



# Glebe Society Bulletin

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## We won't be Barangaroo'd again!!

***A Sydney-wide People's Campaign is essential to ensure the public good is better protected for the Bays Precinct than it has been in the Barangaroo development. Come to the important meeting on Sunday 16 November.***

On 4 August 2014, over 200 community members met in Glebe Town Hall to consider proposals for a 'People's Campaign' to defend the public interest in the NSW Government's newly announced Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project. The meeting unanimously endorsed the 'People's Campaign', a set of essential principles for the protection of the public good in the planning process and a number of resolutions – including a call for the Government to include community representatives in its planned Experts' Summit on the Bays Project in November.



**Planned (over-) development at Barangaroo. Is this what we want for Blackwattle Bay and surrounding foreshores? No! (image: barangaroo.com)**

Since then, both City of Sydney and Leichhardt Councils have formally supported the People's Campaign and UrbanGrowth NSW has met with the campaign organisers. There are now a number

of 'community representatives' invited to the Experts' Summit – including the four People's Campaign organisers.

The redevelopment of these city harbour foreshores and bays is not just a local community issue. At stake is the future of over 80 hectares of publicly owned Sydney Harbour foreshores ... very close to the Barangaroo site. This is a huge urban renewal project of importance to the people of Sydney.

A Sydney-wide People's Campaign is essential to ensure the public good is better protected for this part of Sydney Harbour than it has been in the Barangaroo development.

Two gatherings are being held to discuss the community perspective on the public interest in the Bays Precinct redevelopment in preparation for this Experts Summit in November.

By the time this *Bulletin* goes to press, a public talk will have been held, supported by the City of Sydney. The public talk is part of the University Of Sydney's *Festival on Urbanism*, with Professor Stephen Cairns on 'open-city' design. Amongst other panel members, Professor Jane Marceau was to speak on the relevance and importance of the 'People's Campaign' for the Bays and the principles we are urging the Government to adopt in the public interest.

*Lesley Lynch and others*

## People's Campaign Meeting – 16 November

On Sunday 16 November the 'People's Campaign' organisers will be holding a community meeting to provide a summary of the People's Campaign so far and to discuss our approach to the Experts' Summit and ways of influencing the decision-making in the months ahead.

The People's Campaign organisers urge you to come along to this event and register your support

and the determination of the people of Sydney to get the public good back into the planning and development decisions for the renewal of this strategic, publicly owned Sydney Harbour site.

**Bays Precinct Community Meeting  
The People's Campaign & the Experts' Summit  
Sunday 16 November: 3pm–5pm  
Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Rd, Glebe**

After the Experts' Summit we will hopefully have a better idea of what the Government and others may have in mind for the Bays Precinct. UrbanGrowth will release a draft strategic plan for the Government in April. We will seek to influence that. A further 'people's campaign' meeting (the People's Summit) will be held in late February/early March to discuss this and how to organise the longer term campaign to defend the public interest in the redevelopment of this major publicly owned site.

Bookings are not required for this meeting, but you are welcome to register your interest in attending at the Eventbrite website:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/> (then search for 'Bays Precinct')

*On behalf of the organisers of the Bays Precinct People's Campaign to Defend the Public Interest:*

- *Dr Lesley Lynch, (BPCRG and BP Taskforce member and Glebe Society)*
- *Carolyn Allen (BPCRG member and President Balmain Association)*
- *John Brooks (BPCRG member and Pymont Action Inc)*
- *Professor Jane Marceau (BPCRG and BP Taskforce member and White Bay Joint Steering Committee)*



Dear Editor,

I've been away, hence my late comment on the article about 'crows' collecting

stones. I don't think I can throw any light on

the mystery, just add another layer to the stories of bird behaviour. At the Gerringong golf course a few years ago it was almost impossible to play the 1st or 10th holes with the ball you had first hit. There was a crow that would arrive from nowhere, scoop up the ball and fly off. We even saw a parent bird apparently teaching a juvenile the skill or game. We weren't sure which. Golfers' sweet tempers eventually became vindictive. 'The birds must be stopped!' they ranted. Of course, most people are bird lovers and ravens are definitely protected. The birds were not injured but their nest was found. It was full of golf balls. Each ball had been neatly holed. The thought was that the bird had collected the eggs of a rival and 'killed' them.

If so, why keep them in your nest? As I said, even more of a mystery!

Kind regards,  
*Chris Eyre Holmes*



Crow with golf ball (image: <http://www.stevografix.com.au/>)

## ***Planning matters – Neil Macindoe***

### **Bays Precinct Panel**

On 20 October the University of Sydney Planning Research Centre held a forum to discuss the plan for the Bays. I substituted for Lesley Lynch, who is overseas, as the Community Representative on the panel. The event was held in the main auditorium of the New Law School, and attracted about the same number of people as the previous meeting on this subject in Glebe Town Hall (200+).

David Pitchford, CEO of UrbanGrowth, which has been given carriage of the project by the State

Government, was very keen to try to counter the scepticism that surrounds the project as a result of the Barangaroo fiasco. He recognises the need for a strategic plan, and the possibility that such a large project would need to be divided into areas and staged over perhaps fifteen years. He also claims to be very keen to gather as many ideas, from as many different sources - both local and overseas - as possible.

My task was made easier by the fact that all the land involved is owned by the State Government. It is difficult not to conclude that proposals for public land should reflect the public interest and public good, and that the public should be involved in the generation of a strategic plan. Naturally I pushed this line of argument as hard as possible, and the audience was clearly supportive.

I also received a lot of support from the views of the academics on the panel, Assoc Prof Kurt Iveson of Sydney and Dr Kate Shaw, Future Fellow from Melbourne University. They clearly believe the more resident involvement the better, largely because the Dubai-style monumental extravaganzas so beloved of Australian architects, typified by the Packer casino, have proved unsustainable and a social and financial disaster. The weight of opinion is strongly against the type of project so comprehensively ridiculed in the ABC's satirical series, *Utopia*. Kate Shaw cited several instances where small scale, mixed, development with plenty of open space and public access had proved more

successful, and Kurt Iveson cited many opportunities for public benefits and improved infrastructure.

From this experience I conclude that our efforts are definitely worthwhile, but also that we will need a sustained effort. There are further forums for public involvement listed on our website, and the so-called International Experts' Summit needs to be monitored closely.

*Neil Macindoe*  
Convenor, Planning



**Not to be missed!**  
**Annual Christmas Party**  
**Monday December 8**  
**(see p.12 and flyer)**

## ***Glebe care homes for children***

### **The Forgotten Ones - half a million lost childhoods**

*This extract of an essay by Christine Kenneally is reproduced with kind permission of The Monthly.*

In 1937, at the age of 14 months, Geoff Meyer appeared before a NSW magistrate, who made him a ward of the state and handed him over to carers at a state-run orphanage called *Bidura*.

Meyer stayed at *Bidura* until he was four, when he was sent to the Royleston Boys' Depot in Glebe Point Rd. Built in the 1880s, the *Royleston* mansion is a Victorian hybrid of 'grand' and 'delicate', featuring a graceful verandah and soaring windows. When the heavy iron gate first opened for Meyer, he was terrified by its squeal. *Royleston* housed 30 to 50 boys at a time until they were fostered, though many were repeatedly fostered, returned, and fostered again. Meyer never learned any other boys' names. 'We weren't allowed to talk to each other', he said, 'and the staff always said "Hey you" or used terrible words.'

Known officially as 'Forgotten Australians' but among themselves as 'care leavers' or 'homies', children were incarcerated in large group homes until the 1980s in Australia. A 2004 Senate inquiry estimated that at least 500,000 children were placed in institutional care last century. While many have since died, often from drug- and alcohol-related causes, the homies who remain are a significant, living demographic. Most homies are now between

45 and 90 years old, and many built careers in institutions, like the navy, in nursing, or in the religious orders that ran their homes. Some homies are visibly successful, like the former Democrats Senator Andrew Murray, who was a British child migrant sent to Zimbabwe (he later immigrated to Australia). The last three people to be hanged in Australia were homies.

In many homes, staff controlled every connection children had with the outside world. When children were moved to another institution, as they often were, no one explained why. At *Bidura*, one girl entered with her three-year-old brother and woke one morning to find he was gone. No one told her where. Staff confiscated letters, and children were told their parents were dead when they weren't, or that they never wanted to see them again when they did.

Meyer told me that, not long after he ran away to Sydney, 'I started to get it into my brain to find out if I had any family'. He guessed that the best place to look was the Department of Child Welfare. 'I'm a state ward', he told a young man at the local office. 'I'm looking to see if I've got a mother and father'. The young man went into another room, and after five minutes he returned and said, 'I think

you might have a sister'. He disappeared again. Then an older man came out and said to Meyer, 'I think you had better leave'. Meyer thought he had misunderstood. 'I think you had better leave', the old man repeated. 'No', said Meyer. They argued back and forth, the old man dismissing Meyer with no explanation and Meyer refusing to budge. Then the older man told him, 'Get out or I'll call the fucking police'. Meyer left, asking himself why he was always in trouble.

He found work, and one day on the train, where young women cadged cigarettes off the working lads, he met a girl called Marion and gave her his whole pack. They were married and had four children and, as the years passed, 11 grandchildren. Meyer never told any of them that he had been a state ward. When his children asked him about his childhood, he changed the subject. But when he retired, he started to go to the state records offices to see what he could find. Even then, he didn't tell his wife. 'It felt very, very private', he told me. He found his birth certificate and discovered that his mother was Maisie Aileen Meyer and his father was Leo Joseph Meyer, an American sailor. There was no information about why he was made a state ward and no record of contact from his parents after it happened.

The challenge for homies, said Leonie Sheedy [founder of Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)], is not just dealing with the events of their childhood but the way they are treated today. They want, like any other Australian, to have information about themselves and their family – or its proxy – and all the power that such knowledge brings. Yet there are enormous obstacles to getting this. Homies' records are scattered throughout each state, held by government records offices and by the separate religious institutions that housed children. Government departments may take years to respond to a single records request. Many records were destroyed, but there's little clarity about what was lost and what was never kept in the first place. There's no central organising body, and most homies need professional-grade archivist skills to find and understand the documents. They distrust bureaucracy, and while it is intimidating enough to enter a neutral institution like a public records office, many must return to the very organisations that mistreated them and ask nicely for information. Two homies told me that for years they would look for any excuse to abandon their journey to the records office.

I first met Meyer at the Sydney CLAN office in April. He was courtly and jokey, and he called me

'mate' a lot. When he opened the big front gate for me, he lifted it so it wouldn't squeal. At 76, he is not tall, with a Fair Isle jumper and slicked-down hair. He looks like anyone's granddad. His wife died three years ago, but he keeps active on the CLAN committee and mows the lawn to help out. Since he left *Royleston*, he hasn't eaten any vegetables except spinach, which wasn't served there. He watches people on the streets, wondering how many of them were once wards, and, for reasons he cannot explain, he really loves the song 'I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen'.

We looked at his files, a reasonably thick wedge of paper. The first thing he showed me was his intermediate school certificate. He had to pay to get a copy, but at least he now has something to show his grandchildren. There is a state inspector's report from when he was ten – a year after he was attacked by his teacher – that describes him as an overanxious worrier. There is only one record from before this time, with nothing about the assault or the ensuing years of medical treatment. For Meyer, the missing files would be proof of an otherwise invisible life, but he also wants them so he can sue the NSW government for compensation.

Meyer told me he'd had three heart attacks but he always woke up happy – 'Another day!' He would keep looking for his files. What he wanted to know most of all was whether he'd been surrendered or taken. If he'd been surrendered, he reasoned, maybe the person who'd turned him in was a relative. Maybe it was a sister of his mother, maybe she had children, too, and maybe he had more family. Still, he said, 'I'm 76. How long do I have to find out'?



The property at 270 Glebe Point Rd that, from 1922 to 1983, housed the Royleston Home for Boys from 1922 to 1983. It is now and bed & breakfast. (Image: <http://www.tripadvisor.com.au/>)

For the full essay, see:

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2012/august/1354057131/christine-kenneally/forgotten-ones>

# Community

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## Pop-up Park Day – a celebration of the Glebe Community

On Friday 10 October 2014 a significant number of Glebe Community members gathered at the park on the corner of Catherine St and Mount Vernon St in Glebe to commemorate the acquisition of the Glebe Estate by the Commonwealth of Australia in 1974. Tom Uren, the Minister for Urban and Rural Development in the Whitlam Government, was the driving force behind this significant act and from it flowed the restoration of the Glebe Estate under the urban renewal agenda. A plaque in the park recognises Tom Uren's contributions.

Those who gathered there on the 10<sup>th</sup> at the morning tea organised by the Glebe Community Development Project team heard Verity Firth (local Labor candidate), Jamie Parker (state member for Balmain) and Cr Robyn Kemmis (City of Sydney Council) all recognise the importance of the protection of this social housing area. It was recalled how the federal government wanted to avoid the sudden displacement of the population and the disruption to community networks by threatened highway construction through the suburb. The government sought to retain the opportunity for low-income earners, families and aged people to live close to the city as part of the wider community. Another goal was to improve environmental conditions and social conditions of residents of the estate and surrounding area, and to preserve the townscape while sympathetically rehabilitating it.

Forty years on the estate is again showing signs of significant 'wear and tear' and depredation by the forces of nature. Leaking roofs, blocked gutters, and collapsing fences are just some of the problems residents encounter. Many residential buildings owned by Land & Housing Corporation NSW, for which tenant management is undertaken by Housing NSW, are in need of significant upgrades. Add to this the selling off of certain properties with the intention of funding new public housing, little of which has eventuated locally, from the proceeds of sales also places significant stress on many of the residents of Glebe, exacerbating people's insecurities. The speakers all recognised that more needed to be done to maintain and support people and these public properties in the Glebe Estate.

The occasion was also a chance to announce the winners of the Glebe Photo competition, run as an adjunct to the commemoration. The theme, 'a snap

*of your view of Glebe community life'* attracted a large number of entries which were judged by local photographer Tom Psomotragos. Winners included Peter Morris, joint winner the Open Category, who said of his work: *'I took these photos on 25.9.2014 at 9.45 am on the corner of Glebe St and Norton St at the front of the Glebe community shop. The man on the left is Graham and the man on the right is Steven. Both are long time Glebe estate residents, as am I.'*

Laura Kozlowski, winner of the youth category explained: *'The photo is a great reflection of this neighbourhood for me. My boyfriend and I just moved here three months ago and immediately fell in love with its charm and relaxed, alternative spirit. There is always something new to discover and the great mixture of all kinds of people with interesting life stories makes it fun to browse the streets.'*

An exhibition of the key photos from the Glebe Community Photography Competition has been touring Glebe. You can still catch a display of some of the photos at the Pop Up Gallery at the Glebe Library, at the Blackwattle Cafe or on Facebook on the Glebe Community Development Project's page.

It was most affirming of the strength of the Glebe community to see a diverse range of Glebe residents join in the celebration, so well organised by the Community Development Project team with the generous support and sponsorship of some local businesses such as Galluzo's and Bakers' Delight.

A highlight for those present was the appearance of the federal Member for Sydney and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, The Hon Tanya Plibersek. Although her busy schedule prevented her from arriving in time to publicly address those gathered, she chatted with residents and we are reminded that she did state on 6 August, the anniversary of the day the legislation was passed<sup>1</sup>: *'Today is the 40th anniversary of the Whitlam Labor Government's legislation to preserve the Glebe Estate. Tom Uren, the then Minister for Housing and Urban Development, made the principled decision to ensure that public housing would remain in the inner city. This is in stark contrast with the current State Liberal Government and the selling of public housing in Millers Point, changing the face of this community forever. Social and community housing is needed in all parts of Sydney. It is*

*unconscionable that any Government try to uproot an entire community which has existed for generations.'*

It is to be hoped that those engaged in managing social housing in Glebe are able to recognise the strength and resilience of the community they serve, evidenced by a grass-roots celebration such as this one has been. There is no doubt that encouragement of the provision of sufficient

government support to adequately maintain this important part of the Glebe community will continue to be high up on the agenda of the Glebe Society for the foreseeable future.

*Janice Challinor*  
Convenor, Community

1. <https://www.facebook.com/tanya.plibersek>

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## Commonwealth Bank promises to open a new branch on Glebe Point Rd

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), Glebe Point Rd's only remaining bank, closed in early September. However, the CBA promises the closure is only temporary until a new branch opens, at an as yet undisclosed location on Glebe Point Road, in July/August of 2015.

'We are committed to having a branch of the bank in Glebe,' Alex Perry, manager of the Broadway Branch of the Commonwealth Bank, told the Glebe Society on 8 October.

'We are signing off (a new lease) this week. I can assure you it is in Glebe Point Rd. The site has to be redeveloped for wheelchair access and it takes time to design and build.'

In late 2013, residents were shocked to discover that Glebe's last bank, at 205 Glebe Point Rd since 1975, was to shut. Following the closing of the Glebe Post Office in February 2011, fears were held for the commercial viability of the area between Bridge Rd and St John's Rd.

In late 2013, Elliot Pty Ltd, owners of the 201-205 Glebe Point Road site, submitted a development application to the City of Sydney Council for two ground floor retail/commercial shops, five residential apartments and five off-street (in Talfourd Lane) parking places. Splitting the ground floor into two small shops forced the bank to look for a new location in Glebe Point Rd, something Perry says has been difficult because of the need for wheelchair access.



Meanwhile the Broadway branch of the CBA, which is currently relocating within the shopping centre, will soon operate seven days a week.

*Peter Robinson*

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## Natural Glebe

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### Official opening of the Glebe Foreshore Walk missing link

The latest and the final section of the Glebe Foreshore Walk was officially opened on Saturday 25 October 2014 by Clover Moore. This section goes from Ferry Road to Bridge Road. According to the City of Sydney, this stretch of waterfront is now accessible to the public – as an uninterrupted stretch – for the first time since early European settlement.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore is quoted as saying: "It's wonderful to see this area with its unique wildlife habitats and rich historical significance open and accessible for everyone to enjoy. ... The contribution of local community groups during all phases of this project has been invaluable and I'm

sure residents will be excited to see this final ribbon of harbourside land open.



Glebe foreshore walk is officially opened by the Lord Mayor (image: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/>)

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## Varied habitat along new foreshore walk

The official opening of the new section of the Glebe Foreshore Walk on Saturday 25 October was a fun occasion and the improved link to the Fish Market is welcomed by the community. But it is not just humans who will benefit from this section of the walk.

The City of Sydney has included in the landscaping design a number of features to provide improved habitat for both plant and animal life. As well as planting hundreds of shrubs and native grasses to provide habitat for small birds and animals, the edge of the foreshore has been improved to create saltwater mangroves and endangered coastal salt marsh habitats.

Perhaps the most interesting feature from an environmental point of view is the design of the sea wall which incorporates small ledges and niches to provide habitat for marine life. The design has been influenced by the work of a Green Engineering Research project at Sydney University. The project has already installed 20 concrete pots on the Glebe foreshore sea wall to provide artificial rock pools for a range of marine flora and fauna. Signs have now been set up along the foreshore walk to help you find where the pots are installed. The new wall

design, however, enables habitat to be created without any 'add on' structures. The effectiveness of the project is being monitored by underwater CCTV cameras, and we look forward to future reports on the outcomes.

*Jan Macindoe*  
Coordinator, Environment



One of the 20 sea pots installed along the Glebe foreshore to provide an artificial refuge for marine flora and fauna. (image: University of Sydney)

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## Habitat restoration for blue wrens



### Light rail corridor to be made blue wren-friendly

An onsite meeting was held with Transdev, operators of Sydney Light Rail, at Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington Reserves on 30 September 2014. We discussed the works to be undertaken by the City in the Reserves in 2014-15 as part of its Bush Restoration Management Plan. It was agreed to establish a local bush care group to liaise with the City on the work proposals and to assist with ongoing maintenance of plantings of native flora in the Reserves. Anna Szanto, a member of the Society, accepted appointment as the initial convener of the proposed bush care group; the City and the Blue Wren Subcommittee will provide advice and assistance. Working with the

Department of Transport, Transdev agreed that fencing would be installed beside the track so that voluntary bush carers could safely work on the southern side of the track from the Stop to the tunnel entrance. It was also agreed that a work plan would be established in consultation with local residents and the City of Sydney to progressively remove noxious weeds and trees from land adjacent to the Glebe Light Rail Stop and replace them with blue wren-friendly natives.

### Restoring habitat in blue wren corridor – John Street Reserve

The City has assured us that early in the New Year work will commence on the full restoration of the John Street Reserve, which until a few years ago was a thriving corridor for blues wrens and other small birds. The Blue Wren Subcommittee and local residents are looking forward to working with the City as it plants the trees, shrubs and grasses that will restore the corridor making it a safe habitat and biodiversity garden for the much loved blue wrens and their companion small birds.

*Andrew Wood*  
Convener, Blue Wrens

# History & heritage

## From the terraces – Liz Simpson-Booker

### Chimneys: Up in smoke?

Bill Bryson<sup>1</sup> maintains that the development of the working fireplace became one of the great breakthrough moments in domestic history. Gone was the hole in the roof (which happily let the smoke out, but sadly let in the rain). It also meant that houses could expand upwards.

Understanding the physical dynamics of fire - working out its necessary containment, how best to maximise heat, how to draw smoke away – took centuries. Bryson says that it was around 1330 before the word “chimney” was first recorded in English. The shaft of the chimney needs to rise to about 600 mm above the main ridge of the roof to prevent down-drafts. Terracotta chimney pots improved the draw of the chimney and reduced rain access. Federation chimneys are generally taller than Victorian ones.

I wonder how many Glebe house owners are spring-cleaning their fireplaces and making a diary note to call the chimneysweep before next winter. I’m betting not too many. This is not to suggest bad housekeeping, however! Rather, the crackling flames and the sighs of settling logs have given way to silent heating systems from so-called ‘cleaner’ or more environmentally-correct energy sources and which deliver better dispersed heat at the flick of a switch.

So today the fireplace is largely idle, year round. The hearth is boarded up or becomes a plant-stand or a receptacle for pinecones collected by grandchildren. The chimney no longer serves its original purpose, if indeed it is still there. How many roofers have offered a cheaper quote if the chimney could be knocked down, obviating the need for navigating around it, securing flashing and ensuring it is watertight?

But the chimney also has a stylistic function in our Victorian terraces and Federation houses and can be seen as an integral part of the building’s symmetry, character and decoration. In terms of streetscape, chimneys can punctuate the roofline to demarcate individual properties in a terrace group (3-19 Boyce Street, for example) and they can handsomely bookend a pair of semis (as in 16-18 Alexandra Street). They can also surprise by being placed on the diagonal (11-13 Arundel Street).



*Radnor and Derwent Villas*  
(photo : Lydia Bushell)



*Kerribree, Walsh Avenue frontage* (photo: Martin Lawrence)



*Minerva Terrace, Wigram Road* (photo: Martin Lawrence)



*270 Glebe Point Road*  
(photo: Martin Lawrence)

Our chimneys are certainly worthy of closer inspection: Glebe offers some beautiful examples, including (amongst others):

- 64-66 Derwent St (*Radnor and Derwent Villas*): This is a pair of two-storey Italianate semi-detached houses, with gable end to the street. The tall chimneys have cornice mouldings and are capped with a cluster of triangles (cleverly forming a cowl) which echo the steep roof line.
- 55 Hereford St (*Kerribree*): This is a two-storey Italianate mansion with an arched entry with pediment. A chimney which sits tall on the Walsh Ave side of the house shows off some handsome plasterwork decoration serving to highlight its presence. The ornamental fluting motif is sustained in various forms from the chimney top to the ground floor and the triangle design echoes the entrance pediment.



- 13-17 Wigram Rd (*Minerva Terrace*): This ornate trio of terraces boasts beautiful plaster decoration and the chimneys are replete with mouldings, bracketed chimney cornices, floral motifs and half-sunbursts.
- 270 Glebe Point Rd (Trickett's): This grand Federation mansion has grand chimneys to match. The handsomely painted render carefully picks out the cornice mouldings and

decorative brackets, as well as incised decoration on the shaft of the chimney.

With the demise of the hearth, the chimney's *raison d'être* seems to have gone away. Whatever headaches they give the homeowner in terms of structural soundness, water-tightness etc, chimneys can still offer the passer-by much to appreciate and admire

1. Bill Bryson, *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* (Doubleday, 2010) p 64.

## Columns – Help Wanted

My article about columns in the last Glebe Society Bulletin (8/2014) has generated an enquiry from Harry Irwin about any output still extant in Glebe from Richard Dawson's Australian Iron Foundry.

Richard Dawson was a pioneer iron-founder and engineer. His ironworks were located at George Street/Sydney Cove from 1833 to 1872. Dawson's advice and services were reportedly in demand by mill owners, masters of ships, squatters using wool presses etc. Amongst many other objects, Dawson cast verandah columns, some of which bear his maker's mark.

If you have any cast iron artefacts bearing the R DAWSON maker's mark (eg, plate and/or fluted columns, boiling down pots, winches, weighing machines, etc.) Harry would be interested to hear from you. Dr Harry Irwin is a great-great grand nephew of Richard Dawson and can be contacted at [harry.irwin@bigpond.com](mailto:harry.irwin@bigpond.com).



Richard Dawson's own *Hebe Cottage* at Schofields that still stands in very poor repair. Note the maker's mark at the very bottom of the plate column. (Image Harry Irwin).

Liz Simpson-Booker  
Convenor, Heritage

## Remembrance Day in Glebe

World War I Centenary: In this special year, members and friends are warmly invited to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held at the Glebe Diggers' Memorial on **Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 10.45 am**. Red poppies will be available (gold coin donation appreciated).



## Who lived in your street? Joseph Angel (1866-1946) and Elizabeth (1870-1951) Levy

*This article by Lyn Collingwood continues from the previous Bulletin.*

In 1907 *Hartford*, together with its specially made and bought furniture, was offered for auction. The 'artistic modern residence' at 244 Glebe Rd was finally purchased by the Levy family who had moved in by 1910: Henry 'Harry' Phillip 'of independent means', his brother Joseph Angel, a wholesale jeweller, Joseph's wife Elizabeth 'Lizzie', and Basil Angel, in adult life a partner in his father's jewellery business. Harry (1860-1925)

and Joseph were born in Hobart, two of ten children of Mary née Moses and Phillip Levy. Their father, a merchant who recovered from his 1845 insolvency, was Treasurer and President of Hobart's Jewish Synagogue; the circumcision ceremony and celebratory breakfast of his youngest child Joseph, born 14 December 1866, was reported in the local Press. In 1874 the Levy family moved

to Melbourne where the patriarch died in 1880 and where Joseph was educated at King's College.

In September 1892 Joseph married Elizabeth Cohen at *Clytie*, her parents' home in Darlinghurst Rd, a month before its contents were put up for auction. The second youngest daughter of Annie and Abraham Cohen, Lizzie was born at Young where her father owned the *Albion* hotel. In 1889 Abraham went to Sydney but fell victim to the economic depression of the 1890s, returned to the country to resume charge of the hotel, fell ill and, leaving second son Aaron to manage the business, made his way back to Sydney where he died in 1894 at the Darlinghurst home of his oldest son Henry. His widow died at the *Albion* in 1895.

*Hartford* was home to the Levys' Pomeranian dogs and the setting for Basil's 'ragtime evening and cocktail supper' in 1913, his wedding to Claire Mavis Huxtable of Melbourne 10 years later and the birth of their son Ronald in 1925. Harry Levy died in 1925 and after Basil's family moved out the household was reduced to two, supported by a succession of domestic helpers.

The Levy family's round of engagements – musicales, 'at home' and card parties, balls, picnic races, dinner dances – featured in the Social Pages, even during the Depression. Claire possessed a smart wardrobe and was admired as 'a frocker of distinction'. They spent holidays at Robertson and Basil travelled to Switzerland on buying trips for the firm. In 1914 Lizzie was involved in a court dispute with her Melbourne tailor over a bespoke 18 guinea suit which her lawyer claimed was more suited to a 'tango girl' than a dumpy woman. The story went that Mrs Levy, after winning £125 at the 1913 Melbourne Cup, ordered 'something very, very, very smart' for the next year's Sydney Easter Festival. Although reluctant to make an outfit so far ahead of time, the tailor filled the order and despatched the suit to Sydney. Lizzie was displeased: it was tight and bulged in places it shouldn't, 'a misfit, lacking in style and cut'. The tailor, who claimed she'd been a difficult customer in the past, won the case.

## Creative Glebe

### Glebe Art Show

At the recent Glebe Art Show a photograph entitled *David & Gayle are just going together* won the Glebe Society's Glebe Prize. This photograph of two Glebe residents standing at their front door was taken by local photographer Patricia Baillie. The

Joseph died at *Hartford* on 31 October 1946; Lizzie died in November 1951. Basil, who had been fined for sales tax evasion in 1948, applied to the Supreme Court for *Hartford* to be used as other than a private dwelling – flats, boarding house, private hospital, convalescent home. The property was eventually purchased by the Presbyterian Church. In 1969, with diminishing attendances, the Glebe congregation left their place of worship in Bridge Rd and started holding services in a front room of 244 Glebe Rd, renamed the Presbyterian Centre, and erected a noticeboard in its grounds. As a social service local schoolchildren were tutored there by university students a couple of nights a week. It was occupied for a brief time in the 1970s by Dr Ross McLeod and his wife Jenny, and a flat at the rear by indigenous ceramicist Thancoupie.

Some time after the creation of the Uniting Church in 1977, *Hartford* reverted to private use. In the past decade it has changed hands several times. It retains the original five bedrooms of 1898, but its two bathrooms have been increased to six.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: cemetery records; *Cootamundra Herald* various issues; Hobart *Mercury* various issues; MacDonnell, Freda *The Glebe: Portraits and Places* 1975; Melbourne *Argus* various issues; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; personal information from Anton Crouch; Sand's *Directories*; Solling, Max *Grandeur and Grit: A History of Glebe* 2007; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues; Tasmanian online registry of births, deaths, marriages.



*Hartford*, 244 Glebe Point Rd. (Image: radicalterrace.com/).

prize, worth \$300, is awarded annually and is open to a work in any medium with the stipulation that it is representative of Glebe. The President, Vice President and Secretary comprised the selection committee, and this work was their unanimous

choice. The print is now installed on the mantelpiece of the couple who were photographed.

*Carole Herriman*



'David & Gayle are just going together', the artwork that won the Glebe Society's Glebe Prize at the Glebe Art Fair. The photographer is Patricia Baillie

## Glebe Voices

### Taylor's Square? Where's that?

The latest Glebe Voices *Is the Past Another Country?* featuring **Mira Crouch** was held at the Blackwattle Cafe on October 14.

Mira, a long term Glebe resident shared her experiences of arriving and settling in Sydney from Belgrade, by way of Israel, as a young woman in the 1950s. She reminded us vividly not only of the differences in the customs and array of foods available when the choice was between Mild or Tasty cheese, but also of the mindset of the residents of the inner-city where she lived at the time.

As a European city-dweller she delighted in exploring the city of Sydney to the puzzlement of her Stanmore landlady who enquired as to the location of Taylor's Square when Mira recounted a weekend excursion; clearly the family's universe began and ended at the boundaries of their neighbourhood.

Mira also talked of her joy in being a part of a small university as the University of Sydney then was and the sense of warmth and encouragement she felt as a student.



Mira eventually went on to a successful academic career at UNSW and since retirement in 2003 has written two memoirs including *Nearly Home* which recounts her transition from *alien* to *citizen* and the significant events that contributed to her finally identifying as an Australian.

*Mairéad Browne*

## 25th Annual Glebe Music Festival

Don't forget the free-entry concerts: the Taverner Consort of Voices, on Saturday 8 November, 3pm at the Record Reign Hall (cnr St John's Rd and Derwent St).

There is also a free organ/trombone concert at 3.30pm in the Great Hall, University of Sydney, Sunday 16 November. Prior to the concert, Isaac Wong will be playing the carillon in the quadrangle from 2pm and he would like requests for music for him to play. These requests can be sent to [mcintosh@glebemusicfestival.com](mailto:mcintosh@glebemusicfestival.com) (and will be forwarded to Isaac). After the carillon, there is an afternoon tea in the ante-room at 3pm, followed by the organ/trombone concert at 3.30pm.

*David Macintosh*

## Players in the pub

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



### *Elizabeth and Grace*

Queen Elizabeth 1 meets the pirate queen of Ireland. A Tudor tale of intrigue in the spirit of *Wolf Hall*.

A new Australian play by Annie Bilton.

Monday 17 November @ 7 pm

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



# Glebe Society events

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## Glebe Society Christmas Cocktail Party

Yes, it's that time of year again – we're decking the halls for our 2014 Glebe Society Christmas Party.

**Where?** This year we invite you to join us at The Grandstand, Sydney University – in a leafy oasis overlooking Oval 1 at the University of Sydney.

**When?** From 6 to 8pm on Monday 8 December.

We would be delighted to welcome your friends too.

In this *Bulletin* you will find the flyer announcing the party and giving booking details *and the deadline date*.

NOTE: The Grandstand is on the first floor – accessible by a wide flight of stairs.

Most direct pedestrian or taxi access to the venue is via the Ross St entrance to the University. Paid parking is available in the streets around the Oval.

*Full details of our popular annual Christmas Party raffle will be in the December Bulletin, with an order form for Early Bird purchases.*



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## Thirsty Thursdays

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We try to choose restaurants where we can share dishes, and have six to eight people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 4 December at 7pm we will go to *Tommy's Beer Cafe*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 8 January (please note the date) at 7pm we will go to *The Nags Head*, 162 St Johns Rd.

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

*Edwina Doe*



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## Free to good home!

Lyn Milton, Glebe Society archivist, has some historical material to give away. If you are interested in rescuing any of the items below, please email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au).

- An almost complete collection of Glebe Society *Bulletins* from No. 6/1991 until No. 2/2003.
- Glebe Society Monographs No. 1 *An alternative to inner urban expressways*, by D.J. Potter. 1972 and No.2 *A northwestern railway instead of an expressway*, by John Gerofi and Jim Coombs (undated). There are several copies of these in mint condition. These

document the Society's longstanding commitment to Light Rail.

- *Leichhardt Historical Journal* Nos 14 (1985) and 18 (1994). These contain in-depth historical articles about many aspects of history in the Leichhardt Municipality.

Copy deadline for the December edition of the *Glebe Society Bulletin* is 26 November.  
Contributions welcome.

Email: [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au)

## For your calendar

Saturday 8 November, 9-11am. *Seed collection day*, Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group. Judy Christie: 9660 8309.  
Saturday 8 November, 3pm. *Glebe Music Festival* concert, Record Reign Hall.  
Tuesday 11 November, 10.45am. *Remembrance Day Service*, Glebe Diggers' Memorial.  
Wednesday 12 November, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.  
Sunday 16 November. 3-5pm. *People's Campaign meeting*, Glebe Town Hall  
Sunday 16 November, 3.30pm. *Glebe Music Festival concert*, Great Hall, Sydney University.  
Monday 17 November, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd.  
Thursday 4 December, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday, Tommy's Beer Cafe*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.  
Monday 8 December, 6pm. *Christmas Cocktail Party*. The Grandstand Bar, Sydney University (see flyer).  
Thursday 8 January, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*, The Nags Head Hotel, 162 St Johns Rd.  
Each Wednesday, 8:30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*. For details, contact Susan Copeland on 9692 9161.

To see Glebe Society events open for booking at any time, go to  
<http://glebesociety.eventbrite.com>.

### The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

#### Management Committee

President	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	John Gray	02 9518 7253	pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au
Secretary	Carole Herriman	02 9571 9092	secretary@glebesociety.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Rosalind Hecker	02 9660 7056	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Tessa Nicholls		treasurer@glebesociety.org.au
	Lorel Adams	02 9571 1113	lorel@glebesociety.org.au
	Chris Blair	0414 550 382	chris@glebesociety.org.au
	Jock Keene	02 9571 4078	jock@glebesociety.org.au
	Mairéad Browne	02 9552 2888	mairiad@glebesociety.org.au
	Meg Wallace		meg@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			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			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
Chief Tweeter	Scott Calvert		twitter@glebesociety.org.au

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## The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

### Membership of the Glebe Society

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

### How to join

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



Gulls revelling at the opening of the Glebe Foreshore extension (image: City of Sydney)