



Remembrance Day in Glebe 2016

Liz Simpson-Booker reports:

On Friday 11 November, we gathered quietly in mild Spring sunshine around the Glebe Diggers Memorial. We had a very large agenda:

- To commemorate the 98th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended WW1.
- To recognise the centenary year of some of the most significant and bloody battles of the Western Front in WWI.
- To remember the sacrifice of those who fought and fell in all conflicts in which Australia has been involved.
- To reflect on those deaths and the lives of repatriated injured veterans and the ripple effects on families and succeeding generations.

Glebe Society President Allan Hogan reflected, not only on the above, but also the unique conditions which led to the building of local war memorials around Australia following WW1. Australia's losses in subsequent wars have been honoured in less visible, but hopefully no less meaningful, ways.

Sydney University's contribution to the WWI effort; speech by Liz Gillroy

The predominant image of Australia's involvement in WW1 is troops gallantly struggling, being wounded and dying at Gallipoli. But if we turn our eyes to universities we start to see another picture emerge, one that had governments realise that troops in trenches were unlikely to succeed without the aid of new technologies and expert knowledge. And universities were the place for such endeavours.

Clues to the nature of this involvement are contained in the letters, journals, manuscripts and photographs of the university men and women who contributed to the war. These records form part of a distinctive WW1 collection held by the University of Sydney Archives.



Glebe Society President, Allan Hogan, laying a wreath for Remembrance Day 11 November, at the Diggers Memorial, Foley Park Glebe (image: Phil Young)

The University published a Book of Remembrance in 1939, which for each entry provides a brief potted biography, featuring schooling, university career and details of war postings in Europe and the Middle East. This type of information in itself is unusual for books of remembrance.

It also reveals that a number served with units other than the AIF, mostly British; complicating the Anzac narrative of Aussie soldiers in slouch hats.

But most interestingly the Book of Remembrance honours not only the 230 men who died, but also the more than 1800 men and women who survived. Rather than simply being an 'honour roll', the Book is something more; it is also a record of survivors.

Based on this Book of Remembrance, the University has established an online database and website called: [Beyond 1914 —The University of Sydney and the Great War.](#)

It holds the complete WWI university archive as digitised records, comprising photographs, letters and diaries, plus biographical information of over 2,500 men and women, all graduates, students and staff of the University of Sydney who served in WW1.

Inspired by *Beyond 1914*, a related national project was launched earlier this year; [Expert Nation:](#)

[Universities, War and 1920s & 1930s Australia](#) is an ARC funded project. This project places war, knowledge and expertise at the heart of the national story in the interwar years.

Since its commencement, *Expert Nation* has established a national database of over 5,500 men and women, graduates and students, from all Australian universities who served on foreign soil.

Today we remember a local man with ties to both Glebe and the university. Private Wilfred William Barber was born in Camperdown in 1893 and attended Glebe Public School. In 1911 he was attending Sydney Technical College studying Mechanical Engineering and he was the first apprentice in the School of Engineering at the University of Sydney.

His father William Barber was employed by the university from 1893; in 1914 he was listed as the Superintendent of Gas and Water fittings and Caretaker of Science buildings. From 1919 to 1939 he was the Yeoman Bedell; a staff member of the university for 56 years.

Wilfred was initially rejected for active service in 1915, and so took himself off to England to serve for twelve months at the Vickers-Maxim's dockyards, which built warships, submarines and armaments.

Returning to Australia 18 months later, he enlisted with the Light Trench Mortar reinforcements and was sent to France early in 1917.

On 4 October during the Battle of Broodseinde, he was buried by shell-fire and was hospitalised for a few days with (according to his war service record) 'dermatitis'. He re-joined his battalion and was seriously wounded at Passchendaele on the 18th October suffering concussion and multiple shell wounds to his legs and abdomen.

An eye witness states that 'both he and Barber were runners and at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon were together in a pill box when it was hit by a shell, at the time they were eating toast and jam'. Wilfred died of his wounds on 23 October 1917, and was buried at Lijssehoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Wilfred is commemorated on this War Memorial in Glebe and also the University's War Memorial panels located in the entrance to the Quadrangle and the carillon.

The university's famous War Memorial Carillon was dedicated on Anzac Day 1928 comprising 54 bells. Bell number 43 is dedicated to Wilfred William Barber, donated by subscribers to the memory of the Yeoman Bedell's son.

Liz Gillroy

WWI Project Officer, University of Sydney



Private Wilfred William Barber attended Glebe Public School and University of Sydney. He is commemorated on the War Memorial in Glebe (image supplied by Liz Gillroy)

Max Solling shares some thoughts on Remembrance Day in an Australian context

This morning I'd like to share with you some thoughts about Remembrance Day. Remembrance or Armistice Day is a solemn acknowledgement of the tragic loss of life in WW1, observed throughout the Commonwealth as well as in France, Belgium, the United States, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. But Australia and New Zealand stand alone in commemorating WW1 on a second – and for these two nations more important, occasion – Anzac Day.

The dismissal of the Whitlam Federal Government joined Remembrance Day and Ned Kelly's hanging as memorable events on this date on the Australian calendar.

We who came after were to give remembrance to all who had exhibited that fortitude and sacrifice of the men who returned as well as those who lay buried in foreign battlefields. The post-World-War-Two generation learned with wonder that on Armistice Day every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the nation would pause to remember the end of the war in Europe in 1918. Across the fronts, the guns stopped firing and silence fell. At public school we were told about Private Simpson, the Man with the Donkey, saviour of comrades at Gallipoli. It was one story all our mentors could agree was entirely edifying. The Fourth Grade Reader at Glebe public

school directed pupils to find Gallipoli on the map. As for Simpson's donkeys – there were actually many – they resonated effortlessly with the Christian narratives embedded deep in the Anglo-Australian culture: Jesus riding triumphantly into Jerusalem, the animals around the Bethlehem manger, and the parable of the Good Samaritan.

At another forum, a map tacked on the back of our dunny door, coloured in red were nations that were part of the British Empire on which, it was said, the sun never set. But it did.

The time for an assignment on Simpson at school was around Anzac Day which to the boys at Albury Primary meant more than Armistice Day. 25 April was a state school and public holiday. 11 November was not. On the last day before 25 April we gathered in the quadrangle to be addressed by teachers and returned soldiers on the meaning of Anzac. Birth and/or baptism of the nation; sacrifice; rallying to the empire; holding on against impossible odds; fighting to defend the right and being prepared to do it again.

Simpson, Menin Gate, the old soldiers' sermons, the honour board. These were the sort of values we were thoroughly schooled in. On Armistice Day classes were suspended between morning playtime and lunch while we stood in line, heard addresses like those on Anzac eve but dwelling more on death than birth and on the world rather than the nation; and we bowed our heads in silence.

The central elements in celebration of Armistice Day were the two minutes silence at 11 o'clock, first observed around the British Empire in 1919 and the wearing of artificial poppies, a custom (inspired by John McCrae's poem of 1915 'In Flanders Fields') which reached Australia in 1921. 'Poppy Day' was taken up by ex-service organisations in many countries, and most of the takings from the sale of red silk flowers worn by Australians on 11 November went to the RSL.

The Anzac tradition has been discovered and re-interpreted by scholars, film makers and poets two generations removed from WW1. Bill Gammage composed extracts from letters and diaries in *The Broken Years - Australian Soldiers in the Great War* (1974) re-creating the experience of men from their enlistment to their death or return. This scholarly work became inspiration and guide for Peter Weir and David Williamson when they made the film *Gallipoli* (1981). Gammage's theme was tragic and saw the war as 'destroying an age and generation to no purpose' and, in that spirit, the film focussed not on the heroic landing on 25 April but on the massacre of 7 August 1915. The film's Anzacs are victims, not victors. *Gallipoli* is a tragedy. Peter Weir called it 'a war memorial on celluloid' and to look at traditional war memorials

through his eyes is to experience pity and terror.

We know our war dead were almost 60,000. British dead in WW1 amounted to almost a million. What did the war feel like to those whose world was the trenches? How did they get through this bizarre experience? How could language be invoked to derive some order and meaning from the chaos, and how did soldiers transform their feelings into language and literary form?

Edmund Blunden, an English poet and infantry lieutenant, attempted to answer these sorts of questions in *Undertones of War*. He synthesised searing experiences of outrage, fear, pain and comedy on the Western Front, and at the close of his memoir calls himself 'a harmless young shepherd in a soldier's coat'. The effect of war in Britain was catastrophic. Along with Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves and other literary soldiers of the war's new literature that emerged broke with the ideas and assumptions of the nineteenth century and heralded the ironic and unsettling expression of the twentieth.

In his compassionate yet un sentimental prose, Blunden tells of the endurance, heroism and despair of the men of the 11th Royal Sussex. After two years at the front Blunden, an asthmatic, was gassed and won the Military Cross. Typically he withholds mention of either event in *Undertones of War*, published in 1928. Unquestionably one of the classics to emerge from WW1, the first edition sold out in one day. Today it is still in print in the Penguin Classics.

Professor of English Literature at Hong Kong University and Professor of Poetry at Oxford, Blunden revelled in the delights of cricket and country life and landscape. He bore mental scars from the war, and attributed his survival to his diminutive size; he made an 'inconspicuous target'. 'My experiences in the First World War have haunted me all my life', he wrote, 'and for many days I have, it seemed, lived in that world rather than this'. The prophecy which he had uttered by choosing as an epigraph for his memoir Bunyan's couplet:

*Yea, how they set themselves in battle-array
I shall remember to my dying day*

This harmless young shepherd never stopped writing for the Times Literary Supplement to the very end, which came on 20 January 1974 when he was aged 77. His runner at Ypres, A.E. Beeney, placed a wreath of Flanders poppies on his coffin.



A first person account – the letters of Major Hugh Vernon; extracts read by Lyn Collingwood

Today I am reading short excerpts from letters written by Major Hugh Vernon to Mary his 'dear little missus' in Warrawee. Vernon served as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli. In his ranks was machine gunner Trooper Fred Wood whose home was *Margaretta Cottage* in Leichhardt St.

The 1st Light Horse landed at Gallipoli in May 1915, their task to defend the front-line trenches at the head of Monash Valley. Their basic diet was bully beef, hard biscuits and a daily water ration of 1½ bottles. Like his men, Vernon suffered from gastroenteritis, fever, dysentery and mouth ulcers, and endured other discomforts: the gas masks, and the flies which swarmed among the dead in no man's land and among the living soldiers at meal time. After 2½ months Major Vernon was evacuated to a hospital ship off Anzac Cove from where he witnessed the beginning of 'a big fight' – the August Offensive: the battle of Lone Pine and the futile Battle of the Nek (the subject of the 1981 film *Gallipoli*).



Major Hugh Vernon, second in command, 1st Light Horse Regiment (New South Wales Lancers) and Trooper Clark, Batman, of the same regiment, 1914. (Image: AWM)

Major Vernon takes up his pencil:

Must have been getting sick for a week or more before I had to go down to it. During the week before the end of Ramadan – which was the festival weeks when we expected the Turks to attack us – we made all sorts of preparations and I daresay I told you how I had to make the gully below Popes Hill secure in case of attack. This entailed digging, barbed wire and organising the various troops into defence positions into which

they would rush automatically on The Alarm. During this time we, several times, wore our gas helmets for practice in putting them on in a hurry and they made some of us very sick; in fact the thought of the thing strapped onto my braces – they had to be worn by everyone as part of 'dress' equipment – occasionally was responsible for inability to eat food – these 'peggy bags' so often treated with chemical and glycerine.

By the 23rd July I couldn't keep warm. Next day I realised I had a chill & went in the legs again. By Monday 26th July I developed what I think was influenza or fever – & during the morning found it wiser to hand the regiment over to the next senior. For next few days I didn't care much what happened – I was given a stretcher as a bunk instead of lying on the hard stony floor of the dugout & I lived on condensed milk & water.

I said goodbye to Dudley Holman & a few others & when they carried me off I must own to having to cover my face for I couldn't stand being taken away from my men. The jolting however stopped all that – & I never want to be carried in a stretcher again – very fine men the stretcher bearers, carrying heavy men so many times: it was about ¾ mile to the clearing hospital on the beach.

Eventually I was taken off to the Rewa hospital ship. There I laid a few days in a sort of fever – they gave me a dose of oil for the gastroenteritis I had had badly for some days & after much pressure I was vouchsafed 5 grams of aspirin – & later a few doses of an anti-diarrheal medicine. But sick men don't get attention; the wounded claim, & rightly too, all their time. General Birdwood came on board & recognised me & I begged him to ask if they would kindly transfer me to the next hospital ship when the Rewa went & that I need not leave Anzac for I always hoped to get right in a day or two.

These hospital ships are not pleasant places though full of comfort & good food, for the whole decks & wards are full of wounded & blood everywhere. To one like ourselves who had seen little else but men in halves, arms off & continual streams of wounded going down to the beach on soaking stretchers, their clothes all red – who had seen so much of this it was not so awful: but the cries during the night of men under operation or extreme pain or calling out in their sleep & the sight & smell of blood everywhere, can only drop one down into the dumps when they were ill & so I could not write.

I am indebted to Major Vernon's granddaughter for providing me with this material. Katharine, who lives in Glebe, is preparing a book based on her grandfather's writings during the Great War.

Lyn Collingwood, Historian

Planning & Infrastructure

Planning Report

Bidura, 357 Glebe Point Rd

On 26 November the Land and Environment Court handed down a judgment on the Vision Land proposal for the redevelopment of the rear of the *Bidura* site. The proposal included retention and conservation of the area fronting Glebe Point Rd that includes the Blacket house, garden and ballroom, which are Heritage Items. The City Council had been deemed to have refused the application because of the length of time taken to assess it. What the Court heard was an appeal against this deemed refusal. The appeal failed, and the reasons are outlined below, in extracts from the findings, with some explanatory notes.

The distribution of height and FSR in the Concept Application would have an adverse effect on the heritage significance of Bidura House,

Commissioner Tuor recognised the adverse impact of a tall building, visible from Glebe Point Rd, on both the Heritage Item and the Conservation Area Streetscape. The towers should be lowered and set back. Views of any new development from other parts of Glebe Point Rd, not just immediately in front, need to be considered.

[the Concept Application] impacts on solar access to the open space of the properties in Ferry Rd and does not provide adequate separation to the residential flat building at 2A Forsyth St. Consequently, the Concept Application does not satisfy the heritage requirements in cl 5.10 or objective (b) of the height control in cl 4.3 of the LEP, or the requirements for solar access in s4.2.3.1 of the DCP and building separation in 2F of the AGD. The appeal is therefore dismissed and the Concept Application refused.

The commissioner considered that the 'Brutalist' Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC) was not of sufficient merit to be retained.

The significance of the MRC and the Auditorium/Hall does not warrant its retention and that incorporating the Auditorium/Hall into a new development, as suggested by Mr Stapleton, would not be sound conservation practice ...

In a future proposal, development will need to be distributed over the whole Remand Centre site so the impact on neighbours in Ferry Rd and Forsyth St will meet Council controls. Open Space associated with the new building does not have to

be located at ground level, but can be on top of lower buildings.

These requirements of the Court could not be met by amendments to the existing plans, but will require new ones to be drawn that satisfy all these concerns. Given the length of time it took for the refused application to reach the Court, it will probably take just as long for any new proposal to appear, even if the applicant does not decide to on-sell the site, which would obviously add to the timeframe. Although sold in December 2014, the entire site was leased back to the NSW Government until 2017, and they will continue to use the site for at least part of the time required for a future application to be developed.



Bidura Auditorium (Source: Jenna Reed Burns, 'Heritage Assessment Bidura Children's Court', February 2016; <http://brutalism.online/documents/BiduraChildrensCourtHeritageAssessment.pdf>)

25 Glebe Point Rd, Doughnut Time

The operators have been served with a notice to remove the unauthorised work, and have been refused any extension of operating hours. They are preparing a further development application to get approval for the unauthorised work.

Making an owner toe the line is a tedious business, but it is what the law allows.

Better Planning Network Special Event, Theatre, Parliament House: 'Sydney: Are we heading in the right direction?'

There has been a lot of discussion about development in Sydney in the media recently, much of it in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and mostly well-informed. This was a lead-up to the release on Monday, 21 November, two months ahead of time, of the District Plans by the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC).

On Wednesday, 23 November, a capacity audience heard representatives from the GSC, the CEO, Sarah Hill, the Deputy and Economics chief, Geoff Roberts, and the Environment Commissioner, Rod Simpson, introduce their report and participate in a panel including the Greens spokesperson, David Shoebridge MLC, distinguished planning lawyer, John Mant, architect and current City Councillor Philip Thalys, and a lawyer from the Environmental Defender's Office, Nari Sahuka.

Broadly, the GSC reps spoke convincingly of the need for the major growth centres of Sydney to shift away from the coast. The current CBD hugs the coast right on the edge of the City. They see two additional CBDs in the future (2036 to 2056), Parramatta and the third centred on the proposed new airport at Badgerys Creek, including 'a string of pearls' from Penrith to Campbelltown, Camden and Liverpool (and possibly Bankstown). This would mean a city about the size of Adelaide in the Southwest. The goal of the GSC was that no-one would be more than 30 minutes from work.

The response of the rest of the panel (and the audience) was mixed. Obviously, few people had had more than a cursory glance at the 180 pages of the report. There was much praise for the GSC for releasing its report so early to enable a public debate before it is delivered to Parliament in late

January, and also for the commitment and effort to produce a consistent and detailed body of data.

However, there are a number of serious questions about the GSC's work which I will attempt to list below.

- The GSC consulted extensively with council staff to ensure their proposals linked well with Local Environment Plans. Because of Council amalgamations, this consultation did not extend to elected councillors. There were also questions about the future of consultation generally, especially as far as communities were concerned. (City of Sydney is very fortunate that it has largely been spared these problems).
- The GSC proposals were criticised as descriptive rather than strategic. By producing District plans before a new Metropolitan Strategy they have put the cart before the horse. Reports on Transport and Infrastructure are not due until 2017.
- These reports were felt to be absolutely crucial. The goals of the GSC with regards to liveability and fairness were considered unachievable without massive commitments to public transport (especially to the new airport) schools, hospitals and the like.
- The mechanism for capturing the added value from development sites is not deemed adequate. For example, the goal for Affordable Housing is set far too low, at 5-10%. The feeling of the panel was that unless this is solved the GSC's goals cannot be achieved.

Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning

WestConnex Revamp: Camperdown Traffic Portals Abandoned

WestConnex has announced a revamp of the proposed M4-M5 Link. The entry and exit ramps on Parramatta Rd in Camperdown will not be built, the motorway tunnels running between Haberfield and St Peters will be widened from three to four lanes in each direction and the proposed route of the tunnels will be shifted westward away from Sydney University and Prince Alfred Hospital at Camperdown and its Cyclotron medical facility. There will be a mid-point tunnel construction site in Camperdown in the area between Mallet St, Bridge Rd and Parramatta Rd.

WestConnex intends that the mainline tunnels will be completed and opened for use by the end of 2022. The interchange at Rozelle Goods Yards will not however be completed and available for use until the end of 2023. Duncan Gay, Roads Minister,

has said that the twin tunnels from Haberfield and St Peters could be built as a stand-alone project and will initially operate independently from the interchange at Rozelle and the proposed tunnel link to Iron Cove.

While a significant threat to Glebe and Forest Lodge has been removed with the ditching of the traffic portals, the WestConnex project will inevitably worsen the traffic situation in the inner west.

Ditching the traffic portals on Parramatta Rd is a positive outcome for Glebe and Forest Lodge. It was projected by WestConnex themselves that these entry and exit ramps would shunt an additional 20,000 vehicles per day onto Broadway and City Rd. This would have resulted in traffic gridlock in the southern CBD with the prospect of rat running through Glebe and Forest Lodge of traffic trying to avoid the gridlock. WestConnex has indicated that they now have no plans to build entry and exit ramps to the tunnels at any point between Rozelle and St Peters.

WestConnex has indicated they will continue to consult with the community before the design of the M4-M5 Link is finalised. WestConnex will release the Concept Design for the M4-M5 Link early next year. This will show the proposed corridor of the motorway tunnels and design of the Rozelle interchange. WestConnex will then seek feedback from the community on the Concept Design and will hold more information sessions. Mid next year the Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released with a set period for submissions to the Department of Planning. The Department of Planning would be expected to make its determination on the EIS late next year.

While a significant threat to Glebe and Forest Lodge has been removed with the ditching of the traffic portals, the WestConnex project will inevitably worsen the traffic situation in the inner

west. The Rozelle interchange will bring more traffic onto the Anzac Bridge, Victoria Rd and The Crescent, and the streets in Glebe and Forest Lodge will experience additional traffic flows as a result. The position will be considerably worse if, as is quite possible, the M4-M5 Link tunnels are not in fact built. In this situation, WestConnex traffic, including traffic heading to the airport and the port, will have to exit the tunnels at the Rozelle interchange and make their way east and south through the streets of the inner west.

Murray Jewell
 Convenor, Transport & Traffic



SMH reports on 10 November that WestConnex Camperdown portals will be ditched. (<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/ramps-ditched-tunnels-widened-under-new-design-for-westconnex-missing-link-20161109-gsifgz.html>)

A Congestion Tax for Sydney?



As the road tunnels and the road changes continue, and the prospect of more and more traffic in the Inner West becomes a reality, I have been pondering about the ways we might be able to manage – or at least mitigate – the expected huge increase in road use in and around our area.

I lived in London in the early 70s and have visited there in the last couple of years. I was pleasantly astounded at the difference the London Congestion Tax has made, despite being caught on camera in the no go area and having to pay a hefty fine!

The idea of a congestion tax in the City of Sydney needs to be considered. If the City is designated as a car free zone, this will require better public transport to be built now. It will also give the owners of the huge car parks in the city the chance to relocate outside the car free zone, and an opportunity for public transport to be redirected to connect with the placement of the car parks.

The London Congestion Tax was introduced in

2003 and traffic surveys showed that by 2013 overall traffic volumes in central London had reduced by over 10%. The numbers of taxis and buses in central London had correspondingly risen as had the numbers of bicycles; showing that London's Congestion Tax brought about significant and positive changes to London's transport patterns.

A Congestion Tax for Sydney might be an answer.

Jane Fissenden
 Transport Subcommittee



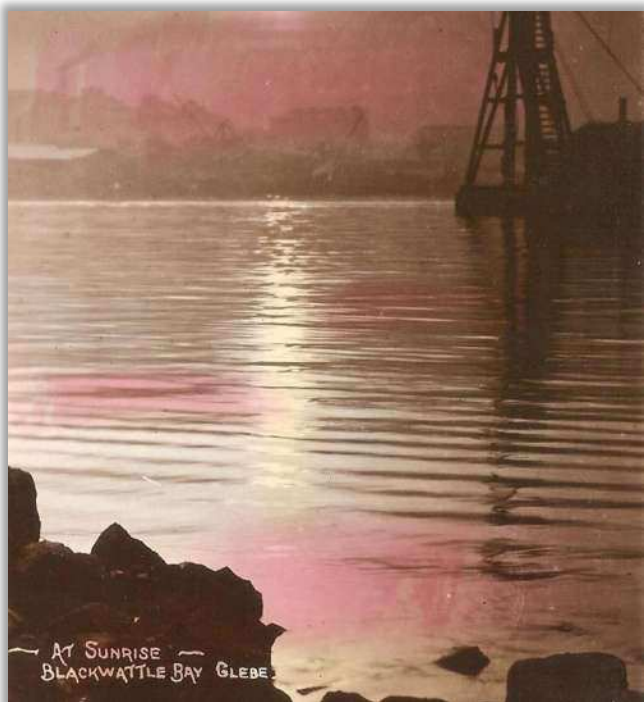
(image: Simon_sees)

History & Heritage

'Who Lived in Your Street?' By Lyn Collingwood

Vera White (1901- 1971)

Vera's Christmas present from her father in 1906 was a special album to store picture postcards. Collecting them was a craze – they were cheap to buy and post, and with mail deliveries twice daily plus one on Saturday they sometimes landed in your letterbox the day they were written. Before the telephone, scribbled messages arranged visits, sent birthday greetings, exchanged news or simply kept in touch.



Vera's mother posted her this view of Blackwattle Bay with Easter greetings in 1908. (image provided by Lydia Bushell)

Vera became an assiduous collector and the first album grew to several. Apart from the postcards she received in the mail, she gathered plenty of others, their colourful images sometimes embossed and personalised.

To encourage buyers, cards were printed in series: 'faces', garden flowers, animals, stage celebrities, sporting personalities, tourist spots and local landmarks. Vera had a run of photographs of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and, towards the end of her collecting days, people and incidents connected with WW1.

Her regular correspondents included her brother Leslie, numerous uncles and aunts, Sunday School teachers, school friends and neighbours Annie Norris at no.2 and the Masseys at 4 Ferry Rd. Vera and her friend Grace in New Zealand exchanged the latest cards.

Vera was born on 9 July 1901 at Glebe, the daughter of Ida Venette Haigh (1875-1959) and Walter John White (1875-1919), a printer, who married in 1899. She and Leslie, two years older, attended St John's School on the corner of Glebe Point and St Johns Rds.

The family were at 74 Forsyth St before moving to 6 Ferry Rd (in *Richmond Terrace*) where they lived from 1907 to 1915 when they relocated to 453 Riley St Surry Hills. Here Walter, aged 43, died of heart failure on 4 April 1919.

In 1924 Leslie White married Leonora (Lena) Maud Chilton; they had a daughter Audrey. Leslie died at St Vincent's Hospital on 7 March 1931. Vera's father and brother were buried in Waverley Cemetery.

In 1936 Vera married Voltaire Robert Heath, a Queensland-born fitter turned timber worker. The couple lived at 214 Grafton St Bondi Junction where Voltaire died on 17 December 1960 and Vera, intestate, on 20 July 1971.

During the Second World War, Vera's mother Ida White was one of the 900 members of the Sydney Diocesan Churchwoman's Association who volunteered to help at the hut and canteen in front of St Andrew's cathedral, where meals and recreation facilities were provided for servicemen on leave.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian



A personalised card, a collage of popular actresses. Stage stars used the picture postcard for publicity. (image provided by Lydia Bushell)

Notes: Images kindly provided by Lydia Bushell.

Other sources: NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; Sands *Directories*; Trove website.

Sydney's Vanished Heritage

The exhibition 'Demolished Sydney' at the Museum of Sydney documents 13 diverse Sydney sites, and the buildings that once occupied them. Photos, drawings, paintings and memorabilia recreate a diverse range of buildings, from the smoke-belching industry of Pyrmont to the grand Hotel Australia (1891) and the magnificent Garden Palace (1879) which was designed to impress on the world stage.

The sites range in time from the convict-built Commissariat at Circular Quay to the short-lived State Office Block (1964-1997). There is also a tribute to Sydney's epicentre of Bohemian chic, Rowe St, offering espresso coffee, art, records, fashion and books – including banned ones.

The exhibition traces the enduring tensions between urban development and heritage conservation, and charts the successes and failures of community attempts to save valued buildings.

At a time when the pressures on our built environment are greater than they ever have been, this exhibition is a timely reminder of the

vulnerability of Sydney's treasured buildings and locales, and of our good fortune that so many have, so far, been preserved.

'Demolished Sydney' is at the Museum of Sydney until 17 April 2017. Further information is available from <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/museum-of-sydney/whats-on>

Meg Wallace



A recreation of the Garden Palace conflagration of 1882 (Image: Royal Botanic Gardens)

Iron Fence Spearheads

19th and early 20th Century Glebe houses display a variety of boundary fences, most commonly wooden pickets and iron railings. Apart from security and delineation, fences give a uniform appearance to a street – especially with a run of identical terraces or houses; and complement their wooden and iron lace verandahs.

The Victorian iron fence and gate was usually constructed using wrought iron for the horizontal bars and palisade rods and cast iron (moulded) for the spearheads and finials.

Although the iron fence is a feature of many Glebe buildings there is a range of spearheads used with some common forms such as the fleur-de-lis and a few that are more individualised. The first two photographs are of Margaretta Cottage in Leichhardt St and Emslee in Mansfield St. These two early Glebe houses have simple but substantial spearhead designs. Later Victorian designs were more decorative.

To get you looking, we have photographed a few examples in our recent walks – and more will be included in the next *Bulletin*.

Peter Crawshaw and Ann Owens
Heritage Subcommittee



Margaretta Cottage (image: Peter Crawshaw)

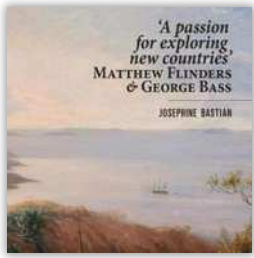


Fence at Emslee, Mansfield St (image: Peter Crawshaw)



Don't forget to book for the Christmas Gathering! h
See details on p.13

Josephine Bastian's book to be launched by Dame Marie Bashir



(Image: State Library of NSW)

Join Glebe Society member, Josephine Bastian as she celebrates her new book, 'A Passion for Exploring New Countries': *Matthew Flinders and George Bass*.

Flinders and Bass arrived in Sydney in 1795. Over the next eight years they changed the map of

Australia, and Flinders gave it its name. The two men were primed for greater ventures, but their lives turned to tragedy when Bass was lost at sea and Flinders imprisoned as a spy on Mauritius.

Join Josephine as she discusses her new book, which is historically accurate yet as gripping as any novel.

Dame Marie Bashir launches this important new work, followed by a discussion between Paul Brunton OAM and the author.

When: Thursday 8 December 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Where: Gallery Room, Ground Floor, Mitchell Library Building, State Library of NSW

Cost: Free

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> (search for the name of the book).

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

Glebe's fourth annual spring bird survey

It was a cloudy, cool 10°C with a southerly breeze blowing as 17 Society members and friends, under the leadership of Judy Christie, headed out at 7am on Sunday 23 October to count birds in eight of Glebe's foreshore and pocket parks.

We saw 466 birds of 30 different species. The most common bird was the Rainbow Lorikeet – although at least half the sightings were birds in flight – and second was the Noisy Miner. Interestingly, in the October 2015 National Backyard Bird Count conducted by Birdlife Australia across the whole country, these were also the number one and number two birds! (The results for 2016 are still being collated). Our number three bird was the Common or Indian Myna – also in the top 10 across Australia.

Unfortunately, no Blue Wrens were found but Willy Wagtails, who enjoy a similar habitat, were seen in Johnstons Creek (near the Tramsheds' entrance), and an unidentified raptor (Peregrine Falcon or Brown Goshawk) was observed in weedy trees near Jubilee Park light rail stop. By 8am we had completed the survey and had gathered for a well-deserved breakfast at *Esca* in Glebe Point Rd.

Arthur (Paddy) Gray Reserve

On Melbourne Cup Day an onsite meeting was organised by Bryan Herden to discuss future maintenance of the flourishing native plants in the Reserve in Hereford St with Nick Criniti (Contract Coordinator Parks) and Peter Day (Acting Urban Ecology Coordinator) from the City of Sydney. Bryan will be forming a local bushcare group to continue the much appreciated work over many

years of Jan Craney who died earlier this year.

The first priority for the bushcare group will be for the City to remove three dead wattles from the Wigram Lane side of the Reserve; and Bryan will be letterboxing local residents to call for volunteers to assist with weeding days in the Reserve.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens



Nick Criniti and Peter Day from the City of Sydney, and local residents Norma Hawkins and Bryan Herden standing beside an Angophora planted in Arthur (Paddy) Gray Reserve in memory of David Mander-Jones, a former convenor of the Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee. Bryan has taken on the task of forming a local bushcare group to assist with the continuing maintenance of the Reserve. (Image: Andrew Wood)

Creative Glebe

'Making his Mark' by Huw Luscombe

Andrew Wood reports that he recently came across a poem written about Mark Weisser by a former resident of Glebe, Huw Luscombe. Andrew thought it would be good if the poem could be published in the *Bulletin*.

The poem's author, Huw Luscombe was happy for it to be published. Most of the poems in Huw's anthology, *My TV is a Vampire* were written when he lived at 21 Gottenham St Glebe.

The picture that accompanies the poem is by Society member, Dale Dengate. The artwork was an entry in the Glebe Art fair a few years ago.



'Mark walks the dog, talking about Picasso' by Dale Dengate. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)

'Making his Mark' by Huw Luscombe

*'Jesus loves you' this complete stranger said
Socrates replied with a playful bark
And that is how I first met Mark
Who walks with his dogs down at Glebe Point Park*

*His greeting is a tad unconventional
When he kisses the trees some say f-a-r-k
But all life has beauty and meaning to Mark
Walking dogs by the water at Glebe Point Park*

*He loves the smell of the fresh cut grass
He loves the colours of the sky just before dark
There is a wonder and joy in each moment for Mark
As he walks with his dogs around Glebe Point Park*

*The city moves around him, the traffics swells by
The contrast in lifestyle could not be more stark
The urban professional consumers and the urban mystic Mark
Who what who just wants his dogs down at Glebe Point Park*

*Not all his furry friends belongs solely to him
Assorted neighbours' canines trail of him in an arc
Friendship, not ownership is the issue for Mark
As he walks all those dogs down at Glebe Point Park*

*He helps butts and wrappers find their way to the bin
His face has a grin, his eyes have a spark
I envy the simple life of my friend Mark
As he walks with his dogs and cares for Glebe Point Park*

*So if you catch a 431 bus
And go right to the end before you disembark
You might meet a prophet who's making his Mark
Just walking his dogs down at Glebe Point Park*

'Jesus loves you brother'

By Huw Luscombe

Community Matters

Community Notes

Christmas Gifts for Elsie residents

There is a rather beautiful Christmas tradition; to welcome a stranger to your place at Christmas. The compassion and generosity of such an action is widely recognised as that of a caring society and so it is with The Glebe Society at Christmas.

The Glebe Society would like to support Elsie Women's Refuge and welcome these strangers to Glebe. We are again doing so by co-ordinating Christmas gifts for resident families. There are five mothers in residence at present, with children ranging from one baby girl, three pre-school girls

aged 3, 4 and 5, two pre-school boys aged 2 and 3, to a 17 year old girl. There is also a single young lady, 18 years of age, who is on her own. If you would like to provide a gift or two for some of these family members please contact Janice Challinor by phone 0401 505 657 or email community@glebesociety.org.au to indicate what you have in mind, or to receive a suggestion. I will collect gifts over the next few weeks and deliver them to *Elsie* on Wednesday 21 December.

Memories of Trams in Glebe needed

If you have passed the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Hereford St during the past week you will have seen the rather large scaffolding that has been erected on the terrace house wall opposite the *Valhalla*. This is for the painting of a mural featuring a tram, reproduced from an historic photo taken in Glebe in 1953 by Leon Manny. The artist, Kelly Wallwork, is waiting impatiently for the preparation work to be completed so that she may commence the artwork.

This is a Glebe Society project to celebrate one aspect of Glebe's history and heritage, funded by a cultural grant from the City of Sydney. It will also

include audio recordings of Glebe residents, recalling their experiences of Glebe trams, available on the Glebe Society website and accessible by Smart phone, so that an observer may hear people reminiscing as they enjoy the visual tribute.

To date, several people have elected to share their memories and to be recorded. These are obviously senior members of our community because trams ceased operation in Glebe in 1958. Among these generous people is Glebe historian and Society stalwart, Max Solling who provided a potted history of that aspect of our transport heritage.

There are another one or two people who are yet to be recorded, but we would like to add several more if they are willing to come forward and help us create a primary history resource.

If you or someone you know have stories to tell about trams in Glebe then please contact me at community@glebesociety.org.au or phone 0401 505 657. I'd love to hear from you.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development



Artist's Impression of the 'Memories of Trams' mural to be painted on the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Hereford St (Image supplied by artist)

Video of community event to remember Robyn Kemmis



Phil Young and Allan Hogan have created a video record of the community event held in Foley Park 1 May 2016 to remember Robyn Kemmis.

You can watch the video on the Glebe Society's YouTube channel which can be accessed via <http://tinyurl.com/RobynKemmisEvent>.

Report on Glebe Society Event: 'Get more out of your Smartphone 101'

Around 35 people attended the Society's event, 'Smartphone 101' at *Benledi* on Thursday 24 October. Phil Young and Virginia Simpson-Young from the Society's Communications Subcommittee, shared their knowledge of their iPhones and Android phones, respectively.

By all accounts the event was a great success; as attested to by one attendee, Bobbie Burke, who emailed Phil and Virginia, saying:

Congratulations on the presentation tonight – you both handled a somewhat difficult and complex subject to the clear satisfaction of your large audience. Many people, at different levels, AND with different devices. Everybody wanted more! (Smartphone 201?). And the information on the very generous eight page handout is extremely useful. Thank you both – a great idea ... and the cheese was delicious!

Stay tuned for a similarly useful technology-related event in 2017.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications



Smartphone 101 event (Image: Bill Simpson-Young)

What's on

Christmas Gathering

Join us in the elegant main hall of the Glebe Town Hall for our Christmas Gathering on Sunday 11 December (5-9 pm). This wonderfully restored building was built in 1880 and is a beautiful example of the Victorian free classical style with its elegant rooms.

You will enjoy a delicious cocktail menu from the renowned Yuga Flowers and Café in Glebe with gourmet cheeses, seafood with wines, beers, soft fruity punch.

Bookings for the night are essential and close on Saturday 10 December. You can book using the enclosed flyer or online at www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

When: Sunday 11 December, 5pm-9pm

Where: Glebe Town Hall

Cost: \$55

Details: www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com.

Annual Glebe Society Raffle

The Glebe Society Christmas Raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Gathering on 11 December, with fabulous prizes which have been generously donated by locals:

- Two tickets to the fabulous Lord Mayor's NYE party (courtesy of City of Sydney)
 - Artisan Christmas Wreath (courtesy of Yuga Café and Florist)
 - Gourmet Food Selection: Two \$50 boxes (courtesy of Galluzzo Deli and Fruiterers)
 - Timbah Wine Bar \$100 Voucher (courtesy of Timbah)
- Four movie passes (courtesy of Meriton Group)

- BMW sidecar ride – with champers (courtesy of Philip Vergison).

You can buy tickets from Committee members at the Christmas Gathering or use the flyer enclosed with this Bulletin.



Thirsty Thursday

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 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 1 December at 7pm we will share a meal at *Darbar*, the Indian restaurant at 134 Glebe Point Rd.

- On Thursday 5 January at 7pm we will continue the annual tradition of going to The Nags Head, 162 St Johns Rd (corner Lodge St).

- And on Thursday 2 February we will go to *Esca*, 333 Glebe Point Rd.



Please email or ring Edwina on 9660 7066 by 6pm on the Wednesday before to let us know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe

Players in the Pub: a favourite returns!

A Christmas Carol



Charles Dickens' original Christmas story is adapted and directed by Lyn Collingwood.

When: 7 pm Wednesday 21 December (kitchen opens at 5pm)

Where: Upstairs Toxteth Hotel

Cost: Free admission; donation box.

Lyn Collingwood

Buy handmade, buy local for unique Christmas gifts

The Glebe Christmas Artisans Market will be full of wonderful and original handmade items to treasure. This seasonal market is a great place to pick up something special for yourself or for a gift, with loads of quality stalls of handmade ceramics, glass, jewellery, fashion, homewares, artwork, accessories and so much more. There will be some beautiful things to see and buy at this market from the actual designer/ craftsperson with 45 stalls of artisan products, all lovingly made in Australia. There will be a complete list of stall holders and

products on the website before our market.

When: Saturday 17 December, 10am – 3 pm

Where: Foley Park

Details: www.glebeartisansmarket.org.au.



Fiona Verge

Editor's final word for 2016



As this is the last edition of the Glebe Society *Bulletin* for 2016, I'd like to thank all our regular – and occasional – contributors; as well as the mailout team for their contribution to the *Bulletin* in 2016.

I'd also like to make a special mention of a couple of unsung heroes – our proofreaders Edwina Doe and Martin Lawrence. Both do a brilliant job, and errors remaining post their eagle-eyed efforts are generally mine!

And finally, thank you to Unik Printing in Camperdown, for doing our printing year after year at incredibly good prices. A special thanks to our contact there, Hugh Drewitz.

The next edition of the *Bulletin* will be published on Thursday 23 March 2017, and the cut-off date for content is Wednesday 15 March.

We always welcome contributions by members, whether in the form of an article, letter to the editor or photograph - or something else I may not have thought of! If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please feel free to email me on editor@glebesociety.org.au.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. h

Virginia Simpson-Young
Editor, Glebe Society *Bulletin*

For Your Calendar

Thursday 1 December, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Darbar*, 134 Glebe Point Rd.

Sunday 6 November, 11am to 2pm. *Good neighbourhood BBQ*, Elephant Park.

Thurs 8 Dec, 5.30pm-7.30pm. Josephine Bastian book launch, Gallery Room, State Library of NSW.

**** Sunday 11 December, 5-9pm. Glebe Society Christmas Gathering. Glebe Town Hall. ****

Sat 17 Dec, 10am – 3 pm. Glebe Artisans' Christmas Market, Foley Park.

Wed 21 Dec, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*. Upstairs Toxteth Hotel

Thursday 5 January, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *The Nag's Head*, 162 St Johns Rd (corner Lodge St).

Thurs 2 Feb, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday. *Esca*, 333 Glebe Point Rd.

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.

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PO Box 100
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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



*Preparations begin for the 'Memories of Trams' mural.
(Image: V. Simpson-Young)*