



# Glebe Society Bulletin

ISSN 1836-599X

No.9 of 2013 (November 2013)

## ***Destroying our heritage? State government agency wants to demolish historic Glebe Island Bridge***



Glebe Island Bridge, built 1903, with Sydney Harbour Bridge in the background. Photo taken from the Anzac Bridge in 2013. (image: Phil Rogers)

by Liz Simpson-Booker

'Oh, no!' I recoiled when I heard that the NSW Government was planning to sell two iconic heritage buildings in Bridge St, Sydney. My second thought, just a moment later, was 'Yeah, well, governments don't have a good track record as custodians of heritage items! Perhaps, the private sector may do better.'

(A pause here, so that some readers can have oxygen administered to assist them to recover from this perceived heresy.)

Doubtless there will have to be compromises made in relation to the Lands and Education Department buildings, as developers seek to maximise their investment. But these beautiful sandstone buildings, which add so much to the grandeur of Bridge St, must be preserved.

Nearer home, regular readers of the *Bulletin* will be aware of our ongoing concerns regarding the parlous condition of some of the Government-owned properties in the Glebe Estate. The sadly neglected Glebe Island Bridge has received some media attention recently, partly in response to an intermittent, but persistent, campaign by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) for the bridge to be demolished.

Obviously someone has been concerned enough by the RMS aggression to refer the matter to the NSW

Heritage Council. Earlier this year the Glebe Society made a submission to the Heritage Council supporting the proposal to place the bridge on the State Heritage Register.

In our submission to the Heritage Council we noted that the Glebe Island Bridge (1903) replaced Blackbutts Bridge (1862); the latter also had a swing span, albeit smaller. Thus Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays were adequately served for over 130 years by maritime access via swing span bridges. The 1903 Bridge was a vital part of the infrastructure of the Bays Precinct providing more efficient access to the north-west of the city in order to satisfy commerce (both maritime and land-based), and a growing population.

***The Society is concerned at the prospect that this heritage bridge is being 'demolished by neglect' ... The implicit waste of scarce resources and embodied energy in such a threatened demolition shows a disregard for the environment and flies in the face of moves by Council and the ... State Government to improve cycleways and pedestrian access across the city.***

It is a testament to the buoyant growth of population and increasing engineering finesse that two similar bridges (Pyrmont 1902, Glebe Island 1903) were built in adjoining bays. 'The swing bridges [designed by engineer Percy Allan] at Pyrmont and Glebe Island are among the structures standing as monument to his skill'. (Australian Dictionary of Biography, 1979). Through a trick of timing and geography, the former has been declared a National Engineering Landmark, while the latter, despite its LEP listing, has suffered years of neglect.

The Society is concerned at the prospect that this heritage bridge is being ‘demolished by neglect’ and that its custodian (the Government) is now citing safety as the issue which precludes any use of the Bridge. The implicit waste of scarce resources and embodied energy in such a threatened demolition shows a disregard for the environment and flies in the face of moves by Council and the self-same State Government to improve cycleways and pedestrian access across the city.

The 1903 Bridge and its abutments form a visual, rather than a geographical, boundary to the north-east of Glebe. This aspect also offers residents and the many visitors using the Glebe Foreshore Walk the opportunity to enjoy the rare sight of three distinct phases of important Sydney bridge-building with the overarching cable-stayed Anzac Bridge (1995), the Glebe Island Bridge (1903) with its tiny controller’s box perched on the swinging mid-section and the distant iconic arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (1932). This is a significant tourist site and viewpoint.

The Glebe Society deplores the fact that the Government, as custodian, has failed to formulate and implement a Heritage Conservation Plan for the bridge, despite the LEP recommending ‘continued sympathetic management’.

The Glebe Society believes that the Glebe Island Bridge:

- ✓ Is not a ‘disposable’ asset
- ✓ Is potentially a vital pedestrian and cycle conduit to assist in reducing Sydney’s traffic congestion
- ✓ Is part of the Bays Precinct and decisions regarding its future should not pre-empt the release of the Bays Masterplan

The Society understands that the Heritage Council has recommended that the Bridge be placed on the State Heritage Register, which offers the highest level of protection.

Now here is the rub: the Heritage Council recommendation is just that. It is in the hands of the NSW Heritage Minister as to whether the recommendation is taken up and formalised. Given that Roads and Maritime Services have a rather different view of the bridge’s future, it will be interesting to see who emerges victorious from the bunfight ...



Liz Simpson-Booker  
Convenor, Heritage

## Volunteering at the 2013 Glebe Street Fair

Interested in volunteering at this year’s Glebe Street Fair – either at the Glebe Society’s stall or helping with music and other events around the fair? It’s on Saturday 17 November. For more information, email Bill Simpson-Young at [bill@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:bill@glebesociety.org.au) or ring or text 0411-871-214.

To find out more about the fair, watch the short video at <http://vimeo.com/63865022> and see the details at <http://www.glebestreetfair.com/>. Also, see the article on the history of the Fair on page 7.

*Bill Simpson-Young*

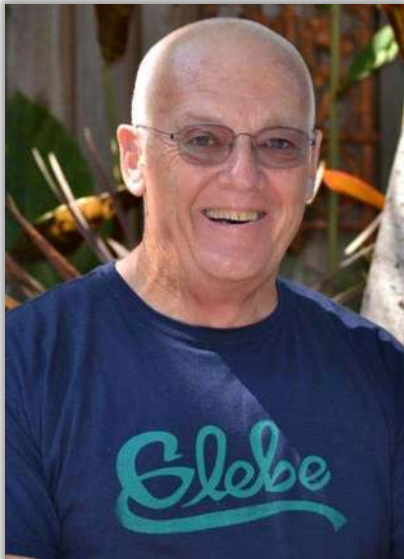
## Correction ☹

In the last *Bulletin* (October 2013) the report on the New Members’ Night incorrectly stated that Margaret Whitlam’s parents were members of the Primitive Methodist Church congregation. *Margaret Whitlam’s parents were not members of the Methodist Church in Arundel St Forest Lodge. Margaret’s mother was orphaned as a child and lived next door to the church with her uncle.*

## Pic of the month



A Glebe sunset, October 2013 (image: A Simpson-Young). If you have a great image of Glebe or Forest Lodge, email to [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au), and we’ll try to include it in an upcoming edition of the *Bulletin*



## President's Column

John Gray

### **Let's start with encouraging news ...**

The Glebe Society met with the University of Sydney to discuss the Glebe Community Development Project. The meeting noted the level of commitment displayed by the University over 9 ½ years of GCDP and its continuing commitment. Funds of about \$1m have been committed and its staff has established a network of trust in the community. NSW Housing Corporation has funded an additional \$500,000 during this period. GCDP has quietly built up trust and influence by 'lying close to the ground' and the crop of trust it now reaps grows from deep roots. Ironically it is this very successful approach that imposes funding constraints. The staff of GCDP have published scholarly articles and presented conference papers but the project has not gained a wide influential audience. There is something special happening in Glebe and yet policy makers, ministers and their staff

do not know.

But Glebe does. Glebe has wealth, poverty, diversity, energy and resilience. The community, through groups like The Glebe Society, is well organised and influential. It recognises that if social issues are not addressed equitably all of Glebe is lessened. We agreed to jointly examine means of publicising the success of the partnership between the University and Glebe and strategically extend the partnership.

### **Let's continue with a campaign call ...**

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) want to demolish the Glebe Island Bridge which is a heritage item, which is recognised as a potential vital link in Sydney's transport network.

Transport NSW has released its City Access Strategy and called for [comments](#). It prominently mentions increased pedestrian and cycle access and the very significant economic and environmental benefits these bring. This strategy adds further detail to the NSW Long Term Transport Plan which The Glebe Society commended. At the same time Roads and Maritime Services have proposed to demolish the Glebe Island Bridge and have called for comments. ([mmc@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mmc@transport.nsw.gov.au))

It does not seem to matter how often the community says 'no' and in what forum, RMS does not listen. The Glebe Island Bridge has been recommended for inclusion on the State Heritage Register. The Glebe Island Bridge provides a potential public transport and pedestrian low level crossing into the city. The Glebe Island Bridge has an elegant embodied energy which will contribute to sustainability. The only argument that RMS provides for demolition is a [Cost Benefit Analysis Report](#). This professionally prepared report had sensitivities skewed against retention and heritage; future opportunity cost and public benefit were not considered. The Glebe Society's response to the proposed demolition of the Glebe Island Bridge is on the website.

### **Let's finish with Au revoir ...**

Martin Wandmaker has resigned from the Management Committee as he has taken a senior appointment in Perth. He will be back sometime and we will be waiting. Thanks for your cheery analysis Martin. We now have a vacancy for a member's representative on the committee. Duties: give sage advice, attend monthly meetings, talk with members, wear funky T shirts. Call me.



**Deadline for December  
Bulletin**  
If you'd like to contribute to the  
December edition of the *Bulletin*,  
the closing date is:  
**Wednesday 20 November**

# ***An update on the unsolicited development proposal for Blackwattle Bay***

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In the last issue we flagged the challenge to the public interest in Blackwattle Bay arising from a likely unsolicited development proposal encompassing much of the Bays publicly owned foreshores – including the Fish Markets. Our understanding is that this proposal is now well advanced and has been discussed at various levels of Government – with Ministers and agencies. We understand that the reception from Ministers and agencies has been supportive and that a formal proposal will move forward in the very near future.

As is usually the case in unsolicited proposals the community does not see the detail of the proposal until the approval process is well advanced and the opportunity for significant change has long passed (reference Barangaroo).

For over 10 years community groups have been lobbying Governments to develop an integrated plan for the Bays which will set parameters that will protect the public interest – and public assets – in these precious publicly owned harbour foreshores, at the same time as promoting strategic commercial development consistent with the site, its unique characteristics and its proximity to the CBD.

The Glebe Society – along with other community groups around the Bays – has spent years of effort energetically contributing to Government Review processes to develop such a strategic plan; most notably via the 2009/10 Bays Precinct Community Reference Group (BPCRG) and the more recent Bays Precinct Task Force. We have twice put forward a robust planning framework to guide the development of this plan – but have failed to gain other than marginal Government commitment; not surprisingly – as this framework would deliver some real protections for the public interest and constrain bad development decisions which are overwhelmingly driven by private commercial gain.

Instead, we understand Government is encouraging the fast-tracking of the FishBank/Destination Blackwattle Bay development proposal. We have only very broad-brush knowledge of this proposal. History – recent and longer term – gives us no cause to have confidence in the likelihood of unsolicited proposals giving due weight to the public good. As we said in the last issue:

*Our fundamental objection is one of principle: that is bad policy to endorse an unsolicited commercial development proposal in relation to publicly owned lands or assets. We have an abundance of historical*

*examples to know this is not likely to generate the best public benefit outcomes. It is an uncompetitive, non-transparent process which has no provision for real community input. It is also conducive to corruption.*

We will continue to oppose this process and seek support from the wider community network. All residents of NSW have an interest in the development of the remaining (but diminishing) Sydney Harbour foreshore in public ownership. We do not want to see another Barangaroo in Blackwattle Bay – and subsequently on Glebe Island.

Community members who want to engage with this imminent issue should write to the Premier and the Minister for Planning stating their objection to the approval of unsolicited proposals in relation to public land/assets, their support for the Government endorsing all the community planning principles for the Bays Precinct and seeking a commitment from Government that it will publicly tender for development proposals relating to publicly owned lands consistent with these planning principles.

The Glebe Society will continue to seek information from Government as to its intentions. This may be an excellent proposal which respects the community principles and the public good alongside reasonable and fair commercial development.

On the other hand it may well become the next Sydney Harbour ‘Barangaroo’.



Could Blackwattle Bay become the next ‘Barangaroo’?  
(image: Barangaroo.com)

**Update:** The Glebe Society sought information from the proponent Robert Dean in relation to the status of the proposal. He did respond to our call and via an employee has offered a briefing/consultation. We will accept a briefing – but our current debate is about the broader planning process in relation to the Bays

Precinct. An open and competitive tendering process is more likely to generate the best possible proposal for the public good.



A peaceful Blackwattle Bay (image: <http://blog.eastcoastsailing.com.au>)

### Where is the Elias Group DA for B1, B2?

The Glebe Society understands that the Elias Group which runs All Occasion Cruises out of B1, B2 wharves adjoining the Fish Markets in Blackwattle Bay put in an amended DA proposal in relation to proposed developments at this site May 2013. We have not seen the DA so do not know what it proposes.

The community has had a very strong interest in this long overdue DA. It has been awaited since the controversial awarding in August 2009 of preferred tenderer status to a \$2 company run by Joe Elias for a multimillion-dollar maritime development at B1, B2 (*SMH* 7/1/13).

The decision to give the Elias Group preferred tender status was initially controversial because the Government had only one week previously established the highly publicised Bays Precinct Community Reference Group (BPCRG) to develop a strategic plan for the Bays Precinct and because of the key players in the bid.

The decision was seen by participating Councils and community representatives as undermining the BPCRG process and almost led to a total walkout by all community representatives. (This was a heated issue at the BPCRG meeting of August 2009.) It was rumoured at the time that the Planning Minister was not aware of this decision – which was made within the portfolio of the Waterways Minister Joe Triipodi – until it was reported in the press. Eddie Obeid Jnr was reported to be an advisor to the project. Subsequently,

when investigating the collapse of the Elias Group development plans for B1, B2 in 2011, the *SMH* uncovered probity audit concerns about the original tendering process:

- The tender panel was made up mainly of people outside government, ‘contrary to the description of the process set out’. There was no representative of either Treasury or the Premier’s Department;
- Despite the panel recommending a two-stage process, Maritime’s chief executive, Steve Dunn, dismissed all other bidders after the first stage and declared All Occasion Cruises the winner; and
- The financial capacity report on the bidders, compiled by Peter Marshall, another external consultant, could not be found on the file.

(*SMH* 20 June 2011; the probity audit did however clear the transaction while noting these concerns.)

Earlier this year, the Glebe Society was informed that the Elias Group had joined with FishBank in the broader development proposal now known as Destination Blackwattle Bay. But later, we heard that they had separately submitted their own DA. Given the more recent information about the status of FishBank/Destination Blackwattle Bay – we are now uncertain about the status of this DA.

Our priority is to urge the Government and relevant agency (Roads and Maritime Services) to exhibit the Elias Group B1/B2 DA for public comment.

### Glebe Island Bridge

The President and Liz Simpson-Booker have covered this issue earlier in this *Bulletin*. The only point to be made in this context is that (almost) everything connects with everything within the Bays Precinct!

### Get Involved

Let the Government know you care about all these potential developments in Blackwattle Bay. Write to the Premier and to the Ministers for Planning and Maritime Services.

Lesley Lynch  
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores



# History & Heritage

## Who Lived in Your Street? John Walton (ca 1801-1871)

The *University Hotel* on the corner of Glebe Rd and Broadway opened its doors to the public in December 1856, six years after the foundation of the institution from which it took its name, and operated as a pub until 1954. As *University Hall* it retains the scale and curved shape of architect N C Day's 1890s remodeling for its then owner *Evening News* proprietor Alfred Bennett. A century later the four-storey building underwent emergency reconstruction after the stone foundations were undermined during its conversion to student apartments.



Alfred Bennett's 1890 plans for alterations after he was taken to court by Glebe Council and ordered to set back a balcony from the street and remove an unauthorised awning. (image: National Library of Australia)

The original hotel was built for local businessman John Walton. Construction began in 1854. When completed, it was an imposing landmark on the road to Parramatta, featuring bars and parlours, sitting, dining and billiard rooms and nine bedrooms, together with extensive cellars in the basement and stables, a coach-house and hayloft in the yard. An application in 1855 by Jean Baptiste Verdeau to call a Francis Street pub the *University Hotel* was withdrawn.

John Walton went surety for his second-born son Robert (1836-71) who was granted the *University's* first licence on 5 December 1856, was married on 16 December, and opened for business just after Christmas. Offering 'a choice collection of wines, spirits and malt liquors' and commodious, comfortable and healthy accommodation, Robert begged his potential customers (local gentry and country visitors) to 'give him a trial'. However, his career as a publican was short-lived. In April 1857 nine casks of cement were stolen from the premises and the next month the *University* was advertised for

lease. There were apparently no takers – in September his father took over, augmenting the hotel's income with rent from adjoining houses and a shop, and Robert turned to woolbroking. In September 1858 the hotel's licence was transferred to Henry James Butters who remained there until 1866 when he moved to another pub on the Bishopthorpe Estate – the *Currency Lass* on the corner of Glebe Rd and Mitchell St.

The *University Hotel's* first floor lodge/billiard room with its balcony overlooking the street was a popular meeting place. There W T Pinhey convened a gathering of interested locals to discuss proposed repairs to Glebe Rd; wizard Professor Franzheim performed his magic tricks; J S Walton showed his sea and land panorama ('16 000 miles from home') and then put his apparatus up for sale; Frederick Shipway held dancing classes and organised nights of quadrille dancing; the Operative Stone Masons celebrated the adoption of the short-time principle with an anniversary dinner; the Loyal Love of Liberty Lodge (its secretary Frederick Shipway) held at least one ball; the Electoral Reform League discussed topics such as the secret ballot and manhood suffrage; supporters of political candidates John Campbell and Sir Daniel Cooper planned campaign strategy; and a series of free concerts was given by Irish comic singer Paddy Doyle, 'descriptive vocalist' Mr A Campbell and pianist Miss Bassman to which 'respectable ladies [were] admitted if accompanied by a gentleman'.

When John Walton built the *University Hotel* he was a tanner and fellmonger selling sheepskins, but he had started his working life as a hotelkeeper. During the 1820s he ran a pub in King St where he was fined more than once for serving drinks after closing time, letting his customers sing at unreasonable hours and gamble on dice and cards (with stakes of over 100 Spanish dollars) and for harbouring a convict servant. From October 1833 until January 1836 he was publican of the *Captain Piper* in Lower George St, after which he ran the *Jolly Fisherman* in George St. He was treasurer of the Sydney Mechanics' Benefit Society, pledged to help injured tradesmen.

Glebe's John Walton was almost certainly the same person who owned *Walton's Inn* in pastoral country at Burrowa near Yass, and who returned to Sydney after the Burrowa Estate was sold in 1847 to briefly resume his old profession – as licensee of the *Albion* – before setting himself up as a woolbroker on Parramatta St. By 1852 Walton was a Glebe tanner, advertising for

curriers and fellmongers at good wages, and by 1853 had for lease a tan yard on Bay St with 21 pits, two lofts, pumps, a furnace, curriers' utensils and livestock. In 1855 his book-keeper Joseph Nott was gaoled for forging a cheque for £117 in his employer's name. It was the signature, not the amount, that aroused the bank teller's suspicions. In 1859 John Walton was elected a councillor for Bishopthorpe Ward on the first Glebe Council.

Business success did not guarantee a long life or protection against epidemics, frequent in Victorian times. John Walton married twice, Mary Ann Walton dying on 8 February 1848, leaving him with five children, the eldest 12-year-old John junior and the youngest Mary Ann junior who died aged 9 months on 8 June 1848. He quickly entered into a new relationship, marrying 19-year-old Elizabeth McIntyre (the ceremony witnessed by Catherine Frost, wife of a Parramatta Rd publican) on 20 August 1849, eight months after the birth of their first child Thomas John. At least eight other children followed. Of these three died young: eleven-month-old Benjamin and four-year-old Elizabeth Isabella within three weeks of each other in 1858, and eight-year-old Elizabeth Isabella Ann of scarlet fever in 1867. John's brother Samuel died at the Bay St house in 1856 leaving a widow and nine children; his sister Martha Bishop died in Norton Street Glebe in 1860 leaving a widower and a large family. A fifteen-

month-old grandson Johnny died at Bay St in January 1871.

John Walton senior died aged 70 at 68 Bay St on 14 November 1871 and was buried in St Stephen's churchyard Camperdown, the resting place also of the second Elizabeth Isabella (it was common practice to name a new baby after a deceased child). John's son Robert, the *University Hotel's* first licensee, had predeceased him on 25 April the same year, leaving a widow Martha Sarah née Briggs and children John (1858-1938), Martha (1861-1944) and Robert (1868-1907). Martha Sarah married Thomas Oak Smith in 1876 but was buried in 1909 in the same Rookwood plot as her first husband. A couple, John and Elizabeth Walton (the wife a decade or so older than her spouse), are buried in Waverley Cemetery, but any connection with the Glebe family is yet to be confirmed.



Lyn Collingwood

**Sources:** 1841 census; *Empire* 22 December 1856; NSW births, deaths, marriages registry; NSW cemetery records; NSW State Records (reels 1239, 2223, 6062); Sands *Directories*; *Sydney Morning Herald* (various editions); *Truth* 27 March 1910: 'Old Chum' article.

## The First Glebe Street Fair

The first Fair that involved the closure of Glebe Point Rd took place on Saturday, September 22 in 1984. The participants were almost entirely from the Glebe community, including many businesses. There was music, dancing and activities for children.

In 1984 Glebe Point Rd was the centre of multicultural eating in Sydney. Ethnic restaurants had replaced the empty shops and declining businesses in Glebe Point Rd, long before this phenomenon spread to other areas. The greatest Victorian shopping strip in Sydney, King St, Newtown, still consisted of traditional shops and Greek businesses representing the predominant migrant population. Glebe Point Rd was 'Eat Street'.

After I became President in January, 1984 three Glebe restaurateurs, Lorrishka and Michael Fischer and Peter Torok, approached me for Glebe Society support for a Glebe Food Fair. They had already approached the Carnivale Committee, the umbrella organisation for multicultural events, who had agreed to include such an event in their calendar.

The restaurateurs had a problem. At that stage, and for many years after, there was no local chamber of commerce, so they had no contact either with the

Council (then Leichhardt) or with the community. However Glebe Society members, then as now, were inveterate diners-out, so they were aware of the Society and some businesses had already joined. The idea for a Food Fair seemed like a worthwhile initiative, so I asked two members, Maureen Colman and Penny Priest, to attend the first meeting of what was to become the Glebe Food Fair Association and report back. Their report was favourable, but they clearly needed assistance (*Bulletins* 7&8, 1984).



Glebe Street Fair in 2012 (image: Richard Milnes)

I was able to approach Leichhardt Council directly and secure the closure of Glebe Point Rd, the diversion of buses, and all the necessary Council services including electrical connections. Alan Hunt, a Glebe Estate member of the Glebe Society Committee, was also curator of the museum at Tooth's Brewery on Broadway, and through his contacts with the Licensing Police we obtained permission for a few liquor stalls to be set up in the street to complement those of the Glebe businesses. These were the only stalls to include some businesses from outside Glebe.

Given the circumstances of the time the Fair was a great success. Five thousand people thronged the street on a fine spring day, and there was not a single instance of drunkenness or unseemly behaviour.

It was a lot of work. The restaurants and cafés worked through the night and morning preparing special dishes to display on stalls outside their premises, and many brought in extra staff in expectation of the crowd. The community stalls and activities were also well attended. The high point was the waiters' race, where waiters bearing aloft a tray carrying a bottle and wineglasses ran the length of the commercial stretch.

Despite the effort, and the involvement of so many Glebe Society members, I believe it was the very best kind of advertisement for Glebe. It was an event very distinctive and characteristic of Glebe at that time, and involved both businesses and residents. It was neither too crowded nor too commercial. It set the model for cooperation between these two groups and Council that led to the Glebe Point Rd Project in 1989, and the Chamber in the nineties. And of course, the food was marvellous!



Neil Macindoe  
Convenor, Planning

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## Remembrance Day in Glebe

Members and friends are invited to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held at the unveiled Glebe Diggers' Memorial on **Monday 11 November 2013 at 11am**. Red poppies will be available.

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## Natural Glebe

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### Commitment to environmentally sustainable events: reduce, reuse, recycle

The Glebe Society is committed to minimising its impact on the environment. For our events, we aim to:

- ✓ consider energy use and accessibility when choosing a venue
- ✓ minimise food waste when planning catering
- ✓ minimise packaging waste by, for example, avoiding individually wrapped items
- ✓ choose re-usable tableware wherever possible; otherwise choose products that are recycled or made from renewable resources that can be recycled or composted

- ✓ ensure that any waste is appropriately recycled or composted
- ✓ give preference to suppliers who use local, organic and fair-trade products and who offer predominantly plant-based foods
- ✓ offer tap water at all events
- ✓ minimise the use of paper by favouring electronic communications, and by using recycled paper for printing, double-sided.

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## Report from Blue Wrens Subcommittee

### Glebe Spring Bird Survey - Sunday 3 November

All members of the Society are invited take part in a *Glebe Spring Bird Survey* commencing at 6.45am on Sunday 3 November in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St (just west from the intersection with Walsh Avenue). We will be provided with an illustrated bird survey sheet drawn up by Sophie Golding, the Urban Ecology Coordinator for the City of Sydney.

Please bring binoculars, camera or phone camera and a clipboard and pen for completing the survey sheets. You will be allocated to a team to conduct the survey over about half an hour in a local park under the supervision of a knowledgeable bird watcher. At the completion of the survey, the sheets will be collected by Sophie Golding for analysis and we will gather for breakfast at 8am at a local café, Naggy's in Glebe Point Rd near the intersection with Wigram Rd. If the



weather is forecast to be wet and windy, you will receive an email from the Society on Saturday 2 November postponing the survey until Sunday 10 November 2013.



Western aspect of Glebe Light Rail Stop showing in the foreground an area that has been sprayed with defoliant and in the background large *Celtis sinensis* trees, a noxious weed. (image: Andrew Wood)

### Other news and updates

The Subcommittee was featured in articles in two editions of the Inner West Courier (15 and 19 September 2013) concerning the City's draft *Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan*, including the following: 'The Glebe Society's Blue Wren Group was consulted on the plan and member Norma Hawkins said the volunteer group had been working on Arthur (Paddy) Grey Reserve in Glebe to restore the habitat for the endangered superb fairy wren birds. "I'm passionate because of the beauty of the birds and what they give to you in everyday life. I want everyone to have that experience and for them to be kept and saved from predators," she said. "The habitat is the way we will be able to have them with us".'

A dozen volunteers attended the working bee held by the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group on Sunday 22 September 2013 and the next weeding day was organised for the morning of Sunday 20 October. The Glebe Bushcare Group continues to meet on a weekly basis each Wednesday and is currently watering new native plantings in Federal Park opposite the Rozelle Bay Nursery in Chapman Rd. Following the planting day in Paddy Gray Reserve on 11 September, the Subcommittee purchased 90m of hose and local residents have established a roster so that the newly planted native seedling are watered every couple of days. So far their efforts have been successful and the seedlings are thriving.

On Wednesday 9 October, following an invitation to all members of the Society and adjacent residents (by letterboxing), an onsite meeting was held in Sarah Pennington Reserve and Palmerston Avenue Park. It was attended by seven locals and Rae Broadfoot, the

Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Sydney. A representative from Transdev Sydney, the operators of the light rail system, had also accepted an invitation to attend but could not come because of the need to solve problems related to the derailment of some of the company's trams; Transdev Sydney is a subsidiary of a privately owned, French-based, public transport company. Future native plantings to enhance biodiversity were discussed as were the continued, progressive removal of non-native species (poplars and oleanders) and the possibility of diverting storm water from Lombard St to provide additional water to newly planted flora. Rae Broadfoot will develop an action and work plan for the Reserve and Park which will be available for comment by local residents with the aim of holding a community planting day in autumn next year. We also inspected the land adjacent to the Glebe Light Rail Stop which is under Transdev Sydney's custodianship. There are a couple of major problems that need to be solved at this site:

- the land is infested with weeds including large *Celtis sinensis* trees (Chinese Hackberry - a native tree of China, Korea and Japan) which are a declared noxious weed species.
- the wall of a strata development adjacent to the Stop is covered with graffiti and local residents are keen to grow an evergreen creeper over the wall so that it can no longer be defaced.

The City has called for tenders for the upgrading of St James Park with work to commence over the Christmas holiday period; all planning approvals are complete. In John St Reserve the flood study is in progress and structural assessments of the retaining wall behind the Hegarty St houses are underway. An ecological study of the Reserve has been completed with the aim of maximising biodiversity habitat but still retaining open space for use by local residents. A development application for remedial works has been written (the first 30-40cm of the surface soil is contaminated, and will be removed and replaced with clean topsoil). Work on upgrading the Reserve will commence in mid-2014. As reported last month the City recently used a chemical spray to kill clover species in the Reserve and St James Park. The local residents are in discussion with the City to find out the full details and, because of the adverse effects of these sprays on biodiversity, the Society may need to write a letter asking that such chemical sprays no longer be used in Glebe's parks.



Andrew Wood  
Convenor, Blue Wrens

## Recent happenings in 2037

### A new lane - 'Bernard' - named after Glebe Society founder, Bernard Smith



(L to R) Don Heathcote (son-in-law), Kate Challis (grand-daughter), Elizabeth Heathcote (daughter), Clover Moore (Mayor), at rear are Jasper Hollo (great grandson), Andrew Hollo (Kate's husband), Sarah Smith (grand-daughter), and Robyn Kemmis (Deputy Lord Mayor). (image: Phil Young)

Bernard Smith was one of the founders of the Glebe Society and was pivotal in the successful campaign of the early 1970s to stop a freeway being pushed through the suburb and the replacement of the Glebe Estate with high-rise office blocks. Bernard and his wife Kate were responsible for producing *The Architectural Character of Glebe* and coining the

term 'Federation' to describe Australian houses of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To honour the Smiths' memory the City of Sydney approved the naming of the lane off St John's Rd as Bernard Lane. The lane runs off St John's Rd along the back of Broughton St houses. The Society, and others, would have liked to include Kate in the name of the Lane but official place-naming protocols meant this was not feasible. (Some members will recall a similar situation with the recently named Melina Lane.)

The Glebe Society celebrated the official opening on Sunday 22 Sept in the presence of members of the Smith Family including Bernard and Kate's daughter, Elizabeth Heathcote and their grand-daughters, Kate Challis and Sarah Smith.

On a glorious sunny afternoon, the Lord Mayor acknowledged the debt of gratitude owed by Glebe and the City of Sydney to Bernard and Kate for their work in preserving Glebe from the wrecking ball. Max Solling, who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Smiths in those early days, talked about Bernard's activism and Elizabeth Heathcote reminisced about her parents' affection for Glebe and how they had come to choose Glebe as a place to live.

The event closed with the unveiling of the *BernardLa* blade placed high on a lamppost with the Lord Mayor and Jasper Hollo, the four year old great-grandson of Bernard and Kate, pulling on the cord.

Members who have used our Glebe Walks website will be aware that the *Late Victorian Streetscapes* walk is named for Bernard and Kate. If you haven't done this, follow the Walk to appreciate just a small part of the impact of their work to preserve the heritage of Glebe. See:

<http://www.glebewalks.com.au/Late-Victorian-Streetscapes.html>

*Mairéad Brown*

### Glebe pubs in the news

John Gray, Glebe Society President, weighed into the Sydney Morning Herald debate about the merits – or otherwise – of Australian Pub names. John took columnist David Astle to task for accusing Australian pub names of mediocrity (SMH, 21 September 2013). Here's an extract from David Astle's article:

What did I expect? No columnist can diss Australian pubs and hope to skip the blowback. After all, ours is

a nation that once recognised rum as legal tender. Residual slang still calls \$50 notes 'golden drinking vouchers'. **Grog** is the island's holy water; pubs the places of worship.



The Nag's Head Hotel Glebe 2007 (image: J Bar)

In case you missed my tirade, I threw mud at the mediocre names adorning our taverns. Guaranteed there's a repeat offender near you: *The Union*, *The Commercial*, *The Royal*, *The Railway*. Even *The Standard* is so bloody standard, while the *Birdsville Hotel* in Birdsville is just one more boozery that's blown an opportunity.

Exceptions shine. Most of these, from *The Hero of Waterloo* to *Customs House*, emblazon alehouses in an older Australian landscape. Several readers extended this list. John Gray, president of the Glebe Society, mapped out a vivid crawl in his shire. 'We

have *The Nag's Head*, *The Friend in Hand*, *The Ancient Briton*, *Toxteth*, *Roxbury* and *Excelsior*. We also had *The Currency Lass*, *The Burton* and many more.'

Dan O'Hara, a Glebe publican, joined the debate. He contested my pirate theory that links to his own hotel, *The Nag's Head*. For those who missed the initial column, I'd claimed the original nag to be a lantern-bearing horse, an aid to pirates by night. The theory is favoured by *The Old Dog and Duck*, an excellent pub lexicon by Albert Jack. Yet Dan had other ideas, with a photo attached.

It depicted a twin of Olive Oyl wearing a bridle across her mouth. The cartoon occupies his pub's wall, providing a second theory behind the name. Added John Gray: 'My understanding of *The Nag's Head* was that it referred to a village punishment [afforded] to a nagging woman.'

Both back-stories hold water, or beer. While pirates did rely on horse-borne lamps to unload contraband, Elizabethans were just as kinky-mad for tricking up shrews, gossipmongers and suspected witches in harnesses. Crime writer Minette Walters touches on the brutality in her book *The Scold's Bridle* – not for the squeamish.

## Out and About

### Glebe Society Christmas Party

Great news – this year The Glebe Society's Christmas party kicks up its heels in our splendidly restored Glebe Town Hall.

From 5 to 7.30pm on Saturday 7 December join us upstairs in the majestic Main Hall for a glorious twilight celebration of the festive season.

Enjoy delicious food and drinks and the company of Glebe Society friends. Of course friends who are not yet members of the Glebe Society are most welcome!

You have doubtless admired the young-again building – come and enjoy its modern and sustainable interior, sensitively brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with clever design, modern amenities and all its original glory intact. And, yes, there is an accessible ramp entry at the rear of the Hall, plus a lift up to the first floor.

PLUS it's on again – the popular Glebe Society Christmas Raffle. See more details and a coupon for early bird tickets in the next (December) *Bulletin*.

We are delighted to announce that this year our caterers are the popular and highly regarded Provin Group. Booking details are on the enclosed flyer, or via the Glebe Society website.

The Glebe Town Hall is in St John's Rd, between Mt Vernon and Lodge Sts, a level walk from Glebe Point Rd. The 470 bus stops outside and street parking is available.



Erica Robinson  
Events Coordinator

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## 'Grow it Local'

Interested in growing vegetables and herbs on your balcony or footpath?

Then mark Thursday 14 November, 6-7.30pm, in your diary.

Venue: St Helen's Community Centre. See the flyer in this *Bulletin*.

*Jan Macindoe*



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## 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 Forest Lodge, *On the Train for Reno* – another Silver Screen Evening with Nicholas Papademetriou.



When? Monday 25 November at 7pm.

Free admission. The kitchen is open for orders from 5 pm.

*Lyn Collingwood*

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## 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 7 November we will go to *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd, which has recently moved from Balmain.

And on Thursday 5 December we will visit *Mamak Village* Malaysian Restaurant, 25 Glebe Point Rd.

For our first dinner in 2014 we will meet at 7pm on Thursday 9 January at *The Nag's Head*, 162 St Johns Rd.

Please email [thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au) 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*

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## Glebe artist, John Ogburn

A review exhibition of paintings, *Australian Landscapes: ways of seeing our country*, by Glebe artist and Society member of 35 years, John Ogburn (1925-2010).

Selected from works spanning 50 years, including *Glebe Evening 1953* and *Morning on the Canal – Glebe 1984*, although Ogburn mainly painted from bush camps on the coast, the ranges, the plains and inland.

The Exhibition opens on Sunday 13 October, 10am – 12 noon at Harrington Street Gallery, 17 Meagher St, Chippendale and runs until Sunday 10 November. Hours: 10am-4pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

See [www.harringtonstreetgallery.com](http://www.harringtonstreetgallery.com)

*Marita Ogburn*

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## Friends of Centipede event

All are welcome at the Friends of Centipede *Sunset Soiree*, 6-8.30pm on Friday 1 November.

Please join us at the Glebe Rowing Club, end of Ferry Rd, at this annual event to raise funds for Centipede.

Enjoy drinks, food, and an auction of local art works and meet our guest, Verity Firth, former local State Parliament member and now CEO of the Public Education Foundation and an advocate for our public schools and student support.

There is no charge for the event – but please book by 29 October via:

Online: [www.glebecentipede.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.glebecentipede.eventbrite.com.au)

Email: [community@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:community@glebesociety.org.au)

Phone: 0417 240 603



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## The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Glebe Music Festival

Friday 8 November to Sunday 1 December 2013. In conjunction with the Glebe Society and the Council of the City of Sydney. Artistic Director David McIntosh. Seven concerts will be held in a variety of venues across Glebe (see below). For program details and to book, go to the website: <http://www.glebemusicfestival.com/>.

### Concert 1

Friday 8 November at 7pm,  
Record Reign Hall  
The Taverner Consort of Voices  
(free entry).

### Concert 2

Saturday 9 November at 5pm,  
Glebe Town Hall (160 St Johns Rd):  
*Music for Jeanne d'Arc (15th and 21st centuries!)*  
Josie, Lindy and the Emeralds  
(Tickets \$30 at the door or \$20 concessions).

### Concert 3

Saturday 16 November at 3pm,  
Gleebooks (49 Glebe Point Rd):  
Concert Tangos by Piazzolla, Pujol, Nelegatti,  
Charlton and Whittington.  
Oliver Fartach-Naini (guitar) and Peter Handsworth  
(clarinet);  
(Tickets \$10, includes food/drinks).

### Concert 4

Sunday 17 November at 3.30pm,  
Great Hall, University of Sydney  
Amy Johansen (organ). David Miller (piano) and  
Helen Saltos (soprano)  
(free entry).

### Concert 5

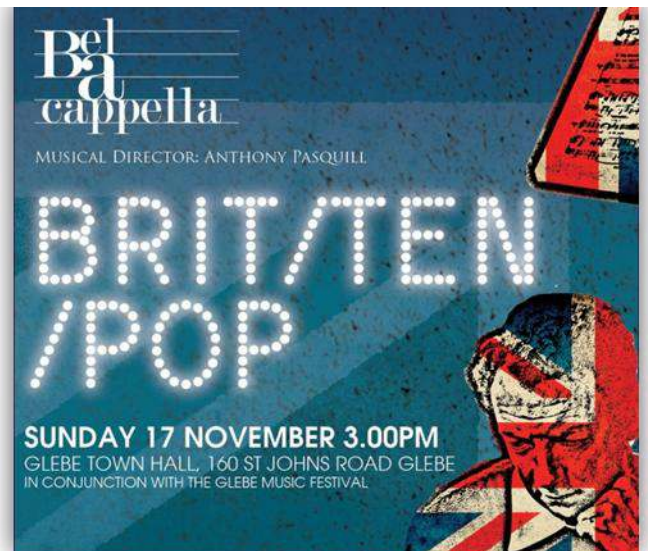
Sunday 17 November at 3pm,  
Glebe Town Hall (160 St Johns Rd):  
*Bel a cappella* conducted by Anthony Pasquill. In  
association with Sally Whitwell.  
*BRIT/TEN/POP*.  
(Tickets \$35, seniors/pensioners \$30, available from  
*Bel a cappella*).

### Concert 6

Sunday 24 November at 3pm,  
Glebe Town Hall (160 St Johns Rd)  
Amabile Trio plus James Kortum (flute) and David  
Miller (piano).  
(Tickets \$10, concessions \$5).

### Concert 7

Sunday 1 December at 3pm,  
St Scholastica's (corner Avenue Rd and Arcadia Rd,  
Glebe):  
Coro Innominata. Gabriel Fauré *Requiem* and Gerald  
Finzi *Requiem da Camera* with orchestra.  
(Tickets \$40, concessions \$35; available from Coro  
Innominata or phone 0413 440 173).



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## Community

### The social benefits of volunteering

Volunteering has a meaningful and positive impact on our community. It also benefits the individual performing the voluntary work.

#### Volunteering and social support

People with increased social contacts and strong support networks have lower premature death rates and fewer health risk factors. Social networks provide both emotional benefits and actual assistance in times

of need. Volunteering helps individuals form interpersonal ties and develop social networks.

#### Volunteering and healthy aging

- Volunteering among seniors has been linked to improved quality of life, stronger social networks and increased levels of physical activity.

- Many seniors are at risk of social isolation and decreased social activity. Volunteering can help to counter this.
- Volunteering activity throughout adult years promotes healthy aging and activity in older age.
- Volunteerism contributes to successful aging by enhancing one's life satisfaction and sense of wellbeing, sense of purpose, self confidence and personal growth.
- Volunteering enhances health because individuals with many interests tend to have increased wellbeing.

### Volunteering and developing community bonds

- Cohesion in a community reflects group membership, civic participation, social networks, levels of trust and information sharing inherent in social relations.
- Community bonds, social interaction and relationships that promote co-operation tend to ease the stresses of daily life.
- Increases in community participation, such as membership of voluntary organisations, are reflected in increases in community health.
- Social participation through volunteering is an important element of healthy, integrated and secure communities.

- Volunteer organisations positively impact upon factors that influence health by encouraging interaction between community members.

### Volunteering and self-enhancement

- Increasing your social integration aids with your ability to cope with stress.
- Young people can benefit from volunteering in terms of enhanced confidence and self-esteem through skills development.
- Volunteers often report improving their interpersonal skills as well as gaining better communication, organisational and managerial skills.

Source: [http://www.history.org.au/E-Bulletin\\_114.html](http://www.history.org.au/E-Bulletin_114.html)

Contributed by Liz Simpson-Booker



## Contributions for Christmas hampers needed for local Glebe-ites

Julie Brackenreg, who runs 'Heart of Glebe', has told us that they are hoping to pull together 170 hampers for distribution within the Glebe community at Christmas time this year. 'Heart of Glebe' runs an Op Shop, the *Have A Chat Café*, homework help, food distribution. They provide financial assistance and other practical types of help.

They are looking for donations of items for the hampers. Julie writes:



### What do we need?

*Christmas foods – cakes, puddings, biscuits, custard, medium tinned hams, salmon, large soft drink and juices, tinned asparagus, pineapple, tinned fruit, jellies,*

*Christmas treats – chocolates, lollies, snack foods - chips, dips (non refrigerated), nuts*

*Christmas decorations – we try to give everyone some tinsel or other decorations for their homes.*

*Small Christmas presents – adults' underwear, nice toiletries, scarves, notepads, pens, packs of cards, gift vouchers for \$20 or less, small pack tissues/wipes.*

*Some more ordinary food items – long life milk or cream, jams, honey, spices, nice tinned meals (not too many baked beans or spaghetti please!), breakfast cereal – small packs mainly.*

*We also need \$\$\$\$ donations to enable us to go out and spend to make up shortfalls – one year it was hams, another year Christmas Cakes, another year custard – it helps to have a little extra to spend so everyone gets much the same.*

*Please deliver to Uniting Church Building 37 St Johns Rd Glebe on Monday 16 December any time or morning of Tuesday 17 December.*

*We also need a packers' roster - if you can give us half a day on 17, 18 and 19 December we would really appreciate it. Call Julie 9692 8377 and leave a message.*

For more information about 'Heart of Glebe', see their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/theheartofglebe>.

The Editor

## For Your Calendar

Fri 1 Nov; 6-8.30 pm; *Sunset Soiree*, Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Rd. See flyer in last month's *Bulletin*.  
 Sun 3 Nov; 7am, *Glebe Spring Bird Survey*, Paddy Gray Reserve, followed by breakfast in Naggy's cafe.  
 Thurs 7 Nov; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday; *La Boheme*, 199 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Fri 8 Nov-Sun 1 Dec; *Glebe Music Festival*; various locations, <http://www.glebemusicfestival.com/>  
 Mon 11 Nov; 11am; *Glebe Diggers' Memorial* ceremony, Foley Park.  
 Thurs 14 Nov; 6-7.30pm; *Grow it Local*; St Helen's Community Centre.  
 Sat 17 Nov; *Glebe Street Fair*. Volunteers needed – see page 2.  
 Mon 25 Nov; 7pm, Players in the Pub, *On the Train For Reno*, Roxbury Hotel.  
 Thurs 5 Dec; 7pm; Thirsty Thursday; *Mamak Village* Malaysian Restaurant, 25 Glebe Point Rd.  
 Sat 7 Dec; 5.30-7pm; *Glebe Society Christmas Party*, Main Hall, Glebe Town Hall.

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### The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

#### Management Committee

President	John Gray	02 9518 7253	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Jan Wilson	0408 207 784	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
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	Vacant		

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*Bulletin No.9 of 2013 (November 2013)*

# 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](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- ✓ write to the Secretary at PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037; or
- ✓ email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

#### Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone: 9265 9333 (24 hours)  
Email: [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

#### Abandoned shopping trolleys

Trolley Tracker: 1800 641 497