

UrbanGrowth's Bays Precinct consultation – should we be worried?

From Lesley Lynch, Convenor, Bays & Foreshores:

UrbanGrowth NSW held a marathon consultation – the Sydneysiders Summit and related forums – over five days (14-18 May) on the ‘transformation’ of the Bays Precinct. The general public was invited to drop in over the weekend. More specialist groups were invited to separate forums: councils on Thursday evening, community stakeholders/leaders on Friday evening and industry (planners, architects etc) on Monday. We are not quite sure when the big end of town and major developers were invited!

The Glebe Society took UrbanGrowth’s invitation to this consultation seriously and with our ever-optimistic good faith. We paid for 3,000 leaflets advertising the Summit locally, held a well-attended public meeting to discuss the Summit and reminded all members just before the Summit. The Glebe Society was consequently well-represented among the many interested Sydneysiders who dropped in to see what UrbanGrowth had to say.

An enjoyable weekend experience ...

The Summit was a friendly, interesting and enjoyable experience in a fabulous venue (the refurbished Locomotive Hall of the Australian Technology Park in Eveleigh). It was brilliantly planned and no doubt very informative for those who came without detailed knowledge of the Bays Precinct or the many debates about their future redevelopment over the years.



Glebe Society representatives discussion outside the Sydneysiders Summit. (Image V. Simpson-Young)

'The public good in such a huge urban development cannot be protected by the good intentions of some officials. It requires strong formal planning principles guaranteeing transparency, strong planning laws protecting the public good and political will'

There was a veritable cornucopia of information: the professional, glossy Discussion Paper, fascinating information displays and videos, repeated short talks on ideas for ‘transforming’ the bays’ and helpful UrbanGrowth staff at every display. This information flow was interspersed with constant exhortations to tell UrbanGrowth what you think: through short Q&A sessions, sticky note boards, electronic gadgets, a video room, talking tables and intimate and informal chats with the UrbanGrowth staff – including the CEO and senior staff. Classy free food and refreshments were available, too.

Sydneysiders seemed to enjoy the experience and made plenty of use of all the feedback options.

Consultation a soft sell

But if you came looking for tangible information about the kinds of propositions UrbanGrowth was exploring for the Bays – 11 months into their mega-urban renewal project – you would have gone away disappointed.

It was a soft sell with the vaguest of indications as to precisely what we, the public owners, would likely get through the promised ‘transformation’ process. It struck me as being designed to generate warm feelings about good things to come.

There is little in the glossy Discussion Paper that is new. (To view the Discussion Paper, go to <https://transformingthebays.com.au/> and scroll

down to the bottom of the page, where you can download the pdf.) The language and many of the broad proposals repeat community input over the years and much of the rest is planning and marketing jargon. There are lots of broad-brush indications of possible ‘transformations’ for the bays, but few tangible proposals and no information on interested players who may be having discussions with anyone in government.

It does not seem like a lot of progress and is not plausible to many of us.

Strong principles and processes are needed

We urged UrbanGrowth to commit to strong planning principles for the Bays to signal a real break from past practices in NSW. They have responded with a set of principles which are better than most but are, however, alarmingly silent or soft on two critical aspects:

Firstly, there is no mention of the principle embedded in the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 that there be no further alienation from public ownership, by sale or long term lease, of the harbour foreshores. There are 80+ hectares of publicly owned foreshore lands at stake in this project. One can only assume the silence on this principle signals the likely sell-off of much of this irreplaceable public asset for quick returns to the Treasury.

Secondly, much of the corruption that has blighted planning in NSW over recent decades has been associated with behind-the-scenes approvals for unsolicited developments. We have repeatedly urged that ‘all unsolicited development proposals relating to any Bays public land or waters be subject to open competitive tenders and proper public scrutiny’.

UrbanGrowth continues to evade this explicit principle for the more vague promise of ‘an ethical procurement process that optimises value for government and taxpayers while being attractive to investors’. This could mean anything.

UrbanGrowth has been under persistent pressure on this point. In response to questions, they promise a fair and competitive process but the words always leave the process undefined and are suggestive of some internal process that we can ‘trust’.

These are vast, valuable public assets. Sydneysiders should demand a formal, open and competitive tender process for all development proposals.

UrbanGrowth’s immediate priorities for the Bays Precinct

A number of ‘Destinations’ are flagged for immediate (2015-19) action: Bays Waterfront

Promenade, Bays Market District, White Bay Power Station and White Bay including White Bay Cruise Terminal.

Bays Waterfront Promenade

The promenade promises (in lyrical language) a welcome extension of the foreshore walk from Balmain to Pyrmont – in fact to the CBD. This is terrific, although not a new commitment. And one gets an edgy feeling that the foreshore walk might be the big ‘public realm’ sop for the community. Even here there are a few gaps. The promenade stops at Glebe Island Bridge and it appears that the Sydney Superyacht Marina will control public access to its bit of the foreshore.

The Discussion Paper is silent on the future of **Glebe Island Bridge**. Both councils and community organisations have constantly argued for its future use as a pedestrian and cycle route with a future option for light rail. Developments already approved or seeking approval in Rozelle Bay appear to pre-empt such future uses.

Bays Market District (Sydney Fish Market and Blackwattle Bay)

The discussion paper floats a very attractive future for the fish markets: ‘rejuvenate the Sydney Fish Markets ... and connect it to the water, expand the fresh food offering, creating a world class Bays Market District’; ‘Restaurants, cafés and Sydney’s best dining destination’. Yes – a very welcome vision. Although it was a bit of an unpleasant surprise to the Pyrmont/Ultimo community to see that this market district extended along Bank Street where they thought they had agreement for a public park.

More interesting was what is *not* mentioned on the double-spread glossy pages of the Discussion Paper: large-scale residential development.

It is clear from other information that a significant part of the fish markets will be sold off for residential and, possibly, hotel development. This is hardly a surprise and UrbanGrowth does reveal elsewhere, in passing, that housing is a priority for this part of the bays; and it is not a problem in itself. But questions from the floor could not elicit any further information as to whether there were discussions underway with any developers or any developers with an active interest or with specific ideas. Questioners were assured that no discussion about options was underway with anyone.

Remarkable, given that one major player (the Daha Group) is reported as having bought the Bidvest site adjoining the Fish Markets for \$17.5m in December 2014 in preparation for a \$3 billion bid to redevelop Blackwattle Bay. Daha had already made one (of at least two) secret unsolicited development bid for Blackwattle Bay in 2013. (SMH

24.5.2015). (Apparently city real estate agents are confident that apartments will be available in the not-too-distant future at the Fish Markets).

One could be forgiven for thinking that UrbanGrowth's assurance that neither they nor the new Minister for Planning have held any discussions with these players might be a technically correct response that obscures the magnitude of current developer lobbying and negotiations.

Expect rapid action on this site later in 2015. We can only hope that multiple players will force the Government to utilise an independent, transparent competitive tender for this lucrative development.

One can also only hope that UrbanGrowth's nonspecific references to diverse housing will be translated into a formal and binding target for significant social and affordable housing as part of this development.

White Bay Power Station

Somewhat surprisingly, this is scheduled as an immediate priority. Urban Growth's words are vague but consistent with years of community recommendations:

'We see it as a statement of the ongoing transformation and evolution of the Bays Precinct. By creating a new landmark for Sydney that draws strongly on the whole precinct's working heritage, we can enshrine the area's history while demonstrating a resilience and flexibility to adapt to the future.'

Do they have any tangible ideas or expressions of interest? None that they are telling us about anyway, so we don't know. But it would be very adventurous to flag this as an immediate priority without any possible players. They give us a few general clues. Housing is given the highest possible priority – as is employment and the public realm – and they give us three overseas developments in planning to think about: London's Battersea Power Station, Hudson Yards in New York and the Toronto Waterfront.

Rozelle Bay and Bays Waterways – medium term priorities

This destination includes Glebe, Blackwattle and Johnstons Bays. These are medium term priorities scheduled for 2019-22. There are no objectives –

New Members' Night 2015
Wednesday 22 July
6.30 – 8.30 pm
Harold Park Hotel
(Details on p.12)

just a statement of vague possibilities:

'the potential to integrate a viable mix of new land and maritime uses, with working harbour industries and on-water recreation facilities. It would also include better public access to the waterfront.'

I note that the promise is not for a continuous foreshore promenade here. At the moment it is doubtful that this can be delivered for the Rozelle Bay foreshores. There is no reference to the Glebe Island Bridge, which is pretty central to what is, and is not, viable in these bays. And one wonders what the diversity of on-water recreation activities will be like with the superyacht marina berths expanded from their current 24 to 43 and the construction of the second dry boat storage building which will lift the number of stored boats to over 1000.

Transport – unanswered questions remain

The massive transport and traffic issues surrounding the Bays Precinct are well recognised. It is therefore astonishing that the Discussion Paper, while acknowledging that 'an integrated strategy that considers all aspects of movement' is essential to the redevelopment of the Bays, offers absolutely nothing beyond grand rhetoric and a bundle of questions that have been asked many times, but remain unanswered.

In part, this reflects UrbanGrowth's lack of control (or influence?) over key elements of this critical infrastructure. The monster WestConnex is outside their control and will have huge implication for the area. It is doubtful they can determine the future of Glebe Island Bridge. The expanded markets, visitors, workers and residents around Blackwattle Bay will exacerbate the existing horrors of the Bridge Rd / Anzac Bridge intersection.

The continued lack of any detail about transport solutions is alarming.

In summary

UrbanGrowth does not seem to understand community consultation. It clearly put enormous effort into this event and its CEO was visibly annoyed and puzzled at the criticism that surfaced from the floor. It wasn't just that they would not provide any information as to what the summit was about until the day before – though that seems pointlessly provocative. But why they would think we would be positive about a bland and non-specific vision of possible 'transformations' for the Bays Precinct at this point is a mystery.

We know there is much activity and interest from developers and others. It is inconceivable that they do not have a bottom line from Treasury that they are not considering proposals as likely starters, that they have not made pretty firm decisions about what kind of residential development will be predominant. A prominent community leader leant

over my shoulder on the Friday night to growl: 'They are speaking to us like children!'

I can only presume their political masters wants the lid kept on anything likely to be controversial for as long as possible.

Urban Growth staff may well be serious in their stated desire to create a great and innovative transformation of the Bays and to 'do planning' in NSW differently – but that is not the point. The public good in such a huge urban development cannot be protected by the good intentions of some officials. It requires strong formal planning principles guaranteeing transparency, strong planning laws protecting the public good and political will. Some optimism has been expressed that the new planning minister might be open to such reform and that he might see the Bays Precinct as an exemplar for good and open planning in NSW. This optimism has been dented by his decision in recent days NOT to send the latest major modifications to the Packer Casino complex to the Planning Advisory Committee – notwithstanding a statement that they would a few days earlier.

'Trust us' sounds a bit thin at the moment.

Urban Growth's next steps

Urban Growth will provide the Government with a 'Transformation Plan' in August. One can only hope it will have more tangible proposals than are currently on display. From September they will begin planning for the four immediate priorities.

They promise 'ongoing public participation in all stages'.

Our next steps

The Glebe Society will respond directly to the summit and the Discussion Paper by the deadline of 10 July – though many have noted that it is hard to see how one can meaningfully respond to such a non-specific paper. All the general points have been made repeatedly by the community.

In addition, UrbanGrowth has issued a call for 'Great Ideas' to achieve the objectives stated for

the four priority destinations by the 6 July. This is a strange proposal. It is to have a formal assessment process '*undertaken by expert panel, overseen by an independent Head of Assessment. A Fairness Adviser will impartially evaluate the assessment methodology and process.*'

Though it is open to 'everyone', one presumes that major developers will not be relying on this process to get their proposals approved.

We will give consideration to responding with some great ideas – more on this later.

We will also work with other community groups through the Bays Community Coalition (BaCC) and a wider alliance incorporating most community groups around the bays to develop joint responses.

To assist with this there will be Community Workshop on Sunday 7 June, 2.30-4.30pm at Leichhardt Town Hall, to discuss community responses to the Summit.

Lesley Lynch
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores



Top class food and service at UrbanGrowth's Sydneysiders Summit. (Image V. Simpson-Young)

Vale Liz Rooney - Many in the Glebe community are mourning the recent passing of Liz Rooney, a local community artist. Over recent months Liz and Aunty Kathy Farrawell have been working on a mural in Elsie Walk, a project funded by the City of Sydney and auspiced by the Glebe Society.

History & Heritage

'From the Terraces' by Liz Simpson-Booker

Unintended Consequences #1: John Horbury Hunt's plans to live in India are blown off course...

John Horbury Hunt was born in Canada, trained as an architect in Boston and at the start of the American Civil War set sail to live in India. In 1863, *en route* to India, the ship put in to Sydney. To our lasting benefit, James Barnet (the acting Colonial Architect) persuaded Horbury Hunt to settle in Sydney.

However, it was with Edmund Blacket, rather than Barnet, that Horbury Hunt worked before setting up his own practice in 1869.

Glebe's church of St Johns Bishopthorpe is usually attributed to Edmund Blacket and his chief assistant John Horbury Hunt. But it has been said that the church's design owes more to Horbury Hunt than to Blacket.

Horbury Hunt was a great promoter of polychrome brickwork and is also credited with bringing the Shingle Style of architecture to Australia. We can see derivative elements of both of these Horbury Hunt enthusiasms in a number of buildings in Glebe, as local architects and builders took up his ideas.

Glebe is pretty much wall-to-wall stucco and hence our relatively small numbers of brick buildings tend to stand out. The most obvious example of polychrome brickwork in Glebe is Record Reign Hall (Edward R Halloran, architect, 1897) in St Johns Rd. Other examples include the 2-storey terrace at 34 Ferry Rd and *Araluen* (9 Arcadia Rd, Patrick O'Reilly, architect, 1895).

Horbury Hunt's other enthusiasm was for the shingle, which has been used since Roman times, as a roofing material. Wood slices are laid like tiles but are longer and narrower and laid with a greater overlap. In colonial Sydney, roof shingles were seen as more durable than thatch but had to be fixed by pegs as nails were too scarce to be used for this purpose. One marvellous example of roof shingle in Glebe is *Emslee* (27 Mansfield St, 1857).

We can see the small-scale use of shingles in awning roofs, for example. But shingles also became fashionable as a wall cladding material. Their use can be seen in many Federation houses in Glebe where they are used to provide contrasting texture on vertical surfaces and on curved surfaces. Geometric shaping of the leading edge of the shingle was used to further enliven surfaces and create complex patterning.

Some examples of Glebe houses with shingle cladding are:

- ❖ *Lasswade* (242 Glebe Point d, 1893) – shingled skirt to balcony;
 - ❖ *Hartford* (244 Glebe Point Rd, 1899) – shingled skirt to gable, circular shingled tower;
 - ❖ *Bega* (35 Allen St, 1902) – shingled sides to gable;
 - ❖ 7 Arcadia Rd (1895) – circular shingled tower;
- and last but not least:
- ❖ 62-64 Toxteth Rd (c1892) – pair of 2-storey semi-detached houses with extensive shingle cladding to the second storey.

Morton Herman described Horbury Hunt as 'an architect's architect', one of the founders of the Institute of Architects of NSW and a 'figure of importance in architectural affairs'.

The ADB entry for John Horbury Hunt lists his two occupations as 'architect' and 'eccentric'. The depression of the 1890s reduced him to penury and he died in 1904 at RPA Hospital.

We in Glebe are lucky to have, via a trickle-down effect, a myriad of reminders of the legacy of John Horbury Hunt as well as a major church building in which he played a significant part.

Sources :Australian Dictionary of Biography, online edition; Fraser, H and Joyce, R *The Federation House: Australia's Own Style*, Weldon, 1986; Herman, M *The Architecture of Victorian Sydney*, A&R, 2nd ed 1964; Jahn, G *Sydney Architecture*, Watermark Press, 1997; Stapleton, M and Stapleton, I *Australian House Styles*, Flannel Flower Press, 1997.



Roof shingles, *Emslee*, 27 Mansfield St (image: V. Simpson-Young)

Unintended Consequences #2: More than 15 years on, Olympic-related impositions are still with us

Many Glebe Society members will have seen a media report (*SMH*, 10.4.2015) about the massive advertising billboard which sits atop the heritage-listed silos at Glebe Island. The billboard was erected in the 1990s to help promote the Olympics. The owner of the billboard is Sydney Ports. The lessee of the billboard, Eye Drive, has sought approval (from the Department of Planning) to extend the timeframes for the approved advertising signage from three to 10 years.

Media quoted the City of Sydney's Planning Director, Graham Jahn, as stating that the billboard should be torn down as it was 'a permanent blight on a state-significant heritage item.' Unhappily, one would also have to assume that the revenue raised for government coffers from the billboard lease is also state-significant ...

The Glebe Society also lodged a submission on this matter with the Department of Planning. We noted, *inter alia*, that the Silos dominate the Bays Precinct and the attempt by Eye Drive to lock in a long-term approval mechanism was pre-emptive, given the major changes which will take place in the future as a result of the Bays Urban Renewal Project.

Unintended Consequences #3: A knockdown price

The London Telegraph (31.4.15) reported that Westminster City Council have ordered developers to rebuild – brick by brick – the *Carlton Tavern* in London's Maida Vale after it was levelled just days before it was due to become a Listed Building.

Three months ago, the Council refused planning consent for the pub to be replaced with flats. The *Carlton Tavern* was the only building in its street not destroyed during the Blitz and was considered an important historical building.

It was reported that Westminster City Council fast-tracked an enforcement notice which required the would-be developer to recreate the building 'as it stood immediately prior to its demolition'. The move also prevented the owners from selling the site until the building has been restored.

Other Heritage Notes & News

Glebe Island Bridge

The Glebe Society's President has written to Mark Speakman, the NSW Heritage Minister, pointing out damage to this bridge and seeking his intervention to ensure that Roads & Maritime fulfil their responsibilities for the conservation, safety and security of the bridge. This should be the first step in the ultimate utilisation of this heritage asset

The Glebe Society suggested that the community around the bays should be able to comment in a timely way on issues which affect it. To provide such an opportunity once every 10 years does not suggest a genuine, consultative and responsive approach to community engagement.



The heritage-listed silos at Glebe Island, topped by massive billboard. (Image: Newtown graffiti, Flickr)

Wow! That is heritage protection, with some punch!

Closer to home, the *Sydney Morning Herald* (15.4.15) reported that the Land & Environment Court had found the owner was responsible for the demolition of the heritage-listed Edwardian shopfronts adjacent to the Annandale Hotel in Parramatta Rd. Council had approved a redevelopment of the site, with the proviso that the shopfront façade be retained.

The owner could face a maximum penalty for the offence of \$1.1 million, an amount which would hardly register a blip on a rampant developer's radar, one would think.

Postscript: Final judgement imposed fines totalling \$250,000...

as a vital pedestrian and cycle conduit to help relieve Sydney's traffic woes.

History of the Glebe Fire Brigade

The amazing online Dictionary of Sydney regularly comes up with an array of interesting new articles. Amongst the latest: a history of the Glebe Fire Brigade by Gary Boyce.

James Barnet: Colonial Architect of a Thousand Public Buildings ...

... three of which (the Police Station, the old Court House and the old Post Office) are in Glebe. James Barnet was born in Scotland but lived all his Australian years in Glebe (Derwent St in 1865) and Forest Lodge (*Braeside*, now demolished, where Officeworks now stands on the corner of Parramatta Rd and Ross St).

The City of Sydney Historical Association (COSHA) will host a talk by Emeritus Professor Don Napper on James Barnet on Saturday 11 July at 2pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. \$5 for non-members, no bookings required.

*Liz Simpson-Booker
Heritage Convenor*

Rearview: Interview with MaryJane and Michael Hogan

Rearview is a project undertaken by the 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. For this occasional series, various residents will be interviewed, and short articles published in the Glebe Society *Bulletin*.

This month, Margaret Cody chats with MaryJane and Michael Hogan. MaryJane comments that ...

My earliest memory of Glebe goes back to when I was a university student in the early 1970s. Glebe was where there were cheap flats for university students. That was all I knew. After our marriage we bought our house in Victoria Rd in 1978. When we bought it, people were very surprised that we bought in Glebe because it had a terrible reputation: it was not only a run-down suburb, there was a lot of crime. In the 1960s there had been two child murders, which people remembered. We bought because it was close to the university where Michael and I were working.

We have stayed in Victoria Rd, but the street and the area have both changed significantly. When we bought, Harold Park was still fully functioning as a dog and trotting track and the former council waste depot at the end of Victoria Rd had been bitumened over and functioned as a car park during meetings. Attendances were so high that buses used to park in our street with the engines running all evening to take the crowds away. Also, the Goods Rail Line was still functioning and coal trains used to go through the tunnel and over the viaduct several times a day. It was a comforting sound at 3am when I was feeding a baby; ie 'someone else is awake in the world'. Jubilee Park foreshore area – then Federal Park – was occupied by timber yards, which had been taken over by squatters. There was no foreshore park, and a road ran across what is now parkland to the bridge over Johnston's Creek.

Transport is much the same except for the coming of the light rail which has transformed Glebe.

The biggest changes are in the gentrification; the boarding houses and cheap flats have disappeared. The houses have increased in value enormously. Families of a higher socio-economic bracket moved in. Glebe, and especially Glebe Point, became a very desirable place to live. The best way to get involved in the life of Glebe was through the children at Hilda Booler kindergarten and Toxteth Rd kindergarten, and then at St James School.

I don't miss anything and think Glebe is better than it used to be, especially since it reverted to the City of Sydney. I did miss Grace Bros after it closed down, but the Broadway Shopping Centre is an excellent replacement.

Who lived in your street? By Lyn Collingwood

Glebe's saloon keepers

The Different Drummer, 185 Glebe Point Rd, is the oldest of Glebe's wine bars. Alcohol has been sold there since 1903 when shopkeeper W C Tanner added colonial wines to his stock of cakes, sweets, cigars and soft drinks. In 1922 his licence passed to Frederick Arnold Collins and then to Horatio

Harris who turned the premises into a wine saloon. Subsequent licensees included Horatio's son Gordon and the appropriately named J P Punch.

Most early wine sellers operated as general stores. Prior to Tanner's occupancy the building was from



1897 a fruit and confectionery shop run by Denis Daniels. Its neighbour at number 183 was chemist and dentist Charles Harold Wren West.

William Charles Tanner, born in 1867 at Hartley to William and Elizabeth née March, in 1892 married Annie Millman Smith at Bathurst where William Harold (1893-1951) and Clement Charles (1894-1980) were born. Later children born at Glebe were Vivienne who died at birth in 1905, John Norman (who became a boat builder), Violet and Sydney. William snr died at the family home 11 Sheehy St Glebe on Christmas Eve 1934; his widow died at Canterbury on 28 May 1950. They were buried in the Church of England section at Rookwood.

Horatio Harris had been publican of the Emu Hotel at Cootamundra where the local constabulary dropped in regularly to check he wasn't serving drunks or beyond closing time. He then managed the Friendship Hotel in Sydney's Bathurst St and the Cross Keys Hotel in Surry Hills. At Glebe, Horatio and Julia Harris lived at 449 Glebe Point Rd while their sons Frederick and Gordon lived at number 185 together with Gordon's wife Queenie Winifred née Everett. Murrumburrah-born Frederick Claude (1896-1930) was the saloon's barman; ex-navy and barman now a hairdresser Gordon (1891-1955) its licensee. Not involved in the business were siblings Percival Harcourt (1887-1968) and Vera Violetta Vivian who died at Cootamundra as Mrs Henry Tie in 1955. Horatio and Julia moved from Glebe to *Harcourt* in Five Dock. Horatio died at Balmain Hospital on 15 June 1933; his widow on 2 February 1942 after being struck by a bus at Abbotsford. Both were buried at Coogee.

Continuing the work of the NSW Licenses Reduction Board established in 1919 to decrease the number of publicans, the licences of 40 Sydney wine shops were cancelled in 1924. Among those affected were the Glebe businesses of fruiterer William John Montague Rossiter and his wife Ruby Maud at 37 Ross St and confectioner John Siddens at 37 Glebe Point Rd. Ex tram driver Hugh Rohan and Mary Frances née Jackson kept a saloon at 158 St Johns Rd on its corner with Mt Vernon St, a former grocery run 1906-17 by Clara Louisa and Maurice Brown, a Glebe alderman 1904-13. After he lost his wine licence Rohan continued as a greengrocer, augmenting his income with organised betting on the premises (his defence that times were hard). A Glebe alderman 1937-9, he died at 134 Hereford St on 19 August 1941. The St Johns Rd building, which remains largely intact, was shabby by the late 1960s when it was occupied by a boot repairer.

Another Glebe wine licensee was Sydney Woodbridge, born in Windsor in 1885, educated at Marsden Public School, employed at the Riverstone Meatworks, married to Esther Louise

Hunt in 1906, died at Liverpool in 1955. Like Hughie Rohan, he fell foul of the law, convicted on at least four occasions of owning an illicit rum-making still.

In 1920 Glebe's Sergeant Kennedy paid a visit to Woodbridge's grocery at 32 Brougham St where he found rubber tubing running from the bathroom to a boiler, white spirit in various stages of fermentation, and casks of treacle and molasses in the yard. Despite his protestations that he was looking for a new way of making benzene, Woodbridge was fined £100. In 1921 he transferred his licence to Rozelle; the following year he was fined £50 for operating a still at Haberfield. In 1931 he was fined £300 for having a still improvised from treacle tins on his brother-in-law's property at Molong where he was living near destitute in a hut with his wife.

No doubt Woodbridge's home-made rum was not aged but sold to be drunk rough. Some 7d a bottle colonial wines were nicknamed 'sudden death' and wine bars stocked more plonk than vintage, the drink of choice a fortified 'fourpenny dark'. Cheap spirits were advertised as needing no corkscrew. Like billiard parlours, wine saloons were the haunts of petty criminals. With a one-punch hit in 1938 labourer Richard Price killed his friend Keith Somerville on the footpath outside a Jones St Ultimo wine saloon.

In the 1960s *The Different Drummer* was comfortably old-fashioned, providing cheap Mercury cider and an old bar to lean on. Today it sells a range of tapas and exotic cocktails, has a 2am licence, and its red mood lighting and indoor aquarium provide a 'quirky sense of style'.

Sources: *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 30.6.1933; *Freeman's Journal* various issues including 9.6.1906; *Hebrew Standard of Australasia* various issues including 29.7.1904; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Records; *Sands Directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 17.12.1923, 12.9.1930, 26.12.1934; Websites: *Different Drummer*, Glebe Aldermen.

Lyn Collingwood



The different Drummer (Image: Peter Miller)

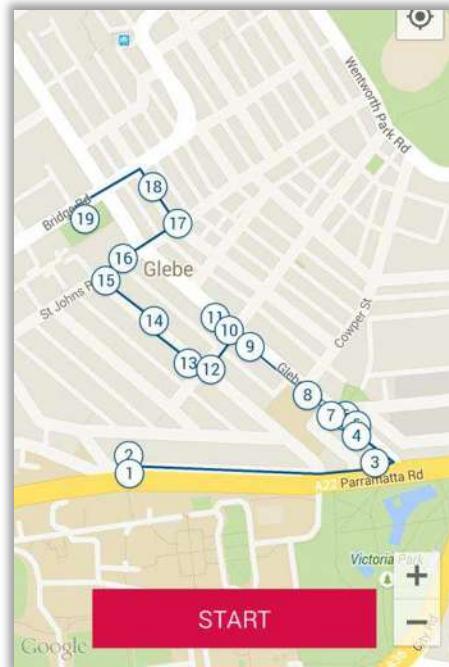
Explore Glebe with an audio guide

The first two of Glebe Walks have been converted to audio walks, available on the izi.TRAVEL app. The walks now available are *People and Places in Early Glebe* (called *Politicians, Publicans and Sinners* on the GlebeWalks website) and *Glebe Waterfront Walk*. You can now listen to them, as well as following the route on an interactive map and reading the text.

You can download the free izi.TRAVEL app from an app store to your smart phone or tablet. Then open the app and press on Explore. When you have chosen your Glebe Walk you can go to the map and the audio can be played for each stop, or will start automatically as you get close to each stop. You will have a better listening experience if you use headphones. Try it out yourself, and recommend it to visitors to Glebe. A third walk, *Early Glebe Architects*, will be available in a few weeks, as will a Balmain walk.

Izi.TRAVEL is based in the Netherlands and the app contains audio guides for many European cities and museums as well as other cultural attractions. They are expanding to Australia, but you will find many opportunities to use the app if you are travelling in Europe.

Jan Macindoe



The start page of the audio tour on the Izi.Travel smart phone app. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)

Who lived in your house? Reserve the date for this Sands Directory talk

Sands directory

Search now

You can search the Sands Directory for historic Sydney household and business information.

The records have been scanned from microfilm into a complete digital edition.

Sands Directory search

Sands Sydney, Suburban and Country Commercial Directory

Step back in time

The navigation bar to the left contains the directory volumes & different sections for easy downloading. A table of contents has provided showing the information in each section to help you specific year and section you might need, for example the Sydney Directories for Alexandria in 1860.

The firm of John Sands Ltd (Printers and Stationers) published their directory each year from 1858-59 to 1932-33 (except for 1872, 1874, 1879 and 1881). The household and business information it contains

Webpage for the Sands Directory (image:
<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/search-our-collections/sands-directory>)

Join City Archivists, Naomi and Susan as they introduce the new Sands digital directory, available on the City of Sydney website.

The Sands directories cover all of NSW, through its country commercial, country alphabetical and pastoral sections. Sands can shed light on when streets were named or when suburbs were divided and are an ideal resource for family history searches, revealing where grandparents or great grandparents lived, who their neighbours were and what their occupations were.

Learn how to use the online Sands Sydney, Suburban and Country Commercial Directory. Naomi and Susan will present a case study on a property in Glebe and will lead you step by step through the process.

Glebe Library; 5 - 6pm on Tuesday 28 July.

Carolyn Tweedie

Community Matters

New to the Dictionary of Sydney: *Forty years of the Elsie Refuge for Women and Children*, by Catie Gilchrist



The Dictionary of Sydney has recently added an entry on the history of the Elsie Refuge for Women and Children. The first paragraph of the entry is reproduced below; and the full text of this fascinating account can be found on the Dictionary of Sydney website: http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/forty_years_of_the_elsie_refuge_for_women_and_children.

'In the early days of autumn 1974 an intrepid group of Sydney Women's Liberation members, led by Anne Summers with Jennifer Dakers and Bessie

Guthrie, broke into two adjoining vacant houses, 'Elsie' and 'Minnie', at 73 and 75 Westmoreland St on the Glebe Estate. Armed only with broomsticks, shovels and energetic determination, they changed the locks to establish residency and claimed squatter's rights. On that day, 16 March, the women declared Elsie Women's Refuge Night Shelter open as Australia's first emergency safe haven for women and children subject to domestic violence. So began a remarkable and fearless social experiment, grounded in activism around feminism and housing campaigns, which would inspire services for women and children experiencing domestic violence across New South Wales and Australia.'

Raffle for 'Centipede' at Glebe Public School

This **Hand-made Queen-size Quilt** by Ellie Edgar, an award winning quilter from Port Macquarie, is **valued at \$2800.**

The raffle will be drawn on 9 October 2015 at Centipede's 'Sunset Soiree', Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Road, Glebe.

Tickets cost \$2 each

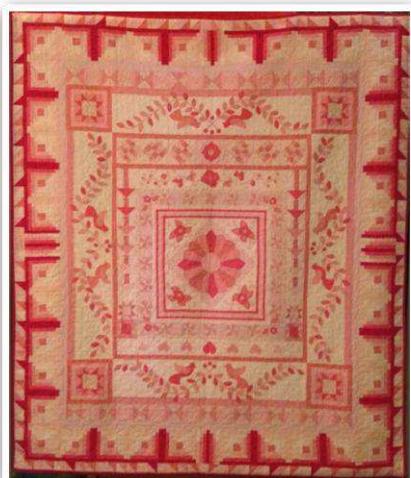


To purchase tickets or to take a booklet of 20 to sell please contact Janice Challinor on community@glebesociety.org.au after 14 June 2015.

All raffle proceeds will go to **CENTIPEDE at GLEBE PUBLIC SCHOOL**, which supports children, aged 5 - 8 years with before and after school care, breakfast, dinner and holiday programs. Most come from disadvantaged backgrounds.



FRIENDS OF CENTIPEDE was established with the support of the Glebe Society



Janet Venn-Brown's story

I was listening to Radio National on Sunday afternoon 26 April, when I heard Janet Venn-Brown's name mentioned. Janet, who had her 90th birthday last October, is a well-known artist and a member of the Glebe Society. She often comes to Thirsty Thursday dinners and sometimes talks about her life in Italy and the assassination of her fiancé. Janet was interviewed in the program.

Here is some text from the program:

'In 1972, Palestinian writer and translator Wael Zuaiter was assassinated by a Mossad hit team. Zuaiter had been accused of being involved in the Olympics-based Munich massacre, and was targeted by Israel's secret service in a counter-terrorism operation born from the aftermath of Munich.'

The story of Zuaiter's life and death also has an unusual connection to Australia. His fiancée was Australian painter Janet Venn-Brown, who happens to be the great aunt of Radiotonic's Jesse Cox.'

Google 'Radio National' and '*Radiotonic*' to read or hear the rest of this sad and strange story.

Edwina Doe



Janet Venn-Brown (image: Radio National)

Public meeting expresses concern about substantial modifications to the Sydney Superyacht Marina development plans

Following a request from the Save our Bays group the Glebe Society held a public meeting on 12 May at Benledi to discuss the proposed modifications to the Sydney Superyacht Marina (SSYM) development on Rozelle Bay. We took the opportunity to also discuss the importance of the Bays Precinct Summit that UrbanGrowth was running on the following weekend and to urge community members to attend and register their concerns. (See Report page 1).

Despite it being budget night, about 60 people turned up. I gave a quick overview of the Summit and distributed a list of key community issues that people who attended might want to raise.

The main discussion of the evening focussed on the contentious aspects of the proposed development modification for the SSYM. (Details of application for modification of the DA can be found on the Department of Planning website at: <http://goo.gl/hcBxR8>.)

A detailed overview of the proposal was given by Judy Cashmore from the Save Our Bays group. Martin Lawrence gave an expert perspective on the likely increased noise impact. I spoke more generally about the Glebe Society's perspective and the significance of this modification being sought under an old Part 3 development approval.

We were all in general agreement on the aspects we would oppose and the difficulty in successfully opposing modifications made under the old Part 3 planning law. There is little room for recourse to

rules and technical breaches. Part 3 approvals are all about ministerial discretionary assessment and approval and that holds for subsequent applications for modifications. The formal approval sits with the Minister but the delegation is to the Department of Planning and Environment.

Nonetheless we will be making a submission to the Department of Planning objecting to a number of the modifications, especially the expansion of the superyacht berths from 24 to 43 largely because this huge increase, while being squeezed within the current approved on-water area, is excessive for this small Bay.

We will also argue the more strategic issue that this number of superyachts will pre-empt the future use of the Glebe Island Bridge as a pedestrian and cycle route – and possibly as a light rail route. The huge increase of berths has to be based on an assumption that none of the future uses for the Glebe Island Bridge will be permitted. The future of the Bridge is still very much an open policy question (as far the public knows anyway). Both councils are strong supporters of the bridge for transport purposes. This is an interesting example of public good (the preservation and re-use of valuable public infrastructure) being sacrificed to the need for fast and convenient passage of superyachts.

The likely impact on the other recreational uses of Rozelle Bay was also raised in the meeting. It was noted that the proponents say they have consulted with the Sydney University rowers and the dragon

boats and they have no objections. We will check that.

The impact on the Bay is particularly significant when one combines it with the planned expansion of the dry boat storage with the second approved building – to 1,000 stored boats!

Plans to extend outside seating areas – including on a new large rooftop – and to remove previously required sound locks in the yacht club will generate more noise from the development.

The impact will be to further disrupt the enjoyment of the foreshore parks which are hugely popular with both locals and the wider Sydney community.

We are hopeful that the strength of our objections and the number of opposing submissions that may be made will ensure that the proposal is passed to the Planning Advisory Committee. This might be a more sympathetic forum.

The meeting agreed that the Glebe Society should strongly oppose these aspects of the proposed modification, and that the issue of the Glebe Island Bridge should be raised at the Bays Precinct Summit.

Glebe Society Events by Lorel Adams

Chippendale Galleries Walk

Have you ever wandered around Chippendale – and noted its many galleries and art spaces?

The Glebe Society is organising a leisurely walk to explore the *Chippendale Creative Precinct*, just across Broadway from Glebe.



We'll start with a visit to the Tea House at the White Rabbit Gallery for home-made dumplings and special teas (optional, at own cost), followed by a guided tour of this wonderful world-renowned

Ted McKeown, President of the Glebe Society, wound up the meeting with an exhortation to everyone to put in a submission.

NOTE: the date for submissions has been extended to 5 June 2015.

Lesley Lynch,
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores

Bays Community Submission

Workshop

hosted by

The Bays Community Coalition *When?*

Sunday 7 June, 2.30–4.30pm

Where? Leichhardt Town Hall

More information:

<http://bayscommunitycoalition.com/>

Glebe Society 2015 New Members' Night

Join us for a mid-winter drink to warmly welcome new members and reconnect with old members. And the mystery entertainment will be ...

- ? trivia?
- ? a history quiz?
- ? other Glebe-centric brain teasers?

Come along to discover ...!

When? Wednesday 22 July; 6.30 - 8.30 pm.

Where? Harold Park Hotel.

museum of contemporary Chinese art.

Then on to several other smaller galleries and open spaces, where artists or gallery owners will tell us about their collections on show. Diversity of art is assured!

When? Thursday 11 June. 12 noon - 4.30pm.

Where? Meet at White Rabbit, Balfour Street, Chippendale, at around midday for a light lunch or join us later in the Gallery foyer at 12.50pm for tour.

Cost: \$12 per person.

Bookings: use the flyer enclosed in this *Bulletin* or book on the website, by Friday 5 June.

Cost? \$38 per head includes a selection of finger food, wine, beer & soft drinks. No charge for new members who have joined since July 2014.

Booking: A flyer and booking form will be included in the next *Bulletin*. Bookings required by 19 July (for new members also).

Lorel Adams
Events coordinator

University of Sydney Heritage Tour

The sun shone on our small group as we admired the Neo-Gothic architecture of the original buildings of Sydney University, Australia's oldest.

Stories of past chancellors whose portraits adorned the Great Hall, of the first women in tertiary education in the world, of English architects and Australian politicians in the making accompanied our tour of these historic buildings.

The art gallery, Macleay Museum of Natural History, modern day graffiti, and the hidden Vice Chancellor's garden all revealed more stories.

The Nicholson Museum, with its fabulous collection of Ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian artefacts, was perhaps the highlight, as our guide was a working archaeologist. Then chatter over lunch at the renovated Holme Building wound up the tour.

*Lorel Adams,
Events Coordinator*



Glebe Society participants in the heritage tour of the University of Sydney (image: Lorel Adams)

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, 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 Thursday 4 June at 7pm we will go to *JamVybZ*, the Jamaican restaurant at 72 Glebe Point Rd.

- ❖ On Thursday 2 July at 7pm we will go to *Na Zdrowie* Polish Restaurant, 161 Glebe Point Rd.
- ❖ And on Thursday 6 August at 7pm we will go to *Aghora* Greek Restaurant, 94 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

Seed Saving and Seasonal Planting Workshop

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW is holding a seed saving workshop in Glebe.

Saving your seeds but don't know when to plant them next? Seed saving helps plants adapt to your garden's conditions. At this workshop you will learn the basics of seed saving and when to plant at the right time to create a beautiful and productive garden. The workshop includes a practical hands-on demonstration and a take-home gift at the end.

This workshop series is being run by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, and has been funded by a City of Sydney Environmental Grant.

Where? St Helen's Community Centre, 184 Glebe Point Rd

When? Saturday, 13 June 2015 from 9.30-11.30am *Cost?* \$15

Booking?:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/d/australia--sydney/seed-saving-glebe/>

Virginia Simpson-Young

Creative Glebe

Can you billet a chorister from the Czech Children's Choir?

The annual Glebe Music Festival will be held from 8 to 15 November. The organisers are sponsoring, along with the City of Sydney, a visit to Sydney by the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir, and they are seeking billet accommodation for up to 35 children from 8 to 15 November. In exchange, you

would receive free tickets to their concerts, including concerts at the Sydney University Great Hall, as well as Glebe Town Hall, and the Performing Arts Centre at Chatswood. Their ages range from 13 to 23 years. For further information please contact me at edgmci@aol.com.

David McIntosh

Gleebooks

As usual, Gleebooks is hosting some interesting book-related events in June. We highlight three of them here, but you can check out the full events calendar on the Gleebooks website, <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/>.

When? All talks begin at 6 for 6.30pm

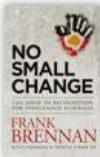
Where? Gleebooks

Cost? \$12. \$9 concession. Gleeclub free.

Booking? Gleebooks website or phone 9660 2333.

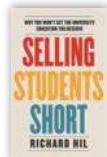
Frank Brennan – *No Small Change* – Wednesday 24 June

What lessons have been learned from the 1967 referendum? Written by one of our most respected commentators on legal and human rights issues, *No Small Change* is a vital contribution to our understanding of Indigenous affairs. It will generate crucial debate on how we should acknowledge our country's history, and how this can make a difference to Indigenous Australians today.



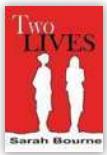
Richard Hil – *Selling Students Short* – Thursday 25 June

More students than ever before go to university, and what they experience there is vastly different from even a decade ago. Richard Hil lifts the lid on today's university experience, drawing on numerous studies as well as interviews with 150 students around the country.



Sarah Bourne – *Two Lives* – Friday 26 June

Sarah Bourne's second novel, *Two Lives*, examines the fracturing impacts of domestic violence and the loss of a child on two women's lives.



Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of play readings:

Medea by Euripides

directed by Bobbie Gledhill



Cast: Dereck Cameron, Lyn Collingwood, Jeannie Gee, Nicholas Gledhill, Kim Knuckey, Cassady Maddox.

When? Monday 15 June at 7pm. The kitchen opens at 5pm. Please place your food orders early. We always start on time!

Where? Roxbury Hotel St Johns Rd / Forest St Forest Lodge:

Cost? Free admission.

The Song Company returns to Glebe

The singers of The Song Company return to the historic surroundings of Glebe Town Hall for a lovely selection of *a cappella* music from the 16th century. One might call it the perfect antidote to the stresses and strains of life in the digital age: witty songs by Janequin, a little dose of English melancholy in the form of songs by Cornysh and his Majesty King Henry the Eighth himself.

The program will include:

- ❖ *Le chant des oiseaux* – Clément Janequin (1485-1558)
- ❖ *Ah Robin, gentle Robin* – William Cornysh (1465-1523)
- ❖ *Whereto shuld I expresse* – The Kynge H. viii (1491-1547)
- ❖ *Westron Wynde* – Anonymous ca 1350, reconstructed
- ❖ *Les Cris de Paris* – Clément Janequin (1485-1558)
- ❖ *Demeure paisible* – Roland de Lassus (1532-1594)
- ❖ *Fire, fire!* – Thomas Morley (1557-1603)

When? Saturday 27 June, 3pm

Where? Glebe Town Hall

Cost? \$30

To book: <http://www.songcompany.com.au/>



The Song Company (image supplied by Roland Peelman)

June is solo jazz piano month at Colbourne Ave

Colbourne Ave is an artist-run venue generously supported by The Glebe Justice Centre (formerly CafeChurch). BYO. Coming up on Thursdays in June, piano solo month, are:

- ❖ 4 June: Matt McMahon and Gary Daley
- ❖ 11 June: Barney Wakeford and Casper Tromp
- ❖ 18 June: Mike Nock and Barney McAll
- ❖ 25 June: Mark Isaacs and Tim Stevens

When? 8pm

Where? Glebe Justice Centre, corner of St Johns Rd and Colbourne Ave

Cost? \$20 (\$10 concession).

For Your Calendar

Thurs 4 June, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, JamVybZ, the Jamaican restaurant, 72 Glebe Point Rd.
Sun 7 June, 2.30-4.30pm, *Bays Precinct Community Workshop*, Leichhardt Town Hall.
Weds 10 June, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
Thurs 11 June *Tour of Chippendale art galleries*
Mon 15 June, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.
Thurs 2 July, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, Na Zdrowie Polish Restaurant, 161 Glebe Point Rd.
Weds 8 Jul, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
Sat 11 July, 2 pm. talk by Emeritus Professor Don Napper on James Barnet, SMSA, 280 Pitt St
Wed 22 July, 6.30-8.30pm, *New Members Night*, Harold Park Hotel
Tues 28 July 5-6pm. *Sands Directory Online*, Glebe Library
Sun 30 August, 2pm *Glebe Society AGM*, Glebe Town Hall
Fri 9 October, 7pm, *Centipede Soiree*, Glebe Rowing Club
5 - 25 October. WW1 exhibition & talks, Glebe Town Hall
Wed mornings, 8:30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group* meets near Jubilee Park. Contact Sue Copeland – 9692 9161

The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

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PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

No.4 of 2015 (June)

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 Terraces (Image Dylan's World, Flickr)