



Glebe Society Bulletin

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The Tramsheds – the Developer’s Proposal Unveiled



Sawtooth roof of the Tramsheds (image: Jodeska)

Mirvac has submitted a proposal for the Tramsheds, which they acquired when they bought Harold Park. Some of the details of this proposal are mentioned in the report below, but if you wish to study the application in full you can find it at the One Stop Shop at Glebe Library or on the City website under development proposals on exhibition.

Under the Masterplan, Mirvac was required to produce a proposal for the Tramsheds after their DA for the third residential precinct, and this is what they have done. The Tramsheds building is a Heritage Item, and Mirvac is required to repair and maintain the fabric as well as find new uses. The main repair is an entirely new roof that reproduces the original sawtooth.

Members may recall that the Lifetime Care and Support Authority (*Bulletin 2/2011*) proposed a Rehabilitation

Centre to be included in the Tramsheds, and has apparently set aside \$10 million for such a purpose. The Society has always

supported this proposal, but Mirvac has not taken it up in this application. It has, however, set aside 500 m² sq of the southern shed for community use, as required in the Voluntary Planning Agreement.

The remainder of the Mirvac proposal is a mixture of retail uses including a gym, about half for a supermarket and half for other retail. There is provision for 140 car spaces, half within the northern shed and half on the forecourt. Primary vehicular access is via a signalised intersection that will replace the roundabout at The Crescent and Nelson St. This is completely separate from the vehicular access to the residential component, which is at Minogue Cresc.

The Society will meet with Mirvac to discuss their DA in the next week or so. A report on the outcome of this meeting will be circulated to the membership by email, for comment before the date for final submissions (7 August).

The DA includes a chapter on heritage issues and another on interpretation. I will not rehearse those here, except to note that the historic tram is to be restored by the Tramways Museum, and will be located in a prominent position in the Tramsheds, probably the entrance, and probably incorporating cafe seating.

At its meeting with Mirvac the Society will raise at least the following issues:

- Economic assessment does not include the new SupaBarn supermarket in Booth St, Annandale. Mirvac should reduce the size of the proposed supermarket and include instead the proposed Rehabilitation Centre.
- We don't need a vehicle connection between the Mirvac residential development and the Tramsheds. It is close enough for residents to walk or cycle, and if they want to drive they can use the same route as everyone else. The proposed connection inevitably cuts across pedestrian/cycle access and creates safety problems, and will encourage exit to Wigram Rd rather than returning to the Crescent.
- There needs to be a strict limit on staff parking, and a policy of employing local staff or those who can access the site by public transport, on

Upcoming Glebe Society Event
Friday 30 August, 6 – 8pm
Harold Park Hotel

... our annual party to welcome this year’s new members. See flyer for details.

foot or by cycle.

- Shopping trolleys should not be allowed in the lift to Maxwell Rd, ensuring that Maxwell Rd is for local pedestrian access only.
- The community space needs to be fully accessible, usable and attractive.
- Mirvac needs to discuss connections between the dedicated parkland and the Tramsheds, especially the 'interactive zone'.
- Operation should cease at 10 pm.

Neil Macindoe



Other Planning Matters

Proposed Planning Legislation

Although the due date for comment on the White Paper has passed, the Department is still accepting late submissions, if you haven't yet made one. The ICAC submission, strongly supported by the Better Planning Network, was reported in the Herald, as was the Heritage Council submission, and on 28 June, the official closing date, Alan Jones came out strongly against the proposed loss of the right to comment on applications, and also interviewed Corinne Fisher of BPN. Even if the Government resists the proposed changes it will still be possible to challenge aspects of the legislation in Parliament, and a number of Liberal MLAs are known to be concerned. Labor will support amendments in the Upper House, as will at least some crossbenchers. Hence the campaign is worth continuing.

On 14 July the Vice President and I attended a BPN General Meeting at Redfern Town Hall, which resolved to continue the campaign using a diversity of strategies with greater public involvement. The draft Bill has been subject to continuous criticism in the media, and on 15 July even the previously quiescent Planning Institute of Australia stated the Bill was misconceived and already too complex, and likely to become more so.

Harold Park

Some minor changes to the Voluntary Planning Agreement are proposed to bring the Agreement into line with the DA approvals. This includes such matters as the transfer of pocket parks adjacent to the dedicated Public Open Space to become part of that open space (and hence administered by Council) and guarantees about the transfer of 1000 m² of the site for Affordable Housing, and also the area required to create the Minogue Cresc intersection, at the completion of Precinct 1.

There have also some minor changes proposed for the internal road system, including the deletion of the road adjacent to the Public Open Space, and some consequent minor changes to the adjacent building envelopes.

Construction is proceeding rapidly despite the inclement weather. It confirms the Society's insistence that the buildings are too high.

Lane Development

One proposal for Derwent Lane has been refused. The outcome for the second has not yet been announced, and the one proposed for Campbell Lane is still open for comment. The Society has also objected to one for Garran Lane as too bulky and intrusive for laneway development.

Neil Macindoe

Community Recognition for Mark Weisser - the dog walker and local hero

The event to honour Mark's community work was held last Friday 19 July on the foreshore at Glebe. Deputy Lord Mayor, Robyn Kemmis read a letter from the Lord Mayor, thanking Mark and acknowledging his ongoing work. A large group of supportive and enthusiastic local residents was in attendance. Story to be continued in next month's *Bulletin*.

Jan Wilson



Mark Weisser with Cr Robyn Kemmis, Deputy Lord Mayor (image: Bruce Davis)



Acting President's Report

In the absence of our intrepid President, who has been trekking through the British Isles, I have been minding the 'shop'. Over the past two months, there has been an active response to the NSW Planning White Paper; 6000 submissions have been received, including one from the Glebe Society. To ascertain the concern, check out the website and read the some of the submissions that organisations, councils and individuals have written:

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/a-new-planning-system-for-nsw>.

The Management Committee is now meeting regularly in the Glebe Town Hall meeting room on the second Wednesday of the month. If members wish to attend please contact the secretary in advance.

Our very active editor is happy to receive feedback or comments as well as articles from members. My final mission is to encourage members to take an active role on the Management Committee. There are vacancies for roles of the Minutes Secretary and Treasurer.

Jan Wilson, Acting President

Parking under the Spotlight

City of Sydney recently released its Draft Neighbourhood Parking Policy. The policy outlines the City's approach to managing parking demands throughout all its precincts, including Glebe and Forest Lodge. The City is seeking to bring about consistency across all the areas it administers.

Key principles adopted by the City are to prioritise parking for residents, businesses and their visitors and customers, and to actively discourage commuter parking in residential and commercial areas, through parking controls and parking permits. The Glebe Society supports this approach.

The City sought answers from the community on a series of questions about parking time limits, parking for the disabled and for care workers and about resident, visitor and business parking permits.

The Glebe Society has lodged a submission with the City, focusing on parking in Glebe and Forest Lodge. The main points we made in the submission were as follows.

- Commuter parking and parking pressures in general are likely to increase in parts of Glebe and Forest Lodge and the City will need to monitor the situation. The housing development at Harold Park, the proposed housing development in Bay and Cowper Sts, the possible ferry services from Glebe Point and from Johnston St and the increasing use of the foreshore parks at weekends will all have an impact
- Nevertheless, the City needs to respond in a measured way; and parking controls, or tighter parking controls, should only be imposed where the City in consultation with local residents clearly establishes their need, based on actual and proven parking pressures.
- Not all the streets in Glebe and Forest Lodge are subject to parking time limits. We think this situation is desirable and should remain, unless the City establishes the need for change in consultation with local residents. (We haven't

Invitation to attend the Glebe Society's 44th AGM

All members of the Society, and especially new members, are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society at Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Rd Glebe on Sunday August 25 from 11am to 1pm. In addition to the usual business activities of the AGM, we are pleased to announce that there will be an address by Corinne Fisher, Coordinator Better Planning Network (BPN) – *Fighting for Community Influence*. After Corinne's talk, there will time to enjoy refreshments and chat with other members.

Nominations for the Management Committee

Office bearers of the Society and other members of the Management Committee will be elected at the AGM and members are warmly encouraged to consider the benefits of active involvement in your Society. The positions open for election are President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as five other member positions. Nominations will close on 19 August, seven days before the AGM. Please contact John Gray (president@glebesociety.org.au) or Margaret Cody (secretary@glebesociety.org.au) to discuss your interest in joining the Management Committee and to learn more about what is involved. We will be happy to provide information about the Management Committee and our very active Subcommittees that are open to any member to join. A Nomination Form is available on our website.

Jan Wilson, Acting President

had any indication from the City that it intends to impose further parking restrictions at this stage.)

- We support the City's proposal to trial free 15 minute parking on Glebe Point Rd, and think this should be extended to parts of St Johns Rd and Ross St adjacent to retail areas.
- Where parking time limits are necessary, the time limit should normally be two hours on residential streets and should generally apply from 8am to 6pm, extending to 10pm on streets adjacent to retail areas, restaurants and hotels. Except for these areas, there should be no time limits in the weekends. Four hour time limits should apply outside restaurants and cafés in Glebe and Forest Lodge to cater for patrons.
- We support the present system of up to two

resident parking permits per household depending on the number of on-site parking spaces available, with no resident or visitor permits available for multi-unit developments. Visitor parking permits should continue to be available in Glebe and Forest Lodge, subject to the City's proposal to issue day visitor permits in place of yearly permits that have been the source of abuse and theft. Visitor permits should apply to borrowed vehicles and to car pool arrangements. Permits for business vehicles should continue to be available in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

The full text of our submission and the City's Policy are available on our website.

Murray Jewell

Interview with Albert Mispel (fourth and final instalment – see previous three *Bulletins*)

This is the final extract from Neil Macindoe's transcription of the interview with Albert Mispel. They were talking about events from 1972.

This is the thing, you fire a shotgun, but you only need to hit the right person. So I gathered my arguments, and I used to have a little punch card from work with my bullet points on it, and I'd talk to anybody. I even spoke to the Young Liberals once, at Ashfield, which was an experience.

Q: When did you feel you were getting support for your campaign?

Nick Origlass and Izzie Wyner were very good. We used to have meetings at the Town Hall, right up in the tower where the aeroplanes would go right over. We had support from the Glebe Society, but there was not much call on the Society at that point, all we could do was march against something, but this was like a wider issue. Nick used to wear the robes everywhere, so he used his position as Mayor to get the word out to a lot of people. As far as people like Tom Uren were concerned, it was all Nick Origlass's idea. In fact, Tom Uren made a comment recently when we had the forty year celebration of the Glebe Society, which was a lovely afternoon. When I drove him home he asked: 'What's the Glebe Society doing claiming that it stopped the expressway? I stopped the expressway', at which I shook my head. So it was through Origlass that he heard these things. I just spoke to anybody around the place, gave my little presentation: Humanities Society, various branches of the Labor Party.

Then Nick got us more active: Nick had us marching through Glebe, and we had the march where we painted the road (Ed: Saturday, 12 February, 1972). This was to show people where the expressway was going to go through, and of course the Glebe Society was involved in that as well. Where the Glebe Society

did come in very handy was publishing in the Bulletin, what's happening about expressways, what's the latest thinking about expressways, so it became a good way of distributing information throughout Glebe. And of course the Glebe Society Bulletin then went on to libraries and disseminated information to all the people.

Q: What about the monographs the Glebe Society produced?

David Potter wrote a monograph. It wasn't really to do with the arguments I was presenting. David was a town planner, and I actually got very embarrassed because I had to go to a Parliamentary committee. I was called at the last minute to speak on it, and I found I couldn't speak on it because I would have had to spend a week studying what he had to say. It was probably very good stuff, but I wanted to talk about my things and they wanted to talk to the monograph, so I was dismissed. A bit of a pity, that one.

Q: The Glebe Society must have developed these policies.

Oh, yes, they did take them on. I also had to take on the problem that everything was going underground, so we don't need to do any more about it. But of course what helped to get the Glebe Society involved is that Lyndhurst was affected. Now, 1834 John Verge building, National Trust in the beginning said it's not there. What they meant was it had been a substantial estate, and of course that had been sold off, so only the house was still there, and a couple of outbuildings had been removed, but the house was substantially still there. So the Glebe Society was very interested in being involved in that.

Q: And there was a Save Lyndhurst Committee?

Yes, Ian Evans was the main person. Ian is a descendant of John Verge, and that was his interest. And Ian did a marvellous job of getting information out there. These things were on the edges, if you like, but the Glebe Society was the rock in the middle you could always come to. There were paid up members, there was an organ in the Bulletin, and probably all the different parties couldn't have come together without the Society as a focus. Save Lyndhurst was a tiny committee. I think there were three of us in it. But Ian worked very hard, I remember we had a few TV programs. We had an ABC program and Ian was ill, so I had to go and look after Jack Munday and Bernard Smith in a panel discussion at the ABC over in Chatswood. (Also) we had a Glebe Society function at Lyndhurst, and we actually tidied up the ground floor enough to have us all dress up in nineteenth century clothing and have a ball. You had to be careful where you stood. But out of that you were able to get the features, to see it was a substantial house, and a very attractive house as well. So that was helpful, and it was a fun event (Ed. 15 April, 1972)

Q: So there was a lot of publicity that came out of the effort to save Lyndhurst?

Oh, yes. We could get press pretty readily, and Ian, whose job was in PR, knew how to get press.

Q: The other group of particular interest is Jack Munday and the Builders' Labourers. How did they become involved?

No, I can't remember. Normally with Jack Munday (I was involved with a few things that he did) he would not put a Green Ban on something until the local community agreed to it. There must have been a meeting at which this was proposed because the BLF

never put a Green Ban on anything without the marked approval of the local community. (Ed. Green Bans made at request of Glebe Society, Bulletin 10, 1973).

Q; How important do you think the Green Ban was?

Absolutely essential. Fig Street was stopped. I got a phone call one morning at Fig St, and, Jack Munday wasn't in charge then, it was Joe Owens, but I got this phone call that the bulldozers were at Fig St, and that was from someone in the BLF, and they went down there with Joe Owens in charge. I went down there just as the TV cameras were arriving, and the Builders Labourers were there encouraging the drivers to get out of their bulldozers because there was a Green Ban, and that built up to a demonstration a few days later, and the Glebe Society was very involved (Ed. 30 September, 1974). ... The papers were all full, page after page of photos showing this group of radicals stopping Sydney from progressing, so we got lots of publicity. Neville Wran was still in opposition, but he came out in support of us. Yes I would say Fig St really was the point that stopped the expressways. But what I'm pleased about is it didn't just stop one expressway. It stopped a whole idea of radial expressways.

Q: Three year later, when the expressways were officially abandoned in 1977 the Sydney Morning Herald contacted you for an interview.

Yes, they wanted me to go down to Fig St. It had been raining and there were puddles, and they wanted me to jump over a puddle, so I did that and they took photos for about three quarters of an hour. But that night a ship ran into a bridge in Hobart in Tasmania, so that was the news the next morning!

HISTORY

What does 'Glebe' actually mean?

As a part of the restoration of Glebe Town Hall, a new stained glass window was inserted above the main entrance; notably acknowledging the reference to *The Glebe*. (See photo).

Glebe's name derives from the fact that the land on which it was developed was a glebe, originally owned by the Anglican Church. 'The Glebe' was a land grant of 400 acres (1.6 km²) given by Governor Arthur Phillip to Reverend Richard Johnson, Chaplain of the First Fleet, in 1790.

In the 19th century, Glebe was home to architect, Edmund Blackett, who had migrated from England. Blackett built his family home, *Bidura*, on Glebe Point Rd in 1858. It was designed along conventional

Victorian Regency lines. He also designed St John's Church, on the corner of Glebe Point Rd and St Johns Rd. The church was built from 1868 to 1870.



The fanlight at Glebe Town Hall (image: Phil Young)

Background History

In the Roman Catholic and Anglican Church traditions, a glebe is land belonging to a benefice and so by default to its incumbent (priest). In other words 'glebe is land (in addition to or including the parsonage house/rectory and grounds) which was assigned to support the priest'.

Glebe can include strips in the open field system or grouped together into a compact plot of land. Tithes were in early times the main means of support for the parish clergy but glebe land was either granted by any lord of the manor of the church's parish, (sometimes the manor would have coterminous boundaries as the parish but in most instances it would be smaller) or accumulated from other donations of particular pieces of land. Occasionally all or part of the glebe was appropriated, devoted or assigned to a priory. Where it was wholly appropriated then these impropriators (of glebe) became the lay rector(s).

In the case where the whole glebe was given to impropriators they would become the lay rector (plural where the land is now subdivided) in which case, the general law of tithes would resume on that land, and in England and Wales chancel repair liability would now apply to the lay rectors just as it had to the rector.

The amount of such land varied from parish to parish, occasionally forming a complete Glebe Farm. Information about the glebe would be recorded at ecclesiastical visitations in a 'glebe terrier' (Latin terra, land). It could also entail complete farms, individual fields, houses, mills or works. A holder of a benefice could retain the glebe for his own use,

usually for agricultural exploitation, or he could 'farm' it (i.e. lease it, a term also used) to others and retain a rent as income.
Jan Wilson

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glebe>

St James Parish Glebe/Forest Lodge

Glebe neighbours and former parishioners of St James are cordially invited to join the parish community as we re-dedicate the newly restored church façade and rose window. The window has been restored in memory of Frank and Melina Galluzzo.

Sunday 28 July, Feast of St James, 9.30am: Celebration of the Eucharist, followed by morning tea. Parking available in school grounds.

Fr Colin Fowler



St James Catholic Church Glebe (image: J Bar)

Who lived in your street? Patrick O'Sullivan (ca 1845 - 1880)

On 31 March 1880 Patrick O'Sullivan, publican of the Burton Hotel in Denmam St (now part of St Johns Rd), died after being involved in a fight with three of the pub's young customers. On a Sunday three weeks earlier he had refused drinks on credit to labourers John O'Brien, John Scowen and Henry Sykes and pushed them out of the bar. During the ensuing scuffle on the footpath outside, O'Brien threw a sandstone rock at O'Sullivan with such force it was embedded in the victim's skull, fracturing it.

Like many of Glebe's hotelkeepers, Patrick O'Sullivan was Irish and Catholic. Born in the County Cork seaport Bantry, the 35-year-old left a wife Anne and baby daughter Mary Margaret (she married John Cahill in 1901 and died at Kingsford in 1947). The Burton Hotel's licence passed to his widow.

After the fight O'Brien ran across the paddock towards Brougham St but was caught by Sergeant O'Connor and Constable Angell. By the time O'Sullivan died, Scowen was already locked up in Darlinghurst Gaol where he was serving a 14-day sentence for the assault and battery of his father. Witnesses at the inquest – held in the University Hotel – included O'Sullivan's treating doctor James Markey and Glebe locals Robert Duxbury, a bricklayer's labourer living in Mitchell St, George Milwain of *Lorne House* Denman St, Sarah Jane Law, and 13-year-old Joseph Madden. O'Brien was charged with wilful murder, and Sykes and Scowen with aiding and abetting.

At their trial the three pleaded not guilty before Justice Faucett. Scowen smirked and played to the gallery and, like his companions, did not react when the guilty verdict was announced despite uproar in the

packed courtroom. The jury recommended mercy but Faucett sentenced the men to death, noting their aggression, habitual use of foul language and their irregular and bad lives. He regretted having to perform his duty on such young offenders. The colonial Press editorialised the Glebe killing as a warning to larrikins everywhere.

Shackled in irons in Darlinghurst Gaol after the trial, Scowen and Sykes appeared oblivious to the danger of their situation but O'Brien was uneasy and restless. As it turned out, their death sentences were commuted. Nineteen-year-old Sydney-born Sykes, with no prior convictions, was discharged from Darlinghurst after serving six months' hard labour and appears not to have re-offended.

O'Brien was sent to Berrima Gaol to work on a road gang for ten years, the first two in irons. By the time of the Glebe offence, he had already had eight convictions for drunkenness and had been locked up for using obscene language and for inciting a prisoner to resist arrest. Irish-born and Roman Catholic, O'Brien had arrived in Sydney as a six-year-old in 1866 with his mother Johanna on the immigrant ship *Racehorse* to join his father Richard on the goldfields. Whether he was the same John O'Brien who in the 1890s was imprisoned on various assault and robbery charges is uncertain. In 1880 a Richard O'Brien was living in Glebe St next to Shaftesbury Gardens but that connection is also unproven, as is the admission of an eight-year-old John O'Brien to the Randwick Asylum in 1867.

More is known about John Scowen whose family home from the mid 1870s was 53 Brisbane St. (tucked in behind Broadway between Wattle Place and Mountain St, this private road was shortened and renamed in 1875. The Scowens' house became number 51 Howard St.). John was born at Windsor in 1862, the third son of Julia and John Scowen, a Roman Catholic house painter. Advertising his occupation as 'house decorator' and his policy as 'good wages for a poor man and a short working day', John senior made an unsuccessful tilt at local

government in Windsor before moving to Ultimo ca 1873. By 1894 he had relocated to Redfern, and then Waterloo where his wife died in 1896. John senior died aged 83 at Redfern in 1908, his given occupation horse dealer.

Of John and Julia's nine surviving children only two seem to have stayed clear of the law. Charges included attempted rape, theft, assault (in one case resulting in death), having no visible means of support, and resisting arrest. Sarah Scowen spent time in Darlinghurst Gaol; her brother Richard was admonished by one magistrate as a 'bit of an old trickster'.

At the time of the Glebe offence, John junior had already been locked up for indecent behaviour and assault and battery. His 1880 death sentence was commuted to seven years on a Berrima Gaol road gang. He quickly re-offended after release in 1887: in June he was sentenced to three months' hard labour for stealing, in September to two months' hard labour for indecent language, and in December to two days in the cells for loitering. The following January he was given a month's hard labour for assault. In March, now with an alias Donovan and given occupation barber, he and two accomplices ransacked a Surry Hills house where two children were alone. (Scowen sent the boy out twice for beer.) Sentenced to seven years, he was released on remission in August 1893, after which he seems to have had only minor brushes with the law. John Scowen died at Redfern in March 1931.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW register of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Records shipping arrivals reels 2140, 2484; gaol records reels 5100, 5102; *Police Gazette* 16 June 1880; Sands *Directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 28.4.1880, 11.5.1880, 27.5.1880, 7.1.1888, 22.3.1888, 11.4.1888, 11.7.1890, 5.8.1893, 2.5.1894, 6.12.1895; *Town and Country Journal* 29 May 1880;



Men charged with murdering Patrick O'Sullivan (L to R: John O'Brien, John Scowen and Henry Sykes)

Glebe Society Annual General Meeting

Sunday 25 August 2013 11am – 1pm, Glebe Town Hall

Notice of meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Society Inc will be held on Sunday 25 August, 2013 at the Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Rd. The agenda for the meeting is published below.

Nominations for Committee

Office bearers of the Society and other members of the Management Committee will be elected at the AGM. Nominations close on Friday 16 August 2013.

Members are warmly encouraged to consider the benefits of active involvement in your Society.

Invitation

All financial members of the Society, and especially new members, are invited to attend the AGM and to hear Corinne Fisher speak.

Agenda

1 Present

2 Apologies

3 Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 26 August 2012 be confirmed.

4 President's report (John Gray)

5 Subcommittee reports

Some Subcommittee reports are published in the *Bulletin*. Others will be provided to meeting attendees. Those Chairpersons and Convenors who are present at the meeting can provide updates and/or answer questions.

6 Treasurer's Report

Motion: That the Auditor's report for the Glebe Society Incorporated for the 2012/2013 financial year, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2013, and the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013, be received.

7 Election of Office Bearers

8 Awards

The Awards Subcommittee recommended and the Management Committee unanimously agreed that the Glebe Society should make recognition as follows:

8.1 Honorary Life Membership. Motion: that Lesley Lynch be elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Glebe Society in recognition of her work as President of the Glebe Society and the major role she played on the Government Bays Task Force.

8.2 Commendation: the Awards Subcommittee also recommended and the Management Committee unanimously agreed, that the Glebe Society Commendation be awarded to:

Peter Thorogood in recognition of his work over many years on the Glebe Society website.

Jane Marceau in recognition of the leading role that she played as community representative on the Government Bays Task Force.

9 Guest Speaker

We are delighted that Corinne Fisher (Better Planning Network) has accepted our invitation to speak to members following the conclusion of the formal agenda. Her topic will be 'Fighting for Community Influence'.

Close of meeting

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of Corinne's talk and there will be plenty of time to chat.

SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Community Development Subcommittee

This entity has been dormant for most of 2012/13 due to the lack of a convenor, however since February 2013 Janice Challinor has attended several FLAG meetings to represent the Glebe Society and reported back to the management committee. The President, John Gray attended the FLAG Networking Event for 2013 which was held on 8 May. An outcome of this meeting was the identification of 'conflict resolution' as a question for consideration by the FLAG group in future deliberations.

Following an invitation from President John Gray to consider taking on the role, and with support from the Acting President Jan Wilson and the committee, Janice was confirmed in the position of Convenor in July, 2013.

However the Glebe Society has engaged in many community initiatives and activities in 2013. They include activities such as the naming of lanes for Glebe identities, developing community gardens and supporting concerns such as Friends of Tranby and Friends of Centipede, amongst others. Reference to these will be found in other relevant subcommittees' annual reports.

Should you have a special interest in Community Development and/or suggestions for consideration re possible future projects, please contact the President or the Community Development Convenor. Your interest will be valued and considered.

Janice Challinor

Environment subcommittee

Policy, action plan and guidelines

In the second half of last year the Environment subcommittee revised the Society's environment policy and prepared an action plan for the coming year. We also decided that the Glebe Society should make a clear commitment to environmentally sustainable practices when organising events, and with the support of the Events Group we produced a 'Commitment to environmentally sustainable events' that guides our actions and can be displayed at events.

Submissions to Council

Submissions have been made in response to a number of Council draft policies and proposals on exhibition.

Register of Significant Trees

We were successful in recommending that the Black Bean (*Castanospermum australe*) in the grounds of

Bidura, 357 Glebe Point Rd, be added to the Register, which now notes: 'It is a representative example of rainforest species planting common in the late 19th century, early 20th century and has a clear association with the landscape context and history of this important 1850's villa.'

Tree Management Policy

Our submission emphasised the importance of community consultation and engagement, especially by providing information, following new street tree planting, concerning the rationale for tree selection, and care instructions, in order to engage residents. We also recommended a more active approach to replacement of weedy species, especially *Celtis sinensis*.

Johnstons Creek Parkland Masterplan

Our recommendations covered: interpretative strategy concerning the watercourse and the importance of saltmarsh species and freshwater flows; a collaborative approach to landscaping around the tramsheds, in partnership with Mirvac, to ensure a seamless treatment of the surroundings of this heritage structure; construction of a new toilet block close to the location of the current block rather than near the Eglinton Rd entrance; treatment of the bridge over the canal to enforce speed reduction by bicyclists. (Submission available on our webpage)

Support for local businesses and sustainability

Three local cafés expressed interest in participating in a Council program for small business to reduce water usage and waste. We were able to organise a Council officer to visit their business and recommend low or no cost strategies. The effectiveness was more noticeable with the largest of the cafés, Naggy's, where waste and recycling strategies will make a substantial difference. The exercise has emphasised the difficulty of finding recycling services willing to work with small businesses.

Event planning

Planning is underway for an event in November on the 'Grow it Local' movement, including local residents sharing their experiences.

Subcommittee membership

As one of our members has moved from Glebe, we would be keen for new members to join the Environment subcommittee.

Jan Macindoe

Blue Wrens Subcommittee

Monthly meetings of the Subcommittee continued over the year and we also gathered for a Christmas Party to which we invited locals and those from the City of Sydney whom we wished to thank for all their assistance during the year.

Our major work was again centred on community planting days in Glebe's pocket parks that were organised in conjunction with the City of Sydney and led to the enhancement of biodiversity in our suburb. In September, 30 appreciative local residents and many children gathered at the Palmerston Ave and Sarah Pennington reserves (near the Glebe light rail stop) for the planting of native flora, and in celebration of Earth Day in April a working bee was held in Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford St.

Other events in which members of the Subcommittee participated and gave support were a Biodiversity Workshop held in September in St John's Church Record Reign Hall and a landcare walk through Glebe, organised as part of the National Landcare Conference held at Darling Harbour, also in September. During the year, members of the Subcommittee also liaised closely with the Friends of Orphan School Creek, a newly established bushcare group working to improve wildlife habitat along the creek and surrounding areas.

In December, members of the Subcommittee gave oral presentations to the Environment Committee of the City of Sydney regarding its plans for a community garden in John Street Reserve. The Society had written as follows to the Chief Executive Officer: 'We look forward to the long overdue restoration of St James Park and John Street Reserve. They are much loved and used spaces in a congested local community, contributing to enjoyment of nature and the outdoors, peace of mind and community cohesion. The last recorded breeding in the Glebe area of Superb Fairy-wrens was in John Street Reserve. We look forward to seeing it used again by wrens for that purpose.' The City agreed with the submissions from the local residents and the Society and the preliminary work leading to the construction of a habitat demonstration garden has commenced.

Funds held by a previous subcommittee of the Society, the Friends, Residents and Rate Payers of Orphan School Creek Gully Subcommittee (FRROGS), were retrieved during the year and donated to the Blue Wren Subcommittee. We are presently in discussion with the City of Sydney about their use for a future biodiversity study in Glebe.

Sadly, we received no new sightings of blue wrens in Glebe or Forest Lodge during the year but a colony still thrives around the grass tennis courts on the campus of the University of Sydney. Other interesting

birds recently sighted in the locality include tawny frogmouths, plovers, black shouldered kites, brown goshawks and a fantail flycatcher.

Members of the Society are most welcome to join the subcommittee and to assist with the organisation of future planting days.

Andrew Wood



Working Bee in Paddy Gray Reserve, 21 April 2013
(image: Andrew Wood)

Heritage Subcommittee

The convenorship of the Subcommittee has been shared over the last 12 months, between John Gray (first six months) and Liz Simpson-Booker. Composition of the Subcommittee has been fluid due to the pressure of travel and work commitments but to those precious members who have hung in, special thanks for your guidance, generosity and support.

So how has Glebe fared in the Heritage stakes over the past 12 months?

Happily, we saw the culmination of a painstaking restoration and refurbishment of the Glebe Town Hall with its reopening in March 2013. The community now has a venue of which it can be justly proud and a meeting complex which will be well used by our active residents and which augments the limited meeting spaces elsewhere in Glebe.

Unhappily, the Glebe Estate and its parlous condition continues to concern the Society. President John Gray and Dr Vanessa Witton canvassed these issues in a major series of articles on the history, heritage and nature of the Estate in the Glebe Society *Bulletin*. The Estate and its residents are an important part of Glebe life and we have an obligation to do all we can to ensure that the heritage infrastructure is appropriately and adequately maintained and to support the continued well-being of its residents.

The Society made a submission to the Heritage Council supporting a proposal to list the 1903 Glebe Island Bridge on the State Heritage Register. The

Society argued the heritage and historic merits of the Bridge because of its role in Sydney's growth, its juxtaposition with the Anzac Bridge but also its potential to provide an important cycle and pedestrian conduit for Sydney.

The Heritage Subcommittee explored the possibility of national heritage listing for Glebe – readers will recall that Glebe as a suburb was listed on the now-defunct Register of the National Estate. Unfortunately the federal government has implemented thematic filtering streams, as a financial brake, which presently preclude a successful application for heritage listing of Glebe.

Currently, the Subcommittee is working to update and enhance heritage statements on the Glebe Society website and has formulated an approach to progressively review State Heritage Register website entries for correctness and currency.

The future of heritage in Glebe – and other heritage places in the State – hangs on the outcome of the NSW Government's proposed changes to Planning. It is to be hoped that NSW Planning will have noted the strong protests by communities around the State at the absence of virtually any mention of Heritage in the Planning White Paper. Heritage places and heritage conservation areas must be excluded from the 'wave through' process.

Liz Simpson-Booker

Planning Subcommittee

The 2012 CityPlan is being thoroughly tested by a number of laneway proposals, particularly off Glebe Point Rd. The Plan relies on a number of layers of controls, so it cannot be assumed that if a proposal meets one or several of them it will be approved. Nevertheless, my fingernails have become white watching the progress of some of these applications.

Harold Park

When my previous annual report was published the Masterplan for the site had just been approved, after a two and a half hour struggle in the Council Chamber. Shortly afterward the Lord Mayor replied to the points the Society had raised, and this letter was published in full in the October 2012 *Bulletin*. The height and density of the development remain unchanged, but we made some progress in the areas of traffic management and conservation.

Subsequently various applications for the separate precincts of the residential component have been advertised, and with very minor exceptions they show Mirvac is sticking to the limits imposed by the City. The most recent proposal is for the adaptive reuse of the Tramsheds, and this is covered in this *Bulletin*.

Shortly after my report the City signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government to extend Light Rail through the CBD and out to UNSW. This is, of course, in addition to the extension westward to Dulwich Hill due for completion in 2015, and the route is similar to that proposed by the Society in its seminal monograph of 1983. The City is paying for most of the CBD section, which will see most traffic redirected from George St between Bathurst and Hunter Sts. The project will take at least five years to complete, but it will make Light Rail more attractive and useful, and the benefit will be felt most keenly by Harold Park. It has the added benefit of making Glebe people, already less inclined to use cars than other parts of the City, less car-dependent.

The other factor affecting the Harold Park development is the Masterplan the City is proposing for the Johnstons Creek Parklands. This has been extensively covered in previous *Bulletins*, but 3.8 ha, or one third of the site, is to be handed over to the City by Mirvac. Crucially this includes the area around the Tramsheds, and most of the land at the base of the cliff (including the cliff itself). The new park connects Wigram Rd at the south with the Hill and the existing Federal, Jubilee and Bicentennial Parks, and is proposed to include a new playing field and collection and recycling of storm water as well as small bird and amphibian habitats. As I note in my report on the Tramsheds proposal, the interface and connection between these areas is important, and needs further negotiation. Mirvac's pocket parks adjacent to this parkland are now proposed for dedication to the City.

New Planning Legislation

Members will be aware the new State Government proposes to replace the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act of 1979 with a number of pieces of legislation. Initially there was a positive response, as there had been so many changes and additions to the Act it had become unnecessarily complicated.

There was a large response to the Planning Review conducted by former planning ministers Dyer and Moore. However, Minister Hazzard chose to ignore the resulting Green Paper and his personal staff produced a White Paper for public discussion that was much more controversial. Large claims are being made for the White Paper and the draft legislation based on it, but on closer examination it is a document drawn up at the behest of developers to make approvals easier.

Almost immediately after our 2012 AGM we were invited to join the Better Planning Network, a coalition of groups, mainly resident and environmental, that have an interest in keeping an eye

on development. Under the leadership of Corinne Fisher the Network has grown to a membership of about 400 groups, and has mounted a steady campaign to ensure the public is aware of what the government intends, and why it is so deficient. The concomitant of this is to produce a better alternative without these deficiencies. Corinne will be guest speaker at our 2013 AGM.

Virtually all the organisations with which the Society has links have made adverse comments on the draft legislation, from the Independent Commission Against Corruption to the National Trust, and many of these have been reported in the media. Although submissions closed on 28 June, the Better Planning Network will continue its campaign until the Bill comes before Parliament, probably in September, and hopefully beyond as well, if necessary.

Neil Macindoe

Transport and Traffic Subcommittee

This year saw the release of two major reports commissioned by the State Government on transport options for NSW over the next 20 years. NSW Transport's draft Long Term Transport Master Plan was released in September 2012 with an emphasis on public transport initiatives. Infrastructure NSW's report 'First Things First' was released one month later and recommended new road projects. The State Government decided to adopt most of the public transport initiatives. This was a good outcome for Glebe and Forest Lodge residents who will now have real access to the CBD by Light Rail.

Transport NSW: Public Transport

The Master Plan made several proposals to improve and integrate public transport, encompassing rail, light rail, buses and ferries and including an electronic ticketing system, transport interchanges, improved timetables and new rail links. It proposed the redesign of the bus network and investment in the cycling network and pedestrian infrastructure. The Plan identified three corridors for the extension of the light rail system, including through the Sydney CBD and to UNSW and Randwick. the Glebe Society made a submission to Transport NSW supporting these proposals as, in line with our policy, we believe that residents in Glebe and Forest Lodge are best served by a high quality public transport system and infrastructure for safe cycling and walking.

Infrastructure NSW: New Road Projects.

Infrastructure NSW put priority on new roads, including the WestConnex project and recommended a network of bus tunnels in the CBD instead of light rail. the Glebe Society's submission on this report

raised our concerns about putting road projects ahead of investment in public transport, and we objected to the idea of bus tunnels in the CBD.

The outcome was a win for public transport, with the State Government adopting most of the proposals in the Master Plan, including light rail in the CBD and to UNSW and Randwick. The WestConnex proposal was also adopted. A more detailed discussion of these reports and our submissions is contained in the 9/2012 November/ December edition of the *Bulletin*.

Glebe Island Exhibition Centre

We made submissions to the State Government in December 2012 and February 2013 on the interim exhibition centre to be built on Glebe Island. Our concern was that the traffic management study undertaken for the developer was deficient. This was because it did not take account of the potential for traffic, including construction traffic, to access the site through streets in Glebe and Forest Lodge, including Glebe Point Rd, St Johns Road, Wigram Rd, Ross St and Minogue Cresc. We asked for a traffic study that focussed on Glebe and Forest Lodge and for the community to have the opportunity to comment on the study before the development application was approved. However the development application was approved on 3 May 2013 without this study being undertaken. We will continue to monitor this situation.



Parking on Glebe Point Rd (image: altmedia.net.au)

Neighbourhood Parking Policy

In May 2013, City of Sydney released its draft Neighbourhood Parking Policy which sets out the City's approach to managing parking demands in all its precincts, including Glebe and Forest Lodge. The City is endeavouring to bring consistency across all the areas it administers and sought feedback from local communities on a range of questions regarding parking time limits, resident, visitor and business permits and permits for the disabled and for care workers. We made a submission to the City focussing on parking in Glebe and Forest Lodge. The main

points of our submission are referred to in a separate article in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Murray Jewell

Communications Subcommittee

Structure of the Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee has only existed for about three months. The role of this new Subcommittee includes: co-ordinating the various communication activities of the Society, including the *Bulletin*, its websites and Facebook page, ensuring that its communications activities accord with the Society's constitution, in particular to 'providing opportunities for members to express their views on issues affecting Glebe' and 'encouraging the village atmosphere and community spirit in Glebe'. It will also provide guidance to the Society with regard to managing its public image, in particular the design of its publications and its communications.

Website

The website for the Glebe Society continues to grow in size and usage by members of the Glebe Society as well as by many others. Website statistics record the number of people who access the website, and the current number is an average of 822 users per day, an increase of 52% in the last two years.

Our website is the place where members can check on the latest news about the Glebe Society, campaigns that it is involved in, and other issues that affect

Glebe's residents. Members can also view past issues of the *Bulletin*, and book and pay for Society events.

Why are so many people looking at our website? Most people find websites by using Google Search, and the most common search criterion for people who access our website is: 'Glebe Society' - 8%, followed by 'Edmund Barton Glebe' - 8%, whilst 'Bidura', 'Blue Wrens' and '417 Glebe Point Rd' are also popular search criteria that result in people using our website.

An indicator of the popularity of smartphones such as the iPhone, the iPad, and similar portable devices is that a surprising 26% of visitors to our website are using such devices.

Saturday 6 July 2013 saw the record number of users of our website, with 1,314 users that day, just beating our previous record usage in January 2011 at the time of the Post Office closure.

A current priority of the Communications subcommittee is to both update the content of the website, and to refresh the design of its layout. We hope that members will enjoy the results.

The Bulletin

Edwina Doe resigned as Editor of the monthly *Bulletin* at the start of 2013, after 10 years of outstanding commitment to the role. Virginia Simpson-Young took over the role, and has slowly been making changes and improvements to its design and layout.

Phil Young

HAPPENINGS

New Members' Night

Welcome Our New Members!

Friday August 30, 6 to 8pm: Join us in the upstairs lounge of the Harold Park Hotel to meet and celebrate with our new members. Wine, beer, soft drinks and light food will accompany the usual mix and match of who, what, where and why.

PLUS: Think you know Glebe inside out? Prove your local knowledge in a novel test that might reveal a few surprises!

Where's the Harold Park Hotel? The corner of Wigram Rd and Ross St, Forest Lodge - stairs or lift to the upstairs lounge.

How much? \$25 per head – bookings essential, more details on the enclosed flyer.

Erica Robinson



**Glebe Society
Event**

Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of moved and costumed readings in the upstairs theatre at the Roxbury Hotel St Johns Rd/Forest St, Glebe.

A Curious Mishap

a comedy by Carlo Goldoni

(the author who inspired *One Man, Two Guvnors*)

directed by Peter Talmacs

Monday 26 August @ 7 pm

Admission free. Kitchen is open for orders from 5pm.



Volunteers needed for Glebe Art Show 2013

The 16th annual Glebe Art Show will be held at *Benledi* and Glebe Library from Saturday 7 until Sunday 15 September.

We will be registering and then hanging the works from Monday 2 to Wednesday 4 September and minding the show while it is running.

If you have a few spare hours and would be interested in joining us we would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact our Secretary, Fiona Verge on fverge@bigpond.net.au.

History Week Event

The City of Sydney Historical Association presents:

Dick Whitaker talking about 'Sydney by Gaslight'

Picture this: Old Sydney in the soft and mysterious light cast by the gas lights from every lamp-post.

Sydney was lit by gas very early in its existence and this light covered up many sins. Dick Whitaker has a wonderful collection of photographs that show many aspects of Old Sydney as it was before the introduction of electric lighting showed the cracks and pitfalls.

Date and time: 2pm, Saturday 7 September 2013

Venue: Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Rd.

Cost: \$2, no bookings required.

New book by Glebe Society member

Glebe Society member, Damian Spruce, has recently co-authored a book *The Year it all Fell Down* with Bob Ellis. The book was launched at Gleebooks in June.

The book chronicles 2011 on a local and global scale; covering political, financial and social matters and reminds us of what an eventful year it was. Moreover, hindsight is wonderful in that it places these circumstances in a perspective which can be appreciated in light of developments to the present day.

The shockwaves of these events continue to reverberate through the corridors of power and affect us all. It is a meditation on the state of our world and its future.

The book is an easy read and can be handled in different time blocks.

John Spruce

NAISDA Dance College – Late Night Library

Glebe Library, Wednesday 28 August, 8-9pm.

In the early 1970's an upsurge of indigenous cultural pride led to the birth of a unique new dance form: Contemporary Australian Indigenous dance. *Musica Viva* teams up with the talented students of the NAISDA Dance College on the central coast to create a showcase of new music, dance and storytelling.

All events are free, but bookings are essential on 9298 3060 or coslibrary.eventbrite.com.au

For more information, visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/library.



NAISDA Dance College (image: City of Sydney)

GOLD program for over 55s

Movie Club: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 3.30pm, The Old Fire Station, Glebe.

Enjoy movies from a variety of genres, followed by a healthy discussion.

Free; bookings essential on 9692 8377.

Welcome to new members, Ewan Mylecharane and Carole Mylecharane. Hope to see you at the new members' night!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday 28 July; 9:30am; Re-dedication of newly-renovated St James Catholic Church.
 Thursday 1 August; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Ombretta*, 355 Glebe Point Rd (previously La Tavolaccia).
 Wednesday 14 August; 7-9pm; Management Committee Meeting; Glebe Town Hall.
 Saturday 17 August; 2-4 pm; Launch of *Glebe Grapevine*, The Old Fire Station, 113 Mitchell St.
 Sunday 25 August; 11am-1pm; Glebe Society Annual General Meeting, Glebe Town Hall.
 Monday 26 August; 7 pm; *Players in the Pub*, Harold Park Hotel.
 Wednesday 28 August; 8-9pm; *NAISDA Dance College*, Late Night Library Glebe.
 Friday 30 August; 6-8pm; *Glebe Society New Members' Night*, Harold Park Hotel.
 Thursday 5 September; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 7 - Sunday 15Sept; The 16th Annual Glebe Art Show will be held at *Benledi*
 Saturday 7 Sept., 2pm, *Dick Whitaker talking about Sydney by Gaslight*; Glebe Town Hall; Cost: \$2.
 Wednesday 11 Sept; 7-9pm; Management Committee Meeting; Glebe Town Hall.
 Thursday 3 October; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday: *Mengen Sofrasi* Turkish Kitchen, 107 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 7 December, Glebe Society Christmas Party, details to be confirmed.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE TRAMSHEDS – THE DEVELOPER’S PROPOSAL UNVEILED	1
PLANNING REPORT	2
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FOR MARK WEISSER- THE DOG WALKER AND LOCAL HERO	2
ACTING PRESIDENT’S REPORT	3
PARKING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT	3
INTERVIEW WITH ALBERT MISPEL	4
WHO LIVED IN YOUR STREET? PATRICK O’SULLIVAN	6
GLEBE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	8
SUBCOMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS	9
HAPPENINGS	13
FOR YOUR CALENDAR	15



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The Glebe Society Inc

PO Box 100 Glebe NSW 2037

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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

How to join

- ✓ download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- ✓ write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037; or
- ✓ email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

Community Contacts

Neighbourhood Services Centre

Manager: Nick Hespe
Office: Glebe Library, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri.
Phone: 9298 3191 or 0400 627 714.
Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone: 9265 9333 (24 hours)
Email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Abandoned shopping trolleys

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