

Another dud decision on transport by the state government

The State Government continues to make decisions on transport matters that favour the use of motor vehicles over public transport. ... Most major cities around the world have recognised that high quality and efficient public transport – not road infrastructure – is the key to solving their transport needs.

Murray Jewell writes: The NSW Government recently announced its decision to privatise the bus services in Glebe and Forest Lodge. The Government is proposing to engage a private operator for Region 6, one of the four Sydney metropolitan bus regions currently operated by the State Transit Authority. Over 200 bus routes in the Inner West and South West of Sydney will be affected, including the routes 431, 433 and 470 that serve Glebe and Forest Lodge. It is not clear whether the 370 bus route will also be affected. It seems likely that the other bus regions now operated by the STA will also be privatised.

Bus Services in Glebe and Forest Lodge to be privatised

The Greens held a public meeting last week at the Leichhardt Town Hall attended by several hundred people who protested against this decision. The concern is that privatising bus routes will mean a decline in services with the prospect that the some of the off peak times in the schedules and possibly the services

themselves will be dropped where they are considered not to be profitable for the operator to run. Given the many people in Glebe and Forest Lodge who are dependent on buses to get to where they want to go, and who often travel outside peak hours, this is of real concern. The State Government has not indicated that it will require the operator to maintain the frequency of the current services.

Further because profitability will be the driving factor for private operators, pressure will be exerted on bus fares. IPART recently made recommendations to the State Government on the level of public transport fares that should apply for the next three years, with modest increases proposed to the daily cap for seniors. Significant increases in bus fares and the complete removal of the seniors cap after 2019 could now be in the offing.



A public meeting at Leichhardt Town Hall made clear their opposition to the State government's sell-off of our inner west buses. Routes 431, 433 and 470 will be affected, as well as potentially the 370. Expect reduced services and higher costs (Photo: Jamie Parker's Facebook page)

Public transport coming second

The State Government continues to make decisions on transport matters that favour the use of motor vehicles over public transport. The deeply flawed WestConnex project is a prime example. This hugely expensive motorway project will not solve the city's major transport problems but will encourage commuters to use their motor cars. Similarly if bus services decline under the privatisation model, commuters will go back to their motor cars. Unlike Sydney, most major cities around the world have recognised that high quality and efficient public transport, not road infrastructure, is the key to solving their transport needs.

Murray Jewell
Convenor, Transport

Editor's note: Here are some options for further action:

- write to the Premier and/or Transport Minister
- have a look at the Transport Action website, and sign their petition:
<http://ourtransport.org.au/>
- check out 'Don't Sell our Buses' Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/dontsellourbuses/>
- download, print and collect signatures for a petition against privatisation of the buses:
<http://www.mehreenfaruqi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Privatisation-petition.pdf>



*Flier opposing the sell-off of the inner west buses.
(Photo: name withheld)*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the Blue Wren Subcommittee for organising the talk on 'Impacts and Local Management of Cats, Dogs, and Foxes' by Professor Chris Dickman at Benledi on 24 May. The talk was erudite and informative.

As I said at the meeting, in the 28 years I have lived in Glebe I have seen the disappearance of numerous bird species: the pardalote, the bluewren, the willy wagtail, the bul bul, and the silvereye, to name a few. Even the wattlebird has lately stopped visiting our garden.

Fortunate in owning a garden big by inner-city standards, we have spent the last three decades making an environment attractive to small birds – with disheartening results.

Over time, our garden has become a playground – and toilet – for neighbourhood cats. From the evidence of feathers that we find, it has also become a hunting ground. Over three weeks recently, I counted five different cats in our garden. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about it.

Under the Companion Animals Act 1998 Section 31, I can only seek to have a cat removed from my property if the cat is deemed a nuisance; and a cat is only a nuisance if it:

- a. makes a noise that persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.
- b. repeatedly damages anything outside the property on which it ordinarily is kept.

That roaming cats may present a threat to the wildlife is not acknowledged. That I may simply not want to be visited by someone else's cat is not considered.

Under the Act, I am not entitled to remove the cat myself. I must call a Council officer, and wait for them to come. By the time they arrive the cat will be long gone, since it is our experience that cats run off as soon as they see us. If the officer, however, manages to catch the cat, they must check the cat for a microchip, and then explain to the owner, the specific nuisance that the cat has caused. In other words, the Act is totally useless as a tool for keeping cats under control.

The Act should state clearly that cats must be kept on the owner's premises, and one should be entitled to remove humanely a roaming cat from one's garden. In conjunction with these changes to the Act, there should be a convenient place where one can take the cat until its owner is found.

This Act is nearly 20 years old, and, given our greater consciousness of the threat cats pose to native animals, it should be changed.

Let's see birds back in Glebe.

Regards,
Phil Stevenson

Editor's Note: See Blue Wrens Subcommittee Report (p.11) on this topic.

Planning & Infrastructure

A design team appointed for Fish Markets redevelopment: a promising step – but serious planning deficiencies remain

The Premier's announcement on Sunday (25 June 2017) that a Danish architectural firm, 3XN (with Australian partners) has been selected from a short list of six contenders – itself a short list of the 60 parties who responded to the tender invitation – to design the new Sydney Fish Markets is important and potentially positive news. It moves the troubled Bays Precinct project on a small step.

The tender generated an impressive international response and we are assured the selection process was rigorous, so we should have an architectural team capable of designing a world class market on a spectacular but very difficult foreshore site.

Of course, as there was no community involvement in the selection process, we have to accept its rigour on faith. We can take some



Cats and wildlife don't mix! (image: www.backyardchickencoops.com.au/toys-you-can-put-in-your-outdoor-enclosure-to-keep-your-kitty-entertained)

Dear Editor,

I would like to add to the piece in the June *Bulletin* on the history of the Glebe Art Show to mention a few local artists and supporters, particularly James Barker, Nancy Coulson, Robin Lawrence and Chris Newton, who worked tirelessly to establish the Glebe Art Show 20 years ago. It would never have happened without their dedication.

Yours,
Fiona Verge
Secretary, Glebe Art Show

confidence from the fact the City of Sydney Council was involved and is reported as being satisfied with the process.



Artist's representation of the new Fish Markets (source: UrbanGrowth NSW)

The Premier's announcement was accompanied by a couple of artist's representations of what the markets might look like and a broad assurance that the project would be at no cost to the public. And that transport/traffic issues would be worked out – later!

Beyond that, we don't know any more about how this development on the narrow foreshore at Blackwattle Bay adjoining Bridge Rd and Wentworth Park is going to fit with everything else.

The two core issues are 1: how the horrendous traffic issues can be addressed; and, 2. what its connection with – and impact on – Wentworth Park (long ago quietly incorporated into the Bays Precinct boundary) will be.

Will there be a viable solution to the enormous traffic implications?

When asked about traffic and transport implications, the Premier indicated these will be looked at as part of the next design stage! It is difficult to believe that traffic management and transport provisions (and indeed the future of Bridge Rd as well as Glebe Island Bridge) have not been thought through pretty thoroughly at this stage of the planning process.

Surely the Government cannot have committed to a development at this site which aspires to attract six million visitors per annum without having thought through a viable solution to the resulting **ginormous** traffic implications?

When asked about traffic and transport implications, the Premier indicated these will be looked at as part of the next design stage!

Hopefully our lack of any information is just another manifestation of the pervasive secrecy which cloaks so much of the planning process in NSW and not an indicator of chaotic unpreparedness.

Transport planning and traffic management issues have been central to the troubles that have plagued the Bays Precinct project – and played a significant part in the abandonment of the plans for Google to be the major developer of the White Bay Power Station site. Community representatives have repeatedly pressed for access to the Bays transport plan and/or the relevant Department of Maritime Services (DMS) plan without success. As far as I can see

UrbanGrowth (the old one that is) was never able to reach any kind of agreement with DMS about properly integrated transport plans which would support the success of the Bays Precinct Project.



Artist's representation of the new Fish Markets (source: UrbanGrowth NSW)

Will Wentworth Park remain open space?

The other key issue is the impact on Wentworth Park from both the new Fish Markets and the planned intensive residential and commercial high rise development of the nine-plus hectares of the old Fish Markets site.

The Government has indicated that it intends to 'better connect' Wentworth Park to the Bays Market District and the water. That is a good thing and is applauded by the community – if it signals linkage and not loss of open space. We have been assured there will be no residential development on Wentworth Park and that there will be 'a masterplan developed for the Park in partnership with the City of Sydney' and that it will involve community consultation 'on potential uses that would benefit the public – this could include recreational facilities, community facilities or other public infrastructure'.

Social infrastructure for new residents?

The proposed sale of the publicly-owned current Fish Markets site for intensive residential and commercial high rise development will also have a tremendous impact on all aspects of infrastructure. The resulting need for the full range of social infrastructure will be considerable encompassing educational, health, child care and aged care, sporting and recreational.

UrbanGrowth has been developing its social infrastructure plan for this area – and its recent community consultation has had a strong focus on the urgently needed active recreation and sporting facilities.

Lesley Lynch
Convenor, Bays & Foreshores

Planning Report

Bidura 357 GPR

Our letter of objection to the Stage 1 DA can be found on the Society's website.

16 Creek St Forest Lodge

This DA has been refused as an overdevelopment, and because of its impact on the Heritage Items in Hereford St.

1 Ferry Rd

The Society has lodged an objection to this terrace with shopfront added, on the grounds of overdevelopment and adverse impact on the Heritage streetscape.

New park at Harold Park

A report came to Council on 18 June that calls for further work on stormwater drainage from some Toxteth Estate lanes. Completion of the park is now expected in about six months.

Childcare at Record Reign Hall

St John's Church requested a meeting on 11 June to discuss locating a childcare centre on

the Church Hall site (including Record Reign Hall, a Heritage Item which will be conserved).

At the meeting with the Church, and subsequently with the CEO of GoodStart, Paul Mitchell, I suggested we hold a Public Meeting to inform residents and discuss the proposal. Paul has now responded with a suggested date and time, and hence there will be a

**Public Meeting to
discuss a Childcare
Proposal
in Record Reign Hall
at 6pm on July 29, 2017**

The proposal will be presented by GoodStart, and the Church will explain why it has made the decision. There will be an opportunity for questions from the floor.



Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning

History & Heritage

One-of-a-kind 1871 photographs of *Strathmore*

The Glebe Society was very fortunate to have been shown two photos of *Strathmore* [1] (once the home of George Wigram Allen). They seem to be the only existing photographic records of *Strathmore* as a two-storey building.

The 1871 photos were given to the Society by an old friend of ours, Ruth Edenborough. Ruth was married to David Allen, the last of the Allen family to be a partner in Allen Allen & Hemsley. He died recently in his nineties.

Strathmore was located on a five-acre estate sloping down from Glebe Rd to the waters of Blackwattle Bay, directly opposite George Allen's Toxteth Park to the south.

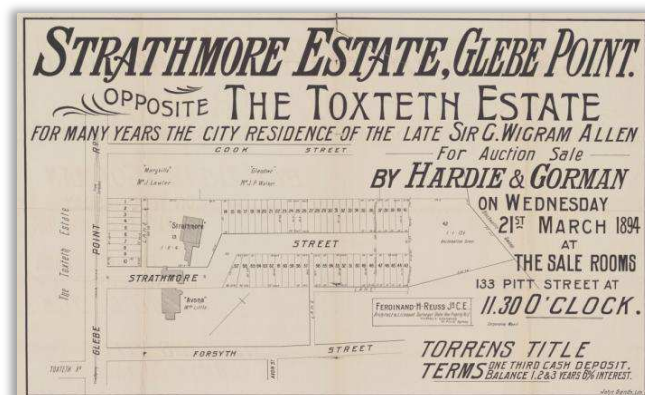
As outlined in Lyn Collingwood's 2014 'Who Lived in Your Street' (*Bulletins* 6 and 7), Blackwattle Bay's *Strathmore* was built in 1857 for businessman and politician Alexander McArthur and was occupied by George Wigram Allen and his family by November 1869.

After a chequered career, *Strathmore* finally succumbed to the demolisher's hammer to be replaced in the 1960s by featureless flats.

Given the significance of these photos, the Society has passed them on to the State Library of NSW for preservation and so they can be shared with the wider community.

Ted McKeown
Convenor, Heritage

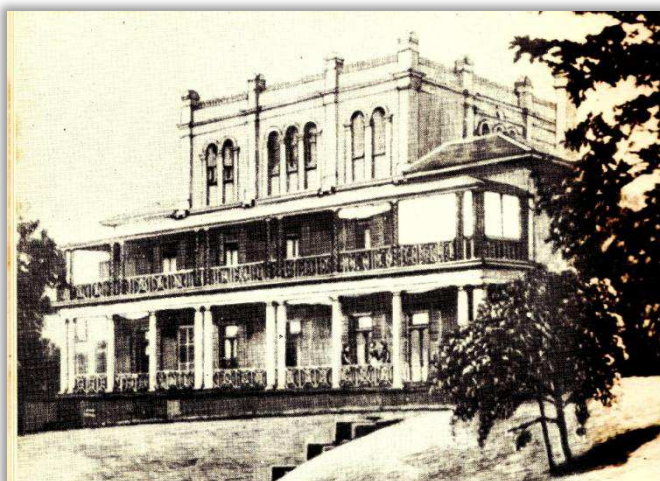
[1] Not to be confused with the *Strathmore* that still stands on the corner of Bridge Rd and Ross St.



Real Estate flier advertising the *Strathmore* Estate for sale in 1894. (Source: NLA)



Strathmore: frontage overlooking Blackwattle Bay, 1871 (image provided to the Glebe Society by Ruth Edenborough)



Strathmore facing Blackwattle Bay, during its occupancy by the Garran family; a third storey has been added. (image: Sir Robert Garran, *Prosper the Commonwealth*, 1958)



Strathmore's frontage to Glebe Rd, 1871 (image provided to the Glebe Society by Ruth Edenborough)



Strathmore facing Glebe Point Rd in 1937, with third storey (Source: unknown)

Who lived in your street? By Lyn Collingwood Richard Thomas (1821-91) and Mary Anne (1829-1916) Meares

The Meares family were the first occupants of *Cliff Lodge* at the corner of Mary St and Glebe Point Rd, a two-storey sandstone villa set in extensive grounds, with a bathing house on Blackwattle Bay. Renamed *The Anchorage* in the 1920s, it was demolished by Parkes Developments in January 1971 after which the site lay vacant for years before home units were built. To hide the spectacular view from locals agitating for a public park, the developers erected an unsightly fence patched together from old palings and bits of plywood and iron. It was hastily reassembled when parts collapsed in high winds.

Cliff Lodge was erected ca 1878 by Alfred Charles Petterson, a speculator builder from Sweden who lived briefly in another of his houses, *Edsburg* in Mary St, before bankruptcy

forced him to move further out of town, to Richmond where he took up farming. The story of *Edsburg* and its neighbour *Glenlea* was told in *Bulletin* 3 of 2015.



The Anchorage, sketched by George Mackay for the Glebe Society before the sandstone villa's demolition in 1971.

Richard Meares was born on 27 July 1821 at Killenboy in County Westmeath, Ireland, and migrated to Sydney where he set up business as a draper. His brother George (1825-1903) joined him in 1847 but five years later settled in Melbourne where he prospered as a draper and was elected Mayor 1879-81.

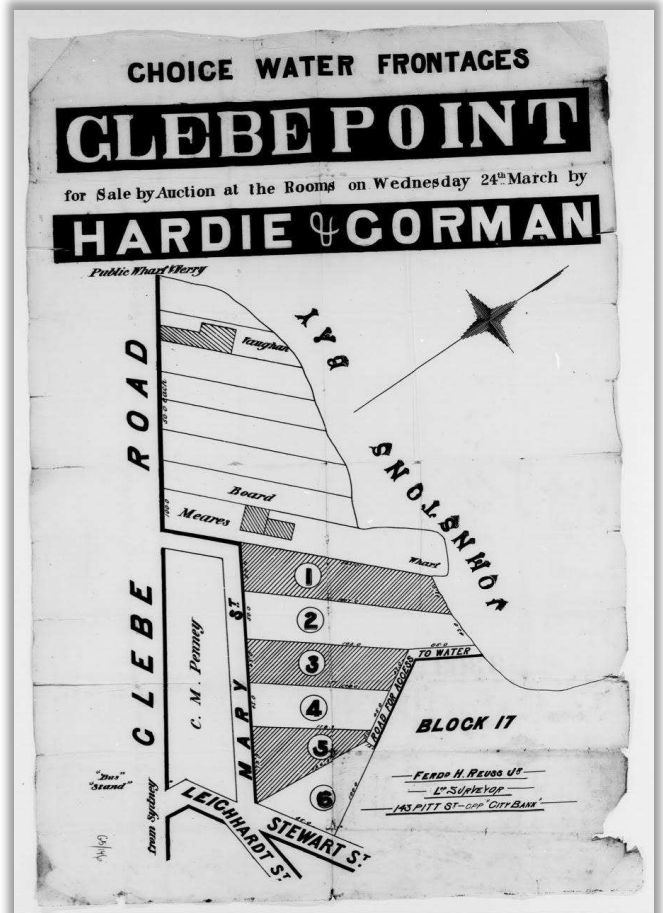
In 1855 Richard married Mary Anne Roberts, born in Sydney in January 1829.

The couple's first three children were born in Glebe: Richard Sydney, Henrietta Lucy (1857-1938) and Lydia (1859-1942). The family then moved to Port Macquarie where Richard invested in the sugar cane industry. Born here were Alice (1861-1937), Matilda (1862-1946), Mary Anne jnr (1864-1950), George Hastings (1866-1926), Robert Alfred (1869-1935) and Hercules (1873-1942). Eldest son Richard Sydney died on 2 March 1871, three months short of his 15th birthday. After working as a publican, Robert Alfred turned to farming. Hercules attended Sydney Grammar and Sydney University, graduating BA 1893 and LLB 1894.

Two daughters married men who lived minutes away. Lydia wed *Edsburg's* Rudolph Hamburger, and Matilda in 1911 took on the surname Meares-Mitchell as the second wife of chemist William Henry Douglas Mitchell who had lived at *Guildford Lodge* 431 Glebe Point Rd. An early female student at Sydney University, Matilda graduated BA 1889 and MA 1892. In 1895, after putting money into Riviere College Woollahra, she won a court case brought by its first principal, a theosophist whom she had dismissed. Matilda then became forthright headmistress of the 'refined and comfortable' girls' boarding school. At a 1917 meeting of the Women's Thrift Campaign she stressed that children were brought into the world not to play but to work, and that the modern girl seemed to think that she was 'born for something higher than mere housework' but there was a war on and all needed to do their duty. Meares-Mitchell's final address was *Doonbah* on the waterfront at Hunters Hill where she hosted garden parties and moonlight fêtes for the Riviere College Old Girls Union. Often featured on the social pages, she was also a founding member of the Shakespeare Society. She died at Hunters Hill on 20 March 1946. Executors of her will were her niece Rosalie Lydia Considine and her solicitor William Heath Moffitt.

Richard Meares JP died on 15 April 1891. In the same year Lydia was married, and Alice wed clergyman Robert Augustus Woodthorpe at St

John's Bishopthorpe on 21 October. This couple went to NZ where Robert became an archdeacon, a Maori scholar and a Professor of Economics. In 1925 they returned to Sydney, settling at Waverley where Alice died in June 1937.



The Anchorage was built by the time the adjacent Mary St blocks were advertised for sale in 1880. (from Lyn Collingwood)

Henrietta Lucy married John Alfred Tunnicliffe in 1895; she converted to Catholicism and waited until 1923 to sue for divorce on the grounds of desertion, 14 years after the event. Henrietta owned properties at Bondi and Katoomba, and in 1932 lost a forgery case against Clive Vernon Ley (the son of politician and murderer 'Lemonade' Ley, Clive was charged in London with forgery 30 years later) and died at Bondi on 25 October 1938.

Mary Anne's brother William Roberts left a substantial estate at his death and she and her children were bequeathed £500 each in 1894. The widowed Mary Anne used her inheritance to extend her Glebe Point real estate to the high water mark on Blackwattle Bay. With her unmarried daughter Mary Anne jnr she remained in *Cliff Lodge* until her death at age 87 on 23 November 1916.

By 1919 rooms were being rented out, and in 1922 the property was advertised for auction, as comprising the house (10 rooms plus offices) set in extensive grounds with access to the waterfront and Mary St, the main road frontage suitable for new buildings. At this time a number of large Glebe houses were converted to boarding houses (*Beresford* 4 Allen St, *Armand* 8 Boyce St, *Orielton* 223A Bridge Rd, *Ardnaho* 223-5 Bridge Rd) with facilities such as billiard and card rooms and smoking lounges. *Cliff Lodge* followed the pattern. By 1924 its rooms had been subdivided and a tennis court built.

At the renamed 22-room *The Anchorage* landlady Mabel Wells offered full board for long-term residents and bed and breakfast for interstate visitors. She remained in charge for 20 years, to be joined by Emma Wells in 1941. In 1944 both women moved to 16 Allen St. Emma died in Glebe in 1947.

Lyn Collingwood, Historian

Sources: *Australian Star* 20.6.1891; Melbourne *Argus* 18.11.1923; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW online registry of births, deaths, marriages; *Sands Directories*; *Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser* 25.4.1891; *Sydney Morning Herald* 16.4.1891, 23.1.1895, 24.11.1916, 22.5.1919, 22.10.1921, 21.9.1922, 5.4.1923, 16.11.1923, 7.2.1924, 29.12.1924, 7.10.1925, 8.1.1927, 14.4.1928, 25.9.1929, 24.8.1940; *Sydney Sun* 13.8.1936; Trove website.

GLEBE POINT.

The Anchorage

MARY STREET,
GLEBE POINT TERMINUS.
(Under New Management.)

Ten Minutes from City, a Home away from Home.

SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION.

Water Frontage, Tennis Court, Beautiful Views, Piano, Electric Light, Hot and Cold Water, Cooking under Personal Supervision.

Tariff from 37/6 weekly.
Phone, MW 1024.
Miss M. WELLS, Proprietress.

By the 1920s The Anchorage, like many Glebe mansions, was no longer a family home but a boarding house. (from Lyn Collingwood)

Video of GPR in 1913



Stills from a silent film showing Glebe Point Rd in 1913. It can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

We have recently uploaded to our YouTube channel an extract from a 1913 silent film with some great footage of Glebe Point Rd.

Have a look at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPs2xdAU9Yo>.

The film shows a real estate salesman, Peter Tighe, and family loading into a taxi to go to Stanwell Park where a developer called Halloran had released land for sale.

Lyn Collingwood tells us that Peter Tighe is in Sands for 1913 residing with his sister, an optician. Both are at 146 Glebe Point Rd, so we can probably assume that the property appearing in the film is 146 Glebe Point Rd.

The house at 144 is still there today, behind 'The Pudding Shop', an identical pair with 146 which was where the Rooftop Apartments are today. The butcher shop sign in the picture is on the side wall of the current *Flavour of India*.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications

'Mystery photo' puzzle – unsolved!

Sorry to report that no-one identified the location of the May *Bulletin's* puzzle, Glebe Baby Clinic, opened ca October 1915. The corner cottage at 76 St Johns Rd was photographed from Broughton St. Virtually unchanged, it's now painted pink.

The Baby Clinic scheme began in 1914 in inner city suburbs. The earliest clinics, each staffed by two nurses, were established in houses in Alexandria, Newtown, Darlinghurst, Mascot, Balmain and Millers Point. Advocates of breast feeding, they weighed infants, gave advice on nutrition and teething troubles, and cautioned against regular dosing with castor oil or giving a baby an aspirin to keep it quiet in the cinema.

In summer, when it was difficult to keep milk cold, the clinics were kept busy dealing with outbreaks of gastro-enteritis. Serious cases were referred to a local doctor or hospital. Some mothers and infants were treated at the convalescent hospital at Rose Bay.

When the children got older it was expected that they would be checked by the school medical service.

During the Great War the clinics lost nurses who volunteered for the Front. Glebe's Ruby Agnes Hungerford (1878-1973) was one of 20 nurses who left for France with the Red Cross Society in

June 1916, a month after our 'mystery photo' was taken.

A purpose-built Baby Health Centre was erected in Foley Park in 1947.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian



Dressing and dispensing room inside the Glebe Baby Clinic, 1916 (source: State Library of NSW)

Glebe, Naturally

What are we going to do about plastic bags?

Lightweight supermarket bags are used, on average, for 12 minutes. But they take hundreds, perhaps 1,000, years to break down.

The bags are made from polyethylene which comes from non-renewable fossil fuels, like natural gas and petroleum.

The modern single-use, singlet-style plastic bags was developed in only 1976. Before then people used baskets and string bags, cardboard boxes and paper bags.

At first consumers were slow to adopt them, but Australians now use an estimated 10 million single-use plastic bags every day.

The thin singlet type of bag is made from High Density Polyethylene (HDPE). They cannot be recycled with council collections – they jam the sorting machines at the recycling centres. Some supermarkets, like Coles at Broadway, have recycling bins specifically for them.

Far too many plastic bags end up as litter. That litter that is not just unsightly. In the water the bags become a danger to marine life.

Glebe, as a waterfront suburb, has a special responsibility to ban plastic bags.

Single use plastic bags were banned in South Australia in 2009. They have since been banned in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT and next year Queensland will ban them. They are banned in more than 30 countries including France, Italy, China, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Kenya.

The United Nations Environmental Programme described marine plastic pollution as a toxic time bomb. The program's executive director, Achim Steiner, stated:

Single use plastic bags which choke marine life, should be banned or phased out rapidly

everywhere. There is simply zero justification for manufacturing them anymore, anywhere.

Fish and marine animals, like turtles, can become entangled in plastic and die. But the real danger is when the plastics breakdown into microplastic, tiny pieces that marine animals and fish can eat. A study last year found there was far more – 37 times more – microplastic in the ocean than previously thought, and that posed a terrible danger:

To a curious seal, an intact packing band, a loop of plastic used to secure cardboard boxes for shipping, drifting in the water is a serious entanglement hazard, whereas bits of floating microplastic might be ingested by large filter-feeding whales down to nearly microscopic zooplankton.

Last year the Senate conducted an Inquiry into the threat of marine pollution in Australia. The report was titled 'Toxic Tide: the threat of marine plastic'. It reported there was over 150 million tonnes of plastic waste in the oceans today, and the amount of plastic in the world's oceans is forecast to grow to 250 million tonnes in 2025.



Single-use plastic bags are a danger to marine life, including marine life in Sydney Harbour (source: <http://www.1millionwomen.com.au>)

The Senate Inquiry reported that over 50 per cent of turtles worldwide have ingested marine debris and over 60 per cent of some species of seabirds have been found with plastic in their gut. Plastics contain many chemicals, some of them toxic.

The Inquiry recommended 'that the Australian Government support states and territories in banning the use of single-use lightweight plastic bags. In doing so, the Australia Government should ensure that alternatives do not result in other pollutants entering the environment.'

Our neighbouring Inner West Council has called for a ban on single-use plastic bags, so why

doesn't the City of Sydney? The answer is they are waiting for the NSW State government to make a move, and there are no indications of that will happen any time soon.

Plastic bags are just one part of the problem, but banning single-use plastic bags is both practical and symbolic. It educates people about the risk plastic pollution poses, reduces plastic waste, and encourages people to recycle. Maybe it will even prompt people to ponder how we became a society in which a non-renewable resource millions of years old can become an environmental problem lasting hundreds of years, so people can have 12 minutes of convenience.

Asa Wahlquist
Convenor, Environment

References:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Marine_plastics/Report; <https://theconversation.com/far-more-microplastics-floating-in-oceans-than-thought-51974>

Notes on recycling plastic

Council recycling takes plastic bottles (please remove lids) as well as plastic containers and trays with a 1 or a 2 in the triangle on the bottom.

Soft plastic, broadly defined as plastic that can be scrunched into a ball e.g. plastic supermarket bags, bread bags, pasta and rice bags, wrappers around biscuit bags etc. can be placed in recycling bins at some supermarkets. Coles at Broadway has a bin, on the far right as you enter the store.



Fun with Flowers at St Helen's Community Garden (Source: Lyn Collingwood)

News from Blue Wrens Subcommittee

Professor Chris Dickman and does your moggie have a bib?

At *Benledi* on 24 May, Professor Chris Dickman, Professor in Ecology from the University of Sydney, spoke to 34 members and their friends about the 'Impacts and local management of cats, dogs and foxes'. Cats have had a devastating effect on Australia's smallest mouse-like marsupials as many of these animals quickly became extinct soon after European settlers arrived with their pets; these native animals provided a food source that was easily caught by cats.

He described the results of research studies on the predatory habits of cats in the eastern suburbs of Sydney which showed that domestic and stray cats are very efficient hunters of small native fauna and rats, and tend to specialise in a particular species e.g. some will hunt and kill small birds while others are very successful at hunting lizards or rodents.

As well as being part of the family, our pets provide companionship and many other benefits. Some of the discussion considered ways of keeping pets without impacting on our local wildlife and, especially, our diminishing numbers of small birds in Glebe. As a cat owner, what can you do to help prevent your pet eating native fauna? Pet cats are fully domesticated and adjusted to living indoors (with a kitty litter tray) so it is not cruel to keep your pet inside especially overnight and even during the day.

If you allow your cat to spend time in the garden, it has been shown that a collar and bell are ineffective in warning birds that they are being hunted. Recent studies at Murdoch University in Perth have shown that fitting a small brightly coloured vest/bib to cats when they are outdoors stopped over 80% of cats killing wild birds and reduced small animal predation by almost half (see catbib.com.au; the cost of a bib is \$16.50 plus postage).

The main impact of dogs on our local wildlife is one of fear. So, if you wish to see a full range of Glebe's birds as you are walking through our parks don't take your dog with you – even a leashed dog will cause birds to fly away to a safer area.

Despite the lack of sightings, it would not be a surprise to find that foxes are living in Glebe as they have found safe habitats in parks and golf courses in other inner city regions. As far as their

diet is concerned, foxes compete with cats by feeding on rodents and native fauna.

After Professor Dickman's talk there was time for lots of questions which continued over a glass of wine and sushi – in a subsequent e-mail, Professor Dickman said he enjoyed having the chance of talking to the Society and 'it was a pleasure to meet such a passionate and well informed group of people!'.



A cat wearing the catbib which has been shown to reduce cats killing native creatures (<https://catbib.com.au/>)

Interpretative walk in Orphan School Creek

To celebrate World Environment Day, Sophie Golding, Urban Ecology Coordinator with City of Sydney, facilitated a guided walk through Orphan School Creek, Forest Lodge on Sunday 4 June. Judy Christie led the walk which was attended by about 25 people including the Council Coordinator of Glebe's local parks, Nick Criniti.

Judy sketched in the early history of the site and showed a photo of Orphan School Creek in 1926 when the Water Board was completing the piping of the creek (described in 1887 as 'not much more than a sewer'). The work of the local community group, (Friends/Resident/Ratepayers

of the Orphan School Creek Gully – FRROGs) formed in 1996 when the Camperdown Children’s Hospital closed, was outlined. FRROGs was a subcommittee of The Glebe Society during this time and the Glebe Society helped in identifying ‘The Gully’ as it was then locally known, as actually being *Orphan School Creek* (earlier known as Grose Farm Creek). This creek had originally been the home of the local Cadigal /Wanngal people for whom it would have been an important freshwater food source for fish and plants.

The walk commenced from above the revegetated areas and along Sterling Circuit (the former helipad of the Children’s Hospital) so participants could get an overview of the rapid growth of native trees, shrubs and vines. The first stage was planted about 2004 along the original creek line, which includes a Sydney Water easement as well as the western bank which was owned by the then developer, Sterling Pty Ltd.

Although the whole site, including the Wood St lands later acquired by the City of Sydney, had to be totally cleared to enable soil remediation, the concept was to restore a bushland habitat using native plants similar to the original Sandstone vegetation and Turpentine-Ironbark woodlands which would once have covered the area. This was the concept developed by FRROGs and supported by Leichhardt Council and the developers, who funded much of the work. The original ‘Gully’ though weedy and strewn with rubble, was great habitat for small birds such as Superb Fairy-wrens, frogs and reptiles. The headline of the local paper, the *Village Voice* in November 1998 which Judy quoted to the group: ‘*Bush Gully saved – but bulldozers must demolish first*’ captured the issue well.

The restoration plan, written by the Bush Regeneration section of the National Trust, included habitat elements like logs, rocks and other non-plant materials and emphasised the concept of a wildlife sanctuary and the importance of creating a ‘green corridor’.

Many of the participants on the walk were surprised that the site was a totally reconstructed bushland park and impressed at the success of

the plantings along the zig zag path up the eastern side of the creek line. These final sections were not completed until the City of Sydney was able to buy the land and initiate a land-swap with Westmead Children’s Hospital in 2007. ‘Before’ and ‘After’ photos of the planting in 2009 helped paint a picture of the challenges involved. Nick Criniti discussed ongoing maintenance for which he has had responsibility since City of Sydney was handed over management of the whole site from the developer in 2013.

Judy then ended the walk by taking participants through sections near Wood St where the group she coordinates, Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare, hold regular working bees. The ‘Habitat Haven’ – a small patch the group planted out in 2016, demonstrated the success of their work and it was hoped that as time went on this patch might support more wildlife. Sophie Golding and Judy both spoke about recent research showing the benefits of diverse bushland and green spaces for human health – both physical and mental health. Diversity of plants, as opposed to simple park landscapes has been shown to reduce our stress and assist healing. After the walk Sophie provided a tasty morning tea for everyone.

Friends of Orphan Creek will be holding a working bee to plant more native shrubs on Sunday 30 July 10 am-12 noon. Contact Judy 0437 693 372 for details.

Andrew Wood and Judy Christie
Blue Wrens Subcommittee



Guided walk at Orphan School Creek 4 June led by Judy Christie (far right). Nick Criniti, City of Sydney Parks Coordinator and Sophie Golding, City of Sydney Urban Ecologist on Judy's left (source: Helen Randerson).

Retention of dying *Ficus* in Jubilee Park

Last year a *Ficus obliqua* (Moreton Bay Fig) in Jubilee Park, close to the western entrance to the light rail tunnel in Victoria St, had almost died. The Society wrote to the City asking that

the tree be retained and made safe by pruning to provide habitats for insects, birds and other animals.

As *Land for Wildlife Queensland* states, 'large, old trees and standing dead trees are unique and irreplaceable features of our landscapes'. Known as 'habitat' or 'stag' trees, 'they provide numerous living places and other resources for many kinds of animals and plants'. These trees 'have lots of hollows, cracks and crevices of various sizes, where animals may live, breed or shelter. Old and dead trees are an essential part of all native forests and can be referred to as 'nature's community dwellings' as they provide an important resource to wildlife 24 hours a day'.

The City accepted our request and the *Ficus* has now been expertly pruned and we look forward to seeing its use by Glebe's native fauna.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens

The purple patch

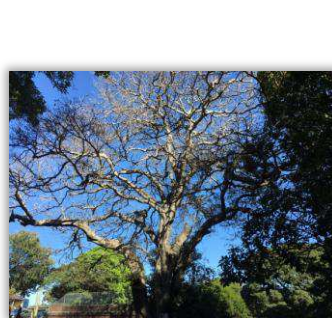
Want to show your inner-city kids how an eggplant grows on the vine?

Head down to the Jubilee Kitchen Garden on the south side of Jubilee Oval (under the arches where the Men's Shed is located) and you'll catch this budding vegie in all its aubergine-hued glory.

There are five vegetable beds to peruse and pick from, and the garden welcomes community members.

For more details, see
<https://jubileegardensblog.wordpress.com>.

Madeleine Jennings



The Ficus in Jubilee Park (L) and the same tree following its pruning to create a 'habitat' or 'stag tree' for Glebe's native fauna (R) (photos by Andrew Wood).



Eggplant growing at the Jubilee Kitchen Garden (image: Madeleine Jennings)

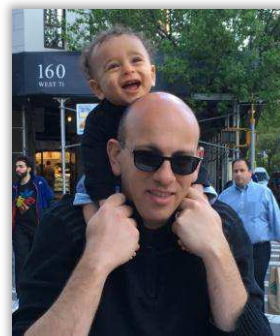
Glebe Society happenings

Phil Young hands over webmaster's baton to Andrew Botros

Phil Young has been our webmaster for many years now and has finally decided to call it a day. We thank Phil so much for all his work over that time.

We are very pleased that Andrew Botros has agreed to take on the webmaster role.

Andrew is an engineer and technology strategist, father to a family of two young boys, and might be seen at various Glebe cafes writing his book on innovation. Thanks also to Andrew.



Phil Young (L) and Andrew Botros (with Charlie) (R) (photos by Bruce Davis and Christine Guirguis)

Membership renewal



By now you should have received your membership notice in the post. Don't forget to renew soon, so that you continue to receive the newsletter after July.

If you have more than two people in your household, you can all be members of the Society as part of the 'Household Membership'. Ensure you list each household member on the membership form and include their email address if they would like to receive the *Bulletin* and other communications from the Society.

There are two lines on the form for this purpose, but if you need more space you could continue below the lines.

At the bottom of the membership form is a box you can tick of you prefer to receive the *Bulletin* via email. If you are currently receiving the *Bulletin* via email, don't forget to tick this to ensure you continue to receive the email via email.

If you have any queries about membership renewals, please contact Jude Paul, our Secretary on secretary@glebesociety.org.au or phone 0438 600 882

Events

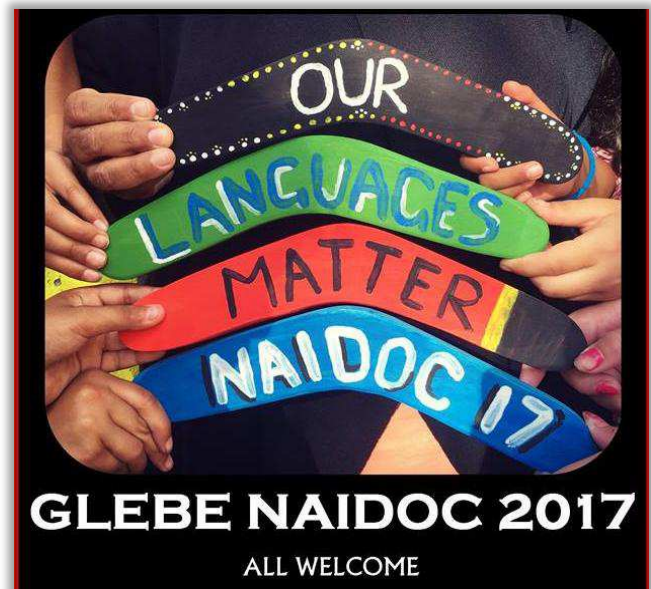
NAIDOC '17: 'Our Languages Matter'

There were more than 250 distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups at the time of the first European contact, but only 120 of those languages are still spoken – and many are at risk of being lost.

NAIDOC Week's theme this year is 'our languages matter', and it's a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to come together to experience and celebrate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

There are heaps of events on in Glebe to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2017.

Chose from the list below – all welcome.



Fri 30 June	11:30am	Community Day	Glebe Public School
Sat 1 July	10am	Glebe Markets	Glebe Public School
Sun 2 July	9:30am	Scarred Tree Social Event	St John's Church
Sun 2 July	1pm	History Tour	St John's Church
Tues 4 July	12noon	Elders' Lunch	Tranby College
Fri 7 July	6:30pm	Corroboree Night	Peter Forsyth Auditorium

More information is available on Glebe NAIDOC's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/GlebeNaidoc/>

Virginia Simpson-Young

Glebe Voices: Artificial Intelligence – should you be scared?

Although there has been a recent obsession in the media over whether robots will take all our jobs or even undertake all those jobs we don't want to do, in fact Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques have been used for decades.

Our next speaker is Andrew Botros who has been building AI applications for 15 years in areas such as medicine, finance and music.

Andrew, whose PhD studies were undertaken in this area, will give us an introduction to the topic



and will also discuss the multiple fields that influence and have influenced AI.

Artificial intelligence, also known as 'robotics', 'machine learning' and many other synonyms, is becoming ubiquitous in our lives.

Please join us for this talk which the presenter promises 'will be easily digestible over dinner and a glass of wine'.

When? Wednesday July 19 at 6 pm; Where? Yuga Café, 172 St Johns Rd Glebe; Cost: free entry, but attendees are encouraged to support our hosting café by ordering from the choice of light meals and beverages available.

Carole Herriman

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.

Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 6 July at 7pm we will meet at the rustic Polish restaurant *Na Zdrowie*, 161 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 3 August we will go to Himalayan Char Grill, 41 Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 7 September we will share an Indian meal at *Darbar*, 134 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

Connected, Creative Glebe

An AM award for our famous Director, Gale Edwards

Gale Edwards has been a Glebe resident for the past 15 years and, she hopes, for ever more. But between her birth city of Adelaide and her adopted home of Glebe, there have been some pretty interesting addresses - London, New York ...



The Glebe Society's 'Clay Day' event was held on Sunday 18 June. The Society's Jude Paul receives instruction from Eloise. Thanks to Kil'n'lt Experimental Ceramics for a fun and informative session (image: Alice Simpson-Young)

Players in the Pub

We are working our readings around State of Origin and other events at the Toxteth Hotel which is under new management. Our next date is:

7pm Thursday 13 July

Planned is a classic 'well made' English play.

If you are not on our database and would like to be, please send your email details to: lyncol1@optusnet.com.au

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

Free admission. Donations box. The kitchen is open from 5pm. Please order early.

We always start on time!

How's our footy team doing?



For those of you who are following the Glebe Dirty Reds ... Concord Burwood Glebe is 7th on the ladder.

Our next Glebe home game is at Leichhardt Oval on Saturday 29 July at 3pm against Cabramatta. This will double as our family day for the season.

Darren Flynn

An early devotee of stage and screen, Gale's studies, talents and passions ensured a deep plunge into the theatrical world as a career. She is known nationally and internationally for her work directing drama, comedy, established classics and large scale musicals, as well as the development of new Australian work. She is also well known as a teacher and a mentor in theatrical world.

Gale has a number of 'firsts' to her credit. She was the first Australian, and the first woman, to

direct on the main stage at The Royal Shakespeare Company and to open a musical on both the West End and Broadway. She brought the original production of *The Boy from Oz* to our stage and the first International scale musical to China – in Mandarin.

In the last few years, Gale has played a major role in our beloved Opera on the Harbour, directing both *Aida* and *Carmen* for this spectacular event.

Gale's recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours list caps a long list of awards – an Emmy for her televised film of Jesus Christ Superstar, three Sydney Critics Circle Awards, five Green Room Awards, two Mo Awards, two Helpmann Awards, a 2000 Centenary Medal for 'Service to Australian Society' and an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University which describes her as one of their most distinguished graduates of the School of Humanities and Creative Arts. (Gale spent several months in 2014 as Professor of Drama at Flinders University, teaching master classes and regular topics in the Drama Program.)

I'm sure all our members share heartfelt congratulations on Gale's fine achievements and thanks for her unique contribution to our theatrical world. And clearly, our sentiments are echoed on the national stage ...

Jude Paul



Gale Edwards with 'Tosca' (source: Jude Paul)

Book launch at St James

The book launch of Anne Wark's *Journal of a Voyage to Australia 1855-56* by Myles Athy, a recruit for St Mary's Monastery, Sydney, is being held At St James Church Glebe by former parish priest, Father Colin Fowler OP on Sunday 30 July 2017 at 3pm.

Anne Wark has transcribed Athy's handwritten journal and written his biography. The book is being published with the support of St James's Parish.

The Journal entry for Saturday 27 October 1855 begins:

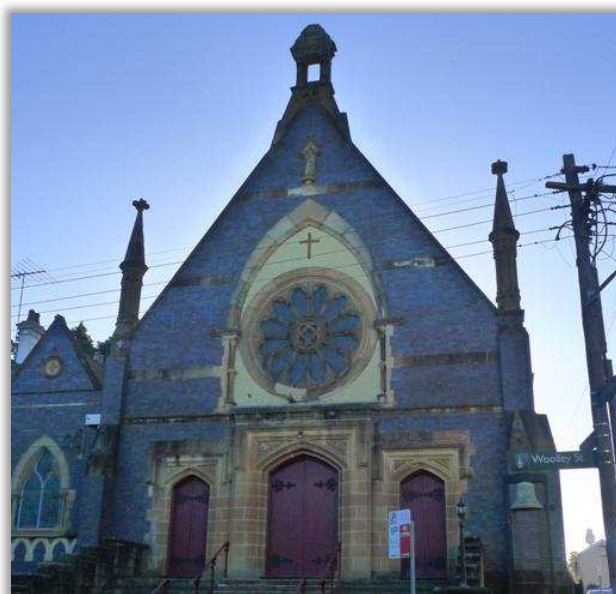
The Archbishop came on board at about 6H.0M AM. Weighed anchor at about 7H.0M. Were towed down the Mersey by the tug steamboat Dreadnought which parted from us at 11H.20M AM as the wind was fair. Fresh breeze blowing.

These are the opening lines in the journal kept by Myles Athy during his voyage to Sydney, Australia on the vessel Phoenix which set sail from Liverpool, England over 161 years ago.

Athy went on to be ordained in Sydney as a priest in the Benedictine order. He worked in parishes in Sydney, the Central Coast and Wollongong before his final appointment, aged in his early 60s, to St James Parish. One of the stained glass windows in St James is dedicated to Athy's memory.

When? Sunday 30 July 2017 at 3pm. Where? St James' Church, Woolley St; RSVP by 24 July 2017: info@stjames-stbede.org.au.

Anne Wark



St James Church Glebe (image: lukeapthorpe.com.au)

For your calendar

2-9 July, NAIDOC Week. Various events around Glebe. See p.14

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.

Thursday 13 July, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*. Toxteth Hotel.

Wednesday, 19 July, 6pm. *Glebe Voices: Artificial Intelligence – should you be scared?* Yuga Café

Saturday July 29, 6pm. *Public Meeting to discuss Childcare Proposal*, Record Reign Hall, St Johns Rd

Sunday 30 July, 10 am. *Working bee in Orphan School Creek Park*, contact Judy Christie – 0437 693 372

Sunday 30 July 2017 at 3pm. *Launch of Anne Wark's book*, St James' Church, Woolley St Glebe.

Thursday 3 August, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday: Himalayan Char Grill*, 41 Glebe Point Rd.

Saturday 12 to Saturday 19 August. Glebe Art Show, Benledi and Glebe Library.

Sunday 20 August, 11am-1pm. *Annual General Meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.

Thursday 7 September, 7pm. *Thirsty Thursday: Darbar*, 134 Glebe Point Rd.

Friday 13 October, 6-8.30pm. *Sunset Soirée for Centipede*. Glebe Rowing Club.

25 October to 25 November. *Annual Glebe Music Festival*, <http://www.glebemusicfestival.com/>.

Saturday 4 November, 11am-1pm: *Researching Your House Online*. Glebe Town Hall

Sunday 3 December, 5.30-8pm. *Christmas Party*, Glebe Town Hall.



Glebe Society Inc.

Established 1969

Management Committee

President	Allan Hogan	02 9552 6413	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	John Gray	02 9518 7252	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au
Secretary	Jude Paul	0438 600 882	secretary@glebesociety.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Rozzie Hecker	0400 11 2610	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Jane Gatwood	0488 118 355	treasurer@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Carole Herriman	02 9571 9092	carole@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Diane Hutchinson	0407 207 177	diane@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945	transport@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Margaret Cody	02 9692 9384	margaret@glebesociety.org.au
Bays & Foreshores	Lesley Lynch	02 9660 5084	bays@glebesociety.org.au
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au
Communications	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	communications@glebesociety.org.au
Community	Janice Challinor	0401 505 657	community@glebesociety.org.au
Environment	Asa Wahlquist	02 9660 8261	environment@glebesociety.org.au
Heritage	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	heritage@glebesociety.org.au
Planning	Neil Macindoe	02 9660 0208	planning@glebesociety.org.au
Transport & Traffic	Murray Jewell	0405 921 945	transport@glebesociety.org.au

Working Groups & Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	02 9660 7930	milton.lyn@gmail.com
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	editor@glebesociety.org.au
Events	Judy Vergison	02 9692 9200	events@glebesociety.org.au
History	Lyn Collingwood	02 9660 5817	lyncol1@optusnet.com.au
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Webmaster	Andre Botros		webmaster@glebesociety.org.au
Website technical	Peter Thorogood		support@glebesociety.org.au
Chief Twit	Allan Hogan	02 9552 6413	twitter@glebesociety.org.au

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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



Women's Hairdressing Salon, Glebe Point Rd, 1970. (image: Jock Keene)