



Glebe's Old Fire Station – a neglected treasure



The Old Fire Station, on the left is the house and on the right is the annexe. (image: Phil Young)

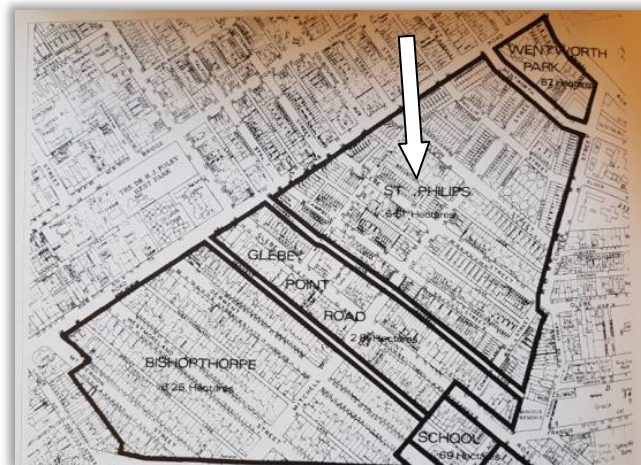
Many people who live in Glebe are familiar with the Old Fire Station at 113 Mitchell St. Its late Victorian architecture makes it a distinctive and well known addition to the heritage streetscapes that characterise Glebe, our 19th century suburb. However, its appearance is only one important aspect of this building and its situation; perhaps more important is its function as a *de facto* community centre. Unlike other community centres it was not built by, nor is it funded through, the local government purse, as many are, although as part of the St Phillips Estate the site is owned by the NSW Government. For the past 40 years the Old Fire Station has provided a neighbourhood venue for social activities, mostly initiated and maintained by local people, faith-based groups and other services.

In addition to its role as a social hub, the building itself, which includes the adjoining house and annexe, has a history that reveals many layers of use that were once characteristic of Glebe but are no longer found in our suburb. As well as its obvious history as a Fire Station, the site has served residential, commercial and manufacturing roles. The Old Fire Station, though modest in scale, has great heritage value because of its connections to Glebe's non-residential past as well as its major role as a social centre since the mid-1970s.

The site in the early nineteenth century

The site was part of the original grant made by Governor Phillip to the Church of England. This

part of the glebe lands is called St Phillip's Estate as it was handed, in 1828, to the Trustees of St Phillip's church in York St, Sydney, the first parish church in the colony, to provide income for the parish. The Trustees offered lots in St Phillip's for lease in 1842, and three separate structures were built on the site in the mid 1840s. By 1875 these structures, two cottages and a butcher's shop, were derelict, two of them unoccupied. This was typical of the first buildings in the area, described by Max Solling in *Grandeur and Grit*: 'Many of the cheap, insanitary timber cottages built from 1842 were the products of speculative builders interested only in profit.' (p96)



'Glebe Estate Precincts'. St Phillip's Estate, on which the Old Fire Station is located, is identified by the arrow. (Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis, The Church of England Lands, Glebe: Report to the Dept of Urban and Regional Development, July 1973.)

Redevelopment from 1876

To encourage redevelopment of the St Phillip's Estate, the Estate's Trustees began to issue new, longer, leases mainly of 45 or 50 years. George Wigram Allen, landowner of the Toxteth Estate, took out leases for most of the estate in the mid-1870s. The redevelopment of the site which is now the Old Fire Station seems to have been directly financed by Allen, with a long-term local tenant and small businessman, Edward Fortescue, as manager.

The two-storey house which is now part of the whole site was the first building to be constructed, in 1876. In about 1879 a workshop was built on the corner of Campbell Lane and the Cawley family were its long-term tenants, from 1881 until 1921. Over that time, it was used as a blacksmith's forge and farrier's shop (a smith who shoes horses). The land in between was let at various times as a yard in conjunction with either the house or the workshop.

The volunteer fire service finds a home

The Glebe Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed in 1875, and was based at the Council premises, next to Derby Place, until 1880 when it moved to vacant land in Mitchell St, immediately behind the building on the corner of Glebe Point Rd (Fascination House).

The Brigade's location had compensations, not least of which is likely to have been the goodwill of Allen, or of his agent Fortescue, ensuring either free or heavily subsidised rent on otherwise unoccupied land. G. W. Allen had also showed support for the Brigade by hosting a major event for it at Toxteth Park in 1880. The location also had other benefits once Adam Newton became Superintendent of the Brigade in 1879. Newton was licensee of the Great Britain Hotel on the corner of Campbell and Mitchell Streets. The Brigade's proximity to Newton's hotel gave Brigade volunteers a meeting space, and it was of course good for the licensee's business.

During the 1880s the Brigade operated with minimal equipment. By the late 1880s it still relied on a hand pulled hose reel and a manually operated pump. It had no facilities to keep a horse or to store larger equipment or a long ladder, until its new station was built towards the end of 1892, between the residence and workshop in Mitchell St. The Glebe Volunteer Fire Brigade occupied the new station until 1906. From 1894, the Brigade also used the two-storey house as the engine keepers' accommodation.

From 1884, firefighting gradually became more professional under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. Registered Volunteer brigades were subject to the Board's supervision and the equipment levels expected of all brigades was increasing. The Glebe Brigade, like some other volunteer companies, was falling behind by the late 1890s.

In 1906 the Brigade moved to a new, much larger station in St John's Rd, one of a number funded and built by the NSW government through the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in the same period. By this time firemen were partly-paid. While the Glebe Brigade's supporters were still holding firm to a volunteer brigade, it would not be long before it became a fully professional unit.

Hiatus after the Fire Brigade

The Old Fire Station building had sporadic use as a warehouse and storeroom from 1906 to 1920, then was largely vacant until the mid 1930s. At the same time the farrier's workshop on the corner of Campbell Lane became vacant. Similarly the two-storey house, like other buildings in the area, was becoming run down as the new lease approached its expiry date, and had no recorded tenant after 1926.



Glebe Volunteer Fire Brigade photographed in front of the fire station in ca 1896-1898 (image: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au>)

A new lease on life for the Old Fire Station

After the leases on the St Phillip's Estate expired, the Trustees appointed Harry Hibble as managing agent. The vacancies at the Old Fire Station site were ultimately Hibble's responsibility but these properties would have been difficult to let. Even the two-storey house had been used as much as a place of business as a residence for most of the time since it had been built. The old farrier's shop and the old fire station had an even narrower range of possible uses. However, they proved well-suited to Hibble's son Miles' new venture.

Miles Hibble founded Automatic Screw Company, establishing a factory on the site in 1936. It remained on the site until 1952 and must be the reason for the annexe re-build, including the construction of the rear saw-tooth section which extends across the back of the old fire station and seems to have been built in 1939. Automatic Screw was a precision engineering firm – part of an industry group that developed to supply components to the emerging electrical goods and motor vehicle industries in the 1920s and more particularly from the mid-1930s. Automatic Screw produced components for the electrical goods firm, AWA, among others. The precision engineering capabilities Australia built up through small firms like Automatic Screw, and some much larger concerns, were critical to the manufacture of a wide range of new products which had to be locally

produced under wartime conditions. During the war Automatic Screw produced firing pins, rifle sights and other essential material. The company had outgrown its site by the 1950s and moved to a new location in 1952.

Thus the Old Fire Station had a long life as a factory from 1936 to 1952 and the annexe had a much longer industrial history. Although Glebe contained a significant amount of industry until the 1950s, it has very few reminders of Australia's industrial development. Even Glebe's once proud maritime and timber industry has left only a few relics along the shoreline, the crane from Strides Yard and the nearby dry-dock winch being the most notable. The Old Fire Station is one of the very few buildings which remain from our industrial past.

When the Old Fire Station occupant moved to larger premises in 1952, the building was adapted again, this time for use as an office and store, and then as a warehouse. A Heritage report on tenants who applied to re-purpose the building includes one in 1955, by the Component Parts / Belmont Trading Company for the storage of screws, nuts and bolts, and another in 1970 by the Australian Chicago Products for the storage of motor parts. It may have continued in this mode until the early 1970s, however some anecdotal reports suggest it may have also been a jam factory before being left vacant.



115-117 Glebe Point Rd after rehabilitation around 1980 from 'Glebe Project' 1980 p.36

Urban Renewal – the Glebe Project

In April 1974 the whole of the Glebe Estate was sold by the Church of England to the Federal Government for \$17.5 million and a major program of urban renewal began. A new role for the Old Fire Station arose from this when, after some upgrading, it became the Project Office for the estate's redevelopment by the Department of Urban and Regional Development.

It fulfilled this purpose from 1975 to March 1976 after which the Project Office was transferred to

Fascination House (115 Glebe Point Rd). The Old Fire Station then began to be used as a community centre, primarily for residents' meetings and display of project proposals, but also for more general community development activities. Typical activities were 'housie' and afternoon tea for older people, and child minding/playgroups, generally arranged by the Glebe Estate Women's Group.

In 1985 the Glebe Estate was transferred from the Commonwealth to the NSW Department of Housing. During the 1990s the rooms were gradually upgraded, including the installation of a small kitchen and indoor toilet. Following the death of the tenant in the adjoining house, an internal door with the Old Fire Station was opened, and the three areas – house, fire station room and annexe – have functioned as a single site, although with different activities in each area.

A community centre for 40 years

A wide variety of community groups have used the building as a community centre. They include: Concerned Older Women's Group, Glebe Area Tenants group, the Neighbourhood Advisory Board (NAB), the Glebe Society, the Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group (FLAG), as well as housie/bingo activities, mothers' groups and men's groups, art classes, drama classes and more.

One of the major users of the Old Fire Station has been Hope Street and its main community building activity, Have a Chat café. Like the other users of the premises, the Hope Street service, being a community facility, was not charged rental by Housing NSW. The majority of other users are similarly classified. Hope Street itself began in 1984 as an outreach project of the Baptist Inner City Ministries. Initially Hope Street operated out of the Uniting Church premises in St John's Rd. The Uniting Church had commenced its Café Church some years earlier as an alternative to traditional church service models, to adapt to the changing social mix in Glebe. Have a café followed this model, and operated for 10 years from 2004, most of that time from the Old Fire Station.

In 2004 the Glebe Community Development Project was established as a partnership between the Sydney School of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney and Housing NSW. It aimed to build community capacity and social cohesion in the social housing community, and it supported tenant driven initiatives such as the Glebe Bytes Computer Project which began in 2004, with the aim of building computer skills with local residents. The annexe of the Old Fire Station was the main location for the computer project. The Glebe Community Development Project produces a regular newsletter which amongst other things, informs residents of the activities taking place at the Old Fire Station.

The Old Fire Station remains a vital facility at the heart of the Glebe Estate and its community. However, it is once again in urgent need of renovation so that this unique heritage item and community centre can continue its role into the future.

Jan Macindoe

This article is based on two longer articles, 'Glebe's Old Fire Station Site 1875-1974: the buildings and their uses'

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/ofc-1875-1975/>, and 'Glebe's Old Fire Station 1975-2018: a community centre with a difference' <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/ofc-1975-2018/>. This article and the two longer articles are the result of a collaborative project undertaken by members of the Community Development Subcommittee, Janice Challinor, Diane Hutchinson and Jan Macindoe. Each member had input across the project. The named author for each article is the person with primary responsibility for that article.

Anzac Day Glebe 2018

The Anzac Day service was held at Foley Park at 7.30am on Wednesday 25 April. The service was led by Rev Mark Wormell, Rector of St John's, Glebe. Max Solling addressed the gathering, and his speech is reproduced below.



James Slattery, his wife Angela, and their son at the Anzac Day service at the Glebe Diggers Memorial. James is wearing the cavalry beret and medals from serving in Iraq twice. James' parents, who live in Glebe, also attended the service. James and Angela have recently opened the Milky Bean Espresso Bar and Mortgage Choice office next to the Toxteth Hotel. Drop in and say Hi! (image: Phillip Vergison)

Max Solling's Anzac Day address

This morning I'd like to share some thoughts about Glebe at War between 1914 and 1918. News of the outbreak of war reached Glebe on 5 August 1914 where it was enthusiastically greeted at Glebe Council chambers by Mayor Frederick Artlett who offered the Minister of Defence 'all parks, pavilions,

buildings and grounds under council's control for the purposes of military training'.

But war seemed remote initially. It was not until the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915 that Glebe's War effort began to take on a sense of purpose and direction. The community quickly mobilised to conduct house-to-house collections for the Patriotic Fund, dances and euchre nights to raise funds. Local women dominated these efforts with Eva Rainford especially prominent singing at concerts for the Belgian Fund, and the Red Cross branch assembled and sewed clothes. The energies of many women were absorbed in sending messages of support and in various forms of self-sacrifice. A committee of the recruiting movement was established at the town hall under Sergeant Taylor, and a rifle club formed. The recruitment drive resulted in 500 residents filling the town hall on 4 August 1915 where a meeting passed unanimously a motion expressing Glebe's 'inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common cause of the allies'.

Enlistments in Australia reached fever pitch during 1915; 33,000 volunteered in the first four months of 1915, and almost 79,000 'donned the khaki' between July and September 1915. Gallipoli claimed 8,141 Australian lives (and 26,111 casualties). Twenty-four Glebe residents, the youngest 19 and the oldest 34, lost their lives there. Many more were wounded. The morass of trench warfare in France from 1916 saw a dramatic escalation in the rate at which Australian troops were killed and wounded. The Western Front was a truly horrifying experience where human life was squandered on an unprecedented scale. Estimates of the largest number of deaths are Germany 1.95 million, Russia 1.7 million, France 1.5 million, and 1 million perished in both the British Empire and in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Some 12,541 Australians were killed in action or died of wounds in France and Flanders in 1916, 20,036 in 1917 and 12,189 in 1918 and casualties were more than twice these figures. Signs of changing attitudes towards the war began to surface in Glebe in 1916. Though Glebe Council

earlier indicated its opposition to internment of enemy aliens, mounting casualty lists turned simple patriotism at home into something much more grim and ugly. A Glebe Anti-German League ranted about enemy aliens in their midst; two Australian-born sons of German parents, Dr Rudolph Bohrsman, and Fred Kurtz found themselves shunned by local folk. Bohrsman, a medical practitioner in Glebe since 1898, left the suburb in 1918.

Evangelical Protestants utilised the war to press for more temperance reform, inspired by the spirit of self denial accompanying the patriotic fervour. Locals were urged to follow the example of King George V and forego the demon drink for the duration of the war. The hotel trading hours referendum in June 1916 resulted in introduction of 6 o'clock closing of pubs, dramatically limiting access to the worker's temple, now shuttered and barred at the most accessible time. Voting at Glebe polling booths varied widely. Derby Place and Mitchell St booths voted overwhelmingly for 9 o'clock closing. At Toxteth Rd booth residents favoured 6 o'clock closing by a two to one ratio. Figures at St Johns Rd booth were evenly divided.

Pageants, celebrations and processions, enlivened by bands, banners and decorated cars, were a regular feature of the Glebe landscape throughout 1916; a sense of participation was encouraged by para-military organisation. Under a newspaper account of 'Glebe Fighters Home' the Glebe Cadet Band and the Police Band, flanked by local councillors, led a rowdy public welcome to returned men travelling from the town hall to the pavilion at Jubilee Oval on 16 September 1916. Many local residents were dressed in fancy dress with prizes given for representations of Australia and France and the best women's and men's costumes. At the oval Mayor Stone claimed 1,500 men enlisted from Glebe, and returned men would be given preference in Council employment. Rozelle tram depot became the venue for the first memorial in Glebe, unveiled in November 1916 for 34 tram workers.

Prime Minister W .M. Hughes began calling up unmarried men between 21 and 35 years for military service in anticipation of conscription being agreed to at the referendum on 28 October 1916. Long lists at Glebe Court filled with the names of young men seeking exemption from service indicated many in Glebe were unmoved by any martial or Imperial enthusiasm. Only a few were granted exemptions.

The fabric of Australian politics and society was torn apart by the conscription campaigns. Anti-conscription rallies in Glebe held at Bay St, Mitchell St, Ferry Rd, on the corner of Bridge Rd and Ross

St and at Record Reign Hall were marked by violence. Glebe Town Hall was the main venue for pro-conscription meetings chaired by Mayor Ralph Stone. Glebe's 12 councillors were self-employed businessmen, conservative in outlook and guardians of the status quo, endorsed at municipal elections by the Glebe Ratepayers and Property Owners Association. On Empire Day the Glebe Mayor delivered patriotic homilies at the public schools and Glebe Ragged School, seeking to inculcate the virtues of patriotism, and hopefully a willingness to enlist. The conscription referendum polarised the nation and its defeat heightened tensions. At Glebe booths 68.6% voted No. Australian casualties climbed to 53,600 in 1917. At home the latter months of 1917 were ones of escalating industrial tensions, bitterness in public life, and violence at levels rarely seen in Australian politics. The second conscription campaign of December 1917 was marked by more heated and acrimonious debate than the first. The 'No' vote in Glebe was even stronger than in 1916, and the Federal Government for all its heavy handedness, was rebuffed again by a slightly larger 'No' vote.

The resulting disputes — over conscription, cost of living increases and obligations of citizenship — left Australia divided along fault lines that lasted at least a generation: the volunteer and 'the shirker'; the conscriptionist against the anti-conscriptionist; and — though sectarianism was not created by the war, Catholic against Protestant.

Between 1916 and 1922 nine separate honour boards in Glebe recorded names of those who enlisted for active service. Premier Holman unveiled the first board at the town hall in February 1916, followed by Glebe Rd Methodist Church, at Johnny Meloy's carrying business, Glebe branch of the Red Cross, Glebe Presbyterian Church, Glebe Rowing Club and Forest Lodge School. And in 1922 at Glebe Town Hall again, and at St Johns Bishopthorpe a large honour board at the rear of the church, a gift of parishioner Horace Jackson.

Glebe paid an extraordinary price for the defence of the Empire. Death or incapacitation of the breadwinner whose family often lived from week to week inflicted great deprivation on their dependants. A widow's pension was less than the level of benefit paid in Britain and France. Governor General Lord Foster unveiled the names of 174 Glebe citizen soldiers who died, inscribed in marble at the Glebe memorial on Anzac Day 1922, and on 26 June 1922 General Granville Ryrie removed the drapery to reveal the names of 792 Glebe citizen soldiers who sailed for foreign shores, arranged alphabetically in the foyer of Glebe Town Hall.

History & Heritage

Tell us what help you'd like

There are lots of reasons to move to Glebe and one of these is to live in one of the older homes that help define the character of our streetscapes.

Many of our older homes in Glebe are still standing as a result of successful campaigns which arose in the 1960s to save them from policies to flatten them for freeways or from being replaced with blocks of flats. Times have since changed and many of these homes are now included in Heritage Conservation Areas and subject to specific planning controls.

Interest in the restoration and histories of our older homes remains strong. This is reflected in the responses to Glebe Society events such as the 'How to Research Your House History Online' seminar and the popular 'Our House' visits as well as to stories in the *Bulletin*.

However, if you own an older house, you may have found that carrying out maintenance, repairs or restoration – or all three – isn't always straightforward. Perhaps you have a heritage specialist engaged but, if not, you may also be trying to work out how to do various small or larger jobs. For example, do you know:

- How to specify work for painting / plastering / plumbing / building / etc and what standards to expect?
- How to find a specialist tradesperson in the first place?
- How to look up a licence for a tradesperson to see if it's current?
- How to find a template for a contract with a tradesperson?
- What insurance is needed?
- What planning regulations apply?
- If council has a heritage advisor or what resources are available?

Some government organisations, including councils, as well as non-government organisations are helping to provide answers and their initiatives include:

- A seminar with a heritage advisor, 'Your Heritage House Explained' held by the City of Ryde.
- An award winning series of [fact sheets](#) published by Waverley Council to guide care of inter-war residential flat buildings within Waverley. They describe what's important about inter-war flat buildings in terms of architectural style and how to navigate the planning process. They also outline steps on what to do, where to get more information and what principles to follow as well as highlighting some common problems and solutions.

- A conference, 'Home Heaven Hell' held by the [Historic Houses Association of Australia](#) in April 2018 to support historic house owners in Australia which included advice on technical support and stories of surviving the process of restoration.
- Free community talks on 'hiring a tradie' provided by the Department of Fair Trading.
- In 2013, residents filled a venue at a Sydney City Council 'Heritage 101' workshop to hear advice from heritage architects and builders on how to take on house restoration.

The Glebe Society management committee plans to approach council about offering more events and/or resources for residents on the practicalities of restoring their houses and we're looking for feedback from members on this. What information would you like at a workshop? Or what resources would you find helpful? If you have any suggestions, please email Fiona Campbell at glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au or Ted McKeown at heritage@glebesociety.org.au by **end of May**.

Fiona Campbell



Members of the Glebe Society Heritage subcommittee, Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw, with Liz Vines, who spoke on the heritage advisors program at the Historic Houses of Australia inaugural conference in April. Liz Vines is a conservation architect, past President of Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and has been a heritage advisor for a number of towns. She was a consultant for the Glebe Point Road Main Street Study Stage Two.

The [Historic Houses Association of Australia Ltd \(HHA\)](#) is a registered charity and volunteer organisation that supports owners and promotes public interest in historic houses and properties throughout Australia. For more information go to www.hha.net.au. (image: Fiona Campbell)

'The Good Old, Bad Old, Days', by Carole Herriman

Appearing before His Honour Mr. Justice C. Heydon in the Court of Industrial Arbitration of New South Wales in November 1913 was Mrs Annie Fairs of 17 Broughton St Glebe. Questioned by Mr Connington, and also by Mr Rolin, Annie was giving evidence at an Inquiry into the Cost of Living and the Living Wage. Page by page the hardships of the working poor in Glebe just over 100 years ago are revealed.

Annie Fairs was one of 18 'respectable women' from the inner suburbs of Sydney selected to appear, and the only one from Glebe. Mick Connington was acting for the Domestic Workers' Union which had been set up in 1908.

Annie was married to Ted Fairs, a carter, who drove a two-horse cart for McKeowns, carriers, based at Wentworth Park Rd.

The couple had four sons; the eldest of whom was fourteen at the time of this enquiry.

Annie had provided the court with a copy of her account book showing over a period of five weeks what she had spent on food and other payments – her entire housekeeping record. And as the questioning progressed every expenditure was examined, and how they lived was revealed.

Ted Fairs' weekly wages at this time were two pounds and seventeen shillings, which was shillings above the award. This approximates to \$302 (2017/2018). (Pre-decimalisation, in 1966, the Australian currency was based on a pound (= two dollars); one pound was equal to twenty shillings, one shilling was equal to twelve pennies (or pence) and one penny was made up of two half pennies (ha'pennies)).



17 Broughton Place today (end of row) – believed to have been the home of the Fairs family in 1913 (image: Phil Young)

From the evidence and the line of questioning it appears that there had been other presentations to the inquiry on the way that 'working classes ... could live much more economically than they do'

such as by buying a neck of mutton rather than other cuts of meat.

Thus, at one point the questioner refers to a neck of mutton and asks Annie to explain why, rather than buying this cut of meat, she would choose to buy round steak at four pence a pound. 'By buying the neck of mutton by the pound you get three small chops, and the knuckle has so much bone in it that it is dangerous to cook it for children.' She is then asked: 'what about frying the [mutton] chops?' When she answered that they are fit only to be stewed, back came the question 'Why not stew them?' Subsequently she says: 'a pound of mutton neck chops provides much less meat than a pound of steak'.

Later in the questioning the issue of stewing steak is raised. This, according to Mr Connington, had been suggested as another cheap method of living. He went on to ask Annie 'what is stewing steak?' Annie informs him that this is skirt steak, and in response to additional questioning, says that it must be stewed with onion and some other vegetable such as parsnips and carrots, and further, that without the vegetables the stew would not be palatable.

She said that stewing steak requires trimming and cleaning and by the time that is done there would be nothing left. This is the meat that is 'cut up and left on the bench in the butcher's shop, amongst the dust and the flies ... it is not really fit to eat'.

Buying a better cut of meat would ensure no waste and she explained to the hearing how she would make rissoles with the entire piece of steak with added onion. Each day she aimed for one pound of meat for the whole family, with the Sunday roast or sometimes leg of mutton providing more. She was asked whether she had sufficient meat to eat and replied: 'No, I think I should have much more.' 'Because I don't think one pound of meat is sufficient for six people; we have meat once a day, and the children get very little.'

Annie was well aware of reasonable nutrition: 'If it is ever so small amount of greens with potatoes I think it is better to have the greens than go without them'. Cabbage was the most frequently bought vegetable at three pence a small head, a small bunch of (three or four) carrots cost three pence and parsnips cost one penny each. Annie never spent more than one shilling on vegetables when she shopped, and she also bought one shilling's worth of fruit once a week. However, the family subsisted in large part on loaves of bakery bread and butter – 15 loaves of bread and four pounds (less than 2 kg) of butter each week. Annie made cakes because her husband Ted liked to take cake to work for his breakfast and lunch breaks. The

number of eggs she used depended on the cost of eggs – sometimes she could buy a dozen, sometimes only three.

Their terrace, which they rented for fourteen shillings and six pence a week, provided a dining room, bedroom, veranda room for the boys and a very small kitchen. Asked if she had sought cheaper accommodation she replied that although she checked the newspaper she was not likely to find better in proximity to her husband's place of work. When asked 'what becomes of married couples who are wanting houses?' she replied that they have to live in rooms.

For heating and cooking the fuel they used was wood and coal that Ted would pick up at docks, which therefore was free. Kerosene or oil was used for lighting, but at night a candle burnt in the bedroom. There was much discussion between His Honour Mr Heydon, Mr Connington, Mr Rolin and Annie on the relative merits of different kinds of candles – the imported Gouda (sperm oil) the Duck (thinner candles) and the Diamond Fluted (Annie's selection). As the men discussed the quality of candles, their merits and their relative costs, His Honour pointed out 'You cannot expect the housekeeper to get half a dozen brands and have an experiment in a perfectly still room and see which is the cheapest.'



Bebb's cash butter shop, 121 Glebe Point Rd. Perhaps Anne Fairs bought her butter from here (from Glebe Project 1980 book)

Milk for the family was bought from Kurtz's dairy as Annie believed it to be better, fresher and a little more generously measured than the milk that could be bought from the cart that came around. Occasionally if she were out of milk she would go to the local corner shop.

Annie's responses showed how looking after a family was a financial balancing act. She was asked why she dealt with the local corner shop, and explained that the shop would permit her up to

a month's credit if it was needed, for example if her husband were ill. 'If I dealt at McIlwraiths, and the week's groceries came to the door and I had not the money, they would not leave them.' If the rent payment had fallen into arrears she would pay it in full but go into arrears in paying (for example) a time payment on credit that had been provided by the Marcus Clark store or another store where she shopped. Because she had a good name as far as managing credit was concerned, she was able to access ongoing credit. As Judge Heydon noted 'these are all the results of living right up to the mark.'

Health cover came mostly from membership in the Rechabites Lodge (which met monthly in Record Reign hall). In the case of Ted being unable to work, his Union membership in the Draymen's and Trolleyman's union, the Lodge and his employer's contribution gave him three pounds and eight shillings per week. However, if medical assistance was sought outside the Lodge's medical cover, then each doctor's visit cost seven shillings and six pence.

Annie and Ted's boys went to a local nun's school – St Ita's in Bellevue St. The nuns did not require payment of fees if there was no available money in the household. The boys' clothing came from the Marcus Clark store. On his day off Ted would re-sole the boys' boots when it was needed.

Although Annie was managing her household by care and frugality, all clothing and shoes or boots, other than Ted's boots, were bought on time payment where they paid interest on the amount owing but had the use of the items. The furniture in their house had been acquired in this way, but at the time of this enquiry the furniture was paid off. Annie set aside six shillings a week to pay off clothing items. She was asked if six shillings is a high amount to pay for clothes. And she answered 'No. I think I really ought to be paying twelve shillings to have the quantity of clothes I ought to have, but I could not afford to pay more than six shillings.'

Through unloading his cart at a client's, by working overtime and by taking on other tasks at work, Ted got extra money, and Annie kept this money for extras or emergencies. When asked 'If you had the two pounds seventeen shillings only could you provide little extras for Christmas time and your husband's [new] suit [for Easter]?', Annie replied 'No, I could not pay my creditors with the two pounds seventeen shillings alone'.

Carole Herriman

Many thanks to Max Solling for making available the transcript of this hearing and for sharing additional information.

The Battle for *Bellevue*

As reported in last month's *Bulletin*, Jim Bendfeldt was one of the last legal tenants of *Bellevue* in 1972-3. He and other activists, including Glebe Society members, fought to save the iconic building. Jim remembers a time when, if heritage was threatened, the entire local community was motivated to act: home owners, renters, students and squatters.

Glebe in the 1970s was the equivalent of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury District with many brightly painted terraces with a significant population of bohemians. Earlier tenants had graffitied 'ZAP!' on an outside wall of Bellevue and it became known as 'The Zap House'. As an expression of direct action the word ZAP originated in the USA to define noisy opposition to homophobic public figures; it also referenced the Zap Comix of counter-culture cartoonist Robert Crumb. Many of us in the Zap House made a reasonable income selling American underground comics, books and magazines on the Sydney and NSW university campuses. These had been reprinted from the originals by Pierre, a Frenchman who set up a printing press in his shop between Cowper and Mitchell Sts on Glebe Point Rd. Environmental awareness, multiculturalism, left-wing politics, women's rights and gay rights were some of the issues covered.



Thanks to Phil Young for this original photo, and to Jim for highlighting the counter-culture graffiti.

But our concerns were not mainstream. In 1973 Sydney was in the grip of development mania. NSW Premier Robin Askin wanted to carve out huge swathes of Glebe for freeways and Parkes Developments planned to build dozens of units in our local area. The company decided to evict us so they could demolish the house. They were under the impression that we were squatters and didn't realise that we had a formal lease. After we received notice, the next few weeks were difficult

and even frightening; some of our household members were threatened on the street. We felt very vulnerable and needed support. The times were dangerous. Squatters in Victoria St, Kings Cross, were risking their lives and two years later Juanita Nielson was murdered. As some of our group were actively involved in the anti-expressway campaign, we sought assistance from the Glebe Society and Joe Owens of the Builders Labourers Federation.

Although the BLF placed a green ban on Bellevue, we anticipated trouble from Parkes Developments and plastered the house with large hand-written notices: 'This house is occupied; any attempt to demolish it will be regarded as an attempt on our lives'. 'We are not responsible for any retaliatory actions.' We also collected bucket-loads of rocks.

When a bulldozer turned up on a low loader truck we had time, because of the narrowness of the access streets from Glebe Point Rd, to scramble and notify people. Glebe Society members risked their motor vehicles in a bumper-to-bumper blockade. Finding they couldn't get near the house by land, Parkes hired a motorised barge, loaded the bulldozer on board and brought it over from the Balmain side of Blackwattle Bay. They unloaded it on the western side of Bellevue and started tearing down the stables. We pelted the bulldozer's blade with rocks (which made a lot of noise) and three drivers quit that day rather than risk injury. The closest they got to the house was chipping at some of the sandstone on the westernmost corner. Sadly, the stables were demolished.

A couple of days later we received an invitation from Parkes' managing director Sir Paul Strasser to meet with members of his board at their offices in the city. We didn't want the house destroyed under any circumstances, so we offered to move out only if the house were to be given permanently to the local Council or the Glebe Society to refurbish and maintain as a resource for the community. We demanded a written, witnessed agreement.

Jim Bendfeldt

Postscript from Lyn Collingwood: Parkes Developments went into liquidation in 1977. *Bellevue* and its surrounds were acquired by Leichhardt Council, passing to the City of Sydney in 2003. The story of the ongoing battle for *Bellevue* can be read online in earlier Glebe Society *Bulletins*: Jim Coombes' account in Issue 9/1975 and Jeanette Knox's overview in Issue 2/2007.

Who lived in your street? Benjamin Stone (1869 – 1961); by Lyn Collingwood

Benjamin Stone lived at 294 Glebe Point Rd from the time the house was built until two years before his death. Both his home and the stove he manufactured were christened *Waratah*. He himself inherited the name of his father and grandfather, and was at least the third in a line of Benjamins.

He was born in England on 7 October 1869, the oldest child of Birmingham-born gunsmith Benjamin Stone (1837-1904) and Hannah née Allsobrook (1843-1907) who married in London and migrated in 1875 with Benjamin and his sisters Clara Jane (died 1953) and Phoebe Elizabeth (died 1947) aboard the *Gauntlet* which was quarantined in Brisbane due to an outbreak of typhoid. The family was in Sydney by the time Lilly (1877-1957) was born, followed by Sydney (1879-89), Kate Maude (1882-1958) and William Stretton (1884-1958). Nine-year-old Sydney, who could not swim, drowned in a waterhole at J. H. Geddes' woolwashing plant at Waterloo while skylarking with fellow truants from Blackfriars School. Because the other boys remained silent, his parents were unaware of his fate until two days had passed.



1904 ad for Benjamin Stone's popular stove

Benjamin senr (son of Benjamin Stone and Mary née Green) began manufacturing colonial ovens in 1878 in a small city shop in Sussex St, while the family lived in Erskine St. By 1880 they had moved house to Catherine St Glebe, and soon transferred B Stone & Son Stovemakers to the

same suburb. The factory on the corner of Phillip St and Cowper Lane was next door to the Bird & Lucas Foundry which provided panels for the Waratah Stove, first manufactured in 1894. The Stone family home and office relocated to 69 Glebe Point Rd. Benjamin senr died on 27 September 1904 (his funeral notice advertised his trade – 'maker of the Waratah Stoves') and his widow on 15 October 1907. They were buried with their son Sydney in the C of E section at Rookwood.

By age 13, when his foot was fractured by a falling anvil, Benjamin jnr was apprenticed to the family business. At age 16 he made two stoves which were exhibited at a Juvenile Good Templars Bazaar in Sydney Town Hall. In 1895 Ben married Alice Colliver (1876-1958). Their children were Edith May (1898-1994), Herbert Victor (1901-75), Reginald Benjamin (1903-76), Lillian Mildred (1907-75) and Alice Irene Brazier (1909-43).

In 1906 the Waratah stove won a first prize at the Royal Show. By then the cooker was a best seller, reputed to be fuel efficient with a firebox which could take both wood and coal, and with an even baking temperature because of its steel oven (in contrast to imports which were made totally of cast iron). Models ranged in price and capacity, suitable for premises from big hotels to two-roomed cottages, and were popular in both city and country. A large number were installed in Glebe houses.



A detail from the entranceway of Waratah. (image: Jude Paul)

The land on which no. 294 stands was bought in July 1905, part of the final subdivision of the Toxteth Estate, a condition of sale that no weatherboard or commercial structure be built. By 1906 the Stone family had moved into *Waratah*, their immediate neighbour was *Floraville* on Eglinton Rd. By 1908 their uphill neighbours were *Lymington* and *Chelveston*, and downhill *Tennyson*, *Kipling*, *Ilancourt*, *Hazeldene*, *Stoneleigh*, *Clifford*, *Rockley* and *Glenrock*. Number 292A Glebe Point Rd first appears as a street address in 1915. A two-storey building at *Waratah's* rear is believed to have had a billiard room downstairs with a pigeon loft, open to the sky, above.

Ben Stone served one term (1920-22) as a Glebe Alderman on the City of Sydney Council and in 1925 bought a couple of cottages in Dunblane St Camperdown. In 1959 *Waratah* was sold and Benjamin moved to 7 Sheehy St, the home of his son Herbert, a stove fitter, and daughter-in-law Doris Laurel May. A great-grandfather and a member of the Victoria Park Bowling Club, he died on 19 July 1961 and was cremated at Rookwood. He was survived by sons Herbert and Reginald and daughters Edith Hewitt and Lillian Dempsey, his youngest daughter Alice Creagh having died in 1943 and his wife Alice on 6 June 1958. (Alice Stone in 1918 had bought 4A and 4B Leichhardt

St, twin houses which remained in family ownership until 1973.)

Ben's brother 'Billy' Stretton Stone, stovemaker, lived at *Volta* Alexandra Lane, fronting Jubilee Park, with his wife Eliza Ryman Stone (died 1951) and, for a time, his married daughter Nancy Clara, son-in-law Walter Campbell Bock and granddaughter Elaine Dorothy Bock. In 1960 ownership of 1 Alexandra Lane passed to Billy Stone's sons, welder Sydney Arthur and accountant Francis Victor.

Waratah's owner from 1959 until her death in 1984 was Mary Baldwin née Smith, born in 1896 at Wallsend, the sixth child of the second marriage of Streker Smith and Ann Charlton who wed in 1887. Streker Smith, born into an Irish coalmining family in County Durham, arrived in Australia with three children of his first marriage. (His unusual first name, sometimes spelt 'Streaker', was the maiden name of his mother.) He worked as a miner at the Gartlee and Pacific collieries at Teralba, and was twice declared bankrupt in the 1890s. Mary Smith married Henry H Baldwin at Adamstown in 1919. She was widowed by the time she bought *Waratah*.

Mary Baldwin fell foul of local real estate agents by frequently putting up no. 294 for sale and then withdrawing, sometimes after contracts had been exchanged. Her daughter Marie Elsie Rodgers inherited the house, since when it has been sold three times.

Lyn Collingwood
Local Historian

Sources: *Australian Town and Country Journal* 25.4.1906; *City of Sydney Aldermen website*; *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List* 25.6.1919; *Evening News* 14.1.1882, 19.8.1886, 12.11.1904, 11.2.1905; *NSW births, deaths, marriages registry*; *NSW cemetery records*; *NSW electoral rolls*; *Rodney Hammett; RootsChat website*; *Sands Directories*; *Sydney Mail* 12.10.1904; *Sydney Morning Herald* various issues including 13.3.1889, 12.9.1904, 16.10.1907, 23.10.1907, 2.2.1920, 18.2.1931.

This month's mystery photo



Where are we? Email your suggestions (and stories, if you have any) to heritage@glebesociety.org.au

Rearview: Interview with Damian Galluzzo,

Interview by Margaret Cody

My earliest memory of Glebe is being around four to five years old and sitting in an apple box in the fruit shop. I remember the fruit shop and going down to the butcher, Paul Hancock, for sausages, and telling him I never got fed and him giving me some to take home. And I remember being with Mum and Dad (Melina and Frank) in the shop, going back round to where the kitchen was in those days and putting the sausages in the vertical grill with the paper on. Lo and behold the kitchen caught on fire!

This shop was different then. The kitchen and dining room were at the back, and upstairs were four bedrooms for seven kids. Joe and I were the youngest.

Galluzzos has been established since 1934. My grandfather Salvatore Galluzzo came to Glebe in 1926 and worked in a fruit shop on Glebe Point Rd near Mitchell St for eight years.

My Dad Frank arrived in Australia in 1934 with his mother Catherina. He met my mother, Melina, in

Australia when he arrived. Then we bought the premises where we are now, at 187 Glebe Point Rd.

When I was growing up I remember Glebe Point Rd as a busy strip: there were Westpac and Commonwealth banks, two supermarkets, a butcher, a deli and the original Gleebooks. Fuzes the chemist was on the corner and also the Post Office. Since then it's become harder for small businesses. The introduction of parking meters has also affected us. Then Broadway Shopping Centre developed and it became even harder for other avenues to keep going. Transport is now better in Glebe with the 370 bus and the light rail offering easier access for visitors and staff.

The socioeconomic mix has shifted to become more middle class with more students and young people; there are not so many working-class people living here. Lots of public housing is being sold off but the people all go to Broadway anyway so there is not much of that traffic for small businesses. There are also more boarding houses for students, close to the university.

Colourful characters I remember include Max with his crutch, always drunk at the bus stop. Whenever Mum went past he would say 'hello'. Then there was Carol who always asked for a dollar and sometimes got aggressive. Kevin was a big Tigers fan, very 'out there', expressive, very Italian and proud. And there is Jean, a bright spark who is 96 and still keeps us on our toes. Thelma used to work here. She was 'old school' and called a spade a spade. She worked even when sick and would help anyone.

The biggest changes I notice: in the 1980s there was a bustling restaurant trade and you couldn't move for traffic. Before Christmas last year there were at least four empty shops on this block; and at least 17 all up in Glebe Point Rd. This is due to the arrival of Broadway and to landlords raising rents because of higher overheads. It is a struggle which creates a domino effect. Upkeep is neglected because of high overheads.

I miss what what's gone because of the changes: such as being able to walk down the road at night time and see a lot of people, and I miss the local interaction with other shopkeepers. Many were family-based. For example *Sonoma* was formerly a hairdresser called *Rivoli*. *Le petite Tarte* used to be a fish and chips shop and *Tobacco* was a fruit shop run by Mr and Mrs Choo.

All of us kids played in the back lane and we all lived above the shops. I welcome better transport, but parking meters have killed Glebe Point Rd.

Blasts from the Past, by Sarah Fogg

The Seventies: Bulletin no 3 of 1976

The Glebe Ferry

Glebe residents would like to see this facility extended to serve our area which, apart from the Society's annual Ferry trip, has been scorned by ferries since the beginning of the century.

In 1905, Glebe Council disclaimed responsibility for the cost of removing Glebe Point wharf, the dispute was not resolved and the wharf remained until October 1950, when its proposed demolition stirred the editor of the Glebe Observer, Kevin Gale, to write "Many thousands of Glebe and Point citizens will regret the decision of the City Council, for the wharf has, for most of the people, become part of their lives. On hot summer evenings, hundreds of Glebe residents make it an almost nightly ritual to wander "down to the Point" and on weekends it is not uncommon to find as many as 20 or 30 bathers availing themselves of the opportunity to "take a dip" so close to home."

People get free parking at Broadway. Also, smaller shops are seasonal and so the hot or cold weather affects our trade. However, we are still here as a long-running family business, part of the history of Glebe.

Note from Margaret Cody: Melina Galluzzo died in 2005 and Frank Galluzzo died in 2010.



Damian Galluzzo (image: Margaret Cody)

Ferries operated from Glebe during the 19th century and were at their zenith in the 1890s but ceased early in the 20th century, according to research by Max Solling in the same edition of the *Bulletin*.

Periodically the idea of reinstating a Glebe Ferry has been raised and is the subject of a current campaign by Greens MP Jamie Parker. See also The Nineties below.



A ferry is seen in Rozelle Bay in this drawing of Annandale waterfront from about 1896. (image: Alan Roberts, 'The Social History of Glebe and Annandale No.6: Transport' p.35).

The Eighties: Bulletin no 3 of 1987

Reflecting on the socio-economics changes in Glebe

As can be observed by anyone passing through Glebe, urban renewal is in full swing. The area of public housing, about one quarter of the suburb, is being rehabilitated on a huge scale and several hundred new dwellings are being built while many others are being expanded.

The changes in the larger privately owned sector of Glebe are less concentrated, but also dramatic. Dwellings in almost every street are being extended and restored and their facilities improved. As with the public housing, the transient and single population is being replaced by medium to long term residents with families or in multiple occupancy, allowing many dwellings to return to their original character and creating a better spread of ages.

When one remembers that economic forces have meant the inevitable reduction in private rented accommodation and an increase in rents and prices, Glebe's contribution to the International Year of Shelter is impressive. Not only are many more dwellings being provided for a very wide social group, but this is being done in conjunction with enhancement of the existing and the built environment.

It could be argued that, in 1987, the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, this was a somewhat rosy view of the impact of urban renewal – and gentrification – on the social diversity of Glebe, certainly as it has continued since 1987.

The Nineties: Bulletin no 3 of 1998

A Glebe Ferry (again)

The Minister for Transport has written to say that he does not support a ferry for Glebe as, in his opinion, it would not be financially viable. However, Matilda Cruises is interested in running a limited peak hour service, and to show us their vessels, they have offered their 'Rocket' ferry, free of charge, for our proposed Boat Day (see below).

The proposed Boat Day was intended to enable a commentary on the Glebe foreshores and to look at what impediments existed to a foreshores walkway. At the time only parts of the foreshore were accessible to the public.

Light Rail

The Council's Transport Planner will address the May meeting of the Management Committee to discuss the route of the proposed Light Rail. It seems that unless the route extends to Circular Quay, it will not have sufficient viability to travel to Lilyfield.

The first stage of the light rail to Wentworth Park opened in 1997, extended through Glebe to Lilyfield in 2000 and to Dulwich Hill in 2014. Circular Quay next year, maybe.

The Noughties: Bulletin no 3 of 2008

Captain James Francis Hurley, OBE (extract)

With Anzac Day just past it is timely to remember a Son of Glebe who made a significant contribution in the First World War. Born James Francis Hurley to mother Margaret and father Edward at Glebe on 15 October 1885, he was known as Frank and attended the Glebe Public School. He left school at the ripe old age of 13 and shot through to Lithgow where he worked in a steel mill, returning home when he was about 15 years old. He then studied at the local technical school and attended science lectures at Sydney University. He was quite interested in photography and showed a flair that few possessed, purchasing a Kodak box camera for fifteen shillings when he was about 20 years old.

The *Bulletin* frequently features articles about famous Glebe residents. Official photographer on the Mawson and Shackleton Australian Antarctic Expeditions and an official war photographer in both World Wars, Frank Hurley is recognised as one of the most influential Australian photojournalists.

Sarah Fogg

Planning

Another Free Kick for Developers, by Neil Macindoe

Members may have read news reports that the State Government has recently extended Complying Development to include medium-density

housing – terraces, dual occupancy dwellings, or buildings containing up to three or four dwellings.

The point about Complying Development is that it doesn't have to meet the requirements of a normal

development application. Provided they can find a private certifier who is willing to say certain standards have been met, the developer's proposal does not have to show you the plans or take into account any concerns you may have. The role of Council is limited to monitoring compliance. Previously, Complying Development was restricted to minor works, such as garden sheds or cubby houses, or in certain circumstances, single dwellings. Now the State Government is claiming it is filling the gap in the range of housing types that are available.

Fortunately for Glebe, and similar Inner City suburbs, it is unlikely the standards would be met: for example, the minimum lot size for medium-density is 200 square metres, and there would be very few lots of sufficient size, as well as other restrictions in Council controls that limit this type of development.



However, members are right to be concerned that suburbs further away from the CBD are likely to be targeted by developers who see an opportunity to avoid resident objections and Council scrutiny, and this is the crux of the matter. There is already

concern that, in the special areas designated by

the State Government, high-rise buildings are being built without sufficient controls, or concern for their impact on particular localities, and certainly without sufficient accompanying infrastructure. The whole point of the Plan for Greater Sydney, and the creation of several different hubs, is that the mistakes of the past would be avoided, and transport and infrastructure in particular would be included in future decisions.

The Society has always taken the view that private certification has failed, and needs much tighter regulation. Councils are the bodies with the knowledge and expertise to oversee development. Moreover, whatever the merits of Local Planning Panels (see *Bulletin* 1 of 2018) they should at least have proper oversight of local development, and medium-density housing should not be removed from their control.

Finally, we need to remind ourselves of the promise of the State Government to return planning powers to the people. Extending types of Complying Development, especially in areas where it will have a profound impact on the nature of localities, deprives the public of a say in the character of new building and ultimately of their locality, and is a further evasion and contradiction of this promise.

Neil Macindoe

Convenor, Planning subcommittee

The Society made a submission to the Inquiry into the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill. In the submission, the Glebe Society President, Allan Hogan, made it clear that we consider the draft Bill (as it then stood) to be an attack on Australian democracy because it would diminish the advocacy work of community groups, civil society organisations. To read our submission, go to <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/submission-to-the-inquiry-into-the-electoral-legislation-amendment/>.

Community Matters

Monster book sale: funds for new readers for Glebe Public School kids



A monster book sale is being held to raise funds to purchase new reading books for Glebe Public School.

Come along on the weekend of 5 and 6 May to *Benledi* and pick up a bargain.

Book donations would be much appreciated and can be dropped at *Benledi* 9am-12 noon on Friday 4 May.

When: Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May, 9am- 4pm.

Where: *Benledi House*, next to Glebe Library

Any further questions, email books@glebeschool.org.au

Community Notes, by Janice Challinor

Kitchen Starter Packs

Since the inception of this project, to provide kits of basic kitchen equipment for families moving out of supported accommodation, the Glebe Society has delivered six packs to *Elsie* Refuge. The project is being managed by Diane Hutchinson, Glebe

Society vice-president and Community Development subcommittee member who has devoted many hours to collecting items, preparing packs and delivering them to the refuge. Her efforts are indeed 'caring for our community' and in keeping with our motto, 'encouraging a sense of

community' in action. Diane is to be commended for her dedication to this activity.

Collections are undertaken every first and third Wednesday of the month at the function room of St Helen's Community Centre, Glebe from 3 to 5.30pm. There have been several collection days to date at which members have donated many necessary items. Items should be in good condition, and should you be unable to bring them to the Collection point just email vice-president@glebesociety.org.au or community@glebesociety.org.au with a contact phone number so arrangements can be made to pick them up from your home at a time to suit.

To see the full list of items needed please see the Glebe Society website or the previous *Bulletin*. At the moment the particular items in short supply are kitchen glasses, good quality saucepans and frying pans. However, extra items, not specifically included in each basic pack such as a whisk, a rolling pin, potato masher, children's starter bowl or other specific kitchen accessories may be contributed as well. They will be included in the Options box at *Elsie* and available to mothers who particularly need them.

Thank you for your support to date, and if you are able to, please assist us in building our community contributions through this initiative.

HAPN Glebe

The Glebe Society's community representatives have recently been engaging with Housing Action Plan Now, Glebe. It is a community group concerned with support for our public housing neighbours. In February this year after the Society had assisted making an application for consideration, HAPN was selected by GRILL'D at Broadway as one of the three community groups of

the month. As a responsible community member GRILL'D encourages the community to indicate their support of their chosen charity when they purchase goods at GRILL'D. All monthly groups receive a cheque from GRILL'D, commensurate with the degree of community support shown. Glebe HAPN received a cheque for \$100. Its use is to be decided this month so there may be further potential for Glebe Society community involvement in supporting further HAPN initiatives on behalf of the Glebe community.

Janice Challinor
Community Development Convenor



Front row: Gaylene Harking and Barbara Marshall, Glebe HAPN members. Back row: GRILL'D manager holding a cheque to be presented to Glebe HAPN. On her left is Darcy, manager of Glebe Assistance & Partnership Program (GAPP) at St John's Church. (image: Janice Challinor)

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wrens

Planting day in Orphan School Creek

On Saturday 14 April an enthusiastic group of 17 local residents donned gardening gloves and took up their trowels to help plant over 250 native tube stock at Orphan School Creek Reserve in Forest Lodge. The aim of the planting was to help increase the diversity and density of shrubs and grasses in the Reserve and encourage the return of native insects, reptiles and other wildlife. As usual, morning tea was a highlight of the morning.

A full house at local wildlife seminar

Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist from the Royal Botanic Gardens, informed and entertained 55 members and their friends during a seminar on 'Wild Sydney: living with animals' at *Benledi* on 16

April 2018. This was the fourth seminar arranged by the Blue Wren subcommittee about urban biodiversity and we thank the executors of the Estate of the late Jan Craney, Roberta Johnston and Mary Holt for their financial support.

Comparative aerial photographs clearly show the greening of Glebe since the 1970s as residents and the local authorities have planted amazing numbers of native species in gardens, streets and parks. These plantings provide an important new food source particularly for larger wildlife species like flying foxes, Australian White Ibis and Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos.

Tagging of various species of flying foxes with small radio transmitters has shown that they can fly

long distances along the east coast, from Bundaberg in the north to Melbourne in the south, in search of their favourite native foods. Food sources include nectar and pollen from flowering eucalypts such as Spotted Gums, especially down the south coast, but also fruit and the figs which thrive in Glebe's parks, Arcadia Rd, and in other Glebe streets. On their journeys they stop off at colony sites (John called them 'motels') of which there are 15 in the Sydney region.

Flying foxes are particularly sensitive to the higher temperatures related to global warming. Temperatures of 43 degrees Celsius and above lead to heat stress and 45,000 deaths were recently recorded in a single colony during a heat wave.

Tagging of ibis has shown that they can also fly long distances in search of food. They are messengers of the plight of the Murray Darling Basin where the use of water by local towns and for irrigation (sometimes illegally) and drainage of the associated wetlands has removed their normal habitat and resulted in their migration to Sydney. Some of the ibis have settled permanently in Sydney as there is plenty of their natural food in our city's parks and, of course, they love the left-over human food in our rubbish bins and garbage landfills.

The number of cockatoos in Sydney has also increased which is again related to enhanced native food sources in the City's parks. However, they are probably not breeding every year due to the lack of nesting 'hollows' in large eucalypts. Such hollows can take a century to develop and cockatoos have appeared reluctant to use artificially created nesting hollows in younger trees.

Dr Martin also told us how a *Wingtags* project is helping to find out how cockatoos, ibis and brush turkeys are adapting to living in the city. Wing-tagging helps assess the behaviour of both populations and individuals, as well as their site-loyalty, population size and foraging, roosting and

breeding habitat preferences. Go to the Wingtags website (<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/the-wingtags-project>) to see where birds have been sighted to date. There's also an option to sponsor and name your own tagged bird.

Afterwards we enjoyed a glass of wine and Japanese finger food (generously donated by a member of the Blue Wren subcommittee) and inspected a beautiful range of 'blue wren' gifts displayed by Aviva Lacey from *Natural Perspectives*.

Andrew Wood, Fiona Campbell and Judy Christie



Enthusiastic local residents plant more than 250 native flora in Orphan School Creek Reserve. (Image: Judy Christie)

Can wind farms impact your health?

Do you want to join a new and exciting world first research study in your own home? Researchers at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research are studying the health effects of infrasound, which is sound that you can't hear and that is produced by Wind Turbines.

Complete our online questionnaire at www.windfarmstudy.com. See if you are eligible for this study.

Glebe Society News & Events

Glebe Society Event: 'Smartphones 102'

In 2016, we held the Smartphone 101 education event and we've had many requests to run it again. So we will! Once again, we're aiming the session for beginners, but all smartphone users are welcome to attend.

Most of us have got a smartphone, but are we getting the most out of it? We'll cover the iPhone, Android phones (eg Samsung Galaxy, HTC etc), and show you how to do much more with them than you'd ever imagined.

The evening will cover how to use Contacts to make it easier to make a phone call, how to find other Apps that are useful and we'll demonstrate a few of the more useful apps. For example, your smartphone will let you

listen to radio stations from all over the world, or to make phone calls to your interstate or overseas friends for no cost.



You can also use your smartphone to take great photos, guide you on one of the Society's 'Glebe Walks', look up bus timetables, and navigate while driving or walking.

We'll also have a look at the various Settings that are useful. The evening will include a general Q&A session, but if you have a specific problem then we'll try to make an appointment to see if we can help you.

Members and non-members are welcome.

When: 7pm, Tuesday 29 May

Where: *Benledi House*, 186 Glebe Point Rd

Cost: \$20, including refreshments.

Bookings and further information: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/smartphone-102-get-more-out-of-your-smartphone-tickets-45610248481> If you can't use the online booking system please call Virginia on 0402 153 074.

Phil Young and Virginia Simpson-Young
Communications subcommittee

Glebe Society event: Join us at the next 'Our House' – 19 Avenue Rd

This is a special opportunity for Glebe Society members to be a guest in a beautiful late 1890s Glebe residence in the Toxteth Estate, where the owners will generously share the stories of their home and surrounds, while we also enjoy socialising with other Glebe residents.

Lesley and Susan have kindly offered to be our hosts for the first 'Our House' visit in 2018.

When: Sunday 27 May 2018 2.30-4 pm

Where: 19 Avenue Rd Glebe

Tickets: \$20 per person (includes refreshments and a tasty selection of cheese/sweet treats)

Bookings and pre-payment are essential as numbers are limited. Book via the Society's online booking system Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-house-may-2018-tickets-45410754790>. If you can't use the online booking system please call Judy on 0417 446 425.

About 19 Avenue Rd, Glebe

The home is located opposite Toxteth House (now St Scholastica's College). In 1895 Avenue Rd was created by a sub-division of the Allen Estate. No 19 was built in 1898 in a transitional mix of Federation and Italianate style. The house today is substantially in its original built shape, with a 1980's addition of a large north facing rear verandah.

The most famous occupant of the house was Dan Minogue, a City of Sydney Councillor from 1938 to

1950 and ALP member for Western Sydney from 1949 to 1969. During these years the house was the meeting place for the right wing – and Catholic – ALP in the inner west of Sydney.

Judy Vergison
Events Co-ordinator



19 Avenue Rd, the home of Lesley and Susan and the location for 'Our House' on Sunday 27 May (image: Phillip Vergison)

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 3 May at 7pm we will go to *Sri Lankan St Food*, 381 Glebe Pt Rd.
- On Thursday 7 June we will go to *Darbar* at 207/209 Glebe Point Rd. Please note the new address, next door to the Commonwealth Bank.
- And on Thursday 5 July we will go to *Butcher and the Farmer*, at the Tramsheds.

Please email me at edwinadoe@optusnet.com.au or ring me 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 deadline for the June edition of the *Bulletin* is 23 May and the publication date is 31 May. The Bulletin schedule for 2018 can be found here:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/publications/bulletin/bulletin-schedule/>

Creative Glebe

29th Annual Glebe Music Festival

An unusual feature of this year's Festival will be a free-entry performance by German alpenhorn player Thomas Crome Sunday 4th November at 3.30pm with organ (Amy Johansen) at the Great Hall, University of Sydney. As usual, this will be preceded by a carillon recital in the quadrangle at 2pm, an optional tour of the carillon at 2.45 hrs, and afternoon tea in the ante-room at 3pm.



Thomas Crome with his alp horn. He will be playing at the Glebe Music Festival later this year

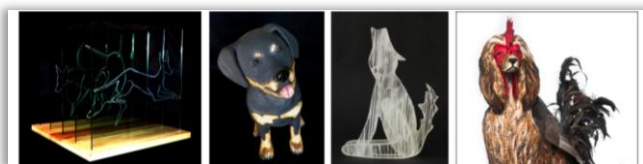
Thomas Crome will also perform with horn at the Glebe Town Hall, Friday 9 November at 7pm, with Deborah de Graaff (clarinet), Tony Wheeler (clarinet) and Tonya Lemoh (piano). The program will include the Trio for clarinet, horn and piano (1900) by Gustav Jenner, Schumann's Fantasy piece and Romance, Mendelssohn's concert piece for two clarinets and Schumann's Adagio and Allegro for horn and piano.

Tickets in advance or at the door \$20/\$10.

See further details, bookings and information about other concerts under 'events' and 'reservations' at www.glebemusicfestival.com

David McIntosh

It's a Dog's Life – Humans Welcome



In this Year of the Dog (Chinese New Year), the focus of attention has been drawn to our loving companions in many ways (e.g. the film *Isle of Dogs*).

In this world of disruptive and changing events, we celebrate the loyal constant that we have in our lives. In this exhibition noted artists come together to celebrate dogs in their chosen medium.

Where: Glass Artists' Gallery, 68 Glebe Point Rd

When: 8-27 May. Drinks with Artists (Opening Night): 6-8pm Tuesday 8 May.

Players in the Pub

Are the same contractors building Sydney's tramlines doing the renovations upstairs at the Toxteth??

After more than four months the work is still not finished!

I'll be in touch when we get the nod. (Stage makeup may be needed for our ingénues, ageing into character actors.)
Lyn Collingwood



Love and Loss – Coro Innominata

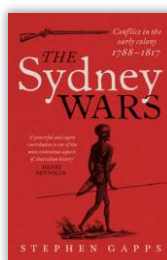
Coro Innominata is celebrating turning 25 this year. Their first concert is fast approaching and they are offering what they believe to be one of their most beautiful programs. *Love and Loss*, directed by Sally Whitwell, includes some of their most loved repertoire with a selection of madrigals from John Dowland and Thomas Campion, alongside the Australian premiere of Dale Trumbore's sublime *How To Go On*. Find it on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) and have a listen.



When: 3pm, Sunday 6 May; **Where:** Main Hall, Glebe Town Hall, 160 St John's Rd Glebe

Bookings: Tickets can be bought online or at the door (<http://www.innominata.org/>); call 0455 245 545 for more information.

Stephen Gapps' 'The Sydney Wars'



The Sydney Wars tells the history of military engagements between Europeans and Aboriginal Australians – described as 'this constant sort of war' by one early colonist.

Telling the story of the first years of colonial Sydney in a new and original way, this provocative book is the first detailed account of the warfare that occurred across the Sydney region from the arrival of a British expedition in 1788 to the last recorded conflict in the area in 1817. The Sydney Wars sheds new light on how British and Aboriginal forces developed military tactics and how the violence played out.

When: Wednesday 16 May, 6pm for 6.30pm

Cost: \$12/\$9/gleeclub free. Book online or phone 9660 2333

For your calendar

Thursday 3 May, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Sri Lankan St Food*. 381 Glebe Point Rd.
 Friday 4 May, 9am-12 noon. Book donations drop-off time for Monster Book sale. *Benledi* House.
 Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May, 9am- 4pm. Monster Book Sale, *Benledi* House.
 Sunday 6 May, 3pm. Love and Loss – Coro Innominata. Main Hall, Glebe Town Hall.
 8-27 May. It's a Dog's Life. Glass Artists' Gallery, 68 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday 16 May, 6pm for 6.30pm. Stephen Gapps' 'The Sydney Wars'. Gleebooks.
 Wednesday 24 May. Deadline for June *Bulletin*.
 Sunday 27 May, 2.30-4 pm. 'Our House': 19 Avenue Rd.
 Tuesday 29 May, 7pm. Smartphone 102. *Benledi* House.
 Thursday 7 June, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Darbar*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd.
 Thursday 3 July, 7pm. *Butcher and the Farmer*, at the Tramsheds.
 Sunday 4 November, 3.30pm. Thomas Crome, Glebe Music Festival.
 Friday 9 November, 7pm. Thomas Crome, Glebe Town Hall.
 Recurring events:
 First & third Wednesdays, 3-5:30pm. Kitchen Starter Pack drop-off time. St Helens Community Centre.
 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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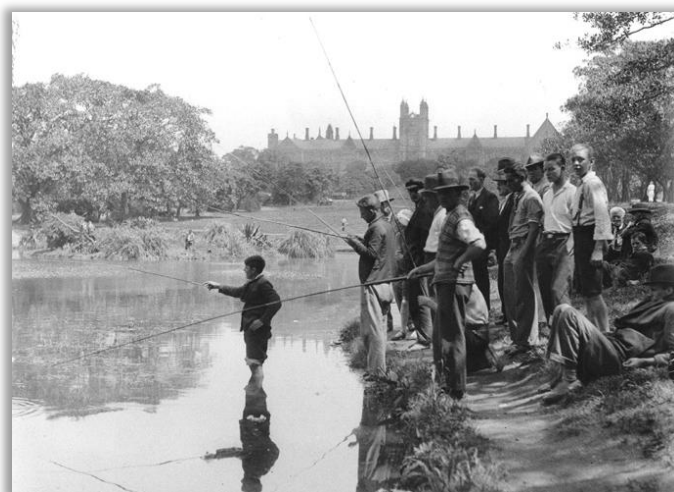
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Membership of the Glebe Society

- 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



Fishing in Victoria Park (image: Trove.nla.gov.au)