

## Anzac Bridge maintenance

It is 15 years since the Anzac Bridge opened to traffic and the RTA has prepared a maintenance program to ensure its effective operation in the future.

The RTA proposes to:

- \* Install temporary lifts, scaffolding and work platforms to undertake the maintenance work.
- \* Install permanent access systems (gantries) to hard-to-reach parts of the bridge, such as the underside of the deck and bridge towers.
- \* Improve the bridge's stay cables (this will help prevent vibratory 'strum' which occurs in light rain or wind conditions).
- \* Replace the fence along the shared pathway on the northern side of the bridge with an anti-climb fence.
- \* Install new two metre high anti-climb fencing along the southern side of the bridge (currently there is a double rail).

The RTA proposes that standard work hours would be 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday. Some work will involve lane closures on the bridge and this work would be carried out at night or out of peak hours when traffic volumes are lower. The RTA anticipates that the work will take around 26 months to complete, and will be finished in time for the Anzac Centenary celebrations.

The Glebe Society has prepared a submission protesting that the new fencing along the southern side of the bridge and the permanent gantry will significantly detract from the linearity, elegance and beauty of the bridge. The net effect is that the bridge deck will look significantly heavier and more cluttered.



Anzac Bridge from the end of Glebe Point Road.  
Photo: Rod Holtham

The Society is also concerned about the noise impacts of the project and seriously disappointed that the project does not go any way to mitigating the existing ambient noise impact of the bridge which recent noise measurements indicate is in the region of 'serious annoyance', as specified by the World Health Organisation *Guidelines for Community Noise* (1999).

As Glebians well know, sound travels unabated across water. The ambient noise can be broadly classified as (a) general bridge traffic noise and (b) the noise generated as tyres hit the large expansion joint at the western end of the bridge. This latter noise can be heard in many parts of Glebe. The general traffic noise is expected to worsen as traffic increases and sound walls are not considered aesthetically or structurally suitable for the bridge (although we note anti-climb fences are). The Society calls for the RTA to erect signage to help minimise the noise caused by large vehicles using compression braking as they come off the bridge.

Despite the lack of any noise mitigation measures in the RTA proposal, the Society understands that the RTA has separately taken noise measurements at the expansion joint. There are no simple remedies but the RTA has indicated it is exploring options.

The Society also notes that the proposed work is scheduled to commence in October 2011. We question the seriousness with which the community consultation outcomes will be considered in the light of this time-frame.

### What's coming soon

**Sunday 16 October, 11am - 2pm** – Wentworth Park Community Games.

**Thursday 20 October, 5.30 - 7pm** – *Benedi* – Talk on the Town Hall Restoration. See the green flyer.

**Saturday 29 October, 11am - 2pm** – Mitchell Street Fair.

**Monday 31 October, 5 - 7pm** – Malt Shovel Brewery, 99 Pyrmont Bridge Road. See the gold flyer.

**Wednesday 9 November, 9.30am - 12 noon** – Working Bee, Paddy Gray Reserve. See page 4.

**Saturday 19 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm** – Art Gallery Walking Tour. See page 13.

### Vale Bernard Smith 1916-2011

The first President of the Glebe Society, Art Historian Emeritus Professor Bernard Smith, died in Melbourne on 2 September, aged 94 years.

Max Solling has written about his good friends Kate and Bernard Smith. See page 5.

# Foley Park landscaping

The second stage of the landscaping of Foley Park has been approved by Council. Tenders will be called for the works involved, and Council intends that the work will commence early next year. Council papers list the scope of the upgrade as:

- (a) A new public toilet comprising one female WC, one male WC, one accessible WC with baby change facilities and a common hand-wash area.
- (b) Planting and new terracing around the War Memorial.
- (c) Terracing, planting and sandstone seating steps along the Glebe Point Road frontage near the bus stop, to **improve the available space on this very narrow footpath.**
- (d) **A new curved sandstone retaining wall to replace the failing wall at the Glebe Point Road entrance, adjacent to the mature fig trees.**
- (e) **Interpretive signage and a timeline for the original Hereford House.**

These enhancements to the Park are welcome, but they are far from encompassing the full range of landscaping that was covered in the original Landscape Plan for the Park, developed in 2006. More seriously, there is no mention of a timetable for completion of the other elements of the 2006 Plan. The reduction in the scope of the works has not been subject to community consultation, and the Glebe Society has written to Council expressing its concern for these changes and the lack of consultation.

The key aspects of the original Plan that we are keen to see implemented are:

**\* Interpretive overlay of Hereford House.** It was envisaged that the footprint of the original Hereford House would be outlined, along with interpretive information. An archeological investigation has already been carried out to determine the location and layout of the house. This feature would add an important historical depth to the Park and ensure that archeological research was put to good effect.

**\* Decorative concrete plinth in location of former Hereford House verandah with tables and seats. Picnic seating under arbour structure.** Before the recent landscaping, the Park included picnic tables and chairs, and

a pergola. The 2006 Plan envisaged that these would be relocated. Locals supported the removal of these facilities on the understanding that they would be replaced in more attractive locations and form. The lack of picnic settings currently reduces the potential use of the Park, with families in particular needing this facility.

**\* Decomposed granite area as flexible stage.** This element was incorporated as part of the Village Green concept, and to make the Park more usable for public activities requiring a stage or service area.

**\* Above ground water tanks – subject to adjacent land owner's approval for connection to roof water.** This proposal would be in keeping with Council's sustainability priorities.

Although these elements have not been included in the 2011-12 Council budget, we would like to see a timetable to indicate when this further stage is to be completed.

**Note:** While the landscaping works are due for completion in April 2012, construction on the new public toilet is not scheduled to begin until July 2012, with completion in December of that year.

- Jan Macindoe  
Environment Coordinator

## More Environment Matters

### Bicentennial Park – palm trees and saltmarsh

The proposal to remove palm trees along the canal in order to improve the habitat for saltmarsh species created a small furor, but the outcome, as reported in the *Bulletin*, was positive. Not only were the palm trees saved but we have become aware of the existence of endangered saltmarsh species and the plan to enhance their habitat.

### Response to Draft Street Tree Master Plan

A submission in response to the Council's Draft Street Tree Master Plan has been sent to Council. A copy of this submission is on the Society's Website.

## Exhibition of plans to rejuvenate Paddy Gray reserve and the children's playground in Jubilee Park

These plans have been generally well received. The plans for Paddy Gray reserve include further planting to encourage small birds, as well as improved facilities for children, and a small area for a community garden. Perhaps the most contentious issue seemed to be the proposed elimination of some car parking spaces to expand the size of the park. Although welcomed by most park users, some local residents may be unhappy. The Jubilee Park plans seemed to be generally welcomed.

- Jan Macindoe

## Meeting with Jamie Parker, MP for Balmain

The Glebe Society has a tradition of working closely with local Members of Parliament. With the election of Jamie Parker of the Greens as the new member of the lower house of the State Parliament we sought a meeting to establish a working relationship with him. Subsequently, four members of the Management Committee had a very productive exchange of views and ideas with Jamie on Friday 23 September.

The discussion covered the full range of issues impacting on Glebe at the moment including the Glebe Affordable Housing project, Harold Park (particularly traffic implications) and planning for development of the Bays area.

We also received an update from Jamie on the delays regarding the Light Rail project including the GreenWay project. Jamie mentioned that five local councils are organising a rally for 28 October. Details will be made available on the GreenWay website ([www.greenway.org.au](http://www.greenway.org.au)), where there will also be opportunity to sign a petition.

The Committee members present concluded that we can be confident our new representative will be active at State level in prosecuting issues vital to the preservation and enhancement of our locality.

- Mairéad Browne

# Planning Matters

## Harold Park Masterplan

The City of Sydney Council recently received a set of Development Applications (D/2011/1311-2 & 1298-9) from Mirvac for the first two precincts on the Harold Park site. Council subsequently invited comment from the community at large with a deadline of 28 September for submissions.

To assist in forming its views, the Society's Harold Park Working Party, assembled from members living close to the site on all sides, met with Mirvac on Wednesday 7 September, to hear about the Masterplan. For its part, Mirvac invited residents to an Information Night and Exhibition, 5 - 8pm on Tuesday 13 September at the Forest Lodge Primary School, Ross Street and this was well attended by community and Society members.

Broadly, the proposals for precincts 1 and 2 appear to conform to what has already been approved, that is, there is little change from the plans previously agreed by Council. There are some aspects of the current proposals the Society supports. These include the quantity of Public Open Space and Affordable Housing, and the inclusion of terrace-style apartments at ground level with direct access to the street, so the apartment blocks are less alienating and the likelihood of street life is increased. We encourage members to look at the plans for themselves (on the City of Sydney website) and also at the scale model of the entire site on display at Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street (Monday - Friday, 8am - 6pm).

These are some of the issues the Society considers as areas of concern, but members will have their own concerns based on how much they expect to be affected.

1. The Society continues to believe there should be a maximum of six storeys over underground parking. Those buildings designed to be at the maximum permitted eight storeys are still considered too high as they will rise above the top of the cliff.

2. The amount of parking, although at the maximum required by the City's parking code, in the Society's view is

not enough for the number of people likely to occupy the site. One option open to Mirvac is to exceed the City's parking requirements.

3. The new intersection proposed as The major access route for the site, on the Crescent opposite Minogue Crescent, is not scheduled to be installed until after the completion of the first two precincts. Because of the problems of access, especially the need to improve access for Forest Lodge, this development should be brought forward to coincide with their construction.

4. As soon as the site is prepared the City should proceed with the landscaping of the 3.8 ha of Open Space and the construction of the allotted affordable housing (which is closest to Ross Street).

5. The City should complete and implement the proposed management plan for the Hill (between Harold Park and Jubilee Park Station) and the proposed Open Space on The Crescent, north of the site.

6. The Society supports the proposal that Mirvac formally accept the offer of \$10 million from the Lifetime Care and Support Authority toward the restoration of the Tramsheds and moves ahead with community consultations about this facility.

The Society is in the process of developing its submission to the Council covering these and other points. The submission will be accessible on our website in early October. We urge members to acquaint themselves with the issues and make submissions to the Council to ensure the views of the Glebe community are well represented.

## Meeting with Planners re CityPlan

On Wednesday 7 September, members of the Society and other Glebe groups met with Planners from the City and also the NSW Department of Planning to hear an update on the progress of the CityPlan.

The City Planners were well prepared and addressed all the issues we had raised. While we are not able to say definitely that the Plan will be changed, there are promising indications, especially where our concerns were reflected

in comments from other residents within the City, and in some instances throughout the State. There is still uncertainty concerning the review of the Department's templates. This is one issue that has raised universal criticism.

In addition to the CityPlan, there was some discussion of the impending review of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, on which the City and the Society will both be making submissions before February 2012.

Those who attended were generally well satisfied with the conduct of the meeting, though still concerned about the final outcome. Depending on the extent of changes to the Plan, it may be necessary to readvertise it. In any case, the review of the 980 objections will not be completed until the end of the year.

- Neil Macindoe

## Two New Year Concerts at Glebe Island?

Members will recall that we reported last month on a development application by Sydney Resolutions Pty Ltd for two concerts to take place on Glebe Island on 31 December 2011 and 3 January 2012. Over 40,000 people were expected to attend each concert.

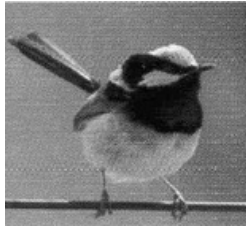
Submissions in regard to DA 032-07-2011 are now up on the website of the NSW Department of Planning (follow the links to Major Projects Assessment/On exhibition). There are a significant number of community submissions (including the Glebe Society's) which are bundled, so you will need to scroll down to view them all.

Resident opinion, almost universally, ranges from opposed to vehemently opposed. Leichhardt Council, the Police and the Transport Department have lodged submissions which demonstrate their significant concerns at potential impacts.

It is not clear at this stage when a formal decision relating to the DA will be announced.

- Liz Simpson-Booker

## Looking after the Blue Wrens



### Planting - 4 September

On a sunny spring morning, Sunday 4 September, a dozen 'gardeners', mostly Glebe Society members, gathered at the Park in Minogue Crescent, adjacent to the Police and Community Youth Club. The planting of Blue Wren-friendly natives was supervised by Katie Oxenham and Nick Criniti from the City of Sydney. The site had been prepared by Citiwide, the City's contractors, and was clear of weeds and had plenty of fresh mulch. There is a tap close by so hopefully the plants will be well watered over the next few weeks and will have no trouble surviving the summer, but maintenance of the new planting is something we will need to keep an eye on.

- Andrew Wood

### Working bee on 9 November

Join the Glebe Society's Blue Wrens group and members from the Glebe Bushcare Group and Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery, for a working bee on **Wednesday 9 November, 9.30am to 12 noon** (weather permitting, otherwise 16 November). It is at Paddy Gray Reserve, between Hereford Street and Wigram Lane, beside 57 Hereford Street, the local National Tree Day site in 2010 and 2008. If you don't want to pull out weeds, spread mulch and add a few infill plants, come anyway and have morning tea with the workers and inspect the success (or otherwise) of past plantings.

You need to wear comfortable old clothes that protect you from sun and scratches and bring your own filled thermos and mug. If you can, bring your garden gloves and trowel (some will be available) and morning tea to share.

- Jan Craney

## A warm welcome to our new President

Mairéad Browne, a long time Glebe Resident, was elected President of the Glebe Society at our recent Annual General Meeting.

Mairéad's gentle Irish brogue belies her organisational abilities and her attachment to her new Glebe environment. Her husband David served as Glebe Society President from 1994 to 1995.

## Floodplain Risk Management Committee

The City of Sydney invited several people to join its Floodplain Risk Management Committee and the first meeting thereafter was held on 7 September in the Sydney Town Hall. Community representatives from Glebe were Anton Crouch, Megan Petrass, Peter Geelan-Small and Sybil Jack-Unger. The Committee is supposed not only to have community representatives but representatives from the other bodies with responsibility for aspects of the problem. It was disappointing therefore that the representatives of Sydney Water and the Department of Primary Industries did not attend and that there does not seem to be a representative of the Harbour Foreshore Authority or the Sydney Catchment Authority.

I had hoped to get a better idea of how the various bodies with responsibility for aspects of water management work. A map of the interlocking responsibilities would be valuable for those who want to report possible difficulties. The presentation describing the progress of the flood study for Blackwattle Bay and Johnstons Creek project did not tell us which computer simulation package was being used although the WMA team responsible answered questions quite willingly. They believe that it is sufficiently flexible to take in changes as they occur and to run the simulation again to see what effects the changes might produce. They did not go into details about the data they had used to feed into the package, although it was clear that on the ground investigation was not really part of it except where they had responses to the questionnaires sent out and of course only a fraction of those sent out were returned.

The Staff response to Peter Geelan-Small's question about contacting the communities of which we are representatives was that the City of Sydney could do this better and we should not bother. This seems to suggest that our role is wholly passive and its value at

best symbolic. The Glebe Society may wish to consider whether it has views on this and how far it would like to be kept informed of developments.

After the meeting I did look into some of the questions that concerned me. A search of the websites shows that the Water Board, in getting its new licence last year, has entered into a MoU with the Department of the Environment but this appears extremely vague and meetings a vanishing rare event. This says that the Water Board has 'some' stormwater services. One might wonder who has responsibility for the rest? Are there regulations that cover the intersection points where the 'smaller drains and conduits' which are Council's responsibility intersect with the larger drains that the Water Board controls? Who checks that these are not blocked? Sydney Water through a contractor is currently working on a drain on the Annandale side abutting on Johnstons Creek and next to the area where the 'natural' vegetation is being restored. Do all the drains that run into Johnstons Creek fall under the Water Board?

I feel that the reluctance to provide detailed maps of what lies under our feet makes it hard to assess what is being done. I know that the City of Sydney claims to have marked drains with a fish and that there are 43 in Glebe. So far I have found two. Can anyone point to more?

Looking for the authority that might be responsible for the Cook Street side of Blackwattle Bay, I discovered that the Foreshore Authority seems to bypass it. It covers the Pyrmont side but then crosses to the Balmain peninsula leaving the western side of Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays out. This is a pity as I wanted to raise issues of what appears to be the undermining of the retaining walls at some points and the destruction of those facing onto the water.

- Sybil Jack-Unger

# Bernard and Kate Smith

Our Glebe historian, Max Solling, remembers his friends Bernard Smith, who died this month, and his late wife Kate.

## Bernard's early life

Bernard William Smith was born at Sydney on 3 October 1916 to a single mother, Rose Anne Tierney, an Irish-born domestic servant unable to look after him. When four years old he first met his father, Charles Smith. He was brought up as a state ward by foster parents 'Mum Keen' and 'Old Dad' at *Braeside*, Burwood. Bernard attended Concord Primary, Petersham and Enmore High where he was dux. He was awarded a two year scholarship to Sydney Teachers College in 1933. He combined primary school teaching with painting between 1935 and 1944. Smith's world was profoundly shaped by the late 30s and in 1939 he joined the teachers' branch of the Communist Party. For the rest of his life Marxist notions played a role in his writings about art and culture.

## Marriage and further education

Bernard met Kate Challis, an English-born Latin and French teacher in 1940 at a Teachers Federation Art Society lecture in Sydney. Married on 16 May 1941, the Smiths lived in a two bedroom flat at *Ilan Court*, Wylde Street, Potts Point at a fixed weekly rent of 38 shillings and sixpence where their two children, Elizabeth and John (1943 and 1944), were brought up. Bernard was seconded to the NSW Art Gallery (1944 to 1954) where he organised touring exhibitions to regional NSW. They sailed for England in 1948 where Bernard was British Council scholar at the Warburg Institute, University of London (1948-49) returning in 1951. He then obtained an Arts degree at Sydney University and as Research Scholar at ANU (1954-55) completed his doctorate. Smith was appointed a Lecturer (1955-1963) and Reader (1964-1966) in the Fine Arts Department of Melbourne University and for three years (1963-1966) was art critic of the *Melbourne Age*.

## Arrival in Glebe

Bernard was appointed founding Professor of Contemporary Art and Director of the Power Institute of Fine Arts, University of Sydney, in 1967 when the Smiths moved to 23 Av-

enue Road, Glebe. A new energy and enthusiasm for inner city life pervaded Glebe in the early months of 1969, and the Smiths' home became a meeting place for like-minded people intent on forming a resident action group. Kate Smith, an indefatigable pedestrian (the Smiths never owned a car) stopped and talked to everyone on her daily errands and no-one recruited more members to the Society than Kate in the formative period, using skills acquired as a school teacher, and later rallying troops for demonstrations.

## Birth of the Glebe Society

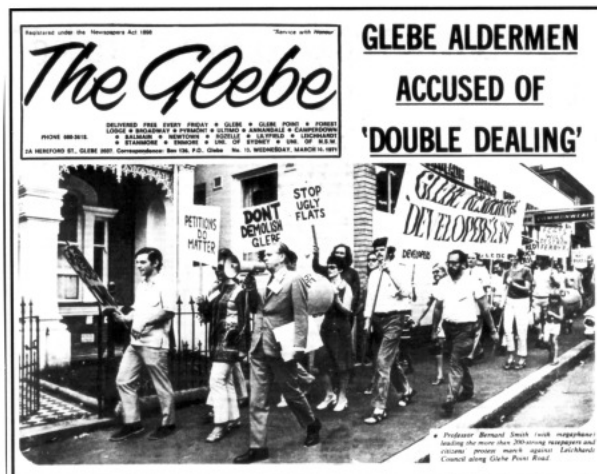
The Glebe Society's first annual meeting was on 19 June 1969 at Glebe Town Hall and Bernard Smith, as its first President, found resident action

workplace the Society was delighted to receive a letter in March 1970 from P H Morton, Minister for Local Government & Highways advising that the section of the North Western Expressway between Lombard Street and Maxwell Street was to be a bored tunnel, not open cut. The Society, with 250 members by July 1970, now challenged the appropriateness of the expressways.

## Campaign for a Better Council

Anxious to influence planning policy, the Society prepared a plan expressing a need for conservation and preservation, and presented it to Leichhardt Council in September 1970. Three months after the plan had been returned to Council from the State Planning Authority, the Authority's recommendations had not

been considered by Council nor released to the Society. Confronted with an unsympathetic Council that made decisions behind closed doors, and attempts within ALP branches to proscribe Society members, the Society was led to actively support candidates under the banner of Campaign for a Better Council (CBC) in September 1971. Six CBC candidates were elected and, in coalition with Balmain councillors Origlass and Wyner, controlled the new council (1971-1974) which adopted a conservation, anti-expressway and open council platform. It implemented more stringent zoning restrictions for Glebe, prohibiting uncontrolled flat development and incursions of non-residential land uses.



*The Glebe*, Issue No. 13, Wednesday March 10 1971. The caption reads 'Professor Bernard Smith (with megaphone) leading the more than 200-strong ratepayers and citizens' protest march against Leichhardt Council along Glebe Point Road'.

a new and exciting experience. To celebrate what we were fighting for, a walk around Glebe was held in July 1969. The Askin Liberal Government was committed to massive redevelopment of the inner city with eviction and demolition threatening the existence of traditional inner city neighbourhoods. Bernard, who was the Society's President from 1969 to 1971 and 1974 to 1975, and Kate were closely involved in a series of defensive actions designed to protect the physical fabric of Glebe at that time. These are worth recounting.

## Threats to Glebe

Two immediate threats to Glebe's townscape - urban radial expressways and the building of flats - preoccupied the new Society. After meeting Main Roads Department officials at my

## Glebe history and architecture

Bernard, Kate and I enjoyed strolling around Glebe on Saturday afternoons soon after we met and we became good friends; Bernard was full of ideas and probing questions. It was nice to share thoughts with kindred spirits who also found Glebe their sort of place at a time when the official view was that the suburb's built environment had little to commend it. They supported the idea of a local history journal; the first issue of the *Leichhardt Historical Journal* was published in 1971. Data was being welded in the crucible of Bernard's fertile mind where the idea of an architectural history was taking shape and I was pleased they found my thesis on Glebe of some value for their planned book.

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Glebe rate books, crucial for dating local houses, had been earlier located unkempt in the bowels of Sydney Town Hall, and transferred to the then Archives Office of NSW, and the whereabouts of other source materials were discussed. Kate spent weeks at Mitchell Library working through the Subdivision boxes and Sands Directories, and deciphering the Glebe rate books, something she loved doing. This painstaking labour is meticulously recorded in the footnotes and printed sources of Kate and Bernard's *The Architectural Character of Glebe* published in 1973, a seminal book distinguishing domestic architectural styles.

### The Glebe Estate

After the Anglican Synod announced plans to sell part of the Glebe Estate we prepared a pamphlet *The Glebe Lands of Bishopthorpe and St Phillips: The Case for Preservation and Restoration*, 1972, arguing two things: that these cottages and terraces of the period 1860-1880 formed a continuous townscape, representing a valuable cross-section of Australian domestic architecture, and secondly that it would retain a tract of Glebe largely inhabited by low income families. In 1974 the Federal Government acquired the Glebe Estate for \$17.5 million. Bernard returned to Glebe to launch a reprint of their book at Lyndhurst in 1989 when he told the *Herald* 'public ownership of a large part of Glebe had prevented working class people from being moved out ... usually the homes of the working class were not considered worthy of preservation. That gives an inaccurate view of what the past was like'.

### Expressways

The Department of Main Roads in planning expressways through Glebe assumed inner city housing would continue to decay. The two expressways effectively sliced Glebe into three sections and would displace about 2500 residents. *Lyndhurst*, threatened with demolition, became a symbol of the anti-expressway movement and in February 1972 Bernard wrote about this in the *Herald* (*A House with a history*). The DMR was confronted by the Builders Labourers Federation and a variety of people and bodies (including the Glebe Society) across the spectrum united in their opposition to urban radial expressways. Opposition took the form of confrontation at demolition sites and squatting in DMR-affected property. The Green Bans that Jack Munday's BLF imposed took on the classic

features of an urban social movement; it was sudden, unexpected and spontaneous, and relatively short-lived from 1972 to 1974. But its impact was dramatic, shutting down a series of construction projects. Glebe people turned up in strength at the confrontation and vigil at Fig Street, Ultimo in October 1974 which received national coverage, halting further house demolition with the street meeting there chaired by Bernard Smith. The Glebe area was listed by the National Trust as a Conservation Area in 1974, receiving the highest category of listing. This added weight to the case against expressway construction and the Federal Government withdrew finance for the project. Vigorous campaigns conducted by inner city residents to protect their neighbourhoods occupy an important place in modern formative ideas of heritage and heritage conservation. A conglomeration of circumstances had fortuitously come together to ensure that the existing physical fabric and character of Glebe remained intact. The Smiths retired to 168 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy in 1977 to be near their children.

### Kate Challis

Kate Smith was born on 3 March 1915 at Streatham Hill, a suburb of London, where she was abandoned, aged one month, and destined for the Foundling Hospital. Like Bernard, she too was fostered, and brought up by Hilda Adeney whose husband Cuthbert was serving in France as a medical officer. Her father Albert was killed in France in 1916. Kate lived at Ditchling, East Sussex and attended school there and at Burgess Hill, and in 1934 enrolled as Kate Challis, her baptismal name, for an Arts degree at London University College and an Education diploma, completed in 1937. She secured a two year contract to teach in Australia, paid £10 for a cabin berth to Sydney in 1938, found a flat at 170 King Street in the city, and began teaching in January 1939 at *Fairfield*, 92 Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill, and then at *Meriden* from 1942. The Adeneys, drawn to Fabian values in the Depression and Spanish Civil War, had moved Kate's political sympathies towards the left of politics, and from 1941 to about 1944 she was a Communist Party member. Kate wrote a succinct piece in the *Bulletin* in 1975, *When we were very young*, detailing early highlights of the Glebe Society. Kate loved children and conducted tea parties for children, made Teddy Bears for them, and her own bear, Bruno, was always present on these occasions. She knitted a yellow football for my eldest son who quivered with delight when presented with it. She died, aged 73 years, on 7 January

1989 in Melbourne and in August that year her ashes were scattered on the top of Black Cap, South Downs, Sussex, a place where she learnt to cherish nature. *Tales from Sydney Cove*, written by Kate in 1953 about early contact between whites and Aboriginal people, and edited by Bernard, was published in 2000. Those privileged enough to know Kate lost a friend, an eternal optimist with a deep concern for the less fortunate.

### Literary output

The focus of Bernard Smith's life has been developing interest in, and knowledge of, Australia's artistic tradition, and three of his outstanding and seminal works - *Place, Taste & Tradition* (1945), *European Vision & the South Pacific* (1960) and *Australian Painting 1788-1960* (1962) set the standard. All went to further editions or reprints. He was full of little jokes, one of which was he was 'one of Oxford University Press's boys'. The literary output of Australia's most venerated art historian in retirement as author, co-author or editor continued to be prolific. He set himself a rigorous daily schedule, writing in the morning from about 8 o'clock to lunchtime, and then doing preparation for the next day's work in the afternoon. He wrote notable works of memoir/autobiography, *The Boy Adeodatus: The Portrait of a Lucky Young Bastard* (1984) and *A pavane for another time* (2002). And his elegantly designed last book, *The Formalesque*, was published in 2007, when Bernard was 91 years of age. The sheer quality and weight of Bernard's scholarship and scale of his achievements represents an extraordinary contribution to Australian intellectual and cultural life over seventy years.

### Finale

At a local level Bernard and Kate wholeheartedly embraced resident activism and conservation from the late 1960s, confronting bulldozers, chains and the police at anti-expressway demonstrations. Their Glebe book provided hard evidence to justify the whole suburb being declared a Conservation Area (a Transportation Study, also in 1974, argued Glebe and other inner suburbs were 'old and stingy and should be torn down'), and Bernard enjoyed returning to Glebe to renew old friendships and acquaintances. In 1995 he married Margaret Forster who survives him. Emeritus Professor Bernard Smith died at Sumner House Fitzroy on 2 September 2011, aged 94.

- Max Solling

# 42nd Annual General Meeting



Jan Macindoe, new Life Member, and Mairéad Browne, new President. Photo: Phil Young

Over 50 people attended our 42nd AGM at *Benledi* on Sunday 28 August, another bumper turnout for an AGM.

The formal business of the meeting included the President's Report which was presented in two parts, reflecting the splitting of the role of President over the previous year. Lesley Lynch covered the period from after the 2010 AGM to the end of the year with Liz Simpson-Booker's report covering 2011 up to the current AGM. See their reports below.

Sub-committee Convenors' reports were printed in earlier *Bulletins*, or appear in this issue. Bruce Davis presented the Treasurer's Report. Mairéad Browne was confirmed as the incoming President and John Gray as the Vice-President. Bruce

Davis continues as Treasurer and Liz Simpson-Booker agreed to mentor Vicky Marquis as the latter takes up the role of Secretary. The following people were confirmed as members of the Management Committee: Dorothy Davis, Carole Herriman, Murray Jewell and Bill Simpson-Young. Committee members and Convenors of Sub-committees, who are *ex officio* members of the Management Committee, are listed on page 15 of this *Bulletin*.

The meeting endorsed the admission of Jan Macindoe as an Honorary Life Member of the Glebe Society. Commendations of the Society were awarded to Anne Fraser, John Gerofi and Jan Wilson. Tony Strachan, who had been recommended for admission as an Honorary Life Member at the 2010 AGM, joined the group receiving their awards at the meeting. See pages 10 - 11 for more details of these awards.

## Guest speaker

Our guest speaker was Dr Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian and Chair of the Dictionary of Sydney, who spoke about the increasing role of digitisation in local history activities. Lisa spoke also about the way that local history itself is taking on a much greater significance in historiography. She described how the Internet has provided new ways to share history, find out new information and make connections that would not otherwise be obvious. The text of Lisa's talk will be in next month's *Bulletin*. John Gray moved a motion of thanks for the very professional and interesting presentation, which was followed by refreshments organised by Dorothy Davis and her team.

## Presidents' Reports

### Lesley Lynch

This report covers the period from the 2010 AGM until the end of the year.

General Glebe Society business continued as usual and several long term major issues re-emerged.

**Harold Park.** The first City of Sydney public consultation on Harold Park had been held in December 2009. As there were many aspects of the initial Government Architect's Office proposal that greatly concerned the community, we initiated, and sustained throughout 2010, a well organised and strongly supported public campaign to achieve changes to that proposal. This campaign entered a new stage in the last quarter of the year drawing us into a renewed flurry of activity.

The Council and the NSW Harness Racing Club reached agreement about major contended elements of the proposal. This allowed the formal process to proceed another step. We

tracked this through the Council planning committee and Central Sydney Planning Committee meetings to ensure our documented position was noted and understood.

The resulting draft planning controls and the draft planning agreement for Harold Park went on exhibition on 17 November with opportunity to respond by 15 December. This was our last intervention point to achieve movement on the proposal.

The Harold Park working group of the Glebe Society again analysed the voluminous planning and background technical documentation, met with Council planning staff and called our third Harold Park public meeting on 7 December 2010. That meeting endorsed a detailed public resolution which we submitted to Council on 15 December.

This achieved movement on a few critical points. Most importantly it persuaded Council to reduce the space for retail activity by 50% and incorporate specific

prohibitions on individual large scale retail developments. We also got some amelioration of the impact of building heights, although we failed to have the height of buildings reduced to a maximum of five storeys, and we got a requirement for a heritage interpretation strategy to be developed.

In summary, I think we did well in this campaign. We did not achieve the outcome we regarded as best for the community – most significantly the height of the buildings and the residential density are too high and the traffic implications are pretty horrific – but I have no doubt the outcome would have been much worse (and much closer to the original proposal of the Harness Racing Club) without our efforts. We have achieved another large addition to our community's open space and this will include an all-weather sports field; we have blocked the possibility of inappropriate, large scale retail activity;

Continued on next page ...



## 42nd AGM

...continued from previous page  
we do have land allocated for affordable rental housing and we have secured 500 square metres of the Tramsheds for community activities.

While rightly congratulating ourselves, it must be acknowledged that the determination of the Lord Mayor and the Council to protect the 35% public space and the affordable housing and the heritage status of the Tramsheds was critical to this positive outcome.

**The City Plan** emerged in draft form after a long period of silence. This is not an easily accessible document, but it is a critical long term planning document for the Sydney LGA. It will be the major planning legacy of this Council. Its development has been a major enterprise and the Glebe Society worked closely with Council during the early phases. While there is much that is excellent in the Plan, at the end of 2010 the Glebe Society had major concerns about some aspects of the draft. While some of these related to errors and problems that had been previously identified, the biggest issues resulted from State Government intervention and overlays. These concerns are shared by other community groups across the LGA.

**Affordable Housing Project in Cowper Street.** The Glebe Society got the first intimations that a renewal project which we strongly supported in principle might be about to go seriously awry under the auspices of the Housing Department surfaced.

**The Bays Precinct.** The Government continued its silence on its reaction to the input of the community through the Report of the Bays Precinct Community Consultative Group in March 2010. We had to wait until February 2011 for their very disappointing response. The only positive was that it was too late for them to act on their response. During this period of silence we had to live with more one-off development decisions in the Bays Precinct which ignored the community planning principles, eg design of the Cruise Passenger Terminal in White Bay and the now aborted decision to move the heritage fleet to Blackwattle Bay.

**Non Planning Matters.** The Glebe Society was very active on other fronts – particularly with the ever vibrant social events program (our Christmas Party on

10 December at Fishermans Wharf was another great success); the documentation of existing (and potential) plaques initiated in partnership with Council and with Erica and Peter Robinson taking a leading role; ongoing activity in the biodiversity area; successful Glebe walks and a harbour cruise on the *Waratah*.

**State of the Glebe Society.** In January I handed over the President's role to Liz Simpson-Booker, who was willing to step up, yet again, for the Society and take on the role until a President was appointed at this AGM.

The Glebe Society remains a healthy and active community body. Its range of activities is broad and growing. The compulsory replacement of the President every two years is a wise renewal strategy for the Society – and, with a few delays here and there, continues to work well. It is, however, balanced by a continuity strategy through other positions, and particularly the Secretary's position which Liz Simpson-Booker held for 10 years. The Secretary is the Public Officer for the Society and has an important role in its activities. Since Liz stepped down from the role we have not found anyone willing to take it on as an ongoing activity. This is not an optimal position for the Society.

Finally, I had a fantastic two years. It was an eye opener to experience first-hand the dedication, energy and professionalism of the Glebe Society Management Committee. As a bonus, I have a transformed relationship with my locality and quite a few more friends.

Two necessary tributes: I think we are very fortunate in our Council - though it is not yet perfect. I also found our MP Verity Firth to be an exemplary local member, sadly more than I could say for our then State Government.

I now hand over to Liz to give the main report for 2011.

- Lesley Lynch



Lesley Lynch and Liz Simpson-Booker.  
Photo: Phil Young

## Liz Simpson-Booker

I would like to thank Lesley for her great stewardship of the Society over her term and pay tribute to the work she did on two mammoth issues, Harold Park and the Bays Precinct.

But it was also Lesley who backed me into a corner and begged me to help fill a presidential hiatus. So I am something of a Claytons' President. Yes, I have been around the Society for a while but I see myself as a background facilitator, not front of house.

Helping me through this year were Bruce Davis and Jan Macindoe and I am profoundly grateful for their help and wise counsel. And if thanks are to be put in their rightful place – at the top of the agenda, rather than at the end - let me also pay tribute to the members of the Management Committee for their extraordinary expertise, generous support and their willingness to jump in and help in a crisis. While it is unfair to single out individuals, I would nevertheless like to mention:

\* Neil Macindoe's work in planning and in the ongoing task of ensuring the new CityPlan is geared to Glebe's 19<sup>th</sup> century heritage streetscapes and also keeping a watching brief on Harold Park

\* Also the two people who so ably manage the 'public face' of the Society, our *Bulletin* editor, Edwina Doe, and our Website Coordinator, Phil Young

\* Dorothy Davis and her team who have offered us such an interesting mix of events and who carried them off with such style

\* And lastly, I want to pay tribute to the late David Mander Jones who was a valued and much-loved member of the Management Committee.

I want to touch on some issues confronting us this year, which fell outside the specific agendas of our Sub-committees. Sub-committee issues have been covered in the various reports which have appeared in the *Bulletin* and I see no advantage in going over the same ground. However, I will talk later in general terms about the remarkable contribution of our Sub-committees.

2011 began with the closure of the Glebe Post Office. This outraged Glebians and galvanised them into waging what was a model campaign of protest against the Australia Post decision. It was heart-warming to see Glebe people rallying in an attempt to protect the amenity of our suburb.



Sadly, the campaign led by Jan Wilson and her team was in vain – we lost our purpose-built post office. And when the police eventually move to their new headquarters in Leichhardt (although there will still be a small shop-front police presence in Glebe), this may mean that none of this trio of civic buildings, the Post Office, the Court House and the Police Station, will be serving their original purpose.

These three purpose-built civic structures carry evidence of James Barnet's love of classical architecture but they also have a directness and lack of pretension which sits well with Glebe. On the other hand, Ambrose Thornley's Italianate Town Hall in St Johns Road, currently undergoing restoration by Council, is a far grander affair. Nevertheless it will be a welcome addition in 2012 to the few usable community spaces currently available in Glebe.

However, one such space, in the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, took up a significant amount of time and effort this year to try to achieve some sensible modification of the conditions of use which Council was threatening to impose. The outcome was less generous than we hoped but we achieved some amelioration. Special thanks are due to Bruce Davis for carriage of this issue.

Jan Macindoe kindly coordinated our pre-election meeting with candidates. The early signs from the O'Farrell government are encouraging in relation to issues such as land-based planning and their approach to the master planning of the bays as well as the importance of community consultation in such processes. But their eventual actions will speak louder than their verbal assurances. The election also brought about a change in the electorate's representation at State level. We look forward to the opportunity of working constructively with the new member for Balmain, Jamie Parker.

Jan Macindoe was also instrumental in bringing to fruition the Glebe Walks project. It was a huge step for the Society to turn its old paper-based walking guide into something more tech-savvy. We have had very positive feedback from those who have undertaken the walks (both physical and virtual). The websites of the City of Sydney and Tourism NSW now carry links to Glebe Walks. With this project, we have expanded our offerings not only

to members, but also to the wider public and tourists.

Of course, the advent of the Glebe Walks section of our website has led us to look with a more critical eye at other parts of the site. A small group has been wrestling with how best to manage and present the history and heritage resources of the Society. In this context we have had discussions with Lyn Milton not only about the extent of our archival holdings but also about more support for our Archives. We have also consulted widely on the project, including with the *Dictionary of Sydney*, but are yet to get to grips with how best to present this wealth of material in a way which is economical, both in terms of workload and cost.

The Society has, through Bruce's diligent efforts, accumulated comfortable reserves against a rainy day. The Post Office campaign and our Website Walks project (which was part-funded by the Royal Australian Historical Society) have fallen into the rainy day category and as a consequence have made a small inroad into our reserves.

It was in the course of the history/heritage project consultations that Dr Lisa Murray made the comment that the Glebe Society is a standout because of the number of issues we cover. As I mentioned at our New Members' night (and I hope those who were there will bear with the repetition), we are an amalgam of an historical society, a family history resource, a resident action group, an environmental group, a social club, and an active participant with other local groups. We have been involved with the Coalition of Glebe Groups and the Blackwattle Bay Coalition. We have valuable links to local schools, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the National Trust NSW and the Walter Burley Griffin Society as well as a range of resident action groups within the LGA. In addition to our many interactions with the City of Sydney, we are undertaking the Glebe and Forest Lodge component of their wider and fascinating project of recording local plaques in the LGA.

That we can operate across such a broad range is in large part due to the strength of our Sub-committees who do so much to spread the load. Convenors and Sub-committee members have an extraordinary range of expertise, are thoughtful, wise and have valuable contacts. They have helped the Society win credibility

and respect at Council and government level. The same can be said for the project teams which periodically coalesce to deal with an issue of the moment and disperse quietly. So our flexible structure allows for continuity on on-going issues and an ability to deal with short term projects. This mechanism allows for stability but also offers the opportunity for time-pressed members to get a taste of the Society at work and contribute to our efforts in different ways.

And spreading the load is hugely important. Yes, we deal with a broad range of issues but to do so in an organised, thoughtful and professional manner does require a little effort. The Management Committee and Convenors can and do draw on a significant pool of members.

Overall the Society's membership remains fairly steady although there is a certain level of churn as people move in and out of the suburb - and we can even boast of longstanding outposts in Germany, the UK and New York. And this year, Glebe Society membership has achieved a 'valued gift' status with parents bestowing it on offspring and sellers gifting new membership to incoming owners. At the recent New Members Night, we had a great turnout of people who had joined the Society over the last two years. On the other hand, some of our members can – at least in theory – tick off attendance at 42 Glebe Society AGMs. But I think they would agree that although the Society has changed along with changing conditions, it has stayed true to its early ideals of maintaining our heritage values and history and improving the amenity of Glebe.

And finally, I note that while continuity is good, the need for organisational renewal must be balanced against it. These days, voluntary organisations need to be 'professional' not only about their strategic objectives and dealing with day-to-day issues which arise but also about succession planning, about valuing volunteers and about fulfilling membership programs. We have gone some way but I am sure the next President of the Society will be ably qualified to sharpen the focus.

- Liz Simpson-Booker



### Jan Macindoe Life Membership

Jan moved to Glebe permanently in 1978, having lived for some years in Balmain and Leichhardt, and for a year in Europe. She had lived in a share house in Hereford Street while an undergraduate at the University of Sydney before winning a scholarship to complete her MA at the University of Melbourne, where she lived for three years and met her partner Neil. She has lived in Wigram Road ever since moving to Glebe, and joined the Society in 1979, as a result of the doorknock campaign to rally resident opposition to the 1978 planning scheme, in which campaign, and many others, she participated.

She became *Bulletin* Editor in 1993 and stayed at that post until the end of 1997, a period of rapid technological change. Always a passionate advocate of saving the planet, Jan joined Prof Bill McCarthy's Glebe Against Global Warming group in 2005 where she played a prominent role in organising activities.

She became President in January 2007, and was immediately confronted by the proposal for a large dry boat storage facility in Rozelle Bay, which was finally approved with some restrictions in June, followed by the State Government elections in March. She has organised and chaired every Glebe Society 'Meet the Candidates' since. A high point of her first year was the completion and opening of the renovated *Bellevue*, a very well attended and happy event, although it took a further three years before it became the popular café of today. She was often heard to wish she might enjoy a cup of coffee in *Bellevue* before she died! Glebe Library also celebrated its first ten years at the Homoeopathic Hospital site.

An important part of the President's role is to ensure the Society's structure can cope with its increasingly wide and complex range of activities. To this end Jan organised a Workshop on Strategic Goals to update the Society's objectives. She also secured a new Heritage Convenor and joined the Arts and Media Sub-committee, which participated in the City's Art and About program and involved a wide range of community talent, including the much-lamented

editor of Art Almanac, Jan McCulloch. Jan was also determined that the Society keep up with sustainability issues, and reported on the City's initiatives as well as the global situation.

During her second year, two of the most successful events took place: the Wentworth Park Games Day, attended by 2000 people from both Glebe and Pyrmont/Ultimo, and the Wrens Planting Day at Paddy Gray Reserve, which also attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd. Keen to encourage cooperation both within and outside Glebe, she supported both the celebration of Glebe Public School's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a fundraising Trivia Night for the School, as well as the ongoing Blackwattle Cove Coalition with Pyrmont/Ultimo and the Coalition of Glebe Groups. She also joined, and wrote the winning grant application for, City University of the Third Age, a largely Society initiative. John Poulton, the City's Heritage Consultant, gave the Society a briefing at the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator and a newly expanded working party produced the new-look Glebe Society website.

Many people would find such a schedule exhausting, but Jan realised there must be a suitable publication ready for the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2009. She convened a small group of long-time members, and initiated and chaired the *Conservation and Change: The History of The Glebe Society* project. The Royal Australian Historical Society was so impressed by her application and the sample chapter she sent they drew on special funds to ensure its publication, which took place in time for the Birthday Party.

After her time as President she settled into the role of Environment Convenor, where she continues to lobby for a new community garden and secure new plantings for the Blue Wrens. Realising the Society's walking guide was seriously outdated and deficient, she convened a group to consider alternatives. The group decided to go electronic, and Jan wrote and secured a further grant from RAHS to produce two online, downloadable, thematic walks to be written by a variety of members and published by the Glebe-based firm, Red Ant Media. These walks were launched

in March this year, and further walks have since been added or are being prepared.

Jan's wisdom, capacity and commitment, combined with her energy and sense of humour shaped her presidency which was notably proactive. Those same skills remain in play as she pursues other Society projects.

### Jan Wilson Commendation

Jan has been a member of the Glebe Society since 1995, serving on its Management Committee in a number of capacities including Revitalisation of Glebe Point Road and Transport & Traffic. Her work as the Society's liaison person with FLAG (Forest Lodge & Glebe Groups) has particular importance for the Glebe Society and the Glebe/Forest Lodge community as a whole. The contribution she has made in bringing the issues of the southern area of Glebe into stronger focus has been significant. Jan's role as a member of the Coalition of Glebe Groups (CoGG), representing the Glebe Community Residents Group, has brought to it an informed understanding of the needs and concerns of the broader community.

Jan made a major contribution to the celebration of 150 years of Glebe's history when, in 2009, she organised the gathering of items for inclusion in a time capsule. These came from a myriad of contributors – residents, schools, community groups, businesses and Government agencies, and now lie safely at the base of the fountain in Jubilee Place waiting until 2109 to reveal something of the rich history of Glebe.

When, on 19 December 2010, news broke of the planned closure of Glebe Post Office it was with Jan's encouragement that a small group, including members of the Glebe Society, other residents and business owners, met to initiate the distribution of some 3,500 flyers and posters to inform the community of Australia Post's intent. Thus POGA (Post Office Glebe Action) was formed. The media were alerted; the State, Federal, and City of Sydney representatives and local police were brought into consultation and action.

Jan's leadership and coordination of the large team of helpers was outstanding. It resulted in a sustained campaign over many weeks against the closure of the Glebe Post Office. Nearly five thousand signatures of protest were collected. Discussions were held with senior Australia Post management.

The campaign culminated in a rally on 20 January 2010 attended by some 600 residents and addressed by local business, City of Sydney, State, and Federal representatives, and residents. The strength of the protest surprised many and drew extensive media coverage. But, as we now know, the management of Australia Post was fully intent on closure as part of their long-term plan. There is now a 'frock shop' in the old Glebe Post Office building where once the community used to do business, and communicate with each other and the world.

Although the outcome was so disappointing, there were many important principles addressed in the campaign. These were embraced across the Glebe/Forest Lodge community in a display of solidarity that has not been seen for many years – it could be said for some 40 years. It was the Glebe Village at its finest.

## John Gerofi Commendation

The Glebe Society wishes to recognise the outstanding contributions made by Dr John Gerofi to the establishment of the light rail service to our suburb. In 1974, John with Jim Coombs (an Honorary Life Member of the Society) wrote an initial document for the Society on the possible use of the freight railway line through Glebe as a light rail corridor. They proposed that it be coupled to the Eastern Suburbs railway line so providing an east-west light rail link between Haberfield and the city's eastern suburbs. Subsequently John observed many of the light rail systems in Europe and concluded that such systems would provide an excellent public transport system for the inner suburbs of Sydney. In 1980 the Society published its *Occasional Monograph No.3 (Better Public Transport in Sydney's Inner Western & South-Eastern Suburbs)*

written by John and outlining in detail a proposal to use the freight line for a light rail service from the central business district to our suburb. Major parts of John's proposal were adopted by the Federal and State Governments and the light rail service to Glebe from Central Railway Station commenced 11 years ago (opened by Hon Bob Carr, Premier, and Hon Carl Scully, Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads, on 13 August 2000) and is soon to be extended from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill.

As a result of Dr Gerofi's expertise and foresight in recognising the future role of light rail as a mass public transport system for the inner city suburbs of Sydney, the Glebe Society proposes that Dr Gerofi be awarded its Commendation in recognition of his meritorious service to Glebe.

## Anne Fraser Commendation

Anne joined the Society in 2005 – a refugee from Turrumurra on the upper North Shore. She quickly became involved in the affairs of her new community, joining the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting in 2005.

Soon afterwards she took up the cause of Wentworth Park which had been without a convenor for some time. As a newcomer to the Inner West she admitted she was on a steep learning curve, but her timing was impeccable as much was changing with regard to the Park. The Government had appointed a new Trust to administer the Park which included community representation in addition to representatives of the greyhound racing industry, and the City Council was willing to listen to ideas for improving the areas for which it is responsible.

Towards the end of 2005 Anne and her sub-committee published the Glebe Society's policy for the Park. Central to this was returning the park to its 'original beauty ... as a recreation space for use by the increasing number of residents in the adjacent suburbs'. The policy also foresaw the eventual end of greyhound racing in the park and the reunification of its three sections. Much

of what Anne set out to do then has since been achieved.

Her workload expanded in the following January with the creation of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC), a group comprising community and business organisations from Glebe, Pyrmont and Ultimo which was established to bring a spotlight to bear on the long-neglected Blackwattle Bay foreshore and its hinterland including Wentworth Park. Anne became BCC's first convenor.

BCC achieved much under Anne's leadership. Even though she hated meetings she led many deputations to City Council and State Government offices to lobby for change, and the constant chip-chipping succeeded in raising the profile of the Blackwattle Bay precinct. Money was spent on improvements to Wentworth Park, most notably by a sympathetic Trust, and plans evolved for the extension of the foreshore walk, the development of a park and water sports centre under the city approaches to the Anzac Bridge, and the redevelopment of the Fish Market.

Her most public achievement was the first Wentworth Park Community Games in 2008 with its star attraction, the Wenty Park Mongrel Cup. Her most daring enterprise was Project Jericho, a plan to bring down the concrete and barbed wire walls of Wentworth Park by marching naked around the perimeter on a full moon blowing a ram's horn trumpet. Fortunately this objective and the opening up of the arches in the railway viaduct were achieved by more conventional means.

Much of what Anne started has now been subsumed into the greater project of persuading the State government to develop a cohesive plan for the whole Bays Precinct. Her leadership of BCC until she stood aside at the end of 2008 provided a strong foundation for much of the current community activity.

Anne also contributed to the Society in other ways, particularly through organising social events including a very different Christmas Party at a venue no one had heard of in Jarocin Avenue, and a new members' night featuring speed dating. She also helped to organise events for Glebe's sesquicentenary year and led the outreach committee during the Society's 40th birthday celebrations.



## 42nd AGM

### Tony Strachan - Life Member

*Tony Strachan was unable to attend last year's AGM, but he came this year to accept his award. Here is his acceptance speech.*

I see that by not being able to be here last year, I am here on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my joining the Glebe Society. Just thinking back over all this, of course, in the early '70s the threats to communities were the way communities got galvanised into action.

Looking at the evolution of the Glebe Society over all the years it's been very interesting to see how they keep responding to threats and I sometimes wonder whether you need a new big threat in a few years' time to keep you all up to the mark!

But looking at that evolution, I see with great pride the way the Society has responded to what I would call opportunities. Listening to the President's report just recently I think that is what you are doing so admirably.

I would like to wish you all the best for the future and keep up the good work. Thank you.

### Arts Culture and Media Report to the AGM

The focus for the Arts group this year has been community based activity, with local galleries and artists. A gallery walking tour, similar to the artisans' tour organised by Dorothy Davis earlier in the year, is planned for Saturday afternoon 19 November.

The public art work *Earth versus Sky* has been delayed by the need to find another turbine supplier. The good news though is that this extra time has allowed the development of a new and more sustainable LED lighting system. This will mean more power can be fed into the grid. The coloured lights have been well tested and finely tuned and those lucky enough to have been around the figs during practice sessions will have seen something of the beauty of this art work. The completion date is yet to be determined.

- Susan Ingram  
Convener, Arts Culture and Media

### Computing – Problem Solving 101

The U3A is running a computer course at the **Toxteth Hotel, Thursdays 20 October until 24 November, 2-4pm.** Presenters are Bruce Davis, Cam Secombe and Phil Young.

*My computer doesn't understand me. I pound the keyboard, click the mouse furiously and still no result. I've even yelled at it. And it's no good telling me to read the instructions because they're written in nerd language! And all I wanted to do was ...*

If this describes your relationship with your PC, you should enrol for this course. Many PC users have problems with their computers and software which can be sorted by someone more familiar with computers. We will focus initially on Microsoft Windows issues but, depending on the level of interest, we will also cover other subjects such as email, web browsing, Skype, how to organise one's files, backing up data, and security and viruses.

When registering for the course, you will be asked to nominate issues or problems you would like to see discussed. These responses will be used to structure the sessions. Preference will be given to issues likely to be of relevance to the whole group rather than tackling problems unique to one course member. While the course might not provide a satisfactory solution to your specific problem, we hope it will give you a greater understanding of the issues involved and thus help you to solve the problem yourself.

Cost is \$40 if you're not a member of the City U3A, and that'll give you membership and entitlement to attend any other U3A course for the next 12 months. There is no charge if you're a member of City U3A. You can book with the Course Coordinator, Carole O'Brien, on 9665 6639. Alternatively, you can email [cityu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cityu3a@gmail.com). Numbers in each course are limited, and places will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.

- Phil Young

### 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.

**11 October** - *The Drunkard or The Fallen Saved* by 'W H Smith and A Gentleman', a lesson in temperance co-written by a reformed alcoholic and staged by showman (and ex-drinker) P J Barnum. Directed by Lyn Collingwood.

**15 November** - *A Weekend in Manhattan*, a romantic comedy directed by Nicholas Papademetriou (Players in the Pub director of *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *Tears in Tinseltown*).

**20 December** - *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' original story adapted and directed by Lyn Collingwood. The return of Players in the Pub's most popular show.

**Tuesdays at 7pm** in the upstairs Media Room (enter via Ferry Road stairs) Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road. Free admission. \$10 main meal 'specials' on Tuesdays - orders from 5.30pm.

- Lyn Collingwood

### Glebe Public School Year 6 Annual Camp

Every year Glebe Public School subsidises the Year 6 Camp at a cost of about \$350 per student. The P&C supports the school by raising money to offset costs through a raffle, with prizes donated by the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and parents. Members are urged to dig into their pockets if they see a Glebe Public School P&C raffle ticket seller!

The Glebe Society Management Committee will also be looking at ways in which it can offer support to the school for this project which has the potential to change lives.

- Robyn Kemmis

### Come to two Community events

Sunday 16 October, 11am - 2pm – Wentworth Park Community Games.

Saturday 29 October, 11am - 2pm – Mitchell Street Fair.

## 22nd Annual Glebe Music Festival

We owe a debt of gratitude to a number of individuals and organisations who make buildings available for concerts.

The Attorney General's office has gone to great lengths to open the Old Court House for the RAPT concert at 7.30pm on Friday 11 November. *Gleebooks* proprietors David Gaunt and Roger Mackell have, for many years, opened their shop at 49 Glebe Point Road for an annual concert, and this year is no exception. Stars of Opera Australia, David Corcoran and Margaret Plummer, will perform there at 7pm on Friday 4 November. The City of Sydney Library is making *Benledi* at 186 Glebe Point Road available for the free violin and guitar concert at 3pm on Saturday 5 November. (Also note the free In-Conversation with Carl Vine and Ian Munro at *Benledi* on Tuesday 8 November. at 3pm).

St John's Anglican church is opening Record Reign Hall on the corner of St Johns Road and Derwent Street at 3pm on Sunday 13 November for a free concert by *Accordions Alfresco*. The Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict are hosting two afternoon concerts at St Scholastica's; Saturday 26 November (Josie and the Emerald City Viols) and Sunday 27 November (Coro Innominata in Magnificat!), both at 3pm. After an absence of one year, we are back at the Great Hall of the University of Sydney, and are very grateful to the University for the free organ recital by Douglas Hollick on Sunday 6 November at 3.30pm, preceded by afternoon tea.

Tickets are available at the door for all concerts or book in advance. See the enclosed leaflet or go to 'Events' at [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com) for further details.

- David McIntosh

## Art Galleries Tour

Saturday 19 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm

The Glebe walking gallery tour will start at the Inner City Clayworkers Gallery in St Johns Road, then take in Art Almanac, Gallery Red, the Glass Artists Gallery, Salerno and *Yuga* Café and Gallery It will conclude with coffee and cake at *Yuga*.

Cost: \$15

Enquiries: Dorothy Davis – 9660 7873 (leave a message) or Susan Ingram – 9692 8534

There will be a booking flyer in the October *Bulletin*, or book on line.

- Susan Ingram

## Glebe Voices Inaugural Speaker

Over the next six months the Society will invite distinguished and interesting speakers to give Glebe Voices talks. The speakers will be our members, or people who live in Glebe or have had a special affiliation with Glebe. Our first speaker will be Dr David McIntosh AM who introduced and maintains one of Glebe's Cultural Assets, the Glebe Music Festival. David no longer lives in Glebe but will be in Australia during the festival and will talk with members of the Society at Blackwattle Café during a lunch on Thursday 10 November, 12 noon to 1pm.

His topic will be the Origins of the Glebe Festival, which will lead to discussion on origins of community events, enhancing communities, other music festivals, and of course music. There is no charge for the lunch but people pay for their own lunch. Places are limited to 16 people so that we can engage in discussion. Book by phoning Carole Herriman on 9571 9092 or John Gray on 0420 303 847.

- John Gray

## Restoration of Glebe Town Hall

Come to *Benledi* (note the change of venue) on Thursday 20 October, 5.30 – 7pm, for a free update on the current restoration of Glebe Town Hall.

The speakers are architect Julie McKenzie, City of Sydney Project Manager Kevin Chahoud and Beth Jewell, City of Sydney Community Facility Development. Wine and cheese will follow the presentation.

Booking is essential. RSVP by Thursday 13 October. See the enclosed green flyer for more details.

## Our own Octoberfest

Come and join an exclusive tour and tasting at the Malt Shovel Brewery on Monday 31 October, 5 – 7pm. Our host will be Dr Chuck Hahn, Brewmaster.

The brewery, at 99 Pyrmont Road Camperdown, is named after the original brewery tavern of Australia's first brewer, ex-convict James Squire. You can find out more about James Squire if you go to [www/malt-shovel.com.au](http://www/malt-shovel.com.au) and say that you are aged over 18.

See the enclosed gold flyer for more details. Booking is essential, as is the wearing of covered shoes.

## 14th Annual Glebe Art Show

Sydney's Lord Mayor Clover Moore opened the Glebe Art Show on Friday 23 September.

There were 202 paintings, photographs and other works of art, and about the same number of visitors to the official opening.

Prizewinners were Roger Berry (Open Art Prize), Paul Procee (Painting Prize), Justin Scivetti (Works on Paper Prize), Brenton Alexander Smith (Photography Prize) and Neil Ernest Tomkins (Youth Prize).

The artworks will be on display in *Benledi* and the Glebe Library until Monday 3 October.

## Christmas Cocktail Party Friday 2 December, 6 – 8pm

This year, Christmas drinks will be served on the elegant verandah and (weather permitting) lawns of *Toxteth House*, in Avenue Road.

See the booking form in next month's *Bulletin*.

# 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 6 October** we will go to a new restaurant with 'modern Italian cuisine' at 34 Glebe Point Road - *Sage on Glebe*.

**On Thursday 3 November** we will go to *Sushi-Ya Glebe*, the new Japanese restaurant at 166 Glebe Point Road (*The Valhalla*).

**And on Thursday 1 December** we will visit *Spanish Tapas*, 26 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 September Management Committee meeting:

- \* Ivan Barko
- \* Kerrin and Martin Glover

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

## Sydney Shakespeare Festival

On the Bicentennial Park, Glebe Foreshore, 8pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, 5 Jan - 12 Feb 2012.

On alternate evenings, *Hamlet & The Taming of the Shrew*.

**Free** for children 12 years and under, people with disabilities and people aged 65 years and over.

For the performance dates for each play, how to get there and what to bring, visit [www.sydneyshakespearefestival.com.au](http://www.sydneyshakespearefestival.com.au)

## Gallery Red Shop 11, 131-145 Glebe Point Road.

Gallery Red presents *ARTBOUND: Bound Art*, an exhibition of over 60 Artists' Books featuring both national and international artists. The exhibition includes bound editions of prints or drawings, altered books, sculptured statements relating to the book form and/or paper engineering. Full colour catalogue: \$15.00

*ARTBOUND: Bound Art* runs from 30 September to 18 October 2011. Gallery Hours Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm. Closed Public Holiday Monday 3 October.

## SITCO – Sydney Independent Theatre Company

World premiere of sharp new Australian play *The Complete Package* by Robert Allan. 8pm Thurs, Fri, 2pm and 8pm Sat 13-22 Oct 2011. 8a, 32-60 Alice Street, Newtown (enter via Walenore Avenue).

Book or find out more about SITCO on [www.sitco.net.au](http://www.sitco.net.au)

## Transformation in the City, Sydney's 19th century suburban expansion

Lesley Muir will take you from the 1870s, when Sydney's colonial past was still very much in evidence, through the transformation of the 1880s, when a speculative real estate boom changed the city's appearance forever. The Garden Palace exhibition of 1879 was the catalyst for improvements in public transport which allowed workers to move out of the overcrowded Darling Harbour alleyways into new tramway suburbs, Paddington, **Glebe**, Newtown and beyond. But why did the politicians favour trams over railways? And why did it take so long to build a railway line into the city?

Lesley Muir has a PhD in Historical Geography from the University of Sydney. She has an interest in the development of Sydney, particularly in the late Victorian era, and has written on politics, architecture, transport and local history.

**Convenors:** WEA/RAHS

**Venue:** History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

**Date:** Wednesday 23 November 2011, 10.30 am

**Cost:** \$29

Bookings through WEA on 9264 2781.

## 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 ...

- Thursday 6 October, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday – *Sage on Glebe*, 34 Glebe Point Road. See page 14.
- Tuesday 11 October, 7pm** – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 12.
- Sunday 16 October, 11am - 2pm** – Wentworth Park Community Games.
- Wednesday 19 October, 7.30pm** – Management Committee meeting, Venue to be announced..
- Thursday 20 October, 5.30 - 7pm** – *Benledi* – Talk on Town Hall Restoration. See green flyer.
- Saturday 29 October, 11am - 2pm** – Mitchell Street Fair.
- Monday 31 October, 5 - 7pm** – Malt Shovel Brewery, 99 Pymont Bridge Road. See gold flyer.
- Thursday 3 November, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday – *Sushi-Ya*, 166 Glebe Point Road. See page 14.
- Friday 4 to Sunday 27 November** – 22nd Annual Glebe Music Festival. See leaflet.
- Wednesday 9 November, 9.30am - 12 noon** – Working Bee, Paddy Gray Reserve. See page 4.
- Wednesday 9 November, 7.30pm** – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.
- Thursday 10 November, 12 noon - 2pm** – Glebe Voices with David McIntosh, Blackwattle Bay Café. See page 13.
- Tuesday 15 November, 7pm** – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 12.
- Saturday 19 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm** – Art Gallery Walking Tour. See page 13.
- Sunday 20 November** – Glebe Street Fair.
- Friday 2 December, 6 - 8pm** – Toxteth House – Glebe Society Christmas Cocktail Party. See page 13..

## 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, within the Guidelines published on our website. 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 October. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday 19 October**.

## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

### Office bearers

President	Mairéad Browne	9552 2888
Vice President	John Gray	9518 7253
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Secretary	Vicky Marquis (tbc)	9552 2592
Immediate Past President	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186

### Committee (five elected positions)

Dorothy Davis (Events)	9660 7873
Murray Jewell (assisting the Treasurer)	0416 978 608
Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Carole Herriman (Eglington Road project)	9571 9092
Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214

### Convenors (ex-officio members of the Management Committee)

Arts, Culture & Media	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Bays & Foreshores/BCC	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Bulletin	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Community Development	Robyn Kemmis	9692 9440
Heritage	tba	
Environment	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
History	Lyn Collingwood	9660 5817
Membership	Cheryl and Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
TGSI History	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Transport & Traffic	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Website Coordinator	Phil Young	9692 9583

### Other:

Archives	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
Plaques project	Peter Robinson	9692 8415
Press cuttings	tba	

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**The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc**  
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



Postage  
paid

## Membership of the Glebe Society

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

Download a membership form from our website ([www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au), click on Join), write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037, or email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**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)

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

**Harold Park:** Mirvac hotline for residents 9080 8588