

They're back! Glebe 'Dirty Reds' are reborn – and calling for Glebe locals to get behind them

by Darren Flynn

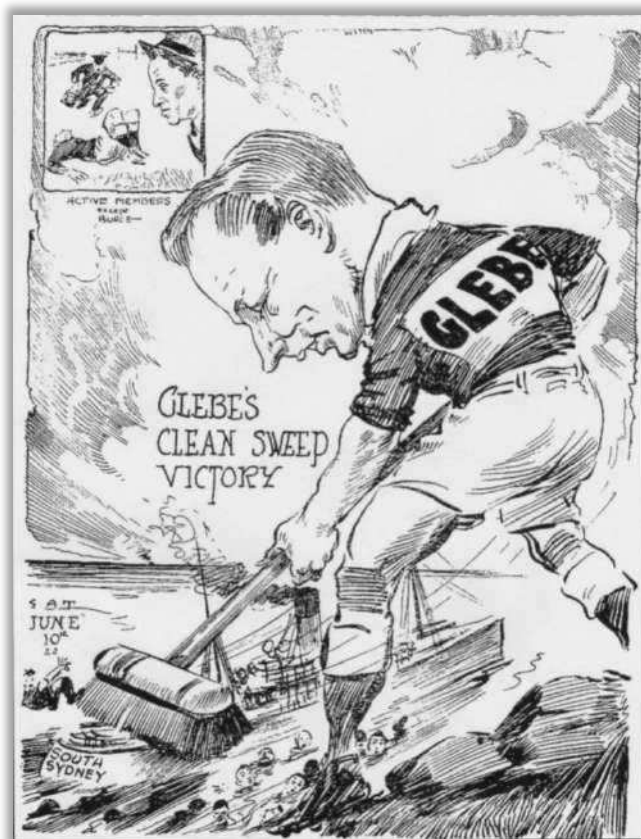
The date of 11 November is arguably the most significant date in Australian history. It is, of course, the date that WWI officially came to an end in 1918 following the signing of the Armistice between the German Army and the Allied Powers. It's an event so significant in our national history we pause each year at 11am to remember.

But 11 November is also a day of great infamy for the nation. It was on this date, in 1880, that bushranger Ned Kelly was hanged, and 95 years later, it was the date on which the Governor General, Sir John Kerr dismissed the democratically-elected Whitlam Government.

But for the people of Glebe, 11 November is infamous for an entirely different reason. For it was on 11 November 1929 that the Boundaries Committee of the NSW Rugby League voted to eliminate the Glebe Rugby League Football Club from the Sydney Premiership by the barest of margins, 13-12. Despite a spirited campaign from locals to reverse the move, the decision was ratified by the League a fortnight later, and the game's pioneering club was officially axed.

This was no ordinary football club; the Dirty Reds – as they were known – were not only the first club, they were one of the most successful clubs in the first 22 years of the game's history. Although they failed to win a first grade premiership, the club finished runners-up four times, won five reserve grade titles and one third grade premiership. They also produced 11 internationals, including Australian Rugby League 'team of the century' members, Frank Burge and Chris McKivat who to this day is the only player in history to captain both the Kangaroos and the Wallabies. So when the League took their team away from them, the people of Glebe were devastated – many turning their backs on the game for good.

Perhaps the greatest shame brought about by Glebe's demise was that the contribution made by the Glebe pioneers has been largely forgotten by the game they helped create.



(Source: *Rugby League News*, 17 July 1922)

But in 2017 the Dirty Reds have been re-born. Nearly 88 years after they played their last premiership game, the Glebe Rugby League Football Club is back in the NSWRL family. Thanks to the sponsorship of 99onYork (previously The Bowlers Club and soon to be renamed Club York) Glebe was able to enter a team in the Ron Massey Cup competition (the third tier of open age rugby league in NSW) as part of a joint venture with the Concord-Burwood Wolves. The Wolves lacked financial backing but had a first-rate football program, while Glebe had money – but with the season fast approaching, the Reds were not in a position to field a standalone side this season. So the Concord-Burwood-Glebe Dirty Reds were born.

Home matches will be split between North Sydney Oval and Leichhardt Oval in 2017, while the historic Glebe Dirty Red jerseys will be worn on numerous occasions throughout the year.

It is the first stage of a long-term plan to return Glebe to its rightful place in rugby league history. The primary aim of the 2017 incarnation of the Reds is to keep the memory of the original club alive. But it's not all about remembering the past. The club is also focused on reviving junior football in the district. And in a first for rugby league, the club intends to cater to the City of Sydney's sizeable Asian population, providing an inclusive leisure pursuit for boys and girls of all backgrounds.

To mark the club's re-birth the Dirty Reds will be holding a special Re-launch Luncheon at 99onYork on Saturday, 6 May, kicking off at 12.30pm. Guests will enjoy drinks and a two-course luncheon while hearing about the history of the club from noted local historian and Glebe Society member, Max Solling. Max will also help us induct three past players into the newly-created Glebe Dirty Reds Hall of Fame. We will also hear from two-time premiership winning coach Phil Gould who will talk about the importance of tradition and community in rugby league. And we will hear the Denis Carnihan-penned team song for the first time ever. The 2017 Dirty Reds Ron Massey Cup side will be in attendance on the day.

Tickets for the Dirty Reds Re-launch are on sale for \$80 and are available from the Sticky Tickets website:

https://www.stickytickets.com.au/51363/glebe_dirty

[reds revival lunch.aspx](#), or by calling Club Operations Manager Darren Flynn on 0418595954.

The club will play its first home match against a fellow foundation club, the Wests Magpies at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday, 13 May. Kick-off is at 3pm. We'd love to see you there! This is your team. We'd really appreciate your support.

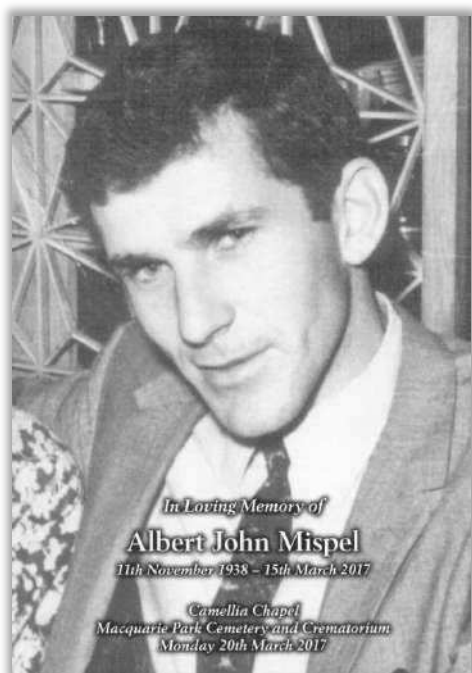
Darren Flynn
Operations Manager, Glebe RLFC



The Gray Brothers. Bert Gray, Tom Gray, Arthur 'Paddy' Gray and Frank Gray (Note: any resemblance to Glebe Society's former President, John Gray, is not coincidental!!) (Source: the Dirty Reds)

Albert Mispel, 1938-2017. 'Glebe owes him a large debt'

by Jeanette Knox



Albert Mispel, who died last month aged 78, was one of the early members of the Glebe Society, and one of its earliest honorary life members. He was referred to at a recent event as an intellectual, but Albert's own preferred description of himself was that of an *activist*. The appropriateness of this was underlined at his funeral service which was very much a celebration of this aspect of his life. For the Glebe Society this took the form of many years of research, publicity and protest about the expressways planned for Glebe in the seventies of the last century. Even on a holiday trip to Europe in 1972 he and his wife Kathy attended anti-expressway meetings in Paris and London. A busman's holiday indeed!

In the sixties and seventies the inner city suburbs of Sydney were regarded by government at both state and local level as slums, ripe for demolition to make way for a series of expressways and new apartment blocks, the typical three storey walk-ups favoured at the time by developers such as Parkes.

In Glebe two expressways were scheduled to cut across the suburb, the Western and the North Western distributors, which would have dismembered the area. Anyone who was looking to buy a house in Glebe at the time would recall the maps at estate agents split up by those red striped bands marking the routes (see map right). However, the period was also one in which young professionals, working in the city, were looking to avoid long commutes to work from the outer suburbs to which they were being pushed, and the move began for a return to the inner city and the burst of renovation and restoration of older housing stock that started at that time. They had the energy and capacities to take on government and oppose these plans.



A map showing the proposed freeway to cut through Glebe (image: www.australianmuseumofsquating.org)

Albert came to Glebe in 1967 to teach and then stayed on. He was elected to the Society's Management Committee in 1971 and in his 'Meet the Management' mini autobiography noted the many changes of the previous five years, loss of parkland for example, which made one want 'to hold fast onto every brick of Glebe'. He was spending his days as Systems clerk and nights writing the *Bulletin's* miscellany column – a series of paragraphs on local and overseas news with particular emphasis on planning and transport. His name first appeared on a front page article 'Waiting for the Monster' regarding the deviation in the original route of the expressway to avoid the dog racing track at the expense of the demolition of

Lyndhurst – and so many private homes. The same issue included a flyer advertising a public meeting at Leichhardt Town Hall with the aim of stopping the project, one of the outcomes of which was the paint-in on Pyrmont Bridge Rd in February 1972.

Between 1971 and 1976, when the Wran Government abandoned plans for the expressways through Glebe, Albert was involved with and liaised with a number of groups opposing radial expressways to the city. He authored a number of articles for the *Bulletin* reporting on their activities. One of the major protests was at Fig St, where Albert was one of the speakers, alongside Neville Wran, Joe Owens, Joye Wallace and Bernard Smith. Several people were arrested on that occasion and Albert was one of those who organised support for them.

During the same period, Albert was at various times active on the Planning Committee and was *Bulletin* editor from August 1971 to mid-1974. In recalling Albert's activities during these early days of the Society it is worth remembering that this was pre the internet, and gathering information was much more time-consuming and laborious. Glebe owes him a large debt.

Jeanette Knox

Editor's Note: Follow these links on the website for further information about Albert Mispel: 1. [Interview with Albert Mispel about the Anti-Expressway Campaign](#), by Neil Macindoe, 8 August 2013; 2. [The Glebe Society and the Battle of the Expressways](#), by Ian Edwards, 13 December 2016 (original 2004).



Albert Mispel at the unveiling of a plaque in 2010 at Smith Hogan & Spindlers Park Johnstons Creek, Annandale, to commemorate the citizens who opposed the expressways. This photo was provided to the Society by Betty Mason who remembers that Albert's 'gentle and calm demeanour could be misleading – he was a very determined campaigner'



'From the President', by Allan Hogan

Historic buildings top the charts in Glebe Society survey

The survey by the management committee seeking guidance about members' priorities for the

Society was completed by 130 participants, or about 34% of the membership. 'The preservation and conservation of Glebe's historic buildings' was the top priority for participants (64% of respondents), closely followed by 'appropriate development of the Bays and Foreshores' (60%). Reflecting a relatively crime free community, only 8% of participants ticked 'the safety and security of the Glebe Community' as a priority.

In response to another question about the preferred events organised by the Society, members made 'tours of historic buildings' their top priority (60%), closely followed by 'guest speakers' (58%). 'Children's events' rated just 4%. 'Meet the candidates for Federal/State/Council elections' was surprisingly popular (52% thought it should be a priority). Significantly, 16% of respondents chose 'other activities' as a priority – events they could write-in. These included 'animal rights activities' and 'picnics in local parks'. Quite a few respondents expressed disappointment that the Society does not organise more events – 'I remember when we used to have an event on almost every month'.

A common response to the first question was that it was difficult to limit the choice of priorities to four activities. Some respondents thought all the choices should be priorities, suggesting that the management committee should not concentrate on the top priorities to the detriment of other important activities, including the social cohesion of the community. In response to the question 'why did you join the Glebe Society?' a common reply was 'to support the local community' – the word 'community' was used in 29% of the 122 responses.

It's probably no surprise that the majority of respondents were not in paid employment (72%), suggesting a high proportion of retirees within our ranks. Similarly it's not surprising that 79% of the respondents were over 60. Disappointingly, only 8 respondents were under the age of 45. 43% of the participants were male, 56% female. One respondent commented 'I find it worrying that the Glebe Society has become so PC that you've put 'Other' for gender ... really?' Well yes, really, one respondent ticked the 'other' box.

The Society needs to think hard about its membership base and address the age imbalance and diversity issue. We celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in 2019, - but if we are just a group of

aging retirees, it's possible there won't be a celebration for the sixtieth anniversary. Already the committee is working on plans to attract a younger membership.

For the most part, participants praised the Society for its work and hoped the survey would provide useful information. But there were some critical comments, including this one – 'a survey should be sent to people living in Glebe but not members of the Glebe Society. This survey is limp and will provide no useful information to assist in the future'.

Hopefully, that criticism will prove to be mistaken. The management committee is elected by the members, but that doesn't guarantee it automatically represents their views, or that the members are always satisfied with its performance. This survey gave members an opportunity to communicate with the committee, but that should not need a formal invitation.

End of an era: Liz Simpson-Booker retires as Heritage Convenor

It is with profound regret that I must report that Liz Simpson-Booker has resigned as Convenor of the Heritage subcommittee. Her dedicated support for the Society's important function of the preservation and conservation of our community's built heritage has earned the respect and admiration of the management committee, the Glebe Society membership and the wider community. I know I speak for all members of the Society when I thank Liz for her efforts on our behalf.

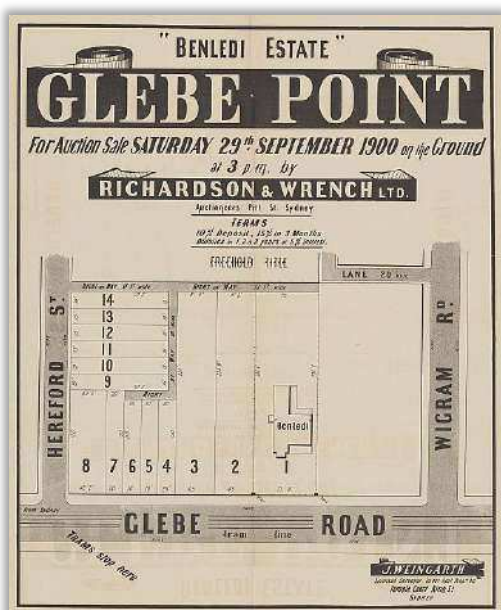
Liz has told me that her leadership of the Heritage subcommittee was both a 'rare privilege' and a 'pleasure'; because it enabled her 'to explore aspects of Glebe's heritage, to seek to throw light on and to raise awareness of, the treasures around us as well as to champion their preservation and conservation'. Liz has also commented on the results of the membership survey: 'it is heartwarming to know that history and heritage continue to rate highly within the Glebe Society's membership. Given the strength and calibre of that membership, I hope it will not be too onerous a task to find a new Convenor.'

We are indeed fortunate that Liz intends (health permitting) to continue to contribute to the Society – albeit to a lesser extent – by updating some of the heritage entries on the website and perhaps by continuing to write for the *Bulletin*.

History & Heritage

Subdivision stories: The Benledi Estate, by Andrew Botros

Over the seven years that I've lived in Glebe Point Rd on the former Benledi Estate – now also the home of Kelly Wallwork's Glebe Tram mural – the history of the place came to me by chance, improbably: it began with a brick up my stormwater pipe and ended with American tourists at my door. Between those two strange events I learnt a little about how subdivision works, and how much it defined the socioeconomic history of Sydney throughout the 20th century.



Richardson & Wrench sales plan for the Benledi Estate.
(image: National Library of Australia)

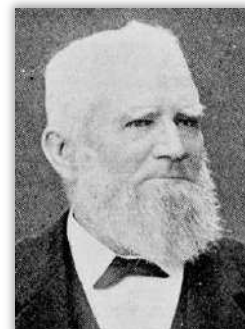
Council gave me my first lesson when I took my brick story to them in 2012. Or rather, the lack of a lesson: they wouldn't tell me who owned the access lanes through the Benledi Estate. Really? Privately owned? All I wanted were some basic water services to satisfy a grouchy neighbour. Instead I got a mystery to solve.

Making the trip to Prince Albert Rd, I was certain Land and Property Information would tell me what the Council would not. Yet they knew less than I did – 'Looks like a public road' – and that was the greater shock, that in modern times there could be bits of Sydney unregistered. But my disbelief was overheard by the world-weary customer next to me – 'You should go downstairs to the old records', he said. That's how the addiction starts.

It was Alexander Kethel who subdivided and sold the Benledi Estate on September 29, 1900. Lot 1 of the Benledi Estate is a story the Glebe Society knows well. It is the site of *Ben Ledi* itself, the house built for Kethel c.1885. Kethel was one for nostalgia: he was born in Perthshire, Scotland, where the mountain Ben Ledi rises to 879 metres.

When sold, Lot 1 was incorporated into the (now demolished) Sydney Hospital for Sick Children on the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Wigram Rd. From 1915 to 1989 *Ben Ledi* was the Sydney Homeopathic Hospital before passing to Council ownership and becoming the Glebe Library.

Kethel could have ended up anywhere. He was a humble seaman who jumped ship in Sydney in 1853 and headed for the Victorian goldfields; but by the 1870s he had found success as a Sydney timber merchant. Politics followed. The diversity of his experiences was reflected in his centrist politics: committed to free trade in coalition with Sir Henry Parkes; an advocate for forest conservation; an avid supporter of societies. Kethel was the Member for West Sydney in the NSW Legislative Assembly from 1885 to 1889, and then a life member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1895 on.



Alexander Kethel
(1832-1916) (image:
State Library of
NSW)

When the Benledi Estate auction was over, half of it ended up in the hands of three developers. Lots 4, 5 and 6 became four terraces at 176-182 Glebe Point Rd. Lots 7 and 8 became five terraces: 168-174 Glebe Point Rd (those named after Tasmanian rivers) and 1 Hereford St around the corner. And the six lots 9-14 became the eight terraces of 3-17 Hereford St built by Charles William Coulton. In total, 11 lots became 17 terraces. Squeezing extra properties out of land has always been a favourite developer trick, and subdivision has always made developers rich.

Coulton died in 1916, the same year as Kethel but having considerably more wealth. Coulton, a former President of the Master Builders Association, left his widow 40 houses and three blocks of land, all in the eastern suburbs, in addition to their nine-room residence in Randwick.

Coulton was also a better subdivider than Kethel. Whenever Coulton developed a block of land he promptly dedicated any access lanes to the relevant council. Kethel never bothered, and nor did his neighbours at 19 Hereford St, the Korffs (of Coffs Harbour fame). The access lane that runs along the western border of the Benledi Estate (behind the library between Hereford St and Wigram Lane) is owned by the estate of John Korff's daughters, while the access lane that

doglegs within the Benledi Estate is owned by Kethel's estate. Each of the lanes was separated from any of the subdivided lots, orphaning them indefinitely. They have no name, and the Council isn't interested in taking ownership of them (though, bizarrely, in 1963 Council tried to extract overdue rates from the long-dead Kethel for his lane – unsuccessfully, I assume).

Once subdivided, who owned the Benledi Estate terraces? The stamps on the historical Certificates of Title for my own home tell a story of diminishing status: first a builder, then farmer, engineer, labourer, stonemason, debt collector, and by 1980, widow.

Who lived in them? I really had little idea, until one Saturday afternoon in 2014 when I found an older couple peering into my windows. I'd just returned from grocery shopping with bags in my hands, and we looked at each other quizzically. Ian asked the first question. 'Excuse me, is this terrace a set of apartments or one home?' Of all the questions to ask, this made no sense to me, and I certainly wasn't looking for tenants. 'Just one home', I replied. He then pointed to the upstairs bedroom. 'Sorry to ask, but I used to live in your front room 50 years ago.'

Of course, I took him and his American fiancée inside for a quick tour of the place. Weeks later, Ian posted a letter and shared his Glebe life. Ian Campbell became a full-time opera singer in 1967 with the Elizabethan Trust Opera Company (now Opera Australia), and later sang at the opening of the Sydney Opera House in 1973.

The Sydney seasons were relatively short, requiring the Company to be on the road in the other capitals and even doing inland tours with piano accompaniment. ... All of this is to say that every time I returned to Sydney I went to a rental agent on the corner of Glebe

Point Rd and Broadway, to find a flat. They handled many in the Glebe area.

So after spending two university years at 178 [Glebe Point Rd] in the downstairs rear, I stayed in 180 at one time, in the upstairs front room which had an enclosed balcony in those days. I even had a girlfriend in 176 briefly. She dropped me for a pianist who did not leave town as frequently as I had to. Many lovely memories.



The enclosed balconies and empty gardens of 176-182 Glebe Point Rd, early 1970s. (image: Bernard and Kate Smith, The Architectural Character of Glebe, Sydney: University Co-operative Bookshop)

Today the row of enclosed balconies at 176-182 Glebe Point Rd are gone, the terraces restored with their original façades. The subdivisions within subdivisions are over too, and gone are the days of revolving tenants. When I moved to Glebe in 2010, I was the only owner-occupier in the row. Today the number is three out of four. Like patterns that repeat in a fractal, the Benledi Estate tells a story of increasing then decreasing subdivision, transience then permanence; a story that will be familiar to many residents across Glebe.

Andrew Botros

Restoring Rothwell Lodge's rare fretwork verandah post infills

by Robert Hannan

Rothwell Lodge, at 24 Ferry Rd, was built around 1847.

Veranda posts with fretwork infills unique for Glebe and now rare for Sydney.

Modern technology recently came to our aid when we decided to complete the reinstatement of the original verandah posts design on our house. When we bought the house three years ago we were left with a box of broken cedar fretwork infills that the previous owner had one day intended to have remade and reinstated (Picture 1). A photo of our house from around 1916 (currently with the Macleay Museum) shows the 1st floor posts infilled. The old posts had been covered for years with timber cladding, preserving the fragments beneath.

They were rediscovered when Rothwell Lodge was bought by the previous owner. The house had been a squat for several years and was heading for demolition. There are references to Rothwell Lodge in a Glebe Society *Bulletin* of 1987 asking for members to be vigilant due to concerns due to the threat of unauthorised demolition.

The previous owner carried out an extraordinary repair of Rothwell Lodge in 1988, as the house was a mess. Since there are fourteen timber posts and the original 1847 timber fretwork infills had been cut by hand, this was no small task. Using the expertise of a talented cabinet maker who had done other work for us, we were able to piece together enough fragments to work out the design.

He then made a corflute template for us ensuring the design replicated the original variations and imprecision in widths that a hand saw would have produced when cutting the infills. They were then cut using a computerised saw in much less time than by hand. The finished infills have now been installed and have made a huge difference to the verandah (Picture 2).

There are few examples in Sydney of this type of Regency Victorian detail, which is intended to give a lightness of effect. Iron posts and railings were increasingly used from this time. We have seen another wooden example at Rose Bay Cottage (1834) by the renowned architect John Verge.

We have been honoured to be able to return a rare architectural feature to our home that has been missing for over 100 years as 2017 marks its 170th birthday.

Robert Hannan



Picture 1: Remnants of the original 1840's cedar fretwork given to the current owners by the previous owners in 2014. (image: Robert Hannan)



Picture 2: New timber fretwork infills installed in 2016 (image: Robert Hannan)

Jack Munday, the NSW BLF and the battle for Sydney

by Ian Edwards

That being a builder's labourer was a dangerous occupation in the 1960s and '70s was indisputable; as in the year that ended in April 1973, 44 building workers were killed on the job in NSW. Jack Munday was elected secretary of the NSW Branch in 1968; he came to play a very important part as a leader, not only in improving working conditions and wages for labourers in a very dangerous occupation, but also in helping local resident action groups preserve their environment against the attempts by property developers to build houses and office blocks primarily for profit and without regard for the effects on residents. It was the last of these activities that came to be known as the 'green bans'.

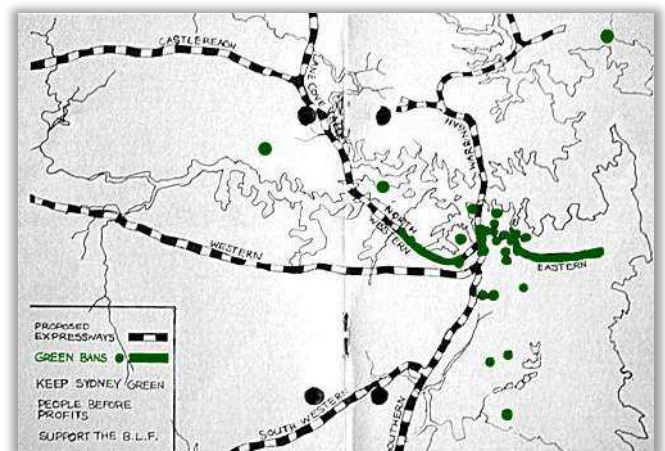
The first of the green bans was the 1970 campaign to save Kelly's Bush in Hunters Hill. Other green bans included the working class area of the Rocks, Woolloomooloo and Victoria St at Kings Cross. There were also green bans placed on the demolition of the Theatre Royal in Sydney and the Capitol Theatre in Inverell. The Theatre Royal was saved as a result of a compromise whereby the original theatre was demolished but a new theatre incorporated into the high rise building which replaced it. The battle for the Capitol at Inverell was lost, much to the subsequent regret of many of the town's citizens.

On the initiative of Bernard Smith, professor of Fine Arts at the University of Sydney, and his wife, Kate, the Glebe society was founded in 1969. Its aims were set forth in its first newsletter:

The Society will concern itself with the problems threatening Glebe as a pleasant place to live. Our approach will be two-

pronged, to ensure that adequate thought and planning goes into new projects in the area and to preserve and conserve what is good in the already existing buildings and places of historic interest.

Although there were other issues, such as industrial pollution and unsympathetic architecture that led to the founding of The Glebe Society, it soon became clear that the greatest threat to the suburb was the proposal of the Department of Main Roads (DMR) to build expressways through Glebe. As the Society's president Peru Perumal later wrote: 'if the proposed expressways were built as planned, they would isolate a very closely knit community into three distinct sections. These sections would not have natural topographical, geographical, sociological or townscape divisions'.



A hand-drawn map of the proposed radial freeways from 'The little green book. The facts on green bans', Tomato Press, 1973, Builders' Labourers (NSW). (image: <http://greenbans.net.au/green-bans-1971-74>)

Denis Winston's book *Sydney's Great Experiment* clearly shows plans for the Western and North-Western Expressways through Glebe. The Western Expressway was to join the Great Western Highway west of Parramatta and the North-Western to cross the Parramatta River at Gladesville and join the Pacific Highway north of Mt Colah.

In 1970 the Society wrote to the Minister for Local Government and Highways, Mr Morton, expressing concern that 'the plan for the proposed North Western Expressway is shown on the map of the City of Sydney Planning Scheme as a tunnel between Palmerston Ave and Maxwell Rd, Glebe'. It took some time before Bernard Smith received an assurance from Mr Morton that 'the North-Western expressway through Glebe ... will be a driven tunnel'. This would at least have alleviated the great inconvenience caused by open cut construction. *Bulletin* No.2 of 1971 has a front-page editorial expressing strong opposition to expressways.

A *Bulletin* item in 1972 acknowledging the receipt of a donation from the Glebe Society to the Leichhardt Anti-Expressway Committee is a reminder that opposition to the expressways was not confined to Glebe residents. *Bulletin* No. 2 of 1973 gave notice of an 'ANTI-EXPRESSWAY MEETING' organised by Leichhardt Council at Leichhardt Town Hall'.

The next *Bulletin* had a contribution by Albert Mispel containing a reference to correspondence with Tom Uren, the Minister for Urban and Regional Development in the recently elected Whitlam government who was to play a very important part in the eventual defeat of the expressway proposals. *Bulletin* No.5 of 1973 contained a letter from the Society's president Peru Perumal reminding Mr Uren of his pre-election promises and asking for urgent action to forestall the state government. In reply Mr Uren wrote 'It is heartening to me to see your continuing concern for the future of our cities. You can be assured of my continued support for your Society's efforts to protect the environmental and social values of your community.' The acquisition of the Glebe estate from the Anglican Archdiocese of Sydney was partly in order to prevent the state government from resuming land for the Western Expressway.

Bulletin No.10 of 1973 contained a letter written to the Sydney Morning Herald on behalf of the Society, The Annandale Association, the Glebe Anti-Expressway Group and the Save Lyndhurst Committee, reviewing 'the conditions of two of the green bans enforced by the Builders' Labourers' Federation – the demolition of Lyndhurst and the construction of the North-Western Expressway.' Jack Munday, Joe Owens and the NSW branch of the BLF were to prove valuable allies.



~~Jack Munday~~ Joe Owens (who became Secretary of the BLF in 1973 after Jack stood down) communicating with the police (image: <http://citiesandcitizenship.blogspot.com.au>)

In their book *Green Bans, Red Union* (1998), Meredith and Verity Burgmann told how the NSWBLF became involved in the fight to stop the expressways. None of their officials owned cars and neither did most of the residents of the inner city suburbs who would be most affected. The DMR ignored the many protest motions passed by the Anti-Urban Radial Expressway Committee and continued to demolish houses which had been compulsorily resumed. Active protest came to a head in the battle of Fig St which, as reported by Allan Sorrenson in the *Bulletin* No.2 (March) of 1975:

saw hundreds of residents turning out in a spontaneous demonstration against the DMR's policies. For one long week Fig St Ultimo was THE place to be. Residents, bulldozers, police, politicians and the media were there. Tension was high. Twelve people were arrested. But a real community spirit pervaded and the residents prevailed.

In an article headed EXPRESSWAYS the *Bulletin* No.8 (October) of 1975 gives a 'précis of a recent talk by Alan Sorrenson, spokesman for the Save the Public Transport Committee and Senior Vice-President of the Glebe Society, on the radio programme *Overdrive* 'taking into account the energy crisis, the efficiency of the motor vehicle in the way it transports people, and the social questions involved.'

The Society was not only highly critical of the expressway proposals but in a series of occasional monographs argued for alternative solutions to the problems which the expressways were supposed to solve.

The election of the Wran government in 1976 brought a temporary halt to the DMR's plans but in a publication of the Inner Sydney Regional

Transport Group, *Stop Them Resurrecting Askin's Freeways* (1986), Stephen Harris, Senior Lecturer in Town Planning, University of NSW, stated that 'the transport plans of the mid-1980s remain firmly based on those of the mid-1940s – because the DMR has a long memory and has at last talked the government around to the plans it has always had its heart set on.'

Munday wrote that low income people 'in the Loo and elsewhere in the inner city were being uprooted and distributed around the far-flung western and south-western outer suburbs' and folk singer Declan Affley sang:

*Under concrete and glass, Sydney's
disappearing fast
It's all gone for profit and for plunder,
Though we'd really like to stay,
They are driving us away,
And across the western suburbs we must
wander.¹*

Munday acted as the public face of the green bans in the early 1970s, supported by the union and Bob

Pringle and Joe Owens in particular. He believed that trade unions should campaign not only about working conditions but also about the rights of women, homosexuals and Aborigines. He made many enemies and must have been sorely tempted by the bribes he was offered although he never accepted any of them. New South Wales and the city of Sydney in particular owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Ian Edwards

Recommended reading: Burgmann, Meredith and Verity Burgmann. *Green Bans, Red Union: The Saving of a City* 2017; Colman, James *The House that Jack Built – Jack Munday, Green Bans Hero*, 2016; Glebe Society *Bulletins* (held in the Glebe library). Munday, Jack. *Jack Munday: Green Bans and Beyond*. 1981. Solling, Max. *Grandeur & Grit: A History of Glebe* 2007.

1. Editor's Note: If you would like to read and hear the entire song referred to in this article, go to: <http://unionsong.com/u118.html>. The song is called 'Across the Western Suburbs', by Seamus Gill and Denis Kevans (1973). The song is also known as 'Concrete and Glass'

Glebe Voices talk by Pat Fiske: Green Bans

On Wednesday 29 March Pat Fiske, filmmaker, and Meredith Burgmann, politician and activist, spoke to our members at Yuga Café.

This was a wide-ranging talk on the politics of the early 1970s, when Pat had joined the Builders Labourers Federation (BLF) soon after arriving from the USA, and when Meredith was a post-graduate student and political activist.

Our speakers talked about the role of the BLF in placing Green Bans which, in addition to saving a swathe of Glebe, also saved other areas of Sydney such as Woolloomooloo. We were reminded that when builders' labourers downed tools because of a green ban, they received no wages.

The BLF would not impose a ban without a local request, and in our case this was provided by the Glebe Society. We heard about the role played by Jack Munday and the BLF in the Green Bans, as

well as about the involvement of past and present Glebe Society members in the protests.

In the book *Green Bans, Red Union* (revised and republished 2017) written by Meredith Burgmann with her sister Verity, there is a photograph of the Glebe Society's Jeanette Knox who was treasurer of the Anti-Urban Radial Expressway committee at that time.

The film *Rocking the Foundations* (1985) made by Pat, documents Jack Munday, the BLF and the imposition of Green Bans.

As always, our thanks to Ben Crisafulli at Yuga Café for hosting our talks.

Carole Herriman

Editor's Note: Pat Fiske's documentary, *Rocking the Foundations*, can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8i5pKPy5IU>.

Vale Roelof Smilde, 1930-2017

Roelof Smilde, a champion bridge player, punter and activist died in hospital on 14 April 2017 after major surgery. He was a long term resident of Glebe, member of the Glebe Society and a *Glebe legend*! Roelof was known by many for his activism for social justice. I first got to know Roelof in 1989 when we mounted a campaign to 'Save the Abbey' on Bridge Rd. His other activist campaigns included 'Save Glebe Post Office' and his endeavour to bring community banking to Glebe.

For many years Roelof worked tirelessly as a volunteer tutor at Glebe Youth Service to assist young people with their education.

Roelof migrated with his parents from Holland when was nine years old. He attended North Sydney Boys' High and became school captain and won a place at the University of Sydney. By 1951 his life changed. He opted out of university and embraced a life of rebellion. Discussion, debating, gambling, playing bridge and indulging in political

philosophy in Manning House consumed his time. Roelof attracted many friends, many of whom are also well known in their own right. It was during this period that the Sydney Push was formed and it became a significant force for Sydney's 'coming of age'. Roelof was the oldest living member.

Roelof was always happy to engage in political dialogue with anyone who wished to join the discussion. His intellect, writing and knowledge were affirmed by everyone. Roelof was a regular visitor to Sonoma Café and AB Hotel in later years. He was always seen consuming the *Sydney Morning Herald*, completing the cryptic crossword and sudoku.

Roelof will be sadly missed by all who knew him, in particular the staff at Sonoma Café.

Our condolences to his family and dear friends.

Jan Wilson



The late Roelof Smilde (far left) with Jenny Underwood (City of Sydney), Jan Wilson, Sue Ingram, Geoff Broughton (Minister St John's), the late Peter Travis (kite maker) and the late Robyn Kemmis. (image provided by Jenny Underwood)

'Mystery photo' puzzle solved!



Last month's mystery photo.

Identifying the location of last month's 1964 photo 'Children at play' generated quite a bit of interest. Thanks to Lyn Milton and Peter Thorogood for tramping Glebe's streets, but we think the expert sleuth is Wendy Relf:

... the corner of Mitchell Lane and Wentworth Street. On Google maps, it is overgrown with trees in the back lane but the out houses look correct and the chimneys are correct. I even think that the 6th house in the row lacks a chimney (the same as the picture). On the road is the same pattern of stormwater drains and the central drain. The house on the corner with 26 painted on the back gate is 26 Mitchell St (with the famous Glebe Coke mural) on the corner of Mitchell and Wentworth Streets.

This month's puzzle: Where's this house? Email your suggestions to heritage@glebesociety.org.au.

Lyn Collingwood



Caption: Mothers Day at Glebe Baby Clinic, 1916. (Source withheld – we don't want to give it away!)

Save the Dates

AGM: Sunday 2 August, 11am-1pm, Glebe Town Hall

Christmas Party: Sunday 3 December, 5:30-8pm, Glebe Town Hall.

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wrens

All members of the Society and their friends are invited to hear Professor Chris Dickman, Professor in Ecology, Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney, talk about the 'Impacts and local management of cats, dogs and foxes' in the downstairs meeting room at *Benledi*, Glebe Library

commencing at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 24 May. It will be followed by drinks and nibbles.

The Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group reported that the park's contractors have removed some of the blady grass and will be providing mulch. The members of the *Glebe Bushcare Group* are removing litter and weeding

the area around Johnston's Creek and Chapman Rd. In *John Street Reserve* and *St James Park*, vines continue to be trained over the fencing and additional stakes for the native plants have been purchased with funds provided by the Subcommittee. Three shrubs have been stolen from the John St entrance to the Reserve.

In *Paddy Gray Reserve*, Bryan Herden met on site with Rae Broadfoot, Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator, City of Sydney, on 31 March. The City wished to pass on the responsibility for the 2017 work plan for the Reserve to local residents – the request was declined as clearly such an important document should be prepared by the City in consultation with residents. A *Jacaranda mimosifolia* will be removed by the City and could be replaced by a *Melaleuca* in memory of the late Jan Craney, a former convenor of the Blue Wrens subcommittee. The *Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group* held a working bee in March and it is planned to continue such events each month. A second tap in the park is still to be installed (the request was originally made in November 2014). The Group will be obtaining maps of the utility services running through the park and plan to submit a grant application to the City in June for funds to support their work, including purchase of a tool box. The *Ferry Road Bushcare Group* hope that moving the high plants from along the Ferry Rd boundary and replacing them with lower growing species will assist in preventing antisocial behaviour in Ernest Pederson Park after closing time at the Toxteth Hotel. Some plants in front of the Lombard St home units have been poisoned. Here are some photos to show the excellent growth of native plants in Ernest Pederson Park.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens



The Ferry Road Bushcare Group has been documenting the growth of recent plantings by the City and the Group. These photos of the Ferry Rd boundary of Ernest Pederson Reserve taken in 2014, and 19 months later in April 2017 show the lush growth of mat rushes (Lomandra longifolia and Lomandra tanika), Gynea lilies (Doryanthus palmer), swamp banksia (Banksia robur) and coastal rosemary (Westringia fruticosa). (images: Robert Hannan)

What about the park at Harold Park?

Locals will have noticed that turfing and tree planting in the open space at Harold Park, from the Tramsheds to Wigram Rd, was completed some months ago, and people are asking: 'When will the park be opened?'

Informal chats with senior staff working on the site suggest that major drainage problems remain, especially in dealing with the water that pours from the cliff in wet weather. There are a number of old pipe outlets in the cliff that have apparently been difficult to deal with. There is also a drainage problem at the base of the steps that lead from the side of the Tramsheds into the park. Apparently dealing with these problems will need to continue even after the park opens.

The children's play equipment is a one-off design, and compliance with stringent safety requirements has apparently also slowed down the process. The children's playground hasn't yet been finished. Shade structures for the picnic and play areas will take even longer, and may not be installed until February, according to informal sources.

Councillor Craig Chung has provided helpful advice on the Nabo website:

The parkland area around the Mirvac carpark will be open by the end of April 2017 to enable pram and disabled access to the Tramshed shopping centre ... the rest of the park will be open by end of June 2017 subject to weather.

The park is, of course, the responsibility of Council, as Mirvac handed over the 3.8 hectares of land about three years ago as required by the original development consent, together with several million dollars towards the park development costs. Last year, Council asked for suggestions on naming the park and no doubt the chosen name will be revealed at the official opening.

Jan Macindoe



A promising-looking children's playground is under construction at the Harold Park park (image: Jan Macindoe)

From the vault: the cold case of the missing palms

A story in the *Bulletin* from 30 years ago (*Bulletin* 3 of 1987) concerns a case of five missing Washingtonia palms, which apparently went missing from the corner of Wigram Rd and Glebe Point Rd.

Can anyone shed light on this 30 year old cold case? Where are these trees today – sunning themselves on a tropical Queensland beach? In fact, are they even still alive?? (What's the usual lifespan of a Washingtonia palm?).

Email: editor@glebesociety.org.au

Glebe Society Events

Glebe Society event: 'Our House'

Louis and Patty Patsalos have kindly offered to be our hosts for the first 'Our House' visit, a new Glebe Society event. Their home *Glenlea* was one of the two Victorian mansions built in 1884 on Mary St. It has recently been restored as a family home after being a boarding house for many years.

The Patsalos home has beautiful water views across Blackwattle Bay. The renovations were designed by the well-known Glebe architect, Angelo Candalepas.

Mary St commemorates Mary Chisholm who owned large portions of Alexander Brodie Spark's original Glebe Point grant. The area was in the 1870s described as rich in Italian scenery, with bathing in summer, delightful society, good water and within easy reach of the city by foot or omnibus. From 1882 the tram terminus was a few minutes' walk away.

Mary St houses were erected by Alfred Charles Petterson, a speculator builder from Sweden, who in 1878 built the two-storey sandstone *The Anchorage* on the boundary of Mary St and Glebe Point Rd.

(If you would like to read more about this part of Glebe see the article by Lyn Collingwood: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/?street=edsburg-and-glenlea>)

When? Sunday 9 July 2017 2.30-4.00 pm; **Where?** *Glenlea*, 4 Mary St Glebe Point. **Cost?** \$20 per person (includes drinks/tea and a selection of cheese/sweet treats). **Bookings?** Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-house-tickets-33954975245>. If you are unable to book via Eventbrite, please call 0417 446 425. (bookings are essential).



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO. 3 OF 1987

APRIL

PALM TREES

The Society continues to seek the return of the 5 Washingtonia Palms removed from the corner of Wigram and Glebe Point Roads, if not to their previous site, then to another one in Glebe such as the proposed Bicentennial Park. The National Trust Heritage Council and Federal Dept. of Environment are assisting but their role is necessarily limited. A clear decision on the use of the site would help.



Glenlea, 4 Mary St, as seen from the waterfront. (image: Jude Paul)

'Members' Clay Day'

Join your fellow Glebe Society members for an enjoyable afternoon trying your hand at pottery. We will go to the Kil'n'lt classroom in the basement of the Glebe Town Hall, one of



the suburb's best kept secrets! The event is suitable for absolute beginners through to people who have plenty of experience with clay. We'll have a go at hand-building with clay and also using the wheels. Due to the size of the classroom (seven wheels and seven hand-building stations), we can only take 14 participants.

When? 11am-1pm, Sunday 18 June. **Where?** Kil'n'lt classroom, basement of Glebe Town Hall. **Cost?** \$55 per head; which includes instruction

from the teacher/s and all materials. (If you would like your creation glazed and fired in the kiln, there will be an additional cost of \$20 which can be paid on the day). **Bookings?** via the Society's Eventbrite page – click on this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/members-clay-day-tickets-33952238058>. Alternatively call or email Virginia to arrange alternative payment method (contact details below).

For more information: email Virginia at v.simpsonyoung@gmail.com; ph: 0402 153 074.

Advance notice

Keep an eye out in next month's *Bulletin* for details of the event, '**How to research your house online**'. An expert will guide us through the process of learning all about our house and who lived in it. There will also be a panel discussion with members currently going through this process.

Thirsty Thursday



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

We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table.

Connected, Creative Glebe

Glebe's Nicela Martincic – national rowing champ

Congratulations to Nicela Martincic, who has been crowned National Schoolgirl champion after winning the Single Scull at the Australian National Rowing Championship on Sunday 2 April.

Nikki rows for St Scholastica's in Glebe, and trains at the Glebe Rowing Club. Nikki has her sights on the Olympics and we wish her the best of luck.



*A proud Nicela Martincic from St Scholastica's who trains at the Glebe Rowing Club displays her National Schoolgirl champion medal.
(image: Anita Martincic)*

Put these details in your diary now:

- ❖ On Thursday 4 May at 7pm we will meet at *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
- ❖ On Thursday 1 June at 7pm we will share a meal at *Almustafa* Lebanese Restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Rd.
- ❖ And on Thursday 6 July at 7pm we will meet at the rustic Polish restaurant *Na Zdrowie*, 161 Glebe Point Rd.

Please email or ring Edwina on 9660 7066 by 6pm on the Wednesday before to let us know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe

Players in the Pub

Something a bit different for our next theatrical evening!

'A Journey Through the Kaleidoscope of the Mind', with Eduardo, Illusionist, Mentalist and Mind Reader

7 pm, Wednesday 17 May.

Toxteth Hotel Ferry Rd / Glebe Point Rd (first floor, please enter via Ferry Rd stairs).

Free admission. Donations box.

The kitchen is open from 5pm. Please order early. We always start on time!

Lyn Collingwood

Exhibition: Welcome to Glebe

This exhibition is part of the Head On Photo Festival, and features portraits of Glebe's people by Tom Tryfon Psomotragos.

Members may be familiar with Tom's photographic work in the Glebe community, and may even be represented in Tom's collection of stunning portraits which can be seen on his website (<http://www.tomsomotragos.com/glebe/>).

According to the information supplied about the 'Welcome to Glebe' exhibition, portraits 'range through all the social groups of Glebe, from the homeless tented community of Wentworth Park and the large areas of social housing to artists, academics, business people and professionals. This project is an urgent effort to put a face to this unique mix'.

It goes on to say that 'the exhibition, consisting of over 300 images, will centre on The Shop Gallery, flowing out into around 20 other spaces, mainly cafes and other businesses around Glebe. Two

places will feature digital projection on outside walls throughout the period of the exhibition. An artist's book of many of the images will also be on display.'

When? 5 May–17 May; Artist Talk: 5pm, 11 May.

Where? Main exhibition: The Shop Gallery, 112 Glebe Point Rd (<http://theshopgalleryglebe.com>), and twenty more venues around Glebe. **Cost?** Free.

More information:

<https://www.headon.com.au/exhibitions/welcome-glebe>.



Detail of one of the photographs by Tom Psomotragos (source: www.headon.com.au)

Reminder: Open Days for Glebe Library and St Helen's Community Garden

Saturday 20 May

Community Garden Open Day hours: 11am to 3pm. For details of the Library's 20th anniversary Open Day, see: <https://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/glebe-librarys-20th-birthday>.

Gauge gallery: '2 Minds'



Work by Naoras Alkarkhey on display at the '2 Minds' exhibit from 25 April to 7 May at the Gauge Gallery

This show features Naoras Alkarkhey (in her first exhibition) and Emad Dhahir coming together as '2 Minds'. Their work is visually related to the exploration of the human form but conceptually have a different focus.

Naoras' pieces are personal expressions of her own dreams and experiences, which she

represents in the motif of the raven. She also aims to create a message of female empowerment through her depictions of women.

Emad's sculptural work is inspired by the mythology of the Ancient Mesopotamia (his own culture) and his dreams and memories blended with rituals and daily life.

When? 25 April to 7 May. **Where?** Glass Artists' Gallery and Gauge Gallery, 68 Glebe Point Rd.

For more information:

<http://www.glassartistsgallery.com.au>.

Anzac Day Service

Soon after dawn on Anzac Day, around 60 early-risers gathered at the Diggers Memorial in Foley Park for the annual Anzac Day Service.

St James Parish Priest, Father Dominic Murphy, opened the Service with the acknowledgment of Country and a Welcome – competing with the roar of Council garbage trucks finishing off their Tuesday morning round.

Max Solling's speech – which followed a solemn rendition of 'Our God our Help in Ages Past' – addressed the circumstances surrounding the building of a number of war memorials to be found within a three to four km radius of Glebe. Max also drew our attention to an historical perspective to Anzac – taken by some – that eschews the 'bombast' of popular history to uncover a darker side; one that includes mutiny, desertion and self-harm – not to mention the emotional toll on families who faced 'withdrawn and silent husbands and fathers and the indigence of drink, unemployment and family conflict'. The text of Max's speech will be published in next month's *Bulletin*.

Fortunately, the gathered crowd had no difficulty hearing the Lament, piped by Rob McLean, as it has been each year but one since 1992.

A number of wreaths were laid, including the Glebe Society's wreath, pictured. The service was followed by a morning tea at St John's.

Virginia Simpson-Young



The Glebe Society's wreath on Anzac Day 2017 (image: V. Simpson-Young)

For Your Calendar

Thursday 4 May, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Tommy's Beer Café*, 123 Glebe Point Rd.
 5 May–17 May. 'Welcome to Glebe Exhibition', The Shop Gallery, 112 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 6 May, 12:30pm. Dirty Reds Re-launch Luncheon, at 99onYork.
 Wednesday 17 May, 7pm. Players in the Pub, Toxteth Hotel.
 Saturday 20 May. Glebe Library Open Day.
 Saturday 20 May, 11am–3pm. St Helen's Community Garden Open Day.
 Wednesday 24 May, 6pm. Talk: 'Impacts and local management of cats, dogs and foxes' *Benledi*.
 Thursday 1 June, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Almustafa Lebanese Restaurant*, 23 Glebe Point Rd.
 Thursday 6 July, 7pm. Thirsty Thursdays: *Na Zdrowie*, 161 Glebe Point Rd.
 Sunday 9 July, 2.30–4pm. *Our House*, Glenlea, 4 Mary St Glebe Point.
 Sunday 18 June, 11am–1pm. Members' Clay Day, Kil'n'lt classroom, basement Glebe Town Hall.
 25 October to 25 November. Annual Glebe Music Festival, <http://www.glebemusicfestival.com/>.
 Sunday 2 August, 11am–1pm, Annual General Meeting, Glebe Town Hall.
 Sunday 3 December, 5:30–8pm. Christmas Party Glebe Town Hall.



Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037

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Membership of the Glebe Society

- ♦ Individual member: \$45
- ♦ Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- ♦ Household: \$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



Mercia Bush at the Anzac Day Service, sporting a poppy and rosemary hat made for her by a neighbour (image: Judy Vergison)