

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners of Glebe and Forest Lodge and pay our respects to elders past and present.

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From The President: November 2023

By Duncan Leys, President of the Glebe Society

Prior to writing this President's message, I went back to have a look at what my predecessor, Ian Stephenson, was writing about this time a year ago.

One matter was depressingly familiar and highlights a problem that impacts many voluntary community organisations. That is the difficulty in recruiting committee members to do the work to enable these organisations to function.

This time last year Ian was reporting that Allan Hogan had taken on the job of acting Editor of the Bulletin while we searched for a successor to Virginia Simpson-Young who had been the Editor for 10 years. Allan has now informed us that the December



edition of the Bulletin will be his last and so we will need to find a new Editor. The Editor has the relatively easy job of commissioning and collecting articles for publication, while others in the editorial team take on the jobs of posting to our website and social media and the technical preparation for printing and emailing.

So, if you are reading this and think you might be able to fill the Editor's role, or if you think you would like to have a go at the role but feel you are under-qualified, please speak to me.

There are still vacancies on the Management Committee for the following positions.

- Bays and Foreshores Convenor
- Environment Convenor
- Glebe Island Bridge

I would welcome contact from any member who has an interest in these vital issues of the Society's concerns.

As I indicated when taking on the role of President, I will be reaching out to other organisations in Glebe and Forest Lodge. This month, I joined two other members of the Management Committee to meet the new CEO of the Glebe Youth Service (GYS), Mitra Gusheh, who showed us their facilities and talked about the work they're doing. (See separate article in this Bulletin)

Funding is an ongoing issue for the GYS. Their 'permanent' funding is not indexed to inflation and while the amount remains the same, its purchasing power is declining. Over time the amount does not cover their fixed costs and so other funding needs to be found. Too much management time is spent chasing extra funding at the expense of managing and improving the services they provide.

I have written two letters in support of funding grant applications for the GYS. The applications have been to fund essential upgrades of facilities and to reintroduce a food service they had stopped. They should have been able to afford these activities from their permanent funding.

Allan Hogan and I had the privilege to judge the Glebe Society's 'Character of Glebe' prize at the Glebe Art Show earlier this month. There were many outstanding entries in the category, and it was a difficult decision to pick one work above all the rest.

In the end we selected 'Three Bridges, Glebe Point', a watercolour by Julie Keech, as the winner. (See separate article in this Bulletin).

The Glebe Society Christmas Gathering

Friday 1 December 2023

By Judy Vergison, Events Convenor

You're invited to join us at the Society's 2023 Christmas gathering at a venue with a special connection to Glebe for over 160 years! It's being held at the historic St Paul's College at the University of Sydney on Friday 1 December from 6 pm to 8 pm. St Paul's is located at **9 City Road, Camperdown** (near Carillon Avenue) in the grounds of the University. Members, neighbours, friends and family are all welcome to attend.



The College's impressive neo-gothic dining hall and facilities were completed in 1859. Our function will be in the junior common room (designed by Glebe architect Edmund Blacket) which flows out to the sandstone cloisters and elegant grassed quadrangle. On the day, signs will be in place from the City Road entry to guide you past the oval and into the College quadrangle.

St Paul's history tour: The College has kindly offered a free short history tour of the St Paul's by Richard Morgan, their Community Engagement Director. Numbers are limited to the first 25 bookings received, and bookings are essential for the tour which starts at 5.30 pm and finishes at 6 pm. You will see the option to book for the free tour when you make a booking for the Christmas Party.

Tickets for this year's Christmas Gathering are \$75 per person, which includes a generous tasting menu, one welcome drink (red/white wine, sparkling wine, soft drink)



The quadrangle at St Paul's College (Photo: Judy Vergison)

after which we move to a 'card' bar for extra drinks. Mineral water will be on tap throughout the event.

To book visit <u>tinyurl.com/2bwdu8ey</u>. Bookings close on Friday 24 November. Final numbers and payments need to be in by this date. You need to book early, as numbers are limited, and we cannot take late bookings due to catering arrangements. For help with online bookings, contact <u>events@glebesociety.org.au</u> or Judy on 0417 446 425.

Getting there: The 370 bus and other buses run nearby on City Road with a short flat walk to the College. Parking may be available on City Road (near Carillon Avenue) and there may be off-street parking in Victoria Park or in the Broadway Shopping Centre. Limited onsite parking may be available for a few members with mobility issues; use the contact details for Judy above to request this.

St Paul's College and its connections with Glebe: the early years

By Richard Morgan, St Paul's College, Community Engagement Director

Governor Phillip and Surveyor Alt probably had no idea that from the plot of land they surveyed in June 1790 ... were to spring the buildings of Australia's first university. I am sure that neither Francis Grose, Joseph Foveaux nor Thomas Laycock, who all had land grants on the present University grounds, would have had the dreams of the establishment of the University buildings on the north-eastern hill and a Church of England College on the south-eastern hill.

- R.V.H. Morgan, The College 1856-1981, The Pauline, No. 79, 1981, p.20

Following the end of the war with Napoleon there were increasing efforts to found a Church of England college in Sydney modelled on the Oxbridge type. St James' College was founded in 1846, its home was *Lyndhurst* in Glebe. The College failed within five years and the interested parties swung behind the founding of a university, which was inaugurated in 1852. The government offered the Grose Farm site to the University in 1853, including allotments for a ring of colleges.

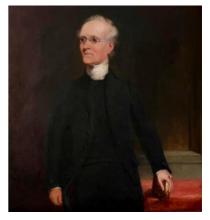
The very early beginnings of St Paul's College are linked to these experiences, but the vision was for St Paul's to offer all-round learning. From 1851 the ideas were revived and support from gold-rich Anglicans resulted in the formation of a committee.

An act of parliament established St Paul's College in 1854, guided through the Legislative Council by Charles Cowper, son of the Archdeacon of Sydney, William Cowper. A council of Fellows was appointed in 1855 led by

Sir Alfred Stephen, the Chief Justice of NSW and, to comply with the Act, a temporary Warden was appointed. He was the elderly Archdeacon Cowper, 'unmistakably Evangelical, but he was also universally revered (Alan Atkinson, *Hearts and Minds*, 2017, p. 67). A new permanent Warden, Rev Henry J. Hose, from England, took up office in 1856.

A foundation stone was laid in a ditch on the site by the NSW Governor Sir William Denison on 25 January 1856. It was never incorporated in one of the structures and has been moved several times until its current setting at the Albert Archway outside the College Quadrangle. Between 1857 and 1859 the original building was built in Pyrmont sandstone by a team of stonemasons under the direction of famed architect of the time, Edmund Blacket. He was the architect of the University buildings and lived in Glebe. The first builder was John Dingwall of Woolloomooloo who was replaced by Robert Melville of Glebe in June 1857.

The first handful of students moved into the College on the Grose Farm site in 1858, while the neo-gothic dining hall and facilities were still under construction. They were completed in 1859. Of St Paul's College, Atkinson (ibid, p. 87) wrote: 'Paul's was to be a place of shared life, shared learning and shared worship, a pseudo-Benedictine interweaving of labour and prayer, and it was also to teach a good number of subjects not covered on the other hill', the 'other hill' being the University.



Archdeacon William Cowper (Image: Portrait in the Senior Common Room at St Paul's College)

Fast forward to 2023 and you will find a College in the Anglican tradition of over 400 people living in spacious accommodation created 165 years ago. Since then, the College's buildings have been added to in the 1880s, pre-WW1, the 1920s, 1940s, 1960s, 1990s and 2010s. With a 2018 Act of Parliament, the head of the College is no longer required to be a Church of England minister. The College boasts a Graduate House for over 130 postgraduates. Over 300 undergraduate men and women live and study under one roof. The College has all the 'mod cons' demanded by youth and necessitated by contemporary academic rigour.

Visit to Glebe Youth Service

By the Editor, Allan Hogan

On Thursday 19 October, three members of the Management Committee visited the Glebe Youth Service (GYS) to meet the new CEO, Mitra Gusheh. Members may be aware that the GYS aims to provide a safe and responsive environment to young people who live in the Glebe area through a range of services and programs, where they are supported by trained and professional staff. GYS aims to provide young people with opportunities to socialise and develop knowledge and skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Mitra Gusheh is a social impact practitioner with 20 years of experience across the social and higher education sectors.



From left to right: Glen Powell, Mitra Gusheh, Allan Hogan, Duncan Leys (Photo: Mitra Gusheh)

She began her career as a youth worker in Western Sydney, where she shared responsibility for establishing the Roundabout Youth Centre. She comes to the Glebe Youth Service from her role as the Executive Manager, Social Impact at the University of Technology Sydney's Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion. Before this, Mitra worked for a range of not-for-profit organisations where she was responsible for the strategic design, development, and implementation of large-scale social change programs.

The Management Committee is keen to liaise with the GYS so that we have more direct communication with its clients. The Glebe Society supports its strong track record of delivering projects and services, with significant community engagement in the local area for over 30 years.

Mitra took us on a tour of the GYS kitchen, which we were surprised to see was in poor shape. It prompted Duncan Leys, Glebe Society President, to write to the NSW Government Community Building Partnership (CBP) Grants Program to support the GYS grant application to refurbish their kitchen and upgrade its equipment. The President wrote:

Glebe has a high proportion of economically disadvantaged households, with food scarcity and affordability being important issues in our community. As a result, an important element of GYS's work is ensuring that nutritious food is

served at their group programs, and community have access to food like fresh fruit and vegetables. However, GYS's capacity to provide food relief services has been greatly limited due to broken and old kitchen facilities. The CBP grant would allow GYS to repair and upgrade their kitchen, allowing them to resume wider-scale food relief activities and also facilitate job readiness programs.

There's more information on the GYS website.

Council debates Bridge Road Cycleway

By the Editor, Allan Hogan

At its meeting on Monday 23 October City of Sydney Council debated a motion by Councillor Yvonne Weldon concerning safety issues on the Bridge Road Cycleway. It was a detailed and comprehensive motion with several issues for consideration. (You can read the full motion at tinyurl.com/bde56rmv) Firstly, the Council was asked to note that a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) concerning the cycleway has never been publicly exhibited.



Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM (Photo: Wikipedia)

Councillor Weldon's motion stated that the legal authority for the temporary cycleway to be in place for six months was a Ministerial Order made by then Planning Minister Rob Stokes on 29 May 2020. It was extended for a further six months in 2020 and a further 12 months in 2021. On 28 March 2022, a few days prior to the planning permission expiring, then Minister for Transport Rob Stokes announced the temporary cycleway would be made permanent, based on the findings of the (never exhibited) REF. (REFs for all other City of Sydney temporary cycleways were publicly exhibited before those cycleways were made permanent).

Councillor Weldon informed the meeting that information released to the Glebe Society under the Government Information (Public Access) process shows that Council staff have repeatedly warned Transport for NSW that the cycleway is

dangerous, and that staff have serious road safety concerns regarding the design proposed by Transport for NSW for a permanent cycleway. Her motion said that Council refuses to advise cyclists and the public of these risks.

Councillor Weldon's motion requested the CEO of the Council to write to Transport for NSW seeking advice as to whether the road safety audit for the planned permanent cycleway was conducted on the entire design for the cycleway and, if not, which elements of the design were not included in the audit and why they were excluded. Also, to seek advice on the reasons a nighttime road safety audit was not conducted.

Councillor Weldon's motion moved that the City of Sydney CEO provide information regarding litigation in which the City is being sued in relation to accidents and or injuries which have occurred since the temporary cycleway was installed.

The President of the Glebe Society, Duncan Leys, sent an email to all Councillors urging them to support Councillor Weldon's motion.



Councillor William Chan. (photo: teamclover.com.au)

In the debate on the motion, Councillor William Chan moved several amendments and additions. (You can read all those amendments and deletions at https://tinyurl.com/2p9zj9u7). He moved that the clause stating that the cycleway was installed by Transport for NSW with the support and urging of the Lord Mayor and City staff be amended to remove reference to the Lord Mayor and City staff. He moved that the reference to the then Transport Minister's announcement that the temporary cycleway would be made permanent within a few days of the planning permission expiring be deleted.

Councillor Chan moved that the clause referring to the Council's refusal to advise cyclists and the public of [the public safety risks] be deleted. The clause in Councillor Weldon's motion that said 'the temporary cycleway remains derelict and dangerous' was amended, or more accurately, deleted, by Councillor Chan to read: 'Transport for NSW is committed to upgrading the

temporary cycleway on Bridge Road to a permanent cycleway so that it is safer for people walking and bike riding, as well as for other road users.'

The amendments and additions were accepted, and the revised motion was passed unanimously.

Crane crash at the new Sydney Fish Market

By Asa Wahlquist, Glebe Society representative on the Community Consultative Committee of the new Sydney Fish Market.

Work has recommenced at the new Sydney Fish Market site on Bridge Road, after being halted dramatically when a huge crane jib crashed to the ground. The crash which occurred on 28 September, sent pedestrians and workers running and reverberated across Glebe. Miraculously the huge crane jib fell entirely within the Fish Market site,



The fallen crane at the new Sydney Fish Market. (Photo: SMH)

missing the footpath along Bridge Road by a couple of metres. One worker suffered a back injury and was taken to hospital. He was released after several days and is now recuperating at home.

The site was evacuated immediately and all work on the site ceased for three weeks as SafeWork NSW and Multiplex, the company building the Fish Market, investigated the cause of the crane's collapse.

The crane that crashed was one of three tower cranes on the site. The two cranes left standing have been thoroughly checked and the prohibition on their use was lifted on 17 October, allowing some workers to return to the site.

Multiplex, SafeWork NSW and Infrastructure NSW, the body that oversees the planning and construction on the site, are now investigating how to manage the safe removal of the jib. Once it is removed the next major problem will be how to replace it.

The collapsed crane was the first of the tower cranes. The first and second cranes were installed in November last year. The third was in place by May this year. The cranes were barged in and took three days to set up. The building is being erected around the cranes: the cranes' cabins sit at 33 metres above mean sea level, and above the level of the eventual roofline of the new Fish Market.

According to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald, a spokesperson from the construction union the CFMEU claimed 'a connection pin at the luff rope termination point dislodged, causing the boom to fall'.

Road works on Bridge Road to install services for the new Sydney Fish Market have continued throughout the shut down.

The new Sydney Fish Market was scheduled to open next year. The three-week shut down, and the current reduced level of work, are expected to delay its completion. The cost of the Fish Market was estimated in 2019 – the most recent estimate – to be \$750 million. It is now undoubtedly higher, due to the inflation of the past four years, the pandemic, the inevitable cost overruns of all large public infrastructures and, now, the cost of removing and replacing crane one.

Multiplex are planning a "three day retrieval process" to remove the collapsed crane jib, starting Friday 27 October.



Next Players in the Pub

7pm Tuesday 21 NovemberUpstairs at *The Harold*70A Ross Street Forest Lodge
Entry by donation

Votes for Women!

By Elizabeth Robins, Directed by Elaine Hudson Written in 1907, Votes for Women! was the first

play to bring the street politics of women's suffrage to the stage.



(Image: Wikimedia Commons)

A successful Blue Plaque nomination for Dorothy Drain

By the Editor, Allan Hogan

Readers might recall the *Bulletin* article (November 2022) in which the Society nominated journalist Dorothy Drain for a Blue Plaque. Our voice has been heard!

Dorothy Simpson McGregor Drain lived at 52 Toxteth Road and is remembered as one of Australia's most outstanding journalists who helped pave the way for the Australian women journalists, editors, and war correspondents of today.

DOROTHY DRAIN
1909-1996

Journalist and editor lived here
She joined the Australian
Women's Weekly in 1937 later
becoming a war correspondent
and ultimately editor. In
retirement she enjoyed fishing
and going motoring with her
father who lived with her in this



Dorothy Drain speaking with RAAF Caribou Flight Crew at an air base in Vietnam (Image: Australian War Memorial Photograph Collection)

The Blue Plaques Program of Heritage NSW has informed the Glebe Society it has conducted a site visit at the property and agreed on a proposed location for the Blue Plaque. The Program is currently in the process of securing relevant council approvals and once this is done, will start the plaque manufacturing process.

Above: The Glebe Society's suggested wording for the Blue Plaque for Dorothy Drain

The 2023 Glebe Art Show

By the Editor, Allan Hogan



Salt Country, by Mark Elliot-Rankin



The Three Bridges, Glebe Point Park. Watercolour, Julie Keech

The 2023 Glebe Art Show was held at the Tramsheds from 18 to 22 October. There were many hundreds of visitors and locals who visited the Show over the four days.

The Glebe Art Show has been held annually since 1997, with prizes across several categories and all artwork offered for sale. The show aims to support and encourage both emerging and established artists who currently live, work or study within the City of Sydney and Inner West Council boundaries. This year's Show attracted almost 200 entrants.

The winner of the Open Art Prize of \$3,000 was Mark Elliot-Rankin with his painting *Salt Country*.

The Glebe Society sponsors an annual prize of \$500 for a painting or photograph representing 'the Character of Glebe'. The Show's organisers say 'the neighbourhood of Glebe is a delightful blend of captivating urbanscapes, unique architecture, and vibrant people. Whether you choose to capture its famous and recognisable features or unveil a hidden gem within Glebe, your artwork will say something about the character of Glebe.'

Duncan Leys and I were asked to judge this year's winner and we had a difficult job. There were 14 entries in the category, and they included a striking photograph of the pedestrian underpass at The Crescent near Harold Park; a charming landscape of old Glebe terraces, and a streetscape along Glebe Point Road. But the standout for us was Julie Keech's watercolour *The Three Bridges, Glebe Point Park*.

Julie was born in Paddington and was drawing detailed sketches as a threeyear-old. For the last six years she has been an urban sketcher, creating harbourscapes and streetscapes of Sydney.

Duncan liked the painting so much he bought it. He's thinking of offering it in a fundraising raffle for the Society.

A spreadsheet listing the entrants and their work can be accessed on the Art Show's website glebeartshow.org.au.

The Villas of Glebe: A Glebe Society Walk

Robert Hannan describes the Walk he conducted on Sunday 15 October

The walk commenced on the corner of Darghan and Cardigan Streets within the Lyndhurst Conservation Area. After an acknowledgment of Country, an explanation was provided on what this country looked like before European arrival and how it was managed and lived on by the Wangal people of the Eora Nation for thousands of years.

A brief outline was provided of the church lands, the sale of 400 acres of the Glebe by the Anglican church in 1828 and the formation through that sale of residential blocks ranging from one to 90 acres, many with Parramatta River water frontage, views of the river, seas breezes, springs and good drainage. These blocks were well-suited for purchasers to build their generous marine villas with large pleasure grounds and outbuildings for stables and to accommodate servants.

The population of Sydney by 1830 was approximately 22,000. Sydney was quickly becoming crowded, dirty, and undesirable whereas Glebe was far enough removed to avoid these issues but still close enough for residents to commute to Sydney with relative ease.



The walkers visit Lyndhurst (Photo: Phil Vergison)

I pointed out that poor planning and lack of understanding within the City of Sydney means that we are still losing items of heritage significance within Glebe. Such an example has been the recent removal of approximately 20 metres of the cobblestone road at Cardigan Street Reserve, heritage item no. 1676 in Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012.

We were welcomed by the owners of the 1837 *Lyndhurst* home, and we provided an explanation of the history of this important John Verge-designed house, which was once a waterfront property. Using *Lyndhurst* as a case study, we explained that the cycle of boom times, depression, wars and – in hindsight – poor speculative investments, caused many of these large estates to be sold off and the land subdivided.

After World War I, these large inner-city homes faced many challenges. Former estate grounds, once the private domain of the villa owner, were surrounded by industrial developments and the resulting pollution. Intensive residential development on former estate land resulted in a substantial growth in the locality's population. Further, it was increasingly difficult to find staff to maintain these estates. In time, large homes fell victim to the sledgehammer, were converted to flats or were re-purposed as boarding houses, orphanages or refuges for homeless people.

We left Lyndhurst and walked to St John's Anglican Church. I pointed out the rarity of this Edmund Blacket-designed Norman / Romanesque church; rare because it was a departure from Blacket's usual gothic architectural style. Horbury Hunt, who worked with Blacket, supervised the building of St John's and is known to have contributed to its design. We have been investigating records in the State Library of NSW which may provide more information about

the contributions of Blacket and Hunt to the design of St John's. In 1868, Horbury Hunt opened his own architectural practice and became renowned in his own right.

From St John's Church we visited Foley Park and viewed the park's interpretation of the original *Hereford House*, built in 1828 and demolished in the 1930s. A concrete band at ground level marks the outline of the original house, and is situated within a setting designed by City of Sydney's landscape architects. We also viewed the heritage-listed Wireless House.

On departing Foley Park, we walked up Glebe Point Road pointing out sites of houses that once were, including *The Wilderness, Kew Cottage*, *Pennington School*, *Rosebank* and the Gothic or Swiss Cottages of which, sadly, only half remain. The remaining cottage, on the corner of Bridge Road and Glebe Point Road and hidden behind shops, now lacks its high gothic ornamentation. We wandered into Mansfield Street off Wigram Road and explained at length the Allen family's 90-acre holding of the Toxteth Estate, which included eight houses for extended family and staff, a cricket oval, stables, and a private Wesleyan chapel.

St John's Anglican Church, Glebe (Photo: The Glebe Society)

Our next stop was over to the 1830s stone marine villa, *Margaretta Cottage*, where everyone was reminded to be quick and book their tickets for the Glebe Music Festival. Our last stop was in the grounds of the 1847 villa, *Rothwell Lodge*, on Ferry Road, for a photographic exhibition and refreshments. On the way there we were able to point out the sites of the now-demolished villas, *Guildford Lodge*, *Maryville*, *Strathmore*, *Avona*, *Forsyth* and *Lynedoch*. We discussed the crisis faced by Edmund Blacket's own home, *Bidura*, the approved development and the eight-year battle to reduce the size and bulk of what was initially proposed.

The weather was perfect, the company was excellent, the last guests departed at 6.20 pm, and I believe a great day was had by all.

(Thanks to the owners of Lyndhurst, Margaretta Cottage and Rothwell Lodge for the privilege of seeing the interiors of these historical buildings. And thank you to Robert Hannan and Peter Crawshaw for the warm welcome to their home on this special event and for preserving this history in the (now out of print) publication Villas: Glebe and Forest Lodge pre-1870. This publication was produced for the Glebe Society's 50th anniversary in 2019 and a complete copy of it can be viewed on our 50th Anniversary website at tinyurl.com/mu9j4e7h. – Dorothy Davis, convenor, Glebe Walks)

by Lyn Collingwood

The 19th site nominated for a Blue Plaque is 55 Westmoreland Street which functioned as a hotel for over three decades. Although the building differs in style and height from its single-storey neighbours, a passer-by is unlikely to guess it had once been a pub.

In the 19th century you didn't have to walk far to get a drink if you lived at the Parramatta Road end of Glebe. There was a public house on just about

every corner plus plenty in between. Most have disappeared: demolished (e.g., *Lady of the Lake*), converted to other uses (e.g., *Kentish, Currency Lass*) or obliterated by superstructure (e.g., *Ancient Briton*).

In 1873, despite police objections that there were already enough pubs in the neighbourhood, John Mullavey was granted a publican's licence for the Westmoreland Street property in an area increasing in housing density. He named it the *Toxteth Park Hotel,* ironically referencing the estate of Glebe's biggest landowner George Allen, a strict teetotaller. The hotel remained in family hands until 1897 when the licence passed to a series of hotelkeepers before being cancelled in 1906. The following year the building was sold to George Charlton.

At a time when the motor car was still a novelty and most vehicles horse-drawn, number 55's large yard, stables and rear lane access were ideal for the new owner, a horse dealer whose sons were horse-cab drivers. Members of the Charlton family were still at the Westmoreland Street address in 1937.

Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 19: Toxteth Park Hotel

- PLATS - OF - TOXIETH - PARK - HOTEL - AT - MEXIMURISATY - STREET - DRESS - LINES - ATP - APPLITORS -

Alteration plans to 55 Westmoreland Street, 1906 (Image: NSW State Records)



Toxteth Park Hotel (1873 -1906)

Despite police objections that there were already enough

pubs nearby, John Mullavey was issued a licence to use

this building as a hotel. In

1906 it ceased trading and

became a domestic residence.

The former Toxteth Park Hotel today (Image: V Simpson-Young)

Glebe Society Bulletin no. 9 of 2023 (November 2023)

Glebe District Cricket Club 1939-1940

by Rodney Hammett

One of the rewarding aspects of receiving emails sent to the Glebe Society website, is that you never know what doors will be opened a little, and with a bit of research the door often flies wide open. Such was the case when Derice Harwood sent an email in November 2022, asking if we wanted a photograph that had been part of her stepfather's cherished belongings. We are certainly interested, I replied.

As it turned out, her stepfather was Henry James Ellis, the vice-captain of the Glebe District Cricket team which won the Poidevin-Gray Shield in the 1939-40 season. The Poidevin-Gray Shield was established in the 1926-27 season, for clubs in the Sydney Cricket Association, for teams that were aged under 21. Sometimes they were referred to as 'the juniors'. Glebe first won this shield in 1934/35, again in 1939/40, then in 1958/59 and lastly as Glebe-South Sydney in 1964/65.



The photo supplied by Derice Harwood

The photo duly arrived in January 2023, showing the bright young faces of the men of the Cricket Club. But there must have been some concerns behind those smiles as to what lay ahead. With World War 2 slowly gathering pace in Europe all would have heard the stories from their fathers or uncles of the rigours of World War 1.

The door opened a bit further as I tried to discover the stories of each person in the photo. I was able to discover the stories of 12 of the 19. Of the 12, ten enlisted for World War 2: Army (8), RAAF (1) and Merchant Navy (1). Each one of these survived the war to pursue a wide range of occupations post-war, including clerk, manager, labourer, poultry farmer, rigger, customs agent, supervisor, waterside worker, hotel keeper and a cricketer at State level. Many went on to live long lives, although one died aged only 43.



Henry James Ellis (1921-2006) was born in Leichhardt. He was the only surviving son of WW1 veteran Harry Ellis. His parents had married in August 1920. Harry was a Balmain boy; he enlisted in October 1915 then fought in France and Belgium where he received a gunshot wound in August 1916 and two further wounds in 1917. As a consequence of his gunshot wound, Harry's right arm was amputated, following which he was repatriated to Sydney. Back in civvies, he became eligible for a pension of £3 a week – not much for losing your right arm!

The burden of life became too much for Harry and he took his own life in 1926. His son Henry and his mother settled in Glebe living in Derwent Street, and cricket became one of young Henry's passions. For his day job, Henry was an engineer in the merchant navy.

Derice Harwood explained that Henry was in the coastal shipping trade, often sailing to Western Australia where he met his future wife, Valma Walker, in Perth. He served as an engineer on HMAS Kanimbla then became the Chief Engineer for the BP tankers in Australian waters, a job he held until he retired. Henry and Valma married at the Wayside Chapel, Sydney, on 15 September 1969, after which they returned to Perth to live. Denice remembers Henry as a wonderful husband for her mother and a delightful step-grandfather to all of Valma's own grandchildren. He never lost his love of cricket. He and Valma were members of the WACA for many years where they watched cricket whenever they could.

Henry was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and died in 2006, aged 85.



Roland Hugh Payten (1919-1995) Born at Rose Bay on 24 July 1919, he grew up on Lord Howe Island where his father was a farmer. Roland (Ron) had learned lawn bowls from his father and uncle from an early age and became the Island champion in 1937 while only 18. He happened to be on holiday in Sydney during the early part of the 1939-40 cricket season and played for Glebe where he contributed as a bowler (4 for 40 against Manly) and as a batter. His photo and story were the subject of a number of Sydney newspaper articles in November of 1939.

Enlisting as a Private in the Australian General Hospital in August 1941, Ron found himself in Singapore when the Japanese captured the island in February 1942. Then followed

three and a half years of hell as a prisoner of war first in Changi Prison in Singapore then on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway. He was lucky to survive, but he did, returning to Australia in late 1945. Like many of the survivors, he didn't like to talk about his experiences.

Welcomed back to Lord Howe Island, he followed in his father's footsteps as a farmer. Ron married Hazel Amelia Retmock there in November 1946. It must have been an ideal life after his war experiences, no doubt he enjoyed a few games of bowls and cricket along the way. He lived until April 1995 when he died aged 75. Hazel lived until 2018 when she died at age 93. It is not known if they had a family. (Image: Ancestry)



Alfred Samuel Briscoe (1919-1988) and his sister Lorna (1920-1986) were the children of longtime Glebe residents Alfred Charles Briscoe and Lillian Grace (nee Quigley) who lived at 78 Mitchell Street. Alfred senior was the motor driver who in November 1929 lost control of his truck while driving in Bridge Street, crashing into a telegraph pole which snapped off and fell across the roof of a house.

Alfred junior was the captain of the cricket team. In August of 1940, not long after this photograph was taken,he enlisted in the Army where he became a private in the Eastern Command General Details Depot which was based at the Sydney Cricket Ground. This was a transit camp for troops moving to and from leave and for those passing through Sydney en route to or from different theatres of war. Alfred was discharged early in August 1942 then in

October 1942 married Mary Margaret (Molly) Grant. The couple moved into 27 Broughton Street, Glebe and started their family. The family moved from Glebe in the late 1960s to live in Penshurst.

Alfred died at the age of 68 in 1988 but Molly lived on until 2006, aged 85. They had a son, Alfred John who married in 1971 and lived close by in Penshurst with his wife and children.



Robert Thomas Lalor (1922-1965) was the eldest child of Robert Alexander Lalor and Ethel Margaret (nee Dixon) who had married at St John's Anglican Church, Glebe on 10 September 1921. Robert junior was born in1922.

Robert senior had a difficult childhood. At the age of 11 he was a delinquent and sent to the reform ship *Sobraon* moored in Sydney Harbour, which provided religious instruction, moral, industrial, and nautical training, as well as elementary schooling. Robert was there from February 1908 until April 1910. Upon his discharge his record states 'bright and fairly intelligent'.

The Lalor family lived in Glebe. Robert senior worked as a labourer and linesman. The family moved frequently, presumably to find affordable housing and a suitable house for a growing family. During the 1930s they lived at 6 Jarocin Avenue, 12 John Street, 15 Forest Street and 44 Mount Vernon Street.

Robert junior, the cricketer, enlisted for World War 2 soon after this photograph was taken, understating his age by three years. He joined the newly formed 2/9 Field Regiment which began training at Holsworthy, NSW, before being sent to the Middle East in April 1941. Following Japan's entry into the war, Australian troops were brought back, the 2/9th returning in March 1942. Initially they undertook defensive duties in southeast Queensland, then in 1943 were sent to Merauke in Dutch New Guinea where they remained until October 1944. At the time of Robert's discharge in October 1945 he had attained the rank of Sergeant. He then lived with his parents who had moved to Narara near Gosford. Robert married Elaine Pearl Bryant in Gosford in 1946.

Robert and Elaine settled at Narara near his parents, and he described his occupation in the 1949 electoral roll as a poultry farmer, then in 1958 as a foreman. Robert died in 1965 at the age of 43.

Elaine remarried in 1968 to another WW2 veteran (John Rae) and they continued to live in the Gosford area for many more years. She died in 2010 aged 84.



Harry Gladstone Lyons (1919-1986) was born in Lewisham to teenager parents Harry James Lyons and Bertha Isabel Mutton whose marriage foundered soon after he was born. Harry junior was their only child. Bertha's father, 20 years older than her mother, disappeared in 1911 and a warrant was issued for his arrest for desertion. The women of the family were able to keep the family housed and fed, and in 1930 the Mutton/Lyons family was living in Glebe, first at 5 Wigram Road and then at 15 Allen Street. Bertha was a dressmaker.

Growing up in Glebe, Harry would have played in Federal Park and been drawn to the cricket at Jubilee Oval. The railway viaduct nearby was a place where children went to play

and see the games – in May 1932, 6-year-old Barry Morris of Avona Avenue fell off the viaduct some 17 metres to the ground, from which he suffered concussion, facial abrasions and a fractured and dislocated arm.

Harry married Olene Sofie Knudsen at St John's Church, Glebe, on 21 February 1942 and then in July enlisted for WW2, joining the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC). By the end of the war Harry was part of the AAMC Beach Group which played a critical role in supporting the troops as they mopped up the Japanese resistance scattered through the islands of current-day eastern Indonesia. At the end of the war and prior to his discharge in January 1946, Harry had risen to the rank of Warrant Officer, Class 2.

Returning to Glebe he joined his wife, mother and grandmother who were still living at 15 Allen Street. Earlier, Harry and Olene had a son, born in 1943 who, however, died soon afterwards. Further children now followed through to the mid-1950s and the family then moved to Lalor Park where Harry worked as a rigger. His mother died in 1967 aged 65 and his maternal grandmother Eliza Harriet Mutton (nee Wilcox) died in 1969, at the age of 93. Olene predeceased him in 1985 aged 65 and Harry died in 1986 aged 67.

(All Images with the exception of Roland Payten supplied by Darice Harwood)

Glebe's Artistic Community

By Wendy Beckett, Beckett's Restaurant Glebe beckettsbardining.com.au

Glebe has long been the home of artists whether in rentals, in share houses, couch surfing or having the luck of home ownership. The list of famous folk living in the area; authors, actors, composers, opera singers, film and theatre producers, visual artists and journalists is extensive, so much so, that the Glebe Society is nominating locations for Blue Plaques to commemorate them. I have been researching the names, and the number of artistic and intellectual residents is huge.

To mention a few well-known names past and present: Robert Pullan, Peter Cochrane, Ross Gittins, Brian Toohey, Adele Horin, Steve Wallace, Lynette Curran, Patrick Cook, Jean Kitson, Gale Edwards, Elisabeth Cummings, Les



Writer and journalist Peter Corris. (Image: National Portrait Gallery)

Tanner, Thomas Rainford, Arthur Dignam, Lyn Collingwood, Deborah Galanos, Les Murray, Richard Tipping, even Peter Corris's fictional character lived in Glebe! There have been and continue to be many films and TV series produced in Glebe owing to its beautiful old houses and the magic reflective waters of Blackwattle Bay. For example: Brides of Christ, The Chaser, Bump, Gardening Australia, Mao's last dancer, The Last Days of Chez Nous, Looking for Alibrandi, The Year of Living Dangerously, Caddie, Rats in The Ranks and on the list goes.

Bangarra Dance Theatre started in St James Hall on Bridge Road and rehearsed there for years. And the designer of Speedos and kite man Peter Travis also lived in Glebe in Leichhardt Street. The sculptures on top of the Queen Victoria Building were designed by William Priestly Macintosh who lived in Glebe in 1897.

Throughout the years locals have had their favourite social places to meet and dine - from the Ancient Briton Hotel, the Toxteth, Badde Manors, The Different Drummer, and the Boatsheds which once existed at the end of Glebe Point Road. And there's another favourite in the arts community - a mysterious church-like restaurant called Darling Mills. (on the corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road). It has been restored and returned to the Glebe community renamed Becketts and is even more beautiful than it was before.

Becketts, as in the days of old, is frequented by locals and the arts community alike. From early diners to business meetings, to film and TV producers and actors; it has become a favourite place to share a quality meal with piano in the background by Glenn Rhodes. A place for grown-ups. Run by Wendy Beckett, a playwright/theatre director herself and resident of Glebe for 40 years, Becketts has brought back the romantic artistic past. Downstairs in a wine cellar beneath the restaurant, playwrights and actors perform short pieces of just 30 minutes, accompanied by dinner and wine for one night only.

Recently the cellar hosted Heather Mitchell playing a piece from the play *Ruth Bader Ginsberg*. Thomas Weatherall of the TV series *Heartbreak High* performed on another night and political comedian Peter Burner was there for a special 'night of the playwrights'. Jonathan Biggins (known for the political satire 'review' at STC and now the Seymour Centre) also performed at Becketts recently. He did a piece from Samuel Becketts': *Krapp's Last Tape*. Next up is Australian classical composer and pianist Ross Edwards celebrating his 80th birthday with his musician friends -locals are welcome to join him in a celebratory dinner.

On January 24 playwright David Williamson will celebrate his new play, just written at age 80 with the public invited to dine with him. Becketts Restaurant has brought back the spirit of the past where people in the arts are not out of reach, but willing and open to joining with their community, to be in a beautiful setting for a drink, a sumptuous French meal and good conversation. Becketts has restored something special to Glebe, its artistic spirit is back!

Advertisement

ROSS EDWARDS

We are celebrating Australia's greatest classical composer as he turns 80 with a night of

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Set 3 course menu

6-9.30PM 9TH NOVEMBER 2023 BOOK EARLY



In Focus: November Photo Competition

By the Editorial Team

lan Stephenson's photo of a dog at the wheel of a BMW in the Broadway parking lot caught the eye of the judges as did Duncan Ley's verdant nature strip, but it was Asa Wahlquist's shot of the dilapidated Glebe Island Bridge that won the prize. It's not a pretty sight, but a reminder of the perilous plight of this heritage-listed Sydney landmark, which awaits definitive plans for its renovation by the NSW State Government. It was not a unanimous decision - one judge thought that Vincent Pagdatoon's photo of a glorious amaryllis in full bloom was a worthy contender.

Congratulations Asa, you're in with a chance for a free ticket to the Glebe Society Christmas



This month's winner of the Glebe Society's In Focus Monthly Photo Competition is Glebe Island Bridge, by Asa Wahlquist

Gathering. The December edition of the *Bulletin* will be the last opportunity for entrants for this year's annual prize. All images in this month's competition will be posted to our website.

The other entrants' photos can be viewed on our website at glebesociety.org.au/november23-photo-competition

November Mystery Photo by Lyn Collingwood



What's the story here?

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

Last month's (October) mystery photo

Wayne Carveth and Mary Jane Hogan recognised the St Johns Road buildings near its corner with Ross Street. Mary Jane detailed their current occupants:



Marli Rose Hairdressing on the corner with the Pain De Sucre cafe next door. The building with the crenellated front has been demolished and replaced with a modern one containing the offices of real estate agent BresicWhitney, the Westeros convenience store and Pizza Da Noi.

Both readers thought the picture dated from the 1970s, but according to City of Sydney Archives the photo was taken by Alan Dunstan in October 1987. Mary Jane: "Makes you remember how run down Glebe used to be!" Wayne: "It's hard to believe and I can't remember that they were as shabby as that. Thank heavens the corner buildings at least were saved."

The Centipede Online Shop

By the Secretary of Centipede, Chloe Groom

Centipede is a registered charity providing before school, after school and vacation care at Glebe Public School. Our services include breakfast, a hot meal in the afternoons, a food pantry and referrals to external services when required. The Centipede community reflects the diverse Glebe community and the educators at Centipede endeavour to provide a safe, fun, stimulating and welcoming environment for all children and families, regardless of their circumstances.



Cost of living pressures have made it particularly difficult to facilitate some programs and excursions this year, especially in the school holidays when we aim to give the children stimulating experiences beyond Glebe. In order to provide a varied vacation care program over summer, this year we have partnered with the wonderful Sewing for Good, a sewing group in our local community who have created a range of Christmas stockings, sacks and bags to raise money for Centipede this Christmas.



(All images supplied by Centipede)



Please have a look at the range of beautiful Christmas items we have for sale. 100% of proceeds will benefit Centipede and we can deliver anywhere in Glebe or will make other arrangements as necessary.

Visit our online store: centipede-store.square.site

Please visit our website for more information about Centipede or to make a tax-deductible donation: centipedeglebe.weebly.com



Glebe Forest Lodge Annual Spring Bird Survey Report 2023

By Judy Christie, member of the Blue Wren Subcommittee

The eleventh annual Glebe Forest Lodge bird survey was held on 22 October, in warm sunny conditions. Twenty-one people participated in this year's 'snapshot' spring survey working in ten different groups counting birds in leafy and non-leafy sites across Glebe and Forest Lodge. Sightings were made across Glebe's parks, trees and waterways as well as on walls, roofs, footpaths and busy traffic intersections.

The following were the sites surveyed this year; similar to previous years with many sites now being surveyed by the same people every year, so building up good knowledge of where to look and what to look for.



The birdwatchers at breakfast. (Photo: Judy Christie)

- 1. Harold Park parklands, Tramsheds precinct, 'The Hill' & Jubilee Oval.
- 2. Federal Park saltmarsh and bushland surrounds.
- 3. Bicentennial Park foreshores and surrounds and Bicentennial Park 2 mangroves.
- 4. Orphan School Creek and Johnstons Creek corridor from the Wood Street Lands to the Tramsheds.
- 5. Forest Lodge streets including along St Johns Road and nearby streets, and Foley Park
- 6. Pocket Parks Arthur (Paddy) Gray Reserve; John Street Reserve (Habitat Garden); and St James Park.
- 7. Glebe Library precinct and gardens.
- 8. Palmerston Ave and Foreshore Walk from Bridge Road up to and including Ferry Road, including adjacent parks and reserves.
- 9. Glebe Foreshore Walk from Pope Paul VI Reserve to Cook Street
- 10. Victoria Park, especially around Lake Northam.

Most groups commented that the birds were fairly quiet on our Sunday morning survey. Nevertheless, there were exceptions including the very large number of rainbow lorikeets, all out feeding in the sunshine on flowering bottlebrush and blossoming Angophora and other trees. This helped boost the total number of birds seen to eight hundred and seventy (870) – several hundred more than seen in last year's damp and overcast conditions. Pleasingly, the tree martins have also returned for breeding and their animated twittering song can be heard above different parts of Glebe and especially near their nesting site on the corner of Ross Street and St Johns Road.

Thirty different species were seen – less than in 2022, yet with the number boosted by two new waterbird species seen in Victoria Park (hardhead (a duck) and purple swamphen) and two species (the tawny frogmouth and eastern koel) which were seen and heard outside the Glebe / Forest Lodge boundaries. The increase in waterbirds at Lake Northam may be a result of improving water quality after some work done by Council earlier this year. It may also be that the ongoing drought has brought more waterbirds in from inland areas.

Noisy miners were again seen in large numbers across the whole survey area to the exclusion of most small birds apart from the jaunty willy wagtail. Non-native species were also in large numbers, especially feral pigeons (rock dove) whose number had doubled. The lawns of Harold Park seem to be a favourite spot, as well as the Bicentennial Park lawns.

It is often what is not seen that is also most notable in survey results. In this case there were quite a few absentees. Where were the brush turkeys that have been frequenting our streets? The striated heron and chestnut teal, both common in the Johnstons creek system, were a 'no show'. Perhaps the low tide made a difference. The group surveying around Blackwattle Bay felt that there was much less bird life around, possibly attributed to the level of disturbance by the Fish Market development. The red wattlebird was also missed and may be moving out of Glebe / Forest Lodge entirely. Although there has been increased planting of street trees and park trees in the last 12 months, some of the tree species selected may be encouraging the bossy, aggressive birds like native noisy miner and omnivorous predatory species like pied currawong and the grey butcherbird.

As a one-off annual 'snapshot' survey, we cannot hope to find every bird in Glebe / Forest Lodge, but after 10 years of surveys covering the same sites, we can develop a fairly robust picture of the trends and indicators of the health of our avian community. It is a mixed picture – some losses and some gains. Last week I saw a small family group of

Superb Fairy Wrens, including at least one juvenile bird, only 2.69 kilometres from the Glebe Foreshore Parks. With a few healthier habitat 'stepping stones' along the corridor, maybe our Blue Wrens will make it back to Glebe one day.

Once again, we had a birdwatchers' breakfast celebration at Esca to conclude our morning's activities. Thank you to all volunteers who helped to make a very successful and enjoyable spring morning. If you would like to see more detailed survey results for a specific location, please contact the Blue Wren Subcommittee (bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au)

The Craney Grant – helping bees thrive!

By Emma Scallan, Assistant Director, The Crescent Early Learning Centre

The Craney Grant program is named in honour of Jan Craney, a respected and much-loved former convenor and member of the Blue Wren Subcommittee. In her will Jan left the Subcommittee a bequest to foster biodiversity in our suburb. The Crescent Early Learning Centre is a beneficiary.

At The Crescent Early Learning Centre the birds and the bees (the chooks and the bee hive) are a buzzing part of learning.

This year we have embarked on a sustainability journey that has included beehive restoration and the children are instrumental in the maintenance and cleaning of the beehive. After clearing out spiderwebs and giving the



(Photo: The Crescent Early Learning Centre)

hive a lovely scrub with some bubbles in the sunshine, we gave the roof of the beehive a light sandpaper to freshen up the space. We talked about homes and hives and coops and spaces we need to live ...

As part of our Reconciliation Action Plan we have made a conscious effort to be mindful about the flora selected for the garden and had the children take an active part in learning about the native bees and their importance in the ecosystem. Building gardens and taking an initiative to care for the environment whilst learning about native Australian flora: the children have been 'busy bees' in their garden project, spending lots of time tending to the kangaroo paw and bottlebrush. The native bees are often confused with flies and it is always so beautiful to hear the children correcting one another and listening to their explanations about the 'no stinging bees'.

We are fortunate enough to live in such a beautiful community and have planned to do a walking excursion to the bee habitat along the bay walk as an extension of learning about bees whilst observing the native plants that grow along the water's edge.

Seniors Christmas Reception

Friday 24 November, 11am to 2pm, Lower Town Hall, Druitt Street, Sydney

Celebrate the festive season at this free event for older adults living in the City of Sydney's local area. Enjoy canapes, live music, dancing and entertainment.

To give everyone the chance to attend this popular event, we're holding a ballot for tickets. You can register for up to two tickets.



You and your guest must be 65 years or older and live in City of Sydney's area. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years or over living in City of Sydney's area can register. Proof of age and address

will be required to be shown on entry.

The ballot for tickets closes at 10am on Monday 6 November. If you're successful you'll receive an email on Friday 10 November with the details of the event to confirm your attendance. If you don't have an email address, we will call you.

To register for the ballot scan the QR code to the right. Or talk to one of our team at a community centre or contact our community worker Jessica Mayr on 0418 696 464 or mayr@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au if you need help to register.

For more details visit whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/seniors-christmas-reception.

A Challenging Opportunity!

By the Editor, Allan Hogan



I have decided to stand down as Editor of the Bulletin after the publication of our December issue. It has been an honour to be part of the production team, Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg and Virginia Simpson-Young. I plan to travel during 2024 and will not be able to give the job of Editor the attention it requires.

The Bulletin has been around in a range of forms for over 50 years and continuing its regular publication is critical for the Glebe Society. The production process has been improved and the workload shared with a highly efficient team. The Editor has the relatively easy job of commissioning and collecting

articles for publication, while others in the editorial team take on the jobs of posting to our website and social media and the technical preparation for printing and emailing.

There is training and support for anyone interested in taking on this valuable and interesting volunteer role. There are willing photographers to keep you supplied with images.

Please let Duncan Leys, the new President, know if you'd like to express an interest in being part of the production team. After the December issue, the next edition will be published at the beginning of March. Email Duncan at president@glebesociety.org.au

For your calendar

Friday 3, Sunday 5, Saturday 11, Saturday 25. Sunday 26

November

Glebe Music Festival

Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Road.

There are seven remaining concerts In November.

Visit the website glebemusicfestival.com for the

full program



Tuesday 21 November,

Players in the Pub: Votes for Women!

by Elizabeth Robins

Upstairs at The Harold 70A Ross Street, 7pm

> Forest Lodge Entry by donation



Friday 24 November, 11am to 2pm **Seniors Christmas Reception**

Lower Town Hall Druitt Street, Sydney.

See the article on page 15 in this Bulletin.



Friday 1 December, 6-8pm

Glebe Society Christmas Gathering

St Paul's College, University of Sydney. See the article on page 2 in this Bulletin.





Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page: <u>glebesociety.eventbrite.com</u>

** Note regarding member-only events ** Member-only events do not appear on our main Eventbrite page and are accessible only to Glebe Society members by using the link provided in the Bulletin.

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Membership of the Glebe Society

Additional donation welcome.

Individual member: \$45
Joint (two 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 'Join/Renew';
- download a membership form from glebesociety.org.au;
- write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;
- or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au

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