



the

glebe society

HERITAGE • ENVIRONMENT • COMMUNITY

Bulletin

Number 1 of 2015 (March)

No WestConnex!

Murray Jewell writes: There is growing community opposition to the WestConnex road project which is fast becoming an issue in the run up to the State Government elections due on 28 March. The project is a multi-billion dollar tollway (now estimated to cost \$15 billion) running from the M4 in the west to the M5 in the south of Sydney. Under the latest State Government proposal, Stage 3 will involve a bored tunnel which will duplicate the City West Link. It will dump east and north bound traffic onto the approaches to the Anzac Bridge and Victoria Rd and is likely to result in increased traffic volumes in and around Glebe. This tunnel will link with another bored tunnel running south under Annandale and Camperdown and exiting at St Peters. Exhaust stacks will be built along the surface of the tunnels venting toxic vehicle fumes from the tunnels. The State Government has announced that Stage 3 is to be completed in 2023 with community consultation to take place in late 2015 and construction to begin in 2018.

There is a groundswell of opposition across Sydney to WestConnex, in part because it will divert public funds away from investment in public transport. In addition it appears to be based on a flawed business model and has the potential to degrade local communities, particularly around St Peters and Newtown. In preparation for construction the State Government has already been drilling sites in St Peters and in Leichhardt, Ashfield, Summerhill, Earlwood, Haberfield, Strathfield and Concord and has begun the compulsory acquisition of properties in some of these areas.

STOP PRESS:

'Meet the Candidates' this Friday

Venue: Glebe Town Hall

Date: Friday 27 February

Time: 7pm-9pm

See insert for details.



A banner protesting the building of the WestConnex road; calling for public transport instead (image: V. Simpson-Young)

WestConnex was proposed by Infrastructure NSW in its report to the State Government in October 2012. Since its adoption by the State Government, the project has been dogged by a number of problems: uncertainty about and changes to the route of the tollway; an ever-expanding budget; a damning report from the NSW Auditor General released in December last year; no proper Environmental Impact Report and growing opposition from community groups in Ashfield, St Peters, Newtown and in the inner west.

There is a growing appreciation that the project represents an outdated solution to the problem of urban transport. Many cities around the world are now investing in public transport infrastructure as opposed to motorways to solve their transport problems. History shows that building new

motorways ultimately adds to traffic congestion and so doesn't solve the problem.

The Glebe Society opposes the construction of further motorways as a solution to Sydney's transport needs. Our view is that more investment should be made in Sydney's Public Transport Infrastructure, including in an extension to the light rail network.

Various community groups under the banner of "No WestConnex" and "NOW Public Transport" have lobbied State Government and have arranged well

attended protest rallies in Ashfield, St Peters and Annandale in opposition to WestConnex. They are suggesting that residents write to their local member about their opposition to WestConnex and that they join one of the No WestConnex action groups and get involved in the campaign. These community groups can be contacted at <http://westconnex.info>.

Murray Jewell
Convenor, Transport and Traffic

The Wall at Forest Lodge School

Shortly before Christmas I had a phone call from Bill O'Connor, the Principal of Forest Lodge Public School, taking issue with a few of the points made by Liz Simpson-Booker in her article in the last *Bulletin* (No 10 of 2014, page 7, 'From the Terraces' – *Unsightly!*). This was of some concern to me, since we have always enjoyed a very close and harmonious relationship with "Flodge". So I followed this up as soon as possible with Liz and subsequently discussed my findings with Bill.

The issues raised by Bill were three in number:

- We had erroneously referred to the Department of Education and Communities by its former name of the Department of Education and Training.
- We had said that the School had itself "arranged for some stabilisation work to be carried out on the beautiful sandstone retaining wall on the corner of Ross St and Charles St", whereas the work was initiated by the Department without reference to the School.
- We had said that no heritage expert's advice was sought, although there had been an engineer's report. Bill said (and I accept this absolutely) that there were in fact three heritage experts who advised on the work.



Close-up of stabilisation work at Forest Lodge School (image: Martin Lawrence)

Taking these matters in turn.

The name of the Department

Guilty as charged! However, we are in good company, since the City Council still refers to the Department by its former name. It is so hard to keep up with the bureaucratic niceties in New South Wales. My favourite example is of the Department of Attorney General and Justice changing its name to the Department of Justice and Attorney General. Think of the forests that died when all that letterhead was pulped!

Who done it?

We did get that wrong, but we were relying on the School's own website, which said that "we" (by which we assumed was meant the School) had arranged for the work to be done. I accept that in context, "we" was meant to refer to the Department.

The three heritage experts

The City Council, in its reply to our enquiry, clearly implied that there had been no heritage input, although the Council was not even aware that the work had been done until we contacted them about it. In its letter to us, the Council states that:

Given that the work has been carried out already, the City has reminded the Department of Education and Training [sic] of the heritage requirements that need to be considered prior to carrying out work of this nature in the future.

All I can say is that either the three "heritage experts" were asleep at the wheel, or that as far as the Department is concerned, engineering trumps heritage every time.

The description "crass" is entirely appropriate, and we still believe that "the repair totally disrespects the history, the material and the setting" of the retaining wall.

There is some hope for the future, not too distant we hope. In its letter to us dated 3 November 2014, the Council sums up by saying:

The Engineer's report details that a further assessment of the retaining wall will need to be carried out in the future. The City has provided the following recommendations to the Department of Education [sic] on this matter to consider prior to carrying out any further works in the future.

1. Any future assessment of the retaining wall recommended in the Engineer's Report, it would be recommended by the City that the assessment be carried out with the assistance of a suitably qualified and experienced heritage practitioner, who is to give input in the process, ensure appropriate heritage outcomes and to prepare a heritage impact statement.
2. The recent works be reassessed with a view to coming up with solutions that will have less of a visual impact on the sandstone walling than that

Vale Tom Uren

Tom Uren, who died on 26 January this year at the ripe old age of 93, was a big man in every way. Much has been written about his contribution to Australian political life (as a Minister in the Whitlam and Hawke Labor Governments), his experiences as a POW on the Burma-Thailand Railway and in Japan, and his humanitarian work. But he was also a great friend of Glebe, and a huge contributor to the preservation of the suburb we know and appreciate today.

Tom was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Glebe Society in August 2003. In his citation for the award, Tony Larkum pointed out that in the early months of the Whitlam Government in 1973 Tom, in his capacity as Minister for Urban and Regional Development, made two key decisions that affected and still affect our lives and our townscape in Glebe. These were firstly to set up a national statutory body to work with the States, local government, local groups and members of the public for the protection, conservation and preservation of the National Estate; and second, that a start be made in surveying the National Estate and making an inventory of its components. These crucial initiatives resulted in the establishment of the National Heritage Commission (in May 1975) and the Register of the National Estate (in July 1976). The positive effect of these decisions has been inestimable, especially in the preservation and conservation of previously neglected inner suburbs such as Glebe.

But Tom's two great achievements, as far as Glebe was concerned, were the purchase by the Federal Government of the Glebe Estate from the Church of England Property Trust, and effectively forcing the abandonment by the State Government of the proposed Western and North-Western Freeways,

which has recently been carried out at the corner of Ross St and Charles St.

3. If the works proposed arising from the assessment are likely to have more than a minimal heritage impact, as determined in the heritage impact statement, they will not be exempt under the Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy and a Development Application will be required.
4. In other words, do it again, do it properly, and tell us before you do so.

Let's hope these recommendations are adopted in the very near future.

Ted McKeown
President

which would have completely destroyed Glebe and Forest Lodge.



Tom with his old mate Jack Munday at the Society's 40th anniversary party at Margaretta Cottage in 2009. (Image: Bruce Davis)

Tom always claimed the entire credit for these actions – that's OK, he would, wouldn't he? He was a politician, after all! And it is certainly true that without his intervention and the positive support of the Federal Cabinet, Glebe would not have been saved. But I think the Glebe Society can claim a good part of the credit for encouraging Tom Uren and the Federal Government to take the actions they did.

Alan Robertson recalls the immense amount of work that went on behind the scenes in assembling Max Solling's history notes into a flyer distributed by the rector of St John's to the Anglican Synod

meeting that was considering the piecemeal sale of the Glebe Estate. The result of all this work was a joint approach by the Church of England and the Mayor of Leichhardt Council, supported by independent aldermen and the Glebe Society, suggesting that the Government should purchase the Estate lock, stock and barrel. The call to Tom Uren to advise him that the proposal was on its way was made by Tony Strachan, who still has the telephone handset to prove it!

The outcome was that the Cabinet, at Tom's urging, agreed to purchase the 19 hectares of the Glebe Estate, comprising some 700 houses and 60 commercial sites, for \$17.5 million, with a further \$8.5 million committed for rehabilitation. The reasons for this decision initially related to support for low-income groups and the preservation of architectural heritage, but it soon became apparent that another advantage was the acquisition of a significant site right in the path of the proposed Western Freeway.

The anti-freeway campaign had been bubbling along for some time, but it really got going in early 1972, when Albert Mispel and others in the Glebe Society put together an 11 page handwritten foolscap screed outlining why radial freeways were a stupid idea, with special reference to the two freeways proposed for Glebe. These were photocopied and posted, at considerable private expense, to every Federal and State politician. Only one ever even acknowledged receipt – Tom Uren. He invited Albert and his team to his home (Federal Labor was still in opposition), to discuss the matter.

The Builders Labourers Federation was of course also instrumental in stopping the freeways, by imposing Green Bans on the demolition of housing in their path. Alan Robertson remembers that on the day of the Fig St confrontation, he left the site shortly after the bulldozer pushed through, and headed, furred umbrella in hand, for his office. From there he sent a telex (those were the days!) to Tom Uren telling him what was happening at Fig St. He received no reply (mercifully, since it might have meant the end of a promising corporate career), and had no way of knowing whether it reached its destination. But by the end of the day, Tom Uren had telephoned Premier Askin, and the demolition work stopped.

In the end, Albert Mispel recalls, it was Tom who got acting Prime Minister Jim Cairns to cancel the Federal funding for all the planned freeways, which put the final nail in the coffin of this ill-conceived project.

So Tom, we will miss you. Glebe in particular is the poorer for your passing.

Ted McKeown
President

Solving Sydney's Housing Affordability Crisis

Thursday 12 March

Lower Town Hall, 6:30pm - 8pm

For more information and to book see:

<http://tinyurl.com/ldy8myk>

Planning and Infrastructure

Planning Report – Neil Macindoe

Public Meeting about R J Williams Lodge, 274-6 Glebe Point Rd

The Wesley Mission lodged an application before Christmas for this former aged persons' hostel, originally built in the sixties as a motel. The timing could have been better; there was considerable resentment that the Mission should have lodged during the holiday period, and without prior consultation, and in response to the concerns of members the Society organised a meeting for 27 January. Word of this meeting was widely circulated, and it became a de facto public meeting attended by about forty people, mainly residents close to the Lodge.

The resentment was certainly in evidence in the questioning of the four applicants who attended, including the architect, Royden Metcalf, and three Mission representatives. Naturally there was disappointment that the building, designated by

Council as one of three significantly detracting structures in Glebe Point Rd, should not be reduced in bulk and height; but there was also major concern that the proposed use, affordable housing, would generate a significant need for parking, and this was not being provided on site.

The Society included increased parking provision as a major item in its consequent submission, along with the many other concerns raised at the meeting.

Durham Court, 417 Glebe Point Rd

Lodged about the same time was an application for ten townhouses, of four or six bedrooms, and twenty parking spaces.

While it is widely regarded as an improvement over the previous application for forty boarding house

rooms, this application attempts to use the previous approval to claim additional floorspace and height. Unsurprisingly, it is the same architect who exceeded Council controls in previous applications, spanning about a decade.

The Society asked for all the protections for nearby residents gained in previous discussions to be included, at the same time as objecting to the excessive density and height.

Former Nurses' Home: 184 Glebe Point Rd

Here at last was an application for Glebe Point Rd to which the Society could give its approbation. At the rear of St Helens and the new Community Garden is a structure built on pillars in the seventies that served as a Nurses' Home for the Homoeopathic Hospital (you can read the story of this unique hospital in the Pocket Parks Walk on the Glebe Walks website). Before Glebe was transferred to the City in 2003 Leichhardt Council had allowed this building to be used for artists' studios, but had never given this use formal approval. The City has now applied to make this use official. Artists can apply to the City for the use of one of these rooms for various periods.

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

Bidura was built by the Colonial Architect, Edmund Blacket, in 1857, as his home while he built the University of Sydney. It has an extensive listing as a Heritage Item by the City of Sydney, including details of its interior and exterior, the adjacent ballroom, carriageway, garden and setting, and its historical significance. It has one of the most detailed entries in the register.

For most of the twentieth century *Bidura* was one of the care homes in Glebe for State Wards (for further information about care homes, see the Society's website). In 1980 a large concrete brutalist Remand Centre and Children's Court was built at the rear. The building was not secure, and was already out of date by the time it was built. Consequently it was used for its original purpose for only a short period. From then until the present it has been used for training by Community

Services, another use for which it is poorly adapted.

Over the years there have been efforts to find satisfactory alternative uses for the Centre, mainly for housing and education, but the nature of the building makes it difficult to adapt, even though it contains quite good facilities for the period when it was built.

In December 2014, as part of an asset stripping exercise, the entire site was sold to a developer for \$33 million, presumably for housing. Since then there has been no further action, and no Development Application, or any other application, has been advertised.

It is possible that the new owner is having discussions with Council. Normally these would not be made public until there was a firm proposal. All the area adjacent to Glebe Point Rd is protected as a Heritage Item by the City, and any development at the rear would normally be within the existing envelope. The City has been adamant in this regard on similar sites, and the Society would expect it to be so in this case. Naturally, if it appeared these controls were not being maintained the Society would be very concerned.

Further.....

A few days after I wrote this Bulletin report, on 14 February, the Herald published an article naming the development company which purchased the site, ACC Development, and its two owners, who are Australian citizens resident in Pymont. In an interview the owners are reported as saying they wish to retain the Heritage-listed buildings, but demolish the concrete building at the rear to build 'a more modern, nicer block of apartments for the area. We are local too, and want to make sure we build something respectful to the area'. This will also mean staying within the City's development controls for the site.

The Society will keep a close eye on the site to ensure they adhere to these commitments.

Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning

History and Heritage

Leila Mary Brown (1889-1981) – World War One Nurse from Glebe

Vanessa Witton writes: Nurses with connections to Glebe answered the call to serve in WWI. One of these women was Leila Mary Brown who served with the First AIF Nursing Corps in Egypt, England and France.

Leila was born in Glebe on 31 August 1889 to accountant Stephen E. Brown and Caroline M. In 1890 the family was listed as living in Albert St. We know little about Leila's early life, but know she

began nurse training as a Probationer in 1911 at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Camperdown. In those days the four year training course for nurses was hospital-based and they 'lived in.' Nurses enjoyed very little freedom and their lives inside and outside the hospital were strictly controlled. Like all trainee nurses, Leila was not allowed to marry. Great camaraderie existed between RPA nurses however, and many

socialised during their little free time on the hospital tennis court.

Leila moved through the ranks as Junior Nurse 1912, Nurse 1913, Ward Nurse 1914 and Charge Nurse by 1915.

She spoke of her early RPA nursing work:

"We spent all our time in the wards, it was hard work because the patients were actually nursed back to health since there was hardly any medication ... we wore a long purple dress down to the ankles, a long apron that came right up under the chin, a stiff collar with studs, stiff cuffs with studs and a starched, little round cap ... we were up and down those long wards the whole time, changing dressings and applying poultices. We were often very busy if there were a lot of typhoids but mostly it was accidents or operations ... there were plenty of bad accidents from the railway workshops near St Peters." (Interview with Leila Brown, Sunday Telegraph 25 Feb 1973.)

At the end of nurse training there was no formal graduation, and Leila received her certificate without fanfare in April 1915. Leila's work at RPA would have been extremely challenging, as that year an unprecedented number of nurses left to volunteer for the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). In spite of this, hospital historian Dorothy Armstrong described the nurses at RPA in 1915 as "keen" and "stimulated by the necessities of war."

Like other Australian hospitals during WWI, RPA had difficulties obtaining hospital supplies as many were made in the enemy countries of Austria and Germany. In the face of such shortages Leila would have been expected to practice immense resourcefulness and initiative.

Leila served at RPA as Probation Sister until August 1916 when she resigned to join the AANS, which only accepted trained nurses. Her 27th birthday that year is likely to have been memorable as it was the day she enlisted with the 1st AIF. Two days later she embarked from Sydney as a single woman on board *RMS Kashgar*, 2 September 1916, with the rank of Staff Nurse. At this time she and her family were listed as living far from Glebe on the other side of Sydney Harbour at *Ithaca* in Effingham St Mosman.

After a long sea voyage Leila disembarked in Egypt in January 1917. The following month she was transferred to Rouen in France, and in March 1918 attached for duty in England. Three months later she was sent back to France and attached to the British Forces as part of No. 1 ACCS (Australian Casualty Clearing Station) from June 1918. Throughout September and October of that year Leila was stationed at the St Venant Asylum in St Omer, 68 km west-northwest of Lille:

"The scene for the Casualty Clearing Service was one old Lunatic Asylum which had been badly shelled. Some parts of it were burnt to the ground but all was more or less damaged. In the main surgical ward, which was upstairs, we could look through a shell hole in the floor and see what was going on in the ward below. There was not a pane of glass in the whole place, the windows were fixed up with oilskin, and blankets put up to keep in the light at night. The amount of cleaning done to this place was tremendous but the work here was extremely heavy... eventually we quietened down a little and No. 2 ACCS got in front of us. There I was put on a team and sent to them for a few weeks. The work there was almost entirely French civilians ranging in age from three months to that indescribable old age of the French peasant." (Leila Brown, Nurses' Narratives, Butler Collection, Australian War Memorial.)



Portrait of staff nurse, Leila Mary Brown, Australian Army Nursing Service 1916. (Image: Australian War Memorial)

Nursing enabled Australian women like Leila to actively take part in the war. She served with distinction as part of a surgical team which moved along the Hindenburg line, close to the fighting. The duties of army nurses were much more varied than those of civilian nurses, and Leila would have developed a broad range of skills from working with wounded servicemen. Intensive nursing was critical for the survival of infectious cases in an era when antibiotics did not exist, and in a 1980 interview with ABC Radio, Leila remembered winters nursing soldiers with scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and mumps. She was also deeply distressed by their gas warfare injuries and recalled, "I hated their misery!" After three and a half years of war service,

Leila returned to Australia on the *Port Napier* on 12 February 1920 and was demobilised in March.

After Australian nurses had served in WWI, the nursing profession gained an elevated respect from both the medical profession and the general public in Australia. For the next 20 years Leila dedicated her life to it in Australia, and later the United States and Hawaii where she was awarded certification as a Registered Nurse. She never married nor had children.

Leila came back to Australia in 1939 at the outbreak of WWII, hoping to join the Army Nursing Service once again. Being an older woman, she was sent instead to Concord Repatriation General Hospital, and Prince of Wales Repatriation Hospital at Randwick to serve as Senior Sister. A 1952 newspaper article details a colourful incident during her Prince of Wales service, in which she defended a wards maid from a jilted knife-wielding Bulgarian suitor from Coogee. After the wards maid rejected the suitor's offer of marriage, he stabbed her, then twice stabbed Leila in the thigh. After Leila pulled

him away, "he plunged the knife into his own chest." The man died from his wounds and the Coroner commended Leila for her courage. The Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of NSW awarded her the Silver Medal and Certificate of Merit for this act of service.

In 1955 Leila retired from nursing. She was known as a person of high principles and great character. In her later years Australians interested in her life interviewed her about her WWI service for publication and broadcast. She died in Turramurra in 1981. Her Defence and Victory Medals are held by RPA Museum.

Vanessa Witton

Sources: Brown, Staff Nurse Leila, Nurses' Narratives, Butler Collection AWM 41/946, Australian War Memorial Canberra Australia; Through These Lines website <http://throughtheselines.com.au/research/1-ACCS>; RPA Museum and Archives; First World War Embarkation Rolls; The AIF Project website; John Hedges, Australian Military Equipment Collectors website; Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate Thurs 27 Mar 1952 p7; Sands Directory 1890; The First Fifty Years by Dorothy Mary Armstrong (1965); Peter Stanton interview with Leila Brown June 1980, broadcast 15 Nov 1980 "The RSL Program" ABC Radio, Australian War Memorial, S00395; Sunday Telegraph 25 Feb 1973 p97.

Glebe, Naturally

An international focus on Glebe

Glebe's charms are about to be given an international focus through two separate projects, one interested in Glebe Walks, and the other in St Helen's Community Garden.

The Glebe Society was approached by a representative of izi.TRAVEL, a Dutch company that supports the creation of audio guides for city tours and museums. Their large library of audio tours is accessed through a free app. They already have tours of many cities in Europe and the US, and some in Asia, and are looking to expand to Australia. Because we have a series of existing walks available free online (glebewalks.com.au) they offered us the opportunity to have three of our walks professionally recorded, to be available on their app. The three original writers of Glebe Walks are currently adapting the text for this new platform. The three walks will be: Glebe Waterfront, People and Places in Early Glebe (titled "Politicians, Publicans and Sinners" on the Glebe Walks website), and Early Architects of Glebe.

Another media venture, a couple of French filmmakers who are producing a series of television programs entitled "Un dimanche à ..." (Sunday in ...), are in Sydney to make a program about the life of the city on Sundays, with the emphasis on social activities that bring people together. They approached St Helen's Community Garden about filming one of our regular gardening activities on a

Sunday morning. They visited us in early February and talked to many of our members. They also plan to produce an interactive online web documentary, so we may be able to see ourselves on video, even if we don't see the television program, which is aimed at French television. Photographs from their time in Sydney are available on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/undimanchea> - a few photos of Glebe and the gardeners appear in "Week 4".

Jan Macindoe
Convenor, Environment



Glebe Community Garden during filming of *Un dimanche à ...* (image: <https://www.facebook.com/undimanchea>)

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

At our February meeting, the possibility of a future capture and release programme to reintroduce blue wrens into Glebe was discussed. It is planned to hold initial discussions with Bird Life Australia about the mechanisms for such a translocation of a bird species.

On Sunday 1 February 2015, the *Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group* held a working bee to remove weeds. The future management of the park was discussed following the submission of a draft work plan to the City of Sydney (Sophie Golding, Urban Ecology Coordinator and Raewyn Broadfoot, Community Garden and Volunteer Coordinator). The next working bee and planting day will be held at 9 am on Sunday 22 March 2015. On Saturday 18 April 2015, the City is organising a community planting day in the park – plants will be provided by the City and it is planned to replace flora along the creek site.

The *Glebe Bushcare Group* continues working each Wednesday morning from 8:30am. In December, further weeding occurred near the timber yards adjacent to the light rail viaduct and in January rubbish was collected from the footpath and verges along The Crescent.

The *Palmerston Ave and Surrounds Landcare Group* has continued discussions with Raewyn Broadfoot, Community Garden and Volunteer Coordinator for the City. It is planned to distribute a flyer to local residents informing them of the work plans for the pocket parks (Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves, and Glebe light rail stop) in 2015.

In *John Street Reserve*, work has been completed on the restoration and repair of the wall on the western boundary, and the adjacent area has been planted with native flora. A tap has been installed in the *Reserve* near the St James Ave entrance and local residents have asked the City to also install an irrigation system for the *Reserve* which would utilise water from the tanks located adjacent to the western tennis court in St James Park. The City has released for comment an Endorsed Concept Plan (prepared by ASPECT Studios) for the establishment of a blue wren habitat garden in the *Reserve*. The Subcommittee confirmed that to protect the habitat and demonstration garden, the *Reserve* should be fenced and declared as a dog-free zone. Following discussion regarding the flora to be planted in the *Reserve*, it was agreed that an on-site meeting should be held involving the City, ASPECT Studios, Friends of John Street Reserve Inc, local residents and the Subcommittee to finalise the selection of plants.

The only recent maintenance in the *Paddy Gray Reserve* has been mowing of the lawns. Jan Craney, a member of the Subcommittee, has spoken with those in the City responsible for park maintenance and a generic plan of management for all pocket parks in the City will be finalised this year. The Work Plan for the *Reserve* will be updated by the City in early 2015. In the *Glebe Town Hall Garden*, the native flora is thriving and additional areas will be planted at the same time as this year's plantings in *John Street Reserve*.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens

Events

2014 Glebe Society Christmas Party a great success!

On a balmy Monday evening 71 members enjoyed good food, drinks, views over Sydney University ovals, memorable photos, and stimulating company – a lovely finale for our year's events. The raffle prizes were coveted by all, and the lucky main prize winners celebrated New Years' Eve on the Opera House forecourt.

Lorel Adams
Convenor, Events

A special thank you to Unik Printing who always do a sterling job printing our newsletter. Unik is located in Camperdown and their phone number is 9550 6833.

Full House for *Glebe Voices* at Blackwattle Cafe

Gale Edwards, international theatre director, led a highly successful *Glebe Voices* at the Blackwattle Café on 18 February. The capacity crowd, sitting in every nook and cranny (including the outside areas, peering in through doorways), listened enthralled to Gale's account of her career in theatre. Her early life was in Adelaide, where she went with her cinema usherette Gran to sit and watch films night after night and be mesmerised by the whole panorama of what was happening on the screen.

Gale shared some mildly scandalous and amusing anecdotes but also conveyed a clear sense of the immense struggles to succeed as a female director with a string of "firsts" including being the first

female to direct Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon. It was no easy run even though she obviously had, from the start, an immense talent for directing; there were many highs but also a fair few lows on the way.

Gale's stellar career took her to many places including China, Broadway and the West End and she has worked across every theatre and film genre, collaborating with the likes of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Trevor Nunn. But she is now determined to base herself in Glebe from here on in. Gale is currently directing *Aida* on the Harbour after her success with *Carmen* a couple of years ago and has embarked on writing her biography.

We need to hear more from Gale and will work hard to entice her to speak again to the Society!

Mairéad Brown retires from Glebe Voices

For three years Mairéad has worked with Carole Herriman in organising this series of free public talks. These four talks per year are an outreach activity of the Glebe Society and the talks are advertised in the local community. A big thank you to Mairéad for her contribution and involvement; but now Carole needs someone to share the job. If you are interested and would like to discuss what is involved, please email Carole on secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

Carole Herriman

Coming up: Glebe Society Events

Fish 'n' Ships Tour

10am – 1pm, Tuesday 17 March.

Leaves from the Maritime Museum (Pyrmont) and ends at the Sydney Fish Markets.

This fascinating tour will take us on board a number of vessels that are part of the Sydney Heritage Fleet. We will meet at 9:30am at the Maritime Museum in time to board the *James Craig* at 10am for an extensive tour and morning tea. After that, we will travel on the heritage Motor Launch, *Harman* to the Heritage Docks and Workshops at Rozelle. Here we will be shown around the busy, volunteer-powered workshops and will see the smaller vessels in the Heritage Fleet collection. The tour will end at the Sydney Fish Markets where we can stop for an optional lunch.

Cost is \$30 per person, and a maximum of 30 people may attend. Please note that passengers will use steep stairs to board *James Craig* and to go down to the ship's lower deck. We regret that wheelchair access is not available for this tour.

For bookings and further information, please see the enclosed flyer.



The motor launch, Harman (1943) will take us to see the Sydney Heritage Fleet (image: <http://www.shf.org.au/>)



Family-friendly Picnic

When? 12 noon, Sunday 29 March

Where? At the end of Cook St, by the bbqs above Blackwattle Bay.

Come along and enjoy Blackwattle Bay views, relax with friends, meet Glebe Society members you may not have encountered before.

BYO everything: picnic lunch, drinks, food to bbq, rugs, chairs, games, kids, and whatever else would make a relaxing afternoon.

In case of bad weather, telephone Lorel on 0458 365 456 to decide whether to bring umbrellas, or move to a later date.

Lorel Adams
Convenor, Events



View from end of Cook St (image: tsk; panoramio.com)

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. We have enjoyed evenings at *The Nags Head* and *Darbar* so far this year.

Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 5 March at 7pm we will go to *Thuy Huong* Vietnamese Restaurant, 28 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 2 April at 7pm we will go to *Alfie & Hetty*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 7 May at 7pm we will go to *La Boheme*, 199 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 Richard Brinsley Sheridan's **The Rivals**; directed by Lyn Collingwood.

Monday 16 March at 7 pm; free admission. The Roxbury is under new management; at this stage we believe that there will be a new menu and food orders can be placed from 5 pm.

Please let your friends know about our first reading. Computer crashed and I lost email addresses!

Lyn Collingwood

Glebe Library

Seniors Week BBQ and Local Community Information Day

11am to 1pm, Thursday 19 March, St Helens Community Centre.

Come along and learn more about the programs and services provided in your local area – Library, NSC, St Helens & their tenants, Dictionary of Sydney.

Refreshments will be provided and the Dictionary of Sydney will provide a guest speaker.

All Roads Led to Shanghai - Clio Caladoukas

6-7pm, Thurs 12 March, Glebe Library

Clio Caladoukas provides a glimpse into Shanghai in 1930s and 1940s. A mix of Asian and European society; which allowed thousands of displaced people to arrive: White Russians fleeing Bolshevik forces and European Jews escaping Nazi persecution. Join Clio as she discusses this fascinating book and time in history.

Australia Day honours for Glebe residents

Glebe Society member, Bill PORGES and three other Glebe residents received Australia Day honours this year. Dr Porges received an OAM for service to tertiary education, and to veterinary science, after a thirty-year tenure with the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Bill was the Principal of St Andrews College for many years. [Note from the Editor: for many years Dr Porges cared for my epileptic cattedog, Doris – he was a fantastic vet!]

Glebe residents to receive AMs were:

- Professor Michael Sidney FROMMER: For significant service to medicine, particularly in the areas of public health and medical education, and to policy development and reform.
- The late Mr Christopher Appleby HOLT: For significant service to the print media industry, particularly in the area of legal publishing. Mr Holt co-founded the Federation Press in 1987.
- Ms Jennifer Catherine NEARY: For significant service to public education through policy development and creating scholarship opportunities for teachers and students.



Bill Porges, Glebe Society member, who received an OAM in the Australia Day honours in January.

Welcome to new members

Stuart Midgley; Jennifer Tilby; Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw

For Your Calendar

Fri 27 February; 7-9pm; *Meet the Balmain Candidates*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 5 March; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday. *Thuy Huong Vietnamese Restaurant*, 28 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wed 11 March; 7pm; *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 12 March; 6-7pm; All Roads Led to Shanghai - Clio Caladoukas, Glebe Library.
 Thurs 12 March; 6:30pm-8pm; *Solving Sydney's Housing Affordability Crisis*, Sydney Lower Town Hall.
 Mon 16 March; 7pm; *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.
 Tues 17 March; 10am-1pm; *Fish 'n' Ships Tour*, departs Maritime Museum (Pyrmont).
 Thurs 19 March; 11am-1pm; *Seniors Week BBQ and Information Day*, St Helens Community Centre.
 Sun 29 March; 12 noon; Family-friendly Picnic. End of Cook St, above Blackwattle Bay.
 Thurs 2 April; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday, *Alfie & Hetty*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wed 8 April; 7pm; *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 23 April; 2.30pm; Planting of Gallipoli Pine, Foley Park.
 Thurs 7 May; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday, *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday mornings, from 8:30am; *Glebe Bushcare Group*, Jubilee Park, Sue Copeland: 9692 9161.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

Management Committee

President	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	John Gray	02 9518 7253	pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au
Secretary	Carole Herriman	02 9571 9092	secretary@glebesociety.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Rosalind Hecker	02 9660 7056	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Jeannie Foyle		treasurer@glebesociety.org.au
	Lorel Adams	02 9571 1113	lorel@glebesociety.org.au
	Chris Blair	0414 550 382	chris@glebesociety.org.au
	Jock Keene	02 9571 4078	jock@glebesociety.org.au
	Mairéad Browne	02 9552 2888	mairead@glebesociety.org.au
	Meg Wallace		meg@glebesociety.org.au
Bays and Foreshores	Lesley Lynch	02 9660 5084	bays@glebesociety.org.au
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au
Communications	Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214	bill@glebesociety.org.au
Community Development	Janice Challinor	0401 505 657	community@glebesociety.org.au
Environment	Jan Macindoe	02 9660 0208	environment@glebesociety.org.au
Heritage	Liz Simpson-Booker	02 9518 6186	heritage@glebesociety.org.au
Planning	Neil Macindoe	02 9660 0208	planning@glebesociety.org.au
Transport & Traffic	Murray Jewell		transport@glebesociety.org.au

Working Groups & Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	02 9660 7930	milton.lyn@gmail.com
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	editor@glebesociety.org.au
Events Coordinator			events@glebesociety.org.au
History	Lyn Collingwood	02 9660 5817	lyncoll@optusnet.com.au
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Website Coordinator	Phil Young	02 9692 9583	webmaster@glebesociety.org.au
Chief Tweeter	Scott Calvert		twitter@glebesociety.org.au

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the
glebe society
HERITAGE • ENVIRONMENT • COMMUNITY

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



Glebe steps (image: Bobbi Lewin; <http://bobbilewin.com/>)