

# Glebe

# Society Bulletin

4/2008 May/June

## Glebe wins the GUP Cup!

The night before, I was convinced nobody would come. The weather forecast was rotten; nobody in their right mind would come to Wentworth Park in freezing cold with a howling gale sending rain showers scudding across the park.

Well it appears that someone in the Blackwattle Cove Coalition has connections in a higher place. Sunday dawned bright and amazingly stayed that way all day. And people did come: a relatively scientific calculation suggests that about 2000 people came to the Wentworth Park Community Games. There were little kids and teenagers, and young parents and grandparents, and dogs – big dogs and little dogs, fluffy dogs and smooth-haired dogs, dogs of every colour, shape and size imaginable.

And everyone had a good time. They threw coits and *boules*, and even gumboots I'm told. They ran in a mini-marathon and carrying wine-glasses. Little kids kicked soccer balls and bigger kids celebrated 100 years of rugby league. The dogs ran – not always where they were supposed to run, or with the application their owners had hoped for – but much to the entertainment of the crowd.

In the bistro under the grandstand people browsed through a comprehensive collection of historic photographs of Glebe, Forest Lodge, Pyrmont and Ultimo, and listened to talks by Shirley Fitzgerald and Max Solling.

Continued on next page ...



Anne Fraser (left) was not sure who should accept the GUP Cup—actually one red and one blue gumboot—on behalf of Glebe/Forest Lodge. President Jan Macindoe stepped up to the plate, while Bill d'Anthes holds the trophy aloft and Sue Ingram looks on.

There is a sort of explanation for the gumboots—something to do with the swamp that existed before the land was reclaimed and the park built. And for an explanation of “GUP” turn to page 2. Photo: Bruce Davis

## Our built heritage – *How safe is it?*

Places are still available for the presentation by John Poulton, City of Sydney heritage specialist, on Wednesday 4 June, 6pm – 7.30pm, to be held at the **Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator building**, at the bottom of Forsyth Street.

John will give an illustrated talk, covering:

- what safeguards are in place for heritage items;
- what threats may exist; and
- what we need to do as a community to ensure that the heritage qualities of Glebe and Forest Lodge are not lost.

To book your place, contact Jan Macindoe (9660 0208 or email [president@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:president@glebesociety.org.au)) or Liz Simpson-Booker (9518 6186, email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au)). Advance bookings are necessary for catering purposes, but the cost, \$10 per person, can be paid at the door. Seating is limited to about 40, so be quick!

For more views on the threats facing our heritage buildings, see the item on Heritage Amendment Bills, and an extract from a *Sydney Morning Herald* article “Historic houses at risk of quick demolition” on **page 3**.

## And now for the eastern wall

By the time you read this the \$1 million project to improve the eastern frontage of Wentworth Park should be one step closer to reality. City Council officers have recommended to the Finance and Properties Committee meeting on Tuesday (26 May) that Council agree to the recommendations of a feasibility study conducted last year. The study recommends:

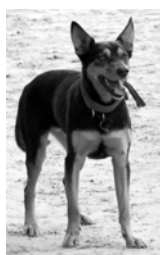
- widening pedestrian access along Wattle Street;
- removing existing boundary walls along Wattle Street and replacing with new fencing; and
- improving views and connection within the park and the Complex by opening the park viaducts.

This would complement the work already done by the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust on the western (Glebe) side of the park. Council funding would be dependent on equal funding from the Trust.

Continued from previous page ...

Outside they munched on Turkish thingamies and sipped a coffee or a glass of wine. If it all got too much there were plenty of seats in the grandstand. If you looked closely there was even a VIP or two in the crowd.

By all counts it appears that the Community Games were a success. Many of the people who came had never been inside the central part of the park, and the fact that so many people participated suggests we have succeeded in raising the profile of the park with both residents and local and State government.



- **Bruce Davis for BCC** (Anne Fraser, without whom the Games would not have been possible, is taking a well-earned holiday.)



## Having fun!

**Left:** Colin Stokes urges on the tug-o'-war.

**Below left:** Meet the police horse.

**Below:** Run Fido, run!

Photos: Bruce Davis



## "A community effort"

The Community Games were "a great exercise in united community effort", Cr Robyn Kemmis, said in her opening address.

"This day is a joint venture to celebrate the uniting function of the park. The games has been a joint effort of people from each of [the surrounding] suburbs and it also has been fully supported by the greyhound and Sporting Trust organisations.

"We tend to bandy the word 'community' about quite a bit. But it takes work, thought and planning to build successful communities, with a distinctive ethos and a real pride in its area...

"I also want to take this opportunity to salute Anne Fraser and all the members of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition who've worked so hard to put together this fantastic celebration."

## What next for BCC?

While Wentworth Park won't drop off the radar, the Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC) will need to focus on other developments in the months ahead. The futures of the Blackwattle Bay wharves, the Fish Market and Bank Street are all uncertain.

BCC is unlikely to take on the task of organising another Community Games in the foreseeable future. Maybe, given the undoubted popularity of this year's event, some other group may pick up the baton?

The joint announcement by the State government and the City Council of a major low-cost housing development opposite the southern end of the park reinforces the need to continue upgrading this major open space.

The upgrade of the eastern frontage looks like going ahead (see story this page), so now we can turn our efforts to the remaining walls and other improvements. Cr Kemmis is on-side and our local Member, Verity Firth, seems well-disposed. Wouldn't it be nice if she could persuade the State government to kick the can?

And now the "vision thing" is back in style, how about linking the park to Blackwattle Bay?

- **Bruce Davis, for BCC**

The "GUP Cup" was awarded to Glebe because it amassed the greatest number of points over all sporting contests. It was named by Ken Saunders of the Harris Centre, Ultimo. GUP stands for "Glebe, Ultimo, Pyrmont" (apparently Ken has been no further west than Ross Street). As is apparent from its appearance, the name came before the design!

# Planning Matters

## Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

At the time of writing the amendments to this Act, which are widely opposed by resident groups, including the Society, and by local government, including the City Council, are being debated in the lower House (Legislative Assembly) where the Government has control. They must then proceed to the Upper House (Legislative Council) where the Government does not have a majority. In the April *Bulletin* is a list of upper House members whose vote would be crucial if, as seems likely, the Opposition does not support the Bill but votes for a public enquiry. While not a perfect solution, an enquiry would give the public a better chance to influence the legislation.

If you have not yet emailed or written to the list of MLCs we strongly suggest you do so now. So far at least one person on that list has indicated he will oppose the Bill. Also, if you have contact with any other MLCs now is the time to ask them to oppose the changes. The Society will also write to other MLCs if you let us know they are wavering.

## Heritage amendment Bills

### 1. Heritage Council

As well as amendments to the EPA Act the State Government is also proposing changes to the Heritage Act. These changes centralise decision-making with the Minister for Planning and give him the power to override recommendations. They also give him sole power to choose members of the Heritage Council and other panels, which will lose their independent status and become absorbed by the Department of Planning.

The National Trust says in its media release:

"The success of the original Heritage Act (1977) was in providing a transparent, accountable and fair process for the management of heritage for the benefit of the community. The proposed changes open up new avenues to contest heritage protections, reinforcing the erroneous view that the existing system is an impediment to development."

### 2. Heritage listing

The amendments will also have the effect of making it more difficult to have a building heritage listed, and to maintain its listed status over time. And without heritage listing, a building could be quickly demolished, as reported in an article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 22 May. An extract from the article appears below.

Please email:

**Verity Firth**

[balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Frank Sartor**

[office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au)

**Morris Iemma**

[thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au)

opposing the changes to the Act.

---

### "Historic houses at risk of quick demolition"

*The following are extracts from an article by the Sydney Morning Herald's Urban Affairs Reporter, Sunanda Creagh, published on 22 May.*

Your favourite old building could be here today, gone tomorrow under proposed planning laws that heritage experts warn will leave hundreds of historic houses vulnerable to overnight demolition.

Under the changes, property owners will no longer have to apply for council permission to demolish if the doomed building is not heritage listed or in a heritage conservation area.

The building they plan to construct in its place must also comply with a new

strict set of rules called a housing code for exempt and complying development.

Instead of applying for a development application before the wrecking ball can swing, a developer will now be able to get a private certifier - an overseer who is paid by the developer - to 'sign off' on the demolition, without notifying neighbours or the council.

While heritage-listed buildings and those in heritage conservation areas will be safe, the National Trust has warned that hundreds of historically significant buildings are not on any list and will be endangered by the proposed change.

"There are many buildings that can slip through the net," the Trust's conservation director, Graham Quint, said.

"Under the old rules, the community would be notified if a building was to be demolished and the public, through their elected representatives on council, could say, 'Don't you realise this is the oldest surviving building of its kind in southern Sydney?' and the council could stop it."

Under the proposed laws, Mr Quint said, "The certifier can tick a box and the first thing you will know is the building you always thought was protected - the most wonderful building in your suburb - might be demolished."

Just because a building was not heritage listed did not mean it would not be valued in the future, he said...

...The president of the Local Government Association, Genia McCaffery, said, "Even for buildings that are currently being considered for heritage listing, owners will be allowed to knock them down without a proper notification process."

"You have to question why the Government is doing this. Has this come as a request from the development industry?"...

More *Planning Matters* next page

# Govt. taskforce to advise on development of our bays

The Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, has confirmed that the Government has established a taskforce to advise on the range of development scenarios for the 'Bays Precinct' (including Glebe Island, White Bay including the disused power station, Rozelle Bay and Blackwattle Bay).

The taskforce comprises the Coordinator General (chair), Department of Planning, SHFA, Sydney Ports Corporation, NSW Maritime, Ministry of Transport and NSW Treasury.

The terms of reference require the Taskforce to monitor and develop land-use scenarios for the precinct, ensure transport infrastructure responds to the future requirement of the area, and report to Government.

A community and stakeholder reference group is being established. Key landowners and community groups will be represented. The exact makeup of the representation on the reference group is being finalised, with the aim to meet shortly after the current sitting of Parliament.

Verity Firth, as Member for Balmain, has recommended that there be representatives from local community groups including the following:

representatives from local community groups including the following:

- White Bay Precinct Committee,
- Glebe Island/White Bay Community Liaison Group,
- Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC),
- White Bay Joint Steering Committee,
- Defenders of Sydney Harbour,
- NSW Rowers, and
- Dragon Boats NSW.

It has been proposed that there be two representatives from BCC, one from Pyrmont/Ultimo and one from Glebe/Forest Lodge.

The role of the Community Reference Group will be to provide advice about community needs, advise on current and emerging issues of interest and concern to the community, inform of potential issues with any tabled proposals, encourage and inform community discussion by conveying information to the wider community, and provide input to matters being considered.

The planning and consultation process will begin in the coming weeks.

**- Bob Armstrong**  
for the Bays and Foreshore sub-committee

## *Slipways slips in another one*

Get your submissions in promptly on this one to the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Authority (deadline 6 June). Sydney Slipways, which was given approval last year by the Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, has asked for a variation to extend their anchorage limit by 6m in the southerly direction by the side of the old Glebe Island Bridge. This may sound a small amount but the total distance to the other bank in this area is only 37 m. Furthermore, it is just beside the two channels under the Glebe Island Bridge, one of which has to be negotiated by all boat traffic entering or exiting Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays.

The Glebe Society did not oppose the original application by Sydney Slipways, but it did suggest that the proposed water use so close to the Glebe Island Bridge would cause water traffic problems. This variation this will cause a much greater problem by, firstly restricting the area for manoeuvre still further, and secondly by allowing bigger boats to enter the Sydney Slipways anchorage area.

The present application proposes to reduce risk through a protocol for liaison with Sydney Ports governing commercial movements into the Johnson Bay area. There is no mention of the passive use of the Bays by pleasure craft (especially those generated by the dry boat facility in Rozelle Bay), by rowing boats, particularly eights, dragon boats and canoes. The narrow channel leading into and out of Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays from the two very narrow channels under the Glebe Island Bridge is already a potential collision area. The Glebe Society reiterates its previous warning that proposed congestion in the area is creating a dangerous situation for the future and joins with the Sydney University Women's' Rowing Club in strongly objecting the proposed variation.

The proposed variation can be viewed at Leichhardt Town Hall: Section 75 (W): Modification Application (2); MP 05\_00187: Marine Maintenance Facility, Lots 31 and 34, James Craig Drive, Rozelle Bay.

**- Tony Larkum**  
Bays and Foreshores convenor

*More Planning Matters*  
... continued from previous page

## Controversial applications withdrawn

Two applications that had attracted a number of objections, one in Forsyth Street and one in Bridge Road, a warehouse conversion, have been withdrawn. This is a good result, tantamount to an admission by the applicant that they have little chance of success.

## Rosebank, 2a Hereford Street

The Valhalla cinema was built in the grounds of Rosebank and now conceals it, so you may be unaware this Victorian mansion exists. It has an interesting history, having more recently been the Victoria Alice

Lambkin Centre, belonging to the Central Sydney Area Health Board. The tower of Rosebank itself is the highest point in Glebe, and because the site has recently been renovated as apartments, is open for inspection on Saturday mornings. Be warned: there are a lot of steps to the top!

## Development sites outside Glebe

Work has begun on the three towers on the Booth Street, Annandale, boundary of the former Childrens Hospital site. They will total about 600 dwellings.

Some incorrect information about the CUB site on Broadway has been published in the media. When the correct figures are announced we will examine their impact.

**- Neil Macindoe**, Planning convenor

# Communities can tackle community problems

*The letters published on this page give cause for both despair and hope. As the Wentworth Park Community Games demonstrated, it is amazing what residents can do when they are inspired by a good cause. Of course it is easier to organise a good time than to solve deep-seated social problems, but we must not shrug our shoulders and expect "the authorities" to fix things. Communities can and must be involved.*

- Bruce Davis Acting Bulletin editor



This grille has been erected to protect residents of the Franklyn Street flats. While initiatives like this should not be necessary, they demonstrate that officialdom can respond to residents' cries for help. Photo: Bruce Davis

**Jan Wilson** reports further on a positive development, to which she refers in her letter.

The Glebe safety audit, held on 16 April, was sponsored by the police and involved the Department of Housing, the City Council and residents. The aim was to identify areas likely to stimulate fear and criminal opportunity and to suggest treatments to reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Observations were made on impressions of safety, lighting, visibility and sightlines, signage, traffic movement, transport services, utilities, maintenance and proximity to others. On collation of the report and its 'sign off' by the police, it will be submitted to City of Sydney for distribution to the community. It is anticipated that it will be ready by the end of May.

*On 7 May, the Sydney Morning Herald carried the following letter:*

## Graffiti, kicked cars and flying trolleys in Glebe - time to move out

I am 31 years old and live in Glebe. I am growing more and more concerned each day about the crime I witness on my street - and I've only seen the half of it.

## Planning laws seminar

The Woollahra and Waverley Greens have organised a public forum to discuss the Government's proposed planning laws (see p.3). Speakers confirmed so far include Sylvia Hale, MLC and David Shoebridge, Woollahra Councillor.

**When:** Wednesday 11 June, 6.15pm (for a 6.30pm start) - 8pm

**Where:** Ground floor, Mill Hill Centre, 31-33 Spring Street. Bondi Junction.

All welcome. Drinks and snacks provided.

I've come home at night to find gangs of youths spray-painting graffiti on my car. I've seen them swing shopping trolleys through the air only metres from my car. I've seen them walk over the roof of my car and kick in the side mirror of every car on the street. I've seen them use my neighbour's picket fence to trash, smash and steal cars. I've seen them set fire to garbage bins and to cars.

I've seen them smoking, fighting, drinking and throwing up on the footpath. I've seen them snatch handbags and lob beer bottles at police - and again, I've only seen the half of it.

The City of Sydney fact sheet on personal safety recommends that residents "walk with confidence, use strong body language and make eye contact with others" to reduce their risk of being targeted. I have done this and I've seen generations of pure evil staring back at me. The city's helpful fact sheet also recommends that I avoid walking at night and always keep my purse in a secure place, such as in a money belt.

When I am not looking to the City of Sydney for advice on safety, I find the number most often dialled on my telephone is now Glebe Police Station. Luckily it also offers great advice. For example: "Just leave your car unlocked then the kids won't have to smash the window." An even better solution it offers is to "just move out".

Maybe the police are right - it's time to leave the problem of escalating crime in Glebe to the police and the perpetrators and to just leave.

**Alison Diaper** Glebe

*The following day, the newspaper published this response from a Glebe Society member.*

It is not all bad news for Glebe. Yesterday I attended a meeting organised by residents in Bay/Franklyn Street Department of Housing complex, who

are concerned about juvenile crime in their precinct. They were appreciative of the efforts of Glebe Police in patrolling regularly and City of Sydney for actions around safety audits. Council officers, police and Department of Housing officers were at the meeting.

As a result of three meetings, the residents have seen the value of supporting one another and working with government agencies to achieve positive outcomes. They are to be supported and congratulated for their initiative and resilience.

**Jan Wilson** Glebe

## GAMARADA

The Society has received the following email:

*My name is Elizabeth Jovanovski and I am assisting friends of mine who have formed an Aboriginal Mens' Healing Group called GAMARADA.*

*It is a fairly new initiative and already they have had a great deal of interest from the community. At their information night - held at the Redfern Community Centre in April - there were various academics and Sydney City representatives ...*

*We strongly believe this program has the potential to help curb crime in and around the Glebe/Redfern area and we are looking for your support... Together we can help re-build these broken lives and thereby help our whole community.*

*I would be very happy to hear from you should you wish to ask any further questions.*

*Cheers*

*Elizabeth  
elizabeth.jovanovski@kordia.com.au  
Ph: 9432 3200 mobile 402 046 216*

# How you can protect your home

People in Glebe are relatively reasonable in their demands and tolerant of the legitimate needs of others. Compared with suburbs such as Balmain there are few battles over developments, and most of those are over larger sites with applications by professional developers.

## Be alert, not alarmed

Even so, there will occasionally be someone who chooses to ignore the nature of the area and the rules that govern it. Unfortunately, these rules are relatively recent and were not always consistently enforced, so there are often examples of very intrusive or incompatible extensions and alterations from the past that are very tempting for those who think that if anyone was ever allowed to get away with something, they should be able to do it too.

Also, newspapers and magazines often publish plans for renovating old houses, and the tendency is for these plans to show how you can change what was always intended to be a small, modest dwelling into something much larger and more spectacular. I have never seen an example where the possible impact on neighbours is mentioned, nor the possibility it might be in a Conservation Area such as Glebe. These factors need to be taken into account when weighing up whether it is better to extend an existing dwelling or move to a larger one.

## Oh, *that* development application!

No matter how minor the changes you are contemplating, it is always a good idea to consult the neighbours. If you think a neighbour is contemplating putting in an application, do not hesitate to say very firmly you would like to see it first, and have a chance to comment on it, preferably when it is in its initial draft, and also later, but before it is lodged, to make sure any changes agreed to have actually been made.

This may seem time consuming and a lot of trouble, and of course it will often be inconvenient. However, whatever inconvenience and friction it

may cause to stand up for your rights initially pales into insignificance when you consider the consequences of not acting early enough and allowing something to happen that impacts on you adversely. Do not hesitate to consult widely at this stage. I often receive queries from members who are concerned about a proposal, and I welcome them because it shows they are prepared to act early.

Your aim should be to eliminate or reduce any adverse impacts on your own dwelling, either by stopping a proposal being lodged or securing changes that are at least neutral. You may even benefit from a well-designed proposal. It is not uncommon for applicants to overlook possible solutions, especially those that require cooperation or are innovative. Share your good experiences of designers and builders.

## Mention *everything* you find objectionable.

If a proposal is lodged that, despite your best efforts, you believe will disadvantage you, put in a written objection listing every aspect you consider disadvantageous. Some people also seek advice at this point from professionals. Remember that rules are of necessity generalisations, and cannot cover every contingency. It is also helpful to gain support from other neighbours, as a number of objections alerts Council something may cause significant problems, and lots of objections make it possible for the matter to come before the full Council. They also make it more likely the application may be withdrawn, as happened in the cases mentioned on p.4, or that Council staff may require changes.

## Changes

There are a number of ways applications may change, even after they have been lodged. It is quite common for applications to include errors, or not to include important data. Some may have to be modified, or even

readvertised, so it is wise to keep an eye on their progress. It is also important to understand planning staff have some flexibility in order to achieve the best result. Even the Local Environment Plan rules can be varied provided the applicant makes an adequate case in writing. An application can also be deferred for changes to be made.

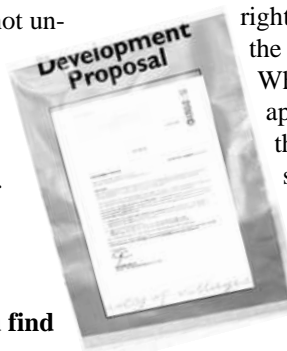
Finally, applications can be changed by conditions imposed by Council. It is very much a matter of judgement whether it is better for an application to be approved with conditions, or refused outright. This judgement needs to be made in the light of the right of the applicant to appeal to the Land and Environment Court. While it may feel good for an application to be refused, unless the grounds of the refusal are strong enough to stand up in court, the victory is hollow, and final defeat can be humiliating and expensive. It may be better for an application to be approved if it is possible to find conditions that will solve the major problems and stick.

## Crunch time

Some development applications are dealt with by a panel chaired by a Councillor. As an objector you should be notified and are entitled to attend. If the application comes before the full Planning Committee you will be notified. If possible you should consult with other objectors before the meeting and decide who will speak and what points each speaker will make, then put your names down to speak.

If the application is refused the applicant may be able to ask for a review of the decision. This will be advertised so you have the opportunity for further comment should you wish. If the review upholds the original decision, the applicant's only recourse is to the Land and Environment Court. If they appeal, Council's solicitor may call a conference of objectors, and you may volunteer to give evidence.

- Neil Macindoe  
Planning convenor



*Who lived in your street?*

## Reuben Peninton (1859 - 1936)

Reuben Peninton was a master carrier with stables at 24a Sheehy Street, near Blackwattle Bay. Sugar was one of the main goods he delivered, sometimes stopping at local schools where his immaculately groomed draught horses were much admired. During his life he lived at several places in Glebe: 42 Forsyth Street, 25 Avona Avenue, 8 Lombard Street and 54 Forsyth Street. At the time of his death he owned two of those properties: 8 Lombard Street (valued at £135) and 54 Forsyth Street (£450) together with land at Davistown near Gosford (£40).

Reuben was the fifth of nine children born to Reuben Peninton, a stonemason from Yorkshire, and Mary Ann née Goddard. By 1867 the family had moved from Parramatta Street to Glebe. Of Reuben's siblings William – two years older – became a carter, Henry a drayman and George a green-grocer then poulterer. The family clustered around Forsyth and Lombard Streets. At various times there were Penintons at numbers 29, 31, 35, 36, 38, 42, 54, 62 and 70 Forsyth Street; by 1934 several had moved to Darghan Street (numbers 47, 54, 80, 82). After William's death in 1924 Reuben moved into 54 Forsyth Street where his sister-in-law Clara Rebecca kept house. She died in 1935. Her youngest child, also Clara Rebecca, then took on the role of carer. Clara, who had left school at 14 to help at home, inherited her uncle's real estate but left the district to live with an older sister and her husband in Rockdale. Like Reuben, she did not marry.

A parishioner of St John's Bishopsthorpe, Reuben was buried next to William and Clara in the Presbyterian section of Rookwood Cemetery. He



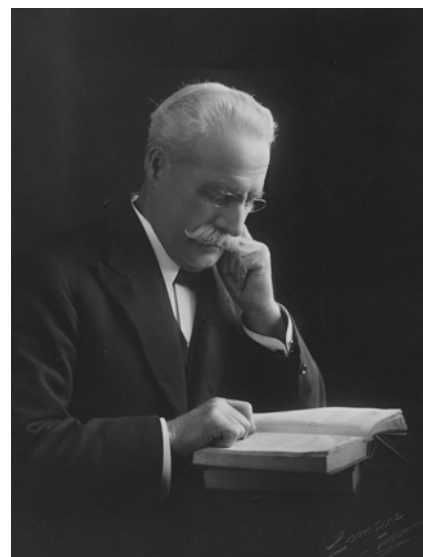
54 Forsyth Street, early 1920s.

was a Mason. Members of the Glebe Municipal Reform Association marked his passing with a minute's silence. From the early 1900s Reuben had also been involved with the activities of the Sydney City Mission. The Mission's Glebe branch first met in the Bay Street Ragged School before moving into its own hall at 75 Bay Street in 1894. An adjoining building for youth activities was built in 1903 and operations were transferred to a new hall in St Johns Road in 1929. Peninton young women helped with the Girls' Club, children's picnics and jumble sales at Glebe Town Hall. The Peninton boys helped with the choir library. Reuben was active with the Mission Sunday School.

Apart from Reuben's own father there were several other namesakes in the family tree.

A nephew, Henry Reuben, always referred to by his second name, was the orphaned son of Christopher (1861 - 96) and his wife Margaret who died suddenly in 1902 at home at 36 Forsyth Street. The missionary James Mills, who visited both on their deathbeds, paid tribute to Margaret's work with the poor and in raising money to pay off the building debt – 'one of the best collectors the City Mission ever had'. When Reuben, aged 21, enlisted in the AIF in 1916 he named his sister Mary Walker as next of kin. On returning to Australia he lived with Mary and her husband Arthur at 58 Talford Street. Reuben's photo in uniform was one of those projected onto a screen at ceremonies held by the City Mission which urged locals to join up in the 'battle for truth, righteousness and justice'.

Another Reuben Peninton was William and Clara's third child (1881 –



Reuben Peninton, 1930. This and other photos of Reuben senior and his house at 54 Forsyth Street, courtesy of Narelle Munro.



Outnumbered by the ladies, Reuben is seated in the front row, ca 1904. Next but one to the left is his sister-in-law Clara Rebecca née May. Two of her daughters are far left in the back row.

1941) who lived at 42 Forsyth Street. His elder son was also christened Reuben.

**- Lyn Collingwood**



Picnic group, probably the Glebe Mission Sunday School at Clifton Gardens. Reuben is at far right with a boy on his knee, his brother William is standing at far left. Sometimes the Glebe Ragged School pupils were invited to these outings. The girl with the box haircut is Mavis Peninton Stuart, Reuben's great niece and William's granddaughter.



## *Grandeur and Grit—history of Glebe*, by Max Solling

by Danny Yee, Glebe resident

A history of the inner Sydney suburb of Glebe, "*Grandeur and Grit*" integrates local detail into the broader sweep of urban social history.

It will obviously appeal most to those familiar with the suburb, but it offers a good variety of material and anyone curious about the history of inner-city life in Australia should find plenty in it.

Solling begins with images of inner Sydney from the 1890s through the first half of the 20th century, drawn from the work of novelists: Louis Stone, Kylie Tennant and her imaginary "Foveaux", Ruth Park, Dorothy Hewett and, for a more recent perspective, Peter Corris and his private investigator Cliff Hardy. This is both a vivid introduction to working class life and a nice "reading guide".

Next comes an Aboriginal history of the Glebe area, from the Eora through to Tranby Aboriginal College, a brief survey of its geology and flora, and an account of its early history as land assigned to support the Church of England - hence the name "glebe".

Up to about 1840 the area was dominated by the mansions and estates of the well-to-do, seeking "a retreat out of town". But commercial and industrial development came early, starting along Blackwattle Creek, and working class settlement followed.

"J.H. Grose, unable to meet the demands of creditors, was declared insolvent. His 13 acre Glebe estate, called Bishopgate after a suburb of London, was subdivided into 154 narrow fronted building lots and offered for sale in 1841."

As Sydney's population grew and its centre moved to business use, what was then suburbia boomed. "In Glebe's development the most hectic period of all was from 1871 to 1891... [its] population reached 21,943 in 1911."

This brought with it improvements in transport, with coaches and trams, and

services such as gas and sanitation. Building Glebe involved "builders and developers, the financiers of their enterprises, house and land agents, surveyors, valuers, solicitors as well as landowners and landlords"—and booms and busts. Not much seems to have changed in real estate.

The longest chapter in *Grandeur and Grit* covers some of its key institutions: shops, schools, churches, pubs, and medical services. Small corner stores were also micro-credit operations, with most customers operating on credit or "tick"; the first large-scale business was Grace Brothers, which had humble beginnings as a drapery shop in 1885.

The churches were heterogeneous, with divisions between and within denominations.

Pubs had 6 o'clock closing imposed on them between 1916 and 1955. And for most, medical care was provided by friendly societies and charitable public hospitals.

Ever since the franchise was expanded, Glebe's local government has been run by Labor, but mostly by its conservative wing.

"The dominant Catholicism of Glebe pervaded its Labor Party branches for decades, and the politics of the ALP Right prevailed until the 1980s when left wing intellectual politics gained control of Blackwattle and Forest Lodge branches, though Glebe branch remained resolutely in the traditional mould."

Working class life was dominated by family, relatives and neighbourhoods. Using evidence presented to a 1913 Inquiry on the Cost of Living and the Living Wage, Solling looks at three families and their budgets in detail.

"Every available space in a two bedroom brick terrace at 11 Mitchell

Street, Glebe, was occupied by eight members of the Stanley family in 1913. Ted Stanley, a carter at the Riverstone Meat Works, handed his weekly pay packet of £2 to wife Margaret and hoped she could make do with it after paying the weekly rent of 11 shillings."

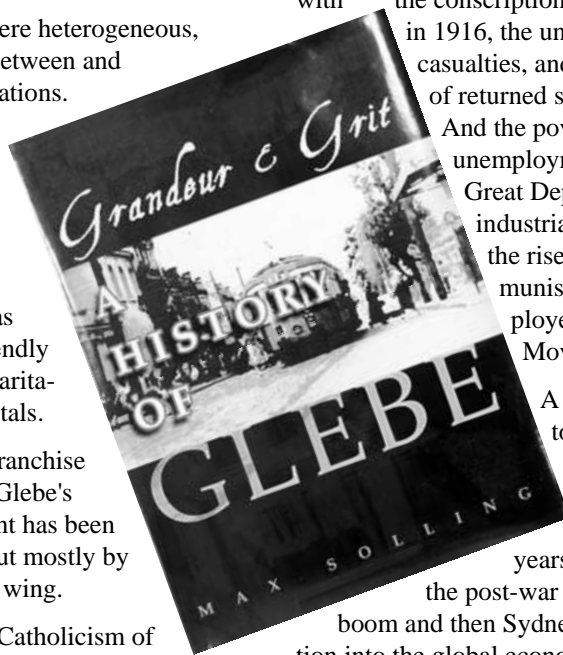
Pubs and churches offered competing approaches to popular recreation and entertainment, but were increasingly displaced by radio, cinema and other options. Sport also involved issues of class and politics, and sporting clubs and teams suffered with Glebe's demographic decline.

The First World War brought tensions with the conscription referendum in 1916, the unprecedented casualties, and the influx of returned servicemen. And the poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression saw industrial unrest and the rise of the communist-led Unemployed Workers Movement.

A final chapter touches on the changes in Glebe in the last 60 years, driven by the post-war economic boom and then Sydney's integration into the global economy: the new mix of migrants; the creation of the Glebe Society, originally in opposition to freeways; the purchase and renovation as public housing of the Bishopthorpe Estate by the Whitlam government; and steady gentrification and accompanying retail development.

*Grandeur and Grit. A History of Glebe* by Max Solling, Halstead Press, Sydney, 2007; 293pp.; ISBN 1-920831-38-X

For a fuller review, see [http://dannyreviews.com/h/Grandeur\\_Grit.html](http://dannyreviews.com/h/Grandeur_Grit.html)



Copies available through the Glebe Society at the special price of \$42.95.



# Glebe News

## "Blue wrens" report ready for launch

As I passed a mother with a pram on my way to work the other day, I overheard her asking "Do you hear that bird singing?" So our interest in birdlife can start at an early age. Our Committee, made up of MUCH older people still has that interest, and is progressing well with its project of encouraging small birds, particularly Superb Fairy Wrens, back into Glebe.

At this moment we are endeavouring to have the Consultant's Report officially launched by the Lord Mayor at the Glebe Community Forum on 16 June.

We have also settled on Paddy Gray Park as the location for Council to do some demonstration planting of shrubs and vines appropriate for small bird habitat. This is to occur on National Tree Day, Sunday 27 July. At this venue we will be giving away plants and information to local residents who are keen to promote small bird habitat in their gardens, we are also providing information to local schools.

There will be more information about Tree Day in the next *Bulletin*.

- David Mander-Jones, Convenor  
Blue Wren sub-committee

## Good news on Glebe Post Office

Members have noted that the Glebe Post Office, a fine building dating from 1888 on a conspicuous corner, is looking a little shabby. The Society wrote to our federal member, Tanya Plibersek, expressing concern about the state of the building, and seeking clarification of the body responsible for its maintenance, given that it is no longer owned by Australia Post. Ms Plibersek has replied that plans are already under way for repainting and associated maintenance work. It seems that by early 2009, Glebe's sesquicentenary year, our Post Office will be restored to its original position of prestige.

- Jan Macindoe

## Wireless House sculpture

I was contacted by Nigel Helyer, who is creating the art work, incorporating sound sculpture, for the Wireless House in Foley Park. He and his assistant, Julia Burns, wanted to meet some local people to talk about their approach to the Wireless House art work, and in particular the use of oral history as part of the sound sculpture. I arranged a meeting with Sue Ingram, Jan McCulloch and Bobbie Burke.

Nigel explained that the \$30,000 grant from American Express through the National Trust would not replace any funding already allocated by Council, but would allow for more options in collecting oral history and radio programs of the period, and for presenting them in a variety of ways. Possibilities included continuing to collect material after the launch of the sound sculpture, and making the material available through libraries, possibly on DVD.

We were able to provide Nigel with contact information about a number of people who had memories of Glebe in the period when the Wireless House was operating.

- Jan Macindoe

## Work started on new website

A "taskforce" is working on a conceptual version of a new iteration of the Society's website. The existing website was developed about eight years ago and is now out of date in appearance, functionality and content.

The new site, designed by Steve Tuttle and Andrew Craig, will be presented to the Management Committee further down the track for comment and decisions about content. The process is slow but progressing. We are considering issues of concern to the Glebe Society members and questions of assigning responsibility to various users (e.g. sub committees). We are also looking at the needs of potential users of the website.

Peter Thorogood has been working on the existing website, bringing it up to date and redesigning some aspects. Convenors of sub-committees have been asked to check their sections for content and to make suggestions about updates. We are aiming to correct out of date information and to keep the site current in line with the *Bulletin*. Information which is of historic interest to Glebe Society members will be retained.

- Vicky Marquis

## Times to meet other Glebe Society members

We have a number of occasions during the year when Glebe Society members can meet – including Thirsty Thursdays, speaker events and the Christmas Party – but maybe we should have some other informal get-togethers. Among the suggestions are Late Sunday Afternoon tea or drinks at Wentworth Park (outside in the warmer weather); soup and crusty bread at Yuga Café - possibly accompanied by some piano-playing; a visit to the James Squire Brewery in Camperdown; or a Rowing Club gathering one evening, perhaps with Trivial Pursuit. Events coordinator Dorothy Davis would appreciate some reactions and some new ideas! Needless to say, events which include eats and drinks do cost. Email your ideas to [dorothydavis@fastmail.com.au](mailto:dorothydavis@fastmail.com.au).

## Chamber of Commerce seeks input on "Glebe branding"

The Glebe Chamber of Commerce has received a new report on marketing Glebe. The Report was prepared by an independent consultant and funded by the City Council. It follows up on work done three year ago that, among other things, resulted in the Glebe logo seen on some shops, and the leaflet on Glebe businesses.

The chamber is seeking community input on the new report and has asked the Society to contribute. If you would like to attend a seminar in early June, please contact Jan Macindoe ([president@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:president@glebesociety.org.au) or ph. 9660 0208).

# News and Notes

## Going, going ... GONE

The Glebe Point Road shopping bags are all sold out. Many of them are still having off-shore adventures and living exciting lives. I hear stories of them from Paris to Portland, Ireland to Italy and have seen them in far flung Aussie destinations...Broken Hill, Mungindi and Harrietville!

We not only covered our costs but made a PROFIT...not easy in this cash strapped world....The 50 Glebe Foreshore Walk bags we "gave" away for \$2.00, but for such a great occasion who's counting?

In the future? Maybe I could do a repeat order with names of Glebe Parks for the opening of Foley Park after its face lift ... just an idea, as I think I'm going to miss them.

- Fay Mander-Jones

## Welcome to New Members

The following people were accepted as members of the Glebe Society at the May Management Committee meeting:

Glenda Woodhouse  
Eve Madden  
Pattie Benjamin

We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

## Light & Chaos at GiG Gallery

Tim Bassett glass artist from Melbourne is showing his work in "Light & Chaos" at GiG Gallery, Glebe Point Road. As well as a spectacular chandelier from his previous light series which is on display, he presents his new work which are great plasma and neon installations.

## Meet our local "Fire-ies"

Glebe Fire Station will hold an open day on 1 June from 10.00am to 2.00pm. This is an opportunity to tour the station, and talk to the fire fighters about their work. Learn about smoke alarms, the importance of having an escape plan for your property, and other ways to protect your family and your home in an emergency.

## Correction—Kerribree

*Kerribree* is no longer occupied by the Royal College of Nursing as stated on p.7 of *Bulletin* 3/2008, but has been owned by the Hamilton family for several years.

## Newtown Flicks

Society member Lyn Collingwood is part of the team organising the 2008 Newtown Flicks Short Film Festival to be held over three days in late May. New and emerging artists are encouraged to submit their short films, documentaries, mockumentaries, music clips, phone flicks and everything in between. Entries close on 24 April. For information check out [newtownflicks.com.au](http://newtownflicks.com.au)

## Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet for dinner in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We visit a different restaurant each month, usually alternating between Asian and European cuisines. Put these dates in your diary and come along.

On Thursday 5 June we will go to *Lien Vietnamese Malaysian Restaurant*, 331 Glebe Point Road. Please contact Cheryl or Bryan Herden on [herden@pacific.net.au](mailto:herden@pacific.net.au) or 9660 7371 by Wednesday 4 June if you would like to come.

On Thursday 3 July we will share an Indian meal at *Durbar*, on the corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road.

## Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au)

## Our Local Member of Parliament

State Member for Balmain, Hon. Verity Firth MP.

Office address: 112a Glebe Point Road, Glebe 2037.

Senior Electorate Officer: Christina Harlamb, ph 9660 7586, fax 9660 6112, email [christina.harlamb@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:christina.harlamb@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## City of Sydney Councillors

**Lord Mayor:** Clover Moore MP

**Councillors:**

Phillip Black  
Hon Verity Firth MP  
Chris Harris  
Marcelle Hoff  
Robyn Kemmis  
Michael Lee  
Shayne Mallard  
John McInerney  
Tony Pooley

**For enquiries:** Please contact the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.



## Forest Lodge Public School

*Home of The Glebe  
Society Archives*

Phone 9660 3530



# For your diary ...

**Sunday 1 June**, 10.00am-2.00pm Glebe Fire Station open day.

**Wednesday 4 June**, 6-7.30pm – “Our built heritage—how safe is it?” A talk by City of Sydney heritage specialist, John Poulton at the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, bottom of Forsyth Street. (See p.1).

**Thursday 5 June**, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Lien Vietnamese Malaysian Restaurant*, 331 Glebe Point Road.

**Friday 6 June**, New members night, GiG Gallery (by invitation).

**Wednesday 11 June**, 7.30pm – Glebe Society Management Committee meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

**Wednesday 11 June**, 6.15– 8.00pm, Greens seminar on planning laws at Bondi Junction (see p.5).

**Monday 16 June**, launch of “Blue Wrens” report by the Lord Mayor at Glebe Community Forum (tentative).

**Thursday 3 July**, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Durbar* Indian restaurant, corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road.

**Wednesday 9 July**, 7.30pm – Glebe Society Management Committee meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

**Sunday, 27 July**, “Blue Wrens” planting demonstration on National Tree Day, Paddy Gray Park.

**Thursday 7 August**, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *TBA*

**Wednesday 13 August**, 7.30pm – Glebe Society Management Committee meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

**Sunday 31 August**, *Benledi* - AGM

## Contacting The Glebe Society

### Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc  
PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037

### Website

The Society has a growing website ([www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au)) for the information of members and anyone with an interest in Glebe.

The website will only flourish if members use the site. Send contributions or comments to [webmaster@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:webmaster@glebesociety.org.au)

### The Bulletin

We are glad to publish letters or articles on any matters of interest to Glebe, any topic raised in the *Bulletin*, or any issues relating to the Glebe Society. Write to the address above or email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au)

### Disclaimer

Views expressed in this *Bulletin* are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society Inc.

### Bulletin deadline

The next edition of the *Bulletin* will be published at the end of June

The deadline for contributions is **16 June**.

## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

### Management Committee:

President	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

**Committee Members:** Dorothy Davis 9660 7873 Simon Fraser 9660 7560  
Jan Wilson 9660 2698

### Sub-committee Convenors:

All sub-committee convenors are *ex officio* members of the Management Committee

Arts, Culture and Media	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Bays and Foreshores	Tony Larkum	9660 7030
Wentworth Park	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Blue Wrens	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Environment and Open Spaces	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Glebe against Global Warming	Bill McCarthy	9660 5119
Heritage	Dianne Gray	0417 434 814
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Chris Hallam	9660 3670

### Adopt-a-Park Contacts:

**Foley Park:** Bobbie Burke (9692 0343) **Kirsova:** Fay & David Mander Jones  
**Paddy Gray Park:** John Gray

### Other Contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Event Coordination	Dorothy Davis	9660 7873
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Liaison with CityRags	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Liaison with CoGG	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Publicity	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Website	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592

# In this issue

- Wentworth Park Games - pages 1 and 2
- Planning and heritage legislation changes - page 3
- Government task force to examine future of our bays - page 4
- Communities can tackle community problems - page 5
- How to protect your home - page 7
- Glebe News - page 9

*Subscription renewals due 30 June—form enclosed*

The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc  
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



POSTAGE  
PAID

## Membership of the Glebe Society

<b>Individual</b> member	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Joint</b> (2 people, one address)	<b>\$55</b>
<b>Household</b> (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address)	<b>\$60</b>
<b>Concession</b> (student or pensioner)	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Institution or corporate</b>	<b>\$110</b>

Download a Membership Form from our website ([www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutTGSI/Membership/Membership\\_application.pdf](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutTGSI/Membership/Membership_application.pdf)).

Or write to PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037 or phone the Secretary, Liz Simpson-Booker, on 9518 6186.

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please phone the Secretary.

## Community Contacts

**Manager-Neighbourhood Services Centre:** Glebe, Forest Lodge, Camperdown, Ultimo & Pyrmont: Nick Hespe.

**Email:** [nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Glebe Town Hall Office:** 9298 3190 8.30am-5.30pm Mon- Fri

**Sydney City Council Customer Service**

**Telephone (24 hours):** 9265 9333

**email:** [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**website:** [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Glebe Point Road upgrade contact (24 hrs):** Grant Donohue 0414 687 101, [grant\\_donohue@gmwurban.com.au](mailto:grant_donohue@gmwurban.com.au)

**Dumped Shopping trolleys:** Trolley Tracker 1800 641 497

**Waterway Garbage:** NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592