe (image: V. Simpson-Young)