

Federal election: Meet the candidates for the seat of Sydney

The Glebe Society is hosting a Q&A session with the candidates for the seat of Sydney in the forthcoming Federal Election. The candidates below have been invited to participate (Geoffrey Winters has not yet been confirmed):



Tanya Plibersek (ALP)
Geoffrey Winters (Liberal)
Sylvie Ellsmore (Greens)
Peter Boyle (Socialist Alliance)
Tula Tzoras (Online Direct Democracy)

Where? Glebe Town Hall; When? 2pm Saturday 25 June

Seating is limited, so you will need to book via the Society's Eventbrite page (www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com) or by email (vice-president@glebesociety.org.au).

Questions for candidates will be asked through the chairperson. If you would like to ask a candidate a question, please email it to me prior to the meeting at the above email address.

Allan Hogan
Glebe Society Vice-President



Tanya Plibersek
(ALP)



Geoffrey Winters
(Liberal)



Sylvie Ellsmore
(Greens)



Peter Boyle
(Socialist
Alliance)



Tula Tzoras
(Online Direct
Democracy)

Glebe Society Event!
Welcome to New Members Evening
29 June, 6.30pm; Harold Park Hotel
(see p.12 for more details)

Community Matters

Glebe's Tribute to Robyn Kemmis

The early morning rain cleared just in time to encourage Glebe residents to gather in large numbers at Foley Park on Sunday 1 May, to remember and celebrate the contributions to our community made by the late Robyn Kemmis, former Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney. As a long term resident and active member of the Glebe community Robyn was known, respected and admired by all with whom she came into contact. This was made evident by the number and diversity of people who rose to speak about her impact on them and their corner of Glebe, and to offer their condolences to Lynne, her partner.

As people gathered and spread their picnics to share they were entertained by joyful music provided by Daniel and Angus from Edama Rua. This set the tone for our celebration, and after the Acknowledgement of Country given by Kade Dawson (Maree White's grandson) everyone who wished to took the opportunity to publicly share their stories and memories of Robyn.

MCs Kate Brennan from Glebe's Treehouse and Nick Hespe, manager of the City of Sydney's Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre, reminded us of Robyn's connections with Glebe, her home for 35 years, and how as a city councillor she had used her connections to support Glebe and respond to the needs of citizens in our local area. Rose Wiss from the Glebe Estate recalled Robyn's respect and support of public housing tenants, Marla Priest attested to Robyn's ubiquitous appearances at so many public meetings and events while Vicki Pogulis, the Glebe Public School principal, recognised her amazing support of both the school and Centipede, the before and after school care service which, along with the Glebe Youth Service, was one of her particular interests.

Other speakers recounted Robyn's impact on their patch of Glebe, but the overwhelming message was the respect she gave and received; especially how she empowered people to take action to right the wrongs they perceived. Well-known local, Eva Cox observed that, while acknowledging that she and Robyn did not always agree on how social problems should be addressed, they were united in their view that we all have a responsibility to act when we are confronted by a need to address a community concern. Public representatives such as our Federal Parliamentary member Tanya Plibersek,

State Parliament member Jamie Parker and City of Sydney's Cr Linda Scott all attested to the fact that Robyn did just that.



Auntie Kath Farrowell speaking at the Glebe tribute to Robyn Kemmis. Behind her is Fiona Smith, immediate past chair of Glebe NAIDOC committee (Photo: Phil Young)

Ted McKeown, President of the Glebe Society, spoke of the move to have a public park (such as the popularly-named 'Elephant Park' renamed in Robyn's honour. Verity Firth, in acknowledging Robyn's ongoing support for education, informed the gathering of the progress of the project to create a scholarship in Robyn's name; to be awarded annually to a young Aboriginal woman to study at UTS where Robyn's work as Vice Chancellor, Administration was so valued. See p.3 for further information; including how people can donate to this scholarship fund.

Other speakers included Kris Spann, President of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce, Auntie Kath Farrowell, Glebe Elder, Fiona Smith, chairperson of the Glebe NAIDOC committee, Mary Mortimer representing the Pyrmont community, Mariana Ivantsoff, former PA to Robyn, Wendy Long, Robin Lawrence, John Gray, Mairéad Brown and Gay Maley. Lord Mayor Clover Moore, who counted Robyn as a personal friend as well as political ally and colleague was the final speaker. It is obvious that Robyn will not be easily replaced at Town Hall. In recognising this, Clover reminded us of the widely acknowledged and overwhelming strength of the Glebe community to which Robyn had contributed significantly.

Finally, in acknowledging the work of the committee in organising this public tribute I would like to thank Police Commander Paul Pisano and Inspector Gary Coffey for their support, the City of Sydney for financial assistance, and to make particular mention of

the considerable efforts of Jan Wilson, Ray Dehon and Maree White in making it a successful tribute to someone who touched us all.

We'll miss you Robyn.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development

The Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Student Scholarship

Family and friends of Robyn have decided to honour Robyn's commitment to social change by establishing a scholarship in her name.

The Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Student Scholarship will enable an Indigenous woman to complete a three-year UTS undergraduate degree. The scholarship will be administered by the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at UTS.

We are aiming to raise an initial total of \$15,000 a year for three years.

The scholarship funds will be used to contribute to student fees and academic expenses and to assist with the costs of transport and accommodation. The successful candidate could live on campus or in the local community.

We urge you to consider contributing to the Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Student Scholarship fund. You will be investing in a young woman's future, and commemorating Robyn's achievements in a meaningful way.

Online donations can be made at the secure UTS website:

<https://www.giving.uts.edu.au/projects-and-causes/robyn-kemmis-indigenous-student-scholarship>. (Look for the 'Donate Now' button on the right-hand side of the page).

All donations are fully tax deductible, and receipts will be provided in the format of your choice.

If you have any questions about your donation please email Brigette.Sancho@uts.edu.au or phone 02 9514 1903.

Janice Challinor
Convenor, Community Development



The late Robyn Kemmis, in memory of whom the Robyn Kemmis Indigenous Student Scholarship has been established to enable an Indigenous woman to complete a three-year undergraduate degree at UTS (Photo: UTS)

Glebe Voices

Glebe Society President Ted McKeown was the speaker at the last *Glebe Voices* event. He spoke to us about the work done by his Sydney Rotary group in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, focussing on the past four years when he has been involved.

Ted began his talk with an overview of the 'colonial' history of the area and also provided maps for us to appreciate the location and scale of the islands.

In describing the conditions that the volunteers live in Ted was able to bring aspects of daily life of the Solomon Islanders to us – such as the typical daily diet and typical living and ablution facilities. He also mentioned the lack of readily-

accessible medical and dental expertise and the existence (in other parts of the Solomons) of hospital buildings without supplies and medical services.

Ted's Rotary group has been going to the Solomons for 20 years building and installing infrastructure that the local people require, such as nursing clinics, toilets and water tanks.

This talk on the Solomons and the Rotary project there was extremely interesting and thought-provoking.

Our thanks to Yuga Café for hosting our event.

Carole Herriman

Locals don't want fries with that!

The iconic Valhalla Cinema building (166 Glebe Point Rd) has been the centre of a battle between a group of Glebe locals and McDonald's Australia. A McDonald's 'pop-up' store was opened for three days (27-29 May) in the shop next door to the Astor cafe, which was left vacant after the closure some months back of the Japanese restaurant, *Sushi-ya*.

According to McDonald's Australia, the purpose of the pop-up store was to market research seven varieties of 'loaded fries' (normal McDonald's chips but with sauces on top). Free fries were guaranteed to attract hungry passers-by who could taste the loaded fries and give their feedback to iPad-wielding McDonald's staff.

Local opposition to the McDonald's store was galvanised around a Facebook page called '[McDonalds, not on our corner – Glebe](#)'. The page, set up by Glebe residents Amanda Tattersall (University of Sydney and founding director of the Sydney Alliance) and Angela Dawson (Faculty of Health, UTS), quickly attracted 700 followers. The campaign had the backing of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce.

Although the pop-up store would only be open for three days, locals were concerned that McDonald's might come back to Glebe in the future – creating problems for local businesses and the health of Glebe residents, especially children.

A [petition](#) was created which, at time of writing, has gained over 1000 signatures. Leaflets with the headline 'Love Local, Love Glebe' were

handed out in front of the McDonald's shop each day of its operation; encouraging passers-by to eat locally in preference to eating at outlets of multinational food corporations, such as McDonald's.

When the leafleters arrived at the Valhalla on the first day of the pop-up store's operation, they were met by a group of police officers who, it transpired, were there to investigate the deliberate breakage during the night of one of the store's plate glass windows.

The campaign received a great deal of media attention, with write-ups in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [ABC](#), [Seven News](#) (television), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Inner West Courier](#), [Altmedia/City News](#), [UK Daily Mail](#) and numerous websites both in Australia and internationally.

Virginia Simpson-Young



Glebe and Forest Lodge locals objecting to the McDonald's 'pop-up' store in the iconic Valhalla Cinema building (Photo: Steven Siewert, SMH)

History and Heritage

'From the Terraces' by Liz Simpson-Booker

Shop Tops

Interestingly, Newtown's King St is lined with very grand High Victorian purpose-built shops, many complete with flashy pediments, inscribed with dates of construction. In Glebe, the two-storey purpose-built shops at Nos. 153-181 Glebe Point Rd (immediately south of the former Post Office) make a more restrained but still confident statement about the Victorian commercial environment.



Purpose-built shops at 153-181 Glebe Point Rd (Photo : Anne Owens)

However, many buildings in Glebe Point Rd, St Johns Rd and Ross St 'just grow'd, like Topsy', evolving and re-purposing over time.

Two Heritage Subcommittee members, Anne Owens and Peter Crawshaw have been out and about recently looking at shop tops. Often unseen above awnings, shop tops can tell us much about how Glebe responded to the development pressures of the time. Peter Crawshaw writes:

There are some wonderful examples in Glebe Point Rd of many purpose-built shops with proprietor's residences above built in 19th century Glebe. By the early 20th century, as the suburb developed and economic times and needs changed, we see older housing stock, particularly in Glebe Point Rd and St Johns Rd, adapted for new commercial interests. This resulted from a demand to provide affordable rental housing as Glebe became less fashionable for the middle classes and additional shops were required for a bigger population.

The following photographs are examples of new rental flats and shop development with the two no longer necessarily linked.



This is a good example in Ross St c1900 of new shop fronts built in the former front gardens of older terrace housing. (Photo : Anne Owens)

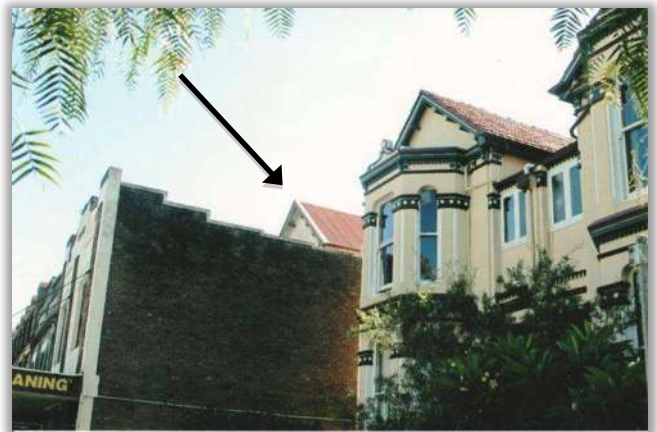
Diary Dates: Glebe Society events

Sunday 21 August, 11am. **Glebe Society Annual General Meeting**, Glebe Town Hall.

Sunday 11 December, 5-9pm. Glebe Society Christmas Party. Glebe Town Hall.



These early terraces c1865 in Glebe Point Rd show much later shops built into the ground floor with separate entrances to adapted flats above. (Photo : Anne Owens)



In the 1920s this long row of Italianate terraces in Glebe Point Rd was redeveloped into shops and flats above. Two houses remained although each has also been divided into flats. (Photo : Anne Owens)



By the 1930s Spanish Mission style was popular and this early set of terraces on the corner of Forsyth St and Glebe Point Rd were modernised to provide new shops and flats above, again with separate street entrances. (Photo : Anne Owens)



Redevelopment was not always aesthetically successful as this Glebe Point Rd shop and flat above illustrates. It needs to be remembered that in tougher economic times, well-located buildings needed to pay their own way. (Photo : Lydia Bushell)

RMS tries again

In August 2015 the Glebe Society lodged an objection to a proposal by Roads & Maritime (RMS) for the installation of a permanent electronic message sign on Parramatta Rd, near Derwent St.

Since then RMS have carried out underground utility investigation work and now propose to change the location of the sign to about 300 metres west, between Ross St and Arundel St. They also propose to install 30 metres of adjacent fencing, without providing any rationale.

The Glebe Society's objections remain, given that this part of Parramatta Rd is a cutting, lined on the northern side with a heritage-listed, coursed, sandstone retaining wall. This beautiful wall is heritage-listed because of its group and landmark values, its townscape and cultural significance, its technical achievement and its

integrity. Our concerns about this proposal are further exacerbated by the fact that this sign will be immediately adjacent to the historic Chapman Steps and immediately below the early 20th century terraces (with some wonderful Art Deco features) which sit atop the retaining wall.

The Society also believes that nearby well-established street trees may be threatened by the installation of this large sign and the proposed fencing.

The Glebe Society argues that the heritage values of the area will be compromised by the imposition of a large, permanent electronic message sign which is totally out of character with the surrounding streetscape.

Glebe's War Memorial

The City of Sydney's restoration of the Glebe War Memorial in Foley Park was 'highly commended' in the recently announced National Trust's 2016 annual Heritage Awards.

The Glebe War Memorial restoration project involved the conservation of almost every element of the memorial. It was built in 1921 in honour of 174 local residents who did not return from World War I, including the Australian fast bowler Albert 'Tibby' Cotter.

The memorial was designed by local resident and architect, William Martin, and funded by the Glebe community.

For the restoration, replacement busts of an Australian soldier, sailor and an angel were hand-carved from Italian Carrara marble, in time for the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

The missing Victoria Cross was also replaced, having mysteriously disappeared decades ago. Specialist metal artists reproduced the cross in time for Anzac centenary year celebrations.

Liz Simpson-Booker
Convenor, Heritage Subcommittee

Who lived in your street? By Lyn Collingwood: John Moore Smail (1850-1920)

Commemorated by Smail St Ultimo, John Moore Smail was chief engineer for the Water Board and for 20 years in charge of both Sydney's water supply and its sewerage system. In the years 1898 to 1902 he lived at *Winster* on the

corner of Boyce St and Bell St. When he moved to his permanent home at Neutral Bay, *Winster's* next occupier was wool buyer Alfred Herchuez.



Winster, 38 Boyce St. Winster was built in 1895 for Wesleyan clergyman Richard Sellors and named for his English birthplace. (photo: Phil Young)

John Moore Smail was born in 1850 at Millers Point, where his father, Alexander Smail (1816-1867), owned a bakery previously operating in Bathurst St, having survived bankruptcy in 1848. Alexander and his first wife Violet née McLeod had arrived in Sydney from Scotland on 10 January 1844 aboard the *Herald* with five-year-old Violet jnr and three-year-old Robert. The little girl died a month later and Alexander jnr was born the same year. In 1847 their mother died at the age of 23 and Alexander wed Irish-born Margaret Moore (1826-1870). John Moore was the second child born of this marriage. His siblings were James (1848-1901), William (1853-1889), Isabella (1854-1945), George Edward (1856-1908), Fanny Jane (1858-1920) and Charles Adam (1859-1874). Their half-brother Alexander jnr was in 1873 (at the time of the death of his wife Louisa Ann) living on the corner of Derwent St and Harden St Glebe. The Smail family were Presbyterian.

John Moore Smail was educated at Fort Street and Sydney Grammar. Through the influence of his father, a City of Sydney alderman 1864-1867, he was apprenticed to the City Engineer whose department controlled Sydney's water supply. In 1879 he was appointed the first engineer of the newly created Sewerage Board; later he also became engineer-in-chief for the Water Board. John Smail was the first president of the Institute of Local Government Engineers of Australasia and its first Life Member, a member of the Association of Municipal and County Engineers of Great Britain, and a member of the Royal Society of Australia. He conducted routine biological testing of the Sydney sewerage

network and inspected similar systems in Europe and America. He was also an officer in the army reserve and a magistrate.

At the time of his death on 17 June 1920, Smail was engineer-in-chief to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage. He was buried at Rookwood with his wife Margaret Jane née Wright, a daughter of the principal of the Teachers' Training College, who had died aged 51 on 3 May 1901. Offspring of the couple, who married in 1874, were: Herbert Stuart Inglis (1875-1928), Ruby Margaret (1877-1959), Muriel Isabel (1879-1944), John Alexander Moore (1881-1934) and Olive (1885-1963).

Both sons graduated B.E. (Civil) from Sydney University. Herbert worked in Malaya as an irrigation engineer. As a sectional engineer with the Postmaster-General's Department, John jnr was in charge of placing Sydney city's telephone lines underground. John jnr's only child, John Moore Smail ('Jock') was the anti-fascist president of the Sydney University Labor Club before graduating in law in 1935. A solicitor, he served postwar in the Army Legal Corps in Malaya, Thailand, Japan and Korea. Admitted to the Bar in 1959, Jock Smail was the author of several law books.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian

Sources: City of Sydney aldermen website; *Evening News* 17.6.1920; NSW cemetery records; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; Roy-Royes family links website; *Sands Directories*; State Records NSW; *Sydney Morning Herald* 5.10.1893, 7.7.1898, 18.6.1920, 21.6.1920; *Sydney Wool and Stock Journal* 23.9.1910.



A detail from the house, Winster, at 38 Boyce St. (photo: Phil Young)

Hear the story behind a recently unearthed WWI honour board

Several years ago, in an attic of the former Ultimo Presbyterian Church, a handyman stumbled across a wooden World War I honour board. Currently housed in the foyer of the Ultimo Community Centre, it details the names of 36 men from Ultimo, Glebe, Pyrmont and other suburbs who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force.

In this free presentation at Glebe Library, professional historian, Nicole Cama, explores the many stories unearthed from the honour roll, stories which have provided a poignant insight into how the war impacted these inner Sydney communities.

Nicole Cama is the Executive Officer at the History Council of NSW, and is also a professional historian (MPHA), curator and content strategist. Nicole specialises in public history and the history of the Sydney area, and has researched many other areas including intellectual property, World War I, maritime history and family history research.

Presented in partnership with the Dictionary of Sydney.

When? Thursday 9 June, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Where? Benledi Room, Glebe Library

Cost? Free

Bookings:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creative-glebe-war-stories-tickets-24582581162>.



(photo: <http://www.nicolecama.com.au/>)

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

On the morning of 5 March, a member of the Subcommittee (Judy Christie) saw two Superb Fairy Wrens near 153 St Johns Rd, Forest Lodge, in a dense, prickly conifer. The location is just near Jarocin Ave and close to Glebe Town Hall – so more incentive to get that Glebe Town Hall garden going! The City has finally removed the grass from the gardens on either side of the front entrance to the Town Hall and native flora has been planted; the Development Application for these plantings was approved by the City six years ago.

At 6:30 pm on Tuesday 24 May, Simon Griffith, Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University gave a talk at *Benledi* to 30 members of the Society and their friends entitled 'The house sparrow in Australia: Lessons from an introduced bird'. Sparrows were introduced into the east coast capital cities

during the 1860s and have become widely distributed along the entire eastern part of Australia. They thus have a role as a useful sentinel species ('canary in the coal mine'); any alteration in their numbers, distribution or overall health can provide insights into the effects of change in the environment. For unknown reasons, the sparrow population in Sydney is in decline and the possible causes are being investigated by Professor Griffith's research team (please visit Sparrownet to record your experiences of sparrow sightings – <https://research.science.mq.edu.au/sparrownet/>). One interesting hypothesis is that the increasing numbers of aggressive noisy miners (related to a proliferation in their food source provided by the extensive planting of nectar producing flowers including the new hybrid varieties of *Grevilleas* and *Callistemons*) have driven sparrows from their usual urban habitat. Afterwards we enjoyed a glass of wine and delicious food, a gift from Jim and Effie from *Esca* in Glebe Point Rd.



Sue Stevens (author of Superb Fairy Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project) and Professor Simon Griffith chatting about the results of recent research work at Macquarie University into the loss of sparrows in Sydney (photo: Tony Tan).

The Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held a community planting day in the park on Saturday 7 May from 9.30am to 12 noon. The City assisted on the day and 200 tube stock were planted. In John Street Reserve, work continues on the establishment of the biodiversity garden with the installation of stonework along the John St boundary, a brick path through the park, and the installation of a blue-wren themed bird bath. It was agreed that residents near John Street Reserve should be letterboxed following the opening of the biodiversity garden to inform them of the need to control movements of their domestic cats so that they do not endanger small birds arriving in the Reserve.

Following letterboxing of local residents, members of the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group met at 2pm on Saturday 19 March at the junction of Keegan Ave and Palmerston Reserve. In addition to weeding, a written survey was conducted to

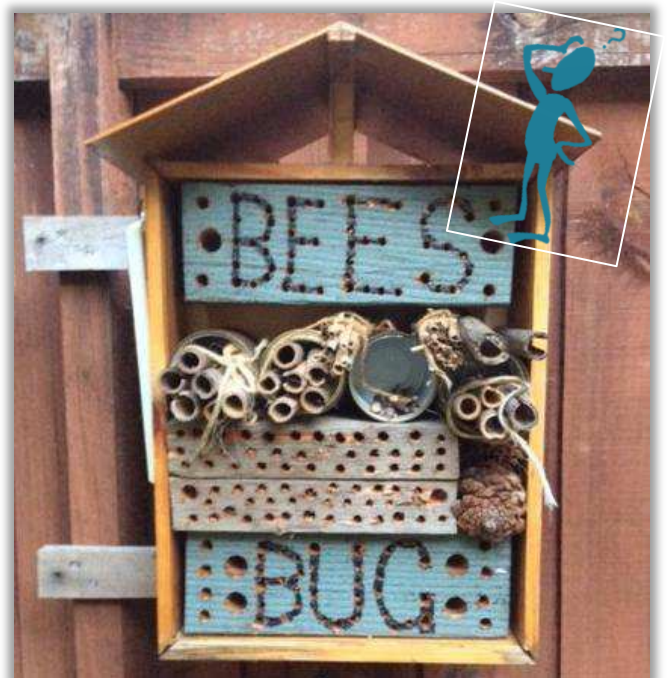
determine the expertise and skills of Group members. An action plan, itemising the plants required for the various sections of the Reserve, has been submitted to the City for their comments. The City is still to install the promised water tap in the lower part of the Reserve.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens Subcommittee

DA required ... ?!

This little bee and bug hotel (approximately 50cm x 30cm x 12cm) was set up in St Helen's community garden to attract insects and native bees that can help fertilise flowers. The garden members have been informed by Council that they need to submit a DA.

Jan Macindoe
Convenor, Environment Subcommittee



St Helen's 'bee and bug' motel (Photo: Jan Macindoe)

Built environment 2037

Opposition to WestConnex Heats Up

WestConnex recently released its plans for the Glebe/Forest Lodge sections of the WestConnex project. These involve road tunnels running beneath our suburb, with spaghetti junction interchanges centered around the Rozelle goods yards and on Parramatta Road in Camperdown. Public meetings were held in Rozelle on 30 April

and in Balmain on 19 May to inform residents of the inner west about WestConnex and to provide a forum for opposition to the project. Hundreds attended both meetings and were loud in their opposition to WestConnex.

The consistent themes of opposition were that

the project is an outdated and wasteful approach to solving Sydney's traffic problems, it is highly destructive of local communities, the \$16.8 billion price tag would be far better spent on public transport and WestConnex is riding roughshod over residents' concerns in the inner west. Many of those who attended the meetings had already had their properties resumed by WestConnex or where concerned that they would suffer a similar fate given the proposed location of the toll road and the road interchanges.

While WestConnex is a State Government project, the Federal Government has committed \$3.5 billion to it. The project has thus become an issue in the forthcoming Federal Election, although both the major parties say they are committed to WestConnex. The Commonwealth Auditor-General has recently undertaken to investigate the commitment of federal funds.

An estimated 6,000 people attended a rally at the Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 29 May, followed by a march to the NSW Parliament, protesting a series of initiatives of the State Government, including WestConnex, the forced amalgamations of local councils and the sacking of the councils.

The Coalition of Glebe Groups is now working with the Greens' Jamie Parker to arrange a public meeting in Glebe to inform residents about the impact of WestConnex on Glebe/Forest Lodge. Details will be circulated shortly.

Murray Jewell

Convenor, Transport subcommittee

Update from the Editor: *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported on 30 May that "Motorway ramps planned for Parramatta Road at Camperdown near Sydney University may be scrapped ... And it is likely the surface impact of the motorway interchange planned for Rozelle will be significantly reduced and an increasing proportion of that interchange put underground."¹ Is this a sign that the State government is finally listening to the community?¹

¹ <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/westconnex-inner-west-sydney-tunnel-plans-could-change-yet-again-20160528-gp6dn0.html#ixzz4AHOS4yQe>



WestConnex's 2015 business case includes an interchange near the intersection of Missenden Rd and Parramatta Rd, near The University of Sydney. It is this interchange that reportedly may be scrapped. The Rozelle interchange also pictured here reportedly may be reduced and a greater proportion placed underground. (Image: SMH 30 May 2016)

Wentworth Park – 'jewel in Glebe's crown', by Ted McKeown

As you no doubt know, I was a community representative on the Board of Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust for something over ten years, the last fifteen months as Chair. That all came to an end on 26 May when the Board's three-year term expired, and the Minister for Lands and Water decided to appoint Mr Jason Masters as administrator. The Minister was at pains to point out that this appointment had nothing to do with the past performance of the Board or any of its predecessors. By the time you read this, the Special Commission of Enquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW will presumably have reported to the Government (it was due to report on 31 May), and the Minister no doubt took into account the possibility that the report could recommend that

greyhound racing should cease at Wentworth Park, or even that it be banned outright.



Wentworth Park – the 'heart of Glebe' (Photo: Dictionary of Sydney)

My last act as Chair of the Trust was to thank my Board members, and I thought it might interest you to read my email to them. It sets out in some detail the challenges we have faced over the last three years, and the challenges that remain for the future.

Here is my email to Trust Board members on 25 May 2016:

Well, it looks like we are all going to be feather dusters. The Trust's three-year term comes to an end tomorrow, and I finally heard from the Minister (with two days to go) what we all suspected, that he has appointed Mr Jason Masters as administrator for an 'interim period' of three months. So before I depart, I would like to say thank you to all of you for your thoughtful and courteous contributions to the deliberations of the Trust over the last ten-plus years, and particularly since I took over as Chair.

By way of background, when the present Trust was appointed in May 2013, it was transparently obvious what the Government's agenda was in relation to Wentworth Park Sporting Complex – deliver it to Greyhound Racing New South Wales, and none of this nonsense about it having been dedicated as a public park in perpetuity. Two community representatives, Susie Cleary and Jeremy Gilling, were not reappointed (and I might say that the Minister never bothered to contact either of them before the event or, so far as I am aware, to ever thank them for their years of voluntary service). Instead, three new 'community representatives' were appointed, none of whom lived anywhere near Wentworth Park, and all of whom were heavily involved in the greyhound racing industry. Percy Allan, formerly chairman of Greyhound Racing New South Wales, was appointed Chair, and he set about the task of preparing a long-term lease to GRNSW (to replace the current licence to NSW Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association). I must say that Percy, despite my initial misgivings, played it with a very straight bat, frustrated at times by the bizarre antics of GRNSW. Eventually, after months of effort and at huge expense to the Trust (and no doubt to GBOTA), a compromise was reached in the form of a long-term draft lease that, whilst nobody liked every aspect of it, was at least acceptable to all relevant parties. That is the essence of a good compromise – nobody should feel they have won, but everybody should feel they have only lost to an acceptable extent.

We all know what happened then. Percy Allan presented the Trust's handiwork to the Minister

for approval. And despite the fact that the job had been done at the Minister's request, the Minister saw fit to decline to approve it. So Percy resigned on the spot, and I (very reluctantly) became Chair on 2 February 2015.

It has been an interesting 15 months. It had become apparent during the course of negotiations for a new lease to GRNSW that there was a significant backlog of capital works that needed to be addressed with some urgency. Under the proposed lease, that obligation would have fallen on GRNSW. But with the Ministerial backflip, it fell back onto GBOTA under the terms of the licence agreement, which all parties agreed was in many ways anachronistic. It is a tribute to GBOTA, and particularly to its Executive Officer Brenton Scott, that a way was eventually charted through this minefield, and the most urgent work was attended to, partly at the expense of GBOTA, and partly at the expense of the Trust. Then, later in February 2015, came the Special Commission of Enquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW prompted by the obscene exposure of animal cruelty on the ABC Four Corners program. The board of GRNSW was effectively sacked, and we ceased to have any meaningful input from its representative on the Trust. More importantly, GBOTA found itself in a position of no longer being able to call on GRNSW to help it to fund its obligations under the licence agreement, which led to considerable difficulties for GBOTA and tension between GBOTA and the Trust.

[Wentworth Park] is one of the jewels in Glebe's crown. Since at least 1878, the whole of Wentworth Park has been 'set apart and dedicated in perpetuity for a park or place for public recreation' ... I will certainly do my damndest to make sure that nobody forgets the purpose for which the land was dedicated 140 years ago. If it was important in 1878, it is vital now.

Another major distraction was UrbanGrowth NSW and its plans for the so-called Bays Precinct. First we were told that Wentworth Park was not part of the Bays Precinct, then all of a sudden (without any consultation with the Trust) it was. Like all other machinations of the NSW Government, this was a breathtakingly

transparent ploy to set off our 'green space' against any obligation to provide public open space elsewhere in the Bays Precinct. But it didn't stop a developers' consortium from pushing a daft proposal that the dogs should move to the Penrith Panthers' complex, the move to be funded by selling Wentworth Park and building high-rise apartments! And if that wasn't silly enough, there was a proposal to build a 14,000 seat indoor stadium – this apparently without any consultation with UrbanGrowth. I hope the administrator has a highly developed sense of humour – he will need it if this sort of nonsense continues.

One of the Trust's top priorities has been, and as far as I am concerned remains, to complete the Southern perimeter of the complex by demolishing the old Ledger and associated buildings and completing the new palisade fence. This work was commenced and substantially completed on Susie Cleary's watch, and I would dearly have loved to have seen it completed on mine. As you know, the obligation to pay for this work falls upon GBOTA under the licence agreement, but that obligation was 'traded away' in the course of the negotiations for the aborted long-term lease to GRNSW. However, the Department of Education has a proposal to temporarily relocate Ultimo Public School on the site, and to complete the Southern perimeter on departure in about two years time – a genuine 'win-win' arrangement. I sincerely hope that this proposal is followed through by the administrator.

The way the Trust is currently structured, there is virtually no way of avoiding inherent conflicts of interest, particularly on the part of the representatives of GBOTA and Sydney City Council, but also of the various Government and Quasi-Government Departments represented –

GRNSW (until it imploded), Crown Lands, and Liquor, Gaming and Racing. As mentioned above, even two out of the four remaining 'community representatives' are heavily involved in the greyhound racing industry. Alison Stone recognised this conflict, and removed the Crown Lands representative from Trust membership, but I am extremely grateful to her and her deputy Dave McPherson for their help and guidance as observers. And as mentioned above, I would like to congratulate every member of the Trust Board for rising above narrow representative interests and making the interests of the Trust paramount.

Finally, I would like to thank Peter Mann for his support to me and the Trust as Chief Executive. Wentworth Park has been at the centre of Peter's life for many years, and Susie Cleary, Percy Allan and I all relied heavily on his knowledge and experience. Good luck with the administrator, Peter!

As President (soon to be Past President) of the Glebe Society I will be keeping a close eye on Wentworth Park, albeit from the outside rather than the inside. Whether the greyhounds continue to race there or not, it is one of the jewels in Glebe's crown. Since at least 1878, the whole of Wentworth Park has been 'set apart and dedicated in perpetuity for a park or place for public recreation'. This is in no way affected by the presence or absence of greyhound racing on part of the Park, and I will certainly do my damndest to make sure that nobody forgets the purpose for which the land was dedicated 140 years ago. If it was important in 1878, it is vital now.

Again, my thanks to you all.

Ted McKeown
Outgoing Chairperson, Wentworth Park Trust

Glebe Happenings

Welcome to new members evening

Please note change of date! Now 29 June

This year's New Members night is being held at the Harold Park Hotel (upstairs) on Wednesday **29 June** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

This is an opportunity for new and not-so-new members to get to know each other.

Our resident historian, Lyn Collingwood of 'Who Lived in Your Street' fame, will take us on a stroll through our suburb, introducing some of Glebe's

colourful characters on the way.

Details: Wednesday 29 June, 6.30 to 8.30pm; Harold Park Hotel.

How much? Free for new members. 'Old' members \$30. Canapés will be served. Bookings: www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com or use the booking form included with this Bulletin.

Judy Vergison
Events Coordinator

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 and menus. 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 2 June we will go to *Himalayan Char Grill*, 41 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 7 July we will go to *Esca*, 333b Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 4 August we will go to *Ahgora*, the Greek restaurant at 94 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.au or ring Edwina on [9660 7066](tel:96607066) by [6pm](#) on the Wednesday before to let us know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe and Christine Bates

Players in the Pub

Arms and the Man

by George Bernard Shaw
directed by Linda Beattie

Wednesday 15 June at 7pm; Toxteth Hotel upstairs; cnr Glebe Point Rd and Ferry Rd, Glebe. The kitchen opens at 5pm. Free admission. Donations box.



Lyn Collingwood

Glebe Artisans Winter Market

After a very successful inaugural market back in March our Winter Market will be held in Foley Park on Saturday 18 June.



There will be about 35 stalls – a few more than last time – showcasing original and imaginative ceramics, jewellery, home wares, artwork and

fashion.

All stallholders are local artisans who design and make the creations on sale. All products are Australian made.

Stalls will include handmade objects of wood, ceramic, silver, wool, glass, metal, paper and fabric.

Full details of the stallholders and products will be up on our website before the day.

We look forward to seeing you there on Saturday 18 June between 10am and 3pm. For more information, go to:

www.glebeartisansmarket.org.au

Fiona Verge

Glebe Tasting Trek

This event is a new initiative of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce. The Glebe Tasting Trek is a fantastic opportunity for local restaurants to welcome the greater Sydney public and Glebe-ites alike into their atmospheric venues. Introducing guests to a variety of exceptional cuisines, high standard of service and unique dining atmospheres that are on offer in the heart of Glebe.



Participating restaurants are Ahgora, Bombay Street Kitchen, Thievery, Tommy's Beer Cafe and Different Drummer Bar

Guests will meet their fellow trekkers and guide for the evening at one of four participating restaurants, choosing from either a 5:30 or 7:30 sitting when booking.

Each group will circulate in a clockwise manner along Glebe Point Road stopping at each location to enjoy various tasty signature dishes. Beverages will be available at special prices during the evening to accompany the dishes.

Once guests have circulated through all the venues they are invited to attend an After Party at Different Drummer Bar with an especially crafted cocktail to kick off proceedings.

When? Thursday 23rd June; 5:30 & 7:30pm sittings

Bookings: This is a ticketed event with bookings available online at Eventbrite from 1 June.

Further details: Maree Sheehan: 0435 050 367; maree@thesydneyconnection.com.au

Kris Spann

President, Glebe Chamber of Commerce

Earth v Sky

Twilight walkers on Glebe's foreshore may have pondered the fate of Earth v Sky, the artwork which, until recently, bathed the giant fig trees at the end of Glebe Point Rd with changing colours as the sun set.

The artwork has succumbed to some technical difficulties relating to equipment and software which are currently being sorted out by the City of Sydney. Hopefully Earth v Sky will be back very soon.

Liz Simpson-Booker
Convenor, Heritage



Fundraiser for Pillars of Strength

'The Laugh Stand' is hosting a Comedy Fundraiser at the Harold Park Hotel to raise funds for Pillars of Strength (<http://pillarsofstrength.com.au/>), which provides relief and support for bereaved dads and families.

Losing an infant or having a sick little one is certainly no laughing matter but they hope to bring a little light to the lives of these dads and families, and at the same time raise much-needed funds for Pillars of Strength's vital support programs.

The first ever 'Comedy For Strength' will be hosted by Tommy Dean.

Where? Harold Park Hotel.

When? Friday 17 June, 8 pm-10.15 pm.

Cost? \$20; Bookings:
<http://www.eventfinda.com.au/2016/comedy-of-strength-fundraiser/sydney/glebe/tickets>

Virginia Simpson-Young

Glebe Walks Website Upgrade: Request for Quote or Volunteer

The Glebe Society is seeking to upgrade the security and backup plan of its Glebe Walks web site, as well as making some minor format changes. Detailed specifications of the work required to be done will be provided on request.

Do you know WordPress Admin?

If you are interested in submitting a quote for this work, and are experienced in WordPress administration and with phpMyAdmin, please email communications@glebesociety.org.au for the detailed scope of work.

Do you use WordPress and want to learn Admin?

If you are familiar with WordPress as a user, would like to learn the 'back end' administrative side, and are willing to undertake this project on a voluntary basis, this could be a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and experience. We can introduce you to WordPress admin and guide you through this project.

If you are interested in this opportunity, email communications@glebesociety.org.au.

The opportunity also exists for someone to take on the ongoing support of the Glebe Walks web site, which is an interesting but not onerous project.

Peter Thorogood
Website Technical person



For Your Calendar

Tuesday 7 June, 7.30pm. *Word in Hand*. Friend in Hand Hotel.
 Wednesday 8 June, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*. Glebe Town Hall.
 Thursday 9 June, 6.30-7.30pm. *Creative Glebe: War Stories*. Glebe Library
 Wednesday 15 June, 7pm; *Players in the Pub: Arms and the Man*, Toxteth Hotel.
 Friday 17 June, 8 pm-10.15pm. *Comedy for Strength*. Harold Park Hotel.
 Saturday 18 June, 10am-3pm. *Glebe Artisans Winter Market*. Foley Park.
 Wednesday 22 June, 7:30pm. *Freedom Stories*. Glebe Justice Centre.
 Thursday 23 June; 5:30 & 7:30pm sittings. *Glebe Tasting Trek*. Various Glebe restaurants.
 Saturday 25 June, 2pm. *Meet the Candidates*. Glebe Town Hall.
 Wednesday 29 June, 6:30pm. *New members' night*. Harold Park Hotel.
 Thursday 7 July, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*: Esca, 333b Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday 13 July, 7pm. *Management Committee meeting*. Glebe Town Hall.
 Thursday 4 August, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday*: Ahgora, 94 Glebe Point Rd.
 Sunday 21 August, 11am. *Glebe Society Annual General Meeting*. Glebe Town Hall.
 Sunday 11 December, 5-9pm. *Glebe Society Christmas Party*. Glebe Town Hall.
 Wed morns, 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*. nr Jubilee Park.
 Tuesdays & Fridays, 10am to 2pm. *Have A Chat Café*. Old Fire Station.



Book for Glebe Society Events at www.glebesociety.eventbrite.com

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
- 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



Ted McKeown, Glebe Society President, speaking at the picnic to honour the late Robyn Kemmis (Photo: Phil Young)