



Tramsheds restoration: a ray of light 'From the Terraces', by Liz Simpson-Booker

It would be hard, in heritage terms, to characterise the last 12 months as anything other than a year of destruction across Sydney. The extent of this wholesale negation of our city's heritage and history in terms of buildings and mature trees is too vast to catalogue here.

One bright spot, in our own backyard, is the restoration, repurposing and reopening of the Tramsheds at Harold Park, formerly known as the Rozelle Tramway Depot.

Now 112 years after the Tramsheds first opened, this massive space has been given a new life. The site, famously neglected (except perhaps by graffitists) for nearly 60 years, is now a hive of activity.

It has been noted in this column (*Bulletin 4/2013*) that there is an interesting connection between the utilitarian Tramsheds and the Romanesque grandeur of the Queen Victoria Building (QVB), both having been designed by City Architect George McRae. The article noted that 'the fact that both buildings survived to be reinvented is surely partly due to the strength, purposefulness, appropriateness and adaptability of the original design by George McRae'.

The heritage listing for the Tramsheds notes, *inter alia*, its aesthetic significance as an 'austere and functional application of the Federation Free Style, with impressive industrial-scale size and massing (both exterior and interior).' The brick stepped parapet structure conceals the saw-tooth roof. The vast interior eventually accommodated 200 electric trams.

The Tramsheds also provide evidence of the early 20th century development of electric trams and their associated infrastructure. (Other visual reminders in Glebe are the remnant tram tracks in Glebe Point Rd (between Bridge Rd and Marlborough St) and the tram-stop shelter outside 431 Glebe Point Rd.)

The building is regarded as rare, given that it was the second largest tram depot in NSW during its operational phase and is now the largest remaining intact depot building.

By the 1950s, however, trams in Sydney were deemed to have had their day. The Fort Macquarie tram depot (1902, designed by Walter Liberty Vernon) closed in 1955 and was demolished in 1958, to make way for the Sydney Opera House. Our tram depot closed in that same year (1958). The entire Sydney tram system was progressively wound down; the last tram ran to La Perouse in 1961.

Our building outlives local memory but its heritage, historic and familial connections resonate strongly with the community. Significant and sustained effort has gone into ensuring that the Tramsheds escaped the wrecker's ball and remains a visible part of Glebe's history and its future.



Newly re-elected Lord Mayor Clover Moore opening the Tramsheds on Thursday 22 October. (image: Rozzie)

The architecture of Arundel Street

The dwellings in Arundel St are buffered from the worst of the Parramatta Rd traffic noise and fumes by being positioned high on its northern side and screened by mature trees. It could be described as Glebe's 'shop window' which announces to the world the Victorian suburb which lies behind to the north.

The Glebe Society's Heritage Subcommittee has identified a significant number of buildings in **Arundel St** which it considers to be a vital part of Glebe's townscape. Arundel St provides us with a potted history of housing styles from early in the Victorian era to the present day. But stylistically the majority of buildings exhibit the decorative restraint of the mid-19th century rather than the exuberant adornment which characterised the latter part of the century. Our list includes:

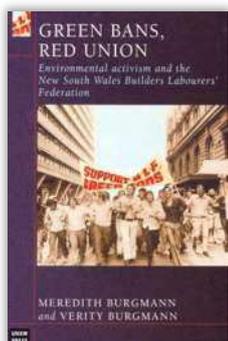
- **Nos. 3-9** – a handsome group of two-storey Italianate terraces with cast iron valances, grille columns and panels to balconies, slate roof; No.3 is adjoined but displays Italianate features of asymmetry and a faceted bay
- **Nos. 11-13** – a neo-gothic terrace with pointed-arch windows, end-on gables and bullnose verandah roof
- **Nos. 18-20** – pair of three-storey Italianate terraces, parapet with dentil decoration, cast iron panels to balconies
- **No. 29** – 'Arundel House' 20thC three-storey brick/stucco symmetrical building with central vertical element and projecting balconies on both sides, creating a strong horizontal line, Doric columns to ground floor
- **Nos. 31 and 33** – c1860s Victorian Regency adjoined pair of two-storey houses. No.31 is the smaller and asymmetrical. No.33 ('Maroo') is symmetrical with decorative dentils, cast iron panels to balcony and grille columns, original stables at rear

- **No. 35** – Handsome large freestanding two-storey symmetrical house with cast iron valance to verandah, cast iron panels to balcony. Former manse for St Barnabas Church, Broadway. ('St Barnabas' and 'Parsonage' can still be seen on the gate pillars.)
- **No. 37** – Freestanding two-storey terrace house with cast iron valances, grille columns and panels to balcony (later non-contributory fence)
- **Nos. 39-41** – pair of single-storey terraces with cast iron brackets and grille columns
- **Nos. 43-45** – Pair of two-storey terraces with wooden shutters and cast iron valance to upper storey, grille columns and panels to balcony
- **Nos. 47-57** – Early single-storey brick terrace with wooden valance, concave roof to verandahs
- **No. 59** – 'Pinjari' Single-storey cottage with steep pitched slate roof, attic, decorative wooden bargeboards at end gable and decorative verandah
- **No. 61** – Single-storey cottage 'Laurel Tree House' with slate roof, attics, decorative wooden bargeboards at end gable, cast iron valance and grille columns
- **No. 65** – Two-storey freestanding terrace house with cast iron valances, brackets and balcony panels
- **Nos. 93-95** – Pair of two-storey terraces with cast iron panels to balconies

With the weather warming up, I urge you to take a stroll along Arundel St to admire its handsome villas, its heritage listed trees and its unusual stepped gutter. Then I urge you to do all you can to stop WestCONnex from despoiling it.

Liz Simpson-Booker, Convenor Heritage

Letters to the Editor



Dear Virginia

As an admirer of Jack Munday I was pleased to read James Colman's letter in the September bulletin about his book *The House that Jack Built – Jack Munday, Green Bans Hero*, and intend to read his book.

Having bought a house in Glebe which was DMR

affected I was one of the beneficiaries of the campaign, in which the NSW branch of the Builders Labourers Federation participated, to stop the expressways going through Glebe.

I would, however, like to point out that this isn't the first book to be written about Munday and the Green Bans. In 1998, UNSW Press published *Green Bans, Red Union: Environmental Activism and the New South Wales Builders Labourers Federation* by noted activist and Glebe resident Meredith Burgmann and her sister Verity. Why not

read both books?

Dear Editor

We have just had our third Glebe Artisans Market at Foley Park for the year and I wanted to pass on one comment I get from all the stallholders at the market which is 'The customers at Glebe are always so lovely'. Some of the stallholders live in surrounding suburbs but others come from all over Sydney and the Blue Mountains and they do city and country markets and meet a wide variety of

Yours faithfully, Ian Edwards

people on their travels. But they all mention the warm, friendly atmosphere and the real sense of community at our market that they do not find elsewhere. Of course it's one of the reasons we all love living in Glebe but nice that outsiders notice it too, I thought.

Yours,

Fiona Verge
Secretary Glebe Art Show Committee

Planning Report, by Neil Macindoe

Glebe Affordable Housing Project, Cowper Street

This proposal is for 495 dwellings, in blocks of up to ten storeys. 247 are proposed to be private market units, 95 to be affordable and 153 public housing. There are 175 parking spaces (none for the public housing).

The proposal has always been controversial, because the site is an early public housing site (1953), and contained a number of multistorey blocks which were subsequently demolished and the tenants supposedly allocated new housing. This is unlikely to happen. Also, the original scheme included the adjacent City Council Depot site, and was a joint Local/State Government initiative. The City subsequently withdrew. Then there was a legal wrangle about the proposed public/private partnership, and the site was vacant for many years.

While all this was going on there were additional protests about the height and density of the proposal, especially as it was now on a significantly smaller site than originally proposed, and the impact on the adjacent areas of housing, which are a mixture of public and private, but lower density and part of the Conservation Area, including a number of Heritage Items.

Notwithstanding, the Stage 1 proposal was approved. Indeed, because this site is State-owned, any changes have to be acceptable to the Government. Currently, preparation of the site has begun, but a number of changes have been proposed, some of which improved dwellings' outlook and accessibility, and also common areas.

The latest application is for modification to the height of one building to include a roof garden, and some minor projections beyond the envelope to include balconies. A bit like shifting deckchairs on the Titanic, the nature of the development has not significantly been changed, and I doubt whether it is any worse for surrounding residents. Some of the changes may improve the outcome for some of

the new occupants.



Philip Thalys
(image:archi
tecturemedi
a.net/)

Better Planning Network District Planning Workshop

I attended this Workshop, which was held on 17 September in the beautiful new Surry Hills Community Centre in Crown St. It was well attended, with many familiar faces. There were two presentations.

- Heather Nesbitt, The Social Commissioner from the Greater Sydney Commission headed by Lucy Turnbull. From a planning background, Heather outlined the work of the Commission especially as regards the issue of livability, covering such matters as jobs, social infrastructure, housing choice, urban design, community engagement, natural environment, connectivity and belonging and social identity. The aim of the Commission is to come up with plans for each of the six districts of Greater Sydney (we are part of the Central District) by the end of the year.
- Philip Thalys, architect and leader of the firm that won the original design for Barangaroo, since ignored by the State Government, and recently elected as a City councillor on the Clover Moore team. He took a broad historical perspective of the development of the City since the time of white settlement and Macquarie, discussing geography, layout, public works, subdivision and

building, and touching on many others. Glebe came in for special praise for its varied subdivision pattern throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

His conclusion is that we need not be concerned about modest increases in density, provided they

are in the right spot with plenty of infrastructure. He is strongly opposed to WestConnex and in favour of improved public transport.

*Neil Macindoe,
Convenor Planning*

History & Heritage

Coming to Glebe, by Jude Paul

Jane and I moved to Glebe in the late 1970s, the outcome of a conversation on a bus with a teaching colleague from Tempe High. I was chatting with Stella about our plans to move from a semi in Leichhardt to a freestanding house in Stanmore. Stella gave me a bit of advice – ‘Glebe’s good’ she said and left it at that.

And so the search for the freestanding house in Stanmore ended at a two-storey terrace in Darling St Glebe – No 4. The house, built in the 1890s, was originally owned by John and Winifred Hickey. John died in 1928 and Winifred in 1957 and the house was for sale now following the death of their eldest child Meg in 1977. The ownership had passed to five Hickey descendants, but Meg continued to live there as a condition of her father’s will which granted occupancy for her lifetime as an unmarried daughter. Our purchase process was quite a nightmare – an Old System title and three of the four remaining inheritors dying before the sale was finalised (one of them intestate) leaving their wills to be sorted before a settlement could be reached. The sale took 2½ years to complete and included a fair deal of legal wrangling about the agreed sale price, owing to a property boom in the late 70s. By the time the house was settled, \$36,000 sounded pretty cheap. While we waited for settlement we rented a house in Rosebank St, the Leichhardt semi long sold.



Jude Paul at 4 Darling St Glebe (image: Jane Gatwood)

Number 4 Darling St was a solid house, but nothing

had been spent on maintenance or Meg’s comfort for many years. I remember my parents’ alarm when they first saw the inside of the house and their incredulity at our enthusiasm for its potential. With the help of a mate who had some good tradesmen contacts, we became the owner/builders in the traditional terrace makeover, saving whatever features could be saved, but having to replace/renew many parts. We stayed in Rosebank St until this work was finished, some 12 more months, meeting tradesmen before and after work and making some pretty important decisions by torchlight on the run. Thinking it was our forever house, we spared no expense. By the time the renovations were complete, we had a massive mortgage – more than \$30,000 from memory – and laybys all over Sydney.

But in 1986 we found another house that we thought we liked even better. We weren’t actually looking, but it was only across the road – 11 Darling St. The ‘For Sale’ sign went up one Friday night and after a very quick look inside on Saturday morning, Garry White put our offer of \$150,000 (the asking price) to the vendors and it was accepted. The attraction of this house was the vacant block of land next door – 13 Darling St – also on the title. 11-13 Darling St had been Robert and Florence Stokes’ home. Robert Stokes was said to have been a gardener on the Lyndhurst Estate, buying the land for his house when the estate was reduced in size. The street front was a now disused fruit and vegetable shop and across both of the blocks at the rear was a disused two-storey corrugated iron shed where children’s furniture had been made. Florence died in 1929 and Robert in 1931. By 1986, the only remaining Stokes descendant was their youngest child Ada. We had caught an occasional glimpse of Ada in our days at No 4, most memorably one December afternoon as she waited in the street for her lift. She was wearing a splendid tulle and lace dress, caught at the waist with a flared three-quarter length skirt, looking remarkably like Fonteyn in *Swan Lake*. By the time the house was for sale, Ada was in care. Jan Craney bought No 4.

Built in about 1900 the Stokes house, like the Hickey house when we first saw it, was now quite

run down. The only hot water came from a latter-day shower installed in the downstairs rear of the house in what had been an undercover, but doorless, laundry/stable area. The demarcation between the shower and the rest of the concrete slab was a row of bricks; the copper and the tubs were still sturdily in place but the once open access was now shielded from the weather by a flimsy plywood cut-out shape, roughly matching the large arched entrance way from the garden.

We thought we could do it all again ... but we didn't. We both now worked long office hours, had nowhere else to live while any repair work was being done (the shed was uninhabitable) and the house simply beat us. We got hot water for our washing up by filling buckets under the shower rose and then completing the task in plastic storage bins resting on a wooden board (cut to measure!) laid across the laundry tubs – one bin for washing and one for draining. We soaked our worn clothes in buckets of Napisan and washed them in the shower; the big stuff went to the laundromat. The single power point in the kitchen fused the first week we were there; an array of extension cords and multi-socketed power boards snaked from the working power point in the laundry/bathroom to various appliances in the adjoining kitchen. The only running water (cold) in the kitchen came from a tap above a small enamel shaving basin. Did I mention that our fridge was also in the laundry/bathroom, directly opposite the only toilet in the house?

None of this stopped us or the neighbour's cat Moya from enjoying ourselves. Moya was initially and reluctantly allowed only a few paw steps through the kitchen door before being shooed home. The next exclusion zone was the lounge room. Next the way upstairs. Next the bedroom. Moya played an indifferent role when we sold the house – a mere flick of the tail and one eye occasionally opened in response to 'how cute' as people passed by her slumbering form in the middle of the bed. But every morning around 5 am, she let out her 'release me now' meow, in order to put in an appearance at the neighbour's house.

We always felt welcome in Darling St. The street was in transition, from mostly older 'battlers' who seemed to have come to the area via a boarding house on the corner of St Johns Rd and Darling St during the Depression and later bought in the street, to a wave of younger newcomers. When we gave a spare key to Agnes at No 1 to let in a delivery man while we were at work, she showed us where she'd keep it. She placed it on a nail on the back of her front door, our key completing her numbered set from 1 to 30.

Our goodbye dinner at No 11 for Agnes when she left to join her children and grandchildren in country

NSW was on a Sunday night. We thought Sunday was a safe bet for us all: the 'oldies' Agnes, Trixie from No 7 and Mrs Mac from No 19 would want to be back home in bed by 9pm or so and we'd be fine for work the next day. Sometime after midnight, Jane and I were showing signs of real tiredness. We'd been regaled with stories about the sly grog shop at No 3 where Pearly Redmond played the piano naked and in full view from the street. Trixie recalled her alarm when unsavoury callers mistook her house for Pearly Redmond's, especially as Trixie had her 'kiddies' asleep upstairs. Our moving from one side of the street to the other was apparently perfectly normal behaviour in Darling St and a full list of like residents was provided. On a sadder note was the rumoured unspoken antipathy between the Catholic Hickeys and the Protestant Stokes. Meg Hickey and Ada Stokes, both unmarried and living alone in their later years, were thought to have never spoken to each other.

A friend staying with us at No 11 after a relationship broke up viewed the backyard shed as therapy. She demolished it. We later watched a cloud of termites hatch simultaneously from the remaining wooden pillars. The swarm of this looked like a tumble weed. Who knows where they were headed ...

We did a little work at No 11. Upstairs got a very smart new black and white bathroom, but the idea of the single-storey freestanding house never left us. Only this time, it would definitely have to be in Glebe. We moved to 30 Arcadia Rd in 1992, a house with many power points, along with the gifted Moya – 'gifted' as in a farewell present from our delightful No 9 neighbour, not in the sense of any semblance of intelligence.

30 Arcadia Rd has no rear access. It is perched on the cliff top above Harold Park and sunset views to the west are spectacular. The house was liveable from day one and the location provided our first brush with possums, bats and street parties. Unlike the stable occupancy of our two earlier Glebe houses, this house had regularly changed ownership and we learnt little about its former occupants. Our only tale came from a woman we saw standing in the street one day with her granddaughter, pointing out our house to her. She told us she'd boarded there during her Teachers' College days in the 40s with a widow whose harness-racing husband had been killed in a track accident. Once inside the house she clearly recalled its original layout and her then unobstructed view of the racetrack from her bedroom window.

But there were problems. Not with race night itself – 'Would the riders for Race 6 please assemble in the marshalling area' was about as loud as it got,

with the exuberant and bustling exception of Miracle Mile night – but any opposition by affected locals to the \$25 million refurbishment of Harold Park in the mid 90s was clearly identified as self-interest. The community as a whole would benefit from the new hockey field in the centre of the race track. A few locals did successfully lobby for the closure of the Maxwell Rd entrance and against the plan to open grandstand access via a walkway at the bottom of Arcadia Rd. But this lobbying business was very tiring work and our shirking from the need for constant vigilance planted the seed for yet another move. We had no idea what lay ahead for the Harold Park site, but whatever it might be, our house was in the thick of it.

Moya was buried in the front garden at 30 Arcadia Rd. She died peacefully at home in October 2000, well satisfied with Sydney's Olympic performance. Within a year she was replaced by Bankie and Max, both painstakingly lured from the wild cat colony at Bankstown TAFE.

And so another round of house hunting began. Nothing across the road was for sale and Sydney was going through yet another property boom. We pretty much knew the desirability of every street and laneway in Glebe by this time. The answer was staring us in the face – Glebe Point Rd itself! In 2003 we moved to a house originally owned by Ben Stone, a former Council alderman and the owner of the Waratah Stove Company. The house name plate 'Waratah' is still intact. This house met all our essential requirements – immediately liveable, plenty of power points and mostly on one

level. And it too came with a two storey rear 'shed', only this was a conversion of Ben Stone's billiard room and pigeon loft into a very comfortable living space. And by 2009, both of us now retired, we had the time, energy and an on-site getaway for yet another go at that renovation thing.

We have no plans to move again. The house is very comfortable and the neighbourhood is wonderful. But those places across the road look pretty good ...

Bankie the 'good' cat died in 2014. No garden burials this time; he was cremated. Max the 'other' cat is yet to join him.

Jude Paul



Jane in the kitchen at No 11 Darling St (image: Jude Paul)

Creative Glebe

New Book on Local Artist Janet Venn-Brown

Many members will know of Janet Venn-Brown who has come to Glebe Society meetings and also offered to paint interiors of Glebe houses. At 91, she is still painting after 45 years in Italy and the Middle East. She was part of the art circle in Rome and Tuscany that included Jeffrey Smart and Justin O'Brien and many others.

Now well-known journalist Peter Manning, for many years a Glebe resident himself, has written a full biography of Janet's extraordinary life from the time she left Sydney in the early 1960s to when she returned in 2008. It includes the shocking assassination of her Palestinian partner, Wael Zuaiter, in Rome in 1972 by Israel's Mossad for allegedly being involved in terrorism at the Munich Olympics. It was later admitted he was innocent of the charge.

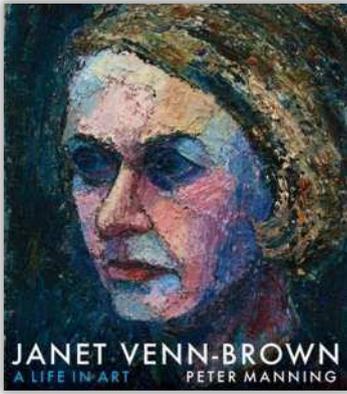
The book includes 93 of Janet's paintings throughout her life – abstract, landscapes and interiors – all in high-resolution colour.

Janet Venn-Brown: a life in art is published by New South Publishing (the former UNSW Press) and will be launched at Gleebooks with Peter Manning and Janet speaking and answering questions on 3 November at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Date and time: Thursday 3 November, 6 for 6.30pm. For bookings:

<http://www.gleebooks.com.au/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=269778>

Peter Manning, Academic and journalist



New book by Peter Manning (image: www.newsouthbooks.com.au)

27th Annual Glebe Music Festival

www.glebemusicfestival.com

Friday 11th November at 7pm, Glebe Town Hall, 160 St John's Rd, Glebe:

International mezzo-soprano Deborah Humble (<http://deborahhumble.com/>) and John Martin, piano. Most recently, Deborah Humble has appeared in Strauss' *Elektra* and Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au Boucherin* Hamburg, *Das Rheingold* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in Hong Kong, *Siegfried* in Boston, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* in Singapore, *Parsifal* and Verdi's *Requiem* in the UK, *Bluebeard's Castle* in Melbourne and *Tristan und Isolde* in Mexico City. Tickets \$20, Conc. \$15.

David Macintosh

Players in the Pub: The Time is Not Yet Ripe

This is an Australian political comedy by Louis

Community

Obituary: Janina Margaret Craney

Jan died on 2 June 2016 at 74 years of age from a blood cancer, multiple myeloma.

Jan lived in Glebe from 1983, initially on Glebe Point Rd with her family, then in Darling St and in Hereford St. For many years she also had a home in Mt Victoria in the Blue Mountains. Continuing her life-long interest in the environment, she joined the Glebe Society,

In 2006 the backyards of St James Ave and John St Reserve were identified as a blue wren 'hot spot'. Bulbuls, willy wagtails, silver eyes and other small birds were also commonly sighted. In the following year, Jan wrote an article for the *Bulletin* entitled 'Un-sizzle summer for our local Superb Fairy-wrens' and she joined a group of local residents that gave a presentation to the Society regarding the concept of a project to preserve

Esson and directed by Mark G Nagle. Upstairs Toxteth Hotel cnr Glebe Point Rd and Ferry Rd. Wednesday 19 October at 7pm.

Lyn Collingwood

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.

Christine Bates chooses the restaurants and menus. We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 6 October we will meet at *Red Chilli Hotpot Chinese Restaurant*, 15 Glebe Pt Rd.
- On Thursday 3 November at 7pm we will meet at *Otto Noorba*, the new Turkish Restaurant at 79 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 1 December at 7pm we will share a meal at *Darbar*, the Indian restaurant at 134 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au or ring Edwina on [9660 7066](tel:96607066) by 6pm on the Wednesday before to let us know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe and Christine Bates

biodiversity and in particular to retain and establish habitats for blue wrens. Their plans were endorsed by the Society and the Blue Wren Subcommittee was established with Jan as a foundation member and later (2012-13) as its convenor.

The Subcommittee was successful in obtaining an environmental grant of \$10,000 from the City of Sydney. About half the grant was used to employ a consultant ecologist, Sue Stevens, who wrote a landmark report entitled *Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe & Forest Lodge: a community based conservation project* (2008). The remaining funds were used to purchase over 500 wren-friendly plants for a community planting day in Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford St on National Tree Day (27 July 2008). Jan had a major role in the organisation of the planting day which was attended by more than 250 people! Since then she took a special and

continuing interest in the Reserve and had responsibility for the further community planting days and working bees that have been held annually in the Reserve since 2010. These ongoing events have proved to be some of the most popular and best-attended community events held by the Society, especially as they involved lots of children.

Jan was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the Subcommittee and her leadership skills also enabled her to make numerous oral presentations to meetings of the City of Sydney, including its Environment Subcommittee, as well as to staff from Parks and Gardens. She also helped write the Society's responses to many reports published by the City (including *Open Spaces and Parks*, *Street Tree Master Plan* and *Greening Sydney Plan*). In recognition of her outstanding work for our suburb the Glebe Society awarded Jan its Commendation in 2013.

After growing up in Epping and attending MLC Burwood, Jan completed an Arts degree at the University of Sydney. Here she met her husband, Dennis, and they lived briefly in Hereford St. They moved to London where Jan worked for the Greater City Council in their travelling library. After the birth of daughters Anna and Imogen the family returned to Sydney and settled in Lane Cove. When their local bush valley was threatened by extensions to a golf course, Jan helped form the Lane Cove Bushland Preservation Society which was instrumental in saving the bushland. Jan continued her political and environmental activism when she was elected as an Alderwoman on Lane Cove Council.

Jan worked as a teacher then continued her study, completing a Diploma in Education at Macquarie University. Her subsequent appointments included those at Macquarie University, the NSW Ministry of Education, TAFE and the Department of Sport and Recreation, her work often focusing on Equal Opportunity. She was a committed member of the influential lobby group Women in Education and

was involved in the women's movement. Later she gained a post-graduate degree in Professional Mediation. She worked for many years at State Rail, moving into the area of risk management. After her retirement she worked in a voluntary capacity as an Official Visitor to psychiatric hospitals in the inner west.

Jan was separated from her husband Dennis but they remained friends, and sadly Dennis predeceased Jan by two months. The Society extends its deepest sympathies to Anna and Imogen and their families.

It has been the Blue Wren Subcommittee's good fortune that Jan was there for all our occasions. In the last months of her illness she rejoiced in caring for her beloved Paddy Gray Reserve. Jan also so much enjoyed participating in the recent choice of native plants for John Street Reserve's habitat garden – plants that would protect and provide food for blue wrens and other small birds as well as establishing a biodiverse environment in one of Glebe's special pocket parks.

Norma Hawkins and Andrew Wood



Jan with her three grandchildren, Sascha, Silvan and Hazel (photo: Imogen Craney).

Driving assistance needed

In Glebe there is a family whose intellectually disabled adult daughter may benefit from a special program that consists of regular access to equine therapy provided by a psychologist/equine therapy practitioner at a farm. The program is conducted at a property in Bargo, just beyond the southern fringes of the Sydney region.

As this family is unable to access this program through public transport we are asking the community for assistance. This would involve driving a 'Go Get' car, to take the young woman and her mother/carer on a return journey to Bargo. It would take approximately five hours, as it is

around 1½ hours driving each way, plus approximately 1 hour onsite for the therapy session.

At this stage it is envisioned that the woman and her mother will want to undertake the trip at least twice per month, on a Friday. We are seeking 12 drivers so that no one driver would be asked to assist more often than once per three months. The family will cover the cost of car rental and petrol so it is just your time that you would be providing.

As a volunteer you will be covered by insurance for both the vehicle and your wellbeing. For those who offer help, there will be familiarisation meetings

with the mother/carer initially, and a person who has previously assisted this family. There will also be an opportunity to make the acquaintance of the young woman herself at a second get-together, and perhaps to do a short trial trip.

If you are in a position to answer this call-out for help please contact Janice Challinor

(jchallinor3@bigpond.com) or Nick Hespe (nhespe@gmail.com). Please note, that this is not officially sanctioned by City of Sydney, Lifehouse or the Glebe Society, but is a private offer of assistance.

Janice Challinor, Convenor Community

Kate Brennan's address to the Glebe Society AGM



Good morning. In opening I'd like to acknowledge that we are holding the Glebe Society Annual General Meeting on the traditional lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora nation. Acknowledgement of country is a relatively new revival of the profoundly old practice of ceremony

around gatherings, an invitation to engage with the soil beneath our feet, the trees, the waterways, the country which supports us and the people who have cared for it since time began. It is a way of understanding our collective history. As a recovering Anglican, I'm no stranger to the value of ceremony and I embrace the invitation of first nation peoples to participate in this practice.

I would like to thank the Glebe Society for the invitation to address the Annual General meeting. My name is Kate Brennan and I am the Facilitator of the Glebe TreeHouse, a community service supporting families with small children. I was hoping to share with you today some of my insights and dreams working in this community. I'm not sure what I am able to add to your knowledge and appreciation for the suburb, but hope to ground this in our common passion for the community of Glebe. I'd also like to share with you the unfinished story of unpacking my own privilege – and how that contributes to my work.

My hope is that this may inspire us to extend dialogue about Glebe's 'Community Spirit' and indeed to highlight how an extraordinary opportunity is sitting right here on our doorstep.

So – What does the phrase Community Spirit mean to you and how do we build that in Glebe? There was a great quote in the Guardian this week – from Monash Professor Andrew Markus who said: 'social cohesion is not a destination; we do not get to the destination and say 'we've done it!' It's something we need to work at'.

It's important that I point out here, that I'm aware that I'm preaching to the converted; as people who choose to live in Glebe. I know that you love this suburb, in part due to its complexity; and today I will ask you to reach yet a little deeper and be

present to what we cannot see so easily about the cohabitation in Glebe of wealth and poverty, advantage and restriction.

So why do I get to talk about Glebe Community Spirit? As mentioned, I have the great fortune of running a community centre located on the grounds of Glebe Public School; it's called the TreeHouse and it is a Free Fun Family Space where little things grow. (That's our new tag line and I'm trying to use it a lot). We aim to support families with young children to try and get the best start in those vital early years. The centre has been there for 16 years and is run under the State Government's Families NSW initiative with the Department of Education.

The TreeHouse is one of 40 similar sites across NSW; they are all placed in communities where there is significant socioeconomic DIS-Advantage. I use the term DIS-Advantage somewhat reluctantly these days, because embedded in the word itself, is the very *characteristic* which we struggle to discuss when addressing issues of disadvantage – but we'll get into that in a little later.

When we talk about 'Community Spirit', the development of which I was excited to discover is a goal of the Glebe Society, what specifically do we mean? What informs our ideas of community spirit? They are somewhat ethereal notions of not just buildings but the collection of people, stories that make up a community, it's the interactions, it's the gatherings, it's the feelings you have being in a place – going to the shops, talking to your neighbours.

In reflecting upon this, I was recalling some of the influential features of how this notion developed for me. I grew up in an inner city suburb, which back in the 70s and 80s, had some similarities to Glebe.

The suburb was Summer Hill, and we had a pretty wonderful childhood there; my family, including my two little brothers, lived next door to our cousins and just up the road from the lovely Summer Hill village. We played cricket on Henson St and spent long summer holidays wandering the suburb.

In the 80s, my father got involved in a local action group – the group was interested in the amenity of the area and formed partially in response to Ashfield councils plan to allow the building of a ten

storey office block over the carpark near the station. The group named themselves the Summer Hill Action Group, which delightfully shortens to the acronym, SHAG.

As a child I went along to some of the Ashfield council meetings with SHAG and watched as the group fought hard for their suburb and eventually won the battle; the building never went up, and Summer Hill continues to this day to enjoy the atmosphere of a village.

This story informed my belief in the power of community based groups who care about the quality of life and amenity of a suburb. I was witness to the power of civic participation.

But another important feature of Summer Hill in that era was the high representation of group homes or what were referred to back then as 'half-way houses'. What this provided to the suburb was the colourful range of people and stories, and they weren't always easy stories. These properties housed a range of people of varying mental health conditions, ex-drug users, the elderly and the poor.

I want to share with you a story that captures some of the character these people added to the community. Early one sunny morning, as my brothers and I were at the breakfast table at the back of our home, an elderly lady in a mauve terry-towelling dressing gown, with wild and dishevelled hair, swept up the back steps and into the kitchen; she stood arms outstretched at the end of the breakfast table, her dressing gown dancing about her swaying frame. And she exclaimed 'All the other kingdoms have been thrown into heaven! This is the last one!' She told us we could have our breakfast but then we would have to leave.

My little brothers and I sat at the table frozen to our seats, still in our PJs, suspended spoonfuls of porridge, wide-eyed and trying to integrate this vision in purple who had so spectacularly interrupted our breakfast. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity my mother, stirred by the ruckus, emerged from the front of the house and offered our visitor a cup of tea. It didn't take long for us to be ushered into our rooms to get ready for school. By the time we were leaving a nurse had arrived from the hospice next door to accompany our visitor back to another 'kingdom'.

Fast forward some 30 years and it's hard to locate such a property in Summer Hill. The suburb – saved from urban vandalism by SHAG's diligent work, has become like much of the inner city of Sydney, where the median house price now sits at \$1.5m, and in the main we do not respond to the steady and silent push of 'the poor' to the outer edges of our city.

These stories from my childhood juxtapose things

that are vital to health of a *community's spirit*. People power and the strength found in diversity. So, as members of a community which very much represents these two worlds, I want us to consider: What cost does a community pay, where there is a loss of one aspect? And; Who should be fighting to stop it?

As a community worker in this suburb I can assure you we are working hard to minimise the impacts of poverty; the services I work alongside are dedicated, focused and modestly funded. We service a community which faces some of the most debilitating symptoms of poverty and where the shadow of invasion and colonisation still rests heavy on the lives of many.

Add to that that we have an increasingly uphill battle on our hands; as wealth distribution remains on a divergent and climbing scale, the gap between haves and have nots is widening and the government purse seems to be shrinking, especially in the area of social housing. And here we are smack bang in the middle of the biggest city in the country, occupying a tiny inner city suburb which holds the interesting title of the most socio-economically diverse suburb in Australia.

Yet here lies our extraordinary opportunity. And when I say opportunity, I don't mean the opportunity to overcome poverty or lift the poor and disenfranchised up out of the mire – these are far reaching social challenges. I mean the opportunity to build real and equitable relationships across this divide and, through this, truly transform the Community Spirit of Glebe.

The next question then: Whose responsibility is it to reach out and form these relationships? I feel increasingly, as I have understood my own privilege, to see it as more my responsibility than others. At the risk of getting back to my biblical roots again, 'to whom much is given, much will be required'.

So what is this terrible word 'privilege' and why does it just stick in our throats and generate such discomfort? I've been afforded chances to recognise and begin to unpack my own privilege. I expect it to be a lifelong journey and in talking about this, I do not wish to take away from or assume to understand anyone else's; here I'm just talking about my own.

After high school there were two formative experiences which helped. Firstly, I moved to Alice Springs and spent time on the Tiwi Islands off the Top End. This experience was like being gently woken up by country. I didn't really have much educational or lived experience of Aboriginal people or culture when I got there, but when in the desert, I just changed. My heart and brain started to feel the story of this country. Working in

communities and with people in the top end, I was a guest, I behaved as such and was welcomed. My understanding of Aboriginal people began to be turned on its head; slowly the veils lifted and I found teachers and family, I found the living history of my country.

Two years later, I went to Palestine with my mum, who was a doctor working for World Vision, and again the story of dispossession from land and the unbearable grief this dislocation brings, was shown to me as an outsider. I felt totally helpless; and all I can tell you is in the grief and chaos that was Gaza I spent countless hours receiving the warmth and welcome of Palestinian families who shared their stories, as we drank sweet mint tea.

It is little wonder that these experiences had such a significant impact on me; I come from relative affluence. Yet still I struggle in life, still I find life a battle some days, I still cry myself to sleep, I lose my loved ones and occasionally my hope and direction. My privilege does not protect me from existence, but it definitely gives me a huge head start; a range of obstacles have never been placed in my way.

To understand privilege we must distinguish between influences of suffering. To be alive is to experience suffering, but there are special categories of suffering reserved for certain groups of people. If we are not a part of that group, it is close to impossible to understand the cumulative effect of the discrimination they experience. We probably cannot; however we can seek to understand what it means to not be at risk of this, and through that gain some insight, some humility and create an opportunity to LISTEN and LEARN from people who do know.

These are some of the features of my life which make me a person of privilege:

- I completed high school
- English is my first language
- I have a university degree
- I am a citizen of the country I live in
- I do not have a visible or invisible disability
- My parents were married and never divorced
- I had employment opportunities as a result of family connections
- I have never been ridiculed for my sexuality
- I have not been followed around a department store because of my clothing
- I have never been refused entry based on the colour of my skin
- I have never missed a meal because there was no food in the house.

The list goes on.

These features of my life have created a solid platform for me to create and determine my

destiny. And you know, when you really sit in that location it still just feels incongruent. It's just an unpleasant feeling; and because we are human we tend to shy away from discomfort. Often this is where my brain cues the song, "What about me, it isn't fair!!!"

But what is really exciting, if we choose it: this discomfort tells us there something to be done!! It's a key; it's a signal for possibility and change. And here is the clincher: simply bringing it into awareness starts dismantling it. It doesn't leave, it just starts to shift power.

After 20 years in the 'helping' sector I have lost most of my conviction that I am here to rescue people; but what I do know, with great rigour, is that I can be present to people. I can be there with them in the struggle and difficulty. I can choose to stand there, with them, at that time, and that alone can be powerful.

I work hard in my professional capacity to find a balance between the paradoxical realities of personal responsibility and wider social forces, such as capitalist democracy, cross generational trauma or attempted genocide. But as a person of privilege, I choose to place the latter at the apex of power when calling for change. I refuse to turn my gaze and to blame and I stop demanding people overcome such odds, when apparently I can't even reliably get myself to yoga once a week.

Recent events make it a greater challenge. Where we have the Don Dale revelations, followed by the Australian cartoon depicting an Aboriginal father as an unengaged alcoholic, the re-emergence of Pauline Hanson and divisive politics, all do little to strengthen our resolve about how we keep at this work of building a cohesive and safe society. Yet in all this, we can gain insight from leaning into the discomfort and raising our awareness of the power for positive change that we do have.

When I was getting my thoughts together around this, Robyn Kemmis popped in to my mind, just as she did in real life into my office, and her ability to walk in many worlds; how she seemed just as comfortable at the Old Fire Station as the Sydney Town Hall. She was 'interested', 'curious', 'passionate about ...'; she wasn't 'worried for ...' or 'feeling sorry for ...'. Her concern was not directed toward people but toward systems and, what there was of it she transformed into action. SHE WAS 'ENGAGED with', not 'COMPASSIONATE toward'.

So if we can take a leaf from her book and learn to bridge these gaps we have a job to do; it is to be open to learning about people's lives, truly learning and being engaged.

So my call out to the Glebe Society is to continue to work deeply into this space of Community Spirit;

to continue to challenge ourselves as we consider what would be lost for Glebe, if the sale of the public housing estate continues to erode diversity.

It is very easy to want to live in a place which doesn't have social problems; it may feel safer, less chaotic. It is certainly less provocative or painful than asking us to consider our own role in systems of advantage. However in this brave new time of history, when Pokemon Go is an *actual thing* and climate change looms and a man like Donald Trump is poised to become the leader of the free world, it seems that we do well to be exposed to a wide range of people, life experiences and behaviours.

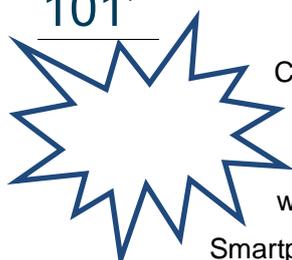
Let's reconsider DisADVANTAGE in the context of its strong and robust brother, ADVANTAGE. Let's lean into a bit of discomfort and find that it falls away – as we are roused and shaped by the breadth of relationship we can form across great distance. This is Glebe – only together can we create and protect a space were Community Spirit can truly flourish!



Kate Brennan
Glebe TreeHouse, Glebe Primary School

Glebe Society Event: 'Get more out of your Smartphone

101'



Come to this Glebe Society event to find out more about using your smartphone¹. Most of us have got one, but are we getting the most out of it?

Smartphones let you do much more than just make a phone call. We'll cover the iPhone, the iPad, Android phones (eg Samsung Galaxy, HTC etc), and show you how to do much more with them than you'd ever imagined.

The evening will cover how to use the Contacts to make it easier to make a phone call, how to find other Apps that are useful and we'll demonstrate a few of the more useful apps. For example, your smartphone will let you listen to radio stations from all over the world, or to make phone calls to your interstate or overseas friends for no cost.

You can also use your smartphone to take great photos, guide you on one of the Society's 'Glebe Walks', look up bus timetables, and navigate while driving or walking.

We'll also have a look at the various Settings that are useful. The evening will include a general Q&A session, but if you have a specific problem then we'll try to make an appointment to see if we can help you.

This event is being conducted by the Communications subcommittee of The Glebe Society. It will be held at *Benledi*, 186 Glebe Point Rd, at 7pm on Thursday 24 November. Cost is \$15 including refreshments.

Bookings are essential. Click on www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com to make your booking. Members and non-members are welcome.

Phil Young and Virginia Simpson-Young
Communications subcommittee

1. Smartphone (n.). 'a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps.' (Oxford Dictionary)

AGM: Communications Annual Report 2015-2016

This is the final subcommittee annual report for 2015-2016

The Communications subcommittee coordinates communication activities of the Glebe Society including the *Bulletin*, websites and social media (such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube).

The Communications subcommittee supports the Glebe Society to:

- Expand engagement with Glebe and the wider community (eg by supporting other subcommittees in their communication and by building Facebook and Twitter presence);
- Strengthen our base (including by engaging with

new residents and by improving the ease of joining and renewing membership);

- Support effective campaigns (eg by ensuring urgent and important campaigns are quickly and broadly communicated through the website and the various social media channels);
- Support Glebe Society and others' events, (eg by promoting events; where relevant, outside the membership and outside Glebe); and
- Improve the efficiency of the Society's internal communication.

Since the 2015 AGM, we have supported the following communication channels with our members and the wider community:

- The *Bulletin*: The *Bulletin* continues to be sent to members in either the hardcopy or email form. The ongoing project to scan back copies for electronic access via the Society's website continues; back copies are available from: http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=10873.
- The Glebe Society Website: The subcommittee has recently reviewed the security of our websites and commissioned work to improve it. The number of visits to [glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au) peaked with interest in the Harold Park development and was already dropping back then. It has now returned to the level it was at a couple of years ago (about 660 visitors a day). The number of visitors from China has dropped from an average of more than 250 a day last year to almost none in the last few months. Of those who don't go directly to [glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au), more than 80% come from Google, about 7% come from Bing and, surprisingly, less than 1% come from Facebook.
- Glebe Walks website: As well as the Society's main website, the subcommittee also maintains websites for Glebe Walks (<http://glebewalks.com.au/>). The number of visitors to Glebe Walks is steady at about 100 a day.
- Glebe Island Bridge website: The Society also maintains a website for the Glebe Island Bridge (<http://www.glebeislandbridge.com/>). The number visiting the Glebe Island Bridge website is up almost 50% but is still only 23 a day.
- Update emails: One of the subcommittee's roles is the compilation and distribution of the Glebe Society Update emails that are sent on an irregular basis to those members who have provided us with an email address. The Glebe Society Update emails include breaking news that can't wait for the next *Bulletin*, and updated information on important issues that the Glebe Society is working on. It is distributed to 90% of our membership.
- Facebook Pages: The Society maintains Facebook pages for the Society as a whole (www.facebook.com/TheGlebeSociety) and for the Glebe Island Bridge (<http://www.facebook.com/GlebeIslandBridge>). Facebook is becoming increasingly important as a means for organisations such as ours to get our messages across and communicate quickly and effectively with members. Our Facebook presence is growing steadily with the number of 'likes' (effectively subscriptions) currently over 400 – almost double the number at the same time last year. Some of our communication via Facebook has been astoundingly successful: in November last year, our post announcing the Society's 'Glebe: Now and Then' video reached over 8,000 people and was shared 81 times. In May this year, our post about the Dictionary of Sydney entry by Max Solling on Glebe pubs and landmarks gained 5,400 impressions.
- Twitter account: Our Twitter account tweets and re-tweets the very latest information about matters relating to Glebe – particularly issues around planning and development. Since our last annual report, our Twitter following has grown by around 30% to 313 followers.
- YouTube channel: The Society has now uploaded four videos to our new YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBT7r3R0F_aal_dK6kV9sCbg). The most watched is 'Glebe: Now and Then'. As well as our uploaded videos, we have created playlists of videos relevant to Glebe, which list videos created by other producers as well as Glebe Society videos.
- Eventbrite: This is the site we use for taking bookings for Glebe Society events, and is intended to streamline the booking process for members and event organisers. Members are increasingly taking advantage of the convenience of Eventbrite for booking in for events; 72% of bookings for last year's Christmas Party were via our Eventbrite page.
- In addition to supporting these Glebe Society channels, the subcommittee has undertaken the following actions:
 - Developed a Communications Policy to be tabled at the next Management Committee meeting. This policy, if accepted, would range across our various media and replace several different policies including the *Bulletin* and Website policies.
 - Worked with convenors and other office-bearers of the Society to offer assistance with their communication activities and to learn from them what their needs are. In this period, we met with the new Vice President and the new Events Coordinator.
 - Created a communications 'checklist' for event organisers to assist them to navigate the plethora of ways in which they can inform members about upcoming events.
 - Hosted a social media education session in November last year. The event gave practical demonstrations on the use of the Glebe Society's websites and Facebook.

Convenors of the Communications subcommittee

in this period were Scott Calvert then Virginia Simpson-Young. Other members of the subcommittee were Peter Thorogood, Phil Young, Jan Macindoe, Carole Herriman, Bruce Davis, Allan Hogan and Bill Simpson-Young.

We meet approximately bi-monthly and welcome other members to join.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications

Come to our 2016 Sunset Soirée!

Friday 21 October
6 - 8.30pm

The annual fundraiser for

CENTIPEDE



will be held at the
Glebe Rowing Club
Ferry Road, Glebe

Entry \$20 per person, payable at door
[deductable from annual CENTIPEDE membership fee]

RSVP essential by Monday 17 October
email: community@glebesociety.org.au
or phone: 0401 505 657

- ✓ MC: Verity Firth, Executive Director, Social Justice, Equity and Diversity Unit, UTS.
- ✓ LIVE MUSIC: Edama Ruo.
- ✓ TOPIC: Youth Initiatives in Glebe – Speakers from Glebe Police Station: Renee Fortuna, Paul Pisani and John Brettle.
- ✓ AUCTION of desirable items, including original artwork, photography package, gym membership.
- ✓ RAFFLE PRIZES: include café vouchers and hampers from Cincotta Chemist.
- ✓ KIDZ COMPETITION: Soirée guests to judge 'Why I like Centipede', with prize for winning entry.
- ✓ SALE of original kids hand-made bookmarks and postcards.

- ✓ DRINKS AND EATS .
- ✓ DOOR PRIZE : Dinner for two at The Boathouse

CENTIPEDE is the out-of-school-hours program at Glebe Public School
 Friends of CENTIPEDE is supported by the Glebe Society
www.centipede.org.au/how-you-can-help.html

For Your Calendar

Wed 19 October, 7pm. Players in the Pub: *The Time is Not Yet Ripe*. Toxteth Hotel.
 Friday 21 October, 6 - 8.30pm. *Sunset Soiree – Centipede Fundraiser*. Glebe Rowing Club.
 21 October - 20 November. *27th Annual Glebe Music Festival*. Various locations – see brochure.
 Thursday 3 November, Thirsty Thursday: *Otto Noorba*, 79 Glebe Point Rd.
 Thurs 3 November, 6.30pm. Book launch, *Peter Manning's Janet Venn-Brown: a life in art*. Gleebooks.
 Thursday 24 November, 7pm. Glebe Society Event: 'Get more out of your Smartphone 101'. *Benledi*.
 Tues 29 November, 6pm. *Glebe Voices: Crime, Community and Collective Impact in Glebe*. Yuga café.
 Thursday 1 December, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday: Darbar*, 134 Glebe Point Rd.
 Sunday 11 December, 5-9pm. *Glebe Society Christmas Party*. Glebe Town Hall.

Recurring Events

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am to 2pm. *Have A Chat Café*. Old Fire Station.
 Tuesdays, 10.30am - 1.30pm. *Life Drawing at the Tocky*, Toxteth Hotel, upstairs.
 Wednesday morns, 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*. nr Jubilee Park, contact bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au
 Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm; *Glebe Community Singers*. Glebe Public School Hall, Derwent St entrance.
 First and third Friday of the month, 10am. *OM:NI*, Old Fire Station.

The Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100
Glebe NSW 2037

No.8 of 2016 (October 2016)

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



The recently re-opened Tramsheds (image: Phillip Vergison)