



## President's Report to the 2015 AGM

*Glebe Society President, Ted McKeown, addressed our AGM on Sunday 30 August. The text of his speech is provided below:*

When I wrote my 'getting to know you' piece for the Bulletin in October last year, I must have had a pretty good crystal ball. What I wrote then was:

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

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

*The government has to be made to realise that it cannot simply pay lip service to community consultation, which should be the starting point of any rational urban planning exercise – not, as the government appears to think, a box to be ticked after the planning is done.*

Sound familiar?

During the year, we have been treated to an extraordinary amount of 'consultation', particular by UrbanGrowth NSW in relation to the Bays Precinct. But the substance has been entirely lacking. It is easy enough to come up with 'Great Ideas' about an iconic building like the White Bay power station, but how do you come up with a 'Great Idea' about 80 hectares of publicly owned land without any context whatsoever?

To do them some credit, I believe UrbanGrowth is itself stymied by vested interests within and outside the government. You could clearly hear

the frustration in the recent interview between the Chief Executive Officer, David Pitchford, and

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*The government seems to think that 'infrastructure' begins and ends with roads. What about light rail? What about heavy rail? What about schools? What about hospitals? What about sporting fields and facilities? And what about facilities to care for an ageing population?*

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the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, where Mr Pitchford said the Bays Precinct would be a 'disaster' unless the government spent an 'unpalatable' amount on infrastructure. Hardly the message the government wants to hear, and in any event, the government seems to think that 'infrastructure' begins and ends with roads. What about light rail? What about heavy rail? What about schools? What about hospitals? What about sporting fields and facilities? And what about facilities to care for an ageing population?

That's all I want to say about the 'big picture'. These matters are dealt with by our subcommittees, and you have seen their reports and heard what their convenors have had to say. I would just like to say how vital the work of the subcommittees is to the effectiveness and relevance of the Society, and how much they have contributed to its longevity – 46 years and counting! I would like, on your behalf, to thank those convenors and the members of their

subcommittees for the tremendous amount of effort they have put in during the year – in no particular order except alphabetical:

- Bays and Foreshores: Lesley Lynch
- Blue Wrens: Andrew Wood
- Communications: Bill Simpson-Young, and now Scott Calvert
- Community Development: Janice Challinor
- Environment: Jan Macindoe
- Heritage: Liz Simpson-Booker
- Planning: Neil Macindoe
- Transport and Traffic: Murray Jewell

I would like to thank those members of the Management Committee who are retiring at the end of this AGM.

- Murray Jewell is retiring as Vice-President, but is staying on as an ordinary member of the Committee and as convenor of the Transport and Traffic Subcommittee.
- Carole Herriman is retiring as Secretary, but is staying on as an ordinary member of the Committee.
- Rozzie Hecker is retiring as Minutes Secretary.
- Jeannie Foyle is retiring as Treasurer.
- Lorel Adams, Chris Blair and Jock Keene are retiring as ordinary members of the Committee.

I thank them all for all their support during the year, and for their immense contributions to the Society. And not to forget Meg Wallace, who is staying on the committee so I don't feel too lonely!



Phil Young receiving his Glebe Society commendation from Ted McKeown, President. Scott Carver, Convenor of the Communications Subcommittee watches on. More details next Bulletin (image: Bruce Davis)

And I also acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our 'unsung heroes', our archivist Lyn Milton, our historians Lyn Collingwood and Max Solling, our webmaster Phil Young, our chief tweeter Scott Calvert, and especially our events coordinator Lorel Adams and our *Bulletin* editor, Virginia Simpson-Young. Lorel has done a great job looking after events, not as a one-person 'ladies' auxiliary' (which it was in danger of becoming), but as a genuine coordinator and reference point for others. Lorel is retiring from the role, and we are busily looking for her replacement.

And what can we say about the *Bulletin*? Under the editorship of Edwina Doe, and now of Virginia, I think our *Bulletin* must be one of the best journals of its kind in Australia.

During the year we adopted a new logo to replace 'the Door' which we have used for the past 25 years. This process was initiated under John Gray's presidency, and was finally put to bed early this year. The graphic designer was Tarny Burton, who described the new design as 'a further exploration of the Glebe Society's existing 'Door' logo.' Tarny went on to say:

*The colours embrace the door, forming a diverse and colourful structure that radiates from the door, but also welcomes the observer to the door. The coloured shapes are contemporary and animated, but their forms are influenced by the shape of the solid door, influenced by the solidity of Glebe's past.*

The colours selected represent earth, water, sky and sandstone.

I am delighted to say that the designer of the 'Door', Chris Stewart, approves of the change.

So that wraps up my first year as president (what I thought was going to be my only year as president, but the best laid plans o' Mice an' Men gang aft a'gley!). I take this opportunity of wishing everyone well for the coming year. May it not be so busy.



Ted McKeown  
President

See page 15 for a list of the current Committee. All new members were appointed unopposed.

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## Bays & Foreshores Report to the Glebe Society AGM 2015

### The Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project – Lesley Lynch

The community campaign to defend the public interest in the State Government's huge Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project was the major ongoing Bays and Foreshores issue this year. We have continued to work with other residents' groups and both the City of Sydney and Leichhardt councils to influence this important project. Major activities and events have included:

- Participation in the Sydney University Planning Research Centre forum on the Bays Precinct on 20 October 2014.
- A public talk sponsored by the City of Sydney Council on the Future of the Bays Precinct including discussion of the people's campaign on 5 November 2014.
- A public meeting at the Glebe Town Hall prior to the Bays Precinct Expert Summit on 16 November 2014.
- The Government's high profile *Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit* at the Australian Technology Park on 19 and 20 November 2014. This began with the Treasurer announcing the Government's plan to build 16,000 dwellings – only to have an immediate repudiation by the Premier and the Minister for Planning who insisted the Bays Precinct was a blank canvas. This improbable assurance was received with huge scepticism and some amusement – but set a low standard of openness for the project. Overall it was a terrific summit providing excellent advice from an impressive array of local and international urban renewal experts. Much of the discussion about successful urban renewal projects affirmed the core planning principles long advocated by the community for the Bays Precinct. It remains to be seen how much of this advice is eventually translated into the Bays Precinct project by the Government.
- ***Bays Precinct Sydneysiders Summit and Leadership Forums***, 14-18 May. UrbanGrowth 'borrowed' our concept of a people's summit and ran a marathon consultation over five days in May. The Glebe Society heavily publicised this event and a large number of locals attended and recorded their views. It was well resourced and generally informative about the history and opportunities for the Bays Precinct. It provided a useful overall timescale for the renewal of

the seven 'destinations' starting with 'immediate' (foreshore access, Bays Market District, White Bay power station and White Bay and the cruise terminal). Overall, it was a soft sell with little new or tangible information about what was being considered for specific areas. Renewal for Rozelle Bay and Glebe Island are all post-2019. Selective renewal activities were flagged, eg the continuation of the foreshore 'promenade' from Balmain to Pyrmont (an existing Government commitment) and an attractive rejuvenation of the Fish Markets and a Bays Market District. It was, however, silent as to specific private development intentions for any of the areas (including major bids for private residential development at the Fish Markets) or any solutions to the huge traffic and transport issues – and the Glebe Island Bridge did not feature at all.

- The ***Blackwattle Cove Coalition*** (BCC) – which includes the Glebe Society – put in a submission to UrbanGrowth in June focussed on unresolved issues in the proposed Bays Market District – including open space, protecting recreational boating and unscrambling the poor traffic planning.

Behind the scenes, UrbanGrowth has been finalising its 'Transformation Plan' to be given to the Government this month. Presumably it will in some way reflect the 'Great Ideas' the community was invited to submit post the consultation and at least some of the community's core principles. Given the housing crisis in Sydney we can only hope that any residential development on these publicly owned foreshores will include a substantial proportion of affordable and social housing. This is surely an overriding, urgently needed, public outcome.

Signals from the Government are very mixed and it is difficult to assess how much real influence UrbanGrowth will have in any final decisions on the Bays Precinct's future.

The most recent word from UrbanGrowth came from the CEO David Pitchford: *'In the bays, there is nowhere near the transport infrastructure that needs to be there ... We've got to address that really important question of mass transit and introduce a whole range of things that will be unpalatable to the government in terms of the level of investment – but without that, it will be a disaster'*. (SMH 26/8/15) We hope David does

carry influence with Government – so far we have heard of nothing beyond WestConnex which most people think will exacerbate local traffic problems.

## **Community Objections to the Sydney Superyacht Marina (SSYM) Development**

The Glebe Society has intervened multiple times since the 1990s to limit the presence and impact of superyacht moorings and related on-shore activities in Rozelle Bay. Unexpectedly the SSYM emerged as a major issue again in May when the owners applied for extensive modifications for the on-shore and on-water elements. The proposals doubled the moorings, significantly increased the size/height of buildings and car parking, allowed considerably more external seating/entertainment areas and weakened some of the hard won noise limitation requirements. The proposals will mean a major increase in both building scale and the level of activity and associated noise. Moreover the large increase in superyacht moorings would pre-empt future options for the use of Glebe Island Bridge as a pedestrian, cycle and possibly light rail link.

The proposal sought the consolidation of its separate development approvals for the land and water based elements. This appears to be an attempt to sidestep the existing stringent requirements for approval of the proposed water based modifications. Whether legal or not, neither the Dept of Planning nor the Minister should approve such a manoeuvre to evade legislative reforms.

The Glebe Society, in collaboration with the Save Our Bays group, ran a successful public meeting in May explaining the proposed modifications and their implications. We urged people to put in an objection to those modifications which would have significant additional adverse effects on the residents and users of the foreshore parklands. The Glebe Society put in a substantial submission which can be read on the website<sup>1</sup> – as did the City of Sydney and Leichhardt Councils. Because of the large number of objections the proposal will not be determined by the Department of Planning and will be referred to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). At the very least this gives us and the community another context in which to argue against the over-development aspects of this proposal and in defence of the public interest. No date has yet been announced for the PAC meeting.

I attended the one meeting that was held by the SSYM Community Liaison Group in May 2015. At this meeting it was announced that, as the Ombudsman had determined the Chair had a conflict of interest, the Chair had resigned and the meeting agreed on a replacement.

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## **Wentworth Park**

In May 2014 the BCC wrote to Minister Stokes about the future of Wentworth Park as from time to time it surfaces as being linked with the Bays Precinct renewal. Subsequently BCC met with the Minister's staff in June. Assurances were given that there were no current active plans, that existing public space would be kept and the public would have access to any future uses of the space currently used by the Greyhounds. More recently, we learned of a confidential report by John Brogden to the Premier proposing the possible construction of a 10-12,000 seat indoor stadium at Wentworth Park. (DT 19/8/15). This sparked a sharp community reaction and a strong reminder to Government that the space is dedicated in perpetuity as public parkland.

*Lesley Lynch*  
Convenor Bays and Foreshores

1. <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/TGS-submission-on-SYM-June-2015.pdf>



(image: AngMoKio, Wikipedia)

## History & Heritage

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### A Photo Essay: Exterior Decorative Wall Tiles

**Anne Owens**, a member of the Heritage Subcommittee, has been out with her camera exploring the wonderful array of exterior decorative wall tiles which adorn our Glebe houses ...

Anne writes:

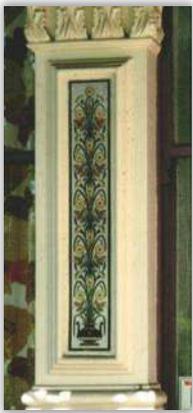
There are many fine examples of vertical ceramic wall panels around the streets of Glebe, although many may be largely unnoticed, as referenced in Rob Darroch's memoir of Les McMahon and his contributions to the preservation of the fabric of the suburb (Sept. issue of the Bulletin).

The panels, usually located between the front windows, are beautiful and reflect the Victorian love of decoration. The themes are varied, many quite ornate in the detailing of flora and fauna, as well as more stylised designs. Some of the designs look back to the Classical era; some embrace the sinuous Art Nouveau; and others the geometry of Art Deco.

Some of the locations where these can be viewed are at the end of Toxteth Road, near Maxwell Road; towards the northern end of Glebe Point Road (Nos. 310, 312, 397); Forsyth St, between Arden and Avon Lanes; Bridge Road, between Gottenham St and Talfourd St and a couple of houses in Boyce St (Nos. 21, 40).

It is very interesting to take a leisurely walk around the area and really experience the diversity of the neighbourhood, from this aspect.

*Anne Owens*



*Anne Owens*  
Member, Heritage Subcommittee

## From the Terraces, by Liz Simpson-Booker

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### Heritage Notes and News

#### The Diggers Memorial

The City of Sydney has advised that the long-promised new gate on the Diggers Memorial will not be installed, unless there is evidence that the site is not being respected.

Heritage Subcommittee members will be maintaining a watching brief on the site but we would welcome feedback from members also if there are concerns. Just send an email to [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au).

## Edmund Blacket's *Bidura* (c1860)

Concerns have been raised about potential security issues at *Bidura*. At least one of the two major tenants has moved out and there are definitely fewer people around this important site.

The Glebe Society has written to the new owners seeking assurances that adequate steps are being taken to ensure, not only *Bidura*'s continued conservation, but also its security against vandalism and theft. Whilst the whole site is in transition to redevelopment, the new owners nevertheless have an ongoing obligation to protect this building with its rich heritage and social history.

In reply, the site's new owners have reiterated their commitment to ensure the safety and security of *Bidura* House and Ballroom. The onsite Building Manager, John Russell, is contactable at [John.Russell@property.nsw.gov.au](mailto:John.Russell@property.nsw.gov.au).

## Proposed RMS electronic message sign on Parramatta Road

The Glebe Society has lodged an objection to

the proposed installation by NSW Roads & Maritime of a permanent giant electronic message sign on Parramatta Rd. The purpose of the message sign is 'to improve traffic conditions for motorists in Sydney's CBD'. This area is adjacent to the Glebe Conservation Area and to the heritage-listed sandstone retaining wall fronting Parramatta Road between Arundel St and Derwent St and potentially duplicates the electronic message board, directed at eastbound traffic, outside the UTS.

## St John's Bishopthorpe

The Society has also lodged an objection to a DA which, inter alia, sought approval to turn some of the church's windows into doors. The Society expressed its concern about any proposed changes to the external fabric of this Blacket church which we would regard as highly regrettable and difficult to justify.

Liz Simpson-Booker  
Convenor Heritage

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## The Anzac Bridge Turns 20 – Celebrate With Us!

It seems only a short time ago we walked across the Anzac Bridge on the day it opened. Since then, the bridge has become a war memorial, featured in the Sydney Olympics and achieved recognition as a Sydney landmark.

And now it's turning 20!

Join us on November 17 to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, when talented photographer and self-confessed Anzac Bridge enthusiast John Symonds traces its story in words and pictures. Like most of us, John loves the bold design of the Anzac Bridge. Learn how design challenges were solved and Sydney's 21<sup>st</sup> century landmark created.

Where? *Benledi* House, 186 Glebe Point Rd.  
When? 6pm, Tuesday, 17 November 2015  
Cost: \$10 includes light refreshments. Booking information in the November *Bulletin*.

Meg Wallace



*The Anzac Bridge under construction (image: John Symonds)*

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## Anzac Centenary Program – Glebe Society Special Lecture: Professor Paul Ashton

The Glebe Society has organised a lecture to complement the theme of its Anzac Centenary Program exhibition *Sacrifice, Struggle and Sorrow* showing at the Glebe Town Hall, 7-23 October, and is delighted to announce that well-

known historian Professor Paul Ashton has agreed to speak on the topic *And never to return: The War Memorial Movement*.

While more than 60,000 Australia lost their lives

in World War I, only one body was repatriated. Felt across the nation, such loss saw the emergence of a war memorial movement. Memorials began to spring up across cities, suburbs and towns. Glebe was one of the first of Sydney's suburbs to establish memorials to the fallen.

Paul Ashton is a Professor of Public History at the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology Sydney. His publications include *Places of the Heart: Memorials in Australia* and *Silent System: Forgotten Australians and the Institutionalisation of Women and Children*. Paul edits *Public History Review* and is Chair of the *Dictionary of Sydney*.

Tuesday 13 October at 6.30pm at the Glebe Town Hall. Free entry.

Mairéad Browne



Professor Paul Ashton who is speaking at the Glebe Society Special Lecture for the Anzac Centenary Program on Tuesday 13 October (Image: UTS)

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## A new biography by Glebe Society member, Ian Edwards

Congratulations to Glebe Society member Ian Edwards, who has recently published a book, *WWII Letters: A Soldier's Odyssey*.

This short book is a biographical account of his uncle, Lieutenant Marcus Edwards.

Marcus – a clerk, salesman, soldier and prisoner of war – is an interesting object of study. The reader is introduced to Marcus as a child, and reads of his early career and marriage to the composer, pianist and teacher Miriam Hyde.

As the book's title suggests, though, the author's primary focus here is on Marcus's years of active service in the Australian Imperial Force.

Edwards gives a thorough explanation and analyses the progress of the war, alongside details of Marcus's personal experiences in Palestine, North Africa Greece and Crete. It was in Crete that Marcus was captured and taken to Germany where he spent four years as a prisoner of war.

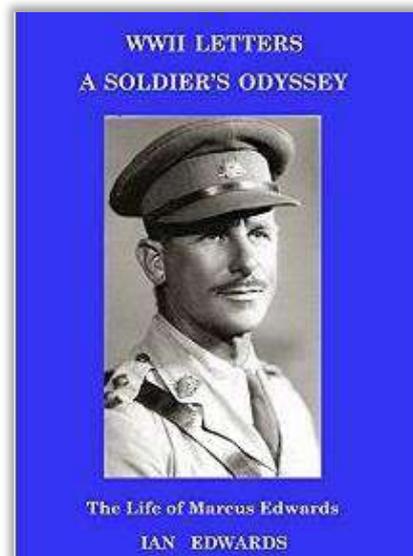
One real strength of this book is inclusion of primary documents, particularly letters. Edwards often allows the past to speak for itself. As a result, the reader is allowed enticing insights into Marcus's character: his love of music and poetry, his affection for his family, and wry humour.

*WWII Letters: A Soldier's Odyssey* is a labour of love – affectionate, detailed and thoroughly

researched. Studies such as this provide valuable glimpses at the lived experiences of individuals in a time that occupies a significant place in the cultural memory of Australia.

April Bertels-Garnsey

*WWII Letters: A Soldier's Odyssey: The Life of Marcus Edwards* is published by Sydney School of Arts and Humanities, 2015. It is available from their website: <http://ssoa.com.au/family-stories/wwii-letters-a-soldiers-odyssey/>. It is also available for Kindle from Amazon Australia.



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## Who lived in your street? By Lyn Collingwood. Mervyn Emrys Rosser Horton (1917-83)

Art patron Mervyn Horton was born at *L'Aiglon* 278 Glebe Point Rd on 27 July 1917, some six years after his parents had migrated to Australia. He was the only child of Welsh-born Ethel Mabel née Harris and Harry Horton, an English chartered accountant and businessman more preoccupied with making money than with his family. Harry helped develop the ironmongery / hardware company Traversi Jones and became one of its major shareholders.

The Hortons were by 1921 at *Penalt* in Ashfield; they later settled at *Forest Dean* Pymble. Often seriously ill as a child, Mervyn was educated at Newington College where he edited the school magazine and was a committee member of the school's historical society. (For an historical excursion to Lapstone Hill his father provided a motorcar and paid for lunch.) With an average Leaving Certificate, Mervyn matriculated in 1935.

The next year the family attended the Berlin Olympics as part of a European holiday, and on return Mervyn submitted some travel articles to the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Although they were rejected, he was offered work with the newspaper. His father, however, insisted he enrol in a profession. Mervyn then spent a miserable year studying medicine before switching to law. He was an articled clerk when, after a series of coronary episodes, Harry Horton died aged 54 in 1940.

The death of his father provided Mervyn with an income (from Traversi Jones) and the chance to pursue his natural interests. Although close to graduation he gave up the law. He then became an assistant to photographers Olga Sharpe and Max Dupain, studied cooking, opened an espresso bar / art gallery in Rowe St, was a patron of the Creative Leisure Movement, and director and editor of Ure Smith Publishers. He was on the committees of the National Trust, the

Gallery Society, the Arts Council of Australia, the Society of Artists and the Art Gallery of NSW. In 1962 he founded *Art and Australia* to promote Australian artists. He also edited several picture books of contemporary Australian art and was appointed AM in 1982. He dabbled in playwriting; his *Prisoners* in setting and tone was reminiscent of David Williamson's *The Removalists*. A generous host, he gave lavish parties at his Palm Beach weekender and his home at Potts Point.

Mervyn Horton died of liver cancer on 22 February 1983, survived by his mother who died in her 100<sup>th</sup> year seven months later.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; *The Newingtonian* 1930-6; NSW electoral rolls; *Sands Directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 7.11.1918, 30.1.1935, 7.11.1936, 3.1.1939, 17.8.1940, 12.9.1953, 23.2.1983; *Sydney Telephone Directory* 1931 and 1934.



Mervyn Horton, Newington College probationary prefect. (image: *The Newingtonian*)

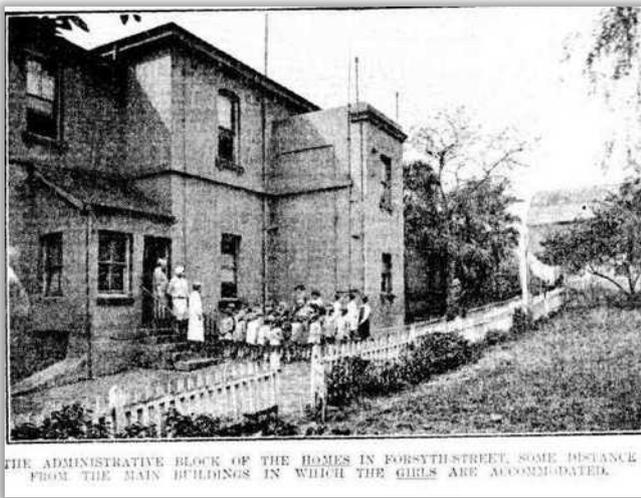
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## The Forsyth Cottage Saga, by Jan Pittard

My husband remembers days spent in his grandfather's care as a five year old in the 1950s visiting a grand old house at Glebe Point from which his great uncle Bill ran a taxi cab depot. The house was in Forsyth St; it was approached by a gravel drive that encircled a classical fountain and off the drive were stables where his grandfather, an accountant, kept the books for Treharne's Taxi Service.



Business card for Treharne's taxi depot and repair workshop circa 1960. (Image: *Semple family*)



Maybe not its best angle, but perhaps the only photograph of Arden (formerly Forsyth Cottage) in existence, taken in the house's last year as part of the girls' home complex (SMH May 1928, TROVE database).

The interior of the house included two large rooms either side of a central marble staircase, which led to a second storey containing six bedrooms. From their windows he glimpsed Blackwattle Bay, Wentworth Park and the city. Years later, in 1971, when he was driving trucks for white goods manufacturer Malleys, he made a delivery of refrigerators to 2 Forsyth St, Glebe. To his surprise they were bound for a brand new block of flats called *Arden* on the site of his great uncle's former residence and place of business.



The block of flats named Arden which now stands at 2 Forsyth St, Glebe (Google Maps).

Later still when we lived in Forest Lodge diagonally opposite the old Nag's Head pub and I crossed the footbridge each day to go to uni, he told me about the 'mansion' at Glebe Point that that had once been in the family. Impecunious and lovers of Glebe's architecture, we felt wistful that any money the family once had was now long gone and that the house no longer stood.

It wasn't until the genealogy bug bit me this century that I started to research the Treharnes of South Wales, who emigrated to New South

Wales, living first in Newcastle and then in and around Sydney's west. My husband's family included:

- shrewd businessman William Maritime Treharne who owned a shop at 369 Glebe Point Road as well as the Forsyth St property;
- his parents William and Mary who resided for a time at 22 Mansfield St;
- his brother Llewellyn Emlyn, a tram driver who lived at 18A Boyce St;
- another brother, the celebrated Superintendent of Music at the Conservatorium, Herbert Fredrind Treharne, who lived in Burwood;
- my husband's grandfather, John Steele Treharne, who lived in Annandale; and
- their sister Sina Jane who played piano beautifully and raised three children in Lilyfield.

Although 2 Forsyth St is now a block of flats, time travel of a sort is possible via an online tool called SIX maps which enables users to switch between modern day Google Maps-type imagery of Sydney and suburbs and a grainy black and white aerial survey of the same locations conducted by a company called SKM in 1943. We looked on SIX maps and found the fuzzy outline of the house William Treharne had owned for 50 years. My husband recognised the shape of the grounds and could show me where the stables stood. From then the quest was on to find a better image of *Arden* (we discovered the flats had adopted the name of the house they replaced) and to learn all that I could about its history.



The two dwellings George Miller built in 1836-37 as they looked in an aerial photograph taken in 1943 (image: <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>).

As usual, I turned to TROVE, the National Library of Australia's database of scanned newspapers, searched for 'Arden Glebe Point' and found numerous references to it in its incarnation as a Church of England Girls 'Rescue' Home directly before William Treharne first leased and then bought it in 1929. By googling the same terms I even found a copy of the original lease agreement between the church and great uncle Bill! A 'rescue' home was an institution where 'fallen' women could be redeemed and rehabilitated. The Glebe homes (they comprised four buildings) also catered to children whose families were unable to care for them and later, as 'Hammond Hotels' to entire impoverished families. *Arden* was the last of four buildings in Forsyth St acquired by the church for this purpose and served as the administrative office for the homes. The others were *Strathmore* (built 1857), the grand former home of Sydney businessman and politician Alexander McArthur, *Tress Manning* (built 1909) named after the Reverends T.B. Tress and Dr Manning, who set up homes, and *Avona* about which I was soon to learn more. A potted history of the homes appears on the Glebe Society's website: <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?socialhistory=glebe-care-homes-for-children>

In 1928 the Girls' Home relocated to *Minden* in Carlingford leaving *Arden* and *Avona* vacant. Only a laneway separated *Arden* from William Treharne's Glebe Point Rd shop above which he and his wife lived, and it seemed the perfect opportunity to extend his business and gain more spacious living arrangements.

We knew that uncle Bill retired to Sans Souci in 1971 and that *Arden* was sold to developers and demolished the same year; now it remained to work backwards and discover who had lived there before his family, and before Matron McGarvey and her rescued girls, and if possible who built the house. Again the Glebe Society came up trumps with a 2009 article in the series 'Who Lived In Your Street?' mentioning that Dr Rudolph Bohrsmann and family lived at *Arden* from 1907 until the church acquired it in 1918 and that he had purchased the house from wool merchant Eugene Carette.

I now had two new names to search on and gradually established the sequence of owners and residents at 2 Forsyth St. A breakthrough came when I realised that it was the Carettes who named the house '*Arden*' and who added its second storey, a ballroom and a conservatory and that marble staircase in 1879. All earlier references to the property called it *Forsyth*

*Cottage* and the land it occupied, the Forsyth Estate. Searching by '*Forsyth*' I found 'To Let' advertisements where the contact was a Mr George Miller of Forsyth Cottage; these led me to believe that the house was frequently rented out yet that didn't tally with birth announcements for the Miller family at the cottage. In the classified advertisements the house was described and my husband said it didn't match his recollection of *Arden's* layout. They also mentioned a croquet lawn and a rose garden. It turned out that the discrepancy was because these advertisements weren't looking for tenants for Forsyth Cottage at all, but for a neighbouring property!

A bit more research and I made the happy discovery that in 1836-37 two dwellings were built on newly released land at Glebe Point overlooking Blackwattle Bay by a Mr George Miller (source: City of Sydney, *History of Sydney Streets*) I found bits and pieces about George Miller on TROVE but I wasn't sure whether all the references were to the same man. I am indebted to the Manly Library Local Studies Blog for joining the dots so wonderfully in their fascinating post about how his widow, Sarah, came to be buried and commemorated in Manly Cemetery. (Source: *Who was Sarah Ann Miller?* <http://manlylocalstudies.blogspot.com.au/2013/05/who-was-sarah-anne-miller.html>. I draw on that post here).

Miller was a Scot who departed Britain's shores for New South Wales aboard the *Minerva* in 1822. He worked for the Commissariat Department (army and navy stores) for nine years, posted first to Port Macquarie and then to Melville Island. The work was gruelling and took a toll on his health so he returned to Sydney to follow the less physically taxing profession of banking. Between the late 1830s and the 1850s he rose from clerk to Managing Trustee of the Sydney Savings Bank and was dubbed the 'oracle in colonial banking'.

Miller built Forsyth Cottage as a home for himself and his new bride Sarah Bailey (widow of a fellow Commissariat employee) and built a second, grander residence nearby called *Avon House/Lodge* (later *Avona*). It was *Avona* that he regularly advertised as 'to let' in the newspapers in the 1840s and which boasted the rose garden and croquet lawn.

Sarah bore George seven children at Forsyth Cottage of whom one was stillborn, two died in infancy and four, Mary, Alice, Walter and George survived to adulthood. As well as acquiring his father's name, George junior followed in his

footsteps and became a prominent Sydney banker. What became of the others I haven't discovered. Sarah's father John Carmichael must have lived with the family or visited them as his place and date of death are recorded as Forsyth Cottage 1854. In 1855 Miller applied for two years' leave of absence from the bank and returned to Scotland with his family on the *Vimeira*. He died suddenly in Edinburgh in August 1855 aged only 55 years.

Sarah, widowed for a second time, returned to Sydney to await the granting of probate, leasing out their Glebe home in the meantime. Between 1856 and 1858 engineer William Randle who contributed to the construction of the Glebe Island abattoirs and the roll out of the Great Southern Railway as well as much more of the Sydney rail network, lived at Forsyth Cottage.

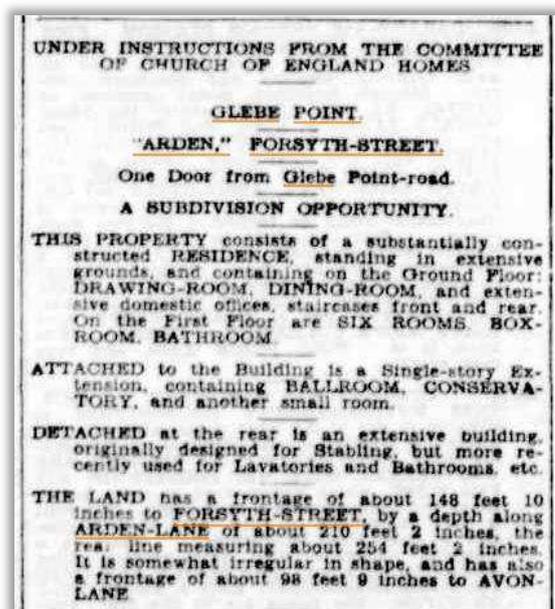
In 1860 the house was put on the market and fetched £2,000. By 1863 it had been renamed *Arden* and become home to the Carette family. Eugene Carette, a Frenchman, was a successful wool buyer who lived and worked in Adelaide and Britain as well as NSW. He had a large family, three members of which were born at *Arden* in 1897, 1898 and 1900. The Carettes quit *Arden* in 1901 departing for France and selling off all their household furniture and effects at an onsite auction. Also listed for sale were a pair of bay horses and a 'Superior Victoria carriage' – all occupants of what later became the Treharne 'office' space. Poor Eugene Carette died in what must have been one of Paris's earliest motor vehicle accidents in Paris in 1926 and his obituary in *The Register* of Adelaide stated that he left numerous other children besides those born at *Arden* and that 'several of his sons' worked in the family business.

Details about other occupants of *Arden* remain sketchy. In 1890, it is given as the address for Mr and Mrs Charles E. Graham, about whom I have been unable to discover anything. Export agent George Munro, lived there when he was fined for failing to report for juror duty in 1888 and when he and Mrs Munro hosted a lavish wedding reception for their daughter Ida and her groom Frank Learoyd there in 1894. Refreshments were served in one of the impressive downstairs rooms described as the 'billiard room'. There seems to be something amiss with the chronology regarding these occupants although the Munros may have let the house for a time or, like my husband's great uncle who offered accommodation to his employees at *Arden*, Munro may have rented rooms to the Grahams.

Progress with finding imagery was frustrating. Leichhardt Library holds surveyor's drawings of the Avona and Forsyth estates only some of which are available online. The State Library of NSW has a Glebe subdivision plan that mentions the Arden Estate. I live outside Sydney and so far have been unable to view these. On a genealogy site I found and contacted descendants of the Millers (who knew nothing about Forsyth Cottage) and of the Bohrmanns (who have yet to respond but who have attached to their family tree a tantalising photograph of Dr Rudolph playing backyard cricket in what might be the grounds of *Arden*).

However TROVE still had two further treasures to yield up! In the 11 May 1928 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, under the snappy headline '*C. of E. Girls' Homes at Glebe Point, for the transfer of which to Carlingford an appeal has been launched*' appeared a photograph of the rescue homes' administrative block. It shows the rear of a house, the girls and staff congregated around the back steps, a picket fence and washing on a line. Its function and location at 'some distance from the main buildings' as well as my husband's memories confirmed it – it is *Arden*! The second was a newspaper advertisement that had eluded me on previous searches placed by the Church of England in July 1929. (See image below). It was an attempt to sell *Arden* as 'a subdivision opportunity' (passed in at auction) and contains a full description of the property as it existed when William Maritime resided there 1929-71.

Jan Pittard



*Arden for auction SMH 24 July 1929 (image: Trove).*

# Community Matters

## What is Centipede and Why Do We Support It?

Centipede at Glebe Public School Inc. is a community based, charitable foundation / service organisation that has been providing before and after school care for students at the Glebe Primary School since 1989. The care that Centipede provides includes meals, ie breakfast and dinner, and social development opportunities to local Glebe Public Primary School children.

As readers will be aware, it is virtually impossible to concentrate and learn when you haven't had breakfast. Consequently one of the vital things that Centipede does is to get children physically ready to learn.

*Breakfast – 'it's the most important meal of the day – but one in four children in Australia skips breakfast.*

*At school, a hungry child can lose concentration in class, have no energy for playtime and snack on unhealthy foods, such as chips or biscuits.*

*A calm and healthy breakfast every day is the best defence against this happening. It also helps children to get into good habits that they can carry through life.<sup>1</sup>*



Red Cross Good Start Breakfast Club at Centipede (image: <http://www.centipede.org.au/>)

So Centipede caters for children who haven't had breakfast before coming to school; it is their health giving start to the day.



Centipede always focuses on creating a safe and enjoyable environment, encouraging children to learn social and life skills. Activities focus on self-esteem, identity building, positive role modelling and giving children access to opportunities to grow positively.

Another of the service's aims is to reduce disadvantage through programs that reflect the unique and diverse cultural background of the children attending. Quite a few children belong to Aboriginal families, so many of the stories and craft activities Centipede kids do relate to their traditions and indigenous heritage.

Centipede has a history of caring for children from disadvantaged families who live on the Glebe Housing Estate. Many of these children live in families on the lowest of incomes, some of whom cannot afford the fees for attending the centre. Centipede has always had a policy of not turning away children in need, even if their families have difficulty paying. While they make every effort to retrieve these fees, they do end up subsidising some of the most needy children in our community.

The service is only 50% funded by government grants and fees so it always requires additional support to maintain its outreach. Friends of Centipede, which was formed with the support of The Glebe Society Inc. has one purpose only: to support Centipede. Its annual fundraising event is the Sunset Soirée, which is to take place on Friday 9 October this year. It promises to be a different and entertaining occasion. The details are enclosed in the attached flyer. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Janice Challinor*  
Convenor, Community

1. <https://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers/healthy-eating-and-drinking/importance-of-breakfast.aspx>

**Welcome new members:** Mark Gorta & Sharon Zwi, Alan & Jess Hogan, Mary Jane & Michael Hogan, Ian and Deborah McDougall, Janet Oakley, Robyn Richardson, and Fiona & Fritz Schroeder

# Creative Glebe, Social Glebe

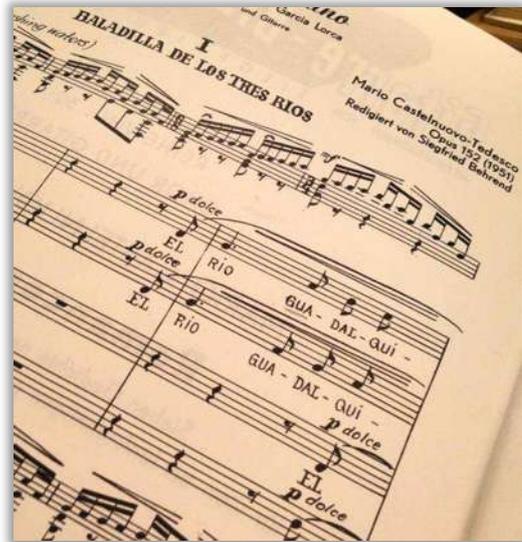
## The 26th Annual Glebe Music Festival

Don't miss:

- A concert to celebrate the music of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, by the specialist Spanish/Latin American chamber choir *Coro Austral*, at the Record Reign Hall, corner of St John's Rd and Derwent St. Glebe. Saturday 7 November at 3pm (tickets \$25/\$20).
- The Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir in Czech and World Vocal Masterpieces, at the Glebe Town Hall, 160 St John's Rd, Glebe. Friday 13 November at 7pm (tickets \$20/\$15) repeated Saturday 14 November at 3pm.

Information: [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

David McIntosh



Music by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco to be performed at the Glebe Music Festival by the Coro Austral choir (image: [www.facebook.com/Coro-Austral](http://www.facebook.com/Coro-Austral))

## Local talent galore in Glebe Art Show

The 18th annual Glebe Art Show is scheduled a month later than usual this year to follow on from the citywide festival *Art and About*. Timed to give Inner-west and City of Sydney residents a creative pick-me-up and showcase a wealth of local talent, the week-long exhibition is held at Glebe Library and neighbouring *Benledi*.

Unique among many local art events, Glebe Art Show has a commitment to showing everyone who enters, within the entry guidelines. This year entrants will be competing for close to \$9,000 in prize money.

Glebe art committee chairman, artist Peter Griffen, says judges are looking for young talent in particular, 'We offer a special \$1,000 Youth prize for artists aged 18 to 24 and would like to see more young people enter with their distinctive take on their own world.'

Artists at all stages of development are invited to enter and can expect to see their work on the walls. The standard is always very high. This year's show will feature painting, photography, and works on paper with prizes for each category as well as a People's Choice prize, and an award for the entry that best expresses the character of Glebe.

A series of colourful posters of previous winners will be displayed at Glebe library and throughout

local streets in shops and cafes.

The show will be opened by Lord Mayor Clover Moore on Friday 16 October and runs to Saturday 24 October at Glebe Library and *Benledi*, 186 Glebe Point Rd.

More details are available on the website [www.glebeartshow.org.au](http://www.glebeartshow.org.au).

Toni McDowell



Last year's winner of the Glebe Art Show: Birkenhead Wharf and Bridges by Ross Skinner

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## Players in the Pub

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

### **The Importance of Being Earnest**

by Oscar Wilde  
directed by Emma Louise

Monday 19 October at 7pm. We always start on time. The kitchen is open for orders from 5 pm.



Lyn Collingwood

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## Thirsty Thursdays

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month, 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 1 October at 7pm we will go to the *Himalayan Char Grill*, 41 Glebe Point Rd.

- On Thursday 5 November at 7pm we will go to *Ombretta*, the Italian restaurant at 355 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 10 December at 7pm (note the date) we will eat at *Esca*, 333b Glebe Point Rd.

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

Edwina Doe

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## School Holidays in Glebe

### Glebe Library

*Glebe Library has a great selection of interesting activities for the school-aged kids this holidays.*

#### Frankentoys

Bring an old toy and give it new life as a 'Frankentoy'. This fun school holiday workshop will lead you through crafty ways to reassemble your old toy with leftover recycled parts to produce a creepy, crazy one-of-a-kind creation.

Suitable for 5-12 year olds.

Monday 28 September – Glebe Library  
Tuesday 29 September – Glebe Library

All sessions are 11am-12pm.

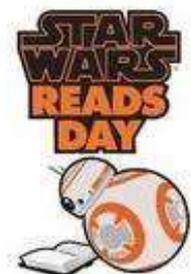


#### Star Wars Reads Day

Visit the Library on 10 October to join the fourth annual celebration of reading and a galaxy far, far away. Star Wars Reads Day will storm the Library branches with books, craft and games for young and old.

Then sign up the whole family for a Star Wars Quiz in November. With prizes for the best dressed, the night will test your rebel team's knowledge of the evil empire and the ways of the force.

When? Saturday 10 October, 11-4pm.



## For Your Calendar

Sun 27 September, 6.45am. *Spring Bird Survey*. Paddy Gray Reserve.  
 Thurs 1 October, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, Himalayan Char Grill, 41 Glebe Point Rd.  
 6 - 23 October. *WW1 Exhibition & Talks*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Tues 13 October 13, 6.30pm. Anzac Centenary Program, *Lecture by Prof Paul Ashton*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Wed 7 October, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 Fri 9 October, 6pm. *Centipede Soirée*, Glebe Rowing Club.  
 Thurs 5 November. 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, Ombretta, Italian restaurant at 355 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Wed 11 November, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.  
 6-22 November 2015. Glebe Music Festival  
 Sun 15 November, 10-5pm. *The 32nd annual Glebe Street Fair*.  
 Tues 17 November, 6pm. Talk by John Symonds: *The Anzac Bridge 20 years on*, at *Benedi*.  
 Thurs 3 December. *Glebe Society Christmas Party*. Alfie & Hetty, 207/209 Glebe Pt Rd.  
 Thurs 10 December, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, Esca, 333b Glebe Point Rd.  
 Wed morns, 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group* nr Jubilee Park. Contact Sue Copeland: 9692 9161.

Book for Glebe Society Events on the Society's Eventbrite page:

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



### The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

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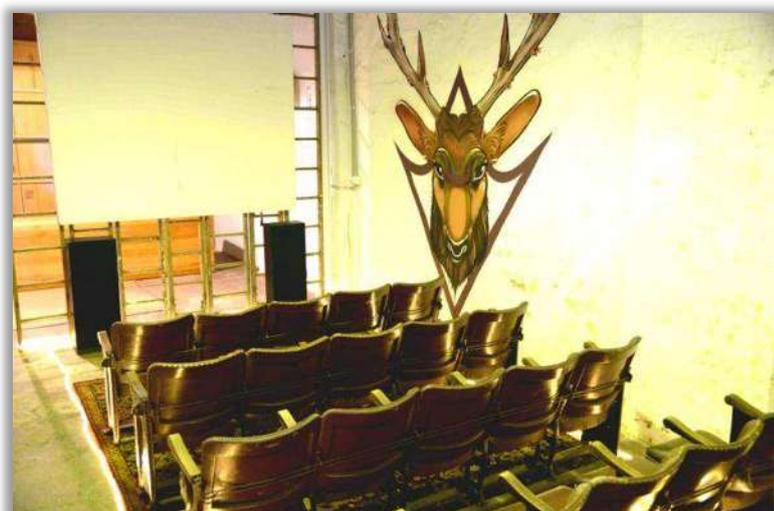
No.8 of 2015 (October)

## Membership of the Glebe Society

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

## How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au)



*The event space at The Works Glebe. (image: <http://www.theworksglebe.com.au/>)*