



On the Public Interest

Presentation by Philip Thalís to the Glebe Society AGM, 19 August 2018, Glebe Town Hall, adapted by Virginia Simpson-Young

Philip Thalís is a Registered Architect, with 30 years' experience in the design of public space, urban design, multiple housing, infrastructure and heritage adaptation. He is a director of Hill Thalís Architects + Urban Projects. In 2016, Philip was elected to City of Sydney Council as a member of Clover Moore's Independent Team. He is Deputy Chair of the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, Chair of the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee, and a member of the Central Sydney Planning Committee and Green Square Advisory Committee. Philip holds a BSc and BArch (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a CEAA in Urban Architecture from the *École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris*; he is currently a Fractional Professor of Practice in Architecture in the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of New South Wales.



Philip Thalís giving an impassioned speech on the need for a greater focus on the public interest at the Glebe Society AGM on 19 August. (image: V.Simpson-Young)

The kids need our support!

Come to the 'Sunset Soiree' to raise funds for Centipede (the before and after school care program at Glebe Public School) on Friday 12 October at Glebe Rowing Club.

Bookings:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/centipede-annual-fundraiser-2018-sunset-soiree-tickets-50252391255>.

More details on page 15

Philip Thalís began his address to the Glebe Society's AGM with a quote from 15th century Italian architect and philosopher, Leon Battista Alberti¹:

Everyone relies on the city and all the public services it contains. If we have concluded rightly, from what the philosophers say, that cities owe their origin and their existence to enabling their inhabitants to enjoy a peaceful life, as free from any inconvenience or harm as possible, then surely the most thorough consideration should be given to the city's layout, site, and outline. Yet opinions vary on these matters.

Philip's first contact, as an architect, with Glebe was when in 1992 his newly-established architecture firm, Hill Thalís Architects, was engaged to repurpose the Valhalla Cinema: 'I was sad to see the closure of the Valhalla, which was important to Glebe and the whole inner city'. Philip's relationship with Glebe is now 25 years old. He recalls how, 25 years ago, he and his partner, Sarah Hill, met with then Leichhardt Mayor Larry Hand (of *Rats in the Ranks* fame) to discuss the Valhalla project, with their then two-week-old son in a bassinette. Now their son is 25 years old and lives in Glebe.

Thalis' work as an architect is centred on the 'public interest', and he chose a quote from Richard Sennett's *The Fall of Public Man*² to illustrate the significance of architecture to the public interest – and vice versa:

On the most physical level, the environment prompts people to think of the public domain as meaningless. This is in the organisation of space in cities. Architects ... are among the few professionals who are forced to work with present-day ideas of public life, such as they are, and are indeed among the few professionals who of necessity express and make these codes manifest to others. Architects have a responsibility to society, as do planners and engineers; yet they could do so much more to promote the public interest.

As a student, Philip worked in the NSW Government Architect's office, an option that is no longer open to the profession because the state government drastically cut the number of architects there; and those who work there no longer do architecture, but write documents. After graduation in 1984, Philip was headhunted to work on the Darling Harbour development. In what was to become a recurring motif, the state government ignored design advice and the Darling Harbour development was an 'abysmal failure'. The new Darling Harbour is no better – another 'disaster'. Before leaving for Paris to study Urban Architecture, Philip worked with the renowned architect, Ken Maher, during which time his commitment to the public interest led him to heavy involvement in the anti-monorail movement – many of us can remember the 10,000-strong 'No Monorail' marches in the mid-80s.

To illustrate the state government's contempt for the public interest and disregard for good city building, Philip described the government's handling of three high-profile projects for which Hill Thalis Architects had won international and national design competitions: the Olympic Village at Homebush Bay (now Newington, 1992), Barangaroo (then East Darling Harbour, 2005-6) and Kensington to Kingsford (dubbed K2K, 2016): 'In every instance, they've done the opposite of what won us the competition'. The winning Barangaroo design included the preservation of public land; and removal of this was one of the many detrimental changes in the final development. Based on his experience with the state government's handling of these three major projects, Philip now has 'a great deal of negative experience of the appalling influence of successive state governments on city-making', and has seen 'abject leadership from state governments on a range of issues – from the environment to social policy. Certainly they have a deep ignorance and a

lack of interest in better planning, while pandering to vested interests'.

A project of which Philip is 'most proud' is Pyrmont's Pirrama Park (with Aspect Studios and CAB Consulting) – a 'very successful public space'. He is also proud of public space projects in Canberra that re-connect the city to its original architects, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony. Philip explained that 'it is important for cities to draw out and remember what is important. You've got to find the best things in a city's history and re-connect them'. Another enduring contribution to the public interest is the book, *Public Sydney: Drawing the City* (currently out of print) which Philip co-authored in 2013 with Peter John Cantrill. Philip described this weighty tome playfully as a 'love brick to the city'. The intention of the book was to 'present back to Sydney, the best of Sydney', and to 'champion the public interest against privatisation'. Sadly, the book has served a more nebulous purpose: 'I've been told by people who've been there, that it's the only book on the NSW Premier's coffee table. Apparently they've been using it as a sales document, perhaps they didn't even realise what they owned!'

Also with an eye to the public interest, Philip has worked as a consultant with the City of Sydney in developing their '[Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy](#)', and on the Glebe Affordable Housing Demonstration Project in the area bounded by Cowper St, Bay St and Wentworth Park Rd.



<https://www.hillthalis.com.au/projects/pirrama-park>

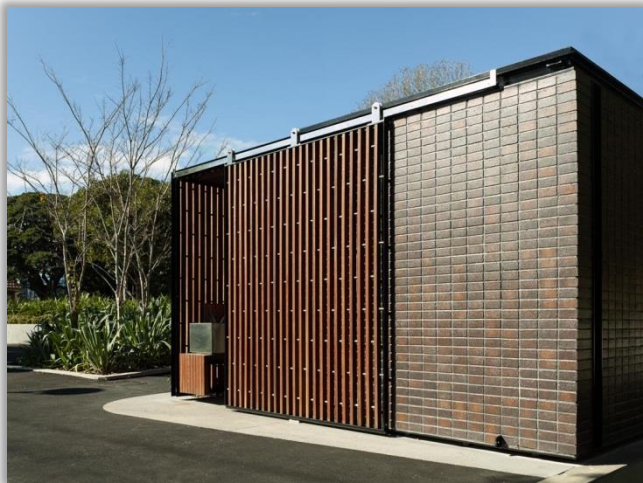
City of Sydney Council role

Given his commitment to public space and the public interest, it's not surprising that Philip was approached by Lord Mayor Clover Moore in 2016 to run on her ticket for election to Council. Initially he was reluctant as he was already very busy, but Clover was persistent and Philip saw the opportunity to further protect and champion the public interest. He joked that, as he already has a full-time job, he now struggles to maintain a good 'work-work balance'.

Philip outlined the City of Sydney's track record in protecting the public interest – a record of unparalleled success that attracted him to Council. This includes: a significant number of public projects including award-winning public spaces and places; good forward planning; genuine consultation and social engagement (including making a strong effort to speak up for the less privileged members of our city); environmental leadership ('so lacking at state and federal level – state slightly better than federal, I would say'); and commitment to design quality.

Philip summarised some of the public interest projects undertaken by City of Sydney since Glebe was transferred from Leichhardt Municipality to City of Sydney in 2003. He commented on the 'generous scale' of the most recent stage of the Glebe Foreshore Walk (on the bay side of Sydney Secondary College). He observed that 'the harbour is such an important public asset and people want to use it – you need to build in extra capacity', and advised us (perhaps in reference to an earlier discussion about bicycles and pedestrians on the Glebe Foreshore Walk) that 'there is always conflict in a successful city, and the issue is how you manage that conflict'.

Other City of Sydney projects of public benefit in Glebe are: the restoration and additions to Glebe Town Hall; improvements to Foley Park including the award-winning 'quite magnificent little toilet block'; St James Park and John Street Reserve; and Robyn Kemmis Reserve.



The 'quite magnificent little toilet block' in Foley Park by Stanic Harding Architecture + Interiors. The design won the 2014 AIA NSW Chapter Robert Woodward Award for Small Projects. (image: <https://www.stanicharding.com.au/>)

Hill Thalys were involved in the site planning of the Cowper St social housing development in 2008-9; Philip said that the delay in completing the project was 'unacceptable' and 'depressing'. A number of factors contributed to the delay, including soil contamination that required the total removal of topsoil, and Philip wondered whether the

contamination (which dated from the industrial uses before 1950) may have affected the health of the people living there prior to the redevelopment. Another factor in the delay was the lack of commitment by the state government to social housing. It was interesting to hear that the state government uses a model for social housing that says you should not have more than 30% social housing in an area; the remainder being 'market housing' that subsidises social housing (this figure of 30%, we heard, is based on questionable British research). Philip noted that when he was young, public housing catered for the lower 30% of income but 'because state governments have invested so little over the last 30 years', it now caters for the lowest 10%, 'it's really crisis social accommodation'. This is why *affordable housing* is so important. Philip finished his observations of the Cowper St project with: 'As we've become more comfortable, we've got to look out for all the members in our society'.

The final public interest project to which Philip referred was Harold Park; specifically the community space that was launched the day prior to the AGM, and the park which Philip thought was an excellent open space, although its opening has been delayed by drainage problems.

Though not specific to Glebe, Philip spoke about a number of other ways in which the City of Sydney promotes the public interest: the City has an interest in design excellence and design competitions; championing new parks and re-workings of existing parks; public spaces; cycleway and pedestrian connections.

Public art contributes to the amenity of public spaces. We heard about [Cloud Arch](#), the public artwork planned for the George St intersection near Sydney Town Hall. Philip described Cloud Arch as 'a work of tremendous confidence and risk', and drew comparisons with the construction of the Opera House: Cloud Arch's young Japanese architect, Junya Ishigami, references the original drawing of the Sydney Opera House which included a cloud above a podium. In support of the Cloud Arch, Philip said 'it re-centres the city and says the city is not just a CBD, it's the centre of the city for all of us'. Philip said that Cloud Arch, located at the intersection of the main north-south axis (George St) and east-west axis (Park St and Druiett St) will re-centre the city. Further, 'none of us knows exactly what it will be like, so we are all taking a leap of faith. As with other artworks, if it's not popular it could be removed'. Another current public artwork for Sydney is '[Bara](#)', a sculpture that is part of the 'Eora Journey' program. Bara is designed by an Aboriginal woman, Judy Watson, and is two curved forms in the shape of fish hooks used by Eora women to fish from canoes. The artwork will be located on the Tarpeian Way above

Dubbagullee (Bennelong Point), in powerful dialogue with the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House.

The state government's (lack of) commitment to the public interest

Philip went on to contrast the record of NSW state governments ('pretty pathetic') with the record of the City of Sydney described above. He said that 'all NSW governments have been terrible with the public interest as far back as I can remember, particularly since the mid-1980s'. To illustrate, he said that 'if public interest were your objective, then they wouldn't be doing many of the things they are doing', which he went on to enumerate:

'Stadia Mania': unnecessarily replacing stadiums at Moore Park (and Parramatta) at the behest of the 'unelected' Board of the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust.

Selling-off public housing: Philip was horrified by the treatment of the Millers Point public housing. The 'purging of the first public housing in Australia ... decimated a unique community'. Currently there are only 28 residents left and still dozens of buildings yet unsold; since the NSW government had already made \$200 million more than their sales target, Philip urges them to stop selling now and allow people to move back into their homes. He also noted that the NSW government plans to demolish and sell off public housing in Waterloo, and that it is 'no coincidence' that the newspapers are now carrying stories about unacceptable crime rates in Waterloo while in fact, such rates are not out of the ordinary for that area, nor in other public housing areas, including Glebe.

Affordable Housing: the state government's SEPP Affordable Rental Housing guidelines allow euphemistically-named new generation Boarding Houses to be built with dwellings as small as 16 m² – which is not 'dignified'. While supporting compact and affordable housing, Philip explained that amenity improves significantly if dwelling size increases even marginally and for that reason, he refuses to design dwellings of the minimum size permitted by the guidelines. Further, under the guidelines, developers are able to make affordable housing 'affordable' by 'taking out any idea of quality'. He made the point that rent for affordable housing already built ranges from \$300-500 per week, which is 'not affordable'. It was surprising to hear that the affordable housing strategy 'actually has no criterion for affordability in it', such as a rent-control mechanism. In fact, 'all the good amenity standards in SEPP65 don't apply – even though the building will be here and lived in for decades to come, it will be substandard'.

Selling the Sydney Sandstones: another criticism of state government concerned the 'disgraceful' sale

of the 'Sydney Sandstones'; The Department of Lands and Education which occupies two whole city blocks on Bridge St. Philip asked members what we would expect such a sale to bring in, and the figure of \$100 million was ventured. In fact the sale brought in \$35 million – a 'fire sale', and 'that's probably after several million dollars to Macquarie Bank and their cronies to market [the buildings] internationally'.



Artist's impression of 'bara' by Judy Watson.
(<http://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/bara/>)

Selling the Sydney Sandstones is not an isolated incident. The NSW government, Philip said, has sold off \$9 billion worth of public assets. One of the key tests of the public interest is whether the sale is in the interest of future generations. Philip believes that generally they have not been: 'We've basically done future generations out of their assets! So when, for instance, we want to expand public schools in the city, where's the public land? It's all been sold now for a little blip [in revenue], which only benefits the incumbents, and not even gone into social and affordable housing'. And the problem does not end with the fire sale of the physical properties but extends to the 30-year lease of NSW Land and Property which regulates land transactions in NSW – 'a real invitation to corruption'.

Underlying this failure to meet the public interest test is an ideological commitment, Philip believes, to *privatisation*. Privatisation has driven government agendas across Australia for several decades – Liberal and Labor. He explains: 'It would be fair to say that this state government's primary motivation is privatisation. Ironically, this is *against* a conservative mindset that wants to maintain what is *good* in society'. Philip believes that the privatisation agenda is plainly unpopular: 'We the people understand how hard-won our community assets are and how, in a sense, they're an investment in hundreds of years of public policy, so why are they going in a fire sale? I think we feel very uneasy about that'.

Privatisation also drives the NSW government's approach to *public transport*, Philip says.

Implementation of public transport projects has been 'botched'; for example the Eastern Suburbs light rail implementation has been 'brutal'; 50 cities in Europe show how that it can be done well, but in NSW it has been over-engineered and intrusive.

The Metro project is 'naked privatisation and extraordinarily clumsy in its implementation'; as a mode of public transport, metro is designed for high frequency short-to-medium trips in which people may be standing; and this is clearly inappropriate for a 38km route – compared to other cities, our metro is 'the wrong system'. Further, then Transport Minister, Gladys Berejiklian signed off on Metro tunnels that are purposely made too small to prevent future adaptation to heavy rail when it becomes necessary, a 'shockingly ideological-driven decision'. 'Hilariously', Philip noted, 'they've done the opposite with the buying of carriages for the Blue Mountains line that don't fit in the tunnels, so the tunnels there need to be expanded'. Next on the list of Metro failures is the high number of buildings being demolished in the city for its construction, while London managed to knock down fewer while building the more expansive Crossrail. Another puzzling decision is to include only one stop in the stretch through the inner city between Central and Sydenham, a distance of 7.5km – a situation 'unheard of' in other world cities. Finally, Philip took a stand against the conversion of the Bankstown Line as 'unnecessary and effectively privatising the public line'.

Next in the litany of NSW governmental public interest failures is 'Motorway Mania', including: NorthConnex ('another unsolicited proposal, which won't take the trucks of Pennant Hills Rd'); the Northern Beaches and Harbour Crossing; the M9, the M12 and the F6 ('recalls the folly of 1950s-designed Darling Harbour flyovers, implemented belatedly by Laurie Brereton, = a Minister for Shocking Infrastructure – something of a NSW speciality'); and, of course, WestConnex is actually the one that links all those other nasties together'.

And finally, *the Bays Precinct* – Philip is very concerned about this. He meets with a coalition of residents and Jamie Parker MP and they, like the rest of us, 'don't know what the government is doing'. The new Sydney Fish Market site is looks like 'privatisation of the harbour in order to free up a huge development site in Bank St', with some suggesting inflated targets of up to 2,800 individual dwellings there.

Final words – 'defend the public realm'

In closing, Phil exhorted us to take action to 'defend the public realm', saying:

There's a lot to speak up for in the public interest – and in many ways; and this has been echoed back to me by the public – the

City of Sydney is a beacon of democracy. Being part of a beacon of democracy in these contested times, in one of the most rapacious periods in the city's history, it's incumbent upon us to stand up in support for a better Sydney – and so I'm very proud to do that; and I do it at great personal and professional cost. After we won Barangaroo, we hardly got a state government job for 10 years. You would have thought we had proved we knew what we were doing, but no. Regardless I think it's very important to champion the public interest.

I just want to finish with a quote by the leading American architecture critic, Michael Sorkin³; who set out 10 things we must do, number 10 being to 'defend the public realm'. He said,

The most important single task for architectural criticism is to rise in defence of public space. Threatened by the repressive sameness of global culture, contracted by breakneck privatisation, devalued by contempt for public institutions, and victimised by the loss of the habits of sociability, the physical arena of collective interaction – the streets, squares, parks and plazas of the city – are in their free accessibility, the guarantors of democracy.

And that's how we concluded our presentation to jurors on the Barangaroo Competition. We said 'public space is the physical manifestation of democratic society itself, and that's something worth standing up for'.



One of the tunnels for the Sydney Metro system (<https://www.sydneymetro.info/tunnelling>)

Footnotes

1. Leon Battista Alberti, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books*. Translated by Joseph Rykwert, Neil Leach, Robert Tavernor. MIT Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 1989, p.95.
2. Richard Sennett. *The Fall of Public Man*, Penguin Books, London 1974, p.12.
3. Michael Sorkin, *Advice to Critics*. In, *All Over the Map: Writings on Buildings and Cities*. New York: Verso. p.150.

Ian Edwards 1929-2018



Ian in his late 20s, courtesy of his sister, Elizabeth Wright.

On the back cover of the first book he wrote, *The Faith of a Heretic*, Ian tells some of his own story:

Ian Edwards was educated at North Bankstown Public School, Canterbury High School, The Scots College and the University of Sydney where he learned more than most undergraduates by taking an abnormally long

time to graduate Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Philosophy.

He has worked as a social worker, a school teacher, a librarian and a taxi driver, and had aspirations to the Anglican priesthood for which his parish priest quite rightly declined to recommend him.'

Ian was an involved member of the Glebe Society for more than 30 years, and much of his life in Glebe can be ascertained from its *Bulletin*. I am grateful to Lyn Milton, the Society's archivist, for indexing all past issues.

As early as 1987 he was a member of the Management Committee, where for some time he provided prompt (and cost saving) hand delivery of minutes, agendas, and other papers to members of this Committee.

He had been Convenor of the Foreshore Walk and Cycleway Committee, and the Bays and Foreshores Committee; he was involved in the Playreading Group, the History Group, and the Book Club; he answered inquiries from people wanting information about ancestors who had lived in Glebe, and he had arranged regular Sunday lunches for Society members at Glebe eating houses.

His short pieces for the *Bulletin* and letters to the editor (of both the *Bulletin* and the *SMH*) tackled community problems such as children's recreational needs, parking meters, state planning control, street lighting, the Glebe police and Walk against Want. He was a long-standing and valued member of the Glebe branch of OM:NI (Older Men: New Ideas), of which he said in 2006 that:

'This organisation won't endow you with any godlike attributes of omnipotence or

omniscience or transport you as in an omnibus, but if you are a male aged 50 years or more it could be just what you are looking for.'

Keith Foster, a member of OM:NI, wrote of Ian that his

life was not easy, due to long-term depression, he made the best of it without complaint. His failing health did not deter him from contributing to our discussions and his atheism was regularly and forcefully raised.

His time at Sydney University was formative, and he was very proud of the part it played in making him the man he was – a man with strong opinions and concern for the future of the planet.

His interests were wide and his longer articles for the *Bulletin* are well written, well researched and full of detail. They include *Sustainability: Australia should take the lead* (3/2008); *It's not too late*, his personal reaction to the film *An Inconvenient Truth* (8/2006); the Society's involvement in the *Battle of the Expressways* (10/2004); in *Two Glebes ...?* Ian shared his perceptions on the social divisions in Glebe noting that 'perhaps we should all try to be more aware of the problems and needs of the more disadvantaged members of our community' (2/2013); he wrote a detailed piece on Sir Douglas Mawson, in the *Who Lived in your street?* series (3/2005), and a comprehensive review of Tony Larkum's book *A Natural Calling: Life, Letters and Diaries of Charles Darwin and William Darwin Fox* (1/2010); he wrote many times on the Master Plan for the Bays Precinct, including *The price of amenity is eternal vigilance* (5/1998); in the special Anzac Centenary issue he wrote meaningfully on *The Meaning of Anzac* (3/2015); though hardly a sporting man he produced a piece on *Some Glebe Cricketers*; (2/2016).

In March 2017, his article on *Jack Munday, The NSW BLF and the Battle for Sydney* (3/2017) finished with a verse of the 1973 union song by Seamus Gill and Denis Kevans:

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

His amusing report on being accosted by a policeman while wearing a garment with a hood led to his suggestion 'that if you wear a hoodie on your early morning walk in Glebe, be sure you carry

your ID.' (1/2008). He was still contributing to the *Bulletin* in September this year, with a review of Ken Saunders political satire 2028.

Ian wrote three books, the first was *The Faith of a Heretic* (self-published, 1998) about the life and work of the Rev. John Edwards, his paternal grandfather, which, in his forthright manner, he dedicated 'To the memory of the greatest of all heretics, Jesus of Nazareth'. The second, *World War II: A Soldier's Odyssey* (2015), published by the Sydney School of Arts and Humanities, was a life story of his uncle, Lieutenant Marcus Edwards, reviewed by April Bertels-Garnsey as 'a labour of love – affectionate, detailed and thoroughly researched.' A third, *The Brothers Four*, about his father and uncles, was not made public.

I met Ian through the Glebe Society. A self-confessed technophobe, in the early days when he needed to master email and word-processing he called on me when he had difficulties with his computer. Realising he needed more than I could offer, he met up with Patrick Lesslie who had this to say:

Often abstemious and sometimes comically thrifty, Ian had a proclivity for efficiency and enjoyed a sort of uncommon minimalism in his practical affairs. He faced his mortality and the limits of his time and capacity with delightful humour and without any obvious self-pity.

Shortly after I met him he bemoaned his incompetence at using computers. I told him he should always blame the computer, never himself, and besides, I said you're more of a literary man. He replied I suppose I am, and we both knew it was true. I visited him on Thursdays for more than ten years after that.

Ian was interested in his friends and loved an excuse to correspond. He wrote books about his family, and articles on all sorts of topics. He had a cat named Shadow.

I'll miss his forthrightness and wry sense of humour, and his kindness and modest appreciation of life.

Ian was a foundation member of the Sydney Realists who meet regularly at the Glebe Community Centre. Marion Manton, a member of the group, wrote that their talks

focussed on philosophy, psychology, and sociology, as well as literature, the arts and science. In other words, critical thinking about all sorts of serious issues. Ian was not so keen on the critical drinking that followed our discussions. He was handicapped by his hearing difficulties as he aged.

He still gave papers; his most recent was a talk on James Joyce, and he published articles in our Journal, The Sydney Realist, and was also its proof reader. His latest article was on Oscar Wilde, but as a keen environmentalist he also wrote on overpopulation and climate change. He will be missed from our gatherings.

Ian had entrusted me with a copy of his Advanced Care Directive, where 'being able to communicate' was his principal requirement – but it wasn't needed. He admitted to feeling isolated as he was getting older, and earlier this month was hoping to engage a carer to enable him to remain at home and independent. He had arranged to host a lunch for his daughter at the local Nag's Head Hotel in October. He told me he hoped to make it to 90, but he died on Monday 17 September, aged 89.

I don't know if he was a member of a political party, though he was certainly a political person, joining the Australian Republic Movement and displaying political posters on his house in St. Johns Rd.

Ian was not always easy to deal with, but an indication of just who he was, his interests and sympathies is obvious by the topics he chose to write about.

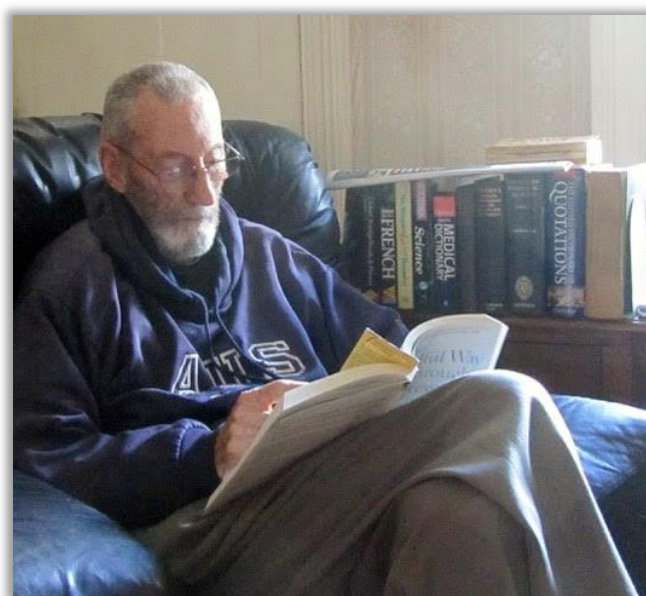
He was original, intelligent, somewhat enigmatic, and a literary man indeed. He will be missed here in Glebe. Farewell, Ian Edwards.

Bobbie Burke

Note: More information about Ian's books can be found at these links: *A Soldier's Odyssey*:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/217280120?q&versionId=238414434>; *The Faith of a Heretic*:

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/2237445>.



A literary man 2015, courtesy of Patrick Lesslie.

Planning, Transport & Infrastructure

Planning Report, by Neil Macindoe

In my Annual Planning Report I referred to some assurances made by the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Scott Macdonald. Some questions he took on notice, and I have now received his replies:

2/ Will the threshold of 25 objections for a DA triggering an IPC be reconsidered? (With a view to making it lower.)

- There is no intention to review this threshold at this time. This is because it was looked at as part of the recent updates to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). During the public exhibition of the draft Bill to update the Act in January to March 2017, the Department of Planning and Environment received two submissions requesting the 25 objection referral criteria be reviewed.
- In light of these submissions, the Legislative Updates team assessed the criteria and found that it was a transparent and reasonable basis for referring matters to the Independent Planning Commission. In addition the team found that changing the number of submissions or moving to a percentage of overall submissions would not likely change the outcome of what was referred to the IPC. On this basis it was decided to leave the current threshold in place.

4/ Further information was sought on complying development for infill and medium density. Is there a design guide? Does it consider Heritage? Is there any reference to Council's design goals?

- After close to three years of consultation, the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code (Code) commenced in many council areas on 6 July 2018. For councils that have requested additional time, a temporary deferral has been granted.
- The Code allows for well-designed low rise housing to be carried out under the complying development approval pathway.
- The Code permits dual occupancies, manor houses and terraces in the R1, R2, R3 and RU5 zones, only where a council already permits medium density housing under their Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and provided the proposal complies with all of the development standards in the Code and the supporting Low Rise Medium Density Design Guide for complying development (Design Guide).

- In relation to heritage, general exclusions in the State Policy mean that an applicant cannot undertake complying development on land that is heritage listed or is a draft heritage item, or that is in a heritage conservation area or draft heritage conservation area.

232 Glebe Point Rd

As recorded in the September *Bulletin*, the Society requested the balcony on this large Victorian dwelling divided into flats should be reinstated in its original form. As is often the case, the Society was able to support this position from the recommendations in the Glebe Main Street Study Stage 2. The Study has been used consistently to secure better development outcomes in Glebe's principal street since its publication in 1991. The City agreed with this view, and it appears that if the owner proposes otherwise, he will have to appeal to the Court.

The Study is now old and out of date. It would be of much greater use if it were revised to take account of the changes over the last years.



232 Glebe Point Rd (image: Phil Young)

16 Glebe Point Rd

This is the site of the Clipper Café, and the proposal is for a three storey building at the rear for a total of five single rooms. The proposal claims a development bonus by virtue of being for affordable housing, but there is no evidence this is so, and the site is far too small for a boarding house.

Bellevue, Blackwattle Bay Park

The property was open a couple of weeks ago, so I walked in and spoke to the new lessee. He is well

aware of local concerns and will do what he can to address them, in accordance with the existing approval. He is also aware of the impact of weather conditions on patronage. The renovation is well underway and he expects *Bellevue* to be open by summer.

202 Glebe Point Rd

Renovations for this Heritage Item include restoration of the original stucco work to match that on 198.

Neil Macindoe
Planning Convenor

WestConnex – now a fait accompli, by Murray Jewell

Sadly the WestConnex behemoth can't be stopped. Construction and destruction are well under way. The motorway tunnels running between Haberfield and St Peters are being built. Haberfield looks like a bomb site as does the area around Sydney Park, St Peters. Work on the Rozelle interchange has not yet begun but is earmarked to commence soon.

Glebe and Forest Lodge have gotten off relatively lightly. There are no construction or property acquisitions proposed in our suburbs. The M3 motorway tunnels will run well to our west, around the junction of Pyrmont Bridge Rd and Parramatta Rd. The impact of the completed WestConnex motorways will however be an increase in traffic on the approaches to Glebe and Forest Lodge, on Victoria Rd, the Anzac Bridge, City West Link and the Crescent, and more vehicles rat running through our suburb.

Huge number of truck movements around Glebe

There will also be an enormous increase in truck movements on the roads around Glebe and Forest Lodge as a consequence of the construction of the Rozelle interchange and the Western Harbour Tunnel, the redevelopment of the Sydney Fish Markets and the expansion of port facilities on Glebe Island. Truck movements are projected to increase nine-fold, to 3,200 a day by 2021. It is hoped that the City of Sydney will implement a ban on truck movements on the residential streets of Glebe and Forest Lodge, as the Inner West Council has proposed for Leichhardt.

Sale of WestConnex

On 31 August a consortium led by Transurban was announced as the successful bidder for a 51% stake in WestConnex. The State Government will receive \$9.3 billion for the sale, considerably more than was projected. \$5.3 billion of this will go towards WestConnex construction costs, which are likely to exceed \$20 billion. As a result of the sale, Transurban will receive the toll revenues from WestConnex until 2060. Amongst the flaws of the WestConnex project is the enormous unrecovered cost and the fact that it doesn't provide access to the Botany Bay port or the airport as originally proposed. Sydney may for many years lament the cost of this wasteful project, both the monetary cost

and its destructive impact on inner city communities, and will wonder what public transport infrastructure could have been built for \$20 billion.

Some Accountability

The NSW Legislative Council will hold a public inquiry into WestConnex later this year. Witnesses will be called to answer questions on the WestConnex business case, the cost of the project, the process of the compulsory property acquisitions involved and the mismatch between the original goals of the project and the outcome. While some of the findings of the Inquiry will no doubt be embarrassing for the State Government, the damage will by then have been done.

Murray Jewell
Convenor, Transport & Traffic



One of Sydney Tram's 'R Class' trams on display at the entrance to Tramsheds. It is now fitted with an appropriately-worded destination. This tram (numbered 1995 of the fleet) was built in 1951. There were 195 trams of this class, the last designed for Sydney. The first 'R class', number 1738, was unveiled at Randwick Workshops on 29 September 1933. It is in storage, owned now by the Powerhouse Museum. (Image: Philip Vergison)

Early Glebe: 'Small portions of Glebe were leased for cultivation of cereal crops and vegetables, but most of the church reserve remained unoccupied until ... 1828. The first to flee the befouled town of Sydney in the late 1820s ... were families of professional and mercantile men, and the administrative elite who sought to fulfil dreams of self-importance and respectability. (Max Solling in 'Dictionary of Sydney')

History & Heritage

Where's the statue? How we got to where we are, by Neil Macindoe

Members may recall seeing an old photo of a statue of a WWI Digger on a white plinth in the centre of the award-winning garden at the Tramsheds.

When the City commissioned a landscape plan for the new 3.8 ha park stretching from Wigram Rd to the Tramsheds, the consultants attempted to commemorate the old garden, and proposed a large sculpted rose to substitute for the missing Digger. But was the Digger really missing? According to historian Max Solling, when the Tramsheds was closed in 1958 and its services replaced by the Leichhardt Bus Depot, the Memorial went with them.

Jan and I headed off to the Depot and found the Digger standing on a replacement brick plinth tucked away outside an office at the back of the Depot. We wangled an interview with the Depot Manager, and told her about the Memorial's history and where it really belonged. She believed it was still used at Anzac Day ceremonies by the Depot workers and drivers.

Armed with this information and photos we made a submission to the City that the Memorial should be reinstalled at Harold Park, rather than the proposed rose (response to amended DA, 12 March 2014). Consequently the City appears to have contacted the Bus Depot, and was informed that RSL members there wished to keep the Digger.

Clearly it was time to bring in the big guns, so we approached Ted McKeown to see if we could influence the RSL through the Society's main contact, Rod Holtham, an active and well-known veteran who is President of the Combined Services RSL sub-branch and who also played an important role on the Society's WWI Commemorative Exhibition in October, 2015 (begun 2012). The RSL soon made it clear that they wanted the Digger returned to its original position at the Tramsheds.

With the support of Councillors the Society succeeded in persuading the City to commit to restoring the Digger and returning the Statue to its original position (2 June 2014). Ted and Rod pursued the matter, and the City finally committed itself to restoration of both Digger and plinth. More recent contact with Eva Rodriguez confirmed the

City proposed to complete the restoration by 11 November, 2018, for the 100th Anniversary.

There are several unusual aspects to this Memorial. First, it was funded by workers at the Tramsheds to commemorate their co-workers who were killed at Gallipoli. Second, it was commissioned and completed in 1916, far too early to commemorate casualties on the Western Front, as suggested by the ABC report. It appears to be the second memorial in Australia, predated only by the Memorial in Loyalty Square, Balmain. Third, it portrays a young Digger in summer kit of open neck, short sleeve shirt and shorts, and this increases its impression of youth and vigour.

Here are the other details from the ABC report on 25 August 2018:

The memorial was commissioned by staff at the Rozelle tramsheds in Sydney in 1916, and it was cast in cement by Irish-Australian sculptor Edwin McGowan. It was the first in Australia to depict a digger and the first to be installed at a workplace.

'What's interesting is that he [the statue] was paid for not by the government but by the comrades, mates of the tramshed workers'. Julian Bickersteth, whose company is carrying out the restoration work, said. 'He's really important in the history of war memorials here in Sydney.'

Neil Macindoe



Specialist conservator Annick Vuissoz works carefully to restore the statue. (Image: Ursula Malone, ABC News)

Who lived in your street? Linda Louise Farrell (1877-1957), by Lyn Collingwood

Last month's *Bulletin* carried a feature on *Rainbow Lodge*, at 22 Wigram Rd. This article is about earlier occupiers of this site.

Nurse Farrell ran *Buxton*, a private maternity hospital at 22 Wigram Rd from 1921, when it stopped functioning as a private residence, until she retired after her 60th birthday. A large number of Glebe babies were born at what was referred to

as 'Nurse Farrell's private hospital'. There were at least two other places in the State in the 1930s to 1950s called after a head nurse Farrell: Edith Marion Adela Farrell ran *Omagh* in a modest house in Corrimal, and Mrs M Farrell ran a maternity hospital turned women's aged care facility in central Dubbo.

Glebe's Nurse Farrell was born Linda Louisa Hayton in Tasmania on 9 July 1877 at *Woodside* in Forcett, to farmer George William Hayton and Elizabeth Emery née Hornsey who married at Sorell in 1869, their age difference 20 years. The Haytons were a large extended family. Her uncle James Hayton had nine children, and Linda had six siblings: Minnie Teresa (Dorothea/Dolly, 1871-1900), William George (1874-1932), Edgar Herbert (born 1879), Norman Vivian (1881-1907), Edward (born 1884) and Trixie Gladys (born 1886). By the time Trixie was born the family had moved to Sandy Bay where Linda was probably educated at Old Beach State School.

In 1889 eleven-year-old Linda spent a cold April night with two friends lost on Mt Wellington after being separated from their picnic party. The next month her father died and was buried in the Queenborough cemetery. Linda was still in Hobart in 1899 but by 1903 had moved to Sydney where she married ironmonger Robert Alfred Farrell at Redfern. Their son, George Emmett Farrell, was born on 3 July 1905. In 1906, when his family home was 501 Bourke St Surry Hills, 42-year-old Robert took a job as supercargo on the *Hawke* trading between Port Stephens and Sydney. He died from complications following the amputation of his leg which had been caught and crushed in the steamer's mooring ropes.

In 1912 Linda sat exams for the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association and qualified as an obstetric nurse. By 1919 Nurse Farrell's private hospital was at 36 Toxteth Rd and by 1921 she had set up at 22 Wigram Rd in partnership with nurse Florence Lillian Bright. Linda Farrell's mother-in-law Jane Farrell had died in December 1912 and was buried at Rookwood. Her own mother, Elizabeth Emery Hayton, died at Victoria Ave Chatswood on 8 July 1923. Her son George, who married Hilda Seaton in Sydney in 1927, enlisted in the army in November 1939 but was discharged the following January.

Linda Farrell (who consistently called herself 'Nurse Farrell' with her second name as 'Louise' in electoral rolls) was gone from Wigram Rd by 1940, and by 1943 was living at 661 Military Rd Mosman. She died in hospital on 6 August 1957 and was privately cremated. She left a will. The brief death notice gave no details but noted 'Hobart papers please copy' indicating that family members were still there. George Emmett Farrell died in 1965, his widow in 1983.

In the 1940s *Buxton* changed function from a maternity hospital to a convalescent home for older women. In 1946 it advertised its trained staff working day and night giving special attention to Heart and Convalescent Cases. The same year Glebe's Dr Potts and *Buxton* nurses Irene Crocker and Mavis Smith were witnesses in a poisoning case involving a cook employed there. By the 1950s the institution was known as the Buxton Convalescent Home. Today *Rainbow Lodge* occupies the site.

The house *Buxton* was completed by Christmas 1895 for Wesleyan clergyman Richard Sellors, builder of the Boyce St house *Winster*, named for his English birthplace. *Buxton* was probably named for another Derbyshire town. It was briefly the address for the Secretary of the Methodist Church Sustentation and Home Missions, but was advertised for rent in March 1896: with all modern conveniences, seven rooms plus bathroom, pantry, kitchen, laundry, good outhouses and a large yard. It was rented in 1899 to Hubert J Lane; and again in 1903 to Rev Walter W Martell. Schools inspector Henry Parkinson was there ca 1905-11 with his wife Agnes, son Henry Hellam, a student, and daughter Mary, a music teacher. From 1912 to 1920 it was occupied by merchant Alfred Edwin Ellis JP, his wife Elizabeth, typist Elsie May, secretary Florence Adelaide, and timber merchant Reginald Manning Ellis.

Lyn Collingwood
Local Historian

Sources: NSW births, deaths, marriages registry; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; Sands *Directories*; Sydney telephone directories; Tasmanian births, deaths, marriages registry; Trove website; *Truth* 8.12.1946.

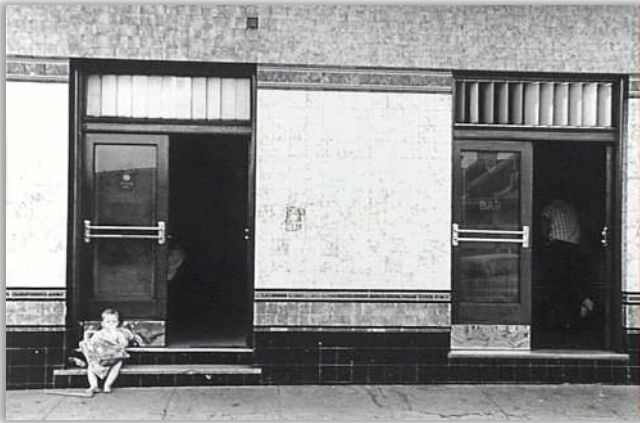
A note on last month's article on Bert Birtles

Terry McMullen read this closely and questioned Bert being 'a proponent of **the** Free Love Society'. Deirdre Moore in *Survivors of Beauty* writes that Bert 'advocated a Free Love Society'.

Bert seems to have been floating an idea, not promoting an informal group which was in the 1920s swinging in Redfern.



Lyn Collingwood



Last month's mystery photo

Both John Lagerlow and Michael Morrison identified last month's mystery photo as The Friend in Hand Hotel, corner of Queen St and Cowper St. The picture was taken in 1973.

John and Stella Lagerlow now live out of Trundle near Parkes and have fond memories of *Word in Hand* run in the pub by good friend Jack Peck. John made a half-hour film of one of those evenings. It can be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0lmb7pmOI0c>

And the month before: mystery solved!

The academic procession was captioned by *Honi Soit* as marching through Glebe in 1940. Via Facebook, 'Offal Ave' has been identified by Timothy Schmidt as Georgina St, Newtown.



This month's mystery photo



Where are we?

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

November *Bulletin* deadlines

Copy deadline: 24 October

Printed: 1 November

Glebe, Naturally

Do you have a den of foxes living under your house?

Foxes have not only been sighted in Glebe, they are suspected of killing two loved, and well-known, pet hens.

Earlier this year Lottie and Duchess, John and Jenny Sergeant's pet hens, were killed during the night. 'We found Lottie (the black hen) on our lawn in the morning, in pieces, with a lot of feathers all around the lawn and in the coop,' Jenny said. 'We couldn't find Duchess anywhere, nor much sign of her feathers. The following day, she was found on the lawn of the block of flats over the road. In both cases, the head was nowhere to be found, and it surprised me that so little of the birds appeared to have been eaten by the animal that killed them'. She did not witness the attack but believes the method of their killing was consistent with a fox attack.

Their property backs onto the Glebe foreshore walk, and the hens were a popular attraction for walkers, particularly children. 'It was very distressing for our young family and for all those who had grown accustomed to saying hello to the birds in the course of their walks,' she said.

Jenny wrote to the City of Sydney Council, requesting they look into fox control in Glebe.



Fox in Leichhardt St.

Jenny said a council person rang her and said there had been no reported sightings of foxes in Glebe and it would be more appropriate to contact the State Government.

The Glebe Society, via its Facebook page, then asked people to report any sightings. Reports came in, both on the Facebook page and in person, of sightings on Council land, particularly Bicentennial Park, on the tramline, on the streets (including the corner of Forsyth St and Avona Ave last month) and on private land. A fox has even been photographed in Glebe on Leichhardt St.

Last year Chris Dickman, Professor in Ecology from the University of Sydney, gave a talk to The

Glebe Society, titled 'The Impacts and local management of cats, dogs and foxes'.

He said he would not be surprised to find that foxes are living in Glebe as they have found safe habitats in parks and golf courses in other inner city regions. He said they compete with cats by feeding on rodents and native fauna.



Fox in Leichhardt St.

John wants the council to engage a professional 'to trap, collar and trace the fox, so that it and its family can be euthanased. Foxes do not belong in this country and certainly not in Glebe. Our pleas to Council have, however, gone unanswered. Our chickens were pets. If a cat or a dog had been dismembered in this brutal fashion, I have no doubt that Council would act'.

Two years ago 15 councils in inner, eastern and southern Sydney, together with the Royal Botanic Gardens, conducted a co-ordinated program to control foxes. At the same time they conducted a community education program, and encouraged people to report fox sightings, resulting in 362 sightings in one year. It is estimated there are 7,000 foxes in the southern Sydney region, or 10 foxes per square kilometre.

The red fox was introduced into Australia in the 1870s so people could continue the British tradition of fox hunting, memorably described by Oscar Wilde as 'the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable'. The foxes multiplied and spread and soon became a declared pest species because they hunt and kill native wildlife, contributing to the extinction of a number of species of small mammals and birds. They also predate on livestock including poultry and lambs, and they even pose a risk to pet animals because they can carry diseases like distemper, parvo virus and mange.

Foxes are highly-efficient hunters and scavengers and will kill more animals than they eat.

The average fox eats 136 kilograms of food each year. According to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) they are preferential carnivores, but will eat a wide variety of food.

In urban environments over half their diet can consist of scavenged food scraps and left-over pet food. The DPI states that urban environments can support fox population densities up to 10 times greater than in rural areas.

Foxes live in family groups consisting of an adult pair and their youngest cubs. They breed once a year in spring and usually produce four cubs. The DPI states that their dens are often found under buildings, in parklands, cemeteries and in quiet back gardens.

A southern suburbs council worker, who was involved in the fox control program, said they tracked

foxes with dogs. They found a number of foxes living under people's houses, with the residents completely unaware they were living above a den of foxes.

The Glebe Society has requested the City of Sydney Council undertake a fox control program.

John Sergeant said that when a friend saw a fox at Bicentennial Park, he took his shoe off and threw it at the fox. The fox grabbed the shoe and took off with it. The moral — if you see a fox keep your shoes on and report it to the City of Sydney, or register the sighting on the foxscan website, www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan, or report it to the Glebe Society on environment@glebesociety.org.au.

Asa Wahlquist
Environment Convenor

News from Blue Wren Subcommittee

From 9.30 to 11.30am on Saturday 27 October, Judy Christie will lead a 'Habitat gardening walk and talk' in John Street Reserve (corner of John St and St James Ave) organised by the City of Sydney, who will also be giving away native flora for planting in home gardens.

The Society's sixth annual Spring Bird Survey will be held from 6.45am on Sunday 28 October commencing in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St and will be led by Judy Christie. Afterwards we will gather for breakfast at 8am at *Esca*, a café in Glebe Point Rd. All members of the Society and their friends are welcome to attend. Please wear walking shoes, bring your binoculars and phone camera, and telephone Judy (0437 693 372) if you are coming.

Ten people attended a planting day organised by the Friends of Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group on Saturday 24 September. In John Street Reserve, the temporary fencing installed by the City to protect newly established grass has been removed and there has been no further damage to the turf. The plantings in Paddy Gray Reserve on National Tree Day (Sunday, 29th July 2018) are doing well in the main with only a couple of plants lost so far. Watering has been regularly carried out by the City's contractors, CityWide, with some extra help from Bryan Herden and the recent rain should really help. Robert Hannan passed on some extra *Lomandras* that were not required elsewhere and most of these are also settling in well.

The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group continues to have at least monthly working bees and new members have joined the Group. The City has provided cardboard covers to help protect the newly planted flora. The Group planted *Lomandra* provided by Robert Hannan. There has been no news on either the Group's grant

application to the City or the issue of insurance cover for volunteer workers. The Group's Action Plan, and also that for the Orphan School Creek Group, will not be signed until the insurance is provided. It was decided that the *Nerium oleander* along the northern boundary of the upper and lower parts of the park be retained, but that native flora be in-fill planted and the oleanders pruned as necessary.

The Ferry Road Bushcare Group are doing lots of hand watering, including of mature *Lomandra* provided by a neighbour and planted in William Carlton and Ernest Pederson Parks. The Group reports that

Jon and Chris from CityWide are working in the gardens each Thursday and it has been refreshing to have such enthusiastic and interested staff who are talking about the issues and working with us. We have even had discussions about future strategies including pruning, mulching and planting. We are still in shock and so excited. Working in the parks has actually brought enjoyment back into what we are doing.

On a more negative note, eight Kapok trees (*Ceiba speciosa*) planted 15 months ago in the round garden bed at Bicentennial Park were removed in the week of National Tree Day. In Glebe's early days the trees' seed pod casings were used for the stuffing of mattresses and pillows. Vandals are reckless and random in their actions but this was a systematic removal of young trees. The irony of removing these trees during this important week has been compounded by the fact that they have not been replaced.

Andrew Wood
Convenor, Blue Wrens Subcommittee

Community Matters

Sewing for Good

Are you handy with a sewing machine, a pair of scissors or a needle and thread? If so I would like to invite you to join a Glebe Society Community sponsored sewing and craft group, which we are commencing in late October.

What will this group do? Initially the objective is to gather with like-minded sewers to make reusable bags from left-over materials. The bags will need to be large enough to carry a quantity of groceries because we intend to give them to the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) at Newtown for their clients. When people go to the ASC to access their food bank they need to carry the goods home. Until recently the ASC was giving clients donated plastic bags to carry home but now, with the need to reduce waste, and particularly single use plastic bags, reusable bags are replacing them. Rather than encourage the purchase of supermarkets' reusable plastic bags we consider that the gift of fabric reusable bags will assist both ASC clients and the environment.

Where will the group meet? We will meet in the Aboriginal cultural space at Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Rd, Glebe.

When will sewing days take place? The first meeting will be on Friday 26 October from 10am until 12 noon. Second and subsequent meetings will take place at the same venue and same time on the second and fourth Friday morning of the month. A booking has already been made for Friday 9 November, and further bookings will be made when we are able to ascertain the level of interest and the attendance potential of this project.

What will you need to bring if you intend to join us? Your willingness to participate is the most important contribution you can make! However, if you have any of the following; a portable sewing machine, some strong pieces of material suitable for re-use, e.g. old jeans, sheeting etc, sewing scissors, sewing pins and sewing thread bring these too.

Oh, and don't forget your keep-cup for a cuppa, and maybe something edible to share.

Is there a cost? There is no charge for the venue or your attendance; let's just meet and sew. If needed, a gold-coin donation to purchase material from Reverse Garbage for further working bees may be requested, but we'd rather use up those unused metres of fabric languishing in people's cupboards.

Other arrangements? A volunteer who has experience in bag-making will be in attendance to help demonstrate and co-ordinate the process. No other experience is necessary, but if you've already worked with Boomerang Bags bring along your pattern or experience gained to help us too.

Are bookings necessary? You do not need to book, however if you'd like to text, email or phone me to discuss the project or indicate your willingness to engage in it, I'd be delighted to hear from you. Contact me on 0401 505 657 or community@glebesociety.org.au

Janice Challinor,
Community Development Convenor



A reusable bag of the type to be made at 'Sewing for Good' (image: Janice Challinor)

Events past

A night of tribal battles and school concerts: Bob Connolly at Glebe Voices

Whether it's tribal battles, school concerts, council elections or funding cuts, Bob Connolly has filmed many ways people face different challenges in life. The resulting films have drawn audiences for decades and gained numerous awards.

The Glebe Society was proud to welcome Bob as guest speaker at Glebe Voices on 5 September. We thought the event could best be described with some views from the audience, as follows:

'I really enjoyed Bob Connolly's presentation Creating Narratives of Life at Glebe Voices on 5 September. The clips Bob used to illustrate his talk were just the right length to give a good taste of each documentary, but what was particularly interesting were Bob's insights into (a) how he was able to pitch ideas in a more flexible world of film and TV production and (b) how he formed the relationship with the folk he was filming'.— Greg Dwyer



A packed Glebe Town Hall was treated to the inside story of Bob Connolly's lifetime of making observational narrative films (image: Phil Young)

'We loved Bob Connolly's talk to the Glebe Society. We've both been fans for many years and enjoyed hearing Bob talk about his working methods. It gave us some insight into his extreme dedication, and the time that has gone into his film-making – not to mention the dangers he faced in the Highlands of PNG. And it was fascinating to see how soon people being filmed lose their inhibitions and any awareness that they're on camera. Many thanks for organising a very enjoyable and informative evening.' – Duncan Ball & Jill Quin

'An excellent speaker. I was impressed by the detail of how much time and effort was involved in the making of a documentary film. And it was good to revisit particular films with the clips from them.

Sad that the resources to make similar films are unlikely to be available in the future.' – Jeanette Knox

'I saw Bob Connolly's three Papua New Guinea films when they were released in the 1980s and 90s. It was a pleasure to see excerpts from these films again, especially the lovely old ladies recalling their first contact with white men. Rats in the Ranks is almost a part of the Glebe Society's history. I enjoyed seeing excerpts from Mrs Carey's Concert again but unfortunately I somehow missed seeing Facing the Music when it was released. I hadn't realised how many years and how much effort Bob spent making each of these iconic films. It was time well spent. Thank you Bob.' – Edwina Doe

As well as the generosity of our guest speakers, Glebe Voices is the result of contributions from many people who help steer the events forward. Thank you to the people who help find or provide venues and then help with promotion, audio-visuals before and on the night, catering, registrations, photography and setting up the venue and cleaning up as well as through innumerable other ways.

Fiona Campbell

Note: We've received enquiries about how to buy DVDs of some of the films discussed at the last Glebe Voices. For more info on *Rats in the Ranks* and *Facing The Music* go to the National Film and Sound Archive at: [National Film and Sound Archive](http://www.nfsa.gov.au) and for the New Guinea Trilogy and *Mrs Carey's Concert* go to: mrscareysconcert.com

Bob's speech can be read on our website at: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/bob-connollys-address-glebe-voices/>. You will find links to the snippets of video that Bob screened on the night. If you are unable to access the article on the website, please call Virginia on 0402 153 074 and she will send you a paper copy.

Events upcoming

Centipede 'Sunset Soiree' Fundraiser: Friday 12 October

A Glebe Society Event

Centipede is a not for profit organisation based at Glebe Public School which provides before and after school care, as well as holiday care, for local children. The Friends of Centipede 'Sunset Soiree' annual fundraiser (sponsored by the Glebe Society) is on Friday 12 October from 6-8.30 pm, upstairs at Glebe Rowing Club.

For just \$20, you will have for a wonderful evening of food and entertainment above the Glebe waterfront. As well as enjoying a special guest speaker there will be auction items including original artwork and a signed political cartoon and the opportunity to judge the 'Kidz Competition' for the best photo.

Your ticket price can go towards a \$100 annual membership of 'Friends of Centipede' (tax deductible), see flyer in the September *Bulletin*. FREE babysitting is available on the night at Centipede from 6-9pm.

RSVP is essential by 9 October. Book online: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/centipede-annual-fundraiser-2018-sunset-soiree-tickets-50252391255>.

For more information, email: community@glebesociety.org.au or phone: 0401 505 657.

Janice Challinor
Community Development Subcommittee Convenor

Our House: 'Contemporary Glebe in the Lyndhurst Estate'

A Glebe Society Event

What is 'Our House'? These events are an opportunity for members to be guests in a Glebe residence where the owners generously share stories of their home, its history and surrounds.

This 'Our House' event will be a bit different from previous ones as it combines a house visit and external viewings of other homes during a short walk between Bellevue St and Darling St.

When: Sunday 21 October from 2.30pm.

Cost: \$20 per person – includes sangria, bubbles, wine and tasting platters (sweet & savoury).

Where: Lyndhurst Estate, meet at 26 Bellevue St, Glebe.

Note: Tour departs around 3 pm, so you need to arrive before then to enjoy the house visit.

You are welcome to join us at the Kauri Hotel after the tour.

This 'Our House' event will be a bit different from previous ones as it combines a new house visit and external viewings of other homes during a short walk between Bellevue St and Darling St.

We will meet in an 1895 terrace for welcoming drinks and introductions. During a short walking tour you will be provided with highlights of interesting dwellings, local tales and historical features that we pass en route in the Lyndhurst Estate.

We will visit the interior of a contemporary home in Darling St, designed by the award winning architect Jon Jacka.

Some dwellings are completely new, others have been renovated/adapted from small factories or commercial operations, and one is a work in progress. There is a wonderful mix of old and new – with stories being shared on this part of Glebe, where life and work were often intertwined.

Book online via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-house-contemporary-glebe-in-the-lyndhurst-estate-tickets-49986709594>.

This is a members only event and prepayment is essential – book early as 'Our House' usually sells out. If you can't book online please call Judy on M: 0417 446 425.



85 Darling St (image: Phil Young)

Want to know more about this part of Glebe?

The Lyndhurst Estate has special significance to the Society given our role in the 1970s successful fight to save Lyndhurst from the freeway proposed by the Department of Main Roads. These roadworks would have cut through Wentworth Park, destroyed many homes and divided this part of Glebe. The Society's online 'Glebe Walk', *The Pocket Parks of Glebe* (Stops 10-14) is a good introduction to this historically significant part of Glebe:

https://glebewalks.com.au/?walking_tours=the-pocket-parks-of-glebe

Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

Glebe Society's Twilight Christmas Gathering



Amazingly, Christmas is only three months away ... It's time to put our Christmas event in your calendar!

Join us at the Glebe Town Hall in the elegant main hall for our Twilight Christmas Gathering. This wonderfully restored building was built in 1880 and is a beautiful example of the Victorian free classical style with its elegant rooms. There will be a selection of gourmet canapés from a renowned local caterer.

We will enjoy music from the Glebe Public School Choir, supported by Glebe Community Singers. Further details in the November *Bulletin*.

When: Sunday 16 December (5.30-8pm)

Where: Glebe Town Hall



Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

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 4 October at 7pm we will go to *Timbah*, 375 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 1 November at 7pm we will go to *Green Mushroom*, 163 Glebe Point Rd,
- And our last Thirsty Thursday for the year will be on Thursday 6 December at 7pm – venue to be decided.

Please email me at thirstythursday@glebesociety.org.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

'Bubbles & Wreaths' – Sunday 2 December (approx 2 hours)

Interested in learning how to make a Christmas Wreath for your door?

- Setsuko, Yuga Floral Design, will run the workshop at her 172 St Johns Rd shop.
- Cost is \$85 per person (includes 'dry' wreath materials) and a glass of 'bubbles'.
- 10 people needed to hold the class.

Call Judy 0417 446 425 by 31 October 2018 to book a place.

Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

Next Players in the Pub

An Evening with Donald Trump's favourite author, Ayn Rand



Expounder of the philosophy of Objectivism: individualism and the virtues of selfishness and laissez-faire capitalism.

Directed by Lyn Collingwood, with Dereck Cameron, Harley Connor, Pat Cranney, Chris

Dibb, Kim Knuckey, Cassady Maddox, Jodine Muir, Rosie Olk & Sharron Skehan.

When: 7pm Wednesday 17 October

Where: Upstairs: Harold Park Hotel

Lyn Collingwood

Other events

- **Glebe Music Festival** – see enclosed flyer.
- **Rotary Club of Sydney Inner West** is holding a Grand Trivia & Supper Night on Friday 12th October, 6.30pm at the Harold Park Hotel. Funds are being raised for two projects: an Indigenous Nursing Scholarship and the Eradication of Polio (the latter generously matched 100% by the Bill Gates Foundation). To book call Fay 0418 602 014 or Ron 0418 112 018.
- Four meals, four drinks, forty dollars: **Glebe Chamber of Commerce's** 'Glebe Tasting Treks' are back. Restaurants involved are Glebe Point Diner, Sri Lankan Street Food, Timbah, Staves Brewery, Sappho Wine Bar and Valhalla Social. Two dates remain: 17 and 31 October. For more information please contact admin@glebechamber.com.au or call 0421 712 702. Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-glebe-tasting-treks-tickets-49798772469>.

Volunteers needed

Now in its 21st year, the Glebe Art Show will be held in the community hall in the Tramsheds for five days only – from Wednesday 17 October (preview day) until Sunday 21 October. In this new venue we are able to open from 10am to 9pm.

If you have some free time and would like to volunteer please email us on glebeartshow.volunteers@gmail.com.

Fiona Verge



More information about 'street libraries' can be found at <https://streetlibrary.org.au/> (image: Jude Paul)

For Your Calendar

Thursday 4 October, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Timbah*, 375 Glebe Point Rd.
 Friday 12 October, 6-8.30pm. *Sunset Soiree for Centipede*, Glebe Rowing Club.
 Friday 12 October, 6.30pm. *Rotary Grand Trivia & Supper Night*, Harold Park Hotel.
 Wednesday 17 October, 7pm. *Players in the Pub*, Upstairs: Harold Park Hotel.
 17 & 31 October. *Chamber of Commerce's Glebe Tasting Treks*, GPR.
 Thursday 18 October, 6pm. *Glebe Art Show opening night*. Community Hall, Tramsheds.
 18-21 October. *Glebe Art Show*. Community Hall, Tramsheds.
 21 October, 2.30-4pm. *Our House: 'Contemporary Glebe in the Lyndhurst Estate'*.
 Friday 26 October, 12 noon. *Sewing for Good*, Aboriginal cultural space at Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Rd.
 Saturday 27 October, 9.30-11.30am. *Habitat gardening walk and talk*, John Street Reserve.
 Sunday 28 October, 6.45 am. *Spring Bird Survey*, Paddy Gray Reserve. Contact Judy Christie (0437 693 372).
 Thursday 1 November, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday, *Green Mushroom*, 163 Glebe Point Rd.
 2 to 18 November. *Glebe Music Festival*. Various locations.
 Sunday 2 December. *Bubbles & Wreaths*, Yuga, St Johns Rd.
 Thursday 6 December, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday. Venue to be decided.
 Sunday 16 December, 5.30-8pm. *Glebe Society Twilight Christmas Gathering*, Glebe Town Hall.
 Wednesday mornings, from 8.30am. *Glebe Bushcare Group* meets near Jubilee Park. Contact Sue Copeland – 9692 9161.



Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 No 8 of 2018 (October 2018)

Membership of the Glebe Society

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

How to join

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



Bruce Panucchis Trucking Yard (now Glebe tennis courts), February 1973. Looking from Woolley St wall running along St. James Rd. (City of Sydney Archives)

Views expressed in this *Bulletin* are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society Inc. Articles and photos submitted for any of the Glebe Society's publications, including the website and *Bulletin*, may also be used in the Glebe Society's other publications.