



Who will be the next member for Balmain? NSW election on Saturday

Ted McKeown and Virginia Simpson-Young report:

The Glebe Society hosted a 'Meet the Candidates' event at Glebe Town Hall on Friday 27 February. Candidates for the seat of Balmain were invited to attend and speak with the local community.

All candidates who had registered in time were invited, including Verity Firth (ALP), Patrick Fogarty (Australian Cyclists Party), Lyndon Gannon (Liberal) and Jamie Parker (Greens). It was disappointing that Lyndon Gannon did not respond to our repeated requests to attend, and as a result, attendees did not have the benefit of hearing where he stood on a range of important matters.

Before the meeting, we sent each candidate seven specific questions, and asked them to address those questions in their submissions. We also asked them to provide us with their speaker's notes so that we could accurately reflect their replies. Extracts from their speaker notes are on page 2 of this *Bulletin*.

The questions we asked were as follows:

Public Housing in Glebe

What is your position on the future of public housing in Glebe? How will you ensure that it is adequately funded?

Will you commit to ensuring that Glebe's public housing is retained and its tenants are protected? In particular, will you commit to ensuring that if public housing stock in Glebe is sold off, the proceeds will be used to replace it with housing stock in Glebe – not just for departmental operating costs, such as maintenance?

STOP PRESS:

Family-Friendly Picnic & BBQ this Sunday

Venue: End of Cook St, by the BBQs
above Blackwattle Bay

Date: Sunday 29 March

Time: 12 noon



Glebe Island Bridge

What is your policy on the repair and re-use of the heritage-listed Glebe Island Bridge as a level, safe pedestrian and cycle link for the Bays Area?

Planning

In August 2014, a planning charter was prepared by a working party of community organisations in consultation with the Better Planning Network, Community Councillors Network, Inner City Regional Council for Social Development, National Parks Association of NSW, National Trust of Australia (NSW), Nature Conservation Council of NSW, NSW Heritage Network, Shelter NSW and the Total Environment Centre. A copy of that charter, entitled *Planning for People – A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW*, has been forwarded to you. Are you prepared to endorse that charter?



NSW votes (image: <http://www.theguardian.com/>)

Wentworth Park

Recent developments make it appear more likely than not that greyhound racing will depart the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex, the fenced-in area between the Northern and Southern sections of the park currently controlled by Sydney City Council. The whole of Wentworth Park was 'set apart and dedicated *in perpetuity* for a park or place of public recreation' in 1878.

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In their own words ... Extracts from 'Meet the Candidates' speeches

(See main article beginning on page 1 for a summary of candidates comments not covered below.)



Verity Firth
Australian Labor Party

I was honoured to represent this electorate until 2011, and to serve as the Minister for Education under the last Labor government.

Since leaving politics I have worked in the not for profit sector as the CEO of Public Education Foundation. I am also an Alumni Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate.

I decided to return to politics when I grew frustrated with the Coalition Government's response to the Gonski report on funding for education.

A lot of work has been done over the last three years to renew and rebuild the Labor Party, and in particular Labor's environment and planning vision. ... We have looked back at previous Labor governments – both state and federal – to see where they succeeded and where they failed.

Liberals don't care about us. Their callous indifference to our area – whether it be through attacks on our social infrastructure or slicing the inner west with the WestConnex tunnel – shows that they have written-off the inner-west.

We need to send a strong message to the Liberals. That message is Labor.

I love this area, I have lived here since I was 12 and I am here to stay. I want to make it the best place it can be, and I am grateful for your helping in doing this.



Patrick Fogarty
Australian Cyclists Party

I live down the hill in Ultimo, and am a statistician by training. ... We're a new party, so you probably haven't heard of us. We have a published set of values, which you can find on our website icycleivote.com.

We demand honesty and integrity in politics. We believe that policy decisions should be transparent and evidence-based. Those decisions should be based on a long term outlook, to the benefit of everyone in the community.

Our primary aim is "a cycling-friendly Australia", to improve access to cycling as a transport option. There is a wealth of evidence demonstrating the benefits of cycling. Not just the health benefits to the cyclist, which include both physical and mental health, but benefits to the community as a whole.

We have no illusions about our role in this election, we are putting forward only seven candidates in the lower house so even if by some miracle all of us were elected, we do not propose to form government.

What do you want the Sydney of 2091 to look like? If you want a future where people have a choice to walk, ride or use public transport, where the health system is not put under unnecessary strain, and where the community as a whole benefits, then please consider a vote for the Australian Cyclists Party.



Jamie Parker
The Greens

It was my father who first moved to the inner west. He was a fitter, fixing engines in the British merchant navy, and when he sailed in to Sydney Harbour he knew this was the place he wanted to live. He took up his first job in the Balmain ship yard and met my mother, who was born and grew up next to the docks in Liverpool, England.

I was the first in my family to attend university, where I earned an undergraduate degree from Macquarie University and a Masters in Economics from the University of Sydney. I've been a Councillor on Leichhardt Council from 1999 and served the community as Mayor from 2008, until my election to the Parliament in 2011.

When I was in parliament, I came to understand first-hand the problems with politics in our state. The power of vested interest is so pervasive and so strong. ... I've stood up in parliament for what matters, but I've also achieved great results locally ... While we have had some great wins, there are a lot of threats.

In this election, your vote is powerful. You can do something no other voter can do. You can vote to re-elect an independent green voice in the middle of parliament, not just another Liberal or Labor MP under the sway of the factions.

I am committed to our community, and ask you to vote for me on the 28th of March.

Continued from page 1

What, in your view, should be the future of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex if greyhound racing ceases to be carried on there?

WestConnex

Please outline your policy on WestConnex, give your view on the efficacy of WestConnex, and indicate how WestConnex will, in your view, impact on Glebe.

Bays Precinct

UrbanGrowth NSW in December published its planning principles for the Bays Precinct. These included some of those long argued by the community, but are silent on two critical matters for the protection of the public interest, namely:

1. that there be no further alienation of publicly owned harbour foreshore land in the Bays Precinct, and
2. that it be ensured that all unsolicited development applications relating to the publicly owned assets are subject to an open competitive process to ensure maximum protection of the broad public interest.

Please let us know your views on these critical issues.

Women's Refuges

Please give your views and let us know the actions you would take with regard to women's refuges, particularly in the light of the current Government putting them in the hands of Government-appointed organisations that are neither independent nor community-based.

Candidates' responses

Each candidate spoke for about 10 minutes, and they all addressed the questions we had put to them. They then answered a range of questions on local issues and issues of relevance to all NSW citizens (such as voluntary euthanasia and logging of native forests). These questions were gathered from the audience and posed to candidates by Glebe Society President, Ted McKeown, who chaired the meeting.

In broad terms, the responses of the candidates to our specific questions were very similar. They all supported the provision of public housing in Glebe, and abhorred the sell-off of public housing stock in The Rocks and Millers Point. They were all prepared to commit to the retention and appropriate use of Glebe Island Bridge as a pedestrian and cycle way, and they were all prepared to endorse the *Planning for People*

charter. They all supported the retention of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex as a public park, and they all took the view that the Glebe Society has consistently taken about the deficiencies in the Bays Precinct planning process, particularly the lack of community participation. And they all abhorred the de-funding of women's refuges and the perceived insensitivity of their administration by private sector Government-appointed agencies.

The major difference between the candidates was in relation to WestConnex, which was strongly opposed by Jamie Parker of the Greens and Patrick Fogarty of the Australian Cyclists' Party, both of whom advocated for enhanced public transport rather than freeway construction. Verity Firth had to deal with a considerable amount of audience scepticism in putting the ALP's case for a 'partial' WestConnex, with the M4 being routed 'into the CBD' in a manner reminiscent of the 1960-style radial freeways.

About 80 people attended. The mood of the meeting was respectful, but the questions they posed indicated the depth of feeling about a number of local issues and issues of wider significance. It is a great pity that the Liberal Party did not see fit to put or support the Government's policies on those matters of vital interest to our community. They did undertake to answer our questions 'in a timely manner', but have not done so to date.

Whatever the outcome of Saturday's election, the Glebe Society will continue to work with the NSW Government to support Glebe's heritage, environment and community.

Ted McKeown and Virginia Simpson-Young



'Meet the Candidates' at Glebe Town Hall (L to R: Ted McKeown, Patrick Fogarty, Verity Firth, Jamie Parker) (image: Lorel Adams)

Planning & infrastructure

An Inner West Transport Solution?

The inner West faces worsening traffic congestion with redevelopment of the Bays Area and Plans for WestConnex to feed vehicles onto the Anzac Bridge and Victoria Rd.

Yet there is a simple, low-cost way to reduce congestion in our neighbourhood: re-open Glebe Island Bridge as a level, broad, safe pedestrian link between Rozelle and Pyrmont.

Running parallel to the Anzac Bridge, Glebe Island Bridge could link the Balmain Peninsula and Pyrmont, with benefits to residents and businesses on both sides. The bridge could become part of a pedestrian and cycle network to Pyrmont Bridge, Darling Harbour, and Barangaroo. A second route could connect Glebe Island Bridge with the soon-to-be-opened Goods Line, extending to Railway Square and eventually to Redfern.

The re-opened Bridge could also form part of a waterfront walkway from Rozelle to Rushcutters Bay, creating a world-class tourist attraction as well as a recreational area for Sydneysiders. To enable large boats to move in and out of the bays, the

bridge could swing open as needed, as it was designed to do.

To find out more about our disused bridge and its potential, visit the Glebe Society's new website dedicated to the Glebe Island Bridge: <http://glebeislandbridge.com/index.html>.

Meg Wallace



Artist's impression of a possible future for the Glebe Island Bridge (image: <http://glebeislandbridge.com/index.html>)

Planning Report – Neil Macindoe

Harold Park

A number of applications for the Tramsheds, and one for Precinct 5 of the residential section of Harold Park, have just come into advertising. They are all pretty much as expected, and the Tramsheds ones do not include much detail at this stage. The Management Committee will discuss them and there will be a report in the next *Bulletin*.

The Abbey site, 156 Bridge Rd

Longer term members will recall the long campaign waged by the Society to conserve this important site, which has a State Heritage listing.

One of the conditions agreed to in the final approval was that the derelict cottage, *Hamilton*, one of the buildings of Ferdinand Reuss Jr, would be demolished and the site excavated to permit underground car parking. The cottage would then be rebuilt on the original footprint and with the same height and design. This is now taking place in accordance with the approval. There will be an entrance to the car park under the cottage, which will be divided into two dwellings within the one building. This is of course in addition to the townhouses under construction at the rear of the site, also part of the original approval.

Neil Macindoe

Community matters

NSW government needs to get serious about social housing

Social housing is integral to Glebe and of vital interest to Glebe residents and hence to the Glebe Society. According to the Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group (FLAG), around 4,000 people live in public housing in Glebe – about one third of Glebe's population. The number of public housing dwellings in Glebe is estimated to be 1,424 which is 18% of public housing in the City of Sydney. Glebe as a community is committed to public

housing, including the Glebe Estate which is fundamental to Glebe's built and social character.

The NSW government has decided to develop a long overdue social housing policy. They produced a discussion paper on *Social Housing in NSW* and called for responses. The discussion paper and the Society's response can be found on our website: <http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=10512>.

NSW Family and Community Services seems to have made up its mind that it won't be spending any more money on social housing; instead it is considering how to 'efficiently manage' the social housing system within the Government's 'existing funding envelope'. The discussion paper calls for comments with a particular emphasis on 'successful models, innovations or practices'. In our response, we tried to provide constructive suggestions to improve social housing in NSW – Glebe, in particular – that could reasonably be achieved within the 'existing funding envelope'.

In many ways, Glebe has been a successful model for social housing. Residents benefit from living in a community that is richly endowed with services and a sense of community. The Glebe Society opposed changes to social housing that would see tenants moved to outer areas of Sydney where they would lose access to this social capital.

We also highlighted once again the appalling state of much social housing in Glebe which is bad for tenants' health and bad for the beautiful heritage buildings that make up so much of our social housing.

Our submission raised strong objection to the lack of a strategic approach and forward planning in NSW social housing. This has had an unacceptable impact on tenants; for example, it's an absolute scandal that social housing in Cowper Street has only just begun to be rebuilt after being demolished four years ago.

Reading between the lines in the discussion paper, it is clear that the government is looking for ways to remove tenants whose behaviour is unacceptable to their neighbours. This is, of course, a significant problem, but we don't believe the solution is to evict difficult residents, but rather to provide them with the necessary support to deal with the underlying issues that lead to such behaviour. The discussion paper acknowledges that providing such

support is the role of the Department of Housing but that it often fails to deliver.

A big bugbear for the Society is the NSW government's propensity to use the proceeds of social housing assets sales to fund Housing's operating costs such as maintenance. We believe that all sale proceeds should be used to create additional dwellings.

The success of social housing in Glebe can be attributed in part to the cohesiveness of the Glebe community and its proximity to employment, education and training as well as to critical health and social services. Changes to the social housing system that jeopardise these in Glebe are likely to result in negative outcomes for social housing residents, and for the suburb as a whole.

Glebe is a strong, well-organised community that is willing to work with the NSW government to make our village an example of what social housing can be.

Virginia Simpson-Young



The demolition of the Cowper St public housing complex (image: <http://www.aver.com.au/>)

Millers Point – Community or Commodity?

The public screening of the documentary 'Millers Point – Community or Commodity' on 19 March at the State Parliament House theatre served to illustrate the inherent injustice in the current policies impacting upon public housing tenants. The film maker Blue Lucerne sees it as a work in progress, as further developments in this socially divisive practice will no doubt continue to hurt an otherwise vibrant and tightly-knit community, and will deserve recording to advise the wider community about this travesty.

A preferable outcome would see the sell-off stopped and the community reassured that their tenure, in an area where many families have lived

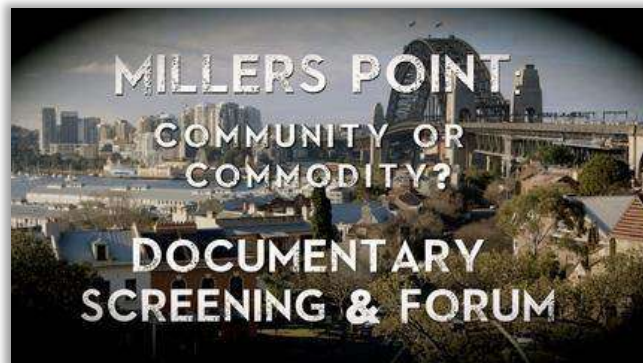
for generations, secured. The panel discussion following the screening, moderated by journalist Quentin Dempster, who acknowledged that he was a resident of the area himself, supported this alternative and identified the negative consequences of this process for both the community and the wider social housing agenda. Panel speakers including Michael Darcy, Director of the Urban Research Centre, at the University of Western Sydney, Eva Cox – social commentator and activist, Patrick Fensham – Principal and Partner with SGS Economics and Planning, Kim Boettcher – Delegate, Aged Care Rights Service, Shirley Fitzgerald – historian, and Paul McAleer, Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia's

Sydney branch. They all emphasised the way in which the economic prerogative was over-riding the social concern and the rights of affected individuals to community support. Several spokespersons noted that this NSW housing agenda, to create a cost-neutral public housing sector which would not impact upon the state's budgetary bottom line, was evidence of a growing trend of governments to 'manage our assets' at the expense of 'caring for our communities'. It was suggested that this thin end of the wedge, if successful, would in all likelihood lead to the further sell-off of public housing in other inner Sydney suburbs such as Glebe and Pyrmont. The consequence of this would be the relocation of public housing residents to areas on the fringes of the city, devoid of adequate employment, transport and social support services, thus further limiting the opportunity for these self-same people to enjoy equitable living conditions. This is in direct opposition to the chief objective of a new housing system designed to be 'A social housing system that is a safety net for vulnerable people: provides opportunity and pathways to client independence and is fair and sustainable'.¹ Marginalisation of the most needy in

the community, together with a reduction in the number and relative proportion of public housing units is certainly not the sign of a caring society.

Janice Challinor,
 Convenor, Community

1. Social Housing in NSW: A discussion paper for input and comment. NSW Government, Family and Community Services November 2014.p.7



A still from the documentary *Millers Point: Community or Commodity?* <http://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>

What will happen to the *Bidura* Children's Court?

In the last *Bulletin*, we talked about the sale of the *Bidura* site at 357 Glebe Point Rd. The sale encompassed both the historic buildings and the large concrete building at the back of the site. The new owners intend to retain the heritage buildings and to demolish the concrete building and replace it with a 'more modern, nicer block of apartments' that is 'respectful to the area'.

Inside the concrete building is the *Bidura* Children's Court, one of three buildings in NSW specifically designed for the Children's Court. (The others are located in Parramatta and Broadmeadow). Children's Courts have a wide range of functions: as well as dealing with criminal cases, they process applications for apprehended violence orders (AVOs) and compulsory schooling orders. These courts also deal with cases involving the care and protection of children. *Bidura* Children's Court opened in April 1983, and replaced the Metropolitan Children's Court which was then situated at Albion Street Surry Hills (see image).

A number of people have asked the Society what will happen to the Children's Court as a result of the sale. I visited the Children's Court on 23 March and had a chat with one of the Court Officers. She told me that the Children's Court is being relocated to the Albion St Children's Court site, which was closed in 1983 when *Bidura* Children's Court opened. The Albion St Court was the first purpose built Children's Court; replacing the Children's

Court which was sitting in Ormond House, Paddington from 1905 until 1911. At present, the former Albion Street Court site is used by a number of community organisations.

The transfer of the Children's Court operations is expected to take place over a two year period.

Virginia Simpson-Young

Sources: <http://news.domain.com.au/domain/real-estate-news/>;
<http://www.childrenscourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/>;
<http://nswcourts.com.au/courts/bidura-childrens-court/>;
<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>;
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Blackmore; <http://sydney-city.blogspot.com.au/2012/02/surry-hills-childrens-court.html>



The former Albion St Children's Court (image: <http://sydney-city.blogspot.com.au/>)

Glebe, Naturally

News from Blue Wren Subcommittee

On Thursday 7 May at 6.30 pm in the downstairs meeting room at *Benledi* (Glebe Library), Dr Holly Parsons from *BirdLife Australia*, will give a talk to the Society entitled *Little birds in a big city – the lives and times of Superb Fairy-wrens*. Dr Parsons is the Program Manager for *Birds in Backyards* and has a special interest in avian urban ecology. Her initial research study at the University of Wollongong involved a large community survey of backyard birds in the Greater Sydney region and was followed by her Doctor of Philosophy degree investigating the impact of urbanisation on Superb Fairy-wrens. Her current roles include the management of the invaluable database of surveys completed by *Birds in Backyards* and using birds as a way of communicating the importance of biodiversity to the broader community.

A major difficulty for the *Glebe Bushcare Group* has been the arrival of groups of backpackers/campers who are now living in the parking area near the wetlands adjacent to Chapman Rd; in a recent count (Saturday 7 March 2015) there were 16 'camping' vehicles parked on the road. The adjacent parkland areas are filthy with dumped litter, scattered toilet paper and abandoned tents. The Australian natives planted by the local Bushcare Group are damaged and volunteer work over many years is being destroyed! The Society has asked the City to promptly take whatever action is available to it to prevent Chapman Rd and the adjacent parklands being used as a camping site, and to put a stop to the damage being caused to the native plantings.



Backpacker Florence Beal cleans up her rubbish before moving on. (image: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/>)

The City has completed the restoration and repair of the wall on the western boundary of the *John Street Reserve* and the native flora in the adjacent area is thriving. An onsite meeting was held in the *Reserve* on Monday 23 February between Stephen Merchant, Senior Design Manager, City of Sydney and local residents, the Friends of John Street Reserve Inc and members of our Subcommittee.

The meeting decided that the *Murrayas* in the *Reserve* will initially be hedged to a height of 2 metres. The trees will then be progressively removed (commencing immediately) as the detoxification and reparation of the *Reserve* occurs and will be replaced with blue wren-friendly Australian natives. It was also confirmed that the section of the *Reserve* dedicated to the Blue Wren Habitat and Biodiversity Demonstration Garden should be fenced so as to prevent the entry of dogs and that signs should be erected at the entrances to indicate that dogs are not permitted in this area.



The thriving native flora planted along the new retaining wall in John Street Reserve (image: Friends of John Street Reserve Inc).

The *Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group* held an onsite meeting with Raewyn Broadfoot, the City's Community Garden and Volunteer Coordinator, to discuss the future work plan for the park including the removal of 'cages' that had been constructed around the original trees in the park (some of these trees have now died and been removed so that the surrounding barriers are no longer required). A planting day was organised by the Group for Sunday 22 March. Also, the City is holding a Community Planting Day in the park from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 18 April and will publicise the Day by distributing a flyer to local residents. All Society members are invited to attend – please wear covered shoes and a hat and bring gardening gloves. The City will provide the plants and tools as well as morning tea.

The *Palmerston Ave and Surrounds Landcare Group* held its initial community meeting on Saturday 21 at the corner of Palmerston and Keegan Aves.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens

Flowerpots for diversity

Google 'Off Track' and click on 'Radio National' and 'Flower pots for biodiversity'. You will find a website with illustrations and links to a very interesting *Off Track* program broadcast on 21 and 22 February about the concrete flower pots included in the rebuilt sea wall in Blackwattle Bay. [Editor: Alternatively, go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/flower-sea-power-in-blackwattle-bay/6116656>]

Here is an extract from the Radio National website:

Sydney's harbour is an urbanised ecosystem where the natural environment exists along with buildings encroaching on the shoreline, industry, shipping, fishing, street run-off, micro-plastics, floating chip packets and even weeds and invasive animals.

It would be easy to despair about the state of this once pristine area when you read a list like that, but that is not the attitude of Rebecca Morris or Ross Coleman from the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Group at the University of Sydney. They're looking into ways that the current environment can be enhanced.

'A city is a thing, and since most of the world's population now lives in cities, understanding biodiversity in the context of an urban environment is absolutely critical, because most people live in cities,' says Associate Professor Coleman.

'We're actually looking at a variety of different strategies that when we build stuff, we actually put biodiversity back in. As always there is a new term for this, we call it 'green engineering'.'

Enter the flower pot: the latest in habitat creation.

Edwina Doe



A very pretty concrete flowerpot, Blackwattle Bay. (image: City of Sydney)

History and Heritage

From the Terraces – Liz Simpson-Booker

Stepping Through Time

It is noticeable how many Glebe residents have remarked, *en passant*, that the moment they turn into Glebe Point Rd, a feeling of calm and well-being spreads through them.

Some might maintain that turning off Parramatta Rd anywhere along its 23km length could have the same effect. One could argue, rightly, that simply moving out of the dense and relentless traffic, the noise and the garish signage would make one feel better.

However, Glebe Point Rd with its gentle undulations, its tree-lined footpaths, its human-scale buildings, its relatively narrow roads and the flux of pedestrian activity is special.

But even within Glebe, one is aware of sudden changes: turn a corner (a magic portal?) or walk one block and one can seemingly step through time: from High Victorian to Federation; from Early Victorian to fifties walk-ups; from Mid-Victorian to Colonial.

To my mind, one such delightful precinct is the broad, open corner where Catherine St and Lodge St quietly intersect.

The Glebe Society's old walking guide, *Historic Glebe* (now superseded by our very popular on-line *Glebe Walks*), notes that the streets in this area of Glebe are wider and much longer than were common at the time. They retain the layout and forms of a country town in the very heart of Australia's largest city.

Prior to subdivision in 1856, the area was part of Catherine Farm, hence the name Catherine St.

Here (see photograph next page) the front doors of the early two-storey terraces open directly onto the footpath. Without overhanging eaves, the light falls directly on the unadorned front of the building. Multi-paned windows are a feature of these early buildings. The restraint, directness and lack of pretension of the built forms are in stark contrast to

the Italianate grandeur of Glebe Town Hall, at the northern end of the same block.

Lagerstroemia Indica Eavesii

Years ago I lived for a time in the garden suburb of Oatley, the last train-stop before the Georges River in Sydney's south. Oatley railway station had on the eastern side a prize-winning jewel of a garden, maintained devotedly by Council gardeners. On the western side of the station, the curved roadway was bounded by a line of, yes, Crepe Myrtles (your botanical Latin is good!). These were pruned hard after flowering to produce more blooms the following season but their management left the trees looking rather stumpy and brutalised through winter.

Our Glebe street plantings of Crepe Myrtles very much suit our heritage streetscapes and are currently looking spectacular. Change streets and the variety and colour of their papery blooms changes. The smooth, sinewy, mottled bark invites the touch. Thankfully, Council has left our Crepe Myrtles to follow their natural shape.



Early terraces, Catherine St. (image: Martin Lawrence)

Bernard Smith's Photographs

The City of Sydney has digitised the Bernard Smith Collection of photographs of Glebe. The collection of about five hundred images catalogues Glebe's built environment ca 1970. The photographs can be viewed on the City of Sydney website. Those who are lucky enough to own a copy of the Smiths' book *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, may recognise some of the images, but many will be new.

Previously the photographs had been held at Glebe Library but in slide form which left them largely inaccessible. We are grateful to the City of Sydney for this digitisation project and for 'liberating' these precious images.

To see images from the collection, follow these instructions:

Step1: Go to: <http://photosau.com.au/cos/scripts/home.asp>;
Step 2: Type into the search box: Bernard Smith Collection; Step 3: In the section called 'search options' (underneath the search box), select the option: 'the exact phrase'; Step 4: Then press the 'Search' button. You will then see thumbnails of images in the Bernard Smith Collection which you can click on to see a bigger image.

Please drop us a line if you find your house in one of Bernard Smith's photos!



One of the images from the Bernard Smith Collection: *Mitchell and Westmoreland St Glebe. Children playing with bikes in street.* (image: Bernard Smith Collection, City of Sydney Archives)

Anzac Centenary Planting of Lone Pine

To commemorate the centenary of Anzac, the Lord Mayor and representatives of the NSW Returned & Services League and the City of Sydney will be planting a Lone Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) near the Diggers Memorial in Foley Park, Glebe.

All welcome.

When? 2.30pm, Thursday 23 April

Where? Foley Park



The Gallipoli Pine

On 6 August 1915, the 1st Australian Infantry Division launched a major offensive at Plateau 400 at Gallipoli, Turkey. The ridges were once clothed with the Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*). However, they had been cut down to cover and line trenches, leaving one solitary pine. Hence it became known as Lone Pine Ridge. In the three days of fighting the ANZACs lost 2,000 men and the Turkish losses were estimated at ,7000.

Lance Corporal Benjamin Charles Smith of the 3rd Battalion sent back several pine cones to his mother at Inverell NSW. Mrs McMullen sowed some of the seeds some 13 years later. Two seedlings were grown and one was presented to the town of Inverell. The Duke of Gloucester planted the second tree at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The Glebe Society has donated a Gallipoli Pine sapling (*Pinus halepensis*) to the University of Sydney to commemorate those who served in World War I (see more below).

The sapling presented to the University of Sydney was propagated by the Yarralumla Nursery from seed collected from the tree at the Australian War Memorial. Final details for the planting ceremony at the University are yet to be announced.

WWI: Glebe's University Men

In tandem with the Glebe Society's donation of a Gallipoli Pine sapling to Sydney University, the Heritage Subcommittee has been able to identify over a dozen Glebe men who were associated with the University of Sydney as academics, support staff or students and who enlisted in World War I.

As part of this investigation, members of the Heritage Subcommittee recently met with the Sydney University's World War One Centenary Project Officer to review entries on their *Beyond 1914* website (<http://www.sydney.edu.au/beyond1914>) and to look for commonalities with the list compiled by Rod Holtham of those from Glebe and Forest Lodge who served in WWI.

Liz Simpson-Booker
Convenor, Heritage



The landscape at Lone Pine before Australian soldiers charged the Turkish trenches in August 1915. (image: Australian War Memorial)

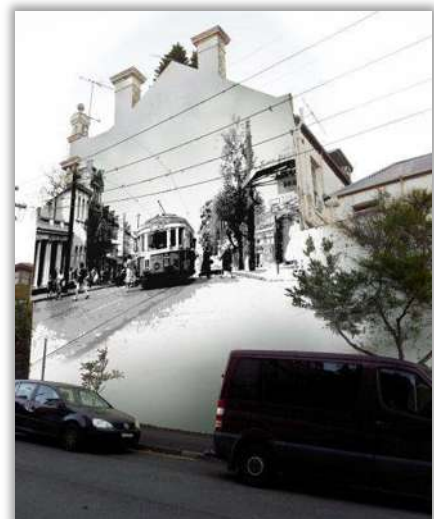
Could we return a tram to Glebe Point Rd?



Have you ever noticed this blank and featureless wall (see left) when travelling north along Glebe Point Rd?

Probably not! It has little to recommend it to the aesthetic eye, but there may be a way to remedy that.

What if it could look like this? (see right). The Glebe Society has a project in its infancy to do just that!



The proposal is to create a very large mural, duplicated from an historic photo, on a large wall near the end of the 'tram lines' that are visible in the bitumen in Glebe Point Rd, near the corner of Bridge Rd. This would ideally be accompanied by first-hand audio accounts of Glebe residents, recalling tram usage, accessible by electronic devices through QR scanning codes embedded in the mural.

The **objectives** of such a project are:

- To celebrate Glebe's history
- To create an aesthetically pleasing mural to enhance Glebe Point Rd
- To create an interesting feature to complement the preserved tram tracks.
- To create an audio record of some older Glebe residents who recall tram usage in Glebe.
- To engage selected Glebe residents and record their memories, which ideally would be stored in the Glebe Society website's audio files.

The **chosen site** of the mural is the two-storey, blank windowless wall of the terrace on the north-east corner at the intersection of Glebe Point Rd and Marlborough St. The property owner has already given his in-principle agreement for the project. This site has the advantage of being clearly visible to anyone travelling north along Glebe Point

Rd, and clearly visible from the remaining tram tracks.

What is needed now is a group of enthusiastic Glebe-ites keen to join a committee to bring this vision to fruition. If you are such a resident I'd really like you to contact me, Janice Challinor on community@glebesociety.org.au. I really need your help on this!

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community



Tram cresting the rise along Glebe Point Rd, late 1950s
(image: <http://sydney-eye.blogspot.com.au/>)

'Gallipoli and World War I Revisited': join the book club

The University of Sydney's Centre for Continuing Education is running a Book Club that will meet for five sessions to read and discuss new books on Gallipoli and WWI. The book club will be led by Margaret McDonough-Glenn, historiographer and Teacher of Adult Education at WEA, TAFE and the University of Sydney.

With so much being published about Gallipoli in the lead up to 2015 centenary, this course is an attempt to navigate through the sea of histories. The aim of this course is to allow participants to explore the actual history of Gallipoli, not just the legend; to understand the context of Gallipoli when compared to other battles and the home front; to explore expressions of Gallipoli not just in the form of the written word, but also the artistic expression.

The *Gallipoli and World War I Revisited* Book Club starts Sunday 12 April, 2pm-4pm, and runs once a fortnight until Sunday 7 June.

Here is a list of the books:

- *Gallipoli: A Short History*, by Dr Michael McKernan.

- *Defending Gallipoli – The Turkish Story*, by Harvey Broadbent, Senior Research Fellow in Modern History at Macquarie University.
- *Bearing Witness: The remarkable life of Charles Bean, Australia's greatest war correspondent*, by Peter Rees.
- *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*, by Joan Beaumont. (This book is a dual winner of the 2014 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Australian History and NSW Premier's Australian History 2014 Prize).
- *The Anzac Girls*, by Peter Rees: The extraordinary story of our World War I nurses.

For further information ring the Centre for Continuing Education on 8999 9608, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Please also see webpage: <http://cce.sydney.edu.au/course/BOOK>

Carole Herriman

Who Lived in your Street? By Lyn Collingwood

Florence Theodora Jacobs (1876-1942)



Durham, 417 Glebe Point Rd (image: Phil Young)

Florence Jacobs was the original owner of *Durham Court*, 417 Glebe Point Rd, built on part of the Golden Estate, subdivided in 1908. In 1909 Florence's mother Sarah Speare bought lots 1 - 4 between Leichhardt St and Cook St. *Sidcup* on the Cook St corner was then sold to dentist Ormond McDermott. The other lots passed to Florence who in 1911 divorced her first husband and in 1912 married a solicitor, Reginald Jacobs (1876-1953).

While all this was going on *Durham Court* was built. The new house was leased to Glebe-born Rowland Thomas Sydney Walker, a produce merchant and grister with city business premises in Sussex St and Goulburn St, who moved from *Lynwood* 61 Arundel Terrace with his second wife Frances Sarah née Pillans and Rowland's children by his first marriage; 16-year-old Gladys and 20-year-old clerk Leslie Hollingworth. Rowland's brother John, also a produce agent, and sister-in-law Pearl shared the house with them in 1915. Two years later the Walkers moved up the road to *Bidura* and the Jacobs family moved into *Durham Court*. The adjoining *Durham Court Flats*, built in 1922, were home to a succession of taxi drivers, actors, engineers, students, travellers, musicians and composers.

In 1931, after a brief period in Katoomba, Reginald moved with Florence into *Werrington*, Macleay St Potts Point. *Durham Court* was leased from 1930 until 1947 when Florence's son Carleton Ward sold the property to Paul Korboot whose wife and daughter inherited it in December 1962. In January 1963 it was sold to Stamatios and Amelia Anastassiou and Nicholas Ghelis. Its newest owner is Jing-Land Pty Ltd. Since 2007 number 417 has been the subject of a series of Development Applications. The most recent proposes excavation for underground parking, subdivision of the site,

and the building of 10 new townhouses by conversion of the original house and demolition of the flats.

Florence Jacobs was one of at least seven daughters and three sons born to Sarah Speare and her husband Peter, an Armidale butcher turned mining speculator turned brickmaker. By 1880 the Speares were living in Sydney. A director of Sunlight Goldmining and probably cashed up to take advantage of the 1890s Depression, Peter Speare in 1891 bought the Goodsell brickmaking plant which operated as the Newtown Steam Brickworks. After Peter's death on 26 June 1897 his widow secured government contracts for clay pipes and bricks for stormwater channels and similar projects. Some Speare bricks were used in the building of the RPA Hospital. Eldest surviving son Ernest Loftus Speare in 1912 set up Speare's Brick and Pipe Works at Tempe, a yard which survived until the 1970s when it was bought by Penfolds winemakers. Sarah Speare died on 20 December 1925 at the family home *Talmo* Croydon.

Florence Speare married Arthur Sawell Ward, a clerk, at Summer Hill in 1904 and Eric Arthur Carleton Ward was born the next year. In 1911 Florence divorced Arthur on grounds of desertion and gained custody of her son who was brought up as his own by Reginald John Jacobs, a partner in a legal practice at Windsor, whom she married in 1912.



Patented in 1909, one of the Jacobs family's popular household products. Tins could be returned to the retailer for refilling. (image: National Museum of Australia)

Although he continued to work on and off as a solicitor, Reginald became increasingly involved in his Jewish family's business; Paget Manufacturing, makers of popular household products 'Shi-noleum' and 'Clever Mary' ('the Enemy of Grease'). He became the firm's Secretary with brothers Harold Sydney and Edgar Louis as managing directors. In 1928 they formally adopted the surname 'Paget' and while still at Glebe Reginald Paget published a pamphlet *The Paget Universal Time Chart*. A spectacular fire, fuelled by turpentine and beeswax, in 1924 gutted the Chippendale factory. The firm was de-listed on the stock exchange in 1950.

Florence Theodora Paget died on 16 January 1942 and was buried in the Speare family vault in the Anglican section of Rookwood Cemetery with her parents, uncle Harold Speare and two of her sisters Ruby Myrtle and Amelia. Her widower died on 26 December 1953.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; Ringer, Ron *The Brickmakers: 1788-2008*; Sands Directories; TROVE online various newspaper entries.

Events

Upcoming event University of Sydney Historical Tour

Put Monday 11 May in your diaries for a walk around Macleay and Nicholson museums and the University Art Gallery, followed by lunch in the newly renovated Holme building.

More details in the next *Bulletin*.

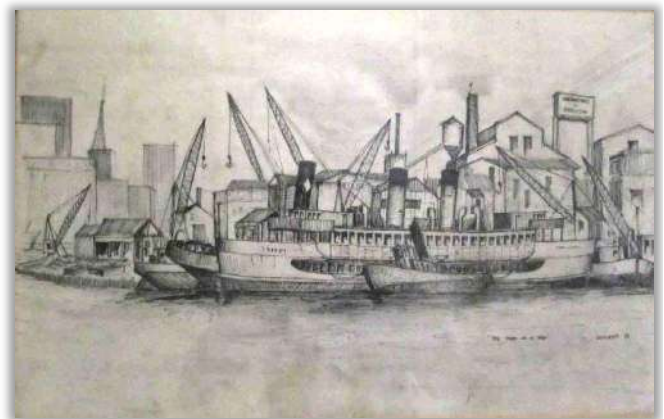
Fish 'n' Ships event went off swimmingly

The Fish 'n' Ships event on Tuesday 17 March was a great success. The Society received the following correspondence from Alan Linklater, who had been our Sydney Heritage Fleet Guide on the tour:

It was a real pleasure to have the company of the Glebe Society on our recent Fish 'n' Ships tour and thank you for your interest in the fleet and your comments. You were quite a colourful, interesting and nice people to work with.

Alan is an enthusiastic Sydney Heritage Fleet volunteer and old boat buff. He kindly sent us a photo of his sketch of Strides Shipbreaking yard, which he drew in 1964 (see picture).

Lorel Adams



Sketch by Alan Linklater of Strides Shipbreaking yards at the end of Balmain point, 1964 (image: Alan Linklater)

Anzac Day Service in Glebe

The 2015 Anzac Day Service will be held at the Diggers Memorial in Glebe Point Rd on Saturday 25 April at 7.30 am. The service will be led by Paul Perini, Minister at St John's Bishopthorpe, Glebe. The talk will be given by local historian Max Solling, and the Lament will be played as usual by the piper, Rob McLean. All welcome.

This will be an opportunity to mourn lost relatives, honour Glebe men who fell and remember, inter alia, the events of the tumultuous year of 1915:

- the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli (April 25)
- the loss of Submarine AE2 in the Sea of Marmara (April 30)

- the death of John Simpson (Kirkpatrick), 'the man with the donkey' (May 19)
- the first VC awarded to an Australian in WWI (Lance-corporal Albert Jacka) (May 19)
- the Australian attack on Lone Pine; Battle of Sari Bair (August 6)
- the evacuation of ANZACs from Gallipoli (December 8, 1920)
- Australian casualties on Gallipoli: approx 7,600 killed, 19,000 wounded

Morning tea will be served at the back of St John's Church after the service.

Liz Simpson-Booker and Edwina Doe

Queenie - a snapshot of WWI by an Army Nurse

In 1981 former Glebe resident Pat Richardson found old letters her aunt had sent home during the First World War which told of the sadness and happiness experienced while she served as a nurse in England, Egypt and France.

Pat and Anne Skinner have compiled these moving letters into the book *Queenie – a personal*

snapshot of World War One through the letters of a Queensland Army Nurse 1915-17.

Join us at St Helens Community Centre to meet Pat as she discusses her aunt's letters.

Refreshments will be provided.

When? Thurs 23 April; 11am to 12 noon.

Where? St Helens Community Centre.

Anzac Bridge Anniversary: Alan Somerville

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Anzac Bridge as well as the centenary of WWI and the Anzac legend. Join Alan Somerville, sculptor, as we celebrate this Sydney icon and engineering marvel, as well as paying our respects to the

memory of the ANZACs who gave so much for this country.

When? Thurs 9 April, 6-7pm

Where? Glebe Library.

Miniature Art

Join us as we enter the tiny but talented world of miniature art. Members of The Australian Society of Miniature Art will introduce you to this art form, discussing their displayed works in a wide array of

media including etching, acrylics, paper sculpture, water colours and printmaking.

When? Thurs 14 May, 6-7pm

Where? Glebe Library

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 2 April at 7pm we will go to *Alfie & Hetty*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd,
- On Thursday 7 May at 7pm we will go to *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd,

- And on Thursday 4 June at 7pm we will go to *Jamvybz*, the Jamaican restaurant at 72 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email 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

Players in the Pub

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

Another Hollywood Evening with Nicholas Papademetriou

Monday 20 April at 7pm. Food orders from 5pm.

Free admission.

Future *Players in the Pub* dates for your diary: 18 May and 15 June.

Lyn Collingwood



For Your Calendar

Sun 29 March, 12 noon. Family-friendly Picnic. End of Cook St, above Blackwattle Bay.
 Thurs 2 April, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Alfie & Hetty*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wed 8 April, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 9 April, 6-7pm. *Anzac Bridge Anniversary – Alan Somerville*, Glebe Library.
 Sat 18 April, 10am -12 noon. Community planting day at Orphan School Creek organised by the City of Sydney.
 Mon 20 April, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.
 Thurs 23 April, 11am-12 noon. *Queenie: a snapshot of WWI by an Army Nurse*, St Helens Community Centre.
 Thurs 23 April, 2.30pm. *Anzac Centenary: Planting of Gallipoli Pine*, Foley Park.
 Sat 25 April, 7.30am. *Anzac Day Service*, Glebe War Memorial, Glebe Point Rd.
 Thurs 7 May, 6:30 pm. *Little Birds in a Big City*. Dr Holly Parsons, BirdLife Australia, Benledi.
 Thurs 7 May, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd.
 Mon 11 May. Historical tour of University of Sydney. Details in next *Bulletin*.
 Wed 13 May; 7pm; *Management Committee meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thurs 14 May, 6-7pm. *Miniature Art*, Glebe Library.
 Mon 18 May, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.
 Thurs 4 June, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Jamvybz*, the Jamaican restaurant at 72 Glebe Point Rd.
 Mon 15 June, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Roxbury Hotel.
 Wednesday mornings, from 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*, Jubilee Park, Sue Copeland: 9692 9161.

The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

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the
glebe society
HERITAGE • ENVIRONMENT • COMMUNITY

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; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



25 Boyce St Glebe. ca 1970. Statues and tiled steps in house built in 1887, (image: Bernard Smith Collection, City of Sydney Archives)