

A very enjoyable springtime afternoon at Rothwell Lodge!

A second and very successful 'Our House' event was held at Rothwell Lodge on 12 November 2017 on an afternoon of springtime sunshine. Around 65 members mingled in the lovely grounds and enjoy the beautiful historical home of Robert and Peter in Ferry Rd, Glebe.

Rothwell Lodge is one of the earliest surviving houses in Glebe and was built by George Allen for the Methodist minister, Rev William Binnington Boyce, who was appointed as general superintendent for Wesleyan Mission in Australia in 1846. Rev Boyce also conducted services at the Toxteth Chapel in the grounds of Toxteth Park. The Boyces and the Allens were related by marriage.



Rothwell Lodge, as seen from Ernest Pederson Reserve (image: Philip Vergison)

Rothwell Lodge is a two-storey house with loft rooms, where the ground floor was originally the kitchens and staff quarters but today is a separate dwelling. The middle floor and loft form the main residence. The home is adjoined to the south by a two-storey building, a former warehouse (c.1890) and more recently architect's office. It is about to be converted into a spacious two bedroom apartment with city views. Visitors on the day commented that this

warehouse was a feature of their visit -- being able to view the supporting brickwork and see the views from the upper floor.

Robert set up an extensive and excellent historical display of maps, articles, photos and interpretative details on Rothwell Lodge and the surrounding area, which was really appreciated by those who attended. This was in addition to the great stories Peter and Robert shared as we wandered around the warehouse space and gathered on the front lawn to hear more about the history of the house and what they have been doing to restore the home and gardens.

Everyone appreciated the generous hospitality of our hosts and had a fabulous day in so many ways – being able to view such a special home, great spring weather, Robert's special historical display and, of course, having such a pleasant social occasion with others from Glebe.

We look forward to members enjoying the 2018 'Our House' program!

Judy Vergison
Events Co-ordinator



Glebe Society President, Allan Hogan, thanks Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw for hosting 'Our House' (image: Philip Vergison)

Report on 'house history research' event

I've always wanted to use the expression 'a good time was had by all' when reporting on an event; and I think this would be an accurate description of 'How to Research Your House History Online', held at Glebe Town Hall on Saturday 4 November. A good number of Glebe Society members and a smattering of non-members – around 30 in all – were both entertained and enlightened by a series of short presentations from several of the Society's amateur 'house history' buffs.



Nance McNerney,
Siren of the Surf
(image;
[Trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au))

(https://www.glebesociety.org.au/?page_id=10873) – now in its 49th year – because it contains many articles about particular houses, one of which may be yours. Lyn also pointed out the wonders of the National Library of Australia's 'Trove' website (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>).

Rodney Hammett focussed his talk on the historical maps and plans available online that cover Glebe and surrounds. One delicious example is a set of 33 Surveyor General's Office maps of Glebe and Forest Lodge dating from 1883, now available at the NSW Department of Lands website (<https://goo.gl/e5uW73>). Another gem (at <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>) is the facility for viewing Glebe maps overlaid with 1943 aerial photographs; a great opportunity to reflect on your house/street/suburb during wartime.

After a break for morning tea prepared by Jude Paul and Jane Gatwood, Andrew Botros proved that the rather unpromising-sounding topic, 'NSW Land Title Searches'

(<http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/>), could in fact be totally fascinating. We followed Andrew's journey as he attempted to unearth the owner of an unnamed dunny lane at the rear of his Glebe Point Rd property.

Finally, we heard from Jude Paul who could barely contain her enthusiasm for sharing her experience with researching the occupants of houses on Darling St. One particularly interesting character is (then) local gal, Annie (Nance) McNerney (pictured left) of 21 Darling St. Nance participated in the 1911 'Sirens of the Surf' competition at the *Glaciarium* which, according to the 'Evening News', involved a 'series of young women in bathing costumes pos[ing] plastically on a revolving dais'. The Evening News' in-depth analysis of the results concluded that 'it was the solid type [of girl that] predominated, most of the competitors have well-developed contours.' Nance was the people's favourite, but withdrew from the final in mysterious circumstances. (Perhaps we will hear more about Nance's siren career in a future edition of the Bulletin ...).

Thanks to Allan Hogan for MC-ing the event and to Peter Crawshaw and Robert Hannan for bringing along their laminated over-sized map of Glebe.

In conclusion, 'a good time was had by all!'

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications



Glebe Society President, Allan Hogan, addresses participants at the 'How to Research Your House History Online' event at Glebe Town Hall on 4 November (image: Jason Weeks)

Reminder ... Twilight Christmas Gathering: 'Just a Taste'

Please join us at this special Christmas event:
Twilight Christmas Gathering- 'Just a Taste'.



You are welcome to invite your neighbours and friends to this special Glebe community Christmas event (a flyer is available if you want to more details or to send it on to others who aren't members: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017-xmas-flyer.pdf>).

We are pleased to have acceptances from a number of our local politicians and would love to see you there. Our theme is 'Just a Taste', where you will enjoy a delicious range of Indigenous food from 'Fred's Bush Tucker'

This is your opportunity to try mango curry crocodile with crushed macadamia baskets, Kakadu plum kangaroo tartlets, vegetarian frittata with warrigal greens ... and much more, you will also be offered:

- A selection of gourmet savoury finger food and sweet treats
- All served with bubbly, wines, beers and a non-alcoholic fruit punch
- While enjoying the music of Gumaroy (Roy Newman) an Indigenous entertainer, for the first hour

Where: Glebe Town Hall 160 St Johns Rd Glebe

When: Sunday 3 December 2017 (5.30-8.00 pm)

Cost: \$55 per person (please book asap to assist with catering arrangements)

How to book: (Bookings are essential and close on Thursday 30 November):

- You can book online via the Glebe Society website or click on the link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-gathering-just-ataste-tickets-39440838610>
- If you are not able to go online **and** don't have a manual booking form, please contact Judy 0417 446 425.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Virginia,

For those who may have missed it, the 26 September issue of the *Inner West Courier* quotes a survey which listed Glebe as the fourth most liveable suburb of Sydney; something of which we can all be proud.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Edwards

About Fred's Bush Tucker ...

Fred incorporates the fantastic flavours from native herbs and spices into his range of Indigenous inspired catering. He offers quality, authentic Australian Indigenous bush foods and culture. Fred provides sustainable foods which promote a healthy lifestyle as well as encouraging all to have 'Just a Taste' of what Indigenous food has to offer.

You may have enjoyed Fred's Bush Tucker at the Blak Markets at Bare Island, where he is regular. His catering service is recognised as a 'Supply Nation', endorsed by the Australian Government as the leading directory of Indigenous businesses.

Community Giving Tree

Your generosity would be appreciated in bringing unwrapped personal care item(s) for women and/or men, which will be used to make Christmas gift packs.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends and neighbours at this special Glebe Society Christmas event.

Judy Vergison
Events Coordinator



Try Fred's Bush Tucker at this year's Glebe Society Christmas Gathering at Glebe Town Hall on Sunday 3 December.



Planning Report, by Neil Macindoe

Amended Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 2017

This Act is an amendment of the original Act of 1979, which laid down the process for assessment of all developments in NSW. It is an improvement over the government's previous attempt to introduce a new Act, which was amended by the Upper House so drastically in 2014 that the Government did not proceed with it.

There were over 100 amendments proposed to this new revised Act, and none were accepted. The 17 changes proposed by the Better Planning Network did not succeed. For example, there is no mention of Climate Change in the Amended Act. The BPN comments:

On a more positive note, the Bill retains the definition of Ecologically Sustainable Development which we had originally fought for and introduces an important new Object around the design quality of the built environment. The Bill also requires planning authorities to prepare Community Participation Plans and allows court challenges of these Plans to proceed within 3 months of the Plan being published.

The BPN proposes an information session in the New Year, which I will attend.

Comment in the press has been varied. The *Herald* reports the Government Architect, Peter

Poulet, as welcoming the belated goals of good design, the promotion of built and cultural heritage, and the proper construction and maintenance of buildings. The *Herald* also reminds us of the concern of the Independent Commission Against Corruption at giving the planning secretary power to approve developments where different government agencies held conflicting views. It also notes the change from the Planning Assessment Commission to the Independent Planning Commission is mostly in the name. The Environmental Defenders Office notes that if a public hearing is held, there is no possibility of an appeal, which is a serious deficiency.

Response to Grenfell Tower fire

The Federal Government is still struggling with a response to the London fire that claimed so many lives. Meanwhile the State Government has promised to legislate to control the use of unsafe cladding, the cause of the Grenfell disaster. The Fair Trading Minister, Matt Kean, says about 1,000 buildings in NSW have unsafe cladding. The proposed legislation will identify unsafe materials, require their removal and ban their use, the Minister claims (*SMH* July 28). Private Certifiers who approved such materials would lose their licence.

Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning

Review of City of Sydney's Neighbourhood Parking Policy

City of Sydney is reviewing its 'Neighbourhood Parking Policy' and is seeking comments on its proposed changes which it says will 'increase parking permit options for residents and local businesses and help improve parking turnover in high-demand areas.' Specifically, the proposed changes would provide:

- tradespersons' parking permits for local residents and businesses
- more choice in the type of vehicle eligible for a business parking permit
- more visitor parking permits for most households and more flexible purchase options
- changes to recommended parking restrictions in some areas.

In addition, there would be an increase in the cost of permits to cover administration costs.

The draft Policy is open for comments until 12 January 2108 and can be viewed and commented on here: <http://www.sydneyyoursay.com.au/neighbourhood-parking-policy-review>.

Virginia Simpson-Young



History & Heritage

Glebe Society *Bulletins* – a great resource

The first general meeting of the Glebe Society was held on 19 June 1969. The first *Bulletin*, Vol. 1 No 1, was published in July 1969. Since then, *Bulletins* have appeared regularly, usually 10 each year.

Early *Bulletins* were produced using Roneo, 'cut and stick' and other primitive methods. Since 1993, various desktop programs have been used, giving a much more professional appearance. However the content throughout has been topical and relevant to the Society's members. It can also be of use to a much wider readership.

By clicking on 'previous *Bulletins*' on the Glebe Society website, you can access copies of almost every *Bulletin*. It was easy to upload those published since 1993, but the earlier issues are much more labour-intensive, and the work continues.

Recently our Webmaster, Andrew Botros, passed on an enquiry about Eileen Lacey. Julian Laffey, a distant cousin, had lost contact with Eileen; and I was able to provide some information. We had both been on the Glebe Society Committee in the 1980s.

Eileen was a Real Estate agent. She lived in a ground floor apartment in Avona Towers, Forsyth St, and was a 'cat lady'. She left Glebe suddenly in the 1980s and went to the Gold Coast in Queensland. I visited her there one afternoon in 1988 while I was on holiday nearby.

Unfortunately I later had a letter from a solicitor, in response to my Christmas card, saying that she had died. I was later told by another Real Estate agent in Glebe that she had gone to Queensland to die quietly of cancer.

Julian thanked me for my recollections of Eileen Lacey. She was a relative of his mother, but he wasn't sure what the connection was. Julian had met her a few times in the 80s – 'she was always so kind'.

If you have any other memories, you might like to send them to Julian (julianlaffey@gmail.com)

Edwina Doe

Bulletin Editor during the 1980s and 2000s



Eileen with Julian's family (Eileen on the left, Julian on the right). (image supplied by Julian Laffey)

Remembrance Day in Glebe 2017

This year the Glebe Society ceremony for Remembrance Day was held behind the Diggers' Memorial in the D.J. Foley Rest Park. The new venue was chosen to lessen the impact of traffic noise from Glebe Point Rd, and to allow participants to gather together in the shade.

The ceremony marked the centenary of a year that saw tragic losses by Australian troops fighting on the Western Front. In April and May of 1917 over 10,000 Australians were killed in the Battle of Bullecourt in France, which was described by the official historian Charles Bean as 'the battle more than any other, that shook the confidence of Australian soldiers in the capacity of the British command'.

Councillor Jess Scully representing the City of Sydney said in her opening remarks, 'Australia

was only 16 years old as a nation in 1917, and had fewer than five million residents, but in that year alone 22,000 Australians lost their lives in the war, while huge political and economic upheaval took place at home.'

Councillor Scully said, 'it can feel very distant for those of us whose families only arrived in Australia in the last few decades, or those who don't have a family connection to the brutal battles that shaped last century. We pass by these memorials in every village and town, sometimes not knowing what they're commemorating.'

In his remarks, the Society's President, Allan Hogan noted that over 200 men from Glebe and Forest Lodge had died in the War. He referred to the names on the interior wall of the Memorial,

and observed that many of them had died as teenagers. He said that a map showing the known addresses of the Glebe men who died showed that 'death had touched nearly every street in the community'. 'In a close community, as Glebe was back then, the grief is unimaginable'.

Referring to a serviceman who had lived within a few doors of his home in Boyce St, Allan discovered that he had been the organist and choirmaster at St John's. Reginald Morgan joined the 19th Australian Infantry Battalion and fought in France. He died at the age of 29 in November 1916 and was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry under heavy fire as a signaller. At his memorial service at St John's the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the choir had sung some of his favourite hymns.

Allan also referred to Private Robert Brown, who went to Forest Lodge Public School and died of wounds sustained during the Battle of Bullecourt at the age of 27. His citation for the Military Medal said 'Private Brown worked continuously for 24 hours carrying wounded through heavy fire and set a splendid example of courage and devotion to duty to the squad of stretcher bearers of whom he had charge.'

Allan said, 'they're just two of the stories that go with the names on the honour rolls, and you realise that like Reginald Morgan and Robert Brown every name is a story of sacrifice and loss, and of family tragedy that left its mark for generations.'

After the traditional period of silence to honour the sacrifice and courage of all Australians who had served in all the theatres of war, Glebe historian Max Solling spoke of how in 1919 the local community grappled with the proper way to remember their lost generation. (See the full text of Max's speech [here](https://www.glebesociety.org.au/?p=13382): <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/?p=13382>). He referred to the many European poets and novelists who questioned the nature of war, and its significance to Western culture.

Max Solling said, 'technological advances in weaponry made warfare an impersonal enterprise, and after the war the martial hero was fast disappearing from war writing abroad. But in Australia, Gallipoli elevated the Anzac to a supreme place in the pantheon of national heroes. Returned-soldier groups played important roles in constructing meanings of Gallipoli which filled a deeply-felt need for those Australians in an emergent nation who had

longed for the day when they could prove themselves in battle.'

'The Antipodean experience was unusual because so much post-war literature in France, Germany, the USA and Britain focused on the futility and senselessness of war. Back in Australia the returned servicemen's journal *Reveille* campaigned vigorously against this sort of literature spread by foreign writers. The war created a wealth of literary output from those who fought on its battlefields and a new breed of well-educated soldier who vividly chronicled their first-hand experience. The old epic assertiveness and inflated rhetoric was transformed by English poets into subjective lyric mode which registered war's impact on the private sensibility.'

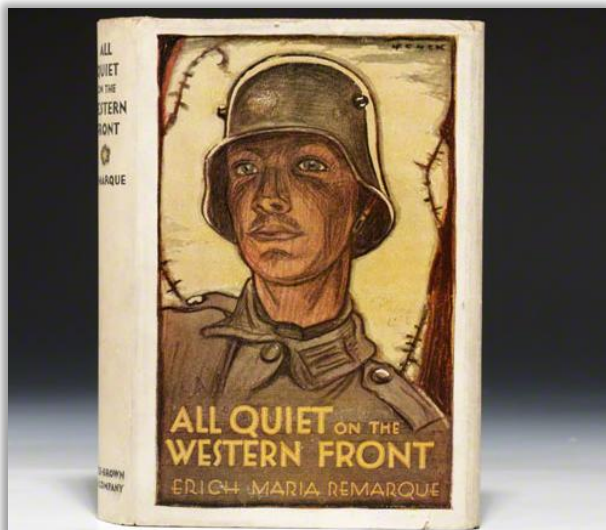


Australian Field Artillery using an 18-pounder gun during the fight for Bullecourt. (Source: Australian War Memorial)

'A few in Australia were independent enough to question the heroic creed; the first dissenters came from the ranks of non-combatant poets John Le Gay Brereton and Frank Wilmot, especially Brereton's attack on mindless chauvinism in *The Patriot*. A fusion of memoir, autobiography and fictionalised versions of both about the conflict flooded the international literary market.

'Erich Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* is among the most powerful. A story of a young German soldier conscripted at the age of 18, wounded several times, and living through the terror of the war and the alienation he feels at the prospect of returning home afterward. We see the daily routine of soldiers who seem to have no past or futures apart from life in the trenches, and Remarque demonstrates through the character of Paul Baumer, the protagonist and narrator of the novel, how war had obliterated almost an entire generation of men. He presented surrealistic images of halves of human bodies impaled on trees, of dismembered

limbs scattered around emplacements, of the uncanny company of the dead in the trenches. A feature of the narrative is its laconic understatement, expressed in a cool, terse style, recording a world where daily thousands were mowed down by machine guns.'



'Remarque fell under attack by the National Socialists in Germany who were appalled that he had failed to glorify German militarism. He joined the mass exodus of artists and intellectuals who were repressed and persecuted by the Nazis in 1933 when his book was consigned to be publicly burnt, and in 1938 he lost his German citizenship. In both novel and film form his ideas continued to cause great consternation and anger to oppressive governments and kept in the public eye the tremendous sacrifice, death, horror and destruction caused by war.'

'There were active campaigns to suppress modernist sensibilities born of war, and there was a climate antagonistic to alternative views. For example in the interwar years *All Quiet on the Western Front* was banned from sale in Australia.'

'Henri Barbusse, already an established novelist, voluntarily enlisted in the French Army in 1914 at 41 years of age. The real war hit him in the first week of 1915. Wounded in action, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre for bravery but

became thoroughly disillusioned with the reality of life in the trenches. He turned his painful experiences into a searing realist novel, *Le Feu* (Under Fire), first published in serial form in 1916 and based on three months of combat. It follows the fortune of a battalion of ordinary men thrown together from all over France. A narrator lets the experiences and thoughts of his comrades take centre stage. "What a life. Mud, earth, rain. We are saturated, dyed, kneaded. One finds dirt everywhere, in pockets, in handkerchiefs, in clothes, in food. It is a haunting memory, a nightmare of earth and mud, and you have no idea what a weird-looking fellow I am. My gun has the air of being sculpted in clay".'

'The novel proved that one could protest about 'the gigantic useless slaughter' in the form other than poetry. Siegfried Sassoon, deeply stimulated by *Under Fire*, was encouraged to find that, at last, 'Someone was really revealing the truth about the Front Line'. A lifelong friend of Albert Einstein, Barbusse moved to Moscow in 1918 where he died on 30 August 1935, aged 62 years.'

At the conclusion of Max's speech, participants moved to the front of the Memorial where Councillor Scully and Allan Hogan laid wreaths presented by the City Council and the Glebe Society.

Former President of the Glebe Society, Ted McKeown, recited the traditional ode taken from the fourth stanza of the poem *For the Fallen* written in 1914 by the British poet Laurence Binyon.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left
grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years
condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the
morning
We will remember them.*

The Heritage Subcommittee

Who lived in your street? by Lyn Collingwood. Arabella Zarah Parr (1888-1925)

'Belle' Parr was the victim of a murder-suicide shooting. During the First World War she lived with her husband William, a postal worker, at *Ayr House* a slate-roofed building he jointly owned at 255 Glebe Point Rd on the corner of Marlborough St (earlier known as Glebe Lane).

The couple separated after quarrelling over Arabella's accepting business advice from a

married man, Alfred Thomas Anderson, rather than her husband. William Parr went to live at Tamworth and Arabella set up a small dairy at Ryde but then announced she would be sharing her house with another dairy farmer, Ebenezer George Hicks, and amalgamating their businesses. On 11 October 1925 Frank Curtis, an 11-year-old milking 'useful' who lived on the

premises, discovered her body and that of Anderson, his apparent motive being personal and business jealousy. A coronial inquest brought down a verdict of murder and suicide and Arabella was buried in the Church of England section of the Field of Mars cemetery at Ryde. (The Labor Council subsequently took an interest in Frank as an under-age employee, and William Parr remarried.)



255 Glebe Point Rd. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)

Arabella Zarah Keightley (also known as Arabel) was born on 28 March 1888 at Walcha NSW to Maria Isabella Levingston (1867-1955) and stockman/boundary rider/bullock driver John Edward Keightley (1868-1948) who married in 1891 before Keightley, already in trouble with the law for drunkenness, started a prison sentence for horse stealing. During his time in jail the first of their other eight children was born. In 1895 he was discharged on suspicion of arson. A big tall man who claimed he could lift a horse by its hind legs, John Keightley in later life was nicknamed 'The Crane' as a hefty labourer for Australian Iron and Steel. His in-laws, the Levingstons, were Walcha pioneers.

At Canterbury in 1910 Arabella married William Coleman Parr (1891-1961). His father William, a clerk, had died aged 45 on 14 July 1907, and his mother Evelyn Amelia (youngest daughter of prosperous Glebe ironmonger Philip Coleman Williams whose story was told in the March 2010 *Bulletin*) had died aged 43 on 7 December 1908. Executor of Evelyn's will was her brother-in-law Morden Alfred Pennington (who inherited the Parrs' land at Ryde). Probate was granted in 1909 and Evelyn's piano and walnut and cedar furniture disposed of. The orphaned William Coleman Parr and his sisters Adeline Agatha Calladine and Anne Fillingham Boyce inherited *Ayr House* and 2 Marlborough St on the same title (measuring 7½ perches). In 1926 the real

estate passed to their aunt Rose Millicent Williams who sold up the next year.

Advertised as investment properties, with office space and handy to the tram, they were bought by builder Leslie Harold Brigg who ran 255 Glebe Point Rd as a boarding house, and rented 2 Marlborough St to tenants including labourer Albert Victor Carlaw and George Pawley.

In 1956 Brigg subdivided and sold the buildings on separate titles. Subsequent owners of the big house included crane driver Albert Douglas and schoolteacher Valerie Nada Gordon. From 1982-91 medical consulting rooms operated there. The Marlborough St house was owned by the family of stereotyper Rupert James Souter from 1956-74.

Ayr House (six rooms plus bath, kitchen and basement) was built c. 1876 probably by William James Jones a painter and glazier who moved there from Norton St with his younger brother bricklayer Richard, widowed mother Mary Ann and Catherine Jones, a dressmaker. William James Jones snr was a carpenter and joiner who had died aged 47 on 11 March 1860 when the family home was in Greek St. Three years before his own death he had witnessed the death of a fellow worker who stepped backwards off a plank at the top of a new city building 30 ft above the ground.

Circa 1882 the Jones family moved into *Marlborough House* 2 Marlborough St (iron-roofed, four rooms plus kitchen) and rented out *Ayr House* whose tenants included Peter Richard Royall (a carpenter who had been declared bankrupt in 1858) and Ernest Charles Davies (a mining broker who had been declared bankrupt as a sugar planter in 1873 and as a storekeeper in 1882. Davies later successfully sued for libel a man who questioned his business credentials).

In 1887 Michael Levy and Rosetta née Phillips moved into *Ayr House* where their baby grandson Oswald Gervin Elliott Levy died in October 1888. London-born businessman Michael Levy had migrated in 1857 to Sydney with his brother Harry, and set up as a commercial traveller with a four-horse wagonette working its way up Parramatta Rd. By the time of the 1901 census Evelyn and William Parr were living in *Ayr House* and the Levys had moved to 2 Mansfield St.

In the 1880s and '90s, probably because of the amount of building rubble lying around, Marlborough St seems to have been a favourite place for young locals to gather and muck about.

Lennox Nesbitt, a teenage plumber of Darling St, was fined for throwing stones and members of the extended Dummett family, of Darling and Talford Sts and Glebe Rd, were charged with riotous behaviour.



No. 2 Marlborough St today. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)

Marlborough St was the scene of a major fracas on New Year's Eve 1894 when a crowd of 300 lit their customary bonfire on a vacant block. On

the excuse that there was an economic depression but probably for some other reason, lighting such fires had been declared illegal. The two Glebe constables who intervened were beaten up and pelted with blue metal and stones, requiring hospital treatment. Lennox Nesbitt was among those arrested, but an appeal judge said bonfires were an innocent amusement in contrast to 'the fashionable pastime of pulling down signboards and taking doors off their hinges' and that the police should not have interfered.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian

Sources: *Daily Telegraph* 18.4.1894; Familypedia-wikia: Arabel Zarah Keightley; geni.com website; *Hebrew Standard of Australasia* 16.9.1910, 5.4.1918; *Maitland Weekly Mercury* 20.4.1918; NSW births, deaths, marriages registry; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Land & Property Information website; *Police Gazette* 17.2.1926; *Sands Directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 29.10.1888; 12.10.1925, 29.6.1927; *Sydney Sun* 12.10.1925; Trove website.

Mystery photos

October's mystery photo is 28 Forsyth St with its distinctive Juliet balcony and rooftop viewing area. It operated as a general store from its erection c.1885 until the late 1970s.



October's mystery photo: 28 Forsyth St. (image: ArchivePix)

It was first occupied by Charles William Stallwood who moved there from further down the street and set up business selling fruit and other items including postage stamps. Charles was killed in 1896 when his cart collided with a tram on Parramatta Rd. Other members of the Stallwood family, including his sister

Agnes Eliza Hill, continued running the shop until 1913, followed by Henry Robert and his wife Edith Harriet Mills.

When this photo was taken c.1974 the shopkeeper was Eliza Penson whose husband

William Thomas was a tugboat master, son of an employee of the Balmain New Ferry Company.

This month's mystery photo is below. The building illustrated in this 1920s advertisement is still standing. Where is it?

Email your suggestions to heritage@glebesociety.org.au

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THE BEAUTIFUL LATTICE BEDROOM SUITE

This Suite represents the utmost that can possibly be offered for its price to modern tastes. Expertly designed and faithfully built, the LATTICE SUITE is made in best selected oak and Walnut Maple.

Includes in a roomy SET, WARDROBE, with two mirrored doors, ample hanging space, and a large DRESSING TABLE, with large oval mirror, 4 drawers and 2 cupboards. PRICED AT £36.10.0.

PRICE COMPLETE: £36.10.0

LATTICE BEDSTEAD, to match, £7.15.0 (with Matt. and Bedding)

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Wentworth Park – Plus ça Change...

by Sybil Jack

With changes afoot in Blackwattle Bay as part of UrbanGrowth's Bays Precinct redevelopment, the title of Sybil Jack's piece is apt. Sybil's selection of newspaper extracts on the

reclamation of Blackwattle Swamp during the 1870s shows community concern about alienation of public land and a push to retain land for recreational purposes. Blackwattle Swamp

was filled in between 1876 and 1880, after the passing of the 'Blackwattle Swamp Land Reclamation Act' in 1873. While some wished to retain the land for public use, parliamentarians tasked with guarding the colonial coffers sought to recoup reclamation costs by selling reclaimed land. Wentworth Park was established on the site in 1880. Below are the extracts chosen by Sybil Jack – *Plus ça Change!* – Editor

The Evening News, 28 November: report on meeting of the Sydney City Council

The Town Clerk read a communication from Mr. James Hart, M.L.A., drawing attention to the provisions of the bill introduced by the Government for the reclamation of Blackwattle Bay. The bill provided that the land reclaimed should be sold by the Government for the erection of shops, warehouses, dwelling-houses and other tenements; and Mr Hart suggested that the worshipful body of councillors would bring their influence to bear upon the Government so as to get the land dedicated to the public for recreation, there being no reserve of that character in the vicinity. Alderman Woods announced that he intended to move in this matter at the first fitting opportunity. There was scarcely a bit of land available for recreation in that ward. The letter was referred to the improvement committee.

The Evening News, December 1871: report on the Legislative Assembly

The Blackwattle Bay Land Reclamation Bill, on the resumption of the adjourned debate on Mr. Wilson's motion, was read a second time. ... Mr. Farnell wished to know what the Government intended to do with this land when reclaimed. Mr. Wilson said the Government had not come to a conclusion as to what should be done with the land. The present object to improve the sanitary condition of the city. Mr. Farnell said it would be better to reserve some of the land for recreation. Mr. Lucas said it would cost a good deal to reclaim this land. And the Government ought to sell as much as would reimburse the Treasury. What remained might be reserved for public recreation.

The Evening News, 23 August 1876: News of the Day

For some time past the Government have reclaimed the head of the Blackwattle Swamp down to the embankment made by the Pyrmont Bridge Company, well-known as the half-penny bridge. The work has been actively carried out by gangs of labourers, and what has in many sanitary reports been termed a 'dismal swamp', is now a level block of land much larger than

Belmore Park. On Monday night, in pursuance of an influential requisition, the Mayor of the Glebe (the Hon G. W. Allen); convened a public meeting of the inhabitants at the Glebe Council Chambers, for the purpose of petitioning the Government to set apart and dedicate the reclaimed land as a public park or recreation ground. The Mayor, who presided, explained that in the Act authorising the reclamation of the land there was a clause providing for the reservation of at least one-fourth of the land as a public recreation ground. As the land was totally unfit for the erection of habitable buildings, it is thought that the best thing that the Government could do is to make the land a park for the use of the populous neighbourhood around it, which had no public reserve for recreation. Alderman G. A. Mansfield then moved the first resolution, 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is highly important in the sanitary interest of the City of Sydney and the borough of the Glebe, that the whole of the space reclaimed at Blackwattle Swamp be reserved as a public park or recreation ground'. He contended that to establish a population on the reclaimed land would create a perfect focus of fever and pestilence, but to make it a park would make the locality more healthy and salubrious.

The Evening News, 23 November 1876: News of the Day

The Mayor and Aldermen of the Sydney Municipal Council have got the municipality into a serious difficulty in connection with the Blackwattle Swamp sewer. About twelve months ago, Messrs. Allen, Macafee, and others induced the Attorney-General to file an information in the Equity Court, calling on the Corporation to abate the noxious gases and smells (which are prejudicial to the health of the residents of the Glebe and Pyrmont) arising from the Blackwattle swamp. On the 8th of October, last year, Mr. Justice Hargrave granted an injunction order to compel the Corporation to abate the nuisance by stopping the flow of sewage matter, &c, to down the swamp unless it was deodorised so as not to cause a nuisance. An affidavit made by Mr. G. A. Mansfield, was read by Mr. Owen in opposition. Mr. Mansfield alleged that the defendants had only performed a small part of the work which could easily have been done in six weeks, and that the sewage still flowed across the reclaimed ground at the Glebe side of the swamp just as when the suit was instituted. His honor, in delivering judgment, said the Corporation had done next to nothing, and neglected their eight months work: Therefore they were clearly in contempt.



Edith Blacket's 1864 sketch of the bridge and causeway over Blackwattle Swamp. (image: Max Solling's *Grandeur and Grit*, p.79.)

The Evening News 1 February 1877: News of the Day

It is notified for public information in the Gazette that his Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the undermentioned gentlemen as trustees of the fourth part of the land of Blackwattle Bay, to be dedicated under the

'Blackwattle Bay and Reclamation Act of 1873'. for a park or place for public recreation, viz: The Mayor of Sydney, for the time being; the Mayor of the Glebe for the time being; and the Director of the Botanic Gardens.

The Evening News 17 July 1877

A deputation from the Health Society of New South Wales ... waited upon the Minister for Lands yesterday morning in pursuance of a resolution passed by the society to urge upon the Government the desirability of vesting Blackwattle Swamp in trustees who should make a public recreation ground of it. ... The necessity of having the land reserved and dedicated as a public recreation ground was urged upon the Minister in view of the public health.

Sybil Jack

Sources: Max Solling, *Grandeur & Grit: History of Glebe*, 2007.; Trove.nla.gov.au

Wentworth Park Speedway

From 1928 until 1936, Wentworth Park was used as a speedway and was known as Wentworth Speedway. The first racing took place on 21 April 1928 and continued until 28 November 1936.

Motorcycle speedway was the first category to use the venue, with competitors including future Speedway World Champions Lionel Van Praag and Bluey Wilkinson. Wentworth Park was the

site of Sydney's first ever Speedcar race on 5 October 1935.

The final speedway meeting was to have taken place on 5 December 1936, but track damage and noise complaints saw the meeting cancelled. (Source: Wikipedia)

Philip Vergison



These two photos were on show at the Historic display, Wentworth Park, Glebe: 16 October 2011. The dates were not recorded.

Community Matters



Annual Gift Appeal

Please support our annual appeal for gifts for children resident in Glebe in supported accommodation. This year the

number includes boys aged 3 months, 5 months, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years and 10 years while the girls are aged a newborn, 2 years, 7 years, 12 years and 13 years. We have been

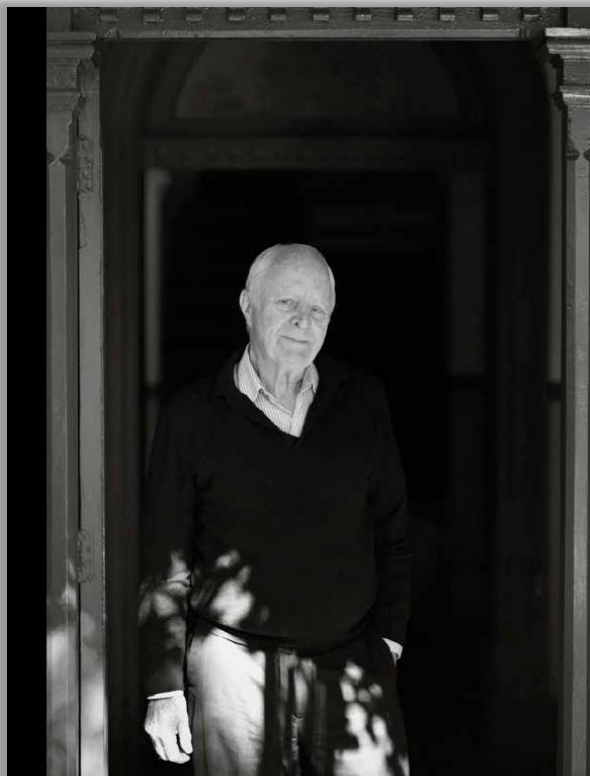
specifically requested not to wrap gifts as they must be checked by management who will then wrap them.

I intend to deliver these gifts on 21 December. Please call or text me on 0401 505 657 and I will collect them from your home at an agreed time; or drop them off at my place, 160 Glebe Point Rd but please phone first to ensure I am home to receive them; or email me at

community@glebesociety.org.au for other collection arrangements.

Thank you for your support of this Glebe Society caring community initiative.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development



A tribute to Roelof Smilde

Free-thinker, egalitarian,
punter, bridge champion, Dad

Every now and then life throws up a person who makes a big difference, without being a big-wig. Roelof was one such person.

To celebrate his life we will be holding a celebration and memorial in Foley Park on Saturday 16 December at 2pm.

Roelof loved a gathering and a party and we hope everyone who appreciated him can attend.

Vitamin C and Listerine will be available for believers.
BYO picnic.

Foley Park, corner of Bridge and Glebe Point Roads, Glebe
Saturday 16 December at 2pm.

Update on the Glebe Sesquicentenary Time Capsule, by Jan Wilson

On 24 October 2017, a small plaque was installed at the base of the Glebe Jubilee fountain which stands on the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Broadway. The plaque was installed to mark the date and location of a time capsule buried in 2009.

On Sunday 2 August 2009, residents of Glebe gathered to celebrate 150 years of Glebe's history. The concept of a time capsule was the initiative of Glebe residents and was supported by City of Sydney. The event involved the ceremonial burial of a time capsule at the base of the fountain in Jubilee Place. Robyn Kemmis was the MC and Clover Moore, Lord Mayor, gave the address and acknowledgement of Glebe.

The following information is engraved on the time capsule:

Celebration of the Sesquicentenary of Glebe as a Municipality

On this day, Sunday 2nd August 2009, this time capsule was buried here in Glebe Place, in a ceremony carried out by Clover Moore MP, Lord Mayor of Sydney.

To celebrate the richness of life in Glebe, items have been collected for inclusion, that reflect the intrinsic qualities and character of the Glebe community, with the idea of communicating life at that time with Glebe residents in 2109.

The time capsule is to be exhumed in 2109.

Creative & Connected

Thirsty Thursdays



Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month, to eat

and talk with other people who live in Glebe.

We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table. Suggestions and recommendation for restaurants to visit in 2018 are welcome.

Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 7 December at 7pm we will go to *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 4 January at 7pm we will go to *Otto Noorba* Mediterranean restaurant, 79 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 1 February at 7pm we will go to the *Green Mushroom* Indian Vegetarian restaurant at 163 Glebe Point Rd.

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

Edwina Doe

Glebe Artisans Christmas Market



Don't miss our last market for 2017 at Foley Park, corner Glebe Point Rd and Bridge Rd, which is taking place on Saturday 16 December 10am to 3pm. Fifty-five stallholders will have their original works for sale. They include

interesting ceramics, fashion, clothing, blankets and throws, knitted and wooden toys for babies

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wrens Subcommittee

Under the leadership of Judy Christie, eleven keen birdwatchers gathered at 6.45am on Sunday 8 October in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St, to commence Glebe's fifth annual spring bird survey. Over the next hour, seven of our local parks and reserves were surveyed. The total number of birds recorded was 329 and 25 species were seen; the numbers were similar to last year's survey. The most common bird was

and children, amazing jewellery, funky plants and handmade useful wooden household objects – and of course candles and soap! All items are unique and lovingly made by local designers and artists and make wonderful gifts.

Full details of the stalls will be on our website a week before the market at

www.glebeartisansmarket.org.au

Next Players in the Pub

Wednesday 20 December 2017 @ 7pm

Another Hollywood Evening With Nicholas Papademetriou

A feel-good movie classic for Christmas

Upstairs Toxteth Hotel Ferry Rd/Glebe Point Rd Glebe (entry via Ferry Rd stairs)



Free admission. The kitchen is open from 5pm. Please order your food early. We always start on time!

Lyn Collingwood

Wanted: manager for Glebe Artisans Market

Glebe Artisans Market Inc. is looking for a Market Manager to organise our quarterly market at Foley Park. It is about 40 hours (paid) work every 3 months.

Please email glebeartisansmarket@gmail.com for full details.

Fiona Verge



saltmarsh soon finds a mate (maybe in Wentworth Park). The recent complete destruction of small bird habitat at the Rozelle Rail yards may result in some sightings of Superb Fairy-Wrens in Glebe – one has already been reported from Annandale but we continue to be pessimistic about the chances of Wrens returning to Glebe on a permanent basis.

On Tuesday 10 October, three members of the Subcommittee met in the Bicentennial Park with Rae Broadfoot, Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator, City of Sydney. We gave an update of the group's activities including the work of our suburbs bushcare/landcare volunteers. The City continues to investigate the provision of personal accident insurance for the volunteers. In the future the City will be asking its park maintenance contractors to provide volunteers with advice and training about bush regeneration and will coordinate the activities of the groups with the provision of fencing, placement of coir logs, herbicide usage, etc. We again asked Rae that the City install taps in Palmerston Avenue Park so that recent and future native plantings can be watered.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens



The most common bird sighted in Glebe's fifth annual spring bird survey, the rainbow lorikeet. This one is photographed not in Glebe but in nearby Stanmore (image: JAM Project)

Editor's final word for 2017



This is the last Glebe Society *Bulletin* for 2017. Our next *Bulletin* will be published on 1 March 2018. The copy deadline is 21 February 2018.

As 2017 comes to a close, I want to thank all those who contribute to bringing the *Bulletin* to our members.

Thank you to our trusty proofreaders, Edwina Doe and Martin Lawrence.

Thank you also to the *Bulletin* distribution team headed up by Phil Young who recently replaced Edwina Doe in this role. The team collects the *Bulletins* from the printers, labels them and posts and/or delivers them by hand. Thanks to Bruce Davis, Jan Macindoe, Jeanette Knox, Edwina

Doe, Alison McKeown, Jude Paul, Jane Gatwood and Bryan Herden.

The heroic Peter Thorogood painstakingly uploads individual *Bulletin* items each month to the Glebe Society website – we really appreciate his willingness to do this rather thankless task.

And to our printer: Hugh Drewitz and the guys 'n' gals at Unik Printing. They have been doing a sterling job of printing the *Bulletin* for many years now – and at a great price!

And last, but by no means least, thank you to all those members who contribute content for the *Bulletin*. I rarely need to ask – a most fortunate position for an editor to be in!

Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Bulletin Editor

On 11 December 1803, a notice was published in the *Sydney Gazette* (p.4) about Blackwattle Swamp – now Wentworth Park: *ALL Persons are hereby strictly required not to permit their DOGS to run on or about the Blackwattle Swamp, a Stag being at this time at large thereabouts, which by accident escaped a few days ago from the Inclosure of J. HARRIS, Esq. Dogs seen on or about the said Swamp after this Notice will be shot, and the Owners prosecuted in case of damage.*

For your calendar

Saturday 2 December, 10am. *Cats and Wildlife in the City*, Glebe Town Hall.

Sunday 3 December, 5.30-8pm. *Christmas Party*, Glebe Town Hall.

Thursday 7 December, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday @ Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.

Saturday 9 December, 7pm. *Vicki Pogulis' Retirement Party*, 16 Eveleigh St, Redfern.

Saturday 16 December 10am to 3pm. *Glebe Artisans Christmas Market*. Foley Park.

Saturday 16 December, 2pm. *A tribute to Roelof Smilde*, Foley Park.

Wednesday 20 December, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Toxteth Hotel.

2018

Thursday 4 January, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday @ Otto Noorba Mediterranean restaurant*, 79 Glebe Point Rd.

Thursday 1 February, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday @ Green Mushroom Indian Vegetarian restaurant* at 163 Glebe Point Rd.

Recurring

Wednesday mornings from 8.30am. Glebe Bushcare Group, near Jubilee Park. Contact Sue – 9692 9161.

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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Chief Twit	Allan Hogan	0411 607 813	twitter@glebesociety.org.au

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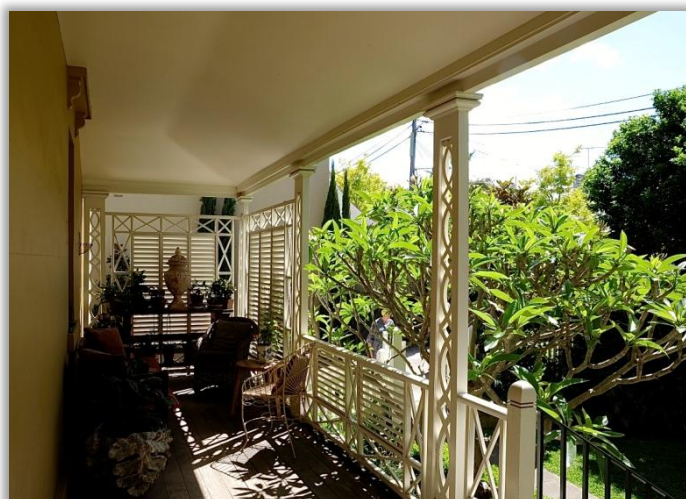
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Membership of the Glebe Society

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

How to join

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



One of the verandahs of Rothwell Lodge (Image: Philip Vergison)