Issue 1 of 2018 (March 2018)

ISSN 1836-599X

## Residents' Concerns over Bellevue Cottage



Bellevue – looking neglected – in late 2017 (image: V. Simpson-Young)

The City Council is continuing its assessment of the Development Application for *Bellevue* – the Heritage listed cottage situated in Blackwattle Park at Glebe Point. The DA is for the 'Use of existing building known as *Bellevue Cottage* for a licensed restaurant for 152 patrons and café for 96 patrons with hours of operation between 6am and 10pm, 7 days per week.'

The Glebe Society has a lengthy history of fighting to preserve this historic building. Built in 1896, it is one of the few surviving examples of late Victorian dwellings that characterised Jarrett's Point on the Blackwattle Bay foreshore. Members of the Society mobilised to prevent its illegal demolition in the mid 1970s. Leichhardt Council purchased the foreshore parkland, including *Bellevue*, at the end of 1981, but it fell into disrepair after a number of Development Applications were refused. It was not until 2006 that the City budgeted \$1.2 million for its restoration and then approved its use as a café in 2010.

The café was a popular venue for locals but was not a commercial success and closed its doors in

2017. Believing that some of the restrictions placed on its operations limited its commercial viability, the Glebe Society wrote to the Council in October supporting an extension of its operating hours. It seems that some residents regarded this as the Society giving a 'green light' to the DA which was not advertised until December.

The Society made a formal response to the DA in January which addressed the residents' concerns. In particular, the Society demanded that issues of parking, noise, hours of operation, and landscaping be addressed before approval was granted. Far from giving a 'green light' to the DA, the Society put on record its apprehensions about the possibility of unfavourable outcomes.

In 2006, following community consultation, a Program of Management was established for the East Glebe Foreshore and approved by the Council. The Program regulated the use of community land along the foreshore and specifically listed guidelines for the future use of *Bellevue*. Among the possible uses listed were for a café and/or restaurant, subject to plans to minimise vehicle traffic and parking in local streets by promoting pedestrian and water access, and to minimise noise experienced by local residents, especially at night. The Society will watch closely to ensure the Council follows its own guidelines.

The Society believes that the preservation and maintenance of *Bellevue*, and its value as a community amenity, is most likely to be achieved if the building has a permanent tenant. The Society does not favour any particular tenant but understands that if the lease limits the possibility of a successful commercial venture, the building could become an empty shell with the dangers that poses to its preservation.

Allan Hogan Glebe Society President



## Vale Nick

Nicholas Gerard John Hespe 17<sup>th</sup> June 1950 - 21 December 2017

Born in Sydney, Nick was given middle names of his respective grandfathers, and his surname derived from Carl Heinrich Hespe, who'd emigrated to NSW to work the Mogo and Araluen goldfields in the 1850s. Nick was the first born of parents Don and Col who initially lived in Concord, then Strathfield with their in-laws until they respective moved to Canterbury. Siblings Tony, born in 1952, Lyn in 1953 and Tim in 1955 were born there and Gerard, born in 1963 after they moved to Como Parade completed the family. The Hespes and their cousins from the Moore, Wadell and Keon clans developed close bonds. Camping trips down the south coast and to Araluen were traditions Nick continued with his children. Sense of place and memory, family and history were very important to him.

Nick attended St Patrick's in Sutherland, then enrolled in science at Sydney University but didn't last very long. He did, however, meet Deborah Fry at a first year social. Both their fathers, they discovered, had been working in London and Vienna with the Atomic Energy Commission. Don Hespe and Bob Fry had previously worked together at Lucas Heights in the 60s, and would later work together for the Office of the Supervising Scientist. Nick and Deb married in 1973 and Tom was born in January 1974. Around this time Nick began working with the Australian artist Dennis Adams, along with Bill Baverstock as an assistant. He always spoke fondly and proudly of this time of his life. He was a newly-wed young father who was enjoying working with men he much admired. Together they produced a number of works, many of which can still be seen today; the most notable being the bronze bas-relief memorial to the South East Asian Wars in Regimental Lane between George St and Wynyard Lane (http://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/royalaustralian-regiment-memorial/). It was during this time that Nick was exposed to asbestos. It was an ingredient in the plaster that Nick would mix for moulds.

After he and Deb parted ways Nick embarked on a new stage in his life. He moved into a rambunctious share house in Watkin St, Newtown and began studying early childhood education. In the late 1970s this was a fairly radical move for a man but one that Nick readily embraced. He was a compassionate, inventive, intelligent man with a cheeky sense of humour, and found working with kids really rewarding. He had the uncanny ability to engage with children immediately and with ease. Nick worked for some time with the kids at *Elsie* in Glebe, the first Women's Refuge in Australia, and did his first pre-school placement out at Moree in the NSW North West.



Nick Hespe (image: Phil Young)

When the Magic Yellow Bus job came along it seemed custom-made for Nick. Who else could list Bus Driver and Pre-school Teacher on their resume let alone combine them for work? Loaded with craft equipment and supplies sourced from Reverse Garbage, the MYB would head off from Addison Rd each afternoon to an inner city park and set up outdoor after school care activities. He worked on the bus for four years and these were very memorable times. Nick's co-worker on the bus was Annie Fitzgerald; Annie introduced him to her cousin Amanda Walton and thus began new chapter in Nick's life.

In Mandy, Nick found a soul-mate. In 1984 he and Mandy moved to Maitland; Nick to work on a mobile community van, Mandy to take her first solicitor's job in Wyong. It was a bold move for both of them. The fresh air and new start obviously agreed with them. Before long their daughters were born, Madeleine in 1985, Jo in

1986; the Walton-Hespes had arrived. The couple tied the knot the end of that year.

It was only two years before the family moved back to Sydney and settled in Mandy's house in Watsons Bay. Nick got a job at the Bondi Cottage child centre before changing tack and working for a time in Blackwattle Bay, making parquetry floors. He loved being on the tools, in his shorts, covered in exotic fragrant sawdust. The attention to detail this job required appealed to his sense of order and design.

Before long, however, another change took place. Mandy's uncle, Jamie McInnes was terminally ill, so Nick and Mandy and the girls relocated to Lindfield, and took on the roles of primary carers for Jamie's teenage daughters Megan and Genevieve. Nick managed with his usual gentleness and practicality to make the process of relocation, co-habitation, loss and grief as smooth as possible for everyone. He became a second father to Gen and Megs. The Lindfield house was always full of laughter despite the heartache. Somehow during this time Nick managed, among other things, to complete a graduate diploma in conflict resolution whilst working in the Early Childhood sector on the Northern Beaches.

In 1996 the Walton-Hespes moved back to Watsons Bay. Devotion to his immediate and extended family and fulfilment through his work in the community sector coupled with the pleasure he got from cycling and creating things was to be the pattern for the rest of Nick's life. Nick had it all; he really was very content with his lot and only a month before he passed away he told his son, Tom, how lucky he had been in his life and what a good life it had been – no regrets. Watching his parents age and pass, his children grow, the tragic loss of Genevieve; these were milestones to be respected and cherished, but Nick's focus was always resolutely on the future.

When the ABC relocated from William St to Ultimo at the turn of the century Nick was given the task of designing the onsite childcare centre. He relished this opportunity, which in a sense was the culmination of his work in early childcare and one that paved the way for the next stage of his career; working for the City of Sydney. Nick's calm and gentle nature, his attention to detail and the order of things, his diplomacy, empathy and good humour, coupled with the respect and support of his colleagues and the community allowed him to do such valuable work in the City, and in Glebe in particular. The major redevelopment and refurbishment of the Glebe

Point Rd precinct, which began shortly after Nick came to Glebe in 2004, may have been considerably more problematic for residents and businesses alike had Nick not been on hand to mediate. The list of achievements he had a hand in is long, as is the list of people whose lives he touched. Nick's friendship and support was something he would give unquestioningly to all people.

The last three years have been bittersweet for all the whole family. Nick's diagnosis with mesothelioma was such a shock but he knew something was up. As with everything it was a process the whole family went through and something Nick tackled with his indomitable practicality and optimism. The cancer was something he would die with, not of.

The treatments knocked him around, he lost weight and was in constant pain which kept growing. He finally started to look his age rather than twenty years younger. Nonetheless, life went on; perhaps even more keenly that before. Cycling was essential as always, work was not a job but food for his soul and a pleasure, and something he continued in as long as possible. After resigning Nick continued to cycle to and visit Glebe on a regular basis. He became active in the community committee of the Glebe Society, and he and Mandy took trips to the US and Portugal, and participated in the annual family rail trail rides to Victoria. Madeleine and Dan's wedding and, of course, baby Jude who arrived a day before Nick's birthday contributed to his joy. As Mandy said, 'Nick was so ready for Jude'.

Nick was very stubborn and resolute in his quiet way. He avoided hospital till the last day, and even then the family felt like they were at home. Nick slipped away peacefully and gracefully surrounded in love by his family, just as he lived.

Janice Challinor Convenor, Community Development Thank you to Nick's son, Thomas, for sharing with Janice his eulogy for his late father.

# Travelling in May? Like to rent out your home?

We are looking for a rental from May 19-30 to suit a couple with two children (4 and 7). Contact Mairéad Browne 0405440511 or browne.mairead@gmail.com

## Planning & Infrastructure

## Planning Report, by Neil Macindoe

An unusually large number of applications were advertised over the holiday period, when many people were away. The Society will request Council to actively discourage this practice, as it results in many interested residents being denied a chance to adequately consider the impact of proposals, and to lodge comments.

#### Bellevue, 55A Leichhardt St

This is the most egregious example of inadequate advertising and notification. The cottage is a Heritage Item, and previously operated as a café until 18 months ago. During this period of operation the Society did not receive any complaints. However, there were widespread concerns about the limited hours of operation, and its closure on Mondays.

It is desirable that, as a Heritage Item, *Bellevue* should be occupied again as the best means of security, and the most effective way is for it to be a business open to the public.

However, there are quite a few questions about the current proposal that need to be resolved before it is approved. These concerns are widely shared, and it is likely the new lessee will operate under the existing DA until the issues are properly addressed.

#### Former Waratah Hotel, 92 Glebe Point Rd

This is another Heritage Item that until recently operated as a very popular bar ('Mr Falcon's'), but it is closer to residences and attracted more complaints. There needs to be more effective control of noise and restrictions on activities overflowing onto verandahs and footpaths.

#### Yelvertoft, 75 Hereford St

This stone farmhouse is yet another Heritage Item, and like the previous example, probably dating from the 1870s or earlier. However, it is not as well known, partly because it has always operated as a residence, and partly because it has been further obscured from the roadway by the construction of three modern terraces along the Hereford St boundary, so it can only be viewed through a narrow driveway.

Despite this obscurity it is a rare and curious building that until the 1990s was on a Department of Lands lease. It is in fact a little bit of country NSW in the middle of the nation's largest city. The rear boundary is formed by Alfred Rd, which is actually a rear lane. The proposal is to build further terraces along that

boundary. Other modern terraces have already been built on Alfred Rd toward Minogue Cres, and the Society is arguing that any further terraces should share their generous setbacks, and that the footpath provided by those setbacks should be extended along the entire terrace. At the same time, an adequate curtilage should be provided for *Yelvertoft*.



Yelvertoft (image: Phil Young)

#### Bidura, 357 Glebe Point Rd

Last, but not least, there is a further application for this major Heritage Item. However, despite its length it consists of relatively minor changes as a result of the previous Mediation, and further documentation and arguments in support of the existing proposal, so there is no need for a response. It will all be dealt with in the appeal, beginning on 26 February.

#### **Harold Park**

The last Mirvac apartment block will be completed very soon. The Affordable Housing building, on the corner of Wigram Rd and Ross St, is to be built by City West Housing, and will probably begin in April and be completed toward the end of next year. In the new park the remedial drainage works are well under way, and should be complete mid-2018. The heritage-listed Water Tower is being restored, and its future position near the Tramsheds is still being discussed by Mirvac and the City.

Neil Macindoe Convenor, Planning

## Adaptive Re-use and the Glebe Railway Tunnel

'Adaptive re-use' refers to the process of reusing an old site or building for a purpose other than that for which it was built or designed. This definition certainly fits the Glebe Railway Tunnel which was originally built in the early 1920s to serve the inner west goods line from Darling Harbour to Dulwich Hill.

According to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage<sup>1</sup>, the tunnel 'runs approximately 800 metres from Lower Avon St Glebe (adjacent to the metro light rail Glebe stop) to Jubilee Park. Tunnel openings at the east and west end are built of brick in an English bond pattern, with the arch formed by bricks laid in soldier course, and featuring a sandstone keystone. The tunnel supports a double track currently used by the metro light rail system. The tunnel is approximately 8.3m wide and 5.9m high.'

This view (right) of a Central bound service exiting the eastern portal was taken on 12 November 2017.

#### Philip Vergison

1. http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4803228.



A light rail service exiting the heritage Glebe Railway Tunnel (image: Philip Vergison)

## History & Heritage

## Backstage at the Glebe Society #1. Enquiries



One of the less visible aspects of the Glebe Society is its role in handling enquiries from the general public. Our website has improved the Society's visibility and encourages browsers to contact us for further information.

On average, we handle about 50 enquiries a year. These are farmed out to members of the Management Committee or Subcommittee members (according to their expertise and interests) to research and respond.

A brief review of enquiries received over the past few years shows that, unsurprisingly, most of these requests come from family history researchers (of varied degrees of experience). However, we have also handled queries from care home leavers, students (mostly journalism, museum studies and history), television program producers, film-makers, heritage architects, and even a private investigator.

In many cases, particularly with family history provide researchers. we are able to correspondents with at least some information as well as suggesting other possible lines of enquiry or sources such as our 'standard' texts (Max Solling's Grandeur & Grit and Bernard and Kate Smith's The Architectural Character of Glebe) and/or providing guidance on where to find available written or photographic records (the City of Sydney's website, the National Library's Trove website, bodies such as the Marrickville Heritage Society).

An initial response sometimes leads to further correspondence with unexpected results. Family photographs have been emailed to us, adding to our understanding of past lives in Glebe.

For example, the photo on the next page depicts Dr Arthur Annesley West who practised at *Montros*e and *Derby House* on Glebe Point Rd. In the photo, he's with his family in 1884, shortly before his death at age 37. A descendant made contact through our website and sent us several photos, including the one on page 6.



Dr Arthur Annesley West (image: Mitchell Adams)

In another example, a descendant of Michael Golden sent us the portrait below. Michael Golden was a member of the Glebe Company of Volunteers. Formed in 1860, they drilled in the university paddocks. Golden, who owned much of Leichhardt St, died in 1872. The Golden Estate was put up for auction in 1908. The family retained ownership of *Margaretta Cottage* and neighbouring *Leichhardt Lodge* until 1949.



Michael Golden. (image: Marcia Holdsworth)

Here is just a sample of some of the queries we have received:

- Why is Greek St so called?
- Was there an observatory at Glebe Point?
- Do you have a photograph of where 'Plorn' Dickens lived?
- Was Forsyth St named after my ancestor?
- ➤ Why is *Hereford House* listed at Foley Park and 53 Hereford St?
- ➤ Where can I find Camperdown Children's Hospital records for 1929?
- Where was the Kosmon church in Glebe Point?
- Glebe house prices in 1960?
- Does the house my ancestor lived in still exist?
- ➢ Is there a connection between Jarocin in Poland and Jarocin Ave?
- Where was Anderson House hostel?

We recognise that their own family history is important to each individual researcher and we do our best to assist. We are not professional family history researchers but enthusiastic volunteers (who sometimes have other lives). However, we have had particularly heartwarming interactions with some who have contacted us:

- A request for help in assembling information for the 90th birthday of a father who grew up in Glebe.
- A query about whether access to Bidura was possible. This from the daughter of a former care resident.
- A request for identification of the site of a post-WWII wedding photograph. It emerged that in those economically-straitened times the bride (married at St Johns Bishopthorpe) shared her wedding dress with another family member (married at St James, Woolley St) four days later.

Whilst the majority of queries relate to Glebe's heritage and history, we were also involved in helping to resolve some intriguing matters, for example:

Assistance with identifying a sketch which the owner thought might be Blacket's Great Hall at Sydney University. One glance at the roof suggested immediately that it was steeply pitched to allow snow to slide off. The answer turned out to be the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Request for more information about 6 Lakeview Terrace, Glebe. This briefly challenged our understanding of Glebe's topography and how names might change and evolve. The answer proved to be another Glebe in Ottawa, Canada.

Whilst working on providing helpful responses to enquiries takes time, our research has led to our learning even more about Glebe's past and understanding linkages. Almost without exception, we have been rewarded with a grateful thank you from the enquirer.

Liz Simpson-Booker and Lyn Collingwood Heritage subcommittee

## Mystery photo from the last Bulletin

The address of December's mystery advertisement is 7-9 Catherine St Forest Lodge. Before the building was converted into home units, it had a long commercial history dating from 1886 when W J Norris and Sons set up as wholesale grocers and boot importers. It was subsequently used for the manufacture of vinegar, jam, soap and carriage parts until ca 1911 when Buchanan Bros started making mantelpieces there.

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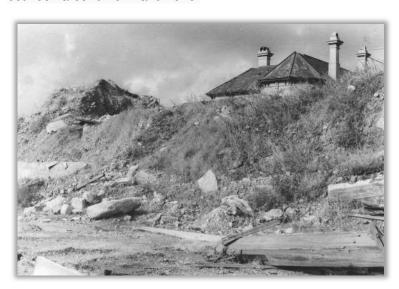
United Furniture showroom at 7-9 Catherine St Forest Lodge. The showroom was located in this building between around 1921 and 1926.

It was the site of the Channon family's *United Furniture* showroom from ca 1921 until 1926 when their entire stock was destroyed by fire in their Camperdown factory. Buchanan Bros (who had shifted to Norton St Leichhardt) then returned to Catherine St, diversifying into building materials and specialising in kitchen cabinets by the 1950s.

The photo below shows how the building looks today.



7-9 CatherineSt, as it looks today (image:Phil Young)



## Mystery photo for this month

A couple of pet goats once roamed around the mound in this month's mystery photo.

Where is it?

Email your suggestions to heritage@glebesociety.org.au.

### Blasts from the Past

The Communications subcommittee is totally chuffed to report that all back copies of the Bulletin are now online - thanks to tireless hours of hunting and scanning by our esteemed President and his merry band of helpers. They searchable all can be found https://www.glebesociety.org.au/publications/bull etin/old-bulletins-page/. Sarah Fogg, from the Society's Communications subcommittee, has dipped into this now-complete archive, to extract some interesting snippets from the first Bulletin for each volume from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

# The Seventies: Bulletin no 1 of 1978 'The Ungreening of Glebe'

Plans to Destroy Glebe Poplars Attacked by Glebe Society.

Residents of Glebe are up in arms over a decision by Leichhardt Council to cut down the poplar trees in Glebe Point Rd. The decision, made by the Council's Tree Preservation Committee, has been condemned by the Glebe Society, a residents group with some 500 members.

A spokesman for the Glebe Society said that the removal of the poplars would be tragic. 'We understand that the Council has decided to investigate the possibility of replacing the poplars with a native species but quite frankly we believe that this is just a sop to public opinion. Once the poplars have been removed there will be no further action taken to replace them.'

In March the same year the Council agreed to 'the request for removal of the trees and their replacement with a more suitable species'. Note: In 1978 Glebe was within the Leichhardt Council area. It became part of the City of Sydney again in 2003.

# The Eighties: *Bulletin* no. 1 of 1988 'Bicentennial Park Two Steps Closer'

On 24th December 1987 Stage One of the park was gazetted into the care and control of Leichhardt Council. Apparently the M.S.B. is required to meet the costs of clearing the land, including any legal costs that may be incurred in evicting squatters.

On 19 January 1988 the Committee and other Glebe Society members attended a Special Meeting of Leichhardt Council which voted to proceed with Stage One according to Bruce Mackenzie's plan, with the addition of an ablutions block and including Federal Road as part of the park. Society members expressed thier strong support for Federal Road's closure and inclusion. A thorough renovation of the two existing amenities and the cricket pavilion should satisfy Council's enthusiasm for ablutions.

Note: Federal Rd used to run from Northcote Rd right through where the park is now and over the wooden bridge.

# The Nineties: *Bulletin* no 1 of 1998 Report from Councillor Macindoe (extract)

The opening of The Broadway Shopping Centre expected in late March will need to be watched for its traffic repercussions and other impacts, but the Centre should also bring considerable benefits.

In the March/April 1998 *Bulletin*, it was subsequently reported that 'Because of objections by the RTA, Francis St will have a single lane one-way, leading from Glebe Point Rd into the car park only.'

# The Noughties: *Bulletin* No. 1 of 2008 *Bellevue*. 55 Leichhardt St

The Society has been waiting a year for Council to find a tenant for this highly symbolic renovated waterfront villa.

[Editor's Note: Ahh ... the more things change, the more they stay the same!]

'Wentworth Park: a changing Scene'

You will all be aware of the changes that are occurring at the western entrance of the Sporting Complex of Wentworth Park. The Wentworth Park Trust is to be congratulated on the removal of the horrible wall and barriers that have existed there for so long. Instead of a secret, alienating world of who knows what behind a huge, ugly, conglomerate of various wall materials it is now an attractive, open and much more community friendly vista. The work is nearing completion and such a difference it has made.

Opening up the viaduct arches in Wentworth Park, and improving public access along the park's Wattle Street frontage are two key proposals in a draft study prepared for Council and the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust.

Note: A Celebrate Wentworth Park Day was subsequently held in May 2008

Your reflections on these snippets are most welcome – email mailto:communications@glebesociety.org.au

Sarah Fogg Communications subcommittee

## **Community Matters**

## Kitchen Starter Packs – A New Glebe Society Project

By Janice Challinor, Diane Hutchinson and Jan Macindoe from the Community Development Subcommittee

This exciting new project will provide essential cooking and eating equipment for those who move from Glebe's supported accommodation independent accommodation. facilities into Initially the project focuses on families who move from Elsie Women's Refuge - a centre which provides crisis accommodation and management for women with accompanying children, who have experienced domestic/family violence. This project is supported by Harvey Norman Broadway and the Community Op Shop in Glebe St. We also hope to have the support of the City of Sydney, through our grant application. But we most especially need the support of Glebe Society members.

The items in our Kitchen Starter Packs will primarily be pre-loved, so this project provides an opportunity for Glebe Society members to recycle surplus kitchen equipment. It also allows us to meet an important need in our community. Families moving from supported accommodation to their own home receive some assistance in sourcing major items such as refrigerators and furniture, but basic kitchen equipment is more problematic. Glebe has only two op shops and good quality kitchen essentials are snapped up quickly. Our Kitchen Starter Packs address this gap, providing families with enough equipment to start preparing meals as soon as they move into their new home. Feedback from our pilot study and from Elsie staff have emphasised how important this is for recipients.

#### What's in the Box?

Each Kitchen Starter Pack will contain a set of core essentials:

a toaster and jug (which must be purchased new), along with a washing-up kit (tea towel, brush and scourer) basic, multipurpose cooking equipment, which we hope will be provided by members as recycled goods (see below for the detailed list)



Just one of the Kitchen Starter Packs – made possible by Glebe Society donors – ready for gifting to a family leaving supported accommodation in Glebe. (image: Diane Hutchinson)

There will be a packing slip attached to the outside of the box, so the recipient knows exactly what they will find when they move into their new home.

To cater for different family types and cooking styles, we will also provide recycled *optional essentials* in an open box which *Elsie* residents can access when they are about to move. Optional essentials include things like unbreakable tumblers and plates needed by families with very young children, and cooking tools and equipment with specific uses, such as potato mashers or baking dishes.

You can contribute by providing recycled items on the core or optional lists below. These might be your own surplus, or you might canvass friends and neighbours who are moving, downsizing or simply having a clean-out.

### **Recycled Core Items**

- Cutlery for 4
- Crockery (bowls, small plates, dinner plates): either a set for 4 (any style) OR individual pieces of basic white crockery (we will hold them until we get a set for 4)
- Mugs
- Tumblers/glasses
- Small saucepan
- Larger saucepan
- > Frypan
- Ovenproof dish
- Bowl (for mixing, salads etc)
- Strainer/colander (for pasta, rice, veg etc)
- Cutting board
- Sharp knives small and large
- Cooking/serving spoon
- > Tongs
- Lifter/turner
- Peeler
- Can-opener

## **Recycled Optional Items**

- Unbreakable tumblers and plates for small children
- Casserole dish
- Baking dish/tray
- Specialised kitchen tools (masher, grater, food mill etc
- Other? (NB No electricals)

To provide any of these goods, you can either email Diane (vice-president@glebesociety.org.au) to arrange pick-up (if possible, suggest two pick-up times that would work for you), OR bring your recycled goods to the Meeting Room at St Helens Community Centre, on Wednesday 21 March 3-6pm (subsequent times TBA). Please do not leave any goods at St Helens outside our advertised times – there will be no-one able to take them, so it would be treated as illegal dumping.

### Points to note

Initially, the only equipment most families will have in their kitchen cupboards will be the contents of their Pack and things they have selected from the Optional box. Any cooking equipment with multiple uses will be especially valuable. For example: an ovenproof bowl that can also be used as a mixing bowl and a salad

bowl or a deeper frypan that can also be used for making stir-fries or sauces.

We need to ensure food safety so all recycled goods must be washed at high temperature prior to packing. No timber or soft plastic, no cracked or chipped crockery and no scratched or abraded coating on non-stick cookware.

If we end up with any surplus items, we will take them to the Community Op Shop unless you indicate, by marking your name on the goods, that you would like them returned to you.

Another way to contribute is by making a donation to help fund the purchase of new goods such as the toaster and jug, and other core items for which there is a shortfall in recycled donations. Donations can be made either by:

- funds transfer (preferred option). The Society's bank account BSB is 062-172 and its account number is 1026 3201. Please indicate that the funds are for Kitchen Starter Packs; or
- cheque made payable to 'The Glebe Society Inc', sent to The Treasurer, Glebe Society, Inc, P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037. Please include a note saying that the cheque is for Kitchen Starter Packs.

If you have any questions or feedback on the project please email us all by selecting Community Development under the 'contact' tab on our web-site, or email Diane, on <a href="mailto:vice-president@glebesociety.org.au">vice-president@glebesociety.org.au</a>.

### **How the Project Developed**

The Kitchen Starter Pack project grew from the Exchange Platform that Janice Challinor investigated in June-July 2017. The Kitchen Starter Packs provide a narrower range of recycled goods than was envisaged for the Exchange Platform, and they are designed to meet a more specific need. The Community Development Sub-Committee first proposed a pilot of two Kitchen Starter Packs in August 2017. The Glebe Society Management Committee agreed to participate in this pilot. Committee members donated new and recycled goods to supply all the items on our provisional list of 'essentials'. The two pilot Packs were delivered to Elsie, along with a feedback sheet, at the end of September 2017.

Feedback from pilot Pack recipients and our experience with the pilot were used to fine-tune the project and to inform our grant application to the City of Sydney in November 2017. The grant application is to help fund the purchase of the

new electrical goods and any other items for which we face a recycling shortfall. It also includes an application for a rental subsidy for a 3 hours slot at St Helen's community centre twice per month, to provide a convenient recycled goods drop-off point for members. We will be advised of the outcome of our application towards the end of March.

### **Project Fine-Tuning**

The most challenging project design issue was the list of 'essentials' included in the Packs. Different families have different equipment needs depending on the age of their children and the family's eating and cooking preferences. We can't cater for all possibilities because we need to limit the volume and weight of the Packs to ensure the project is manageable. We resolved this issue by dividing our list of essential items into 'core' (included in all Packs) and 'optional' (to cater for individual needs and accessed through an open box held at *Elsie*). We approached *Elsie* management, who agreed to hold the 'optional' box which we will re-fill when and as we can.

In early February 2018, with two families about to move out of *Elsie*, we delivered an 'optional' box and two Kitchen Starter Packs (primarily using goods Committee members sourced from friends). We will keep an eye on the 'optional' box to gauge how well this system is working and to identify what type of items are being accessed regularly.

#### How the project will work

As all women at *Elsie* have at least one child, our standard Pack will have crockery and cutlery for 4. If there is a larger family, we will make up a

custom Pack for 6. In an average year, 11 families move from *Elsie* to their own home, but they don't move at regular intervals. To make sure we cater for each move, *Elsie* will hold a stock of 2 Kitchen Starter Packs as well as the box of optional items. Ideally, we will also hold enough stock to make up at least two more Packs at short notice, and we will post announcements in the *Bulletin* about any items that are in particularly short supply.

Diane Hutchinson will be Project Coordinator for 2018. She will make up the Packs and deliver them to *Elsie*, along with anything we have for the box of optional items. All cash donations and invoices will be submitted through the Society Treasurer, Jane Gatwood.

If you have any questions or feedback on the project please email us all by selecting Community Development under the 'contact' tab on our web-site, or email Diane, on <a href="mailto:vice-president@glebesociety.org.au">vice-president@glebesociety.org.au</a>



Another of the Kitchen Starter Packs. (image: Diane Hutchinson)

#### Elsie – a Glebe Icon

Glebe has a long association with radical causes, as Ann Curthoys reminded us in an article now available in the Social History section of the Glebe Society website. But none is as enduring and significant as the presence of *Elsie* Women's Refuge in our midst.

The *Elsie* Women's Refuge Night Shelter, as it was originally known, was established in March 1974 by the direct action of a group of women associated with Women's Liberation House at 67 Glebe Point Rd. Anne Summers, Jennifer Dakers and Bessie Guthrie broke into two adjoining houses in Westmoreland St, *Elsie* and *Minnie*, changed the locks and began cleaning the buildings for use as a refuge, the first of its kind in Australia. Although the initial media

attention was far from positive, it was successful in making women aware of the service and after only six weeks *Elsie* had provided accommodation to 48 women and 35 children.

Although most of the women involved with Women's Liberation House, and *Elsie*, were young and university educated, a significant figure had a very different background. Bessie Guthrie was approaching 70 when she was involved in the establishment of *Elsie*, and had lived all her life in Derwent St, Glebe. A talented and energetic woman, whose career covered design and publishing amongst other things, she campaigned over a long period against the institutional abuse of young women, including at *Bidura*, a 'receiving home' for children, mainly

girls, waiting placement in foster homes. Her involvement in the creation of *Elsie* grew naturally from concerns that had been a major focus of her life.



Bessie Guthrie (image: Glebe Society website)

In its early years particularly, *Elsie* received limited government support, and remained dependent on the contribution of volunteers and

support from the Glebe, and broader community. From that perspective, the project to provide 'Kitchen Starter Packs' for women leaving *Elsie* for independent accommodation continues a long association of support from the Glebe community to one of our most significant community facilities.

Jan Macindoe

Further reading: 'Forty years of the Elsie Refuge for Children', Dictionary of and https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/forty years of the elsie ref uge for women and children; 'Bessie Guthrie', Glebe People in Glebe's History https://www.glebesociety.org.au/person/bessie-guthrie/; Curthoys - Radical Glebe', Glebe Society, Social History https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/radical-glebe-apersonal-view-by-ann-curthoys/

**Correction:** Apologies to Carole Herriman and Neil Macindoe, who are part of the *Bulletin* distribution team, but were left off the 'thank you' list in our last *Bulletin*.  $\otimes$ 

## Our Community's generous response to Christmas gift appeal

Our 2017 appeal to members for Christmas gifts for families resident in Glebe received overwhelming support this year. Thanks to Members whose response was generous we had a goodly number of gifts to distribute. Special thanks go to Jeanette Knox, Lucie Loane, Jenny Pockley, Bobbie Burke, Judy Vergison, Susie Cleary, Benedicte Zursthassen, Pat Loughlan, Lorel Adams, John and Diane Gray, Susan Ingram, Ted and Alison McKeown, Jock and Judith Keane. Jane Fissenden. Hutchinson, Jane Gatwood, Jude Paul, Marita, Madeleine Jennings, Katharine Vernon, Phil Young and Carole Herriman for your support. The Giving Tree at our Christmas Party was also well supported.

The management and staff of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse Hospital also joined us in responding this year, and their contribution was outstanding. In fact there was just sufficient room left in my Honda hatchback for me to drive the vehicle home after I had collected their largesse! The rest was crammed full of gifts. While I am unable to quantify the exact number of gifts we distributed (I stopped counting after 200) the number of families and singles, both men and women, we were able to distribute to was increased markedly.

We have been able to bring gifts to families and single persons at five Glebe supported housing services, as well as several local families in need, and contribute to the St John's Christmas gift giving day for Glebe residents who attend Glebe Assistance & Partnership Program (GAPP). That's a total of approximately 95-100 people, the majority of whom are children, who have benefited from our caring community. While privacy issues prevent me from naming other specific beneficiaries of this project I'd like to note that *Elsie* Women's Refuge, an ongoing recipient of Glebe Society support, was chief amongst them. Similarly, it was a joy to bring some gifts to a refugee family, with seven children of varying ages and no father, living here in Glebe and otherwise doing it tough.

(Continued next page)



Janice Challinor's car, filled to the gunwales with generously donated Christmas gifts. (image: Janice Challinor)

I am hopeful that Lifehouse, under the leadership of CEO Eileen Hannagan and Professor Michael Boyer, Chief Clinical Officer, with the support of Ray Lotty, their Spiritual Care Coordinator, Lorainne Brecard, the Manager of Volunteer Services and the wonderful medical staff will join us in future years to continue their outreach to the community they also serve and value. My personal thanks go to everyone who made this so special for others.

## Glebe Artisans Autumn Market on Saturday 10 March 2018

Looking for something unique and special? Sick and tired of mass produced goods? Come along to the Glebe Artisans Autumn Market to find gorgeous things lovingly made around Sydney and sold by the artist/designer themselves.

Now in its third year, the Market will be held in Foley Park, Glebe on Saturday 10 March from 10am to 3pm. Over 50 stallholders will have their original work for sale. This include lots of interesting ceramics, fashion, homewares, knitted and wooden toys for babies and children, amazing jewellery and glassware.

Full details of the stall holders will be on the website before the Market: www.glebeartisansmarket.org.au. Fiona Verge



## **News from the Dirty Reds**

#### **Dirty Reds and Bluebags join forces**

The Dirty Reds entered into a partnership with fellow foundation club, the Newtown Jets. There are many synergies between the two clubs, with Glebe and the then Bluebags (later to become the Jets) the first two clubs to affiliate with the NSW Rugby League back in 1908.

The clubs are also near neighbours – and the new partnership ensures there is a clear elite level pathway for talented players from Sydney's Inner West. The two teams will train together regularly throughout the year and, importantly, we will also play together – with the Dirty Reds set to play most home matches at Henson Park in 2018 as curtain-raisers to Newtown games.

#### **Triumphant return to Wentworth Park**

It's been just shy of 89 years since we last ran out there, but on Sunday 11 February, the Dirty Reds made their triumphant return to Wentworth Park where they played Blacktown Workers in the Ron Massey Cup. Glebe last played at the venue on 29 August 1929, when they lost 13-5 to University (a week later, Glebe would draw with North Sydney 24-all at North Sydney Oval, which turned out to be the last match the Reds would play for over 87 years!). Wentworth Park was a fortress for the Dirty Reds for most of their history, with the club winning 94 of 138 games (with 4 draws and 40 losses).

### Support the Dirty Reds - be a member

Consider supporting the Dirty Reds by becoming a member. The entry-level Dirty Reds membership is only \$12; while the next level, at \$50 is The Gray Brothers Membership. There are other membership packages available as well. Each package gives you some great benefits. To find out more, or to join, go to the Dirty Reds Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/GlebeDirtyReds.

Darren Flynn, Glebe Dirty Reds



The Jets' Leigh Higgins and the Dirty Reds' Jackson Garlick at Wentworth Park (image:Darren Flynn)

## Glebe, Naturally

#### News from the Blue Wrens

#### 2018 Blue Wren lecture

Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist from the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney has accepted an invitation to talk to the Society at 6pm on Monday 16 April at *Benledi* (Glebe Library). His lecture will cover his recent work on urban bird populations in Sydney and will be followed by a glass of wine and nibbles. All members of the Society and their friends are welcome to attend.



Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist from the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney (image: https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au)

### **Craney Small Grants Program**

Last year Jan Craney, a former convenor of the Blue Wrens subcommittee, left a bequest of \$5,000 in her will to the Subcommittee. Following extensive discussion, the Subcommittee decided to spend the funds by awarding competitive Small Grants of about \$1,000 to our 11 local preschools and primary schools to foster the learning of biodiversity in our suburb. Grant applications will be sent to each of the preschools and primary schools in June and funds will be awarded to the successful applicants in August. We expect to fund two or three grants each year.

#### **Updates from Glebe's bushcare groups**

Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group: There has recently been little rain and it has been too dry for planting days – the next one is planned for April. The City has thinned an excessive population of eucalypts and Sydney Water is yet to restore damage to the park resulting from repair of a water pipe.

Glebe Bushcare Group: Weeding continues and the group will be meeting each Wednesday morning near Jubilee Park and Chapman Rd.

John Street Reserve: local residents are watering the native flora in the Reserve as well as removing weeds and there has been lots of growth over the summer. The lawn closest to St James Ave has been fenced off due to heavy usage by soccer players but regrowth is slow and the area may require re-turfing. Many of the stakes previously installed to protect young shrubs have been broken by footballs and cricket balls and local volunteers have worked to replace them. Both dog and bat faeces are a major problem, the latter being found on the park benches. To encourage dog owners to pick up their pets' faeces, a request will be made to the City to install additional signage and a plastic bag dispenser at the northern entrance to the Reserve. Also, over the Christmas period illegal drugs were dropped in the Reserve and when they were picked up by the owners many plants were damaged as they searched the area with torches at 3am one morning.

The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group: Work continues on finalising the Action Plan for the pocket parks. Discussions between the City and Transport NSW should finally result in the installation of a tap in the lower, eastern part of the park. The rocks provided by the City have been relocated to establish a 'lizard lounge' and the coir logs have helped stabilise the top soil on the steep site. A roster of volunteers will be established for watering the recent plantings, weeding and litter collection.

Ferry Rd Bushcare Group (Ernest Pederson Park, William Carlton Gardens and Quarry Lane): Following a request from a local resident complaining about loss of city views, the City's contractors removed all the ivy, Hackberry and Cape Honeysuckle from the cliff face in William Carlton Gardens. Thus, an important habitat for birds, possums and reptiles was destroyed and the City has no plans to re-plant or stabilise the shallow depth of soil at the site. Extensive correspondence with City officials has not resolved the issues and it was agreed that the Bushcare Group should now write to Monica Barone, the Chief Executive of the City to seek her help to fix the problems.

Andrew Wood Convenor, Blue Wrens

## What's up at Harold Park?

Many people have been wondering why the extensive park in the Harold Park development has not yet been opened. The Glebe Society has written to Council seeking information and

has received a response. Both letters can be viewed on our website: <a href="https://www.glebesociety.org.au/correspondence-with-the-city-of-sydney-on-harold-park-completion/">https://www.glebesociety.org.au/correspondence-with-the-city-of-sydney-on-harold-park-completion/</a>

## Creative and Connected

## Lisa Pryor to speak at Glebe Voices



Lisa Pryor, who is our next presenter for Glebe Voices. (image: SMH)

Social commentator Lisa Pryor will speak at the next Glebe Voices function to be held on Friday 23 March at 6.30pm. Lisa a former is for iournalist the Sydney Morning Herald and is now a doctor at Westmead Hospital. She lives locally with her husband. ABC-TV Julian personality

Morrow, and their two children.

Lisa writes a column for the *New York Times* which has covered such diverse topics as Australia's refugee policy, the high rate of suicide among junior doctors, and spoiled baby boomers. She's the author of *A Small Book about Drugs* and *The Pinstriped Prison*, and in 2016 settled a defamation case against Mark

Latham over a column he had written entitled 'why left feminists don't like kids'.

Lisa will be interviewed by the Society's President, Allan Hogan. It promises to be a lively discussion and members should book early!

When: Friday 23 March, 6.15 - 8 pm

**Where:** *The Kaf*, 199 Glebe Point Road (next but one to the Commonwealth Bank)

**Price:** \$16 per head (Tapas), alcohol available from *The Kaf.* 

**Bookings:** Are essential and can be made through Eventbrite

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/glebe-voices-lisa-pryor-tickets-43514418798

For further information contact Jude Paul on 0438 600 882 or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au

Allan Hogan President

## **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 1 March at 7pm we will go to Pizza Da Noi, 198 St Johns Rd, nr Ross St.
- On Thursday 5 April at 7pm we will go to Despana, Glebe Point Rd.
- And on Thursday 3 May we will go to Sri Lankan Street Food, 381 Glebe Pt 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



The newly-opened, Sri Lankan Street Food restaurant, where Thirsty Thursday will be held in May (image: Loraine Elliott)

## Players in the Pub



The upstairs area in the Toxteth Hotel is being renovated. We have booked 7pm Wednesday 18 April for our first playreading

this year:

#### An Evening with Ayn Rand

Ayn Rand lionises the alpha-male capitalist entrepreneur, the man of action who towers over the little people and the pettifogging bureaucrats. For some reason, she is Donald Trump's favourite (only?) author. Free admission, donations box.

The event will be confirmed closer to the date via our regular email to those on our database. Just in case the pub's renovations aren't completed by April and you're not registered with us but would like to be kept in the loop, please make contact at <a href="mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au">history@glebesociety.org.au</a> with 'Players in the Pub' in the subject line.

## Sahaja Yoga Meditation



Everyone is invited to try Sahaja Yoga Meditation, to go into mental silence, to keep your system in balance and reduce stress.

Its founder, Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi (1923-2011) gives us a simple

method of attaining Self Realisation and proving that we are connected to the all-pervading power around us. Sahaja (meaning inborn) Yoga (meaning union with the Divine) is now practised in over 100 countries. The idea is that we show people how to attain peace within and gradually bring peace to the world as well as our own spiritual ascent.

In our introduction we show people how our subtle or spiritual body sits within the physical. We know that if we use our simple techniques to correct the subtle body we often forestall physical illness.

Having practised Sahaja Yoga for over 30 years I personally am totally thankful for well-being, joy, protection and always having what I needed. I can only be enthusiastic to invite you all to try this. It's as if we have accessed a totally different level of existence from what we had experienced earlier.

Where: Glebe Town Hall.

When: Thursdays, 7.30pm (please note, Glebe Town Hall will be closed on 1 March for some repairs. Also we will not meet Thursday 29 March)

Cost: Always FREE; Enquiries: Prue Page on 0475 912 891.

Prue Page

# New to the Society's YouTube channel

Our YouTube channel has recently been updated with some fascinating new content:



- Interviews from the Memories of Glebe's Trams project.
- Presentation by Connie Fisher on 'Building a Better Planning Network'
- Talk by John Newton on 'Glebe's Restaurants'
- <u>Lisa Murray presentation</u> on 'Local History: Making Connections in the Digital Age', and
- Video of Constable Renee Fortuna on Her Work with the Youth of Glebe

#### Call for Content

We always welcome members' contributions to the *Bulletin*, whether as a letter to the editor or an article. Any content likely to be of direct interest to Glebe and Forest Lodge residents is welcome. If you'd like to discuss an idea, please feel free to contact me, Virginia Simpson-Young, on editor@glebesociety.org.au or 0402 153 074.

## Share your Glebe/Forest Lodge photos via the Glebe Society website

Our Photo Gallery features photos taken around our village and contributed by our members and friends. Topics include: Glebe's Heritage Buildings, Glebe Foreshore and Glebe from the Water. New albums are being added as needed. The Gallery can be found here: <a href="https://www.glebesociety.org.au/about-glebe/new-photo-gallery/">https://www.glebesociety.org.au/about-glebe/new-photo-gallery/</a>.



We have plenty of room for photos and would love to add more pictures of Glebe and Glebites. We're particularly keen to have photos of old Glebe. So, if you have anything which you think may be interest, let us know at:

webmaster@glebesociety.org.au.

## For your calendar

Thursday 1 March, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: Pizza Da Noi. 198 St Johns Rd, near Ross St.

Saturday 10 March, 10am-3pm. Glebe Artisans Autumn Market. Foley Park.

Wednesday 21 March, 3-6pm. Kitchen starter pack drop-off. St Helens Community Centre.

Friday 23 March, 6.30pm. Glele Voices: Lisa Pryor. The Kaf, 199 Glebe Point Rd.

Thursday 5 April, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: Despana. Glebe Point Rd.

Monday 16 April, 6pm. Talk by Dr John Martin. Benledi (Glebe Library).

Wednesday 18 April, 7pm. Players in the Pub: An Evening with Ayn Rand. Upstairs Toxteth Hotel

Thursday 3 May, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: Sri Lankan Street Food. 381 Glebe Pt Rd.

#### Recurring

Wednesday mornings from 8.30am. Glebe Bushcare Group, near Jubilee Park. Contact Sue – 9692 9161.

Thursdays, 7.30pm. Sahaja Yoga, Glebe Town Hall

# Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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Eventbrite

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037

No.1 of 2018 (March 2018)

#### 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



Corner of Ross St and Parramatta Rd, in about 1973, when the Officeworks building had a Mobil service station on the corner under the building. (Image: Allan McEvoy)