



Glebe Town Hall restoration

On the evening of 20 October more than thirty people attended the hall at *Benledi* to hear about the Glebe Town Hall Restoration Project. Speakers from the City of Sydney and contracting architects used PowerPoint displays, models, diagrams and lots of enthusiastic discussion to explain the project. This wonderful building was designed by Ambrose Thornley Junior, built in 1880 and extended in 1891.

The story of the building is that although old it is well built and sound. Over its life until now decisions on how to use aspects of the building have reflected contemporary concerns. The outcome of these accumulations was the building we knew prior to the project's commencement: unwelcoming, difficult to navigate, disconnected and confused.

To overcome these issues and bring the building up to current standards of access, environmental requirements, increased hall capacity and acoustic performance has been an expensive but deserving task, which it is expected will conclude by May next year. The building is on the Heritage Register in the Leichhardt LEP and of the National Trust and is of historical significance.

The speakers explained how they were remediating to original patterns and had been surprised by discoveries such as the dado design feature over which the Honour Roll had been hung, the *scraffito* with varied colouring and imprint, the features of ceilings and exterior mouldings. They also noted the water damage, rusted cement mouldings, an old cistern, a portico over the Vernon Street entrance



View of Glebe Town Hall showing the portico to Mt Vernon Street, now demolished. From the 1935 City of Sydney Annual Report

(which will not be restored) and original colour schemes. This last is intriguing, as internal walls had a treatment which we might today understand as polished plaster appearance.

Some rooms in the building will be tenanted by a non-government organisation and the City will shortly call for expressions of interest, which will be featured on our website. Child health care services will also use the building. The Hall will have its capacity capped at its present 200 though it is structurally capable of 400.

On this project team The City of Sydney has Chris McBride, Design Manager; Kevin Chahoud, Construction Manager, and Beth Jewell, Community Development Manager who will be in charge of end use of the building. Jean Rice from Jean Rice Associates provides heritage architectural services and Julia MacKenzie from Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects provides design and construction architectural services. It was striking to hear how much these people cared for and owned the project. No one in the audience could have ignored their professional commitment. They enjoyed what they were doing and we enjoyed discussing it with them. At the conclusion of the presentation Chris McBride presented a collection of photographs of the project to the Glebe Society. A selection of these plus some of the displays provided by the project team will be loaded onto the website.

- John Gray

What's coming soon

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

Monday 31 October, 5 - 7pm – Malt Shovel Brewery, 99 Pyrmont Bridge Road. See page 11.

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

Saturday 12 November, 12 noon - Love Your Park opening and sausage sizzle. See page 8.

Saturday 19 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm – Art Gallery Walking Tour. See flyer.

Friday 2 December, 6 - 8pm - Glebe Society Christmas Party. See flyer.



Deteriorated parapet

Ultimo-Pyrmont wins GUP Cup - at last!



Left and above: kids at play. Below: Mary Mortimer receives the GUP Cup. Photos: Phil Young

The kids had a great time and the dogs probably had an even better one. Especially *Lucky* (pictured bottom left) who lived up to his name by winning the Wenty Park Mongrel Cup for big dogs. His first piece of luck was being rescued by a family who found him lost, wandering beside the road in outback NSW.

Another dog was also rather lucky. After panicking and running away from the Games he was found hours later, safe and sound by a passer-by in the grounds of Sydney University and reunited with his owner.

The gang from Ultimo-Pyrmont had a good day too, because at last, after being beaten by Glebe-Forest Lodge on three previous occasions, they were able to carry home the GUP Cup. Far be it for me to suggest that there might have been anything amiss with the counting of points!



We could not have hoped for better weather, and a good crowd turned up to participate in events and look at the display of midget racing cars that once roared around the Wentworth Park track.

- Bruce Davis

Right: Dog intelligence test - how to get the chicken leg on the other side of the fence. (Answer: walk around the end.)

Photo: Bruce Davis



Left: *Lucky* and his young family. Photo: Phil Young

Correction

St James Park

The item I submitted to the last *Bulletin* incorrectly referred to Council plans to rejuvenate Paddy Gray reserve, when the proposal was actually about St James Park. (*Mea culpa* – I wrote the article just before setting off overseas and was clearly not of sound mind.) The consultation referred to actually encompassed two parks - St James Park in Woolley Street, opposite the Catholic Church; and John Street Park, an L-shaped park at the end of St James Avenue and between the rear of St James Avenue and Hegarty Street.

We will be following this up with Council to learn the outcome of Council's consultation, and the range of resident responses.

- Jan Macindoe

Ideas sought for Anzac centenary

Glebe can boast associations with two WWI Victoria Cross winners, Joseph Maxwell VC MC & Bar, DCM and John Woods Whittle VC DCM. The former was born in Hereford Street, the latter lived in Glebe for 12 years and died here.

On Anzac Day each year, the Glebe community continues to publicly mourn the loss of many of its young men in World War I.

With the approach of the Anzac Centenary, the Federal Government has sought proposals for nation-wide

commemorations. Glebe, as a community, should also be reflecting on how it might commemorate this significant milestone.

While the Centenary is still a few years away, the process of considered consensus-building, grant-seeking and implementation takes time.

The Glebe Society would welcome ideas from members.

- Liz Simpson-Booker



Joseph Maxwell VC MC DCM

Editor's note

See Max Solling's article about Maxwell VC in *Bulletin* 2/2011.

Jamie Parker's Harold Park Meeting

Our local MP, Jamie Parker, called a public meeting on Saturday 8 October to discuss Mirvac's development applications for the first two of the planned six Harold Park 'precincts', now that the demolition of the old structures is well underway.

The meeting was well attended with around 100 residents squeezing into (and outside of!) the Benledi meeting room. Several Glebe Society members attended and John Gray gave a brief summary of our overall position and our most recent submission on the current DAs. The main part of the meeting was a detailed account by Jamie of his concerns relating to the overall development.

Fearful traffic implications, and a widespread perception that no-one has done a serious and adequate analysis of the broad traffic implications of this development, were core issues at the meeting. Jamie indicated that Leichhardt Council would be doing some work on this and would be pushing for a more adequate traffic study before further approvals for the development are made. Other residents expressed concern at the proposed access from Maxwell Street. This would become a major issue if the access is extended to link with the Tramsheds. (This is not the case in the current DA and Mirvac have previously informed the Glebe Society that this is not intended.)

The retail and commercial activities on the site, mainly in the Tramsheds, will have a large impact on traffic flows. The meeting expressed concerns about this. The Society made earlier representations to Council on this matter and were pleased that the planning controls were amended to halve the space available for non-residential developments. Mirvac has also assured the Society that it does not intend to seek approval for large scale intensive retail/commercial activity. This is obviously a matter we will monitor closely in forthcoming DAs.

The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding opposition to the eight storey buildings - a battle that we lost in our earlier negotiations and submissions to amend the broad planning controls.

Concerns were expressed at the absence of commitments to provide community services (eg child care) and the need for

more and varied affordable housing. A particularly strong plea was made by a parent carer for some provision for accommodation for adult children with disabilities.

The meeting ended with Jamie calling on those present to make their views known to Council. The Glebe Society had already responded to the DAs and had raised all of the substantive issues numbers of times, but we thought it important to put in a supplementary submission reflecting the concerns of the meeting, reaffirming the main issues and making another attempt to persuade the Council to do further work on the traffic dimension of the development. (Go to the Glebe Society website, click on 'Harold Park Development and follow the prompts to see our supplementary submissions.)

We also took the opportunity to flag some matters which will emerge in Mirvac's DAs for the next stages and some that sit with Council and other levels of government

We are keen for Mirvac to take up the previous State Government offer of \$10 million for facilities for the rehabilitation of accident victims and to move swiftly on the DA for the restoration and reuse of the Tramsheds. We will organise some community input on the potential community uses for the 500 square metres allocated for 'community use' in the near future.

We also again acknowledged that the community had significant wins in the final development controls set by Council and the City of Sydney Planning Committee - the 3.5 hectares of public open space, the allocation of space for affordable housing, the preservation of the heritage Tramsheds and the allocation of 500 square metres of this space to community activities. We would not have achieved these, or even the current residential density, if the approvals had been through the old Part 3 of the planning legislation.

While numbers of well-attended meetings have been held on Harold Park over the last two years, this was a useful gathering. It served to reinforce the main concerns of the community about the current proposal and our determination to maintain a close vigilance of the whole development process.

- Lesley Lynch

Coffee with our new local MP, Jamie Parker

On Friday afternoon 23 September, Jamie Parker, Greens MP for Balmain had coffee with Edwina Doe, Murray Jewell, Lesley Lynch and myself at the café across the road from his offices. In discussions, which lasted over an hour, we covered the full gamut of issues of concern to the Society with Jamie providing valuable insights on developments at State government level. Jamie mentioned that he has the opportunity to ask one 'Question on Notice' in the Parliament each week which opens up some possibilities for the Society where progress is blocked. He also mentioned that Leichhardt Council is undertaking a major study of traffic impacts of the Harold Park development. It was agreed we would collaborate in approaches to seeking good outcomes for the community on policy and practical matters.

- Mairéad Browne

Renovation in Hegarty Street

The run-down 1880s Victorian terrace house that featured in Channel Ten's Renovators program is 12 Hegarty Street, which is a tiny road between Bridge Road and Hereford Street. It is now a smart modern home.

See the 'before and after' pictures showing what can be done to an old house at <http://therenovatorstv.com.au/the-inner-city-terrace.htm>.

While on the subject of renovations, this is an excellent opportunity to remind members of our previous warnings about the dangers of renovating in the presence of lead paint.

A sad loss

Sonya Marra, who died on 4 October in a New York helicopter crash, was a familiar figure at Galluzzo's, the greengrocers in Glebe Point Road. Sonia's partner Helen Tamaki, who had given her the flight as a 40th birthday present, also died as a result of the crash.

Bernard Smith

The sad news of Bernard Smith's death and Max Solling's recollections of Kate and Bernard have prompted letters from Bernard's daughter Elizabeth Heathcote and former Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Tom Uren.

Letter from Bernard Smith's daughter

Dear Mairéad

Thank you for your letter of condolences on my father's death on behalf of the Glebe Society. Please thank everyone on behalf of the family. My brother John in particular also admired Dad's involvement with and continuation of the Glebe Society as I do. Thank you also for your description of your personal involvement with my parents which was so nice to read, especially at this sad time. Also for Dad's speech at the 25th Anniversary and Robert Darroch's history of The Birth of the Glebe Society,

I met your former President when Dad was visited about two years ago for an interview and photos for your 40th Anniversary and we had correspondence about using images from the 'Glebe book'.

Members of the family will be visiting the Blue Mountains soon where my family will be scattering Dad's ashes as he had requested, at Govett's Leap. When we know the date, we will communicate with you and we'd all love to meet you. Perhaps we could all get together for a small celebration of his life in Glebe.

Fond regards

Elizabeth Heathcote

15 September 2011

Letter to our President from Tom Uren

Dear Ms Browne

It is with regret and some deal of sadness that I write to the journal on this occasion to clarify the history around the stopping of the Western and North Western 'Freeway'.

Let me from the outset express my great admiration for the work and commitment of Bernard Smith, the Builders Labourers Federation and Jack Munday and The Glebe Society during this campaign. I know there were many wonderful people who demonstrated their opposition to the proposed 'freeway'.



Jack Munday and Tom Uren (right) at a Glebe Society 40th birthday function at Margaretta Cottage in 2009.

But, it was the Department of Urban and Regional Development and the Wran Government that took the appropriate action that altered the direction of both freeways.

I have previously written to the journal setting out my thoughts about this campaign but those writing your historical reports seem to have ignored my views.

I challenge them to again read my words written in my book *Tom Uren Straight Left*, pages 280 to 283. There was an outstanding public servant, Dick Smyth, who was deeply involved in our government's role in the redirection of both freeways. David Chesterman, a Glebe resident, who worked for the firm Jackson Teece Chesterman and Willis, was then responsible for carrying out the alternative plan. I have always called it the 'Chesterman Plan'.

Although I am in my 91st year I would challenge and debate anyone who would dispute my first-hand recollections of who stopped the Western and North Western 'Freeway'.

Warm regards

Tom Uren

5 October 2011

Memorial Tribute in Melbourne

The Memorial Tribute for Bernard Smith will be on 28 November in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Victoria International Gallery. Anyone who wishes to attend is most welcome. The Gallery need an RSVP for catering and seating purposes.

Max Solling's response

With reference to Tom Uren's letter, while writing a tribute to Bernard and Kate Smith I was aware that a conglomeration of circumstances came together to ensure that expressways did not slice through Glebe. It was not intended to be a critique on the chain of events that flowed from DMR expressway proposals. The DMR resumed properties in Glebe in 1969 and when DMR bulldozers moved into the Darghan Street area demolishing houses in April 1972, they were confronted by residents and squatters in DMR-affected properties. After several confrontations with police and demolishers the BLF was called on to impose a 'green ban' on the North Western Expressway, which it did, and the DMR withdrew from Glebe. The expressway advance had been halted by the BLF.

The Federal Whitlam Government was elected in December 1972 with a program of social reform, open government, and, for the first time, a Federal Government producing explicit urban policies. The newly created Department of Urban and Regional Development (DURD) under Minister Tom Uren changed the face of urban planning. It appointed Jackson Teece Chesterman Willis to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed acquisition of the Glebe Estate, notable for being the first example of government acquisition of property to rehabilitate, rather than redevelop. DURD also funded urban rehabilitation projects at Woolloomooloo and Emerald Hill in Melbourne.

The Askin Liberal Government was unwilling to abandon the expressway network. Local Labor member Pat Hills was in favour of it but Leichhardt Council under Mayor Origlass actively opposed it. Tom Uren, anxious to ensure the expressways were re-routed, suggested DURD instruct Jackson Teece Chesterman Willis to undertake a 'study for an alternative route to the moribund strategy of the DMR'. This study was forwarded to the Wran Labour Government which endorsed the proposal funded by DURD.

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Dictionary of Sydney

The following is an edited text of Dr Lisa Murray's talk *Local history - Making connections in the digital age* - at last month's Annual General Meeting:



As a public historian, I have always been interested in local history and its connections with the wider historical narrative. With the flourishing of the internet, there are whole new ways we can share our history, find out new information, and make connections. But how is the digital humanities revolutionising history at a local and national level?

I want to reflect upon this new area of historical production that is part of the digital humanities. What does digital history mean for local and community history - particularly how we research it and produce it? And what impact can it have on broader historical understandings?

As many of you will know, I'm involved in a fantastic community public history project called the Dictionary of Sydney which is a born-digital history project, conceived as a freely available resource presenting scholarship on metropolitan Sydney's history. www.dictionaryofsydney.org

Now, a purely digital history redefines the possibilities for urban history and public history. Using the Dictionary of Sydney as a case study ... I want

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The proposed new expressway system took a new direction, now to progress through Pymont, Glebe Island and White Bay, a direct outcome of the enlightened initiatives of DURD and its Minister Tom Uren preventing the suburbs of Glebe, Annandale, Leichhardt, Burwood and Concord from, as Uren recalls, 'being dehumanised and scarred with a wide swathe that would cut them in two'.

Glebe's listing by the National Trust as a Conservation Area in 1974 added weight to the case against expressway construction. It was an embryonic time for heritage and heritage conservation, and at a national level Tom Uren played a critical role in creating the Australian Heritage Commission and the National Estate program.

- Max Solling



Lisa Murray (right) with Mairéad Browne.
Photo: Phil Young

to share with you some of the ways I think local history is taking on a much greater significance in historiography in the digital age. A pretty heavy topic, perhaps, for a Sunday morning; but I know that the Glebe Society is well into the digital age – launching your Glebe walks online and looking at updating and expanding your website. The opportunities for digital history are exciting and I hope you too will be invigorated by the possibilities the digital humanities throws up for presenting Glebe's history.

Three genres or types of digital history have been identified:

1. **digitisation projects** such as the National Library of Australia's digitisation of newspapers
2. **presentation layers of historical knowledge** - a form of digital publication such as online exhibitions or e-books; or the Glebe Walks, which the Society has recently launched online.
3. **new-model scholarship** where digital technologies are used to visualise history in new ways, develop new research questions and undertake historical analysis in new ways

The Dictionary of Sydney is a blend of the second and third types of digital history – it is both a form of digital publication and it is also a type of new-model scholarship, using digital technologies to visualise history in new ways.

It is an innovative mix of history and technology that connects people, place and time, and provides a unifying

framework for telling the diverse stories of Sydney's history and culture, with multiple authors and contested interpretations.

Why do digital history? What are the benefits and what can it do for local history?

I think the digital humanities transforms the way we do history in five key ways:

- liberation from the page – fewer restrictions on word length, illustrations and audio-visual resources
- connectivity – linkage of articles and cross-referencing can bring to light unexpected connections
- collaboration – internal and external; text harvesting and content sharing; new approaches to authorship
- community – the globalisation of community history; presentation layers demonstrating the connections between local history and thematic history; and the complicated relationships of a community
- innovation – the challenge of dragging the thematic down to the particular; the richness of visual illustrations; the demands of being up to date and also dealing with changing interpretations; browsing and the opportunities for meandering discovery.

As local historians, we live in exciting times. The digital humanities is transforming the way we research, write, publish and produce history. We have the opportunity to present local history in new ways that reflect our complex societal networks. We can connect the local history of Glebe with greater Sydney's history and the global historical context. This type of digital history is 'an invitation to community, relationship, and play'. I hope you accept the invitation to join the historiographical revolution and I'll see you out there in the digital age.

- Lisa Murray

For the full text or an audio version of Lisa Murray's talk, please go to <http://glebesociety.org.au/?p=4722>

Who lived in your street?

In January 2010 Café Otto at 79 Glebe Point Road was razed by fire. The brick and iron villa, built ca 1860, was first known as 'Bouquet de Flora' while its twin at number 77 bore the name 'Multiflora'. In the 1890s number 79 was home to Matilda Steer aka Zethyne Vuelice, one of a number of spiritualists who operated in the suburb. Lyn Collingwood writes about ...

Glebe's rap artists

Clairvoyance, palmistry, phrenology and the holding of séances were popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and vied with evangelism to give spiritual and psychological comfort in a time of high infant mortality and growing international military tension. Spiritualists claimed to receive messages from those who had 'passed over' to the other side of the grave. They saw busy bands of spirits hovering over the corpse-strewn battlefields of the Boer War, and sought to persuade grieving mothers and widows that the slaughter of World War 1 was not pointless.

Prime Minister Alfred Deakin and novelist Rosa Campbell Praed were spiritualists. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during an Australasian tour in 1920/21 addressed members of the Enmore Spiritualist Church at the Dispensary Hall in Enmore Road. The spiritualist movement was strongest in Melbourne, but a number of organisations operated in Sydney: Church of Spiritual Seers, Psychic Society of NSW, NSW Spiritualists' Association (its Leichhardt branch held Sunday night lectures), Pythagorean Music Society, Spiritualistic Alliance, Sydney Association of Spiritualists.

Clairvoyants and clairaudients claimed to have powers of seeing and hearing beyond those of ordinary people. Phrenologists said they could discover an individual's talents by examining the skull. Palmists read character from a study of the hands. (Soft and flabby indicated an irresolute will and lack of vitality; hot and dry meant irritability and lack of self-control; cold and clammy hands belonged to a selfish person. Those with the best dispositions had well-shaped nails, velvety skin and a firm and vigorous handshake.) Mediums communicated with the dead during public or private séances.

SPIRITUALIST HALL,
79 GLEBE ROAD,
—GLEBE.

MISS STEER, Controlled by Zethyne Vuelice,
Spiritual Test Medium,
can be consulted on all Business Matters.

Public Seances.
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday,
evenings at 8 p.m., 6d.

Private Consultations.
Daily, 10 to 4, 2/6.

Developing Circle.
Tuesday, at 8 p.m., 2/- per month.

A typical séance involved clients and the medium seated in the dark with hands on a table listening for the knock of a spirit. Three raps indicated the spirit's willingness to write a message. The medium then held a slate under the table and went into a trance, the scratching sound of automatic writing was heard, the table rose and the written message revealed. (Sceptics suspected nimble footwork with a stick of chalk.) Séances might also involve massage, the laying on of hands and the sudden appearance of clothing and other items belonging to the dead. 'Developing circles' stimulated the psychic powers of participants. Mediums kept up a constant verbal patter and warned that spirits were easily offended and didn't like being tested. 'Outsiders' were discouraged from attending psychic sessions.

Working class 'Sybils' were engaged by society women to tell the fortunes of guests at afternoon tea parties, enlivening their gossip over strawberries and cream, ices and wine. Many Sydney spiritualists were inner-city women using assumed names: Madame Bourne, Madam Belle, Madame Laceta, Madame Pattey. In the early 1900s a cluster operated in Glebe, near Parramatta Road. Clairvoyant, clairaudient and psychometrist Elizabeth Le Maine was at *Aidyl*, 22 Glebe Road, a few doors

away from Madame Peer ('truth and satisfaction guaranteed') at number 12. Phrenologist Madame Josephine 'from London' was at number 34, and Mrs Green held Sunday séances at number 82. At 61 Broadway were waxworks worker turned scientific palmist Madame Alrene, clairvoyants Madam Wearne and Emily Curran (Madame St George) adjacent to phrenologist Madame Ferguson. Madame Simpson ('wonderfully gifted, satisfaction to ladies') set up business at 11 Cowper Street, and Madame ('gifted clairvoyante and palmist') and Mr ('trance medium') Zanzi conducted daily interviews and nightly séances at 32 Glebe Road.

Some husbands of clients claimed their home life had been destroyed by some 'illiterate old body ... explaining the future by planets', but psychic journals carried favourable testimonials. Sydney Hospital's conventional medicine had failed plasterer John James Clifford of 62 Greek Street Glebe but his health was restored through the guidance of medical spirits summoned by Madame and Mr W H Le Maine.

The spiritual work of Glebe's Matilda Jane Steer (1858-1931) no doubt contributed to the family income. Matilda Trott married van proprietor James Steer in 1882 and by 1899 (when Zethyne Vuelice was in control at 79 Glebe Road) the couple had six surviving dependent children ranging in age from 12 years to newborn. Described by *The Angel of Light* as 'a galaxy of nerves. You would not be surprised if she suddenly dematerialised in a great blaze of eloquence', Matilda offered services priced from sixpence to half a crown. James Steer died aged 56 in 1908 by which time the family had moved to Newtown where they became active in the local branch of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Matilda died on 5 October 1931

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in the Home of Peace, Marrickville, and, although religion and spiritualism were like 'oil and water', was buried in Rookwood's Church of England section alongside her son, labourer and returned serviceman George Edward, who had died aged 23 on 13 December 1919.

In 1903 Elizabeth Lowe (ca 1850-1919) was the only person in Glebe to declare their profession as 'clairvoyant' on the electoral roll when she was living at 21 Campbell Street with her eldest son John and youngest daughter Susie Martha May. Another daughter, Lydia Fatzeus, lived next door at number 19 with her husband Frederick, a tailor.

Elizabeth Lowe moved to Sydney in the early 1890s having borne eight daughters and three sons in Newcastle, Carcoar, Blayney, Tambaroora, Hill End, Bathurst and Forbes. By 1898 as 'Madam Simmons' she was conducting spiritual meetings, followed by a collection, at 88 Cowper Street. A year later she had moved to 90 Cowper Street, and by 1900 to her permanent home at 21 Campbell Street. Daughter Susie continued to help her mother visiting the sick and conducting burial services after her marriage in 1917 to Michael Burke. Elizabeth Lowe died on 29 April 1919. Following a memorial service at the Erskineville Spiritualistic Church she was buried at Rookwood with two of her children: John who had died aged 32 on 18 March 1906 and Mary Ellen Boag who had died on 13 November 1908. In the same burial plot was a three-year-old 'friend' Otto Hoyer who had died on 4 April 1906. His parents Amy and Otto Hoyer were, no doubt, part of the Lowes' spiritualist circle.

From the mid 1890s newspaper reporters were usually hostile to spiritual practices, especially after an incident in 1894 involving prominent psychic Mrs Annie Mellon at a séance in her Woolahra home. Here an audience member switched on the light and grabbed 'Cissie', an apparition revealed to be the medium herself, half undressed. The recovering Mrs Mellon explained hastily that she had been 'shot into' and 'absorbed' within the materialised form.

Six years later Mrs Mellon, now a widow, turned up in Glebe, advertising her services at 19 Parramatta Road

and at her 'private residence' 61 Glebe Road. Her stay in the suburb was brief, however. In 1901 she was in Melbourne advertising a series of farewell séances before returning to England.

The Vagrancy Act 1902 made illegal the activities of incorrigible rogues and vagabonds, habitual drunkards, prostitutes, beggars and anyone who 'pretends or professes to tell fortunes, or uses any subtle craft, means or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose on any person'. Young police constables 'in holiday clothes' began walking the streets in search of fortunetellers. Elizabeth Lowe, although publicly declaring her profession as clairvoyant, seems to have been left alone but other women were entrapped, including two who had practised in Glebe.

The constable who held out his hand to Madame St George was told that the disembodied spirits of an old man and old woman were controlling his life, that his wife would get a cold and back pain, that he was worried about some papers, and that he would live to 65 if he took care of his health. Despite her court plea that she was not a palmist but a clairvoyant able to see what others could not and her powers did not necessarily extend into the future, Emily Cur-



Annie Mellon and 'Cissie'

ran was found guilty of fortunetelling and put on a good behaviour bond.

Elizabeth Le Maine had moved from *Aidyl* to 4 City Road by 1905 when she turned up in court. One witness testified the accused saw some 28 clients weekly

and the arresting constable gave an account of his consultation. The clairvoyant had begun by stating she knew the reason for his visit: 'a young lady' whose token was in his pocket. When Constable Waller reached in and pulled out a matchbox he was told the girl would bring him nothing but trouble. On the flip side he would be the sole survivor of a shipwreck and would end up a very rich man. Convicted and put on a good behaviour bond, the spiritualist afterwards gave her occupation as herbalist.

By 1909 the crackdown appears to have taken effect, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reporting the 'Flight of the Seers'. Few were left of the 50 known professional palmists who had practised in Sydney: 'They have vanished from the arcades. They have melted ... from the back alleys.' In the twenty-first century, while the public séance and the phrenologist have all but vanished, astrologists, clairvoyants, crystal gazers, numerologists, and readers of auras, runes and tarot cards continue to sell their services, their medium now the mobile phone and payment method the credit card. Glebe's local paper the *Inner West Courier* carries a regular classified category 'Psychic notices'. The crime of fortunetelling in New South Wales was repealed by the Summary Offences Act 1970, but it remains a summary offence in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

- Lyn Collingwood

Sources:

- Angel of Light* November, December 1899
- Cemetery records
- Colville, W J *Our hands and what they reveal to us* 1900
- Cosmos* 1 September 1894
- Crotona* April 1913
- Electoral rolls
- Harbinger of Light* various issues 1905 - 6
- Main, James M (pseudonym?), *Palmistry* 1887
- Mediums and their dupes: a complete exposure of the chicaneries of professional mediums, and explanation of so-called spiritual phenomena* undated pamphlet
- NSW Registry of births, deaths, marriages
- Sands *directories*
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- Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 25.4.1903, 28.10.1904, 28.2.1905, 11.1.1909, 1.2.1909

The Glebe Community

Music at the Glebe Library

Guivio

Saturday 5 November, 3-4.30pm at Glebe Library.

The City of Sydney Library is delighted to bring you this special performance as part of the Glebe Music Festival.

Giuseppe Zangari and Victoria Jacono-Gilmovich met at rehearsals for the acclaimed contemporary ensemble Halcyon and have now joined forces to form **Guivio**, Sydney's premier guitar and violin ensemble. Places are limited, so arrive early to get your seat! **A Glebe Music Festival event.**

Free event. Bookings not required.

In Conversation: Ian Munro & Carl Vine

Tuesday 8 November, 3-4pm at Glebe Library.

Musica Viva's 2011 Featured Composer Ian Munro is one of Australia's most distinguished and awarded musicians, with a career that has taken him to thirty countries across the globe. The City of Sydney Library is delighted to invite you to attend this special event. Join Carl Vine in conversation with Ian as they talk about Ian's life as a pianist, as an award-winning composer, about his writing, blogging and more. Presented by Musica Viva.

Free event. Bookings essential - phone 9298 3060

Glebe Society support for local children

The Glebe Society has again provided donations and/or prize money for local schools and organisations supporting local youth. This year, cheques totalling \$1230 have been despatched to:

- Glebe Public School
- Forest Lodge Primary (including the Mawson Prize)
- St James Primary
- Blackwattle Bay Campus, Sydney Secondary College (including the John Hoddinott Prize for Creative Writing)
- St Scholastica's College
- Tranby College
- Glebe Youth Service
- Glebe PCYC
- Centipede

New members may not know that Sir Douglas Mawson attended Forest Lodge Primary. The John Hoddinott Prize for Creative Writing is in memory of the late John Hoddinott, a Glebe Society member, who was active in a range of important community issues.

The Society, through the support of members, is pleased to be able to continue this tradition of support for local children and youth.

- Liz Simpson-Booker

Glebe Street Fair, Sunday 20 November

This year the Glebe Society will share a community stall at the Fair with representatives from different groups in Glebe, including the Glebe Public School P&C, Centipede and Have-a-Chat café.

We need volunteers to staff the stall for an hour or so. We are not yet sure of the location of the stall, but please ring me on 9692 9440 for further information or to offer your help. It would really be appreciated, thank you.

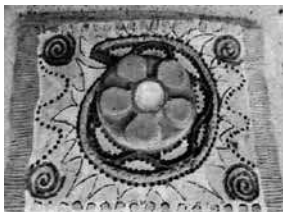
- Robyn Kemmis

Events this weekend

Don't forget the **Mitchell Street Fair**, Saturday 29 October, 11am - 2pm. The organisers are seeking volunteers who are willing to help with most aspects of the Fair. If you can lend a hand, contact Robyn Kemmis on 9692 9440.

The **Forest Lodge Community Day Fair** will be held on Sunday 30 October from 11am to 3pm at Forest Lodge Public School on the corner of Ross Street and Bridge Road. Come and see the new renovations and additions, and help establish a community garden..

ART and ABOUT ... Glebe style



Have you seen the artwork at the M.J. Doherty Reserve, on the corner of Mitchell and Wentworth Streets?

Members of our local community worked together to make, design, decorate and attach pottery tiles to the concrete walls of the Reserve, a

project which was co-sponsored by the Glebe Community Action Group, The Glebe Society and the City of Sydney Council. The park is now brighter and much more inviting. 'It looks terrific' says one local resident who, like us, is proud of the work that has been created.

The project, Love Your Park, was coordinated by Karen Weiss, a community artist, who ran three workshops at the Reserve from October 2010 to February 2011.

This inspirational artwork will be launched by the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, and celebrated by the community with a sausage sizzle at the Reserve on Saturday 12 November at 12 noon - come on down and join us!

From the Love Your Park Team



Glebe Society Events

Glebe Voices

The first meeting of the *Glebe Voices* series will be held at Blackwattle Café

Date: Thursday 10 November

Time: Noon - 1pm

Guest Speaker: Dr David McIntosh AM

David organises the Glebe Music Festival, and will talk about the origins of the festival.

There is no charge for the event but people pay for their own lunch. Places are limited; to reserve your place please ring John Gray 0420 303 847 or Carole Herriman (after October 28).



David McIntosh AM with Governor General Quentin Bryce at his investiture on 5 October 2011

Glebe Art Gallery Walking Tour

Join us on Saturday 19 November for a visit to Glebe's small art galleries. Artists or gallery owners will briefly introduce their collections. Car transport will be available for those not able to walk between venues.



The visit concludes with afternoon tea at Yuga Café. For more information and to book, see the enclosed flyer.

Christmas garden party and drinks



Friday 2 December, 6-8pm

This year, our Christmas event will be held on the elegant verandah and (weather permitting) lawns of Toxteth House (St Scholastica's) in Avenue Road.

RSVP by 23 November. See the booking form enclosed with this Bulletin.

Christmas raffle and auction

Once again we will have a raffle and auction in association with the Glebe Society Christmas Party, with proceeds contributing towards local community projects. Local businesses and individuals have generously donated great prizes including tickets for the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party; vouchers for bars, restaurants and boutique accommodation; seafood school cooking classes; and pearl jewellery.

An order form will be mailed or emailed in mid-November. Tickets will be on sale prior to and at the Christmas Party on Friday 2 December.

- Dorothy Davis

Beer tasting at Glebe's own brewery

This is a great opportunity to taste some boutique beers (and matching food) made in our neighbourhood at the Malt Shovel Brewery. Phone Dorothy

(9660 7873) by Sunday 30 October and we may be able to add you to the list for this special event on Monday evening 31 October.

Blue Wrens working bee

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. 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

Glebe Music Festival

Be rapped by RAPT. How many remember the packed-out urbanXcentrics concert at the Old Court House in 2004? And their memorable CDs? Well, they are back - including their heart-throb guest singer Ben Palumbo, reincarnated as the 'incredible jazz-inspired' group RAPT: 4-strong vocals, violin, guitars, mandolin, banjo and double basses. See www.urbanex.com.au/. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy music within this historic building. Friday 11 November at 7.30pm, corner St Johns Road and Talfourd Street, Glebe. Tickets are available at the door \$15 (concessions \$10). See also www.glebemusicfestival.com

- David McIntosh

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 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.

We will get together for the first time in 2012 on **Thursday 12 January**, the **second** Thursday in the month. We will go to the Nag's Head, 162 St Johns 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 October Management Committee meeting:

- Margaret and James Beattie
- Alison McCarthy
- Terry McDonald
- Alexander Phillips

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.

15 November - *A Weekend In Manhattan* - a Romantic Comedy Directed By Nicholas Papademetriou.

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

Gleebooks Events

The first concert in this year's Glebe Music Festival is at Gleebooks on Friday 24 November at 6.30 for 7pm. Search for 'Gleebooks events' for more details of this concert and for Gleebooks literary events.

Two Glebe Society Artists

Janet Venn-Brown's Art Exhibition *Glebe Inside and Out* will be opened on Thursday 3 November at 6pm. It is at Yuga, 172 St Johns Road. Everybody is welcome.

The Exhibition will be on display until Friday 25 November.

Lennox Street Art Fair 2011, held in the old St Joseph School. 111 Lennox Street, Newtown, will be opened by Amanda Wilson, Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Thursday 3 November at 6 – 8pm. The Art Fair, which includes works by **Susan Ingram**, will be open from 10am to 5pm Friday - Saturday 4 - 6 November.

Exhibitions at Gallery Red

21 October to 8 November: Gallery Red introduces **Presenting the Letter "F"**, a solo mixed media exhibition featuring recent artworks by **Chidzey**. Gallery Hours for this exhibition are Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm.

11– 29 November: Doorstop Portraits in Glebe (an exhibition of recent photographs by North Sullivan).

2 December – January: "4" - Annual Christmas Exhibition.

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

Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please email editor@glebesociety.org.au

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 ...

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

Monday 31 October, 5 - 7pm – Malt Shovel Brewery, 99 Pyrmont Bridge Road. See page 9.

Thursday 3 November, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Sushi-Ya*, 166 Glebe Point Road. See page 10.

Friday 4 to Sunday 27 November – 22nd Annual Glebe Music Festival. See page 9.

Saturday 5 November, 3-4.30pm – Music at Glebe Library. See page 8.

Tuesday 8 November, 3-4pm – In Conversation: Ian Munro and Carl Vine, Glebe Library. See page 8.

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

Wednesday 9 November, 7pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

Thursday 10 November, 12 noon - 2pm – Glebe Voices with David McIntosh, Blackwattle Bay Café. See page 9.

Tuesday 15 November, 7pm – Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

Saturday 19 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm – Art Gallery Walking Tour. See page 9.

Sunday 20 November – Glebe Street Fair. Volunteers needed. See page 8.

Friday 2 December, 6 - 8pm – Toxteth House – Glebe Society Christmas Cocktail Party. See page 9.

Wednesday 14 December, 7pm – Management Committee meeting, 115 Mitchell Street.

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 November. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday, 15 November**.

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	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	tba	
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

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

Harold Park: Mirvac hotline for residents 9080 8588