



Councillor Philip Thalís to be Guest Speaker at the Glebe Society's 49th AGM

by Allan Hogan, Glebe Society President

The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting at Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Rd Glebe, on Sunday 19 August at 11am. All financial members are welcome to attend and to participate in the election of the Society's office bearers for the coming year. 2019 will be a particularly important year for the Society, marking its 50th anniversary with an exhibition and a celebration of its achievements.

The work of the Society is carried out by the Management Committee and its Subcommittees and I want to put on record my gratitude for their hard work and creative contribution to the benefit of the Glebe community. In this *Bulletin* (page 11) and in the next edition, the convenors of our subcommittees will report on their activities over the past year, and I'm hoping those reports will enthuse all of our members to consider taking a more active role in the Society's affairs.

There are many opportunities for members to contribute to the work of the Society. No election is required to become a member of any of our subcommittees; all that's required is an indication of interest and a desire to be involved. Whether it's the local environment, heritage, community development, planning approvals, communications, transport and traffic, or Society events, your input will be welcome. Most subcommittees meet on a monthly basis, so the workload need not be onerous.

Office bearers of the Society and other members of the Management Committee will be elected at the AGM and members are encouraged to consider standing for these positions. The Society's constitution prohibits me from standing again for President, and I'm hoping that the challenges and privileges of the position will attract at least one energetic nominee. Other positions open for election are Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as five other Management Committee member positions. Nominations will close on Sunday 12 August at 11am. A nomination form is enclosed with this Bulletin and is also available on our website. Nomination forms must

be signed by two members of the Society and must include the written consent of the candidate.

The guest speaker at this year's AGM will be Councillor Philip Thalís who was elected to the City of Sydney Council in 2016. He and his life partner, Sarah Hill, started their company Hill Thalís Architecture + Urban Partners in 1992, and were the winning team of an international competition to design the space at the western edge of Sydney's central business district now known as Barangaroo. That plan called for the whole foreshore to be inalienable public land, but as we now know the Crown casino put an end to that.



Councillor Philip Thalís, who is guest speaker at the Glebe Society's 49th AGM on Sunday 19 August at 11am. Councillor Thalís has been quoted as saying: 'The development interests are so vocal, and the professionals are so timid to speak up in the public interest because they are perhaps too worried about their job, their reputation'. (image: www.clovermoore.com.au)

Continued on page 2 ...

The pace of change within the City prompted Philip Thalís to stand with Clover Moore's team and to take a more public stand on development and planning issues. He believes architects and other professionals have 'basically left the field to the spruikers of development interests.' He says, 'the development interests are so vocal, and the professionals are so timid to speak up in the public interest because they are perhaps too worried about their job, their reputation'.

I'm sure Councillor Thalís will speak forcefully about how he defines the public interest in the current Sydney era. It promises to be an interesting AGM.

Allan Hogan
President

Planning & Infrastructure

Planning Report, by Neil Macindoe

Naturalisation of Johnstons Creek

Diane Hutchinson forwarded me a report from Council about storage arrangements for Sydney Water in Bicentennial Park. Here is the relevant section from the Sydney Water website. This is all the information available this stage: 'Johnstons Creek is a concrete-lined channel in Annandale, between Federal and Jubilee Parks. The naturalisation project will improve the environment and social amenity of the creek. We're currently in the design stage of this project and construction is proposed for around 2019.'

Harold Park

Work has begun on the shade structures for the play and picnic areas, and the fences have been moved back at both the northern and southern ends, allowing access to the steps up to Boyce St.

Affordable Housing

Information is available via the *Sydney Have Your Say* website. The proposal is to amend Council controls to allow Council to require monetary contributions from multi-unit development up to the level approved by the Commission for Greater Sydney.

City West Housing is charged with providing affordable housing in the City. Consult their website if you want to know more about how they operate. Work on the Harold Park site is due to commence this year and be completed next year, as already announced in this column. Individuals can comment on the proposed changes, but the Society will also make a submission.

Membership Renewal Reminder

By now all members should have received their membership renewal forms by mail. You'll need to be a financial member to vote at our AGM on 19 August. And renewing your membership will ensure delivery of our monthly *Bulletin*. If you don't renew your membership it will lapse by the end of July.

Better Planning Network Seminar

The long-awaited seminar on the new NSW Planning Act is to be held in the new Harold Park Community Room at 1pm on Saturday, 11 August. I will be attending of course, but if others wish to do so they should contact BPN.

13-15 Ross St

There is an application to demolish the existing dwellings and construct a boarding house with twenty rooms over four storeys.

Ross St has had a difficult history, and the Society has often protested against inappropriate development. Our greatest success was the campaign to save Fine's Corner at the intersection of St Johns Rd and Ross St, where we organised a street march an interview with the ABC (see *Bulletin* No 1 of 2013, p.4). More recent protests have been less successful.



The sites in question. (source: City of Sydney)

Glebe Point Rd Main Street Study (Stage 2)

In November 1991, the Glebe Society and Glebe Chamber of Commerce jointly published a study of the entire length of Glebe Point Rd (there are copies in Glebe Library). This study is arguably the most important achievement of the Glebe Point Road Project, begun in 1989.

The Study, which includes many buildings outside the scope of Kate and Bernard Smith's *Architectural Character of Glebe*, consists mainly of photos of all buildings in Glebe's principal street accompanied by historical information, analysis, recommendations and significance. While some contiguous buildings are grouped together, essentially there is one page per building, and a copy of the appropriate page was sent to the owner of each building.

The Study had a profound impact on Glebe Point Rd.

Neil Macindoe
Planning Convenor



Benledi, one of the properties on Glebe Point Rd that appeared in the Glebe Point Road Main Street Study. The Society is working with City of Sydney to digitise this interesting report and make it available to the public. (image: Neil Macindoe)

Coming Up ... A Glebe Society Event *Glebe Voices*

The Inside Story: Bob Connolly's Views from the Other Side of the Camera

7pm Wednesday 5 September, Lower Hall, Glebe Town Hall

More details on page 9.

History & Heritage

Mystery Photo, with Lyn Collingwood

Last month's mystery photo



Last month's mystery photo: the Kentish Hotel



An earlier view of the Kentish Hotel.

This month's mystery photo



Where are we?

Please email your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au

Rear view: Interview with Frank Fotiou of Glebe Meats, by Margaret Cody

My family has been here for 33 years; we came directly from Greece. I was born in Samos. My father-in-law, Con Lerantges, and I were running the shop at first, and then my wife Gina and I took over. We were married in 1986, and Gina has worked in the shop for twenty years.

My earliest memories of Glebe are good memories. People used to shop locally more often. The new generation is different. There are more vegetarians, and people eat less meat now. They also shop at large shopping centres like Broadway and they shop online because it is convenient for them. These changes have made a big difference to local shopping. In the old days there were seven butchers' shops on Glebe Point Rd.

Another change is the development of The Tramsheds area near Jubilee Park. In the lower part of Glebe Point Rd, we lose customers to The Tramsheds because this shopping centre is more convenient for people who live at Glebe Point. Other changes I notice are not big ones. For example there are not so many buses as there were previously, although there is heavier traffic generally.

And socio-economic mix? There is a different clientele today, with more upper-class people who have more money to spend. I don't remember any particular 'colourful characters', but I miss a lot of the people who have died.

And the Valhalla Cinema has been redeveloped, and that also makes a change to the local landscape.



Frank Fotiou from 'Glebe Meats' (image: Margaret Cody)

Blasts from the Past, with Sarah Fogg

Glebe foreshores campaign *hots up: The Seventies: Bulletin no 5 of 1979*

Ten years ago Glebe had an active waterfront with industries requiring access to the Harbour living in harmony with residents and providing employment. Today, almost all these industries have gone and the land lies derelict or has been alienated for non-waterfront use.

Opportunity now exists to provide residents with adequate public waterfront access -

at no cash cost to the State Government and at minor cost to Leichhardt Municipal Council

with negligible impact on available port facilities, and with no loss of employment in the area.

The realisation of this proposal will create new waterfront parks in Glebe and allow the development of a largely waterfront walk from Johnston's Canal on Rozelle Bay to Wentworth Park on Blackwattle Bay.

The opening up of the Glebe foreshores to the public has seen a major change in the amenity of Glebe. In 1979 the Glebe Society developed a detailed Waterfront Proposal and campaigned for its implementation. The Society's proposal has been implemented in stages since then with final section adjacent to Glebe High School opened in 2014.

A Helipad for Glebe? *The Eighties: Bulletin no 6 of 1988*

EMERGENCY NEONATAL RETRIEVAL SERVICE BY DEDICATED HELICOPTER

The excerpts below are from an alternative proposal to developing a Helipad at the RAHC, Camperdown, prepared by Dr Charles Scarf (Paediatrician at the Prince of Wales Hospital) and Ian Bradbery. The Society's Committee endorses this alternative proposal and would welcome comments from members.

Our Alternative Proposal

Our alternative proposal is that a dedicated helicopter should be based at Mascot, not Camperdown, and should fly to and from Mascot. The air transport resuscitation trolley, the two pilots, the Paediatric Registrar and possibly a Paediatric Nurse should all be based at Mascot. Costs and staffing would be shared between the hospitals providing retrieval services (Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Prince of Wales Childrens Hospital and Westmead Hospital).

The Hospital's days in Camperdown were in fact numbered. It relocated to Westmead in 1995 and the site was redeveloped for residential housing, now known as the City Quarter. The heritage listed administration building and nurses' quarters were retained.

4WDs in the park!

The Nineties: Bulletin no 5 of 1998

BI-CENTENNIAL PARK 4WD EXHIBITION

Leichhardt Councillors voted on the voices without dissent to *not* permit the proposed 4WD exhibition in Bi-Centennial Park at Glebe Point in mid-August. I understand that the councillors believed that to allow such an event would set a precedent, apart from the issue that the majority of the park would be fenced off for nine days.

Progressive Dinner

The Nineties: Bulletin no 6 of 1998

Progressive Dinner

Thirty people attended the Progressive Yuletide Dinner in July, which was a great success. As many people donated the ingredients, approximately \$1,100 was raised. We thank Chris from Toni's Deli in Glebe Point Road for allowing us to buy the turkey breasts and ham at cost price. We will decide how best to use the money on a worthwhile cause in Glebe, and would be glad of your suggestions.

Isn't it time we brought back the 'progressive dinner'??

Guest writer Tom Uren

The Noughties: Bulletin no 6 of 2008

Thank you for inviting me to write a few words on the evolutionary development of Glebe during these last 40 years. I have always admired the principled leadership of your society and I am honoured to be a life member.

My role, as a Minister in the Whitlam Government, in the purchasing of the Glebe Estate in 1974 is generally accepted and recognised. What is not recognised is the role of my Ministry in the redirection of the Western and North Western freeway, particularly the Western freeway, which would have cut a wide 'scar' on Glebe, Anandale, Leichhardt, Haberfield, Five Dock and Burwood similar to the 'scar' created by the Main Roads Department of NSW on North Sydney.

Tom Uren, AO (1921 – 2015) was born in Balmain. He was a Minister in the Whitlam and Hawke governments and helped to establish the heritage and conservation movement in Australia. In particular, he worked to preserve the heritage of inner Sydney. Learn more about the Glebe Estate at

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/the-glebe-estate/>

Temple fire

The Noughties: Bulletin no 6 of 2008

Size Yup Temple, Edward Street

As reported in the February *Bulletin*, one of the three shrines was damaged by fire. The Temple Trust erected a temporary replacement in time for the Chinese New Year, and the DA for

this is now before Council. The application states repairs to the damaged shrine should be completed at the end of 2008.

Sarah Fogg
Communications Subcommittee

The story of the two Harold Parks, by Lindsay Foyle

Lindsay Foyle is a journalist and cartoonist who worked on The Bulletin and The Australian. He also lived in Glebe for 25 years and has over 5000 photos of the suburb and spends much of his time writing about Australian cartooning. He was one of the founding members of the Glebe Society.

There have been two Harold Parks in Sydney and now there are none. The better known of the two was the racetrack sitting on the edge of Forest Lodge.

The racecourse had a peculiar history, and was known by four different names. Founded in 1890 as an athletic ground, on what had been heavenly timbered land, reclaimed mangrove swamps (which were bordered by Johnston's and Orphan School Creeks), with part of the original orchard on Sir George Wigram Allen's Toxteth Estate it was first known as Lilybridge racecourse and then as Forest Lodge racecourse. It had a name change following some alterations and improvements in 1904 and became the Epping Racecourse after Joynton

Smith (1858-1943) leased the property. It was possibly named after the Epping Racecourse, which operated in England between 1838 and 1858.

Smith became Lord Mayor of Sydney in 1918 and is best remembered for launching *Smith's Weekly* in 1919. He sold his interests in the Epping Racecourse after building the Victoria Park Racecourse. At the time Victoria Park was said to be the finest pony horseracing course in Sydney. In 1908 a clay-and-cinders track of 1.81 kilometres in length was built around the horseracing course and was utilised for speedway racing by both cars and motorcycles until the early 1920s. The last meeting at the Victoria Park track was on February 14, 1942. The three-storey totalisator building is now the Green Square library. Tote Park, Joynton Park, Grandstand Parade, Victoria Park Parade and Joynton Ave in the area are also reminders of the racetrack.

The NSW Trotting Club acquired Epping

Racecourse in 1911. In 1921 they spent £16,122 acquiring Byrne's Bush, 50 acres in Botany with the intention of building racetrack on it. It had been owned by some members of the NSW Trotting Club who went by the name of the Harold Park Syndicate. The reason behind the move was that many members of the club thought there was a likelihood of the Epping track being resumed for the Tramway Department – a possibility that never eventuated.



An aerial photo taken in 1943 of the airport and Ascot racecourse. The mouth of Cooks River is also shown, but since the photo was taken it has been moved. At the bottom right is the land where Harold Park in Botany was. (image: <http://www.adastra.adastron.com>)

The land they bought was only a short distance from the Ascot racecourse, which was on the Botany Rd tram route and is now part of Kingsford Smith Airport. The only surviving physical evidence of Ascot is 15 fig trees, which formerly lined the racecourse entrance located near the airport's long-term car park. The trees are subject to a heritage preservation order.

The Trotting club land was also on Botany Rd and had a frontage onto Botany Bay near Bay St. It was not covered by bush, but was level and cleared.

At one time the land had belonged to Andrew Byrne (1775-1863) who was born in County Wicklow, Ireland. His family was involved in the 1798 Irish rebellion and consequently Byrne was banished – without trial or court martial – to Sydney. On arrival in 1800 Governor King gave him his freedom and in 1831 he was granted 30 acres at Botany, which became part of Byrne's Bush. NSW Trotting renamed Byrne's Bush as Harold Park soon after buying it.

In 1925 Hornsby Council pressured the NSW

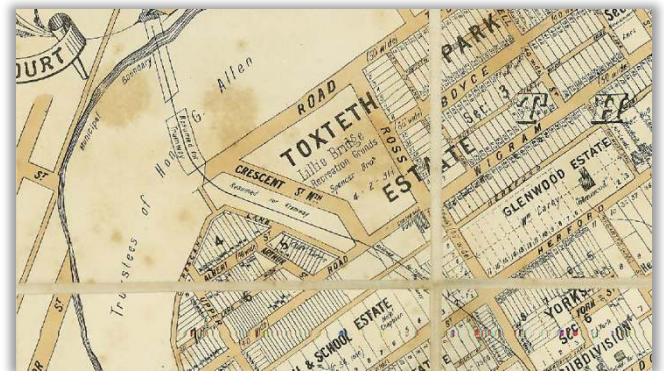
Trotting Club to change the name of Epping racecourse back to Lilybridge, due to the confusion with the suburb of Epping. The trotting club did not like the idea and informed the council the racecourse had been known as Epping for a quarter of a century, and the name was not going to be changed.

The following year the club announced they were considering selling the racecourse and moving their operations to Harold Park. While nothing happened with the projected sale in 1929, NSW Trotting Club sold Harold Park to the Kensington Racing Club for £30,000. The money was put to use upgrading the Epping Racecourse. It was only then when NSW Trotting accepted there was confusion between the racecourse being known as Epping and the suburb of the same name. Their solution was to rename racecourse, not to Lilybridge but to Harold Park, after the property the club had owned and recently sold at Botany.

Most historians claim the track was named after an imported trotter Childe Harold which had died in 1889 – one of the great progenitors of the stock of the early days of trotting in Sydney. The horse was probably named after Lord Byron's poem Childe Harold's Pilgrimage. However the story does not fit with newspaper reports of the time. What is most likely is the syndicate, which had owned Byrne's Bush had been named after the horse. Then Byrne's Bush was renamed after the syndicate and Epping Race course after the land at Botany. So it could be said the Epping Racecourse was also named after the horse by extension.

In 1929 Botany Council decided to recommend that Byrne's Bush should be utilised as a residential area. It was eventually sold to a developer who built houses on it. Racing at Harold Park ceased in 2010 and 1200 residential apartments built by Mirvac now cover the track.

Lindsay Foyle



Extract from Glebe map, 1888. The Lillie Bridge Recreation Grounds can be seen (as well as an interesting extension to Toxteth Rd). (image: <http://atlas.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>)

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wrens Subcommittee

In Andrew's absence there has not been a committee meeting. However, several members of the Orphan School Creek Bush Care group attended the Lord Mayor's Reception for volunteers last month. Slides recording the activities of volunteer groups within the Sydney area were displayed during the Lord Mayor's formal thanks to volunteers for the work they do, including ours. Clover Moore also mentioned Norma Hawkins as an example of someone in their mid-nineties who was still active.

Later in the month several representatives of bush care groups attended the presentation of a report on the survey the City of Sydney had commissioned to review reptiles and amphibians in the local government area.

Jeanette Knox



Members of the Orphan School Creek Bush Care group with Lord Mayor Clover Moore at the Volunteers' Reception. (Image: City of Sydney)

Community Matters

Kitchen Starter Pack News

We now have a dedicated webpage for the Kitchen Pack Project, accessed directly from the Glebe Society home page, where you will be able to quickly check the list of items we need, drop-off details and how to organise a pick-up.

Extraordinary support from our members has ensured that our project is unequivocally viable. With the project launch, we received a massive amount of good quality recycled goods as well as cash donations but, equally important, there has been a steady stream of recycled goods since then. Aside from salad and mixing bowls, we currently have enough stock to provide packs for the *Elsie* families going into self-contained accommodation for at least the next six months.

Our stock position is not an embarrassment of riches – rather, it is an opportunity to expand the project to others who, as part of the process of rebuilding their lives, move into their own home. Since we also have stock that is not ideal for family packs – sets of crockery or cutlery for 2 or 3, small frypans etc – we are focusing our expansion on those who need single's packs. The first expansion phase is to supply the men moving into self-contained housing from Rainbow Lodge, another innovative and long-lived Glebe facility. We have delivered one single's pack to Rainbow Lodge, after we found they had just secured an additional

housing place and a man had moved into it within the week.

Once the supply of packs to Rainbow Lodge is firmly established we will evaluate our stock position and, if feasible, investigate other groups we could supply. One possibility is to work with a not-for profit organisation that helps older women relocate from temporary accommodation (usually boarding houses) to self-contained housing. For all these people, like the *Elsie* families, our packs will make a difference both materially and as an indication of our community's support.

Diane Hutchinson
Project Coordinator



(image: V. Simpson-Young)

Grandparents Day: Glebe Public School Term Four

Paul Timms, a teacher at Glebe Public School, would like to hear from some long-term Glebe residents who would be willing to participate in a video produced by his students. 'We would like to film a video interviewing some older people who have lived in Glebe for some years and have seen

it change over time, maybe some people who attended Glebe Public School themselves!' Paul can be contacted at:

paultimms610@gmail.com.



What's On

Thirsty Thursdays



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

We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 2 August at 7pm we will go to *Na Zdrowie*, the Polish restaurant at 161 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 6 September at 7pm we will go to *Spicy Sichuan Glebe*, 1-9 Glebe Point Rd. Please note the change of venue.
- And on Thursday 4 October at 7pm we will go to *Timbah*, 375 Glebe Point Rd.

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.

Glebe Voices: Creating narratives of life: Bob Connolly

How do you make a film about the struggles and manipulations at a local council which comes to be described as 'Shakespearean drama'? Or progress to a film about a school concert which goes 'gangbusters' after its release and which leaves people in tears after the ending, commenting on how the film made them feel good?

Hear some insights from the other side of the camera from filmmaker, author and Glebe resident, Bob Connolly, at the next Glebe Voices event at 7pm Wednesday 5 September in the Lower Hall, Glebe Town Hall.

Documentaries produced by Bob and Robin Anderson (who died in 2002) include *River Journey*, *The Highlands Trilogy*, *Rats in the Ranks* and *Facing the Music*. Bob and Sophie Raymond produced *Mrs Carey's Concert* in 2011. Such work has set benchmarks in documentary filmmaking and won numerous awards as well as providing thoughtful reflections on what matters in life.

Getting people to trust you and allow you to film their everyday lives for days, weeks and months on end for eventual reproduction on screen is a rare attribute. It also says a lot about how the subjects see the filmmakers.

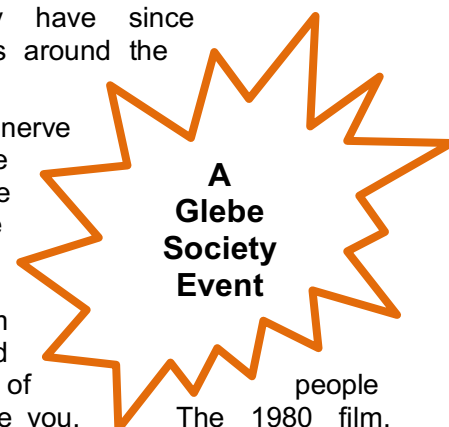
The months spent to create films of tribal life and bloody battles in the highlands of New Guinea when you don't know how the story will end – or even if you might survive the local battle – also says a lot about the conviction needed to make

such films. They have since attracted audiences around the world.

It also takes a bit of nerve to travel down the now legendary white water of the Franklin River with rafts loaded with heavy film equipment and when only handfuls of people had travelled before you. The 1980 film, *River Journey*, helped make a difference to saving the river against what then seemed long odds. Yet Bob reveals some of the contradictions of life when he once ironically commented about his experiences in making *Mrs Carey's Concert* that 'there's nothing more terrifying than facing a classroom of Year 9 girls'.

A profile of Bob Connolly¹ has quoted him saying: 'I never saw my life as 'directing'; my job is to capture something, not to direct it and there's a profound difference between the two. That's what I've basically spent 35 years doing'.

'When I started doing observational filmmaking I realised that I'm not here to change the world, but to observe it as it is. You have to throw your pre-suppositions and moral judgements out the window, because if you're abiding by what you think is the situation, you can go wrong and turn



people into pawns to serve your purposes, and then you miss everything – what's really going on, which is invariably more interesting and more profound'.

Glebe residents may recall that *Rats in the Ranks* was produced when Glebe was part of the Leichhardt Council area. The Glebe Society is proud to welcome Bob as our guest speaker for *Glebe Voices*. Bob will also show some brief clips of *Rats in the Ranks* and some other films.

When: 7-8:30pm Wednesday 5 September. The doors will open from 6.30pm for a 7pm sharp start.

Where: Lower Hall, Glebe Town Hall

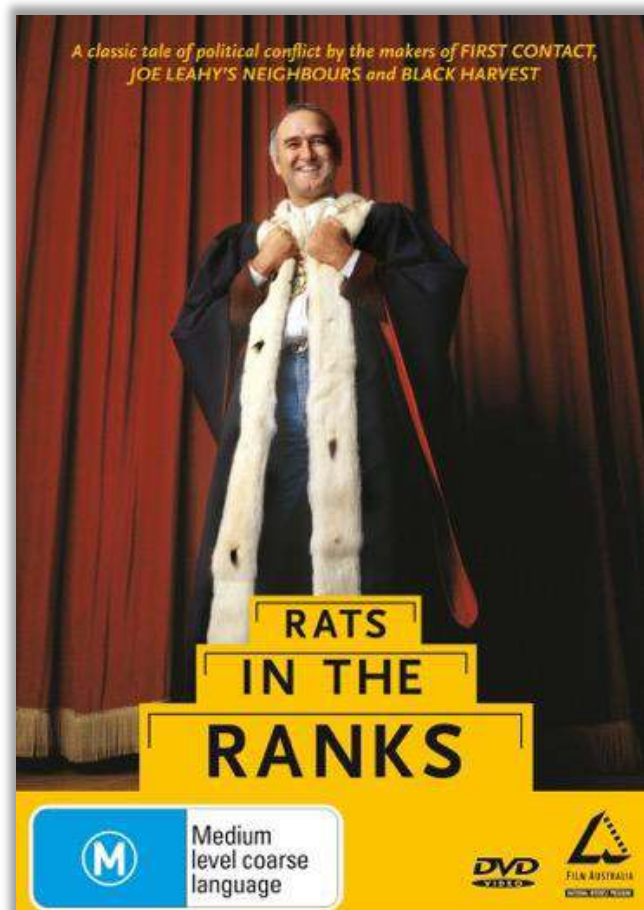
Cost: Seats are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. We will provide snacks and non-alcoholic drinks but BYOGG (bring your own grog and glass) if you would like alcohol.

To book: Bring your family and friends for a memorable event. Book early to get a seat – go online at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creating-narratives-of-life-bob-connelly-at-glebe-voices-tickets-48308602330>. If you are unable to book online, email glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au.

Fiona Campbell
Glebe Voices

1. Mumbrella' 10 March 2011

<https://mumbrella.com.au/profile-bob-connelly-a-life-of-observation-71470>



'Rats in the Ranks' was a documentary made by upcoming *Glebe Voices* speaker, Bob Connolly. It provides a behind-the-scenes look at the machinations of local government elections – in this case, at Leichhardt Council. Glebe and Forest Lodge were part of Leichhardt Council at that time, and the documentary features some well-known local faces!

Glebe Art Show



In what we trust will be an exciting development for our 21st year, we are moving the Show to the Tramsheds in 2018. It is a great open space with good light and we hope we will be able to get a new audience with Tramsheds

visitors in addition to our regular audiences.

We are shortening the duration of the Show, but we will be open from 10am until 8 or 9pm in order to get both daytime and evening visitors. Drop off dates will be Sunday 14 October and Monday 15th (place and times TBC). The Show will open on Thursday 18 October and the opening will be that night at 6pm. The Show will close on Sunday 21st in the evening with works to be picked up on the Sunday night or Monday morning – times TBC.

The application form should go live on the website (<https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/>) by early September with copies of the form available in City of Sydney libraries. You are encouraged to apply on line as it makes preparing the catalogue so much easier and avoids errors in spelling names etc.

Fiona Verge
Secretary, Glebe Art Show

Sunset Soiree

Sunset Soiree for Centipede is again being held at Glebe Rowing Club on Friday 12 October from 6-8.30pm.

Janice Challinor
Friends of Centipede



Annual Reports from the Glebe Society Subcommittees

Subcommittee annual reports not included in this Bulletin will appear in the September Bulletin.

Heritage Subcommittee Annual Report 2017-2018: **Ted McKeown**

I took over as convenor of the Heritage Subcommittee from Liz Simpson-Booker in the middle of 2017, and the first meeting I chaired was on 5 June 2017. Since then, we have met more or less monthly, and have dealt with numerous heritage issues facing Glebe.

The subcommittee currently comprises, in addition to myself as convenor, Allan Hogan (ex-officio as president), Andrew Botros, Brian Fuller, Fiona Campbell, Jude Paul, Liz Simpson-Booker, Lydia Bushell, Lyn Collingwood, Margaret Cody, Peter Crawshaw, Robert Hannan and Rodney Hammett. During the year, Anne Owens and Erica Robinson stepped down from the subcommittee after considerable periods of service. I would like to thank all those members, both present and past, for their enthusiastic support. In particular, I would like to thank Liz for her efforts to mentor an inexperienced successor.

One matter that has been under consideration for the whole year is the proposed redevelopment of the former Remand Centre behind *Bidura*. The developers who bought the property from the government for \$33 million, presumably with the express or implied representation that they could build a massive residential tower or towers on the Remand Centre site, must really be thinking they were sold a pup. The first development application was knocked back in its entirety by the Land and Environment Court after being rejected by the City Council. Its second effort, purporting to take into account the Court's criticism of its first effort, bypassed the Council and was referred directly to the Court, which reserved its judgement on 12 April. At the time of writing this report (12 July), it is exactly three months since the final hearing day, and still no result.

The Society objected to both applications on a number of grounds, and the subcommittee assisted the planning convenor, Neil Macindoe, in the framing of those objections. Watch this space.

Another development that has attracted a considerable amount of community concern is the proposal to establish a restaurant and café in Bellevue, previously occupied as the Blackwattle Café. Residents are particularly concerned about traffic and noise, particularly if the trading hours are extended. This is not really a heritage issue, since there is no proposal to alter the fabric of this significant building, but we have been cooperating with the transport and traffic subcommittee and the planning subcommittee in framing any objection.

During the year, we have been in close touch with the City Council, and in particular with Council officers Eva Rodriguez Riestra and Joel Johnson. I thank them both for their prompt feedback on Council matters that are of concern to the Society. Some of these matters are:

- The repair or replacement of the Sir Edmund Barton plaque near the footbridge in Arundel St – it has now been decided that it can be repaired, and this should take place shortly
- A plaque to commemorate the Aleppo pine tree in Foley Park – the Council has agreed to install a plaque modelled on the corresponding plaque near the tree we donated to Sydney University, and the final wording is now being considered
- An explanatory sign to be erected at the entrance to the Kirsova No 3 Playground behind the library – this will be done by the Council, modelled on the signs at the Kirsova No 1 and Kirsova No 2 Playgrounds in Erskineville
- The largely illegible explanatory signs at the Walter Burley Griffin incinerator site – the Council has agreed to replace these signs

By far the biggest project to be undertaken by the Council this year at the instigation of the Society is the relocation and rededication of the Rozelle Tramsheds War Memorial. It is currently located at the Leichhardt Bus Depot, but the Council has agreed to refurbish the memorial and relocate it (on a plinth identical to the original) to close to its original location at Harold Park, in a garden reminiscent of the original rose garden. This is a very significant memorial – it appears to be unique in its design, and is one of the earliest memorials to the dead in World War I, having been dedicated in 1916. Rod Holtham has been one of the driving forces in our campaign to have the memorial returned to its home in Forest Lodge, and I thank him for his hard work.

We have been assured that Council has approved the funding for this project, and that work is proceeding on schedule. It was originally proposed that the memorial be rededicated on 11 November 2018, the centenary of the armistice in 1918. But 11 November this year falls on a Sunday, and since the protocol for a war memorial dedication (or rededication) calls for a religious service, this would have been problematic. So we are looking forward to this happening on a date that is reasonably close to 11 November.

Another matter that has had close attention from the subcommittee is the planning for the Society's 50th birthday celebrations in the middle of next year. Work is well advanced on our proposal to hold an exhibition in the community centre at the Tramsheds, tentatively called 'The Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge', celebrating the grand residences built early in the 19th century, some of which are still with us. The other subcommittees of the management committee are also working on their plans for this celebration. You will be hearing a lot more about this as the year progresses. We are very grateful to Ruth Edenborough, who has lent us for the exhibition two magnificent early photographs of Strathmore, which originally stood in Glebe Point Rd, more or less where Charlton Way is now located. These photographs belonged to her late husband, David Allen, a direct descendant of George Allen who built Toxteth Park (now St Scholastica's College).

In October, the subcommittee conducted a successful seminar on the topic 'Researching Your House Online'. The presenters, Jude Paul, Andrew Botros, Rodney Hammett and Lyn Collingwood, are to be congratulated on the quality of the content and presentation. Andrew has ensured that the relevant tools and explanation are prominently displayed on the Society's website.

At the instigation of Fiona Campbell, the Society has joined forces with the Paddington Society and the community at Millers Point in trying to set up a collaboration with the Council aimed at educating the owners of heritage properties and developers on best practice in maintaining, altering or adaptively reusing those properties, and assisting them in choosing appropriate materials and finding (without recommending anyone in particular) relevant experts and tradespeople. This is an ongoing campaign.

Fiona was also successful (after a lot of frustration) in locating and obtaining an original copy of the

Glebe Point Road Main Street Study Stage 2 published in 1991. Whilst the information in this document is now out of date, it is significant in that it informed the entries for the whole of Glebe Point Rd in the State Heritage Inventory available online from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage – and those entries are much more up to date and relevant. Lindsay Foyle (a foundation member of the Society) has recently re-photographed all the properties in Glebe Point Rd so that his photographs are directly comparable with the images in the 1991 Study, and it is proposed that all of this material will shortly be available on the website.

Ted McKeown
Convenor, Heritage Subcommittee



Ted McKeown and Fiona Campbell from the Heritage subcommittee (Image: Alison McKeown)

Environment Subcommittee Annual Report 2017-2018: Asa Wahlquist

The Glebe Society joined the War on Waste, and focussed on reducing the use of disposable coffee cups in Glebe. Glebe has a great coffee culture, but unfortunately disposable coffee cups are a blight; they cannot be recycled, and if they are thrown in the recycling bin they contaminate the load, which must all be thrown away.

Several articles about plastic pollution, and disposable coffee cups in particular, were published in the Bulletin. The Society then put its money where its mouth is, so to speak, and produced a Glebe Society reusable coffee cup, in two sizes, four colours, and emblazoned with the attractive Glebe Society logo. For sale at just \$5 each, they are a bargain, it is hoped they will

reduce the use of disposable coffee cups in our area. If you would like to purchase a cup, we will be making them available again soon; alternatively email me at environment@glebesociety.org.au.

The Glebe Society welcomes the decision by Harris Farm and Woolworths at Broadway to no longer supply free plastic bags. We would like to see shopkeepers along Glebe Point Rd following that example. It should be pointed out that several businesses are actively pursuing plans to reduce waste, including Galluzzo's, whose environmental practices were profiled in the July *Bulletin*.

The environment subcommittee shares an interest in the waterfront environment with the Bays and Foreshores Committee. It was particularly

concerned about the proposal for Blackwattle Bay Marina (BBM), trading as All Occasion Cruises, which was located on Bridge Rd, to move to 5 Bank St Pyrmont, an open access area under the Anzac Bridge used by Dragon Boats and an assortment of small craft. BBM was obliged to move because the Fishmarket will be relocated to the Bridge Rd site. Sydney Heritage Fleet had put in plans to build a public museum with a wharf for 11 boats at 5 Bank St. It had planned to operate under standard office hours, with occasional boat movements. The Fleet then accepted an offer to move to Darling Harbour. Their plan for 5 Bank St was then 'modified' to accommodate BBM with 22 boats and 7am to 1am operating hours. The local community rallied and objected strongly, with support from the Glebe Society.

BBM was given a June 30, 2018 deadline, and at the time of writing (July 13, 2018) five BBM boats are moored in the rather confusingly named Blackwattle Bay Marine Operatives at 37 Bank St (it appears the other 17 boats did not belong to BBM, but were leasing moorings with BBM). Pyrmont activists are quietly hopeful that their campaign will result in BBM's boats remaining at 37 Bank St, and the site at 5-11 Bank St will remain open to the public and small boat users.

I also attended meetings of the Bays Precinct Reference Group, which Lesley Lynch will cover, and the Community Liaison Group for the Sydney Superyacht Marina. This Group reviews objections

from the local community. The most extraordinary incident was when an explosive device, designed to throw a rope from a superyacht to another vessel in the case of breakdown at sea, was detonated. The rope was propelled across Rozelle Bay and landed on the roof of 501 Glebe Point Rd. No one was harmed in the incident, but several career trajectories were altered.

Preparations are underway for the 50th anniversary of the Glebe Society, with plans for a brief environmental history, and if the logistics can be managed, an environmental walk will be added to the Glebe Society's list of Glebe Walks. <https://glebewalks.com.au>

Asa Wahlquist
Convenor, Environment Subcommittee



Former site of the Blackwattle Bay Marina – one of a focuses of the Environment subcommittee's activities over the last year. (image: Asa Wahlquist)

Community Development Subcommittee Annual Report 2017-2018: Janice Challinor

I was pleased to welcome Diane Hutchinson and Nick Hespe to the Community subcommittee in August 2017. Diane immediately grasped the idea raised in July, of a Glebe Exchange Platform, and bettered it. The concept was initially aimed at recycling good usable domestic items no longer required in people's households, the collection of these, and their redistribution through the social service organisations in Glebe to Glebe community members in need. Diane's idea however was to refine the process, to concentrate exclusively on kitchen utensils, so as to create Starter Packs for families moving from *Elsie* Refuge to independent accommodation. Nick, who had worked at *Elsie* many years previously and through his position managing the City of Sydney (CoS) service centre, was keenly aware of such needs, so the decision was soon made to apply to CoS for a matching grant to fund the purchase of new electrical goods (jugs and toasters) where second-hand could not be guaranteed safe. Other goods would be sourced from donations made by the community.

To ascertain the feasibility of the idea a limited appeal to management committee members netted

more than sufficient items to create two packs with basic kitchen and catering items for a family of four. These were forwarded to *Elsie* for evaluation and use. *Elsie* management was delighted with the project as one of their difficulties when families leave is sourcing such goods necessary for independent living. Consequently the grant application was made and succeeded.

Information on required items was drawn up for the Glebe Society website and *Bulletin* publication. With the assistance of Jan Macindoe, who joined our committee at that time, space at St Helen's Community Centre was reserved for collection twice a month from 3- 5.30pm on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, and the project commenced. Since its inception, and thanks to the generosity of members, quite a few packs have been completed and delivered to *Elsie*, and due to its success the project is now being extended to create smaller packs for single men leaving Rainbow Lodge to move to independent living. Without the hard work and initiative of Diane this project would not have eventuated, so on behalf of

the Glebe Society I'd like to thank her for this important and ongoing community-building activity.

We were saddened by the death of Nick Hespe on 21 December 2017. His contributions to and support of the Glebe Community were all the more valued for the considerate, caring and respectful manner in which he carried them out. The Glebe Society extended heartfelt condolences to Amanda and his family on his passing.

The Glebe Society was once again involved in the annual fundraising event in support of *Centipede* at Glebe Public School. The ABCs 7.30 presenter Leigh Sales, then living locally, graciously agreed to speak to guests and in so doing, clearly enunciated some important community values and activity she'd experienced both locally and nationally. She gave special attention to the way in which the electronic media has enhanced connectivity by referencing her own 'Chat 10 Looks 3' on-line group, and for her pains was the subject of a 'clang' from another guest. The venue for the event, generously provided *gratis* by Glebe Rowing Club, reached maximum attendance capacity and overall it netted in excess of \$7000, which was gratefully accepted by manager Vicky Brown, for *Centipede*.

Visits to *Elsie* and several other supported accommodation facilities in Glebe were made in late October to ascertain the age/gender composition of families, prior to Christmas. The publication of this information in the November *Bulletin* resulted in a considerable number of gifts donated by members for those resident in our community. However the management and staff of Lifehouse Hospital in Camperdown also joined with us in our appeal for gifts and provided a bounty of goods. Consequently we were able to bring Christmas cheer to the residents of five supported residential facilities including *Elsie* and *Rainbow Lodge*, as well as several local families in need. Altogether over 95 people received gifts. We intend to continue this activity in the future and hope that Chris O'Brien's Lifehouse will again extend its support.

In December the committee set about researching the history of the Old Fire Station (OFS), its uses both past and present, and its importance to the Glebe community, especially those in public housing. This formed the basis of *Bulletin* and website articles, written by Diane Hutchinson, Jan

and me in April, 2018. The purpose of this activity was to create a body of information in support of any call needed to maintain this vital community facility. It is to be hoped that the State's Land and Housing Corporation and Housing NSW will continue to do so as it is so important to the residents of Glebe Estate.

On 6 May this year a long term community project came to fruition. It was the opening of the *Elsie* Mural located on *Elsie* Walk, adjacent to the Derwent St side of Glebe Public School. This stirring artwork commemorates the establishment of the *Elsie* women' and family domestic violence shelter in Glebe in 1974. Its significance is increased by the untimely death of one of the Glebe artists, Liz Rooney for whom it is now commemorative, being her last work. Aunty Kath Farrawell and members of Liz's family, with the assistance of Kelly Wallwork completed the mural, and it was dedicated by Cr Jess Scully on behalf of the City of Sydney. Special thanks and recognition go to Katharine Vernon for guiding the extended process to its conclusion, and to Jan Wilson and Kate Brennan of Glebe Treehouse for their input.

The subcommittee continues its outreach to the wider Glebe community through Glebe Connected (formerly Collective Impact), ably represented by John Gray, attendance at meetings of Glebe Housing Action Plan Now HAPN), COGG and FLAG. These network linkages continue to help us contribute to the wellbeing of our suburban community.

Janice Challinor

Convenor, Community Development Subcommittee



Kitchen starter packs, a Community Development subcommittee project (image: Diane Hutchinson)

Transport and Traffic Subcommittee Annual Report 2017-2018: Murray Jewell

During this year, the Transport and Traffic committee has been involved in a variety of issues, from the WestConnex behemoth to cycling facilities, pedestrian safety and parking management in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

WestConnex

WestConnex continued to dominate the Transport and Traffic agenda this year with the mammoth project rolling on and rolling over the concerns of communities in the inner west. Glebe and Forest

Lodge have got off fairly lightly with no construction and no property acquisitions proposed in our area. The mainline road tunnels connecting the M4 at Haberfield with the M2 at St Peters will run underneath Annandale in the vicinity of the junction of Parramatta Rd and Pyrmont Bridge Rd and so well to the west of Glebe and Forest Lodge. The threatened traffic portals on Parramatta Rd near Arundel St will not be built. However Haberfield and St Peters have suffered badly with major earthworks and construction in those suburbs and multiple property acquisitions. The massive Rozelle interchange to be built beneath the Rozelle goods yards site is presenting engineering challenges and a contractor has not as yet been appointed. The mainline tunnels are planned to be completed in 2023.

While construction of the tunnels is underway, trucks carrying spoil away from the construction sites will travel along the City West Link, The Crescent and Johnson St. Once the tunnels are built there is likely to be an increase in traffic on the approaches to our suburb including on Victoria Rd and the Anzac Bridge. The Transport and Traffic Committee is participating in the WestConnex Community Reference Group which is a community based forum that is working with RMS to try to reduce the adverse impacts of the project on the community.

Cycling Facilities and Pedestrian Safety

We have continued our work to improve the cycling infrastructure and pedestrian safety in our area. Early in 2017 we made a submission to the City of Sydney requesting that two separated cycle ways be built through our suburb, running north to south and east to west, to provide safe pathways for cyclists riding to and from the CBD, UTS, TAFE, the University of Sydney, Newtown and surrounding areas. The City has now released its Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030 which unfortunately foreshadows no substantial improvements for Glebe and Forest Lodge. The plan refers to an earlier proposal to build a cycleway along St Johns Rd, but this proposal has been rejected by RMS. We will make further submissions to the City asking again for separated cycle ways.

We have real concerns about the safety of pedestrians using the Glebe foreshore path that runs along the edge of Rozelle Bay and Blackwattle Bay. The path was designed by the City to be shared by cyclists and pedestrians. This mixed use is however proving to be problematic with some cyclists riding at speeds that threaten the safety of pedestrians. Inevitably there have been collisions. We have asked the City to put in safety measures along the path and earlier this

year the President wrote to one of the City councillors asking for action on this. The City say that educating cyclists in 'Gracious Sharing' is the solution. We are not yet convinced of this.

Following concerns from residents about the pedestrian crossing on Bridge Rd, near the corner with Woolley St, we have written to our local member asking that he lobby the traffic committee in State Parliament for improvements in the safety features around this crossing, which is adjacent to the St James Primary School and two pre-schools.

Parking Management and Shared Zones in Glebe and Forest Lodge

Late last year, the City released a revision to its Neighbourhood Parking Policy and asked for community comment. The City is proposing to make visitor parking permits more user friendly and affordable, provide visitor permits for tradespersons, extend permit times for care workers and broaden the criteria for business parking permits. We wrote to the City in support of these proposals but expressed our concerns about long-term and permanent parking that is occurring in parts of Glebe and Forest Lodge particularly by campers, and asked the City to impose parking restrictions in these areas in consultation with local residents to alleviate this problem.

The City has proposed a shared zone for motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians around the John Street Reserve in Glebe to improve safety for all. We wrote to the City in March supporting this proposal, and asked that the shared zone be extended along a section of John St as has been requested by local residents.

Murray Jewell

Convenor, Transport & Traffic Subcommittee



Murray Jewell, convenor, and Jane Fissenden of the Transport & Traffic subcommittee (Image: Janice Challinor)

Paradise on Glebe Point Road

This article by **Zoe Stojanovic-Hill** was originally published in full in *Honi Soit* (<http://honisoit.com/2017/08/paradise-on-glebe-pt-rd/>). An edited extract is reproduced below with Zoe's permission. Chris Kiley and Barry Peak, founders of the Valhalla Cinema, made their first foray into independent cinema at Melbourne. Zoe takes up the story.

The whole enterprise began in 1971 at the Wallace Theatre of the University of Sydney, as a small operation involving 1950s TV shows and 16mm film. Chris Kiley was in his second year of Arts/Law and 'quickly found that, firstly, [he] really, really liked movies, and secondly, that [he] really, really didn't like Arts/Law.' Barry Peak was an old friend from high school, enrolled in a Bachelor of Science. They were both bright, distracted students, burning up with creative energy. ...

Barry remembers the night they opened their first real cinema [in Melbourne] as 'chaotic.' 'We'd only put in 100 of 1000 seats ... We had a huge pile of seats in the theatre, probably 10 or 12 feet high ... The theatre looked like a bit of a bomb shelter.'

They named the place after a pillar of Norse mythology: *Valhalla* 'was the hall Vikings laid their slain heroes [in],' Barry explains. 'So a heaven, thus movie heaven.'

Chris had been watching the New Arts Cinema at 166D Glebe Point Road for years, since it housed the first Australia production of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and pounced soon as the owners put the building up for rent. 'I thought that was the ideal location because it was so close to Sydney Uni,' Chris says.

In its heyday, during the 1980s, the *Valhalla* was an unholy sanctum for a lot of Sydney Uni students. Glebe was a scruffy suburb, packed with student sharehouses, and young locals would head to the *Valhalla* to watch cult, classic, and arthouse films — to indulge in bad taste, to drink the tangible nostalgia.

Perhaps the *Valhalla* was popular with 20-somethings because it was sufficiently outrageous and sufficiently homey; it catered to a cohort swept up in the angst and inspiration of early adulthood, who occasionally wanted to pull back into childhood. Young people could depend on the *Valhalla* to show sordid films that had been censored, and subsequently ditched by other cinemas. They could also attend 24-hour sci-fi and Woody Allen marathons, dressed in pyjamas and draped in sleeping bags, and receive free bacon-and-egg rolls in the morning. For the quirkier Sydney Uni students of the 80s the *Valhalla* was, true to its name, pretty damn glorious.

In October 1987, Chris and Barry were thrown into the midst of what Chris calls 'a complete disaster' — the owners of 166D Glebe Point Rd were selling the building. ...

In 2005 Chris realised, with a jolt of sadness, that the *Valhalla* 'could never be a goer again,' the *SMH* reported at the time.

A number of factors contributed to the *Valhalla*'s demise. The rise of DVDs, and primeval forms of online streaming and internet downloads, led to a living room cinema boom. Mainstream cinemas morphed into gargantuan multiplexes. The *Valhalla* crew transformed the upstairs of 166D into a second cinema in 1994, but Chris estimates that, by then, Hoyts Broadway boasted eight screens. Mainstream film distributors began to encroach on arthouse territory, effectively poaching in the field of independent distributors.

[Chris] closed the cinema in 2005 and sold the building to a property developer in 2006.

166D Glebe Point Road still stands, and, although the interior has been converted into offices, the bold, black-and-white sign above the entrance reads: 'VALHALLA.'



The Valhalla Cinema (image: Eloise Myatt)

For your calendar

Thursday 2 August, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Na Zdrowie*, 161 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 4 August. *Book sale at Glebe Markets to benefit Glebe Public School*.
 Saturday 11 August, 1pm. *BPN seminar on the new NSW Planning Act*. Tramsheds.
 Sunday 19 August, 11am. *Annual General Meeting*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Wednesday 5 September, 7pm. Glebe Voices: Bob Connolly. Lower Hall, Glebe Town Hall.
 Thursday 6 September, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Spicy Sichuan*, 1-9 Glebe Point Rd. Please note the change of venue.
 Thursday 4 October, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Timbah*, 375 Glebe Point Rd.
 Friday 12 October, 6 -8.30pm. *Sunset Soiree for Centipede*, Glebe Rowing Club.
 14 and 15 October. *Glebe Art Show Drop off*. (place and times TBC). Thursday 18 October, 6pm.
Glebe Art Show opening night. Tramsheds.
 Sunday 4 November, 3.30pm. *Thomas Crome, Glebe Music Festival*. Great Hall.
 22 to 18 November. *Glebe Music Festival*. Various locations.



Recurring events:

Wednesday mornings from 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group*, near Jubilee Park.

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037

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Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110

How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



Floating wharf launch in Blackwattle Bay (now Rozelle Bay), 1924. (image: NSW State Archives)