

## About the online Glebe Society Bulletin ...

### How to view the online Bulletin

The pages of the online *Bulletin* are almost identical to the printed version except for the use of colour.

You can use the index (*In this issue*) on this page to jump to individual stories, or you can scroll through the edition using the scroll wheel on your mouse, or the page-up/page-down keys on your keyboard. To return to the index, click on the blue triangle at the bottom of any page. The online *Bulletin* also has links that take you to websites or email addresses when you click on them. The layout is optimised for wide screen monitors so you can read two pages together.

### Do you have some pictures of Glebe that others should see?

Do you have some digital images that you believe others would be interested in? If so, email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au), and we'll assess them for a centre page spread in the Society's online *Bulletin*.

### 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 Membership > New membership), 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-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

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**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

### In this issue ...

*Click on the headings below to jump to the item*

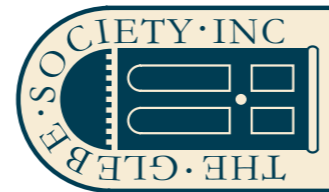
How can we preserve the Glebe Estate?	1
Plan for last stage of foreshore walk on display	2
Lord Mayor 'breaks ground' at Harold Park	2
President's page	3
Objections to DA's by smart phones in future?	3
From the Terraces	4
Successful Council grant applications	4
Planning matters	5
First World War commemoration project	5
Roads v public transport: two new transport plans for NSW	6
A story from a Glebe squatter 1975-1976	7
Who lived in your street	8
Names for two more Glebe laneways	9
Fun and games at Wentworth Park	9
Glebe Street Fair	10
Glebe public school trivia night	10
Annual Glebe Music Festival	10
Bernard Smith Wake venue changed	10
Glebe Society events	11
'Friends of Centipede' launch	
Glebe Society Christmas Party	
Grahame Budd revisits Mawson	
News and Notes	12
For your diary	13
Contacting the Glebe Society and directory	13



They're off and running in a heat of the 2012 Wentworth Park Mongrel Cup. The Whippet (second dog from the left) was the eventual winner of the large dogs division. Photo: Bruce Davis

# Glebe Society Bulletin

9/2012 October/November



Glebe

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## How can we preserve the Glebe Estate?

More Housing Department tenants live on the Glebe Estate than in any other local government area in Australia. It occupies about 20% of the conservation area of Glebe and is internationally famous as an example of National involvement in heritage public housing. First the Australian Government then the NSW Government restored the old stock. It was handed back to full NSW ownership in the

1980s. The property has been insufficiently maintained for many years; consequently houses deteriorate and become increasingly expensive to repair. Eventually they will become irreparable and disposable.

The maintenance of the Glebe Estate is strategically important to Glebe, which is a place where heritage, diversity and community intertwine. At its best we see a liberal and civic society working. At its worst we see disempowerment and declining amenity. Without all the polite words this means if you live in crappy surroundings and cannot get your landlord to do anything about it, things get worse until bad seems normal.

Against this background we have previously held discussions with Jamie Parker, our local State MP, and we met with Tanya Plibersek, our Federal MHR, on site on 16 October. Others who attended were Jan Wilson (Chair of COGG), who organised the meeting, Michael Vaughan (member



Local Federal MP and Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek met with representatives of community groups to discuss ways to prevent further deterioration of houses on the Glebe Estate. Photo: Bruce Davis

of Tanya's staff), Nick Hespe (City of Sydney), Ally De Pree-Raghavan (FLAG), John Gray (President, Glebe Society), Bruce Davis (Glebe Society) and Robyn Kemmis (Deputy Lord Mayor).

During Tanya Plibersek's visit we recognised that the problem is immediate: How do we fix the properties? and long term: What investment models will maintain the Capital Stock? The Society, along with other community groups and the City, is a member of the Coalition of Glebe Groups (COGG), which has formed a major project to address these matters. Rosalind Hecker and I are on that project team. Right now we are gathering ideas about what has been tried elsewhere. So send us what you know or useful contacts. Go to the President's Project Page of the website ([www.glebesociety.org.au/?cat=80](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/?cat=80)) and have your say.

- John Gray  
President

### What's coming soon

**Friday 2 November, 6pm** – Friends of Centipede launch, Glebe Rowing Club. See flyer.

**Sunday 18 November** – Glebe Street Fair. See p.10.

**Friday 9 November, 6.30pm** – Bernard Smith wake, upstairs Toxteth Hotel, 345 Glebe Point Road. See p.10.

**Friday 7 December, 7-9pm** – Christmas Party at Barney's. See flyer. RSVP by 28 November.



Weeds growing in the gutter of a house in Westmoreland Street. Photo: Bruce Davis

## Concept plan for final stage of Glebe Foreshore Walk on public display



An artist's impression of part of stage 5 of the Glebe Foreshore Walk. The Glebe Rowing Club pontoon can be seen in the middle distance. Courtesy Sydney City Council.

The long awaited Stage 5 concept plan for the Foreshore Walk Blackwattle Bay went on public exhibition on 4 October 2012. This will complete the final stage (from Ferry Road to Bridge Road) for which the City of Sydney has responsibility. The major delay in getting to this stage was obtaining consent from Department of Education and Training for access through school land.

Landscape Architects JMD Design, who were responsible for the earlier stages in the park, have fulfilled a very exciting brief. It is sympathetic to the needs of the school as well as the residents.

The proposed design includes:

- stabilisation of the harbour's edge with new seawalls which include niches for local marine habitat;
- a minimum three metre wide concrete walkway with high-quality finishes and accessible grades;
- tiered areas and steps to provide access down to the water's edge;
- foreshore habitats of salt marsh and mangroves preserved and

enhanced along the harbour's edge;

- 52 new trees including eucalyptus and blackwattles, along with hundreds of shrubs and native grasses,
- new bike racks, extra seating, new rubbish bins, high quality park lighting and new signage;
- energy efficient lighting to improve safety for pedestrians after dark; and
- canoe storage racks towards the southern (Bridge Road) end of the walkway.

Work will commence in September 2013 and be completed in 2014.

Bridge Road will require some community action and pressure on State authorities to enhance the pathway to the Fish Market.

The Glebe Foreshore Parks cover more than 17 hectares around the Glebe Peninsula. These include Bicentennial Park, Federal Park, Jubilee Park, Blackwattle Bay Park, Pope Paul VI Reserve and the Glebe Foreshore Walk. We are well served with beautiful parks and waterfront access in Glebe.

- Jan Wilson

## Lord Mayor 'breaks ground' at Harold Park redevelopment

After more than three years of community consultation and months of demolition work, the Lord Mayor, Cr Clover Moore, broke ground on the redevelopment of the former Harold Park Paceway site recently.

In her online newsletter *Clover's e-news* she wrote: 'There's an urgent need for more housing as Sydney's population grows. By 2026 we will have to find housing for an extra one million people – that's just 14 years away – and the NSW Government has set the City a target of 61,000 new homes by 2036.

'The best way to deal with this growth is to protect our historic villages by providing sustainable, high-quality housing and facilities in urban renewal sites like Harold Park.

'The Harold Park redevelopment will provide much needed new housing close to the city centre, linked to good public transport – in particular the light rail service which is near the site, and with access to great public open space.

'Work the City has done will ensure that more than one-third of formerly private land, totalling 3.8 hectares, will become public open space, with new parks and a variety of landscaped open spaces.

'Almost two kilometres of paths for walking and bike riding will connect the site to local shops, schools and parks and the site is well serviced by light rail. The Planning Minister has also committed to working with the Transport Minister to increase transport options in the area as the site is developed.

'The development will create 1,250 new homes, including places for affordable housing, which will be of a high environmental standard.'

## President's Page

### Strategy Review

As I mentioned in last month's *Bulletin* the Society is working towards a thorough strategy review by February. This is a cumulative process in which each subcommittee and project group will consider the major changes that have occurred, their implications and strategic questions these raise. For example the decline in funding to government agencies is a major change in the context of Glebe. Implications include lack of funding for maintenance of the Glebe Estate and a consequent decline in amenity, community and heritage of Glebe. The strategic questions it raises are: How can current maintenance problems be fixed? What models of strategic investment will maintain the Capital Stock in the long term? What should be the Society's involvement?

In response to my September article I received several emails so I have established a President's Page on the website where you can contribute to the strategy review as it unfolds ([www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?cat=80](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?cat=80)). Of course when we have a revised plan this will also be available for members' comments for at least a month before it is adopted. It is your strategy. Have your say.

### Better Planning Network

The State government commissioned a study of the existing planning system (Moore and Dyer 2012 [www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx](http://www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx)) and released a Green Paper called *A New Planning System for NSW* ([www.planning.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/)). The first mentioned study was a professionally thorough review with significant insights. The subsequent Green paper all but ignored Moore and Dyer's work and mentioned heritage once in the whole paper. As mentioned in September it suggested a

system which disempowered communities and councils and suggested a form of anterior planning by which decisions taken bound future communities and stripped rights of appeal.

The Glebe Society has joined The Better Planning Network (<http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/>) as a coalition member and I have written to all members imploring them to assist this extremely important campaign to improve community engagement. Jan Wilson, Mairéad Browne and Rozzie Hecker from the management committee attended a workshop organised by BPN and assured the network of more than 20 community organisations of our commitment.

Have you logged on to the site as I suggested in my email? Have you sent a letter to the Premier?

### More matters

- Margaret Cody was appointed to the Management Committee as Associate Secretary.
- The Society submission on the Draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan lauded emphases on public transport, walking and cycling (see p.6).
- Jan Wilson, Bruce Davis and I met with Tanya Plibersek concerning deterioration of the Glebe Estate (see p.1).
- I attended a review of the Toxteth Hotel claim that it should be granted a trial of outdoor seating in Glebe Point Road and reiterated the Society's objections that the DA was unnecessary and disruptive. The Toxteth claim was not granted.
- Jan Wilson and I attended a meeting called by Jamie Parker concerning a DA for 12 Bridge Street. This may be one of the first under the new LEP which permits an increased floor to

space ratio and could set precedents. The Society has lodged an objection as have many residents.

- Jan Wilson and I attended a meeting called by the Lord Mayor to hear Glebe tenants' comments about their situation and what can be done.
- Great to see some exciting new businesses opening in Forest Lodge. *Two Peas* restaurant is full most nights and *Foodies Café* opens on 29 October with Paul and Angela Iacovou serving Cypriot specialties. Also in Ross Street you can find Latin American food and the best Pho outside of Hanoi. The new owners of the *Forest Lodge Hotel* are Society members and have remembered that pubs mean community. Lead economic growth. Eat out.

*John Gray*

## DA objections by smart phone the way of the future?

The City of Sydney will soon invite residents to file objections to DAs from their smart phones.

The *Sydney Morning Herald's Digital Life* website says 'consultation apps', which are expected to be available within a year, could revolutionise citizen involvement in government decision making.

*Digital Life* says the number of visits to a Council site specifically set up to invite comment on decisions before the Council swamps the 50 or so stalwarts who regularly turn up to community forums. It quotes a Council spokesperson as saying: 'The regulars at meetings are very committed but they are not representative.'

Maybe in future the Society will need to get on a smart phone rather than bussing it into the Town Hall to attend interminable meetings of the Council's Planning Committee?

## From the Terraces

### Heritage hedges - in the making

Hedges go back to the Neolithic Age when they were used as a way of enclosing fields. Such hedges were formed by clumping together any number of plant species that were readily to hand in order to make a barrier. Thus hedges served to demarcate territory and to prevent stock loss. Large scale farming, monocultures and huge machinery have led to the demise of the rural hedge in recent decades but now there is also a growing awareness that the loss of these hedges is a loss of plant and animal species; a loss of rural history.

The garden hedge, in contrast to its rural cousin, has been used in a largely decorative way as garden dividers, or as screens, stilt hedges or low borders (clipped to below knee height). A hedge can be used

to soften (eg, a hedge of looping plumbago canes), to create 'architectural' patterns or volumes (eg, the gardens designed by Cecil Pinsent in Tuscany), to create texture, to frame a view or to frame other plantings (eg, knot gardens).

In Australia, garden hedges followed the historic domestic English town pattern without significant innovation up to and including the Victorian era when more formal gardens were still favoured. Nowadays hedges are seen as a useful screen to block off a paling fence; augment an iron railing; create an outdoor room, deliver privacy, or provide shelter. But a hedge, for any purpose, which blocks a neighbour's view? Best be very, very wary. The web is littered with horror stories, horror pictures and horror legal disputes.

But Glebe can boast of some beautiful hedges: restrained, human-scale and trim, but not manicured. All add to Glebe's 'greenscape'.

For example, a short stroll down the residential end of Glebe Point Road offers an interesting selection of hedge styles and shapes. There are a number of hedges ranging from one to about four metres. No. 216 (the old doctors' house) has an unusual stepped hedge using two species, lower on the outside of the fence railings, higher on the inside. At No. 234 (*Oswestry*, 1887) the high hedge frames the entrance to this beautiful mansion. At Liz Trickett's (No. 270), the hedge which lines the fence travels up and over the wire arch at the gate.

You might also find, in winter, a hedge or two of *Camellia sasanqua*, in spring a rambling pretty white verbena hedge at *Hartford* (No. 244) and in summer you can swoon (or have an attack of hay fever, entirely your choice) beneath the perfumed *Murraya* hedge at No.451.

- Liz Simpson-Booker

### Success with Council grants

We have had to wait for the new Council to meet to hear the outcome of a couple of grant applications. However, the outcomes have been very pleasing.

The Glebe Society applied for funding under the Local Community Grant program for our project, Glebe Walks Mobile, and we are delighted that our application was successful. The funding will allow us to work with Red Ant media, who designed the Glebe Walks site, to make the website work more efficiently on a smartphone. When viewed on a smartphone the webpage will be displayed differently to make best use of the smaller screen, and maps and other content will load more quickly. Our aim is to make it easy for people to access

the website as they walk around.

Funding also covered the cost of publishing two new walks on the website. Over the next few months you can look forward to seeing new walks covering Science Road at Sydney University, and also the Forest Lodge area.

If you haven't already explored the Glebe Walks website, take a look at [glebewalks.com.au](http://glebewalks.com.au)

The St Helen's Community Garden Group, which has a number of Glebe Society members, was also successful in its application for a grant under the Matching Grants program. Group members will meet soon with the City's Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator to discuss the preparation of the site and our timeframe for developing the garden.

The St Helen's Community Garden Group will be gathering for a cel-

ebratory picnic on the site of the future community garden, between St Helen's and *Benledi*, at midday on Sunday 28 October. If you would like to join us, or just drop in to hear more about the project, you would be most welcome.

- Jan Macindoe

### Cushion House no more

The *Cushion House* restaurant in Glebe Point Road was destroyed by fire in a matter of minutes on the evening of 22 October.

A media report said several people called triple-0 after hearing a loud bang. The fire engulfed the building in the minutes it took firefighters to get from Glebe fire station about 500 metres away.

No one was injured and there was no major damage to adjoining buildings.

### Harold Park

The applications for precincts 1 & 2 were approved by the Central Sydney Planning Committee on 18 September. Precinct 1 is for four 5-8 storey buildings containing 298 units with 252 parking spaces. Precinct 2 is for two eight storey buildings containing 184 units with 165 parking spaces. The President attended in my absence, and protested against the shortfall in parking, which is a result of the City's Parking Policy, an aspect of the CityPlan that has attracted widespread criticism.

The Society is hopeful that the newly elected Councillors can be persuaded to revise this policy.

### 12 Bridge Road

The Society has objected to a proposal to extend this warehouse in the small Bridge Road Business

## Planning Matters

Zone with three floors of flats. The proposal results in an overdevelopment in terms of density and height, and is out of scale with surrounding buildings.

### Planning Green Paper

The Society is not the only organisation to be concerned by the new Government's approach to planning. At the Committee Meeting of 10 October the Society resolved to join the *Better Planning Network*, a group of about thirty organisations from across the metropolitan area who are committed to a better planning system. Their platform is based on six major issues:

- Community engagement in decision making is essential at every stage of the planning and development process.
- Protecting our natural and cultural heritage is fundamental to

the wellbeing of our communities.

- Development must put local residents and communities first.
- Strategic planning must be evidence-based.
- Development must comply with strategic planning instruments.
- Infrastructure goes hand in hand with development.

Membership of this group is in addition to our own response to the Green Paper, published on the Website. Many other organisations, including the National Trust and the Paddington Society, have written critical submissions. The Independent Commission against Corruption has pointed out that the processes outlined in the Green Paper create fresh opportunities for corruption, despite the abolition of Part 3A.

- Neil Macindoe

## First World War Commemoration Project

2014 will be the centenary of the beginning of World War I. On 10 October the Management Committee resolved to set up a Project to commemorate the impact of the War on Glebe. This is the outcome of a good deal of thought and investigation.

At first it appeared the Society would have to apply for a Federal Grant. However, Mairéad Browne spoke to Alex Byrne, State Librarian, Society member and an old friend. It turns out the State Library has an excellent collection of materials from WWI, because at that time neither the Australian War Memorial nor the National Library existed. Some of these materials, including diaries, have been assessed by another Society member, the noted historian Peter Cochrane, who has published extensively on the War.

In short, Mairéad, Peter and myself met with the librarian in charge of this collection, Tracy Bradford, and she offered an exhibition and presentation of the State Library's holdings for Glebe residents (and relatives of participants), together with a program for schools. Ted McKeown is gathering information from Max Solling, who also has significant holdings, and Rod Holtham has access to a wealth of material through his many connections.

At this point I should make it clear this is not about military history or empire. It is about the impact of momentous events on a community, many of whom participated, and many more of whom were affected. There was considerable opposition to the War, as well as to conscription, and many innocent people were caught up in events beyond their control.

The Glebe Society revived the commemoration of Anzac Day in Glebe and supported the restoration of the Diggers' Memorial in Foley Park, one of several memorials remaining in Glebe. This proposed commemoration is a logical progression, and will be an event for the entire Glebe community and beyond. We hope to hold it in the restored Glebe Town Hall, itself the home of one of the main memorials.

The next stage is to draw up a program in collaboration with the State Library and decide on a date. If you have any suggestions please email them to [macindoe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:macindoe@bigpond.net.au). As the Project progresses over the next fifteen months we will certainly be calling for volunteers and wider involvement.

- Neil Macindoe

# Transport and Traffic

## Roads v public transport: two new plans for NSW

Two major State Government reports on transport options for NSW have been released: the Long Term Transport Master Plan from Transport NSW and the report from Infrastructure NSW entitled 'First Things First'. Both are likely to have an impact on Glebe and Forest Lodge residents if their main recommendations are implemented. There is obvious tension between the two, with Transport NSW focusing on improving public transport in Sydney while Infrastructure NSW has recommended new road projects.

### Transport NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan

#### Public Transport

Transport NSW released a draft of this Master Plan on 4 September following its earlier discussion paper that sought community views on future transport options. The Glebe Society made submissions in April emphasising the importance of public transport, cycling and walking. The final Plan is due to be released by year's end.

The Plan recognises the critical role of public transport in Sydney and puts forward several proposals to integrate the system and make it more effective, including introducing a new electronic ticketing system (Opal), investing in transport interchanges, improving timetables, new trains, buses and ferries, new rail links and the redesign of the bus network. Investment in the cycling network and in pedestrian infrastructure is also proposed.

The Glebe Society has lodged a submission to Transport NSW supporting these proposals as in our view Glebe and Forest Lodge residents are best served by a high quality public transport network and

by facilities for safe cycling and walking.

#### Lukewarm on Light Rail

One disappointment was light rail. The Plan identifies three corridors for potential light rail extension: the Sydney CBD, to the University of Sydney and to UNSW with a link to Randwick. However these projects are said to require further consideration with no commitment that they will be completed. We believe that light rail is critical for Sydney and its extension, particularly down George Street to Circular Quay, will make light rail a meaningful travel option for residents in Glebe and Forest Lodge. We have asked Transport NSW to commit to extending the light rail in these corridors.

### Infrastructure NSW – 'First Things First'

#### WestConnex

Infrastructure NSW was established in July 2011 to identify and prioritise critical public infrastructure in NSW. Its report released on 3 October puts priority on new road projects in Sydney including the WestConnex project. This involves the redevelopment of Parramatta Road as a motorway with a road tunnel from the Taverners Hill area to Camperdown and a connection to the airport. The report does not identify the exact route of some sections of this project around the inner west, or the exact routes of associated road connections in the inner west. The report refers to a possible connection with the City West Link but that route has not



Light rail – not favoured in either plan. Photo: Bruce Davis

been identified. At this stage it is not clear whether the project will have a direct impact on Glebe and Forest Lodge, although some impact appears possible.

#### No Light Rail in the CBD

Infrastructure NSW also recommends replacing plans for light rail in George Street with a network of bus tunnels in the CBD. While in the short term this may help to relieve traffic congestion in the CBD, we see this as a retrogressive step given the benefits associated with light rail and the enhancement that light rail would bring to the CBD. Further, it is possible that these tunnels will impinge on heavy rail corridors in the CBD and would prevent the future development of rail infrastructure in the area.

### The Glebe Society's response

The Glebe Society submission (see [www.glebesociety.org.au/?cat=15](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/?cat=15)) to Transport NSW has raised our concerns about WestConnex and Infrastructure's plans for bus tunnels in the CBD. We have also queried the value of new road projects for Sydney where these projects take priority over investment in public transport. A copy of our submission has been sent to Infrastructure NSW.

- Murray Jewell

## Finding Glebe history in Brisbane

# A Story from a Glebe squatter 1975-1976

*I recently went to Brisbane to visit friends. One friend with whom I stayed has taken up lawn bowls since relocating from Sydney. I had the pleasure of dinner with her at Merthyr Bowls Club at New Farm. On the way to the bowling club, my friend Andrea collected another member, Diana, who joined us for dinner. In the course of conversation, I learnt that Diana had also lived in Sydney many years ago. What surprised both of us was the coincidence of Diana having lived in Glebe some 20 years ahead of me. However, she was very familiar with Darghan Street and my own Darling Street. When Diana started to recount her experience of her time in Glebe, I suggested that she might write her story for the Glebe Society Bulletin and she agreed. Diana has captured a piece of social history of which many people may not be aware. Congratulations and thanks Diana for your contribution.*

- Jan Wilson

## Diana's story - 1975-1976

In the early seventies I became a mother of twin girls. At that time I was already living happily in Glebe with a burgeoning group of artists and musicians, choosing Glebe as a great suburb to be close to the excitement of inner city living. Sydney had the Yellow House and also the Tin Sheds located in the University of Sydney on City Road. Most of us were living in an experimental and creative environment, on the cutting edge of our careers.

I became involved with the ideas and practices of Feminism. I was also developing skills in filmmaking and the creation of documentaries. I had been living in share housing for a year or so. When I became a single mother I was looking for a friendly household that would ac-

cept me and my babies.

The long and the short of this story is that I met up with a group of strong women who were looking for a safe house in order to live communally. We heard about some empty houses in Darghan and Darling Streets in Glebe. The reason they were empty was because the Department of Main Roads had cleared out residents two years earlier, in order to construct a freeway through Glebe. Some residents

My 'fav' graffiti of the time in Glebe:

*Mutate now and avoid the rush*

were still in their houses and refused to sell. The Department had not begun any work on the freeway, other than to construct a fence to protect the space. Workers went in and destroyed some of the properties. Other places were left empty.

My friends and I decided that we would move into Darghan Street and join a few other women who were already there. We broke through the fence and chose our places. We then began the repair work. We rehung doors, repaired smashed floorboards, built-in cupboards, windows, light switches, taps and pipes and cleared backyards. All received our competent attention.

A neighbour, not having sold out, allowed me to run an extension cord from his house to my place. I had power and I was to compensate him by paying my share when the electricity bill arrived. So we settled in and carried on with our lives. There



Darghan Street as it is today. Photo: Jan Wilson.

was nothing legal about any of this. The only thing at stake was our principle of establishing a safe place for women and their children to survive in an affordable way.

Then some trouble began in the community, through the behaviour of a young man who suffered bouts of paranoia. He thought he was being harmed by enemies that only he could see. We tried to deal with him through goodwill and patience. One night he came to our street, poured petrol over one of the houses and set it alight. The women decided it was time to report him, but when we got to the police station, he was already there! The police told us he had laid a complaint against us. That was a shock. The police then explained that because we were squatters, we were living outside the protection of the law. The police could not help us, so we were on our own!

The event disturbed some of us. I realised I could not stay there, now that I had my children to raise safely. After a few months, I moved into another share house with some poets and filmmakers in Westmoreland Lane. I continued to live in Glebe for another five years and loved the experiences and adventures to be found.

- Diana Fuller

# Who lived in your street?

Researching the history of New Theatre, Lyn Collingwood was intrigued by the story of Harry Clay and his 'infant phenomenon' daughter Essie.

## Henry (1865 -1925) and Essie (1888 -1948) Clay

Harry Clay was a theatrical entrepreneur whose family home was based for many years in Glebe. His only child, actress Essie was born and died in the suburb.

Born near Singleton on 10 May 1865, Harry was a singer in minstrel shows before joining Harry Rickards' vaudeville company. By the 1890s he was a regular at Rickards' Tivoli and by 1900 he had started staging his own shows at St George's Hall in Newtown. By 1905 he was playing one-night gigs in Balmain, Petersham, Parramatta, North Sydney and Newtown, and in the Masonic Hall in the city, and had theatrical business interests in Queensland.

In 1911 Clay built the Bridge Theatre at Newtown (later The Hub), home to 'the Greatest and Cheapest Show in the Southern Hemisphere'. Clay's company also toured country towns serviced by rail where players could hone their skills and try out new material. A strategy of continual changes of program, low ticket prices and letterbox marketing kept 'Harry Clay and his Contingent of Laughter Makers' popular when other vaudeville houses were falling swift victims to competition from movies and radio. A chance remark by Clay led to Roy Rene's creation of 'Mo', and the success of the Stiffy and Mo routines inspired the Dinks and Onkus double act of George Wallace and Jack Paterson. These comics were great crowd pleasers – as was Thelma Woods whose specialty was singing in front of a projector screen, blending old tradition with new technology.

Henry Clay had moved to Glebe by the time of his marriage in 1887 to Catherine (1869-1965), the eldest child of Mary Ann and Thomas



Harry Clay

Jubb, a wheelwright living at 57 Gottenham (then spelt 'Cottenham') Street. During the next few years, presumably because he was touring, Clay rented one house after another in the suburb where his in-laws continued to live. (Another place in Raglan Street Alexandria may have been used for storing theatrical props and costumes.) In the period 1888-1903 the Clay family home was at 3 Ebenezer Place, 48 Talfourd Street, 126 Brougham Street, 2 Little Darling Street, 113 Brougham Street, 39 Brougham Street, 23 Denman Street and 14 Phillip Street. For two years from 1904 they lived on the corner of Bay Street and Wentworth Park Road adjacent to the stables of the Farmers' Cooperative Company. By now a household name, Clay was at 25 Wigram Road 1906-7, then at 218 Glebe Point Road 1908-14, before returning to Wigram Road – at number 29 – where he remained until 1920 when he moved to Vaucluse, a suburb popular with those who had enjoyed theatrical success.

At the time of his death Harry Clay was the proprietor of Clay's Bridge Theatre and Clay's North Sydney Coliseum (later the Independent Theatre). He died on 17 February 1925 and was buried at South Head

Cemetery. His funeral was attended by show business performers and stage crew, together with representatives of the Tivoli, Fullers, Sydney Stadium and Wirth's Circus managements. His widow left the Eastern Suburbs and returned to Glebe, to 11 Wigram Road.

At the age of seven Harry and Catherine's daughter, billed as 'Little Essie Clay', made her singing debut at Brisbane's Gaiety Theatre, followed two years later by a season at Sydney's Gaiety Theatre with the Australian Minstrel and Variety Company in which her father also performed. By 1898, promoted as 'the phenomenal child balladist' and 'the child wonder' and usually on the same bill as her father, Essie played at Sydney's Tivoli and with the Continental Vaudeville Company in Brisbane and Rockhampton. Her repertoire included *My Mother was a Lady*, *The Boers have got my daddy* and *Mr Conductor; please don't put me off the train*.

In Queensland she performed with Clay's Waxworks and Variety Company and in 1908, now 'an established actress' with Harry Clay's Dramatic Company. One reviewer hinted that her lead casting in the latter's production of *The World Against Her* (a play 'of inordinate length') was because she was the promoter's daughter. With Walter Bentley's Shakespearian Company she played Ophelia ('a fine rendition') and Annette in *The Bells* ('amiable and pleasing'). Touring Shakespearian actor-managers often staged crowd-pleasing melodramas to recoup money lost on staging *The Bard*. For entrepreneur George Marlow, owner of the Princess in Melbourne and the Adelphi in Syd-

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ney, she appeared in *The Power of the Cross* ('acceptable in a colourless part'), *East Lynne* and *The Bad Girl of the Family*. Immediately before World War 1 she was back in Rockhampton with Harry Clay's Company. By 1916 she was living with her parents at 29 Wigram Road.

Essie Clay died on 13 May 1948 at Glebe – probably at her mother's house – and was interred in South Head Cemetery following her funeral service at St John's Church. When Catherine Clay died on 9 January 1965 she was living at 29 Wigram Road in the old family home. At least one of Catherine's siblings had remained in Glebe. Florrie Jubb, until her death in 1947, was at 38 Gottenham Street.

- Lyn Collingwood

### Sources

*Brisbane Courier* 27.9.1895

NSW births, deaths, marriages registry

NSW electoral rolls

Philip Parsons (ed.) *Companion to Theatre in Australia* 1995

Sands directories

*Sydney Morning Herald* several issues including 13.3.1897, 4.4.1898, 7.11.1910, 14.5.1948

## Names for two more Glebe laneways

On 15 October, City of Sydney Council gave unanimous in-principle approval for the proposed names of *Melina Lane* and *Bernard Lane*, Glebe.

Melina Lane, to be named in memory of Melina Galluzzo, is at the rear of 108-118 St Johns Road. Bernard Lane, to be named in memory of Bernard Smith, is at the rear of 50-58 Broughton Street.

The proposed names will be publicly advertised for a period of 14 days, with a further report submitted to Council on the naming proposal at the end of the advertising period.

# Community event

## Fun and games for kids and dogs at Wentworth Park



Ninja Destruction was a new addition to the sports program. We are pleased to report that all players survived.

Sadly Ultimo/Pymont won the gumbboot trophy at the 2012 Wentworth Park Community Games. But really it was all about having fun. And as usual the real winners were the kids and the dogs. Photos: Bruce Davis



Susie Cleary, chair of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust, opens the Games.

Winner (small dogs division) Wenty Park Mongrel Cup.



Left: Greyhounds as Pets takes a retired racing dog on a walk to meet potential new owners.



Right: I think I've seen this guy on television. Not sure about the kids.

# The Glebe Community

## Glebe Street Fair

### Share your local knowledge with visitors

Can you spare an hour or two on Sunday 18 November to volunteer with other members of the Glebe Society at the Glebe Street Fair? There are plenty of options for getting involved.

This year the Fair will have a stronger community focus. Following the model used in the Olympics, volunteers from the local community will help out on the day. If you know your way around Glebe Point Road, side-streets and parks, or even if you don't and want to learn, please consider volunteering to be a mobile information source. You will get an appropriately marked T-shirt and all the information you need, so that lost visitors can find someone to help them.

If you are interested in volunteering for other roles, such as stage management to ensure performances flow smoothly, or meeting and greeting VIPs, roles like these are available too.

The Glebe Society will be sharing a stall (the 'Glebe Community Stall') with other local community groups and we are also looking for volunteers who can spend an hour or more on the stall during the day. The theme chosen by the organisers for the day is 'bohemian' so dress with a bit of bohemian flair!

The Fair is organised by the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and is a not-for-profit event.

If you want to volunteer or find out more, contact me on [bsmyo@gmail.com](mailto:bsmyo@gmail.com) or 0411 871 214. For information about the Fair itself, see [www.glebestreetfair.com/](http://www.glebestreetfair.com/)

- Bill Simpson-Young

## Glebe Public School Trivia Night

Glebe Public School enlisted the aid of the Glebe Society to participate in the Trivia Night on Friday 12 October. It was held in Forest Lodge Hotel with strong support of the publican, Matthew. The hotel was packed to capacity with over 100 people from the school, local businesses, neighbouring schools, parents and Tanya Plibersek's office. The Glebe Society fielded two tables. Some people demonstrated very dubious talent in their trivia knowledge.

Local businesses helped make the night a great success with thousands of dollars worth of prizes from over 35 local businesses, organisations and artists. Members also assisted with sourcing some very good prizes.

Glebe Public School is thriving as a vital educational centre of excellence for the community. Sadly, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century public education must still be supported by fund raising activities organised by the P&C. 'Lamington Drives' of the 70s are still essential to support our local school in order to help students, some of whom come from disadvantaged homes.

The night was considered very successful and reflected a real community spirit. As a result, \$5,500 was made from the activity.

- Jan Wilson

## Annual Glebe Music Festival

On 28 September, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (Melbourne) announced the appointment of its next Director, Professor Kathryn North AM. Kathy is the current incumbent at *Margaretta Cottage* along with her husband

Robert Dowsett, and she is warmly congratulated on her appointment. They are also thanked for their indulgence in hosting Glebe Music Festival concerts over many years. But Saturday 10 November will see



Margaretta Cottage

them host their last concerts at *Margaretta Cottage*. We wish them well in their move to Melbourne.

The Annual Glebe Music Festival would not happen without the robust support of many individuals and organisations. This year is no exception. There is a full list of acknowledgements on the Glebe Society Website ([www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au)).

For further information about this year's concerts see: [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

## Bernard Smith Wake venue changed

The previously advertised Wake for Bernard Smith, one of the founders of the Glebe Society, (*Bulletin* 8/2012) will occur, as planned, on Friday 9 November. Max Solling, Glebe historian and an associate of Bernard's in the early days of the Society will talk about Bernard as a community activist.

The Society has invited all early Management Committee members it has been able to trace but all members and non-members are also welcome to attend. We will celebrate Bernard and Kate Smith's contribution to ensuring the contin-

Continued on next page ...

# Glebe Society events

## 'Friends of Centipede' launch

Join us at 6-8pm on Friday 2 November at the Glebe Rowing Club for the launch of the new *Friends of Centipede* program. *Friends* will support the vital work of Glebe Public School's *Centipede*, where local children from diverse backgrounds enjoy stimulating activities and nutritious meals, before and after school.

Emma Ayres from ABC Classic FM will talk about the transformative power of education and the importance of good role models for young children; Suzy Velkou (President of *Centipede*) will talk about *Centipede's* work; and a short video will be played that shows *Centipede* in action. A number of artworks by local artists, including a print by Reg Mombassa, will be auctioned.

Enjoy drinks, canapés and the beautiful evening view of Blackwattle Bay from the balcony of Glebe Rowing Club. See the flyer in this *Bulletin* for details and RSVP by sending in the form, by emailing [events@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:events@glebesociety.org.au), or phoning 0417 240 603.

**Bookings must be received by 30 October.**

- Bill Simpson-Young

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ued existence of Glebe in face of the threat to bulldoze us out of existence in favour of a freeway.

There is, however, a **change of venue** to be noted. The Wake is now scheduled for the Tate Gallery, upstairs at the Toxteth Hotel at 345 Glebe Point Road, Glebe from 6.30pm. The cost is \$25, including finger food and refreshments. Bookings are essential.

- Mairéad Browne

## Glebe Society Christmas Party

A Spanish night at Barneys

Enjoy Spanish tapas, music, good wine and conviviality at the Hall Foyer at St Barnabas Church (Barneys), Broadway, a beautiful new space created after the 2006 fire which destroyed the original church.

Catered by a Spanish city restaurant, with wines and Spanish delicacies provided by Broadway Cellars on Glebe Point Road. \$58 per head.

See the flyer in this Bulletin and book now. RSVP by 28 November.

Friday 7 December, 7 – 9pm

## Grahame Budd revisits Mawson and updates us on the Antarctic

The meeting room at *Benledi* was crowded on Sunday evening, 21 October, when Dr Grahame Budd repeated a talk he gave earlier in the year on Sir Douglas Mawson's expeditions to the Antarctic and their significance, both scientifically and



Above: Alice gets some tips from Grahame. Right: Alice checks out the headgear worn by Antarctic expeditioners in years gone by. Photos: Bruce Davis

politically. In addition he updated us on developments after the second World War, particularly the role of Phillip Law. About 40 people enjoyed Grahame's talk, illustrated with magnificent colour slides and maps.

After his talk, Alice Simpson-Young spoke briefly about her selection as one of the thirty members of the



Antarctic Youth Ambassador Program which will see her visiting the Antarctic early next year to study the effects of climate change and become a champion for one of the world's last remaining wilderness areas ([www.2041.com/](http://www.2041.com/)). The evening concluded with cheese and wine and general chat.

- Jeanette Knox

# News and Notes

## Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually 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 1 November** we will return to *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Road.

On **Thursday 29 November** (brought forward because of our Christmas Party) we will share a meal at *Al-mustafa* Lebanese restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Road.

And on **Thursday 3 January** 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

## Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of moved and costumed playreadings:

*Murder in the Mist*, A Hollywood thriller adapted and directed by Nicholas Papademetriou

**7pm Wednesday 28 November**

Upstairs at the Harold Park Hotel 70A Ross Street Glebe. Free admission

Mine host Will Ryan is opening the kitchen for orders from 5.30 pm. The menu includes snacks and light meals (\$12-\$15) and chargrilled beef, lamb or chicken (\$17-\$20). There is a bus stop on Wigram Road for routes 433 and 370, and up the hill at the Ross Street shops for route 470.

- Lyn Collingwood

## The Temple Cats need your support

People have been abandoning cats at the Sze Yup Temple for about 30 years. For the first 20 years or so, the Temple cats were unfed and not desexed. They hunted for food and new kittens were constantly being born. But thanks to the generosity of the Temple and with the help of the Glebe community, the Glebe Cat Association has been able, over the past 10 years, to significantly decrease its cat and kitten population – without recourse to inefficient and disturbingly inhumane practices. Now, only a handful of cats are left at the Temple, and every newly abandoned cat is desexed and quickly re-homed.

But the Temple cats might soon lose their home. In order to continue this inspiring operation and avoid the inevitable reproduction of newly abandoned cats, the Temple cats need the neighborhood's moral support. The Glebe Cat Association will advertise possible channels of support around the neighborhood in the next few weeks. For now, this much needed support can be given via email: [glebecatassociation@gmail.com](mailto:glebecatassociation@gmail.com). We will also have a Facebook page soon.

- Anne-Marie Leo and Talia Morag

## Art Show - Glebe Foreshore

Glebe Society member Christine Stewart is showing her paintings at Yuga Café, 172 St Johns Road, from 6 to 25 November.

The opening night is Wednesday 7 November, 6 - 8pm, when Christine will give a short talk. See Christine's website, [www.christinestewartpaintings.com](http://www.christinestewartpaintings.com). Her email address is [christstewart501@me.com](mailto:christstewart501@me.com)



Balmain Power Station - Christine Stewart

## City of Sydney Councillors

**Lord Mayor:** Clover Moore

### Councillors:

Irene Doutney  
Christine Forster  
Jenny Green  
Robyn Kemmis  
Robert Kok  
Edward Mandla  
John Mant  
Linda Scott  
Angela Vithoulkas

For enquiries, please contact the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.

Forest Lodge  
Public School  
Home of The Glebe  
Society Archives



Phone 9660 3530

Glebe Society Bulletin

# For your diary ...

Diary

**Thursday 1 November, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday, *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Road. See page 12.

**Friday 2 November, 6pm** – Friends of Centipede launch, Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Road. See flyer.

**Sunday 4 November, starting at 11.45am on the Island** – Cockatoo Island Tour.

**Wednesday 7 November, 6-8pm** – Christine Stewart's Art Show, Yuga Café. See page 12.

**Friday 9 November, 6.30pm** – Wake for Bernard Smith, Toxteth Hotel. See page 10.

**9 November to 2 December** – the 23rd Annual Glebe Music Festival. See page 10.

**Wednesday 14 November, 7pm** – Management Committee meeting, The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

**Sunday 18 November** – Glebe Street Fair. See page 10.

**Wednesday 28 November, 7pm** – Players in the Pub, Harold Park Hotel. See page 12.

**Thursday 29 November, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday, *Almustafa*, Glebe Point Road. See page 12.

**Friday 7 December, 7-9pm** – Glebe Society Christmas Party at Barney's. See flyer.

**Wednesday 12 December, 7pm** – Management Committee meeting, The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

**Thursday 3 January, 7pm** – Thirsty Thursday, *Nag's Head Hotel*, St Johns Road. See page 12.

## 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 November. The deadline for contributions is Friday 23 November.

## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

### Management Committee:

President	John Gray	9518 7253
Vice President	Jan Wilson	0408 207 784
Immediate Past President	Mairéad Browne	9552 2888
Secretary	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074
Associate Secretary	Margaret Cody	9692 9384
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

### Committee members (five elected positions):

Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Rosalind Hecker	9660 7056
Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Bill Simpson-Young	0411 871 214
Phil Young	9692 9583

### Convenors

Bays and Foreshores	Lesley Lynch	9660 5084
Blue Wrens	Jan Craney	9660 2174
Community Development	TBA	
Environment	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Heritage	John Gray	9518 7253
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Transport & Traffic	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945

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History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Plaques Project	Peter Robinson	9692 9995