

The Bays Precinct

Glebe Island up for lease—the view from the old Glebe Island bridge. Photo: Bruce Davis

Does the Fish Market have a future?

It's hard to know what to expect in the Bays Precinct. One moment at least a few things are going right, and the next you're not sure where you are. Take for example the Fish Market. Until a few days ago we seemed assured of getting at least a modest upgrade. Now we may get nothing.

The proposed revamp seems to have fallen over because the retailers decided there would be no benefit to their bottom line by matching the \$20 million promised by the Government to improve the site. The modest plan involved removal of buildings along the waterfront, repair of the sea wall, construction of a small park, plus improvements to access, drainage, waste disposal, parking and other services.

A small portion of the proposed work has been completed, but there is no certainty that any of the other planned improvements will go ahead as we understand the Government contribution depends on the Sydney Fish Market cooperative (SFM) matching the Government funding.

The Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, has expressed his disappointment with SFM's decision and has urged a rethink. The Blackwattle Cove Coalition will write to Mr Hazzard,

Continued on page 2, column 3 ...

New Government, new hope?

The long community struggle to get some intelligence and strategy into planning for the Bays Precinct continues under a new Government.

While there is good news and bad, or at least worrying, news, we have some cause for optimism that the Coalition Government might pick up the unfinished task and work with the community to develop an imaginative, strategic vision for the whole of the Bays Precinct. Nothing less than this can put a stop to the long, sad history of one off, *ad hoc* development decisions that we have had to live with for years and which continue apace.

The Government has begun to act on its promise to reform the planning process to make it more transparent and give a stronger say to communities. We need to ensure that this more open and objective approach applies to the Bays Precinct. The opportunity to get the best for the community and Sydney out of these 80 plus hectares of publicly owned foreshore land is a once in a century opportunity.

We will maintain the campaign to ensure that the extraordinary opportunity is not squandered.

The Bays Precinct process

As previously reported, we were disappointed with the official report on the Stage 1¹ work of the Bays Precinct consultation released quietly just before the last election. At the end of May, the Glebe Society, along with other local groups, responded to this report.² We made the effort to put in a detailed response because we hoped the new Government would respond positively.

Continued on next page ...

What's coming soon

Friday 1 July, 6pm to 7.30pm at Benledi – Welcome to new members and talk by David Gaunt of *gleebooks*. Note: this event is fully booked.

Sunday 28 August, 11am at Benledi – Glebe Society Annual General Meeting.

... continued from previous page

Our response asks the new Government to act on the core recommendations of the Community Reference Group, most notably to respect the CRG's principles for transitional and long term planning for the Bays Precinct and to provide for effective community input into Stage 2, which is meant to finally approve planning principles and develop a Bays Precinct strategic/master plan.

We urge the Government to give itself a two year timeframe to develop this strategic plan and to give serious consideration to the CRG recommendation for a dedicated Bays Precinct planning and development authority.

Recent developments ...

The good

The good news is that the Government has acted in a limited way on some of the CRG recommendations. It has extended the membership of the Bays Precinct Task Force, previously confined to public sector/government agencies, to include a representative from Sydney and Leichhardt Councils and one community representative. We would like them to go further and commit to developing a strategic plan for the Bays Precinct within two years and to set up a broader community advisory process.

It has also set up an inquiry into Barangaroo which, while outside the Bays Precinct parameters, has obvious flow-on effects in that it could possibly dump the mandated relocation of the Cruise Passenger Terminal to White Bay. These are both potentially very positive steps.

The unresolved

Meanwhile, we struggle to get a clear handle on the intentions of All Occasion Cruises for the development of the B1/B2 wharves at Blackwattle Bay as no DA has been lodged over two years after the company was selected as the preferred lessee, and as we go to print we learn from the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the venture seems to be in disarray.³ There are also concerns about the noise impact and general appropriateness of the proposed developments in association with the Super Yacht Marina on the Rozelle Bay foreshore.

The worrying - Glebe Island up for lease

In the last fortnight we were surprised and perturbed to see an advertisement by Sydney Ports in the *Financial Re-*

view calling for expressions of interest in the leasing of Glebe Island. The Expression of Interest document informs us that

'Sydney Ports is seeking long-term usage of the precinct for port purposes, in particular to facilitate commercial shipping for the import or supply of Dry Bulk products'.⁴

The land available for lease is 12 hectares, a goodly part of the whole island.

Here we go again with individual agencies deciding on future uses for parts of the Bays Precinct, with no consideration for any big picture of the whole area. This is particularly frustrating because Ports was a member of the Bays Precinct CRG, and is a member of the Bays Precinct task Force. There is nothing even acknowledging the CRG work, its principles or its recommendations in the Environmental Impact Study or accompanying policy parameters.

Local community groups, who are represented on the Ports' own community liaison group, are astonished that they had a meeting of this group only days before the advertisement appeared but no mention was made of it. Ports appears to have a limited notion of what is implied by community consultation.

The Glebe Society is not opposed to the leasing of Glebe Island in itself. It makes sense to have appropriate activities and economic activity on this site pending the development of the bigger picture for the Bays Precinct. The worry is that Ports gives no hint of any sense that we might be in a transitional period or that it should be taking into consideration the implications of any bigger long term perspective. This has the feel of yet another one-off, short term motivated planning decision.

The Glebe Society reaction

We have discussed the issue with other groups who were part of the CRG. We will collectively and individually take action to bring our concerns to the new Government and ask them to intervene to ensure that a short term need to generate income and activity on Glebe Island does not cut across longer term better options. Specifically we will request:

- There be a full tendering process which is as open as possible – we do not want a repetition of the B1/B2 process.
- There be meaningful community consultation about the immediate future of Glebe Island.

- Any leases entered into before the finalisation of the Bays Precinct Strategic Plan be of short duration so as not to pre-empt future, more integrated, planning options. It would be sensible to limit leases to 2020 which, after community debate, was the length of the lease agreed for Bailey's Refuelling Depot at White Bay.
- The Government build on the extensive work of the community and others around the Bays Precinct and commit to developing an integrated Bays Precinct Strategic Plan within two years.
- Any activity or development on Glebe Island which is approved before there is a strategic plan for the whole of the Bays Precinct should conform to the planning principles which were developed by the CRG.

Every one of the developments (or stalled developments) in our Bays has been initiated by the individual agencies with control over the sites, that is Maritime NSW and the Sydney Ports. It can only be hoped that the visible lack of strategy and coherence, and the persistent failure to properly and seriously engage the community, will persuade the Government to act on the CRG recommendation for a dedicated Bays Precinct Planning and Development authority.

- Lesley Lynch

¹ SHFA: Bays Precinct Report On Outcomes Stage 1 Consultation Process, February 2011.

² For the full submission see the Glebe Society Website.

³ SMH 20 June 2011

⁴ Expression of Interest Lease of Sydney Ports Corporation Land at Glebe Island, 12 May 2011 (EOI SPC 2011/45), P4.

... continued from previous page

encouraging the Government to do whatever it can to ensure the future of the Fish Market.

However without a financial contribution from the present operator, which has a long lease on the site which is owned by the State Government, it is hard to know how the situation can be resolved.

It has been suggested that the State Government should buy out SFM and revamp the site using taxpayers' money. This solution is superficially attractive, but one must wonder where the Fish

Market rates when compared to the many infrastructure projects crying out for State Government funding. And having spent millions on an upgrade you must assume the wholesalers and retailers would be required by Treasury to pay rents commensurate with the cost of the upgrade. My guess is that, while the wholesalers may be stuck with the site, many of the retailers would choose to go elsewhere.

A redevelopment plan based on the value of the site if it was rezoned for commercial use is likely to result in a Disneyland tourist attraction. No thanks!

If substantial repairs are not undertaken we face the prospect of the site deteriorating to the extent that, for health and safety reasons, it will become unviable. If this happens, the wholesale operation will up sticks and move to somewhere like Flemington, and the retailers will find homes wherever they can. The site will then be sold off by Treasury to improve the State's bottom line, and heaven knows what will be built there.

So maybe we are left with the 'lipstick on the bulldog' solution that managing director Grahame Turk has often referred to. This will involve doing as little as possible – resurfacing the car park, improving the drainage and waste collection system, but not much more. The one benefit of this outcome is that it leaves the way open to a more farsighted plan sometime in the future.

The sad part of the current situation was that the modest upgrade of the Fish Market might have been the lynch pin for redevelopment of the whole foreshore from the Hansons concrete batch plant at the Glebe end of the Blackwattle Bay wharves to Pyrmont Point. Now it appears that we have lost this lever and the infamous cesspit between the coal bunker and the Fish Marker will live on for another decade or so.

Turning now to other sites in the Bays Precinct ...

Heritage Fleet relocation: across Blackwattle Bay on Pyrmont Point there were grand plans for a community sports centre, a new park and a new home for the Sydney Heritage Fleet. Admittedly not everyone was happy about the Heritage Fleet being squeezed into this fairly tight space, and a Government authority was playing hard to get over some land that had been earmarked for the project. The latest

The plaque capital of Australia?

The task of compiling a register of all the plaques in Glebe and Forest Lodge should be completed by the end of August. My 1:3000 scale map, specifically created by council for Eva Rodriguez Riestra of the Council's Public Art department and printed in December last year, reveals that less than a quarter of the two suburbs remains to be investigated.

For each plaque the following field data specification has been recorded: specific location; size and construction materials and complete measurements. Each has been given an out-of-10 rating in terms of condition. The plaques have also been photographed, both in a readable close-up format and in terms of their setting. Finally, each has been transcribed, which is an often a time consuming activity; to give you an idea, the names of just over 300 locals who volunteered to serve in World War One are listed on the memorial at the Glebe Primary school in Derwent Street. Some names are so weathered they are difficult to read. Only those plaques easily accessed by the public are being recorded.

Once the initial stage of recording the plaques is completed, the list will be transferred to a spreadsheet form and cross-referenced with the highly informative Glebe Walks website and past issues of the Glebe Society *Bulletin*. Once we have a

definitive list, the next step is to provide additional historic information on each plaque and the reasons behind its establishment, most often a prominent person, through a series of *Bulletin* articles. Eventually, each plaque will be numbered and keyed to what should be a master version of the map.

Along the way, I've become aware of the need both for many more plaques and for further information on some sites which may do no more than recognise a significant historic personality. Two recent examples: The Esther Abrahams Pavilion in Bicentennial Park provides only a name, without explaining any background to this remarkable woman. Surely *Lyndhurst*, the John Verge designed mansion, saved from demolition in the 1970s by the Glebe Society, is deserving of a plaque? It also seems obvious that to help put them into an historic context, all new plaques should indicate when they were unveiled. Too many of the old plaques failed to do so.

For the past eight months, walking our streets in search of plaques has given me, a relative newcomer (six years in Forest Lodge), a real insight to the diversity of the area's complex history. Such is the richness of the Glebe saga that I see every reason why it should become the plaque capital of Australia.

- Peter Robinson

news is that the Anzac Bridge requires substantial maintenance work, and the site proposed for the Heritage Fleet will be needed as a works depot for a couple of years. Consequently it looks like the Heritage Fleet will have to find somewhere else to resettle when it is kicked out of Rozelle Bay by NSW Maritime, but at least the prospects of the other projects are fairly bright.

Foreshore walk: closer to home, work on the foreshore walk in front of the Glebe Rowing Club has been completed, but the site is still littered with leftovers from the building work and the contractor's temporary fence is still in place weeks after the contractor departed. Admittedly there is a problem on the southern side of the Rowing Club where the new deck comes to an abrupt end. Presumably this will be solved in 2014 when the section in front of the Secondary College to Bridge Road is completed.

Blackattle Bay wharves: this leads us to another conundrum – what will happen along Bridge Road? Last week the *Sydney Morning Herald* published a fairly lengthy account of what is not happening there. Some works have been completed to support the water-side activities of All Occasion Cruises which is the preferred developer for what is known as the B2 site, but we are none the wiser about what the company plans to build on the wharf, which remains a junkyard partly hidden behind a tattered blue fence.

BCC has been active in raising Bays Precinct matters with the new Government, but (not surprisingly) the responses so far have mainly taken the form of polite acknowledgements and a promise to think about what we've had to say. We're hoping for better once the new Ministers have had a chance to come to grips with the many issues they will have to deal with.

- Bruce Davis

Glebe's electricity supply

David Mander-Jones contacted Philippa Wheeler at the Ausgrid Media Unit recently. He said 'The reasons for the recent undergrounding of the normal 240 volt supply down Glebe Point Road are of course well understood, but reasons for the high voltage are not. And some information on the technical side would be good. For example, where are the new transformers?'

Here is Philippa's reply.

The former EnergyAustralia network is now called Ausgrid. Ausgrid's electricity network supplies power to 1.6 million homes and businesses across Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter.

Ausgrid is in the process of refurbishing the Camperdown zone substation in Purkis Street. The original substation was built in the late 1930s and the equipment was upgraded in the 1970s. It has served the community well but it's now time for it to be replaced. As part of this upgrade, we are installing about 10 kilometres of 11,000 volt underground cables in surrounding suburbs. Crews have been installing underground cables for about the past nine months, in areas like Glebe Point Road, St Johns Road and Wigram Road.

In an overhead electricity network, homes and businesses are connected to the electricity network by service wires. In an upgraded underground network, small pillar boxes on the footpath provide this access point to the power supply to individual homes, so our crews can restore power more quickly in the event of an interruption. The pillars are on the low voltage network and provide the connection point for the electricity network to individual homes and businesses.

The equipment which turns the high voltage network into low voltage is called a 'kiosk'. These green boxes are usually about 2.5m long by 1.4m wide by 1.5m high. There are kiosks already in Glebe, which service part of the high voltage network coming out of Camperdown. This equipment will be used for the power lines with some minor upgrades. There are no new kiosks planned for Glebe as part of this Camperdown substation redevelopment.

Getting around Glebe

Cheaper Light Rail tickets - but only for some

Commuters with MyMulti transport tickets will finally be able to use them on Sydney's light rail line.

The Transport Minister, Gladys Berejiklian, has announced measures to incorporate the light rail line into the MyZone ticket structure, an election promise made by the Coalition.

From June 27, commuters who use daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly MyMulti tickets to travel on the bus, train and ferry networks will also be able to use the tickets on the light rail system.

Pensioners will be able to use their pensioner excursion tickets on the line, and Family Funday Sunday tickets will also be eligible for use on the line.

However, the government will not change the privately owned light rail operator's existing fare structure.

An adult return ticket between Central Station and Lilyfield will continue to cost \$5.90, while a concession ticket will remain \$4.40. Discounted school travel will be unavailable.

Glebe – a walker's paradise

It's official! Glebe is a walker's paradise according to the Walk Score calculator. If you go to www.walkscore.com and enter your address, you will be given a score out of 100 and a qualita-

tive designation, eg 'very walkable', 'walker's paradise', 'car dependent'. I compared my score and a variety of addresses in Glebe with neighbourhoods where I have done a lot of walking, eg Little Italy in New York City, Dupont Circle in Washington DC, Chinatown in San Francisco, and Stoke Newington in London. I was surprised to find almost all addresses in Glebe are more walkable than any in those neighbourhoods. For example, my street gets a score of 92 whereas all of those overseas neighbourhoods are classed as 'very walkable' and have scores in the 80s. The highest score I have found so far for Glebe is an address on Cowper Street near the Friend in Hand with a score of 97. My weekender in Paddys River in the Southern Highlands gets a zero and is classed as 'car dependent'. The streets in Glebe with the lowest walk score, such as Oxley Street or Alexandra Road, all have walking scores in the high 80s and are classed as 'very walkable'. A useful Google map displaying a list of local shops and amenities is provided with walking distances included.

- Ron Horvath

Bendy buses in Glebe

The 470 route has become so popular that sometimes two buses come at the same time, to cope with the demand. We now have the occasional brand new bendy bus on the 470 route that weaves its way around Ross Street, St Johns Road, Mt Vernon Street and other parts of Forest Lodge and Glebe.

To work most efficiently we are making use of existing conduits underground and installing new conduits only when necessary. The vast majority of the cost of undergrounding projects is excavation, trenching and resurfacing. For this reason, when we underground we try to install extra conduits in the ground for future use. It is an efficient planning method, saving money and disruption to local communities as

when the time comes, we do not have to extensively excavate the area again.

Once all of the cables and new substation equipment have been installed they need to be connected to each other. Specialist technicians will complete this work during the next 12 to 18 months.

Philippa Wheeler
Ausgrid Media Unit

Report to the 2011 AGM



Annual reports from Sub-committee convenors will be published in the next few Bulletins. Here is the first one.

Environment, including Blue Wrens

The Blue Wren project group, chaired for most of the year by Andrew Wood, concerned itself largely with ongoing issues relating to biodiversity and the extension of habitat to support small birds, especially the iconic Superb Blue Wren. However, the group also extended its concerns to general environmental issues, including:

Hosting a presentation by the Australian Museum team which was commissioned to prepare a Biodiversity Report for the City of Sydney. The group provided verbal and written feedback concerning existing biodiversity in Glebe, and suggested further contacts. We understand that the draft Report has been submitted to the City, and will be made public later this year. It will form the basis for the development of the City's Biodiversity Action Plan. The Blue Wren Group will continue to participate in public consultation as these reports and plans are released.

Responding, both individually and as a group, to the City's review of the Street Tree Management Plan.

Providing input concerning tree preservation to the Glebe Society's response to the first DA for Harold Park (relating to demolition work).

We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with Council on biodiversity issues, especially following the appointment of the Council's first Manager of Urban Ecology, Katie Oxenham.

On August 1 2010, National Tree Day, a second successful planting day was held in conjunction with the City of Sydney, at Paddy Gray Reserve. Follow-up maintenance was slow, but after a productive on-site meeting in late February the City appointed Toolijooa Environmental Restoration services to undertake the specialist work that the park requires. Members of the Blue Wren group living nearby keep an eye on the state of the park, and report concerns to Council. We were particularly pleased recently to see that Council has erected a sign in Paddy Gray Reserve explaining that the purpose of the native planting is to provide habitat for native birds, and acknowledging the role of the Glebe Society's Blue Wren Group.

Members of the Blue Wren group collaborate with the Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery, and take part in the maintenance of selected sites in the Bicentennial Park as part of the Glebe Bushcare group which volunteers in the area on Wednesday mornings.

In June an initial meeting with Council representatives was held to discuss further options for creating appropriate habitat for small birds in the corridor identified by the Blue Wren report. The section of Palmerston Avenue leading to the Light Rail station was examined. In the coming year we plan to work with Council to hold consultations with local residents. With their involvement we hope to develop a staged process for upgrading this parkland. Initial contact with some local residents suggests there could be a lot of interest in enhancing habitat in Palmerston Avenue. There have been reports of Blue Wrens in the area.

Earlier this year the Blue Wren group farewelled Tessa Copland who had been an active member of the group. Tessa and John Copland were temporary residents of Glebe, working in Sydney for a few years before returning to their native New Zealand, but were keen participants in local activities and the Glebe Society. They appreciated the involvement in the community, and the many friendships they made.

The Blue Wren group welcomes new members at any time. Contact Jan Macindoe or Andrew Wood.

- Jan Macindoe

Love Your Park

This is the new entrance to the M.J.Dougherty Reserve on Mitchell Street, Glebe. Local kids and their parents, together with many residents, made over 300 tiles which now decorate what once were ugly concrete walls at the park entrance and surrounding the play area.

The walls have been transformed by installation of the tiles, each of which was individually made, designed and painted by the neighbours. Three workshops were held in the park, the first to make the tiles, the second to design and paint them, and the third to install the tiles in the walls.

The project was funded by the Council of the City of Sydney and supported by Council Staff and the Glebe Society.

Congratulations go to Annie Atkinson and Gaylene Harkin who initiated the project, and to Ceramic Artist Karen Weiss who guided the work. Congratulations and special



Photo: Katherine Vernon

thanks go to the children and the residents who created this colourful display, and enhanced our environment.

- Robyn Kemmis

Who lived in your street?

Now working at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland USA, Australian-born Matthew Hall was Googling one of his ancestors and came across relevant information in a *Glebe Society Bulletin*: 'a happy coincidence as I lived on Eglinton Road whilst undertaking a PhD', close to the house where he discovered his great-great-great-grandfather had died. Matt has sent Lyn Collingwood this account of his forebear's life.

Michael Joseph Conlon (1841-1913)

One of the advantages of writing this short biography is that there is a sound record of my ancestor's activities. This is because of (i) newspaper coverage of his bowling and political activities, advertisements and death/funeral notices now readily accessible through the National Library of Australia newspapers digitisation project, (ii) research into the pottery industry in Sydney and (iii) the number of biographies of Michael which appeared in print during his lifetime and which were presumably drafted by himself. This last source has been particularly useful in gaining details that would be otherwise impossible to obtain, and where there is some conflict these latter have generally been relied on.

Michael Joseph Conlon, known to his friends as 'Mick', was born in Fairy Meadow (Wollongong) NSW about 24 September 1841. He was the son of Patrick Conlon and Catherine née Lowry, both of Kinvara in County Galway, Ireland. Patrick arrived with his family in 1834 on the *Fairlee* as a private in Her Majesty's 50th Regiment of Foot and discharged prior to Michael's birth, remaining in the Illawarra district as a labourer. The family moved to Sydney shortly after his birth, as the youngest child, Thomas Joseph, was born on Parramatta-street Sydney in 1844. Parramatta-street (later George Street West and now Broadway) was where the Conlon family grew up. A Catholic, Michael was educated at St Benedict's School on Parramatta-street (the school now closed, but parish still in operation). All four of Patrick's sons had the middle name 'Joseph', indicating the strength of the parents' adherence to their faith.

Upon finishing schooling around 1855, Michael entered the pottery business and apparently worked at a number of potteries. The first of his employers was Enoch Fowler, whose business was in Bay Street, Glebe. Two years later he'd apparently moved to Thomas Field



Mr. M. J. Conlon ca 1907

in George Street, Sydney. At that time potteries produced a range of goods including drainpipes, tiles and ginger beer bottles. By the mid 1860s Michael had entered into business with Frederick Baldock at George Street, Redfern. Although their drainpipes were advertised as the 'cheapest and best in the colony', the business seems not to have lasted too long as in early 1866 Michael was listed as bankrupt in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Another clue that the business was not progressing so well is that a year earlier his marriage record listed his occupation as 'tobacconist'.

Michael married Ellen Alleyn (often written as its homophone Allen) on 29 June 1865 at St Mary's Cathedral. He was 23 and still living at his parents' home. Ellen was 18, the daughter of Samuel Alleyn and Mary née Hammond – the family had emigrated to New South Wales from Golden in Tipperary Ireland in 1850. Alleyn descendants have maintained a long-lasting connection to the Glebe area. The connection was also strong between the two families: Michael's brother John Joseph married Ellen's sister Ann in 1870.

Eventually, Michael set up his own pottery business, in Broughton Street, Glebe, on 9 October 1875. The family home was also on this site. When he began his pottery 'he only employed two lads' but by 1907 the works em-

ployed 28 on an acre and a half of land. The works at various times were run in partnership with others (for example Conlon & Cotter in the late 1870s) producing a range of goods including salt-glazed ginger beer bottles, pickle jars, drainpipes, closet pans and traps, chimney pots, garden tiles, paving tiles and bricks. Some of Michael's pottery still exists. His tiles may be seen outside St James' Church, Forest Lodge; others were discovered when repair work was being carried out on the underground Tank Stream. His ginger beer bottles have been found at a number of archaeological digs around Sydney including the site of the Conservatorium of Music.

In 1884 Conlon was elected unopposed as an Alderman for the Glebe Outer Ward – a seat he retained until he retired in 1896 owing to ill health. Conlon was a staunch Protectionist, standing twice for State Parliament (the first in 1887) but being defeated each time – on one occasion by only 14 votes. While campaigning in 1889 he told some 800 people gathered outside the Currency Lass Hotel on Glebe Point Road that while raw imported material was levied, manufactured goods were not, negatively affecting local employment. (It is easy to see how a manufacturer developed such a view.) Conlon was not just a Protectionist, he was also a Catholic – the first to be elected to Glebe Council.

Conlon was also a sporting man, and was a cricket enthusiast. He witnessed every intercolonial cricket match played in Sydney from 1857 to 1900, and belonged to a club called the 'Cornstalk Stars' (probably in the 1860s) which Conlon said 'played on Hyde Park for half-a-crown a bat, and were never beaten'. He also took an interest in rugby in its early years, but he was best known for his prowess at lawn bowls. The Glebe Bowling Club existed 'for wealthy local businessmen' on the north-eastern corner of Wentworth Park

Continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page until it closed in 1899. At a time of great popularity for the sport, Conlon was one of its outstanding bowlers. He was five times club champion and three times State champion. As such he travelled as part of intercolonial matches. The last bowling match he played in was on Australia Day 1900 in the New South Wales singles championship match. With the score at 11 to 2 in his favour he collapsed, and never played again.

From his collapse in 1900 onwards he was an invalid, managing his pottery business and maintaining his political involvement. His family life seems to have been touched by tragedy several times. He and Ellen had four sons and nine daughters, but only three daughters survived him and produced issue: Ellen Theresa (1868-1937, married Frederick William Priestly at Glebe in 1887), Anne Jane (1877-1939, married Charles Mackey in Sydney in 1902) and Violet Gertrude (1888-1921, married James Francis Sims at Glebe in 1911). A number of children died in infancy, others of accidents: Jane Emma (1872-1877) 'was accidentally burned on 9th April and died on 3rd May'. 1902 was particularly tragic for the family. First, his nephew Arthur drowned when he fell from a fishing launch at Sans Souci while trying to retrieve his hat which had fallen into the sea. Then Michael's wife Ellen died on 5 March at home, 20 Broughton Street, of hepatic cirrhosis and his 'last and only beloved son' Michael Joseph junior died six months later. In 1907 Michael's infant granddaughter drowned while her family were living at his home: 'a 17-month-old child named Eileen Theresa ... lately living with her parents at Broughton Street, Glebe. It appears that the child was missed on Monday at about 6 a.m. Upon a search being made, her mother found her lying dead in a pool in a pottery yard. The pool contained a few inches depth of water'.

On 26 November 1913 Michael Joseph

Editor's note:

For reasons of space, this article does not include the 32 footnotes supplied by the author. However Matthew's original article can be found on the Glebe Society Website, www.glebesociety.org.au. It is filed with *Bulletin* 5/2011 under 'Bulletin back issues'.

Conlon died aged 72 at *Carrara*, his home in Alexandra Road Glebe Point. A requiem mass was held for him at St James' Roman Catholic Church Forest Lodge before moving to Rookwood Necropolis. He is buried surrounded by his wife, children and extended family in a connected set of graves adjacent to St Michael the Archangel Chapel. The headstones are now in varying states of disrepair, but his still stands and reads

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONLON
BORN AT WOOLLONGONG (sic) 27TH
SEP 1841
DIED 26TH NOVEMBER 1913 AGED 72
YEARS
R.I.P.
Family Grave Of
M.J. CONLON OF 20 BROUGHTON ST
GLEBE

The extended Conlon family were close, as attested by the number of funeral announcements for the family, and the fact that many of the Conlon family lived in Glebe. In 1902, for example, there were Conlons at 67, 69, 91 and 100 Glebe Point Road as well as others on Mitchell Street and of course Broughton Street. Over time it seems the name Conlon has disappeared from the Glebe area. The last marriage registered in Glebe was 1947, the last death registered in the same year.

Michael appointed his three sons-in-law as executors and trustees of his estate, the whole of which, with the exception of a legacy of £50 to his nephew Samuel Henry Walker, he bequeathed to his three daughters. He directed the trustees to carry on the pottery business as nearly as possible on the same lines as he had done, and to divide the profits equally among his three daughters every six months. The net value of the estate was sworn at £3063 5s 7d. The pottery works were carried on until around 1919 in this manner, though it is not known what became of the site after that time.

- Matthew Hall

Matthew's note

I would very much like to track down an example of Michael's pottery – be it brick, tile or bottle. If anyone is aware of one please contact me at cispt2@gmail.com. Contact from other Conlon and Alleyn descendants is welcome! More information on events described above can also be found at my blog <http://thehistoryofmatt.blogspot.com>.



Planning Matters

City Plan

The Glebe Society has joined with a number of other resident groups to seek changes to the exhibited City Plan.

The first proposal is for each group to give a short presentation to City Councillors on the impact the Plan will have on their area.

The second proposal is to meet the new minister, Brad Hazzard, to secure variation to the templates imposed by the NSW Department of Planning so the City Plan better reflects the variation within the Municipality.

At the time of writing there has been no response to either. However, the Lord Mayor seems more willing to acknowledge the need for changes than she was previously.

There will be an update in the Annual Planning Report.

- Neil Macindoe

Launch of Obituaries Australia

Obituaries Australia (OA) was launched in April 2011. The database results from a project by the group which supports the *Australian Dictionary of Biography online*. It aims to function as a high standard repository for the numerous published obituaries.

Go to <http://oa.anu.edu.au/about-us/>. It is a digital repository for obituaries published in newspapers, journals, magazines and bulletins. It includes all Australians as well as non-Australians who have made an impact on Australian history.

Users of the OA database can search for obituaries using various criteria such as name, life dates, birth and death place, religion, occupation, etc.

City of Sydney Business Awards

Members of the public can vote until 22 July for their favourite businesses in Glebe. One of the nominations is for Red Ant Media, the business that designed our Glebe Walks website and 40th Anniversary booklet. See the full list of nominations on <http://www.sydneybusinessawards.com.au/Vote/Top-Ten-Tracker>.

The Glebe Community

Volunteers needed for the Mitchell Street Fair

Planning is under way already for the next Mitchell Street Fair, to be held on 29 October. Volunteers will be needed for activities including:

Cut outs – encourage children and parents to have their photo taken, take the photo and print it. This role requires standing for the duration.

Children's Craft section – encourage, support and assist children in making various crafts. This role will require bending, squatting or sitting to be at the same height as a child's chair/table and volunteers might get a little messy with glue, glitter paint, etc.

Badge making – encourage, support and assist children and young people to make personalised badges, with a badge machine. This will be done at a normal height trestle table so will involve both sitting and standing.

Time requirements are **10.45am to 12.30pm and 12.30pm to 2.15pm**. This includes instructions at 10.45am about the activity, and helping to pack up at 2-2.15pm.

If people are interested but unable to commit to the above time frames, I am happy to speak with them and work something out.

Alternatively, the Glebe Society might like to take responsibility to cover volunteers for one or more activities and work out the time roster themselves.

Ally de Pree-Raghavan
Coordinator, Glebe Community
Development Project
Ph 9660 3943, 0415 498 714
email alison.depre@sydney.edu.au

... and the mid-winter luncheon

HopeStreet is planning a mid-winter luncheon on Tuesday 26 July, at Unit-ing (Café) Church, 37 St John's Road. Hope Street has secured funding to provide a lunch for approximately 70 people from the Glebe Estate. Last year's initial lunch was a great success and we

expect tickets for this year's lunch to go quickly. I am in need of workers all day from 9.30am to 4pm, but am hoping to have three separate work teams each working for about 2 – 3 hours over the day. Those who come to work at any time, will, of course be offered hospitality and hopefully will enjoy meeting up and chatting with our community lunch guests.

Guests arrive from 12 noon and the event concludes at 3pm. Before and during the meal we have a Trivia Competition and Lucky Door Prizes. After dessert is served, there will be a few rounds of Bingo.

The three teams of volunteers are:

9.30am – 12 noon. Setting up tables and chairs, table setting and decorating. Will need a reasonable amount of lifting and carting.

11.30am – 2pm. Lunch service and preparation of dessert. Assisting with tea/coffee service.

1.30pm – 4pm or when finished. Packing up – clearing, some washing up, packing tables and chairs etc.

For more information about the lunch, or the tasks for volunteers, see the Glebe Society Website (www.glebesociety.org.au) or phone me on 0426 503 351 or 9692 8377 (please leave message).

Julie Brackenreg
Glebe Minister
HopeStreet Urban Compassion

Glebe Society events

Bookings have closed for the Welcome to New Members and talk by *Gleebook's* David Gaunt on Friday 1 July - we are full up.

If you missed out on this event, there will be others later in year with interesting local speakers and local topics.

Meanwhile, note that you have an opportunity to meet other members at the Annual General Meeting, on Sunday 28 August, and hear our guest speaker, Dr Lisa Murray, the City of Sydney's Historian.

- Dorothy Davis

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Family Day

A fun day for the whole community with a free BBQ, touch footy, jumping castle, Indigenous games, TI dancers, kids' activities, art workshop.

Where: Sunday 3 July
Venue: Victoria Park, Glebe
Time: 10am – 3pm

Corroboree Night

A huge night of food, music and fun featuring Mariene Cummins as MC, STRB Ballaz, Torres Strait Islander Dance Group and more local performers!

Where: Saturday 9 July
Venue: Glebe Youth Service
Time: 6.30 -11pm

For more information phone Bec, 9566 2126 or America, 9692 9375.

52 Suburbs exhibition

Some time ago, we drew members' attention to the website www.52suburbs.com. This site is the culmination of Louise Hawson's mission to explore and photograph a different Sydney suburb each week for a year.

Louise describes her experience as a 'year of walking slow and looking hard'. She didn't seek the picture postcard but 'ordinary beauty'. Lou-

ise lived in Glebe when she first left home, so she has some understanding of the neighbourhood. But she also has a special way of seeing. The juxtaposition of her images of Glebe startle, amuse and charm. There is colour, texture, pathos and humour.

The Historic Houses Trust is now hosting an exhibition *52 Suburbs* at the Museum of Sydney, until 9 October. Admission \$10. Concessions available.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Dr David McIntosh has become a Member of the Order of Australia. His citation reads:

For service to medicine, particularly in the areas of vaccines and infectious diseases, as an academic, and to the community through the Glebe Music Festival.



Glebe Society member David McIntosh is the founder and Artistic Director of the annual Glebe Music Festival, now in its twenty-second year. Australian and overseas musicians have performed at more than 100 Festival concerts since the Festival's inception.

Dr McIntosh, who is a paediatrician, specialising in infectious diseases and an academic based in Amsterdam, organises a program of six to eight concerts every spring in a range of venues in Glebe including his house, *Margaretta Cottage* (c1836).

Through David's philanthropy, reputation and efforts, the Festival attracts local and international musicians. The concerts he has organised in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney have provided an important venue for public performances by students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

David also has a significant interest in the history of music and music performance and is himself an organ recitalist, holding the qualification of Associate Music Australia (AMusA), a choir trainer, harpsichordist, and a performer on early pianos and of chamber music.

We look forward to the delights of the 2011 Glebe Music Festival later this year.

- Liz Simpson-Booker

Public Service Medal

Glebe resident James Alexander Christian received a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to Indigenous affairs in the NSW Department of Human Services.

Painting presented to the Glebe Society

Gayle Speight lived in Glebe in the early 1980s. As an amateur art enthusiast, she created a watercolour and ink painting of the view from her Wigram Road flat. The outlook was to the south and the painterly view is framed by the MWS&DB brick vent stack (1908) in York Street and the spire of the former Presbyterian Church (Thomas Rowe, 1876-81, relocated 1927) in Bridge Road. The foreground of the painting is dominated by the buildings which formerly occupied the site where *Glebe Gardens* now stands in Hereford Street.

The scene records Glebe at a time when the significant trend to renovate and restore the suburb's heritage houses was well under way. It also recalls a time when light industry was located nearer the city centre, before a generalised move to outer areas.

Gayle now lives in Bundaberg and found The Glebe Society and informa-

Last chance for a stickybeak

Melrose at 28 Toxteth Road – which has operated as a boarding house for years – has been sold. Artist and musician Barry Canham, who has held many wonderful poetry and play readings and jazz parties there, extends this invitation. He's especially keen to meet up with any ex-residents!

There will be a farewell 'open afternoon' (no catering provided, but you're welcome to BYO food/drink/utensils/bag for garbage) on Saturday 9 July from 2pm.

This may be your last chance to explore the free-standing Victorian mansion. It is rumoured that English royalty (George V) once stayed there overnight. Before he was crowned he did visit Australia (in 1881 before the house was built and again in 1901). I haven't found any proof of a Toxteth Road sleepover as yet.

- Lyn Collingwood



Gayle Speight presented her painting of the view from her Wigram Road flat to President Liz Simpson-Booker at Glebe Library. Photo: Phil Young

tion about Glebe Walks on our website and made contact. On a recent visit to Sydney, Gayle kindly presented a copy of her painting titled *Glebe 1984* to the Glebe Society.

The Society is grateful to Gayle Speight for providing us with this glimpse of an earlier Glebe

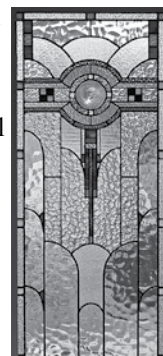
- Liz Simpson-Booker.

Stained Glass? Lead Lights?

Whichever term one uses to describe the beautiful glass work that you may well have in your house, please consider allowing it to be appreciated by others.

We are planning a guided tour one Spring evening, in the later part of this coming September, to be preceded by an illustrated talk. This talk will relate to the history of glass in Glebe, as well as placing this art form in a wider historical context.

To discuss the potential of offering your windows/doors for viewing from the footpath please contact David Mander-Jones on 9552 4172 or davidandfay@manderjones.com.au.



News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around 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, varying cuisines. Put these dates in your diary now.

On Thursday 7 July we will go to *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Road.

On Thursday 4 August we will go *Lien* Vietnamese Malaysian Restaurant, 331 Glebe Point Road (opposite the Library).

And on Thursday 1 September we will go to *Elizabeth's*, 175 Glebe Point Road.

Please email me or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Wednesday before the dinner to let me know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

- Edwina Doe

Welcome to new members

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

- * Evan Jones
- * Jill Hardwick

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

Players in the Pub

Here are the next plays in the series of popular moved readings at the Toxteth Hotel.

Presented by members and friends of Sydney's New Theatre, these are not static readings but theatrical presentations using minimal props and furniture.

12 July - *Jack* by Jim McNeil, directed by Susan Kennedy. Jim McNeil's literary career lasted only a decade in a short life spent mostly in Australian gaols but his 'great talent struck like a thunderbolt' (Peter Kenna). In *Jack*, McNeil examines the coarsening and deadening effect of the removal of a female influence on men in prison.

16 August - *I Do Not Like Thee, Dr Fell* by Bernard Farrell, directed by Maeliosa Stafford.

A group therapy session viewed through the eyes of an Irish master of comedy, directed by his friend Maeliosa, an actor-director with a long list of credits in Australia and Ireland. Psychobabble, self discovery, cushions and group hugs.

Tuesdays at 7pm in the upstairs Media Room (enter via Ferry Road stairs) Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road. Free admission. Two main meals for the price of one on Tuesdays - orders from 5.30pm.

Annual General Meeting

The Glebe Society AGM is set down for Sunday 28 August at 11am. It will be held at *Benledi*.

Boonah Creative Arts Centre

Gallery Red presents a group mixed media exhibition with *Boonah Creative Arts Centre*, an initiative of Centacare Broken Bay.

'To provide and promote arts, education and creative expression for all people, especially people with a disability, enabling them to realise their artistic potential, develop skills, increase their self esteem and thereby enhance their quality of life.'

The Boonah Creative Arts Centre exhibition runs until 5 July. Gallery Hours for this exhibition are Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturdays by appointment.

Gallery Red Shop 11, 131-145 Glebe Point Road, 9692 0030

Free mid-winter concert

HopeStreet Urban Compassion is holding a free mid-winter concert at the Church Hall, 37 St Johns Road, at 2pm on Sunday, 10 July. Come along to hear:

- Andreea Kindryd, storyteller,
- Maggie Mason, comedienne/poet, and
- the Sydney Street Choir.

- Julie Brackenreg

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor: Clover Moore MP

Councillors:

Phillip Black
Meredith Burgmann
Irene Doutney
Chris Harris
Marcelle Hoff
Robert Kok
Shayne Mallard
John McInerney
Di Tornai

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 ...

Friday 1 July, 6pm to 7.30pm – Welcome to new members and talk by David Gaunt of *gleebooks*, *Benledi*.

Thursday 7 July, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Road. See page 8.

Sunday 3 July, 10am-3pm – NAIDOC Family Day, Victoria Park. See page

Saturday 9 July. 6.30-11pm – NAIDOC Corroboree Night, Glebe Youth Service. See page

Tuesday 12 July, 7pm – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

Wednesday 13 July, 7.30pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

Thursday 4 August, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Lien*, 331 Glebe Point Road. See page 8.

Wednesday 10 August, 7.30pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

Tuesday 16 August, 7pm – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

Sunday 29 August, 11am – Glebe Society Annual General Meeting, *Benledi*.

Thursday 1 September, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Elizabeth's*, 175 Glebe Point Road. See page 10.

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) 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

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, within the Guidelines published on our website. Write to the address above or email 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 July. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday 20 July**.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Correspondence Secretary	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592
Minute Secretary	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members:

Dorothy Davis 9660 7873, Carole Herriman 9571 9092,
David Mander Jones 9552 4172, Margaret Sheppard 9660 4121

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
Community Development	Robyn Kemmis	9692 9440
The Environment	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Heritage	Carole Herriman	9571 9092
Membership	Cheryl and Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Andrew Craig	9566 1746

Other contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
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 CoGG	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Website	Phil Young	9692 9583

In this issue

- Does the Fish Market have a future? – pages 1-3
- New Government, new hope? – pages 1-2
- Plaque capital of Australia? – page 3
- Report to the AGM – page 5
- Who lived in your street? – page 5
- The Glebe Community – page 8

The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



Postage
paid

Membership of the Glebe Society

Individual member \$45

Joint (2 people, one address) \$55

Household (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address) \$60

Concession (student or pensioner) \$20

Institution or corporate \$110

Download a membership form from our website (www.glebesociety.org.au, click on Join), write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037, or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

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

Community Contacts

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

Office: Glebe Library - 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

Phone: 9298 3191

Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 9265 9333

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped Shopping trolleys: Trolley Tracker 1800 641 497

Waterway Garbage: NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592