



# Glebe Society Bulletin

ISSN 1836-599X

No.4 of 2014 (June 2014)

## ***Glebe is ready to respond to Millers Point sell-off***



*by Janice Challinor, Convenor  
Glebe Society Community  
Development subcommittee*

**Residents of Millers Point are making it abundantly clear that their continuing objections to the announcement by the former NSW Community Services Minister, Pru Goward, that ‘almost 300 public housing properties at Miller’s Point, the Rocks and Gloucester St would be sold within two years’ are seen by the public.**

Even though recent changes in the composition of the NSW Government’s front bench have taken place there is still anxiety and distress amongst the community.

It may be ‘all quiet on the western front’ at present, but in the absence of a reversal of stated Government policy, those who are under threat of eviction cannot afford to relax.

Houses in Millers Point display home-made signs, as observed this week. The families concerned may well have dwelt in these properties for several generations, but for how much longer no one knows.

The Glebe community is watching these proposed developments with more than a little concern. After all, Glebe is another inner suburb where the same argument for change may be made by a cash-strapped and ineffective Department.

Let us continue to support our neighbours and remain on stand-by, just in case.



A sign in Trinity St. Millers Point showing residents’ opposition to the state government’s proposed sell-off of Dept of Housing properties in Millers Point (image: Janice Challinor)

---

***Let us continue to support  
our neighbours and remain  
on stand-by, just in case ...***

---

# Letters to the Editor

## The meaning of Heritage

Dear Editor,

The President's critique of Rob Darroch's statements in favour of encouraging a monocultural Glebe [*Bulletin* No.4 of 2014] needs no reinforcing.

However, as Mr Darroch was applauding the proposed changes to Millers Point it may be useful to point out that the travesty of what is proposed there ignores the official heritage statement of significance for the Millers Point Conservation Area. This specifies that it is the totality of the social and the built heritage of that place that is important, including its 'early 20th Century public housing ... The whole place remains a living cultural landscape ... retaining its residential character, in particular worker housing. This is a rare continuing use.'

The Glebe has always provided a complex mix of housing. The real heritage challenge is to keep and celebrate the social diversity that this built form represented historically.

*Shirley Fitzgerald*

Editors note: Shirley was, for many years, the City Historian for the City of Sydney. She has also been the President of the History Council of NSW, Chair of State Records NSW and Chair of the Dictionary of Sydney Trust.



Protest sign on a door at Windmill St Millers Point (image: Janice Challinor)

## Glebe diversity: 'Long may it flourish!'

Dear Editor,

I absolutely support John Gray's position (*Bulletin* No.3 of 2014) that the people who live in low income housing in Glebe have as much right as anyone to live here.

Many have always been inner city people and would not, as Rob Darroch suggests (pp3-4 last *Bulletin*), 'jump at the opportunity' to be moved to the outer-lying suburbs where there is little in the form of transport, work and entertainment, and where they would miss the many aspects of community life they enjoy here, as evidenced by groups such as the Community Action Group, the Residents Group, the Youth Service, Café Church, the Homework Helpers Club, the 'Concerned Older Women' group, among many.

These groups, along with the Glebe Society, the Blackwattle Cove Coalition, COGG and FLAG illustrate just what a wonderfully diverse society we have here in Glebe – long may it last, and flourish.

I draw attention to a paragraph in *The Saturday Paper* (p15, May 3-9, 2014):

*London School of Economics professor Richard Sennett says in his book Together that he considers 'co-operation between people from differing backgrounds to be key to a thriving community and social life'. Sennett identified an us-against-them ethos in communities where there wasn't a mix of backgrounds. He writes of his fear of 'losing the skills of co-operation needed to make a complex society work'.*

Rob's comments that 'public housing does not need to be situated in these precious areas', and his suggestion that some of us would "want The Glebe preserved as an example of what a slum Glebe was..." reveals an elitist position that some of us don't deserve to live here.

*Bobbie Burke*

'Where's this month's *President's Column*?' I hear you ask. Our esteemed Prez has been in Tasmania bushwalking and drinking wine. He's now back at the helm.

## **Council responds to Harold Park Parkland submission**

---

*The Glebe Society's submission to Council on the design for the Harold Park Public Parkland was published in the April Bulletin. It is pleasing that Council has responded in specific terms to our submission. Council's response is provided below, together with our further comments.*

**Dear John,**

Thank you for your submission to the Harold Park public park developed design. We have reviewed the feedback from the community consultation and are incorporating ideas and comments into the developing design where possible. The scoping report which outlines comments received and our proposals was submitted for discussion at Council's Environment Committee on 5 May 2014.

**Pedestrian and cycle connections:** The City recognizes the importance of the north south link. It is described as a 'future' crossing as further coordination with Mirvac and approvals from Sydney Water are required to refine the location, delivery and form of the bridge.

**Shelters:** The shelters are somewhat larger than those in Jubilee Park, however they are smaller than the shelter at Federal Park or the Esther Abrahams pavilion. They are intended to provide more shade and greater flexibility for a communal space in the public park. The shelters are located at key activity areas adjacent to the open grass areas and will have good surveillance from park users and the new residential development. We will be undertaking further detailed design on the structures to further refine their form.

**Memorial:** Thank you for the additional information on the soldier memorial. We will consult with Leichhardt Council, and the RSL to review its association with past and present depots and its significance to past and present workers. Its relocation will need to be considered in respect to the change in use of the Tram Sheds and Harold Park site.

**Habitat and tree planting:** This area has an exciting potential to provide additional habitat and connecting habitat with the existing parklands. The design emphasizes the ecological value of the parkland and aims to strike a balance with recreation, education and water treatment. We will continue to develop these areas further, responding to the local microhabitats and working with our ecologist on the detailed selection of plant species and form for each of the areas.

We have included additional areas of inaccessible habitat in the Refined Design following consultation on the developed design. Additional tree planting along the western edge of the park has also been included.

**Timing and naming:** We anticipate that our program will work well with Mirvac's target program for their completion of site remediation, essential service infrastructure and cliff works.

Again thank for you for your submission and we look forward to continued collaboration with you in the future.

Warm Regards,

**Illira Margaritis**

Community Engagement Coordinator, Strategic Community Consultation, City of Sydney

*Comments by the Glebe Society Planning Subcommittee on the letter:*

- Pedestrian link: It is reassuring that the pedestrian/bicycle link marked as 'future' will be coordinated with Mirvac and Sydney Water and not indefinitely deferred.
- Shelters: we will need to watch for the detailed design to see what exactly is proposed.
- Memorial: it is appropriate that consultation with Leichhardt Council and the RSL takes place over location of the soldier memorial.
- Habitat and tree planting: it is pleasing that additional tree planting on the western side has been included and that the City's Urban Ecologist will be working on the detailed selection of plant species.
- Naming: no comment has been made on a process for naming the park that includes public consultation. We will need to continue to press for this.

## Recent happenings in 2037

---

### Using LED lighting – a bright idea

David Winterton gave a well attended presentation on 'Understanding LEDs' at *Benledi* on Thursday evening, 8 May, organised by the Society's Environment Subcommittee. David is convenor of the Sydney branch of the Alternative Technology Association, the oldest organisation promoting sustainable technology in Australia, and director of Ecological Design, a sustainability consultancy business.

David gave a comprehensive overview of LED lighting with a special emphasis on the application to homes like ours, which may have either modern or traditional light fittings. He also gave a practical demonstration of different types of bulbs and their effectiveness. His presentation covered:

- what is LED – Light Emitting Diode – and how it differs from other types of light bulbs,
- advantages and disadvantages of LEDs,
- light fitting types, covering bayonet and screw fittings, and common bulb shapes,
- design issues, such as beam angles, brightness, light colour and temperature.



David Winterton talking about LED options (image: Virginia Simpson-Young)

The advantages of LEDs are their lower energy consumption and reduced running costs; less heat produced and so safer; longer lifetime; fast switching (no warm-up time) and ability to provide specific colour temperatures (cool or warm lighting). However, they still cost more to buy than fluorescent and compact fluorescent lights, although costs are reducing very quickly.

Some of David's practical tips were: replace halogen downlights, as 80% energy savings are

possible; with downlights total replacement of all hardware is needed if they are more than 10 years old; replace lights used for more than four hours per day.

When looking to buy LED bulbs, David recommends choosing a well-known brand and looking closely at the rated performance, as well as consulting reviews and costing comparisons. Specialty online retailers provide a more comprehensive range than supermarkets.

*Some extra resources recommended by David:*

- Your Home – Lighting  
<http://yourhome.gov.au/energy/lighting>
- Online tool (to compare payback of LED lighting)  
<http://getgreen.net.au/savings.htm>
- Educational resources and high quality supplier of LEDs  
<http://lightingmatters.com.au>

*Jan Macindoe*  
Convenor, Environment

---

### Back to the 1970s: Then and Now Photos of Glebe, an Evening at the Old Fire Station

The Glebe Community Action Group wanted to have an event for people to see old photos of Glebe. They requested assistance from the Glebe Society to give a presentation. Phil Young obliged and on Wednesday 30 April showed some wonderful photos of Glebe in the 70s and now. The evening was very well attended by long term residents who live in the southern end of Glebe and members of the Glebe Society. It was real audience participation with everyone providing tidbits of the history of Glebe. This was a positive example of the Glebe Society's Strategy 2013-2019 – Engaging Glebe.

*Jan Wilson*  
Vice President

---

### Glebe Public School's trivia night

On Saturday 5 April, 10 intrepid members of the Glebe Society ventured forth to the Forest Lodge Hotel for the Glebe Public School Trivia night.

Our crew was led by the fearless Rosalind Hecker and consisted of a reasonably intelligent

group of people (especially as three of us are retired librarians) or so we arrogantly thought.

To our dismay, this did not prove to be the case as the questions turned out to be actually quite beyond us. Each of us ended up being awarded a beautiful wooden spoon for coming 'lucky last'.

Despite this huge disappointment, the evening proved to be lots of fun and was a fantastic fundraiser for the school. It was a booked out event with many local 'celebrities' in attendance including Jamie Parker and Verity Firth, whose daughter attends the school.

The Hotel generously provided pizza and salad for our refreshment and there was an amazing auction with great prizes plus lots of laughter and community spirit. So, we will be going back next year to defend our title and hope perhaps that more Glebe Society members will be there to share the good time we all had.

*Margaret Whittaker*

---

## Book stall

The Glebe Chamber of Commerce's Monster Book Sale was held on the first weekend in May, at *Benledi*. Proceeds from the sale go to local community projects.



The lovely ladies of Glebe Chamber of Commerce outside the Monster Book Sale (image: Virginia Simpson-Young)

---

## Glebe the new home of the Dictionary of Sydney

Kim Hanna, Executive Officer of the Dictionary of Sydney, reports that the Dictionary will be relocating to Benledi House, Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. The Dictionary looks forward to 'engaging more deeply with the Glebe community'. The [Dictionary of Sydney](#) includes a lot of information about Glebe and Sydney

more broadly. Welcome to Glebe, Dictionary of Sydney!

---

## A Justice Centre established in Glebe

The Glebe Justice Centre is a newly established non-government organisation with a rights-based approach to community development. It aims to increase access to justice through advocacy, strengthening pathways to existing legal services while providing additional services as needed and facilitating community leadership programs to enable all citizens to respond more effectively to local issues and concerns. The Glebe Justice Centre will be a place of learning and innovation and will make available its research for government, non-government and other community-based organisations.

Before the Glebe Justice Centre officially opens its doors in 2015, extensive research analysing the opportunities and feasibility of a new legal community centre in Glebe will be completed. This work was commissioned by the Glebe Uniting Church as a result of a review in 2012. The review led to a change in focus of the Uniting Church to directing their resources, both building and staff, to catalyse the establishment of a new community organisation centred upon principles of justice to address local issues in Glebe and work towards building people capacity of local Glebe residents.

The CEO of the new centre, Stuart Davey, is hosting a Community Conversation at the Uniting Church property on St John's Rd on Thursday 5 June, 9am to 1pm. He would welcome participants; so if you are interested in contributing to it, please contact Stuart. His email address is [stuart@glebejusticecentre.org.au](mailto:stuart@glebejusticecentre.org.au).

The Glebe Justice Centre's website is: <http://www.glebejusticecentre.org.au/>

*Janice Challinor*  
Convenor, Community



---

## The mauling of Max's garden

Last December I took some pictures of the garden created by Max Solling adjacent to the Glebe Rowing Club. Max had carefully selected natives, particularly those which were drought resistant. His garden prospered through a tough period, until ... well you can see for yourself.

We knew that the last section of the Foreshore Walk included landscaping the area in front of the Sydney University Women's Rowing Club, but the extent of the proposed work obviously had not sunk in ... with me anyway, and presumably Max and the City Council people who provided his plants.

The workers doing the current landscaping assure me that, along with the new paving which will lead to the deck outside the Glebe Rowing Club and thence to the Foreshore Walk, there will be a new garden planted. And they are sceptical as to whether Max's garden would have survived as they had to dig out a lot of old concrete which was under Max's plantings.

I guess everything will be OK in the long run, but it does remind me of the road gang digging a trench to lay new water pipes following hard on the heels of another gang laying a new road surface.

*Bruce Davis*



Garden created by Max Solling near Glebe Rowing Club, December 2013 (image: Bruce Davis)



The current state of Max's 'garden' (image: Bruce Davis)

---

## History & Heritage

### Who lived in your street? Lyn Collingwood

In *Bulletin* No.2 this year Liz Simpson-Booker surveyed some of Glebe's non-vehicular thoroughfares. This is the story of one of them, Leichhardt Ave, created after the subdivision of the Golden Estate in 1908 but not given its own name until 1923.

Reached by stone steps from Leichhardt St, the pedestrian avenue is a short dead-end of five Edwardian brick-and-stone single-storey two-bedroom terraces with a former dunny lane at their rear. The cottages, completed by 1910, were as late as the 1950s known not by their numbers but by their names: *Eltham*, *Coreen*, *Roma*, *Altama* and *Lynton*. Today there are fewer than a dozen people living there, in contrast to the large families of the past.

By 1911 master carrier Stanley Guy Cole (1884-1960) had moved into Number 1 *Eltham*, bordered by a sandstone wall on Leichhardt St. He was the son of Stanley Llewellyn Cole, a Presbyterian master carrier, Justice of the Peace, long-term Glebe alderman and five times mayor (he later became a State politician) who lived close by at 284 Glebe Rd. In 1909 Stanley jnr married Elsie Mary Langley (1882-1938), daughter of plumber Frank Reuben Langley, a Mason who lived in Westmoreland St and at 68 Glebe Rd. Their son Stanley Llewellyn was born in 1912; the following year they moved to *Jastine* in Victoria Rd. *Eltham* was then occupied by engine driver Thomas William Mackenzie (born 1877), his wife of eight years Alicia Constance née Wallace and their son Colin, born in 1913.

Thomas, who had served as a private in World War 1, died at *Eltham* in 1949 survived by his widow, son Colin and his wife and three grandchildren. When Alicia died in 1956 the Mackenzies' period of occupancy had been unbroken for 43 years.

Frederick A Cooper lived at Number 2 *Coreen* until 1912 when engineer Thomas Bassett Ward and Florence Louisa née Henderson (1884-1963) moved from Bellingen with baby Grace, soon to be joined by brother William James (died 1967). After the Wards left in 1917, their successors were Albert G Burley followed by New-York-born Margaret Avon in 1918. Glebe's old fireplaces are now considered desirable heritage features but they were the main sources of heat in the past and potentially dangerous. In 1922 Mrs Avon fell asleep in front of the open fire and slipped from her chair. Suffering massive burns, the 85-year-old died the next morning in RPA hospital. From 1924 until at least 1960 *Coreen* was occupied by the family of foreman Walter Nathaniel Hazell (1886-1960), his wife Sophia Marie Ann née Tollefson (died 1955) and John Alexander Hazell, a lorry driver.

Customs officer Arthur Gabriel Leslie Bryant (1884 -1962) moved into Number 3 *Roma* after his 1910 marriage at Glebe's St James Church to Mary Eleanor Shanley (1885-1956), daughter of Francis Joseph Shanley of 24 Darghan St. Their first daughter Edna was born soon after the move, and their second Laura in 1912. From 1916 to 1920 *Roma* was occupied by electrician Leonard R Hora, followed by shop assistant John Lovatt and his wife Elizabeth from 1920 to 1923, James Kenny from 1924 to 1926, A. L. Collaw in 1927, Mrs Wilkinson in 1928 and Mrs M. Byron after 1931. By 1951 its occupants were student James Neylon and Verna Patricia née North who were married in Glebe in 1945 and moved into *Roma* adjacent to the Neylon family home next door.

Number 4, *Altama*, was the 1911 address of warehouseman Charles Richard Van Treight (1874-1940), only son of Charles senior, a sexton at St John's Ashfield, a church designed by Edmund Blacket and his sons), his wife Ilma Eliza Gadsden née Howard (1876-1950), a granddaughter of Jonathan Howard of Arundel Terrace and Derby House on Glebe Rd) and their daughters Olga Gadsden and Ilma Meryle born in

1903 and 1916 respectively. The next family lived in the house for at least five decades. In 1918 tailor James Phillip Neylon and Marion May née Kelly moved to *Altama* from across the road at 5 Leichhardt St with their four youngest children: Mary Eileen, Eileen May, Kathleen and John Albert. After James' death at age 54 in 1941 at RPA Hospital, Marion remained in the house with sons John, a guillotine operator, and James jr, born in 1921. She worked as a cleaner up to the time of her death at age 69 in 1963.

*Lynton* at Number 5 had several changes of occupancy in the years 1911-19: Archibald Carmichael, A. Love, labourer Sidney Johnson, William H. Taylor, then Alfred Roberts. In 1921 Mudgee-born greengrocer Charles Thomas Bradley (1883-1971) moved in with his wife Elizabeth Phyllis née Cahill (1895-1966) whom he'd married in Glebe in 1920. His mother Elizabeth lived with them until her death in 1928. The Bradleys remained in *Lynton* until at least 1971 when Charles, a great-grandparent, died at the age of 87. He'd struck lucky in 1948 when his 'Charley and Cahill' ticket won a lottery prize. (In 1913, *Eltham*'s William Gray won half a crown in an advertising competition for *Cherry Blossom* boot polish.)



'Tiny Tim and Scrooge' in costume on the steps of Leichhardt Ave in front of *Eltham*. (Photo: Patricia Baillie)

Glebe Society member, Peter Kolbe, who in 1980 bought *Coreen* (its interior painted red) from a solicitor and his schoolteacher wife remembers the terrific fights in *Altama* and the 'wonderful' hippy parties in *Lynton*, but his most vivid memories are the regular break-ins via the back lane. Early one morning he suddenly noticed that all the window panes in the toilet had been

removed and stacked neatly on the floor, and realised he'd slept through a burglary. Every drawer in the house had been opened, but his only loss was a blanket – used to wrap and take away two video recorders. As both were broken, Peter was glad to get rid of them, and he had the extra satisfaction of envisaging the scene when the thief tried to flog them.

*Roma* was occupied by its owner's granddaughter who worked for the ALP. She arrived home to find that someone had rummaged through all her possessions. To add insult to injury the robber had taken her keys and driven off with the spoils in her car.

Most dramatic was an evening in *Eltham* where a cameraman was in bed waiting for his girlfriend

to come home. Hearing a noise, he called out 'is that you?' then dozed off, only to be awoken by a torchlight playing around the room. Groggily comprehending its source, he jumped out of bed, grabbed a poker and ran into Cook St after the robber who then disappeared onto Glebe Point Rd. At this moment a taxi cruised by and the driver, hearing the story, called the police. A heroic gesture considering he was confronted in the dead of night by a weapon-wielding strapping young man who was stark naked.

*Lyn Collingwood*

**Sources:** Australian War Memorial service records; City of Sydney website: aldermen; NSW births, deaths, marriages registry; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; Sands' *directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues.

---

## Margaretta Cottage: the plot thickens

Dear Editor,

Thought you and your readers might be interested in further history of *Margaretta Cottage*.

I am the great grand-daughter of Henry and Emily Wood, who occupied *Margaretta Cottage* from the mid-1900s (not 1901 as previously thought). I had been told that Henry had changed the name of *Margaretta Cottage* to *Edenhurst* after his racehorse; a creamy mare, 13 hands high.

The plot thickens over the mystery of the name of this historic Glebe home. Since your article, *Who lived at Margaretta Cottage? The Anzac Connection* (*Bulletin* No.3 of 2013), I have been contacted by at least ten second cousins who have supplied more information about our great grandparents and life in the cottage.

Judy Hingerty – who is the daughter of Arthur Wood who was born 1909 and lived in the cottage for a number of years looking after his elderly parents - told me about some online research she has done. This is what she found out about the name of the cottage:

- August 1867: *Margaretta Cottage* advertised for rent.
- March 1868: autopsy performed at *Margaretta Cottage* on William Duguid, aged 48.
- 15.6.1868: Mrs George H Mann living at *Margaretta Cottage* had a son.

- 26.11.1872: *Margaretta Cottage* advertised for sale for 550 pounds.
- 1872: called *Edenhurst* at 6 Leichhardt St.
- 26.9.1877: Mrs H E Vaughan of *Margaretta Cottage* had a son.
- 20.3.1878: *Margaretta Cottage* advertised for rent £100 a year.
- December 1878: *Margaretta Cottage* is advertised to rent.
- January 1893: *Margaretta Cottage* is again advertised, this time as *Edenhurst*.
- June 1901: Mrs J Wearne, widow, died at *Edenhurst*.

Judy can't find the date that the Wood family purchased the cottage, but I believe they lived at Redfern for a while after arriving in Australia in 1900. Judy could find nothing more, until 1917 when a fire on Tuesday 16th January destroyed a storage shed belonging to Henry Wood of *Edenhurst*.

Now moving on to the 20<sup>th</sup> century; Judy found that, in 1934, hat manufacture and dyeing was being conducted at *Edenhurst*. Judy remembers that granddad (Henry) was the first person able to dye feathers black! He did this by dyeing white feathers, when others had been trying to dye black feathers black. Judy remembers the cottage falling into considerable disrepair when her father lived there with his parents.

It would seem that Henry Wood named his racehorse after the cottage, *Edenhurst*, rather than

naming the cottage after the racehorse. Judy also reports that ‘in October 1978, Dad found out that the name *Edenhurst* fell off during a storm and the name *Margaretta Cottage* was revealed’. Arthur, Judy’s father, was able to visit *Margaretta Cottage* before his death and was pleased that the cottage had been restored to a

state and glory that it had not been in for a very long time.

Judy has certainly brought to the fore memories of the Wood Family and *Margaretta Cottage-Edenhurst*, and is continuing to give the family new and rich insights of our grandparents and great grandparents that mean so much.

Regards, *Anne Flood*

## ***Behind closed doors at Sydney Town Hall***

We all know Sydney Town Hall ... but how *well* do we know it?

Join us at 10.30am on Wednesday June 11 when Town Hall curator and historian Margaret Betteridge opens the doors to reveal the history of this impressive building and its collections.

One lucky tour member will win a copy of Margaret’s book ‘*Sydney Town Hall – The Building and Its Collection*’, which will also be made available to tour members for the special price of \$25 (RRP \$50).

Booking details of the tour appear on the coupon in this issue of the Bulletin, or go to the Glebe Society website and click on to Events.

Meet us at the main entry at 10.30am – but please book, as numbers are limited!

*Erica Robinson*  
Convenor, Events



Interior, Sydney Town Hall (image: spatchurst.com.au)

## ***Glebe, naturally***

### **What should we do about the large numbers of Indian Mynas in Glebe?**

*Bird in Backyards* ([www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)) states: “The Indian or Common Myna was introduced from south-east Asia into the cane fields of north-eastern Queensland in 1883, to combat insect pests, particularly plague locusts and cane beetles. Other releases occurred, and by the 1940s and 1950s it was established in many eastern metropolitan areas.”

The Canberra trapping program is well known and does appear to be successful. [*Editor’s note: trapping has been proposed for Myna’s in Glebe*]. A number of other councils such as

Sutherland and The Hills Shires have also introduced trapping and gassing of Mynas but have not yet been able to show that their programs are effective in improving outcomes for small native bird populations.

The research done in Sydney seems to show that the habitat requirements of the Mynas are quite different to that of small insectivorous native birds, including wrens, and few if any negative interactions were noted.

Mynas do seem to be on the increase in Glebe parklands. Their populations have been shown to

increase with an increase in people and built infrastructure and reduction in bushy areas or wild gardens.

They nest in gutters, wall crevices etc; roost in exotic trees like Date Palms (of which there are many in Bicentennial Park) and prefer to forage on open lawns and are renowned for feeding near people and on litter and picnic scraps.

There is no doubt wrens will struggle to maintain a presence in Glebe – there is a lot of competition for space! Our preferred approach is to increase the habitat areas that are preferred by these small birds; that is, thick, shrubby sites, tangled vines etc. We are hoping that areas might be set aside along the cliff face of the Harold Park development that will be away from picnic areas and other disturbances.

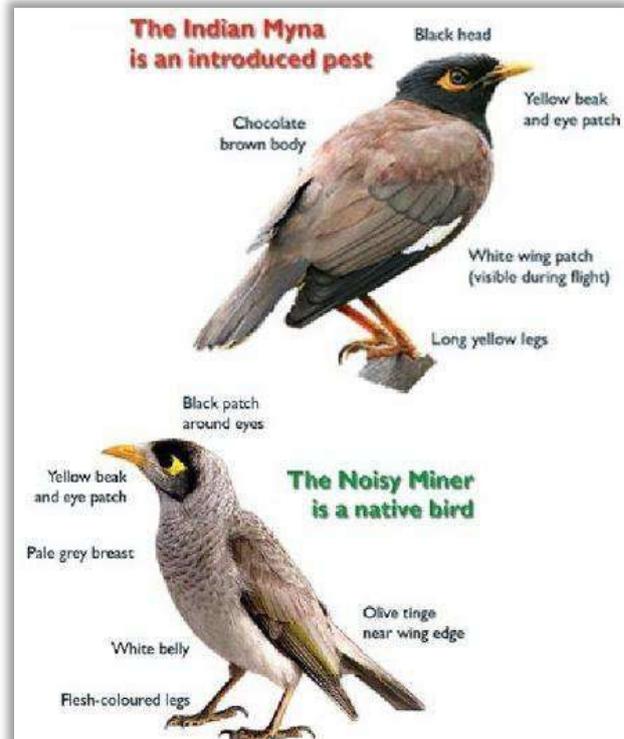
We are also advocating for more habitat plantings across the whole parklands, which will also add diversity and encourage other wildlife and maybe discourage Mynas.

Litter management, reduction in exotic roosting trees and education of residents to be vigilant about Mynas breeding around their homes might also be a good way to start, before embarking on a trapping program.

I understand the City of Sydney's *urban ecology strategic action plan* does not favour trapping at this time.

However, through programs like *Birds in Backyards* the Blue Wren Subcommittee tries to keep abreast of new research on urban birdlife and if there are other ways to help our Superb Fairy Wrens and other small birds, we will follow up the opportunities.

*Judy Christie*



Do you know the difference between the Common Myna and the native Noisy Miner? (image: Waverley Council)

## From the Blue Wren Subcommittee

About 160 small shrubs were planted in the park at Orphan School Creek on 3 and 10 May, and the next event will be on Sunday 22 June from 9.30 to 11.30am (for further details, please contact Judy Christie – 9660 8309).

The Glebe Bushcare Group continues its regular Wednesday 8.30 am gatherings with grasses and small shrubs being planted near the corner of Chapman Rd and Johnston St, and close to the wetlands (for further details, please contact Sue Copeland – 9692 9161). Members of the Society are always welcome to attend and help at these planting days.

The rebuilding of the eastern tennis court in St James Park will be completed next month. Work will then commence on the western court with the excavation of the site for construction of an 80,000 litre water tank beneath the court; the

retaining wall on the western side of the court adjacent to St James Ave will be removed and rebuilt. The water will be used to irrigate St James Park.



St James Park tennis amenities building (image: Sam Crawford Architects)

Melanie Flanagan, Custom and Corporate Relations Manager, Transdev Sydney (the operators of the light rail system) attended the May meeting of the Subcommittee to discuss future plantings at the Glebe light rail stop and how they could be coordinated with similar wren-friendly plantings in Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves. Melanie spoke of the difficulties in working to improve the plantings at the Glebe light rail stop including access to the site and the need for a shutdown of light rail operations; Transdev outsources its landcare maintenance and plantings. The company will be establishing environmental plans for the land in its care and when necessary will appoint environmental consultants. It was agreed that:

an onsite meeting at the Glebe stop be held between Transdev Sydney and the members of the Subcommittee to establish a work plan for the progressive removal of noxious trees and weeds, and their replacement with native plants.

Transdev will look into Transport NSW's bush care protocols with the aim of establishing a local voluntary group that could work on the light rail stop and the adjacent Reserves.

Transdev will investigate future operational shutdown dates during which work could commence on the land around the light rail stop.

*Andrew Wood*  
Convenor, Blue Wrens

## ***From the Planning Convenor – Neil Macindoe***

### **Students and Glebe**

There is a long history of student accommodation in Glebe. When I was at University most of my friends lived in digs in Glebe or in similar suburbs nearby, always in cheap and unrenovated rooms, frequently in share houses in close to original condition, or worse. Nevertheless, most people look back on those days with pleasure. Poverty and hardship are much easier to bear when your friends are in the same boat, and you know they are temporary! Quite a few of those students later bought houses in Glebe, and together with academics formed, and continue to form, a significant segment of the Glebe Society.

Those days are long gone, and apart from the 20% of social housing in Glebe, so has most of the cheap housing. There are still students, but the type of accommodation they are now seeking is different. In my day there was one university: now there are three. There was one major TAFE college: now training colleges abound. And, of course, there are now five schools, one of them for boarders and another a senior college, and there are more schools nearby (also set to increase – see the April planning report).

Australian universities are now a major destination for overseas, fee-paying students, so as well as the absolute increase in students there is a significant demand for student accommodation in this area, a demand not met by householders letting rooms.

Because of the economic importance of this group of students there has already been a surge, first in converted accommodation, and more recently, purpose built facilities. The University Village in Carillon Ave is a good example, if you want to get an idea of what is now expected. Unilodge, the part of the original Grace Bros complex on the other side of Bay St in Broadway is another, even closer, example.

The City of Sydney is under pressure to approve new student accommodation, but it does not have a specific set of controls. Instead, it attempts to deal with proposals under its existing Boarding House controls. Clearly this is not satisfactory. The needs and expectations of students are very different from those of traditional boarding house residents. At present there is also the issue of overcrowding of sublet apartments, which has a significant impact on other occupiers of apartment buildings. Many of those squeezed into these apartments are likely to be overseas students of one kind or another.

The former University Motel, 25 Arundel Street, has already approval for ninety-three student rooms. This derelict site is long overdue for redevelopment, and the site is close to the University of Sydney and to existing student hostels in Arundel Street and Glebe Point Rd. There have been a number of inappropriate applications for the site, and the Society has supported student accommodation, provided the amenity of nearby residents is protected.



The abandoned former University Hotel, (image: <http://tubby1.com/>)

Recently there has been a proposal from Urbanest, a UK based provider of student housing, to increase the number of rooms from 93 to 137. Naturally this will increase the impact of the development, and the Society has written raising a number of concerns we believe have not been adequately dealt with by the applicant. Urbanest has already had two hostels approved by the City, and the Society is especially concerned because of the lack of appropriate guidelines. The Society has also requested the City to develop a Plan for student accommodation to deal with what is likely to be a strong and continuing demand.

## Broadway Centre

The Society has long been concerned about the main entrance to the Centre in Bay St. While not a Heritage Item, this is the original store, and the two wings of the facade, on either side of the central gabled glass wall, were preserved when the mall was constructed. Some of the interior elements, such as the column capitals and cast iron lantern, have also been partly preserved.

## Stone the crows!

A fortnight ago I found a smooth white pebble outside our back door. ‘Who put that there?’ I wondered. And then forgot about it.

Next day another appeared on the front lawn. A couple of days passed and two more turned up in the back yard. So it went, every couple of days – but from whence had they come? And they continued coming – the broken one (in the

photograph) was in the back lane, near our gate. No soft landing there.

The current solid posted awning makes the approach dark for pedestrians. Mirvac, the owner, has proposed changes to the Bay St facade, which include replacing the posted awning with a clear, cantilevered one. This will make the facade more compatible with the Heritage-listed Model and Moxham building on the corner of Broadway, and the approach lighter and safer. The granite paving will be extended to replace the bitumen. Unfortunately, their plans do not go as far as remodelling the entrance itself.

The Centre is remarkable for the number of people who arrive on foot or bicycle. The changes will improve their experience a little, but in my view not nearly enough. A completely new entrance, and a greater emphasis on pedestrian and cyclist safety, are needed, and the Society has asked for these as well as further improvements to the appearance.

*Neil Macindoe*  
Convenor, Planning



Bike racks at the Bay St entrance of Broadway Shopping Centre, (image: News Limited)

The appearance of the pebbles seemed to coincide with the ever-increasing presence of a gang of raucous, glossy black crows that has moved into the neighbourhood. Were the two related?

Did the crows perhaps steal the pebbles, thinking they were other birds’ eggs? Or were they using

them to bomb our young cat out of ‘their’ jacaranda tree?

But the pebbles are large - see how they compare with a normal-sized pen. Could they fit in a bird’s beak?



Stones deposited by crows at the Robinson’s house (image: Erica Robinson)

The answer to that question seemed affirmative when an almighty clatter in the direction of our courtyard sent us running outside. Another large pebble – this one had bounced on the corrugated iron roof before landing on the stone paving. Now that section of the house is shielded from the lane, the street and neighbours’ gardens - the stone had definitely dropped from the sky!

Curiouser and curiouser...

Time to do some deep research: a quick foray on the internet uncovered one item about crows stealing ornamental pebbles in Sydney’s Inner West. But no explanation of why.

Another link, an Irish newspaper, the *Fingal Independent*, claimed rooks (it seems rooks, ravens and crows are all members of the *Corvus* family of birds) eat pebbles to aid their complex digestive system.

The site is dated May 23, 2014, though the story seems to have first appeared in January, 2013. The exact quote is:

*Rooks' stomachs are divided into three parts: a crop, a gizzard and a stomach proper. The crop stores food, the gizzard grinds it up and the stomach digests it. To do the grinding the birds swallow stones and store these in their gizzards to aid the breakdown of tough material.*

Has our puzzle been solved? Are the pebbles a corvine version of Alka Seltzer? Or is there something more sinister afoot?

Surely there is a Glebe Society twitcher who can enlighten us.

*Erica Robinson*  
Convenor, Events

---

### Meet the Committee: *Erica Robinson*, Events Convenor



A temporary eyepatch has not clouded Erica’s powers of observation (image supplied by Erica Robinson)

---

## *Out and About: Glebe Voices*

The next Glebe Voices features Vicki Pogulis, Principal of Glebe Public School, on the topic:

### **Caught Being Good**

Wednesday 18 June 6 – 7.30pm, Yuga Café, 172 St Johns Rd Glebe (between Lodge and Forest Sts near Glebe Town Hall)

Glebe Public School serves a very diverse student community. Vicki Pogulis will describe the innovative strategies used by the School team to achieve significant improvements – attendance

rates above the school’s own benchmark of 93% and above-average NAPLAN results. There will be opportunity for informal discussion.

Entry to this event is free, but to support our hosting café, attendees are encouraged to order from the choice of light meals and beverages available. See the events section of the Glebe Society website for more details: [http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page\\_id=7623](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=7623)

---

## Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of moved and costumed readings at the Roxbury Hotel St Johns Rd/Forest St Forest Lodge:

### **Bloomsday 2014: Readings from Ulysses**

James Joyce's masterpiece traces Leopold Bloom's journey through Dublin on a single day: 16 June 1904

Directed by Maeliosa Stafford (co-founder of O'Punksky's Theatre) & Aine DePaor, Monday 16 June @ 7pm.

Free admission. The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please try to order food as early as possible ~ we always aim to start on time!



---

## What's on @ Glebe Library in June

**Lego Afternoons @ Glebe.** Tuesday 3 and 17 June. Join the new Lego session with time for free creative play as well as one or two ideas guided by library staff. Parents/carers must accompany children where applicable.

**It's a Wrap Knitting Circle.** Friday 6 June at 11am.

Want to learn how to knit? Get involved with a great community project? Come and join the Glebe Library crew as they knit their way through some squares for the Wrap with Love project. Some materials are provided but feel free to bring along your own as you gather and knit for a cause.

**Winter Waffle @ Glebe.** Friday 20 June 2014 from 6.30 to 9.30pm. For community and families. Performance for Angola Capoeira, zine-making, silent disco programmed by local high school students, tipp-kick comp and classic indie rock mash up with Glebe Strings Ensemble.

For more information on any of these events, including booking details:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/city-of-sydney-library-1760559247>.



Some of the yummy fare on offer at *Aghora* (image: *Aghora* website)

---

## Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We visit a different restaurant each month, varying cuisines. Put these dates in your diary now.

On Thursday 5 June we will go to a new Greek restaurant, *Aghora*, 94 Glebe Point Rd.

On Thursday 3 July we will share a meal at *Flavour of India*, 142a Glebe Point Rd.

And on Thursday 7 August we will visit *JamVybz* Jamaican Restaurant and Café, 72 Glebe Point Rd.

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

*Edwina Doe*

### ***Welcome to this month's new members***

**Zonya Agleam; Carolyn  
Foreman; Merrill Lindsay;  
David Monck; Anna Playford;  
Fiona Robards.**

## For Your Calendar

---

Thurs 5 June, 9am-1pm. Community Conversation, Glebe Justice Centre, 37-47 St Johns Rd.

Thurs 5 June, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Aghora*, 94 Glebe Point Rd.

Wed 11 June, 10.30am, Sydney Town Hall private tour.

Wed 11 June, 7pm. Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Mon 16 June, 7pm. Players in the Pub, *Bloomsday 2014: readings from Ulysses*, Roxbury Hotel.

Wed 18 June, 6pm. *Glebe Voices*, Yuga Café, 172 St Johns Rd.

Thurs 3 July, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Flavour of India*, 142a Glebe Point Rd.

Wed 9 July, 7pm. Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Thurs 7 August, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *JamVybz* Jamaican Restaurant and Café, 72 Glebe Point Rd.

---

### The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

#### Management Committee

President	John Gray	02 9518 7253	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Jan Wilson	0408 207 784	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	Mairéad Browne	02 9552 2888	pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au
Secretary	Di Gray	02 9518 7253	secretary@glebesociety.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Rosalind Hecker	02 9660 7056	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Tess Nicholls	0418 206 807	treasurer@glebesociety.org.au
	Lorel Adams	02 9571 1113	lorel@glebesociety.org.au
	Chris Blair	0414 550 382	chris@glebesociety.org.au
	Rosalind Hecker	02 9660 7056	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
	Jock Keene	02 9571 4078	jock@glebesociety.org.au
Bays and Foreshores	Lesley Lynch	02 9660 5084	bays@glebesociety.org.au
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au
Communications	Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214	bill@glebesociety.org.au
Community Development	Janice Challinor	0401 505 657	community@glebesociety.org.au
Environment	Jan Macindoe	02 9660 0208	environment@glebesociety.org.au
Heritage	Liz Simpson-Booker	02 9518 6186	heritage@glebesociety.org.au
Planning	Neil Macindoe	02 9660 0208	planning@glebesociety.org.au
Transport & Traffic	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945	transport@glebesociety.org.au

#### Working Groups & Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	02 9660 7930	milton.lyn@gmail.com
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	editor@glebesociety.org.au
Events Coordinator	Erica Robinson	02 9692 8995	events@glebesociety.org.au
History	Lyn Collingwood	02 9660 5817	lyncoll@optusnet.com.au
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Website Coordinator	Phil Young	02 9692 9583	webmaster@glebesociety.org.au

## Highlights this issue

<i>Glebe is ready to respond to Millers Point sell-off</i> .....	1
<i>Letters to the Editor: The meaning of Heritage &amp; Glebe diversity: 'Long may it flourish!'</i> .....	2
<i>Council responds to Harold Park Parkland submission</i> .....	3
<i>Recent happenings in 2037</i> .....	4
<i>Who lived in your street? Residents of Leichhardt Ave through the decades</i> .....	6
<i>Behind closed doors at Sydney Town Hall</i> .....	9
<i>Glebe, naturally</i> .....	9
<i>From the Planning Convenor</i> .....	11
<i>Stone the crows!</i> .....	12
<i>Out and about</i> .....	13
<i>For Your Calendar</i> .....	15



Bulletin No.4 of 2014 (June 2014)

## The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

Postage  
Paid

### 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

- download a membership form from [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037; or
- email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au)

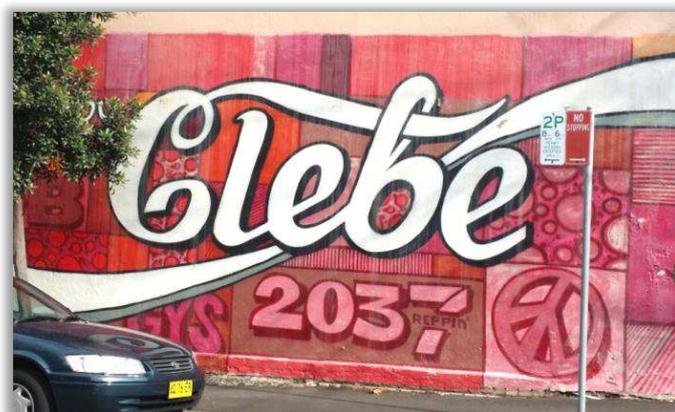


Image: Virginia Simpson-Young