

Issue 9 of 2015 (November)

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# Sacrifice, Struggle and Sorrow: Glebe Society's WW1 exhibition a great success

'What a lovely, humane, sensitive, considered and considerate, beautiful and moving exhibition!'

'Marvellous and heartbreaking ...'

'Given Glebe's very mixed class profile (then and now), how did you balance the Pro and Anti views re war, conscription etc?'

This is some of the public response to the Society's WW1 exhibition that ended on 23 October. The answer to all the above, and what made this exhibition unique, is the people of Glebe. The passage of time has made it possible for people to make available the most personal and intimate material. Those who wrote it are long since dead, and even those to whom they wrote are often no longer with us. These documents have a power and poignancy no statistics can match. They are about people just like us, whose lives were changed and challenged in a particularly dramatic way.

If you found seeing these photos and reading these letters moving, you can imagine what it was like to have them so generously offered by all kinds of present and former residents. The response to the Society's appeal was quite overwhelming. and it is my greatest disappointment that we were able to include only a fraction of the memorabilia, supported by public documents and images from the State Library and Australian War Museum. Moreover, people who have seen the exhibition are now offering further material. Unfortunately, our funding does not give us the opportunity for further research, but we are considering ways to make the displays we have more widely known.

To the 70 volunteers who helped to organise, prepare and run the exhibition, profound thanks. The City gave us the South Hall, ideal for an exhibition of this kind, free of charge, and Historic Houses gave us free use of their display cabinets. And, of course, none of it would have been possible without the generous grant from Veterans' Affairs.

No venture of this size and duration takes place without mishaps, and there were several moments when the organising group held their collective breath and hung onto the nearest firm object very tightly. However, most of the difficulties were overcome, and we feel that the final outcome was worth all the behind-the-scenes stress.

Neil Macindoe



Lydia Bushell, Ted McKeown, Liz Simpson-Booker and Neil Macindoe – some of the organisers of the Society's WW1 exhibition (image: Phil Young)



Glebe Society Christmas Party: Thursday 3 December (see enclosed flyer for details and to book)

# From the Terraces, by Liz Simpson-Booker

#### **Corner Shops**

Re-use, re-purposing, re-invention – call it what you will, it would seem that heritage items now need to be capable of this flexibility if they are to survive in a city where UrbanGrowth sweeps along delivering 'urban transformation'. UrbanGrowth's CEO, David Pitchford, has indicated that if the White Bay Power Station can't find a new purpose, its heritage credentials (as a standing monument to Sydney's growth, its industrial history, its cathedral spaces) won't impress him much.

This set me thinking about the flexibility of some of Glebe's building stock. On a vastly smaller scale, the humble corner shop has made a very successful transition from shop to private residence or from 'convenience store' to specialist outlet, not dependent upon neighbouring foot traffic but pulling custom from far and wide.



Former corner shop, 46 Darghan St, Italianate, 1881 (image: lan Pickles, 2004)

Max Solling<sup>1</sup> notes that by 1895 there were 58 corner stores in Glebe with most concentrated in the southern end. These establishments provided local householders with a range of items (a bottle of milk, a fresh loaf of bread, sliced smallgoods) usually carried home in a wicker basket or string bag. These shops also became informal neighbourhood meeting places.

For the majority, time has stripped out their retail function. A very few may still be trading as a mixed business; some, like the Clayworkers' Gallery, have reinvented their sites to take advantage of 'exposure' to attract clients to view their unique wares.



Clayworkers' Gallery, 1-2 Darghan St, Italianate, 1886 .(image: David Mander Jones, 2004)

Happily, other corner shops have made the transition to private dwellings. Their retention and re-purposing, however, continues to provide a useful reminder of the past with its dispersed retail outlets which were largely accessed on foot.

Bernard Smith<sup>2</sup> notes that most small corner shops in Glebe were built during the period from 1860 to 1890. The early corner shops display a utilitarian restraint but the later ones are larger and more imposing and carry a surprising amount of architectural ornament.



Early former corner shop, 89 Campbell St (image: David Mander Jones, 2004)

Smith contends that the cut-off corner entrance provided a 'neutral' aspect to the street, inviting shoppers from all points of the compass. The corner shop often provides a handsome bookend to a terrace row.

The shop occupied the ground floor and the upper floor provided residential accommodation for the shopkeeper and his or her family. The defunct shop space has now transitioned to a large, light and airy reception room. Often the

upper storey was wrapped with a cantilevered balcony, complete with plate columns and iron lace.



Former corner shop, 1 Upper Rd, Italianate, 1883 (image: David Mander Jones)

There has been an added bonus: the advertising which announced the wares of the corner store has also been removed from what have become almost exclusively residential areas.



A former butcher's shop or just a personal fascination with cattle? Former shop, corner of Forsyth and Avon Sts. (image: Anne Owens, 2015)

1. Solling, Max, Grandeur & Grit: a history of Glebe, 2007, Halstead Press; 2. Smith, Bernard and Kate, The Architectural Character of Glebe, SUP, 1989

#### Remembrance Day 2015

Members and friends are warmly invited to attend a Remembrance Day Service to be held at the Glebe Diggers' Memorial on

#### Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 10.50 am.

Red poppies will be available (gold coin donation appreciated).

We will be remembering not only the 201 Glebe men who perished but also those who returned home, many battling deep physical and mental scars, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

#### The Poppy Project

Those readers who have visited the exhibition of Anzac memorabilia at Glebe Town Hall will have had an opportunity to view the tribute wall of hand-knitted poppies, each of which represented one of the 201 Glebe men who fell in World War 1.

Lydia Bushell first suggested the poppy tribute to the Heritage Subcommittee. Little did we realize quite what we were taking on but extraordinary ideas generate extraordinary effort and many generous people stepped up to help create this installation.

Very special thanks to:

#### **Our Poppy Knitters**

- JeanAnderson
- Lydia
   Bushell
- DinahHodgeJaniceMcAdam
- Jenny Pockley
- Elizabeth SakkerMichael

Slaytor

- Our Sewing Bee and finishers
- Alison McKeown
- Jan Macindoe
- Jan Petersen
- Carole Herriman
- Margaret Cody

Roslvn

Jehne

Macindoe

• Jan

- Anne OwensRobert
- Hannan • Peter
- Crawshaw
- Susie Cleary
- Jan Wilson
- Neil Macindoe

#### Our Installers and tireless ladder-climbers

Ted McKeown

• Rod Holtham

After all our hard work, it was salutary to stand back and see people moved to tears by the enormity of the loss of lives represented by the installation.



Lydia Bushell (image: Phil Young)

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#### Vale Barton's Biographer

Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO passed away in early September. Professor Bolton was a man of great erudition and an ability to bring Australia's history to life to enrich our understanding of the past. To coincide with the Centenary of Federation, he published *Edmund Barton: The One Man for the Job* (2000).

Professor Bolton and your columnist had a brief exchange of correspondence over the precise location of the birthplace of Edmund Barton but sadly, neither of us could shed more light on the matter. Barton's birth certificate simply states 'Glebe' but, unlike America where George Washington's birthplace is a National Monument, the detail relating to the exact birthplace of Australia's First Prime Minister has apparently been lost ...

#### St John's Bishopthorpe

As reported in the last *Bulletin*, the Society lodged an objection to a DA which, *inter alia*, sought approval to turn two of this historic church's windows into doors. The Society expressed its concern about any proposed changes to the external fabric of this Blacket church which we would regard as highly regrettable.

The proposed alterations have been approved by Council, subject to a number of modifications, including that only one of the former choir vestry windows can be converted to a doorway and requiring that sashes of the converted window be adapted to retain the maximum amount of original fabric. The proposed conversion of the rear south-west facing window to a doorway was not approved.

Liz Simpson-Booker Convenor, Heritage



St John's Anglican Church, Glebe (image: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

# Who lived in your street? by Lyn Collingwood

# Michael Nicholas Hurley (1946-2007)

When 'Mickel' Hurley owned 23 Toxteth Rd in the early 2000s he brought a touch of colour nervousness to the usually neighbourhood. Fictionalised in *Underbelly*, Hurley in 1994 had been exposed by the Wood Royal Commission as a key figure in Sydney's underworld, and at the time of his death was about to stand trial on charges of heading one of Australia's biggest cocaine importations. In Glebe he used a public box rather than the home phone, his babysitters were instructed not to open the door, and a neighbour decided against installing an air-conditioning unit after being warned Hurley would object. A fireplace, stolen from number 23 during renovations, was restored within 24 hours of its theft when it became known that its owner wanted it returned. The day after a full-page newspaper article (plus photo of the house) was published naming him as Sydney's new Mr Big, Hurley threw a big party, but the family home had to be sold to pay the \$600,000 bill when his assets were confiscated the NSW by Crime

Commission. By 2005 Hurley had moved to a waterfront unit at Pyrmont.

A Catholic born on 5 November 1946, Hurley grew up one of eight children in a Pyrmont terrace. He repeated third class three times before leaving school at age 14 after which he worked at Swift & Moore distilleries putting labels on bottles. His first illegal activity was stealing chickens and selling them for a dollar apiece. Aged 18 he began working on the wharves where he linked up with inner-city locals Danny Chubb and Malcolm Field; known as The Balmain Boys they engaged in largescale pilfering on the docks and stealing cash from clubs. In 1977 Hurley was sentenced to four years' gaol (but was out in less than two) for the theft of \$1 million worth of watches from the Mascot customs bond store. In 1980 he and others stole a \$2 million diamond from a locked glass case in Sydney Town Hall but the charge was dropped after an eyewitness was unable to distinguish Michael from his brother Jeffrey.



23 Toxteth Rd Glebe: once the home of Michael Hurley aka 'Mr Big' (image: Phil Young)

By the 1980s Hurley was involved in largescale thefts of cigarettes and electrical equipment and was dealing in cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine. In 1987 he was a member of The Friendly Gang (others included Balmain's Ray Johnson and Glebe's Glen Flack) who used explosives to break through a neighbouring wall to empty the safety deposit boxes of a Chinatown bank. Although Hurley was charged with multiple offences from 1962 onwards most charges were withdrawn or didn't ahead. He consistently gave employment as garbage collector. Arrested when a police informer revealed details of a large-scale cocaine importation, in custody awaiting trial and weakened by terminal bone cancer, Hurley died on 23 January 2007 after suffering a fall. His accomplice, ex-Balmain Tigers player Les Mara, subsequently received a 20-year gaol sentence. Mark Standen, the police officer who ran the case against Hurley, was himself charged in 2008 with importing pseudoephedrine and sentenced to 22 years' gaol three years later.

A man of considerable personal charm, Hurley was farewelled at St James Catholic Church which overflowed with mourners including his hospital chaplain. A wake in a Pyrmont pub followed. Some old associates unavoidably were absent incarcerated. Others had died, including Danny Chubb shot dead outside his mother's house in 1984, Hurley's one-time mate and ex-Glebe Public School pupil George Freeman who was shot in the face at home probably by Hurley's father-in-law Jack Muller in 1979, and Muller himself who was shot dead in his driveway six weeks later.

#### Lyn Collingwood

Sources: Age 11.5.2005; Australian Dictionary of Biography; Daily Telegraph 23.1.2007, 10.11.2007, 25.2.2008, 28.10.2011; Morton, James & Lobez, Susanna Dangerous to Know: Australian crime compendium; Small, Clive & Gilling, Tom Smack Express: how organised crime got hooked on drugs; Sydney Morning Herald 21.9.1999, 14.5.2005, 31.1.2007; Toughnuts 2 website.



The funeral of Michael Hurley at St James' Church Glebe (image: Wade Laub, SMH)

# Past Life in Greek St, Glebe

Sydney University Historian and Glebe Society member, Professor Sybil Jack, has been exploring the history of Greek St, Glebe.

Professor Jack writes: 'Today Greek St, always narrow, functions primarily as a one-way thoroughfare. The area from Greek St to Francis St lies under the Broadway Centre and the northern end has renovated warehouses, a Church of Scientology and some unit

development. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, although it was in the heart of the working class end of Glebe, it had a vigorous economic and community life.'

Greek St was touted as an enviable location to build a home. According to an 1843 newspaper advertisement for land in Greek St: 'an industrious man cannot fail to do well if he lays out his money on that spot, where he can erect

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a comfortable dwelling at very little expense, and always be able to attend to his work in the City'.

As well as residential development, industrial development was also flourishing in Greek St in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century: 'James Ellis, an engineer, had a factory on the corner in which he produced such things as sausage machines. There were also small shops and by 1850 shoemakers and soapmakers, omnibus and cab owners, new fangled photographers, as well as the inevitable pubs.'

To read more about the history of Greek St (including the salacious details of a protracted fight over a will and a suspected poisoning!), go to:

http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=11302

Virginia Simpson-Young

**Lost property:** A pair of reading glasses has been found at the Glebe Town Hall which appear to have been left by someone attending the WW1 exhibition. If you think the glasses may be yours, please contact Ian Edwards on 9660 3240 or email him at

iaedwards@westnet.com.au.

# **Anzac Centenary Lecture**

Society members and friends gathered on 13 October for the Anzac Centenary Lecture which was very fittingly delivered in the Southern Hall of the Glebe Town Hall alongside the displays of the Society's exhibition Sacrifice, Struggle and Sorrow. The illustrated lecture 'And never to return: The War Memorial Movement' was given by Professor Paul Ashton, University of Technology Sydney and had a focus on the social and cultural context of the memorials. Attendees with local knowledge contributed further information about our memorials including the Honour Roll from the old Tramsheds at Harold Park that Society members are working to have returned to the restored Tramsheds from its current position in the Leichhardt bus depot.

The full text of this excellent talk is available on our website:

http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?p=11298

Mairéad Browne



Paul Ashton and Ted McKeown. (image: Mairéad Brown)

# **Natural Glebe**

## **News from Blue Wren Subcommittee**

# Glebe's Spring Bird Survey

The Society's third annual spring bird survey was held on Sunday 27 September, an overcast morning. Some patchy light rain was falling as 18 enthusiastic birders (including two children and Sophie Golding, Urban Ecology Coordinator, City of Sydney) gathered at 6.45am in Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford Street. Fortunately the weather

quickly improved as we divided into small teams to identify and count birds in seven of Glebe's parks. Sophie had drawnup the survey forms and she will also analyse the data for the Society.

The best part of the survey was unmistakably hearing the twittering of blue wrens in the hedges of Jarocin Ave, although none were seen; also there were sightings of a pied

cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*) and a little black cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) diving in Blackwattle Bay near the Glebe Secondary College. Afterwards we all gathered for a well earned breakfast at *Esca*, a café in Glebe Point Rd.



Effie Kotronakis from the Friendly Grocer in Glebe Point Rd filling-in the survey sheet for the birds identified and counted in the wetlands in Federal Park adjacent to Chapman Rd (image: Judy Christie).

The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group has been working with the Executive Committee of the large block of home units at 42 Lombard St to enhance the William Carlton Gardens, located on their eastern aspect. This pocket park includes the site immediately above the Glebe light rail stop, near the entrance to the tunnel.

The Landcare Group established a plan for the planting of native flora in the Gardens and the unit owners have now agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Group so that they can purchase and plant the flora. The removal of all hackberry (*Celtis australis*) trees, a declared noxious weed, is still to be implemented.

Andrew Wood Convenor, Blue Wrens

# **Community Matters**

#### The Sunset Soirée for Centipede

Friends of Centipede catered for over 80 people at the Glebe Rowing Club premises on Friday 9 October at their annual fundraiser for Centipede. Guests were welcomed by the lively strains of music played by guitarists Daniel and Angus from *Edema Ruh*. It ranged from gentle ballads and old favourites to foot tapping takes on Django Reinhart and John Williams duets.

Once fed and watered folks were able to enter into the serious fun of the evening; by making their people's choice entries in the *Kidz Archies* competition, where Centipede children's self-portraits or portraits of famous people were judged. The winner was a lad named Jack, whose very colourful portrait appeared to be one of Ironman, but it could simply have been Jack himself. He gained a movie pass for himself and his mum, dad and a sibling.

Another activity was the Rolling Raffle, in which multiple draws were held intermittently throughout the evening, with the fifth ticket winning each prize. Prizes ranged from books provided by Gleebooks, through vinyl surprises / artworks on retired LPs to Indian scarves. Guests could gain additional chances by taking more tickets so that the last drawn and one of two major prizes, dinner for two at the The

Boathouse Restaurant, was still available to all. The fortunate gentlemen who won it were doubly blessed when they outbid the room for 10 exercise classes of their choice at Life and Balance. Glebe.

Guest speaker Heather Goodall, long term Glebe resident, historian, author and Emeritus Professor at UTS reflected on her experiences living and working in Aboriginal communities within NSW and beyond. This included teaching at Tranby College in Glebe and researching at Ernabella in South Australia. While her career included so many other significant contributions to Australian history, it was her interest in education and the role of early support such as Centipede provides that featured on this night.

The highlights of the evening included the auction of some lifestyle opportunities such as three days at an AirB'n'B on the South Coast, tickets to Musica Viva, a facial / massage package and the drawing of the other major raffle prize, a queen-size hand-made quilt donated by Port Macquarie quilter Elly Edgar that was won by Dale Owens. Then there was the bottle of Moet, secured in the 'gold coin lob' by a dead-eye pitch that nicely 'kissed' the prize. No-one could better that!

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The quilt by Elly Edgar, Quilter, Port Macquarie, a major prize in the Centipede raffle. (image: Janice Challinor)

Although Friends of Centipede is still receiving late applications for membership (its major source of funding) from people who were unable to make the Soirée, it is gratifying to learn that the Soirée realised over \$6,480 nett with another \$2,800 coming from the guilt raffle. It is therefore with much gratitude that organisers would like to thank all who attended and supported the venture, and give particular credit to this year's sponsors: Elly Edgar, Quilter, Port Macquarie; The Boathouse at Blackwattle Bay; Centennial Hotel, Gulgong; Viva, Michelle Smith and Sue McGilvray of Sea Mist, Gerringong: The Glebe Society Inc.; AB Hotel, Glebe; Glebe Rowing Club: Jason Kazanis, auctioneer; Elle Bache, Broadway Shopping Centre; Gleebooks, Glebe; Life and Balance Glebe; Captain Cook Cruises. and Galuzzo's, Glebe. Special thanks go to Daniel and Angus of Edema Ruh for the Music and Professor Heather Goodall, guest speaker.

[Editor's note: and a huge thank you to the humble Janice herself, who worked tirelessly to make the Sunset Soirée to such a success]

#### Glebe Public School Year 6 Camp

On reflection, growing up on a farm and learning skills such as milking cows, crutching sheep, riding horses, feeding poddy lambs, shooting rabbits, droving cattle and sheep, feeding chooks and gathering eggs, picking fruit from the orchard and eating it immediately may be viewed through the lens of my urban lifestyle now as a privileged upbringing. That's

not to say that these skills are totally redundant; after all it can be useful sometimes to know how to fleece a competitor in this urban rat race or ours, and as for potting a few bunnies?



Janice Challinor riding to school in 1957. Growing up on a farm enables Janice to attest to the likely benefits of a farm visit for the Year 6 students of Glebe Public School (image supplied by Janice Challinor)

But seriously, how unfair it seems that there are youngsters who don't know how or where our food comes from; who have had no experience of life outside the 'great metropolis'. For this reason I rejoice when I hear that my grandchildren are being taken on trips into the country. I hope that they too can lie flat on their backs in a grassy paddock, gazing in awe at the heavens full of stars, undimmed by the glare of city lights. And so it should be for children here in Glebe too.

Each year the Glebe Public Primary School runs a school camp for Year 6 students. This year the Camp will be at Mowbray Park Farm, located approximately 70km south of Sydney near Picton. Mowbray Park farm is a small sized working farm, which is designed to give students an insight into what life is like on a farm. The farm provides numerous activities designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding, as well as building upon social and cooperative learning skills. Some of the activities include hay rides, feeding nursery

animals, milking cows, boomerang throwing, whip cracking, canoeing, and relaxing around a campfire with billy tea and damper.

Principal Vicki Pogulis has written to the Glebe Society, thanking members for their contributions in the past and indicating that this year the students have been madly fundraising. Recently a successful cake stall and a sports day have been held.

However they still have a funding shortfall of around \$1,500. While the Glebe Society is itself not a funding body, discussion at the last committee meeting agreed to make this information available to members. As Vicki has noted 'Any donations would be gratefully accepted.'

Should you desire to help make this trip happen for our young neighbours the following details are being made available. Donations may be made personally to the school office, or funds transferred directly to the school's bank account. A receipt will be forwarded to you if you leave your address with the school. The details are:

WESTPAC NSW Government Department Account Name: Glebe Public School ABN 91 331 535 750 Administration Account BSB: 032 001

A/c No: 15 8121

Thank you in anticipation of a good neighbourly response.

Janice Challinor Convenor, Community Development

# Glebe Society events

# The Glebe Society and Social Media - What's It All About?

Do you use social media like Facebook and Twitter? If the answer is 'No', then you may be interested in this session run by the Glebe Society's Communications subcommittee. Even if you do use social media but would like to know more about how you can use it to get Gleberelevant information and how to take action on heritage, planning and community issues – then this session will also be of interest to you.

When: 6-8pm Wednesday 25 November. Where: Glebe Town Hall (main hall).

Cost: \$5 per head (please pay at the door). Light refreshments provided.

RSVP (for catering purposes) to <u>communications@glebesociety.org.au</u> or telephone Virginia on 0402 153 074.



### **Glebe Street Fair**

The Glebe Street Fair is under new management so expect a greater focus on community participation this year. Foley Park will be the hub of community activities. The organisers say that 'the park's iconic wireless house building marks its 80th anniversary this year and the Fair will celebrate this landmark with a Live 'Glebe Talks' stage with storytelling by local personalities and

community leaders. Pony rides, craft workshops and *Jazz on the Green* will make this area a very 'Glebe' occasion indeed.'

The Glebe Society will be heavily involved in these community activities. We'll be providing guided tours of the Wireless House and helping to record interviews with locals sharing their

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Glebe memories. Our new vice-president Allan Hogan (of *Four Corners* and *60 Minutes* fame) is coordinating the Society's involvement in the Fair. Allan is calling for volunteers to help out with these activities.

Also if you, or someone you know, would be

interested in giving a 10 minute talk for the 'Glebe Talks' part of the community program, please let Allan know.

To register to volunteer, please email Allan on vice-president@glebesociety.com.au

Virginia Simpson-Young



# **Thirsty Thursdays**

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe.

We try to choose restaurants where we can share dishes, and have six to eight people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 5 November at 7pm we will go to *Ombretta*, the Italian restaurant at 355 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 10 December at 7pm (note the date) we will eat at Esca, 333b Glebe Point Bd
- And on Thursday 7 January 2016 at 7pm we will make our now traditional visit to *The* Nag's Head, 162 St Johns Rd.

Please email <a href="mailto:thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au">thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au</a> or ring me on 9660 7066 by the Wednesday before the dinner to let me know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe



# Players in the Pub

Next in our popular series of play readings at the Roxbury Hotel, St Johns Rd/Forest St Forest Lodge:

# See You in Court! An evening of legal drama

directed by Martin Kelly & Lyn Collingwood

Monday 16 November at 7pm. The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please order early: we always start on time!

# The Anzac Bridge turns 20 – celebrate with us!

It seems only a short time ago we walked across the Anzac Bridge on the day before it opened. Since then, the bridge has become a war memorial, bee featured in the Sydney Olympics and achieved recognition as a Sydney landmark.

Join us on 17 November to celebrate its 20th anniversary, when talented photographer and self-confessed Anzac Bridge enthusiast John Symonds traces its story in words and pictures.

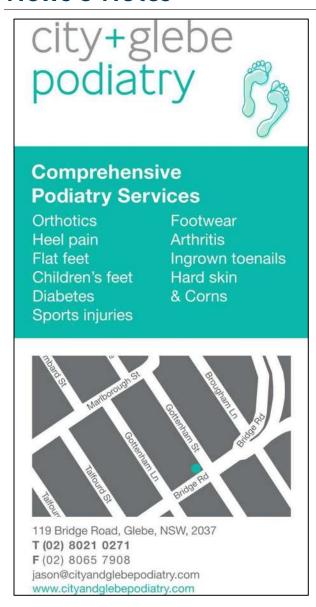
Like most of us, John loves the bold design of the Anzac Bridge. Learn how design challenges were solved and Sydney's 21st century landmark created.

Meg Wallace



Anzac Bridge (image: Jason James, Flickr)

## **News & Notes**



# NBN in Glebe - an Update

It was 2½ years ago (April 2013) that I wrote a short item for the *Bulletin* outlining how the National Broadband Network (the NBN) was coming soon to Glebe, and that construction would commence shortly and be completed by mid-2014. All properties would be connected via FTTP (Fibre to the Premises), delivering super high speed internet of 100 Mbs (that's 10 Megabytes per second). That compares with the current broadband speed of about 15 Mbs (1.5 Megabytes per second) that most people in Glebe are able to get.



Construction work on the NBN did commence in Glebe in 2013 and teams of NBN workers were checking and preparing the existing Telstra ducts for installation of the new fibre

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optic cables. The NBN rollout map showed Glebe being completed by July 2014.

That was under the Labor Government. As we all know, the Liberal Government won the election in September 2013 and one of the first things they did was announce that it would be done faster and cheaper than Labor could. It would be cheaper because it would be slower, using FTTN (Fibre to the Node) with the fibre optic cables going to cabinets, known as Nodes, located on street corners. How big would a Node be? They're substantial, over a metre high, nearly a metre wide and half a metre deep. The data would then go to customer premises via the old Telstra copper cables. The result is predicted speeds of 25 Mbs, a quarter of what was originally planned, thus only a small improvement on what many people already get via their old broadband equipment.

For Glebe, construction of the NBN was

suspended in late 2013 and no more work was done, with NBN Co. undergoing multiple major reviews. The detailed rollout map on the NBN website was then annoyingly cleared of all information.

NBN Co finally released its latest rollout plan last month (16 October) and it is now planned for construction work to commence (or resume) in Glebe in mid2018. But they are using a range of technologies around Australia and rather than using FTTP or FTTN in Glebe, they are likely to use HFC technology. That means that they'll probably be using the Foxtel cable that is in most streets of Glebe. Predictions are that this is good news for those who want very high speed internet of about 100 Mbs, but we'll have to wait at least another 3-4 years for it.

Phil Young Webmaster

# GLEBE ART SHOW

# Glebe Society's 'Character of Glebe' prize at the Glebe Art Show

Patricia Baillie's photo 'At the Community Centre' won the Character of Glebe Prize, sponsored by the Glebe Society, at the recent 18th annual Glebe Art Show. Patricia got to know a bit about her subjects:

Sadie, whose given name is Sarah, was born in Glasgow and has lived in Glebe for half a century. For many years she worked for Australia Post at the old GPO. What does Sadie like about Glebe? Its lively, friendly nature and its diversity. She says that the Glebe Society and Gleebooks do so much for Glebe. Gleebooks has very interesting speakers (and here she named ex-Justice Michael Kirby). She also enjoys a coffee in Sappho next door.

The Fairy, aka Cosmic Healing, aka David Willot, has had accommodation problems, sometimes to do with intolerance. What a shame! He's one of the colourful characters that Sadie loves meeting in Glebe.

Lyn Collingwood



Patricia Baillie's photo 'At the Community Centre' won the Glebe Society's 'Character of Glebe' prize.

## For Your Calendar

Thurs 5 November, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, Ombretta, Italian restaurant at 355 Glebe Point Rd.

6-22 November 2015. Glebe Music Festival.

Wed 11 November, 10.50am. Remembrance Day ceremony, Foley Park.

Wed 11 November, 7pm. Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Sun 15 November, 10am-5pm. The 32nd annual Glebe Street Fair.

Mon 16 November, 7pm, Players in the Pub, Roxbury Hotel.

Tues 17 November, 6pm. Talk by John Symonds: The Anzac Bridge 20 years on, at Benledi. (see insert)

Sun 22 November, 9-11am: Spring Seed Collection Day. Contact Judy Christie – 0437 693 372

Wed 25 November, 6pm. The Glebe Society and Social Media - What's It All About? Glebe Town Hall.

Thurs 3 December. Glebe Society Christmas Party. Alfie & Hetty, 207-209 Glebe Pt Rd. (See insert)

Thurs 10 December, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, Esca, 333b Glebe Point Rd.

Wed 9 December, 7pm. Management Committee meeting, Glebe Town Hall.

Thurs 10 December, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, Esca, 333b Glebe Point Rd.

Mon 14 December, Players in the Pub, Roxbury Hotel.

Thurs 7 January, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, The Nag's Head. 162 St Johns Rd.

Wed morns, 8.30am. Glebe Bushcare Group nr Jubilee Park. Contact Sue

Copeland: 9692 9161.

Book for Glebe Society Events on the Society's Eventbrite page:

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/d/australia--sydney/glebe-society/



## The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

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#### **Membership of the Glebe Society**

Individual member: \$45

Joint (2 people, one address): \$55

■ Household: \$60

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#### How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100
- Glebe 2037; or
- Email <u>secretary@glebesociety.org.au</u>



The basketball court at Peter Forsyth Auditorium. (image: Eddy Milfort, Flickr)