



Vale Robyn Kemmis

Glebe values equity, diversity, humility, commitment, generosity, getting on with things and a fair go. It is an impressive array and very rarely – perhaps once in a generation – do you meet someone who has most of those qualities. Well, we met, knew and loved Robyn Kemmis, who had all of those qualities and exemplified all of those values. We have been enriched by the experience and saddened by the loss.

Robyn lived in Glebe for 35 years as a committed citizen, member of the Glebe Society and more recently Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of Sydney. Her professional achievements as a senior public servant and university deputy vice chancellor have been well recognised. Her tireless work for the proper development of talent based on capability – not institutional habits of power – rewired those circuits of power and established new career paths. Robyn was appointed to the NSW Public Service at a time of significant change and she contributed significantly to that change. This same spirit released the University of Technology from its CAE cringe and taught it strategic vision.

The Lord Mayor, Councillors and executive of the City of Sydney have each told warm and powerful stories of her contributions to the City. She understood strategy to be not only what gets written but what gets done. She was a non-politician in a political role, valued by her colleagues for her honesty, humour, frankness and intellect. For many, admiration and respect grew to collegiate friendship. For some it grew to personal insights. How you wrap all that remarkably complex vivacity into simply Robyn is to notice she had neither pomposity nor self-interest.

Complexity underlaid her honest grin. In her view she was not special; she did these things in the expectation that everyone could. We wish it were so.



Robyn Kemmis at the Remembrance Day Service 2013; with John Gray, then Glebe Society President. (photo: Phil Young)

We can each remember a community project that she initiated, sorted out, enthused about. Each of us knows that without Robyn these projects would not have been done so effectively nor in some cases would they have been done at all. Projects were large and small; civic and personal: fighting for proper respect and service for the Glebe Estate and its people; reminding government agencies to listen carefully when Glebe spoke; liaising with government agencies to achieve acceptable outcomes; sorting out community issues; working with all the community.

Robyn had a strength that we will miss. She had kindness, humility and energy that made her so memorable and her loss so great.

John Gray



Robyn Kemmis and classmates, Parramatta High School, about 1960 (source: unknown)

A memorial service was held in Centennial Hall at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday 18 February 2016 to commemorate Robyn's achievements. Several Glebe Society members were present.

Community BBQ/Picnic to celebrate Robyn's life

A BBQ/picnic is being held to celebrate the life of Robyn Kemmis at Foley Park at 12 noon Sunday 1 May.

Further details will be in the next *Bulletin*.

Planning Matters

Planning Report by Neil Macindoe

Vale Robyn Kemmis

Robyn made a valuable contribution to the City, and to Glebe, during her years as Councillor, and like many other Society members, I will miss her very much.

It has always been important to have a Councillor from Glebe. From the planning point of view, they can be essential to produce the greatest possible benefit to Glebe from major developments. Over the last 25 years, the benefits from the Children's Hospital redevelopment yielded a doubling of parkland in Forest Lodge and a protected area for native fauna and flora unique in the Inner West; redevelopment of the Fletchers site on Blackwattle Bay yielded waterfront parkland that led to the completion of the enormously popular waterfront walk, and the adaptive reuse of the Griffin Incinerator. More recently, the former Harold Park will yield 3.8 ha of new parkland, the reuse of the Tramsheds as a community centre, restaurants and shops, due in 2016, and about 50 affordable dwellings soon after. Robyn and her predecessors, working with the Society, have greatly increased our amenity and given Glebe its contemporary character.

Those benefits have arisen from major developments. We need to be realistic and acknowledge there are fewer and smaller development sites left, and consequently we will see fewer benefits. A good example is the much smaller *Bidura* site, where, apart from the

restoration of the Blacket house and garden, benefits are largely cosmetic.



Robyn Kemmis at the Wentworth Park Community Games 2012 (image: Bruce Davis)

Glebe Affordable Housing, corner of Cowper St and Bay St

Originally this proposal involved a large proportion of City Council land, and was consequently less dense and less controversial.

Now, five years later, it has shrunk to just a Department of Housing block owned by the State since 1948. Controversially, it now comprises a large private component. This appears to be the model for the future treatment of Department of

Housing sites, as announced recently by the Minister, Brad Hazzard.

An application for a portion of the social and affordable housing components was lodged over the holiday period. This piecemeal approach makes it difficult to evaluate the total impact. The Society's objection can be viewed on the website.

Better Planning Network, Parliament House, 17 February

This large meeting was in two parts. In the first, Bob Meyer AM, winner of the Sidney Luker Medal for Town Planning, pointed out that the first Sydney Plan, the County of Cumberland (1948), underestimated Sydney's growth because of the post war baby-boom and surge in immigration, and the second, Sydney Metropolitan Plan (1968) overestimated growth because the size of households dropped from over three per dwelling to just over two. Hence we needed to review Sydney plans every five years.

He gave three possible models for the future of Sydney: Compact City, where we continue along current lines; Lowest Density, where we fill in the

gaps; and Decentralisation, where we connect Sydney to surrounding cities by trains travelling up to 200 km/hr (about 40 km/hr faster than the current double deckers can achieve). He favoured the last.

Prof. Anna Yeatman from the Whitlam Institute (Western Sydney University) then gave her analysis of what was wrong with the present planning situation, and this dominated the remainder of the day's discussion.

Strategic decisions were currently made solely for economic reasons, mostly very short term. The decisions were made in conjunction with developers prior to public consultation, and therefore tended to be *faites accomplis*. The legislation needed revision, because it failed to include any reference to climate change, or recent assessment of the consequences for the environment. Consequently the decisions were seriously deficient and the consultation tokenistic. The draft legislation drawn up last year by the Better Planning Network would overcome these problems.

Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning

Bays and Foreshores Report, by Lesley Lynch

The Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project

We are into the second year of this mega urban renewal project and progress is visible on a number of fronts.

The ongoing tussle between community groups and UrbanGrowth NSW to get *meaningful community participation* in the planning of this huge project continues with some – albeit limited – progress.

In October 2015 UrbanGrowth NSW produced its third public information glossy – *The Bays Precinct Sydney Transformation Plan* (<https://thebayssydney.com.au/>) which provides some new information, although still mainly at the level of options or high level plans. This version identifies seven key action areas and it is of significance that these now incorporate Wentworth Park (long rumoured) and 'working towards repurposing Glebe Island Bridge'(previously invisible) into the Bays Precinct project. Both these inclusions are welcome – although, of course, this depends on the outcome.

It is clear that the many ideas that individuals and community groups submitted as 'great ideas' for the Bays Precinct in response to the invitation from UrbanGrowth have been given some serious consideration and are reflected in the document.

Some of you may have attended UrbanGrowth's 'open house' sessions to discuss the Transformation Plan in Glebe and Rozelle in November. I was not able to attend but understand people found them useful in providing information.

On a different level the Glebe Society, along with 40 other organisations, was invited to join a *Bays Precinct Reference Group* (<https://thebayssydney.com.au/the-bays-precinct-reference-group/>), which allegedly will provide a forum for 'continued meaningful engagement and collaboration with stakeholders', again a belated but welcome initiative that we have been requesting since the project was announced in 2014.

We met once on 16 December with very little notice and no prior agenda or papers. While UrbanGrowth seems to have put considerable effort into the event it was a disappointing and

deeply frustrating meeting. Essentially, we were taken through a Powerpoint presentation which was old hat for most participants. As objections to this process managed to be registered – the response was that ‘some in the room’ do not have this background knowledge. It does not seem to have occurred to UrbanGrowth that there were other ways of handling this.

I do not think I was alone in leaving with very little new information and zero input beyond an expression of frustration.

With around 30 people in the room it was obviously impossible for meaningful discussion. As those of us who had endured the prior Bays Precinct Community Reference Group in 2009/10 of 20 plus members, this seemed to be looming as an even worse process. If it continues in this mode few people will stay the distance.

Post the meeting the focus of the Bays community groups has been to persuade UrbanGrowth NSW to radically improve the process and to do so quickly. There have been some signals that they will attempt to do so and will set up working groups to enable members to engage in serious input into the various destination projects underway.

But it is now almost March and our request for the establishment of working groups (or some mechanism to enable willing participants to discuss matters between formal meetings) has had no response. We still do not have a list of members (as distinct from a list of groups) and there were no introductions (understandably given the size). This does not augur well.

We expect the next meeting to be in March. This will obviously be a pivotal point as to whether or not this is a serious consultation process.



An idea mooted for the Bays Precinct redevelopment. ‘A concept similar to New York’s High Line, Bays Skywalk is an elevated architectural walkway above the western shore of Rozelle Bay curving around the working harbour along the northern shore’. (<http://thebayssydney.com.au/>)

Status of priority ‘destinations’

Preparatory work on the **Pymont to Blackwattle Bay Waterfront Promenade** is well underway. UrbanGrowth NSW began testing ground and water conditions in December.

There is considerable activity in relation to the **Bays Market District**. UrbanGrowth and the Fish Markets have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on implementing the new Market District. They expect to call for Expressions of Interest in March. We await the outcome of this process with great interest.

The repurposing of the huge landmark and heritage classified **White Bay Power Station and surrounding public foreshore land** was always seen as one of the most difficult but also most strategic parts of the Bays Precinct renewal. UrbanGrowth and the NSW government have taken it on as an immediate priority. They put out a request for proposals (RFP) in October 2015. Mandatory criteria in the RFP include ‘maintaining view corridors, public access and public value in relation to heritage, as well as waterfront access’. A short-listed group will be invited to submit detailed proposals.

At this stage it appears that most of the land and the building will be sold or leased on a 99 year basis.

There is no official information as to the interested parties in this venture but there have been various newspaper reports that Google is interested. This would be consistent with the UrbanGrowth’s vision of a knowledge and innovation hub for this site and possibly parts of Glebe Island – and with the views of many community members.

Both the Market District and the Power Station areas will incorporate considerable residential development as well as employment opportunities. We will continue to argue for more significant designation of any residential development for affordable and social housing.

We must hope that UrbanGrowth and the NSW government do not squander the opportunity to create something very special on this magnificent strategic site.

The heritage **Glebe Island Bridge** is at last included as a formal project within the Bays Precinct. But it is clear that our campaign for its preservation and repurposing as a pedestrian and cycle transit route – and possibly light rail route – is far from guaranteed. It appears that UrbanGrowth is supportive of this preservation

and reuse. However, the owners of Sydney Superyacht Marina continue to campaign against it as being inconsistent with the need of the superyachts to enter and exit Rozelle Bay without delay. (SMH 13 January 2016)

The overall issue of **transport planning** for the Bays Precinct remains a huge, unresolved and highly contentious issue. We made an effort to probe this at the first meeting with little success. The discussion did confirm the disturbing impression that UrbanGrowth will have limited – possibly very little – influence over the major decisions in relation to either public or private transport planning. This of course includes the looming WestConnex project which will have a huge impact on the Bays Precinct around Rozelle Bays, and even possibly intruding into the Glebe parklands. (Westconnex Updated Strategic Business Case:

http://www.westconnex.com.au/documents/updated_strategic_business_case.pdf).

Despite UrbanGrowth's assurances it is working closely with the relevant agencies, there are legitimate grounds to think the Bays Precinct project could well be seriously undermined by the broader confusions and competing views of infrastructure, roads and public transport agencies that are currently bedevilling Sydney's overall transport planning.

The other alarming issue is the lack of explicit public reference to planning for education and health care facilities. We are told they are being considered within the open space and community facilities study underway. Hopefully some tangible information will emerge soon.

I will go to the next meeting of the Community Reference Group with hope ...

Sydney Superyacht Marina Development Proposals

The proponents have responded to the many objecting submissions in relation to their request to expand their on and off shore facilities. They do not concede merit in the community's objections. I understand that once the Department of Planning and Environment has analysed their response and finalised their recommendations the issue will be referred to the Planning Assessment Commission. We would expect to be invited to give evidence. We have no timeframe for this.

Lesley Lynch
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores



Sydney Superyacht Marina's plans for redeveloping their site (image: <http://www.superyachtmarina.com.au>)

History & Heritage

From the Terraces by Liz Simpson-Booker

Holidays and heresy

During the holiday season, the *Sydney Morning Herald* ran an editorial (15 January) which correctly stated that the planned 'transformation' of the Bays Precinct was the one opportunity the government had to get the planning right. However, the mischievous editorial writer asked 'despite its heritage listing, does Sydney really need two wooden swing bridges, given that Pyrmont Bridge is still operating?'

Your scribe is happy to point out the following:

- Glebe Island Bridge is the second oldest bridge on the Harbour and is regarded by engineers as a 'technically better bridge' than its sibling structure, Pyrmont Bridge, although both were designed by master engineer Percy Allan.
- It was the Globe (sic) Island Bridge that was the cover story for the Scientific American Supplement of February 6, 1904. The article by John Plummer describes the significant engineering challenges in constructing the pivot pier of the Glebe Island Bridge because of the depth of the bedrock ('99 feet below high-water mark') and its covering of thick clay.
- The Heritage Council of NSW state, in their criteria for listing on the State Heritage Register, states that 'an item is

not to be excluded from the Register on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register.'

Glebe Island Bridge is a valuable public asset which is currently idle. It potentially offers pedestrians and cyclists a safe, level and picturesque alternative to the traffic-laden Anzac Bridge and could restore the direct link between Rozelle/Balmain and Pyrmont/City. Vessels would still be able to use the Bays through a system of managed maritime access. The Glebe Society believes the Bays Precinct community (which will ultimately number tens of thousands) and mariners (numbering several dozens) should be able to share the bays' resources.

Wai Sing Café Sign

Late last November, one of our eagle-eyed Heritage Subcommittee members noticed that a large vinyl sign advertising 'Christmas tapas' had been bolted over the historic Wai Sing Café sign painted on the side of 26 Glebe Point Rd.

The Heritage Subcommittee has identified the cultural, social and historic significance of this sign and its connections to Chinese immigration, settlement in Glebe and the Sze Yup Temple.

We understand that Council has written to the tenant raising community concerns about the damage to the old sign; stating that any damage should be made good, in consultation with Council's experts and specifying that in future there should be no interference with the original sign.



Wai Sing sign at 26 Glebe Point Rd (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Concrete barriers in Bridge Rd

Some years ago, the Glebe Society raised with the City of Sydney the matter of the ugly concrete barriers in Bridge Rd at the intersection with Lyndhurst St and Colbourne Ave. These were the sort of barriers which one normally associates with *temporary* road works but have (dis)graced Bridge Rd for over a decade.

As a result, Council has consulted RTA, Sydney Buses and the local community about suitable replacement landscaping.

We are happy to report that work has finally started. When completed it will go some way to improving one small section of the north-eastern entrance to Glebe.

Distant – but interesting! – connections

Many of us will have made the journey to Canberra to see the current Tom Roberts exhibition and doubtless marvelled that the artist could seemingly turn his hand to any genre, be it landscape, national narrative or portraiture.

Almost as a finale to the exhibition was his famous Big Picture of the opening of Australia's first Parliament; in the same room were a number of sketches of personalities of the day (oil on cedar panel). In the former, one could easily identify 'our' Edmund Barton (Australia's first Prime Minister, born in Glebe).

Roberts' sketches included one of Andrew Garran, editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and father of Sir Robert Garran (a supporter of Federation) and one of those who drew up the Australian Constitution. Andrew Garran and his family lived at *Strathmore*¹ in Glebe. Garran Lane is the only extant marker of a grand villa which 'lay adjacent to Toxteth Park on the other side of Glebe Point Road'². The house, thought to have been built around 1857, fell into disrepair after spells as a care home and was demolished in the early 1950s.

Liz Simpson-Booker
Convenor, Heritage

1. Not to be confused with the mansion at 229 Bridge Rd, of the same name.
2. Smith, Bernard and Kate, *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, SUP, 2nd Ed 1989

Who lived in your street? By Lyn Collingwood

The Retreat, 53 Leichhardt St

This house is one of Glebe's oldest surviving stone buildings, dating from ca 1856. It was isolated, surrounded by vacant land until the early 1870s when Ambrose Thornley jnr erected *Florence Villa* next door. Both homes had addresses on Kennedy St before that thoroughfare was absorbed into an extended Leichhardt St.

The Retreat was built for James Rothwell, a George St saddler and harness maker who won several government contracts. A land speculator at St Leonards and Gordon, he also had an interest in the *Angel and Crown* city hotel. There were other Rothwells working in leather in George St: John, a saddler, and Richard, a boot and shoe maker.

James Rothwell married Maria Harding, a niece of convict-made-good John Neathway Brown (a forbear of actor Bryan Brown), at St Peter's Newtown in 1851. The couple lived in George St before moving into *The Retreat* where they built a bathing house on the foreshore. Their third child James William was born at Glebe in 1859, but by 1865, when their second son Thomas died aged three months, they had returned to live at their city business address.

James had moved his home to Neutral Bay by the time of his death on 20 March 1880. His widow died on 21 September 1886, leaving an estate of £2705 to the surviving children: Lavinia (1852-1917), Elizabeth (1855-1929) and James William (1859-1930). This money had run out by 1905 when James jnr was charged with embezzling from his employer. The sole supporter of his two unmarried sisters, he was ordered to repay the money in lieu of gaol. James died single on 31 January 1930 and was interred at St Thomas' cemetery North Sydney.

The next known occupier of *The Retreat* was pioneer settler Ann Maria Smith née Bowman who moved there ca 1870 from *Guildford Lodge* (the site of the present Woolcock Institute building). Ann was 23 months old when she landed in Sydney aboard the *Nile* in 1801 with her brother William jnr and parents William and Susan as Scottish free settlers. Her uncle John Bowman, who arrived with his young family three years earlier on the *Barwell*, had been granted land in what is now the Hills District and sent back favourable reports on the colony. Soon after arrival William Bowman received 100 acres at Mulgrave Place. Following the deaths of their mother in 1803 and their father in 1811 Ann and

William jnr lived with their extended family in the sparsely settled farming district. Armed robbers who held up Ann and her cousin George at night on the Windsor Rd in 1820 were summarily executed. Ann's brother moved out of the area to set up business as a publican at Sutton Forest.

On 12 July 1826 Ann Maria Bowman married James Smith (1795-1851) who had arrived in Sydney with his family as free settlers on the same ship as Ann's uncle in 1798. James' father John had been engaged in London with John Bowman as carpenters to build a corn mill at Parramatta. When the project lapsed, John Smith in 1799 received a land grant of 150 acres which he named *Torry Burn*, producing grain, fruit and cattle. The Smiths and the Bowmans remained friends and their children intermarried. They were Presbyterians, pro Governor Bligh and anti John Macarthur, and, after benefiting from the convict assignment system, anti transportation.



The Retreat in 1867, sketched by Edmund Blacket's daughter Edith who had studied with Conrad Martens. (image: State Library of NSW)

James Smith farmed with his extended family and supplemented his livelihood working on government farms. By the time of his marriage he had been Superintendent at Grose Farm (the site of Sydney University) and Longbottom Agricultural Station for two years. After a temporary appointment at Emu Plains Agricultural Station, he was promoted in 1831 to Superintendent at Emu Plains and Superintendent of Government Stock. He acquired *Smithfield* a farm at Eastern Creek.

The couple had at least ten children. John

William (1827-1906), James Daniel (1829-1927) and Mary Ann (1830-1907) were born at Grose Farm. Born at *Smithfield* were: Christiana Eliza (1832-88), Eleanor Elizabeth (b. 1834), William (b. 1837), Susannah Catherine (b. 1837), Robert Charles (1838-87), Sydney (1840-77) and Emily Sophia (b. 1842). Most of the children were baptised by Dr John Dunmore Lang who had married their parents in Sydney's newly built Scots Kirk. The Smiths were loyal supporters of Lang who organised the passage of hundreds of free immigrants, particularly Scottish mechanics.

In 1851 John Smith died after being hit on the head with an iron bar wielded by his son-in-law John Bootle. The men had argued after Smith's daughter Mary Ann had spent the night at her parents' house and returned home to pick up some clothing. Smith struck first, with a riding whip with a bone handle. Following the inquest – held in his own Bell and Crown Tavern on the Western Rd – Bootle was sentenced to six months' gaol. Mary Ann Bootle, who at the time of her father's death was recently wed with a three-month daughter, remarried twice.

John Smith's widow shared *The Retreat* for a time with another daughter, Christiana, whose seven year old son Lesley Arthur Carney died there of scarlet fever in 1874 and was buried in Balmain Cemetery. Ann Maria Smith, who bred birds for sale, died 'of paralysis' at *The Retreat* on 27 April 1880, leaving her property to her youngest surviving son 'gentleman' Robert Charles who three months later auctioned the house's contents. These included 'canaries in full song', a double-barrelled shotgun, a canopion musical instrument, a Cossack-bred horse and a Newfoundland dog. Although Robert advertised that he was leaving the city for the country, his address was 57 Talfourd St Glebe at the time of his death on 14 June 1887.

The family of Joseph Sparke Walford (1855-1946) lived at *The Retreat* for most of the 1880s. A public servant, Walford progressed from junior clerk in the colonial accounts branch to registrar in the colonial treasury. He married Mary Jane Hannam at Yass in 1880. Their three children were born at Glebe: Oscar Joseph (1881-1948), Clare Elizabeth (b. 1883) and Jerome 'Jack' (1887-1932). Also living with them were Joseph's sister Maria Louisa Walford and her husband, Mary Jane's brother Alfred Reuben Hannam, who married at Glebe in 1881. The Hannams' son Alfred Henry was born at Glebe in 1882; their second son Leon Walford died aged six months at 53 Leichhardt St in 1884. Joseph Sparke Walford, who married twice, died at Cremorne on 26 February 1946.

Following the departure of the Walfords and Hannams the house was home to a series of occupiers 1889-1900: Bertie Law, George Painter, surgeon John Alfred Pybus, surgeon Andrew Brownless and insurance manager J J Allen. In 1893 a son Jack was born at *The Retreat* to Josephine 'Nina' née Carpenter and Dr Pybus, who exhibited Scottish colliers and who later settled in England. The poultry and carrier pigeons put up for sale in 1896 probably belonged to Dr Brownless, a son of Sir Anthony Brownless who migrated to Australia in 1852 as a gold seeker and who became Chancellor of Melbourne University. A prominent Sydney medico and a mining speculator, Andrew Brownless in 1898 divorced Rosky Frumy née Gainsborough after she tried to shoot him in Coolgardie.

From ca 1903-18 the Hosking family, Methodists, lived at *The Retreat* which they renamed *Homecroft*. The household consisted of used furniture dealer Walter Frank, his wife Agnes Eugenie née Wheeler, and their children: saleswoman Carrie (b. 1880), Alice Isabel (1883-1967), salesman William Frederick (1885-1950), Walter Frank jnr (1890-1946), Sidney Arthur (b. 1895), Elizabeth (b. 1898) and Frank born at Glebe in 1905. After Walter's death on 2 May 1912, his widow ran the 'F Hosking' furniture warehouse on George St West (now Broadway). Agnes died at Woollahra on 26 April 1945 and was buried with her husband in Waverley Cemetery. A marine draughtsman, Sidney enlisted as a gunner in the First World War. He was repatriated home in 1917 after being severely wounded and entered a wicker chair manufacturing partnership, Killorn Bros.

The men who lived at 53 Leichhardt St in the 1920s worked with boats: lighterman Edward Alexander Lamb (his wife Ellen May) and master mariner James Francis Kenny (his wife Irene Lucy). Numbers 49-53 Leichhardt St then became part of ex-seaman Sylvester Benedict Stride's shipbreaking yards where coastal vessels were dismantled and salvaged parts sold. The Stride family (Sylvester and his wife Grace, shipwright Henry Joseph, labourer James Kenneth and fitter William) lived at number 49. In 1936 Sylvester was fined for sinking a hulk off Long Reef without permission, and in 1943 for speeding in a motorcar placing stress on the tyres. (During the war years the government tried to conserve rubber.) He died aged 73 on 17 February 1967; his widow aged 86 on 24 May 1979. They were buried in the Catholic section at Rookwood.

The Retreat, like its near-neighbour *Bellevue*,

was saved from demolition by occupancy by squatters and community activism. The restored house's waterfront location and prize-winning garden was in 2007 the perfect venue for a Glebe Society champagne high tea hosted by its owner John Williams.

Lyn Collingwood

Sources: 1828 NSW census; Australian War Memorial website; *Bell's Life in Sydney & Sporting Reviewer* 1.11.1851; *Evening News* 7.3.1895, 18.10.1905, 2.5.1912; genealogi.st website; Glebe Walks website; Historic Houses website; *Historical Records of Australia*; NSW cemetery records;

NSW electoral rolls; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; *Sands Directories*; Sydney Architecture website; *Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser* 27.3.1880, 25.2.1893; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 9.10.1851, 19.8.1852, 22.8.1855, 30.7.1859, 3.12.1859, 24.7.1863, 10.11.1865, 6.7.1880, 21.9.1886, 11.9.1893; 20.10.1909, 27.11.1911, 4.5.1912, 22.6.1912, 31.1.1930, 21.8.1937, 2.10.1953.

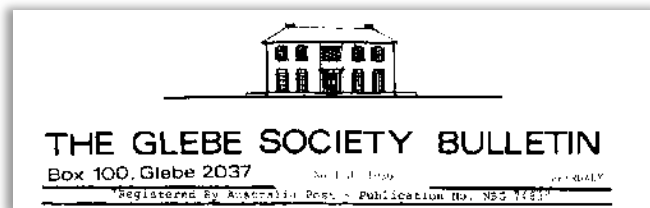
Editor's note: 'The Retreat' is currently for sale (<http://www.belleproperty.com/buying/NSW/Inner-West/Glebe/House/7P1354-53-leichhardt-street-glebe-nsw-2037>)

Thirty years ago this month

The Society is progressively making available archived copies of its *Bulletin*. Check them out on the website:

http://www.glebesociety.org.au/wordpress/?page_id=10873.

The *Bulletin* looked quite different thirty years ago! Of course, there was no such thing as word processing or desktop publishing in 1986 – it was strictly cut and paste. The masthead was drawn by hand. Do you know which building is featured, and who did the drawing?



And here's a snapshot of some of the Society's social activities for February and March 1986:

MEET THE MEMBERS

We hope to continue with Meet The Members Evenings, as they proved so successful last year. To begin the New Year we have Max Solling as guest speaker, to tell us more about the past history of The Glebe and show slides of the district. If any member has pictures or anecdotes about the area bring them along Max and your fellow members would be interested. Make a note in your diary and support your Society, Friday, 28th February, 7.30 p.m. at Lyndhurst, Deodar Street.

PICNIC IN THE PARK - SUNDAY 9th MARCH

Enjoy our parks. Bring a hamper to Jubilee Park on Sunday 9th March and have a pleasant day in the fresh air, good food and great company.

Rearview – Margaret Cody interviews Kay White

Margaret Cody interviewed long-time Glebe resident Kay White about Glebe life.

My earliest memory of Glebe, in the late 1930s and early 1940s, is of the house I lived in. This house had gaslight downstairs and kerosene lamps upstairs. We had an old fuel stove, no bathroom but a washhouse in the back yard. However, we did have a proper, flushing, loo, also in the backyard. There was no verandah, but we were the only house in the street with a balcony, so I thought we were posh.

The street where I lived no longer exists, because it was a tiny little street near Cowper St. The Council built flats on it which have now been pulled down for a new development. The people in that street were colourful and friendly, a bit like Coronation St where everyone spoke to and helped one another. Mrs Tibbs ran the corner shop in those early days, and we bought food

with coupons, because the war was on. On Melbourne Cup day because they couldn't afford to bet, they used to write the horses' names down on pieces of paper, line them up at the top of the hill in the gutter and then flush them down with several buckets of water. The first paper to reach the bottom was the winner. Most probably the average bet was a penny, and the winner took all.

In those days we either walked or caught the Glebe Point tram which had two red dots on the front. Because of the war there were not many cars; because rubber and fuel were needed for the war effort, deliveries were made by horse and cart. We used to climb up on them for a ride.

The biggest changes came after the war when immigrants began to arrive and we gradually

became a multicultural society. So instead of just hamburgers and fish and chips, we had Italian food to enjoy. And I remember men with hairy chests and gold chains. Other changes were the social change from Glebe being more working class when I was growing up, when women stayed at home and children went home for lunch, to more middle class today, with many university students. The big houses at the Point were then used as boarding houses and were often dilapidated. There were people buying at op shops and people shopping at David Jones – that mix of incomes. Today there are more people begging on Glebe Point Rd than formerly, which may be related to drug and alcohol abuse.

Another colourful character I remember was Mr Malthouse who used to hunt rabbits in the 1940s. In his cellar he had lots of rabbit skins hanging up. He would tan them and then sell them. He once gave me one, and my mother made my dolly a fur coat.

What I miss most is really the past and how life used to be here in Glebe. People were closer and seemed more family-oriented. And I miss my

tap dancing classes as a child! The things I welcome are the new restaurants and the convenience of Glebe. It's all here!



Kay White (photo: Margaret Cody)

Community Matters

Community Notes, by Janice Challinor

Commemorative celebration of Robyn Kemmis in Glebe

A Glebe tribute to Robyn Kemmis is to be held on Sunday 1 May. It will be an outdoor event in Foley Park commencing at midday. More details will be made available when planning is completed. The event is an inclusive one for the whole of the Glebe Community so please do come if you are able to.



Robyn Kemmis (left) and others at the opening of Elephant Park (Janice Challinor)

Elsie Women's Refuge

After Ilknur Chaloupka's suggestion at the November committee meeting that the Glebe Society could support families at *Elsie* through providing some gifts for children at Christmas, a considerable number of members responded. Three people specifically wanted to assist the mothers too, so they provided Coles/Myer vouchers for each mum. Others generously gave clothing, books and toys. I should like to recognise Carole Herriman, Lucie Loane, Erica Robinson, Sybil Jack, Suzy Cleary, Helena Klijn, Loris McLoughlin, Sue Hearn, Vanessa Whitton, Virginia Simpson-Young, Hilary Hewitt, Jan Wilson, Bobbie Burke, Fiona Campbell, Jane Fissenden, Jan Macindoe, Jude Paul, Jane Gatwood, Vicki Marquis and Robyn Kemmis for their support.

Ilknur reported that the families were delighted to receive the gifts and that the mothers were especially surprised and pleased to benefit from the generosity of the community.

If you would like to share your memories of Robyn and her contribution to Glebe, we would welcome them for inclusion in the next *Bulletin*.

**Please email them to
editor@glebesociety.org.au.**

Have a Chat Café

The Glebe Community Development project has been provided with some additional funding to

allow this important service to continue in 2016. Have A Chat Café will be open each Tuesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm at the Old Fire Station.

They are looking for volunteers to help out in the café in various ways. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Ally de Pree on 9571 6453. The manager asked if anyone who can volunteer could assist from 9.30am to approximately 12 noon.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development

Third Australia Day Honour for distinguished Glebe family

Were they alive today, former Glebe Society member, Nan Waterford and her husband John would have every reason to be proud. The announcement of an AM in the latest Australia Day honours for their daughter, Mary Waterford, brings to three the number of their children who have received Australia Day honours.

Mary Waterford, now of Wentworth Falls, was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'significant service to the community through social welfare organisations as an advocate for equity, human rights and social justice'. Mary was involved in establishing Elsie Women's Refuge in 1974.

There were five girls and three boys in the Waterford family, who lived at 14 Alexandra Rd between 1962 and 2011. Jack Waterford was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2007 Australia Day Honours 'for service to journalism, particularly as a commentator on national politics, the law, to raising debate on ethical issues and public sector accountability, and to the community in the area of Indigenous affairs'. Mary's sister, Sally Waterford, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in

2008 for 'service to the community of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales through roles with a range of social welfare organisations'.

Tony Larkum & Virginia Simpson-Young



Mary Waterford (image: Blue Mountains Gazette)

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wrens Subcommittee

The Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held a seed collection day and working bee in November 2015 and recently the Group met onsite with Rae Broadfoot (Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator, City of Sydney) to plan the volunteer activities and the City's work for 2016. It is expected that 200 tube stocks will be planted during the year and a community planting day with a focus on small bird

habitat plants, to which you will all be invited, will be held in May.

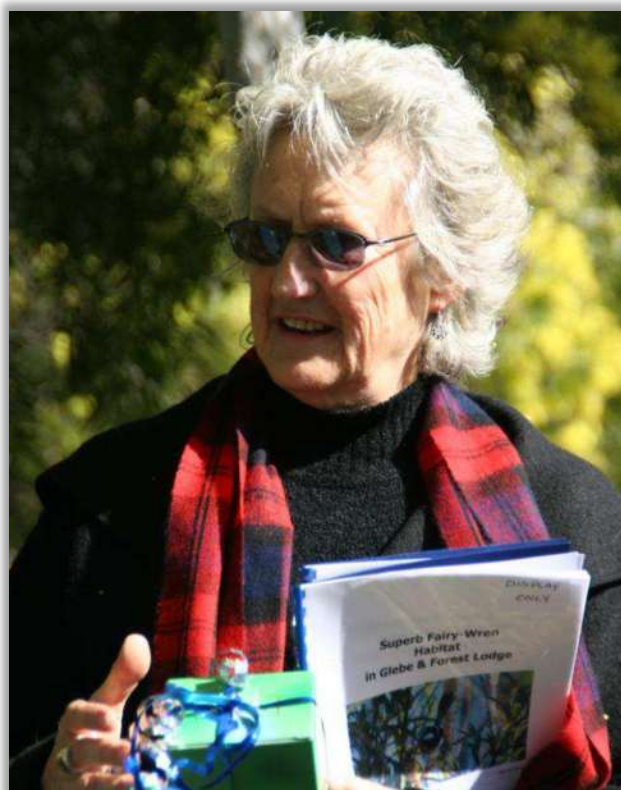
The Glebe Bushcare Group has been removing litter and weeds from the wetlands area near Chapman Rd. The Group will continue to meet during the year each Wednesday at 8.30am.

In John Street Reserve, work has commenced as scheduled on the establishment of the

biodiversity garden – the contaminated top soil and a hackberry (*Celtis australis*) have been removed, the storm water collection/rain garden is being constructed as well as the new entrance from St James Ave and electrical work for new lighting. The City has determined not to extend the native plantings into the dunny lane at the rear of the St James Ave terraces.

The Glebe, Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group have decided to focus their efforts on the upper and lower sections of Palmerston Avenue Reserve. The City has removed a Lombardy poplar tree from the upper section of the Reserve and the remaining oleanders are also to be removed from the Reserve. The recently planted bird's-nest ferns have met with mixed success – some dying and some thriving. The City will be installing a water tap in the lower part of the Reserve. The next meeting of the Group is at 2pm on Saturday 19 March 2016 at the junction of Keegan Ave and the Reserve – all local residents are welcome to attend.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens



Robyn Kemmis at a Glebe tree planting event to provide vegetation for Blue Wrens, July 2008 (image: Phil Young)

What's next at Harold Park?

With almost all of the Harold Park development due to be finished this year, a quick reminder of what will be involved may be useful.

The Tramsheds

For local residents this will be the stage that has most impact, apart from the open space (which will be opened late this year). There is no official opening date for the Tramsheds, but newspaper reports, mainly originating from prospective restaurateurs, have nominated 'early 2016'. This is perhaps best read as 'in the first half of 2016'. DAs for the fit-out of restaurants and cafés have been submitted to Council, so we know the businesses that will be there. These are:

- Butcher and Farmer

By far the largest of the restaurants, this enterprise by chef Jared Ingersoll has been described in media articles as encompassing 'a restaurant specialising in humble farm to table fare, as well as a retail space consisting of a deli, butchery and fresh local produce.'

- Fish and Co – currently on Booth St, Annandale
- Flour Eggs Water – restaurant
- Bekya – a Middle Eastern restaurant
- Tokyo Bird – restaurant and bar
- Bodega 1904 – restaurant and catering service

- Garcon – cafe and 'roastery'
- Gelato Messina

In addition, there will be a medical centre and pharmacy. On a partial mezzanine level there will be 500m² of community space, owned and managed by Council.

The Glebe Society has it on good authority that the supermarket will not be one of the two big chains. A liquor store will be located next to the supermarket. Parking will be above the supermarket, as well as in front of the building – about 170 spaces in all. There will be pedestrian access by lift and escalator to Maxwell Rd, near the light rail station.

Residential buildings

The total number of residential units will be 1250 bringing an expected population of about 2500. Residents are now moving into the set of buildings bordering The Crescent, Scotsman St and Ross St. This will bring the completed units to about 75% of the total. Three other buildings are due for completion this year: one on the corner of The Crescent and Wigram Rd; one on Ross St; and Maxwell Place (accessible only from Maxwell Rd). The final building, facing The Crescent and the Canal, will be completed in 2017.

Affordable rental apartments

Through a planning agreement with Mirvac, Council secured land for nearly 80 affordable rental apartments. The land is on the corner of Ross St and Wigram Rd, behind the buildings currently under construction by Mirvac on the corner of Wigram Rd and The Crescent, a site currently being used for construction offices and sheds. Late last year Council sold the site to City West Housing, an established affordable housing provider that has built more than 650 affordable rental homes over the past 20 years, including in Pyrmont and North Eveleigh. At Harold Park

there will be 76 low-cost apartments, including 13 that are adaptable for elderly or disabled residents. Building will start in the second half of this year, for completion in 2018.

Finally, note that the information in this report is based on Council documents and articles in the media, some quite old, so we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the detail. Anyone with a specific query would need to contact Mirvac.

Jan Macindoe
Convenor, Environment

News from the Communications Subcommittee

Glebe Society's new YouTube channel

The Glebe Society now has a YouTube Channel. You can get here from the web site menus or go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for 'Glebe Society'.

You'll find views of Glebe from a drone, along with glimpses of old Glebe, in 'Glebe Now and Then HD', views of Glebe from the water in 'Glebe's Bays' and some recent Glebe history in the 'Glebe Post Office Closure' and Jack Mundy's talk about 'Resident Action'.

When you've finished watching these original Glebe Society videos, dip into some of the other Glebe videos that we've found and put into our Playlists.

You can reminisce about Glebe's past in the History and Heritage playlist; learn about Centipede, Glebe Youth Services and *Tranby* in the Community playlist or take a look at Glebe's street art, markets or light rail. There are even three songs about Glebe – *The Glebe Point Road Song* by Joules Is Gypsy and *Glebe Point Road* by Cam MacKellar (both are in the Streets and Transport playlist) and *Glebe* by Rap Attack (under About Glebe). And don't miss *Top Australian Parkour* through the Tramsheds before the renovation started.

If you have any material – videos, photos or audio – that you think might be suitable for our Channel, or any suggestions to add to our playlists, we'd love to add it. Let us know at webmaster@glebesociety.org.au.

Peter Thorogood



A screenshot of the Glebe Society's YouTube channel

Finding Glebe info on the internet

There are many occasions when we are seeking information about Glebe and feel sure it must be on the internet, but find it hard to access. Members who attended a workshop run by the Communications Subcommittee in November expressed appreciation for a little guidance on this, so over the next few editions of the *Bulletin* I will give a few snapshots of useful websites and where they are buried. This month we will look at finding information about DAs (Development Applications).

DA information on the Web

It is true that you can examine local DAs at the library, and if the proposed development is large and complicated that is the best way to study the paperwork. But often we just want to get a feel for a DA in our neighbourhood and want to do it quickly. The City of Sydney website provides all we need in most cases.

The City of Sydney website, <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>, is a good one to bookmark as it has a wide variety of

useful information. DAs are found under the Development menu, then Development – on exhibition. At the 'on exhibition' page, click on Glebe or Forest Lodge in the list of suburbs. Oddly enough, this takes you to the whole list of current DAs and you need to click on the suburb again to find the local ones.

Finally, you have to tackle 'Documents relating to this application'. For a large development there may be a long list of them. The 'Statement of Environmental Effects', if included, is your best starting point. It will explain the proposal and

include maps and photos. Remember that all the documents are provided by the applicant, so a fair but critical eye may be needed. Technically, the most important documents are the plans, but if you are not familiar with reading them you may find the elevation diagrams more accessible.

And if your examination of the documents leaves you with more questions, you can always go to the Council One Stop Shop in the library and ask to speak to the planner!

Jan Macindoe

Events past

Winners of the Glebe Society Christmas Raffle

Our annual Christmas Party raffle was drawn, at our Christmas Party on Thursday 3 December and the winners were:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Tickets to the Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party | Jenifer Walker |
| Gourmet greengroceries from Galluzzo's: | Janet Wahlquist |
| Handmade Art Pottery from the Clayworkers Gallery: | Jenifer Walker |
| Timbar Wine Bar: | Liz Simpson-Booker |
| Alfie & Hetty's restaurant: | Lesley Lynch |
| Sunset BMW sidecar ride, with champagne: | Geoff Paul |

Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir – the centrepiece of the 26th Annual Glebe Music Festival

How did one of Europe's pre-eminent choirs come to perform at the Glebe Town Hall in November 2015, as part of the 26th Annual Glebe Music Festival? The Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir <http://www.kuhnata.cz/en/> was founded in 1932 by Jan Kühn, originally for the needs of the Czech Radio in Prague. The Choir has worked with the National Theatre in Prague since 1936, and has performed at La Scala Milan, the Carnegie Hall New York City, the Tchaikovsky Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, the Bregenzer Festspiele and at many other locations. There are over 50 CD recordings.

Dr E. David McIntosh AM AMusA, the Artistic Director of the Glebe Music Festival (www.glebemusicfestival.com) was approached in late 2014 with a proposal by the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir for an appearance at the Festival. With the experience of bringing a large group to Glebe in 2005 (the 46 members of the US Marine Forces Pacific Band), there was at least a precedent. But the 34 members of the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir were clearly in a younger age bracket than the Marines. Fortunately, many individuals and families from both Glebe and beyond came to the rescue, under the guiding hand of Glebe resident Janet Donald, and billets were found for the second half of the visit. (During the first half of the visit, the Choir was housed at Land's Edge, Chowder Bay, and generously catered for by Tasmanian chef Michael King).

The next challenge, apart from organising the concerts, was to ensure that the visiting choir had ample opportunity to interact on a musical level with their local counterparts. The positive interactions between members of the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir and the Choir of the Conservatorium of Music High School and the Choir of North Sydney Girls' High, along with the interactions between the respective choir masters were the most significant and important aspects of the visit to Sydney by the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir.

The first opportunity arose with the free concert at the Great Hall University of Sydney on Sunday 8 November, open to a wide audience and promoted at the Conservatorium. The next opportunity arose when the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir did a live broadcast to hospitals and schools throughout New South Wales, from the Utzon Room at the Sydney Opera House on 11 November:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUqznAwKNL0&feature=youtu.be>

Because of the proximity of the Sydney Opera House to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir was able to move up to the Conservatorium from the Opera House and interact with the Conservatorium Choir within the grounds, before moving indoors and giving a performance to students and staff at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music High School.

This laid the groundwork for the combined workshop, at the Glebe Town Hall Friday afternoon 13 November. The Czech choir learned Australian Christmas carols as arranged by Julie Simonds (and accompanied by her), whilst being conducted by the Conservatorium Choir Mistress Réka Czernyik. In turn the Australian choir learned Czech songs, with Jan Kalfus accompanying and Petr Louženský conducting. This culminated in a joint performance in front of a large and enthusiastic audience on the Friday evening. (The choirs were fed and watered by Michael King).

To give as wide a Sydney audience as possible the opportunity to hear and see the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir, they gave a performance of Celebration of Spring by Otmar Mácha (1922-2006), on the Thursday evening 12 November, after their lunchtime concert at North Sydney Girls' High School.

There was much favourable commentary about the extraordinarily high standard and composure of the Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir, and promises of keeping in touch. There are plans for the Choir to return in 2018 at a time of importance for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music High School.

Finally, the tour could not have happened without the generous support of the Glebe Society and a Matching Grant from the Council of the City of Sydney.

David Macintosh



The Czech Philharmonic Children's Choir performing at Glebe Town Hall. Image: David Macintosh)

Upcoming events

Glebe Artisans Market

The Glebe Artisans Market is an exciting new market to be held in Foley Park on the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Bridge Rd on Saturday 19 March from 10am to 3pm.

Here you'll find original and imaginative ceramics, jewellery, homewares, artwork and fashion. All stallholders are local artisans, who design and make the creations on sale. All products are Australian made.

Many of the 30-35 artisans who will be attending had regular stalls at the old Eveleigh Artisans Markets. We also have some wonderful new craftspeople showing their wares.

This initiative was the result of two smaller but very successful markets held at Glebe Library by the Glebe Art Show Committee. We recognised that there was a real need for opportunities for local artisans to showcase their goods to the community particularly after the Eveleigh

Markets closed.

We are hoping to make this a quarterly market. Come and visit and tell your friends. Information about all our stall holders will be on website, www.glebeartisansmarket.org.au.



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.

Christine Bates is now helping to choose restaurants. We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table.

Put these details in your diary now:

- On **Thursday 3 March at 7pm** we will go to *Spicy* Sichuan Restaurant* at 1-9 Glebe Point Rd.
- On **Thursday 7 April at 7pm** we will go to *Fountain 77* at 77 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on **Thursday 5 May at 7pm** we will go to *The Green Mushroom* at 163 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email

thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au or ring Edwina on 9660 7066 by 6pm on the Wednesday before to let me know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe and Christine Bates

*chillies separate!

Players in the Pub

Upstairs at our new venue, *The Friend in Hand*, 58 Cowper St Glebe:

Dad and Dave

Steele Rudd stories adapted for the stage

Tuesday 29 March at 7pm

The kitchen is open from noon and there's \$18 two- for-one Spaghetti Bolognese on Tuesdays.

Free admission. Donations box.

The Savanarola Syndrome & Other Works

Paintings by Brandon Cavallari

The Shop Gallery, 112 Glebe Point Rd

5 – 17 March

More information: 0438 550 835

Politics in the Pub

Politics in the Pub continues to be a regular feature at the Harold Park Hotel. Upcoming is a talk on a timely and seriously important topic:

Global Refugee Crisis – Millions of People on the Move in Europe, Middle East and Africa. How Well is the Western World, including Australia, responding?



Speakers are John Dowd (President, International Commission of Jurists) and Paul Power (CEO, Refugee Council of Australia).

When: 6.30pm, Thursday 3 March 2016.

Where: Harold Park Hotel, Cnr Ross St and Wigram Rd.

Good Neighbourhood BBQ

Come along and get to know your neighbours, local police and City staff. The City of Sydney and NSW Police are hosting a series of Good Neighbourhood BBQs in your area.

There are activities for kids, including the Kidzoo mobile farm, as well as live music and local safety information.

When: Sunday 6 March 2016 from 11am to 2pm.

Where: Foley Park, Glebe Point Rd. Cost: Free.

Cultural and Creative Grants now open – City of Sydney

If you have an idea for a project that could benefit from a cash injection, now is the time to apply for one of the cultural and creative grants and sponsorships from the City of Sydney. City of Sydney is looking for initiatives that provide opportunities for people to get involved creatively, enhance the visibility of art and culture in the urban landscape and strengthen the city's cultural and creative industries.

Applications are due by 5pm on 7 March.

More information:

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorships/cultural-grants-sponsorships/cultural-and-creative-grants>

For Your Calendar

Thursday 3 March, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursdays: Spicy Sichuan Restaurant*. 1-9 Glebe Point Rd.
 Thursday 3 March, 6.30pm. *Politics in the Pub*. Harold Park Hotel.
 Sunday 6 March 2016, 11am to 2pm. *Good Neighbourhood BBQ*, Foley Park.
 Saturday 19 March, 10am- 3pm. *Glebe Artisans Market*, Foley Park.
 Saturday 19 March, 2pm: *Landcare Group*, meet junction of Keegan Ave and Palmerston Reserve.
 Tuesday 29 March, 7 pm. *Players in the Pub: Dad and Dave*. The Friend in Hand Hotel, 58 Cowper St Glebe.
 Thursday 7 April, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursdays: Fountain 77*. 77 Glebe Point Rd.
 Sunday 1 May, 12 noon. *Community BBQ/Picnic to celebrate the life of Robyn Kemmis*.
 Thursday 5 May, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursdays: The Green Mushroom*. 163 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 7 May: *Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare*, contact Judy Christie – 0437 693 372.
 Wed morns, 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group* nr Jubilee Park. Contact Sue Copeland: 9692 9161.
 Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am to 2pm, *Have A Chat Café*, Old Fire Station.

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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PO Box 100
Glebe NSW 2037

No.1 of 2016 (March 2016)

Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110

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 secretary@glebesociety.org.au



Vale Robyn Kemmis
(image: Bruce Davis)