

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.

Issue 3 of 2024 (May 2024)

ISSN 1836-599X

Gone and Forgotten on Glebe Point Road, Part 1

by Rodney Hammett

Who remembers the houses that once stood at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Mary Street? Demolished in the 1970s, they occupied part of the space that is now No. 451 Glebe Point Road - The Anchorage. The 1939 map of Glebe (Figure 1) shows a tennis court on the corner of Mary Street which belonged to the house in front of it, originally named Cliff Lodge and later The Anchorage. Lyn Collingwood's article in *Bulletin* 05/2017 discussed its history and the people who lived there. This is the first part of an article on the history of the houses, the developer/builder and people who lived in the houses within the shaded area of Figure 1.

Fortunately, there is an aerial photograph taken in the 1940s which shows the then development in this area, including the fading grandeur of the quite amazing four houses that had been built here in the late 1880s. See Figures 2 and 3.

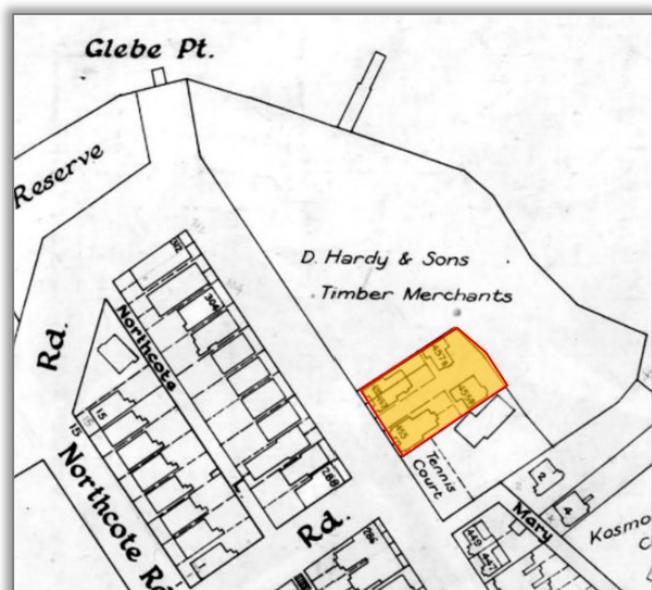


Figure 1. Location Base Map: Glebe 1939 (City of Sydney, Historical Atlas)

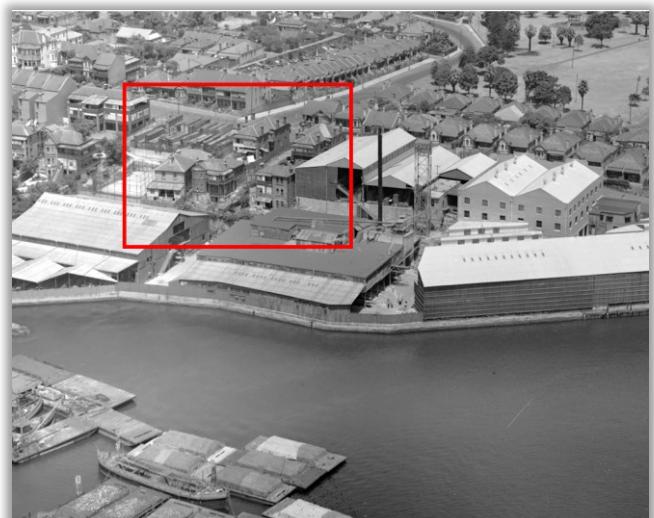


Figure 2. Glebe Point in the 1940s (Source: SLNSW, Milton Kent Collection; FL8813730 [part])

On Glebe Point Road there were two large buildings of similar construction, each divided into two dwellings. These were Nos. 453 and 455 (*Gurth* and *Wamba*) and Nos. 457 and 459 (*Ossian* and *Coila*). Closer to Johnstons Bay and with access to Glebe Point Road between the previously mentioned houses, was *Mussett* (No. 455a) and *Youonga* (No. 457b). These four houses were built on Lots 38 and 39 of the Mary Chisholm Estate which had been sold as vacant land in the early 1880s.¹ Next door was *Cliff Lodge* with its tennis court and spacious grounds, built on Lots 22 and 23 of the same subdivision.

The first purchasers of Lots 38 and 39 have not yet been established; however, in February 1887 when the reclaimed land on Johnstons Bay in front of Lot 39 was purchased from the Crown for £50, Robert Buik Edward was the buyer because he owned Lot 39.² He likewise purchased the land in front of Lot 38, in July 1888. Robert Edwards was a postmaster and a man of enterprise who also purchased land on Louisa Road Birchgrove and in Eglinton Road Glebe. In Eglinton Road, he arranged the construction of the row of terraces Nos. 4–40. These were the subject of The Eglinton Road Project by members of The Glebe Society in 2011–2012; see <https://glebesociety.org.au/street/the-eglinton-road-project/>.

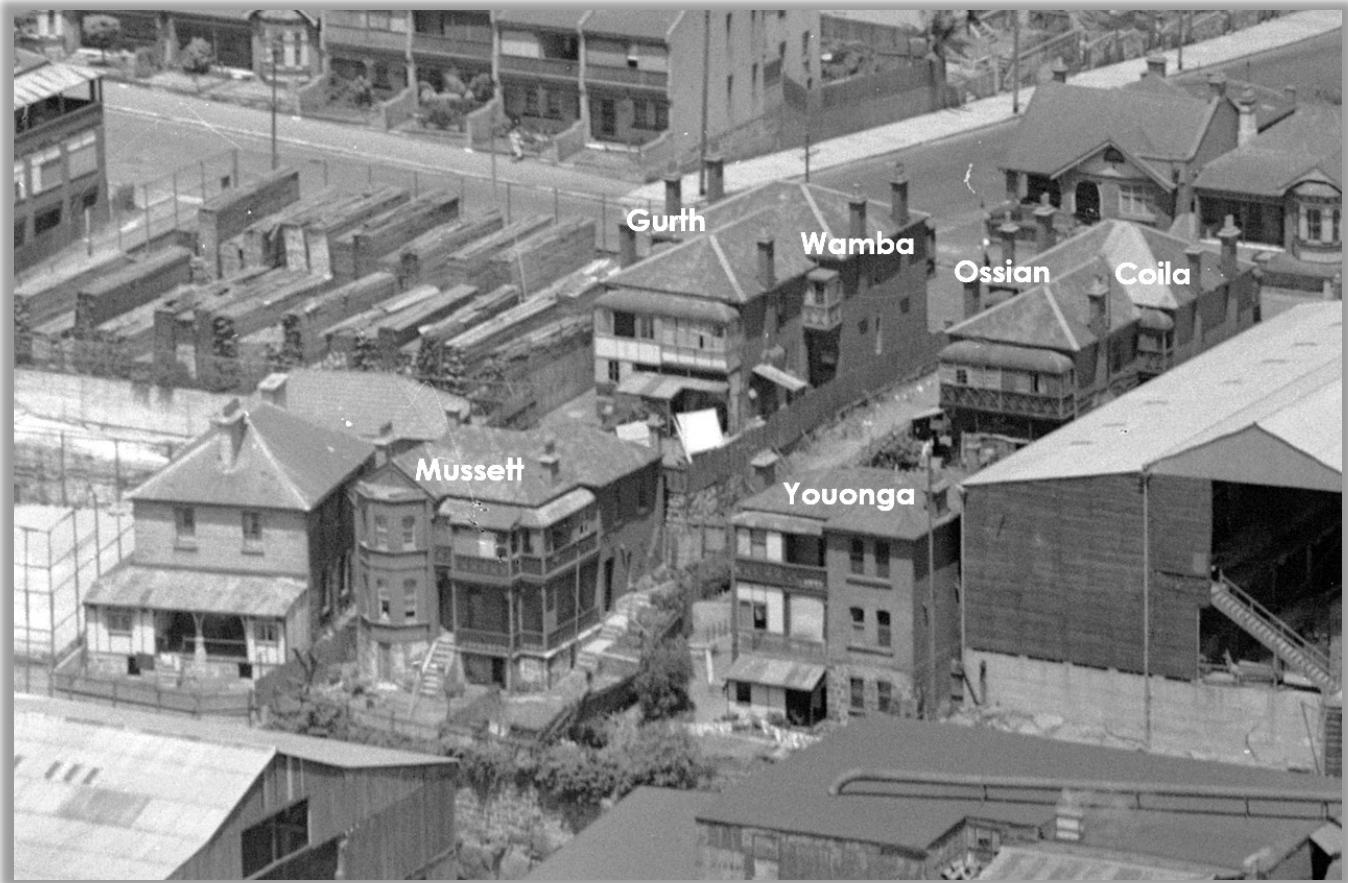


Figure 3. Glebe Point - Detail (NSW Land Registry Service, labels by Rodney Hammett)

Gurth-Wamba and **Ossian-Celia** on Glebe Point Road were occupied from 1888, with the two closer to the bay being occupied from 1890. A photo from Bulletin 06/2011 shows labourers and Robert Edward in front of a partially completed house with a completed house to the left. Close examination of Figures 3 and 4 confirms these men are standing in front of **Gurth-Wamba** (under construction) while **Ossian-Celia** is the other house. Robert Edward is the person on the right of this group. The photo must have been taken in about 1887.

Robert Edward moved into the completed **Ossian** in 1888. He was 41 with a wife (Mary) and three daughters. At this time, he was a senior clerk in the head office of the Postmaster General, Sydney, on a salary of £340. Despite this full-time job, Robert was able to spend time with the labourers building his houses, as evidenced by Figure 4.

Robert was the son of a stonemason, born in Scotland. His parents, with four children, migrated to New South Wales, arriving in January 1853. The family lived at Maze Street Darlington (now demolished and under the School of Engineering at Sydney University) and his father, David Barnett Edward, served as an alderman on the Darlington Municipal Council from 1878 to 1880. Robert was the third child and eldest son with six siblings. Aged 20 in 1868, he joined the Public Service as a clerk in the Department of Postmaster-General's. Robert and Scottish-born Mary (né Gardiner) married at Forest Lodge in 1877. Their children were Mary Elizabeth (1879–1966), Jessie Dewar (1883–1950) and Annie Isabella (1884–1977). So, in 1888, these girls would have been aged 9, 5 and 4 respectively, and presumably two of them attended the Glebe Public School.

In 1891, Robert was appointed as the postmaster to the Post Office in William Street Darlinghurst. Here there were living quarters attached. This means they left Glebe and did not return to Glebe to live until after Robert retired from his William Street role in 1908. He was then aged 60. Mary had died in 1896 at Darlinghurst. However, Robert

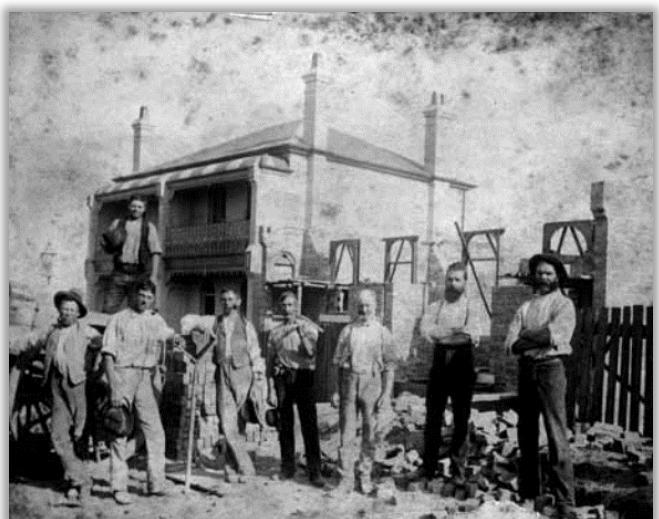


Figure 4. Construction at Glebe Point, ca 1887 (Source: Bulletin 06/2011; Robert Edward's great granddaughter, Jennifer Esteban)

married again in 1903, to widow Mary Ann Taylor (neé Hauxwell) who hailed from Yorkshire, England, but was living in Sydney. The family moved into *Gurth* when they returned to Glebe, later moving to *Mussett* in about 1915.

The land in Eglinton Road was purchased in 1908. The single storey three bedroom terraced housing which overlooked a new park began to be occupied from 1909. Robert was nearby to oversee its construction. Nos. 4-10, Nos. 12-22 and Nos. 26-28 were sold to separate investors who put in tenants. Robert retained ownership of No. 24 and Nos. 30-40 while he was alive, from which he would have received rental income. Following his death in 1932, they were retained by his daughters, two of whom by then were married: Annie in 1907 to Reginald Bishop Henville and Mary in 1917 to Thomas Ralph Coulson. Jessie did not marry.

Robert and his wife Mary moved from *Mussett* to 18 Boyce Street in 1925, at the time D Hardy and Sons, timber merchants, were expanding their business on the eastern side of Glebe Point Road. D Hardy and Sons started purchasing land at The Point in 1915 and it was only when Robert's houses were surrounded (see Figures 1 and 2) that he too sold them, in November 1923. The 1949 aerial photograph (available at the City of Sydney's 'Historical Atlas') shows that all houses still existed at that time.

Parkes Developments purchased this land at The Point from D Hardy and Sons in the 1960s. They also purchased the land around Bellevue Cottage from other timber merchants who were moving their businesses away from the Glebe foreshore. The 1970s apartments on, and near, the waterfront we see now, are the product of Parkes' redevelopment of the waterfront. The *Bulletin* of 09/1975 has an interesting and unflattering account of Parkes Developments and their Glebe developments. There it is reported that the houses built by Robert Edward were probably demolished in 1973.

The next part of this story will discuss some of the tenants who lived in these houses.

Acknowledgement: Thank you to Genny Kang, a member of the Eglinton Road Project, who first piqued my interest, some years ago now, when she gave me a photo of Robert Edward sitting with family in a garden in front of a substantial house. She said the house was one of those demolished to make way for The Anchorage units, and I might like to find out some of their history. Genny, I believe this is the story you might have been hoping for. That photo will be included in the next part of this story.

Notes: ¹ NSW Land Registry Service; Vol 150 Fol 184 & DP 100; ² NSW Land Registry Service; Vol 827 Fol 12

From the President

2024 is proving to be a challenging year.

WestConnex is now the subject of a NSW Upper House inquiry and the Society is working on a submission. In my most recent president's update I asked members for their feedback on WestConnex and we want to hear from you.

When I last wrote, I had thought we had reached the limit of our greenspaces that could be roped off due to possible asbestos contamination. More of Glebe and Forest Lodge have been roped off since. We are yet to hear of the source of the contamination, or when the sites will be cleaned up, although some areas have been opened up and the paths through the Rozelle Parklands are accessible.



The State Government's proposed changes to zoning laws around transport hubs and the Low and Mid Rise Housing State Environmental Planning Policy (LMRH SEPP) has unified community opposition across a diverse range of councils and community groups not merely from the inner suburbs. The Society has lodged a submission with the Department of Planning which can be viewed on our website. <https://glebesociety.org.au/recent-tgs-planning-submissions-2024/>

It has been reported in the Sydney Morning Herald that developers are approaching homeowners in Glebe offering to buy their properties at above market prices, presumably to consolidate sites for high rise development. Given that the land costs will be significant it is hard to see how the apartments that might be built could be classed as affordable.

The New Sydney Fish Market has recently announced that the amount of car parking to be provided will be similar to that for the old fish market. This is code for saying there will be less parking at The New Sydney Fish Market. Given the traffic, parking and public transport plan is not ready for public release you could not be confident the new fish market will open without controversy. What is certain is the congestion around the new fish market will be worse than it is now.

The conservation work on *Bidura* was due to start by 1 March 2024. The Society will be writing to the developers asking for an update on the conservation work.

There has been a development regarding the Glebe Island Bridge. One of our members alerted us to a request for tender from Transport for NSW seeking expressions of interest for proposals to restore the Glebe Island Bridge. Our local member Kobi Shetty has agreed to seek clarification on the tender, particularly the aims and potential outcomes.

The Society wants to see the Glebe Island Bridge returned to full working order and available for public access.

The three new convenors who joined the management committee, Cheryl Leckstrom (Community Liaison), Janet Oakley (Transport and Traffic) and John Sergeant (Bays and Foreshores) are off to a great start showing initiative, energy and creativity.

The 2024 Glebe Society Guided Walks Program features three walks in the first half of the year which reflect significant events which affected our community around 50 years ago.

- *The setting up of Elsie refuge in March 1974. The history of Elsie, the first women's refuge in Australia, was a focus of the Radical Glebe walk on 14 April.*
- *The purchase by the Whitlam Government of the 'Glebe Lands' in 1974. Max Solling will lead a walk on 25 May through the streets and lanes of St Phillips and Bishopsthorpe (much of the area between St John's Road and Broadway).*
- *The publication in 1973 of the Architectural Character of Glebe by Bernard and Kate Smith. Many of the houses in the Toxteth Estate, pictured in the book, were included in the Late Victorian Streetscapes walk led by Jan Macindoe and Katharine Vernon held on 20 March.*



Glebe Island Bridge, 2024 (photo: Tim Hesketh)

Our walks are proving very popular, often booked out soon after publication of the program. The number of places made available for each Walk varies depending on the character of the Walk and preference of the guides, so do get in early to be sure of a place.

The second half of the year will offer interesting options including a visit by bus to the Rookwood Cemetery and a walk from Victoria Park to Wentworth Park following the old waterways. More details will be provided in the next *Bulletin*.

Best regards,
Duncan Leys

News from The Blue Wren Subcommittee

By Nick Sangster and Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee

Society's annual biodiversity lecture – Wednesday 29 May

The Society's 8th annual biodiversity lecture will be given by Thomas Astell-Burt (Professor of Cities and Planetary Health, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney) at 6 pm at *Benledi*, Glebe Library on Wednesday 29 May. The title of the lecture is 'Regenerative Cities and Flourishing Communities: why more trees might mean less loneliness and better health.'

All Society members and friends are invited to attend the lecture; please accept your invitation by registering as soon as possible, as space is limited. There is no charge for the event, which will be followed by finger food and a glass of wine.

To register: <https://eighth-biodiversity-lecture.eventbrite.com.au>

The Glebe Society's
8th Biodiversity
Lecture

Prof. Thomas Astell-Burt

Statutory Review of the Crown Land Management Act 2016

Recently, the NSW Government set up a review to determine:

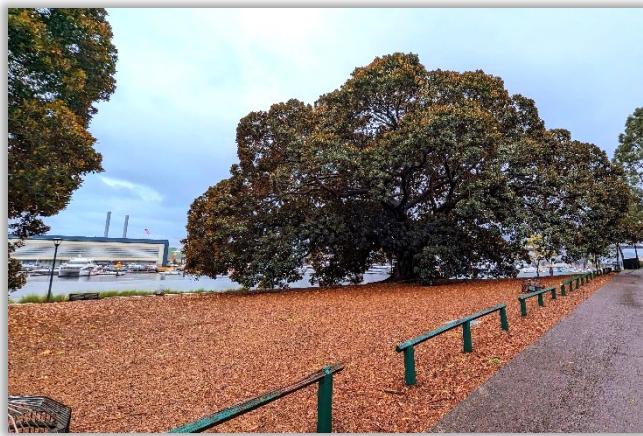
- whether the policy objectives of the Crown Land Management Act remain valid, and
- whether the terms of the Crown Land Management Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

The Hon Stephen Kamper, MLA, Minister for Lands and Property, asked for replies to 26 consultation questions, and the Society answered those that were relevant to Glebe and Forest Lodge. The Society's five-page submission was written by the Blue Wren and Planning Subcommittees and can be read at

<https://glebesociety.org.au/statutory-review-of-the-crown-land-management-act-2016/>

The State Government provides information about the Review and will cover information about their consideration of submissions at

<https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/whats-happening/notifications/review-crown-land-management-act-2016>



Pope Paul VI Reserve, one of nine Crown Land sites in Glebe-Forest Lodge (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Society's meeting with Charlotte Fletcher, City of Sydney

Charlotte Fletcher is Council's newly-installed Urban Ecology Coordinator. In addition to her brief to oversee natural resources, she is also the Grant Relationship Manager for the Society's Innovation and Ideas Grant which is funding the University of Sydney's study of Glebe's Hill. On 3 April, Duncan Leys, Andrew Wood and Nick Sangster met with Charlotte to review two issues of interest to the Blue Wren Subcommittee.



Duncan Leys and Nick Sangster at the meeting with Charlotte Fletcher, the City's Urban Ecology Coordinator (Photo Andrew Wood).



Invasion of Casuarina trees ('she oaks') on the eastern side of Johnston's Creek. (Photo Nick Sangster)

The first was to consider a plan for the invasion of *Casuarina* trees ("she oaks") that has occurred adjacent to Johnston's Creek on the eastern side. This area was planted with a diverse range of flora on completion of the Creek renaturalisation. Several plants have died. In addition, more than 70 *Casuarinas* have seeded or suckered from two older trees close to the banks. The problem posed by the *Casuarinas* is that as they grow and sucker, they kill off other plants; in time, they will create a monoculture that diminishes plant and animal biodiversity. The meeting was held close to the one-year anniversary of when we first approached the managers of the site to remove small trees. Despite many approaches since, there has been no decision or action, although the trees have grown significantly since then. Pleasingly, at the meeting we were able to see the Council's vegetation plan for the creekside areas, which stipulates removal of *Casuarinas* less than two metres in height. While this is encouraging, we still need action and a solution for the larger trees, which if not removed will continue to invade the area.

The second visit was to introduce Charlotte to Glebe's Hill, which is nearby. This provided an opportunity to bring her up to date on the history of The Hill and the research project that the Glebe Society is managing. We believe this first-hand viewing was a great way for Charlotte to understand the project and its challenges.

It was an excellent meeting, and we look forward to building stronger ties with the City and working collaboratively on improving biodiversity of Glebe and surrounds.

Anzac Day Service 2024

By Virginia Simpson-Young

Upwards of 150 people attended the Anzac Day service at the Glebe War Memorial on Anzac Day morning. Pastor Ray Minniecon, Honorary Indigenous Minister from St John's, led the service.

After some opening prayers and a rather desultory group effort to sing "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" sans accompaniment, Max gave his address, a copy of which will be in the June *Bulletin*. In his address, amongst other things, Max Solling spoke about the First Nations people who enlisted and fought in World War I. He told us about Pastor Ray Minniecon's grandfather, James Lingwoodock (1895–1960), who joined the 11th Light Horse in 1917.

Max's speech concluded with a shout-out to Rob McLean, who has played the bagpipes at the Glebe Anzac Day service for thirty years. Duncan Leys, Glebe Society president, presented Rob with a thank-you gift on behalf of the community.

The Ode was then recited, including these two lines, which I find very moving: 'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn'. Following the Ode, Rob played The Lament on the bagpipes while wreaths were laid, including one by members of the Glebe Hockey Club. Morning tea, hosted by St John's, followed.

Thank you to Max for organising the service, as he has done for many years.



(I wonder how "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" would sound on the bagpipes??)



Part of the crowd attending the Anzac Day service (photo: V. Simpson-Young)



Representatives of the Glebe Hockey Club laying a wreath
(Photo: V. Simpson-Young)



The dignitaries at the Anzac Day service: (l. to r.) Max Solling, Pastor Ray Minniecon, Linda Scott (City of Sydney Councillor), Duncan Leys (Glebe Society president) and Rob McLean (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Walk Report: Radical Glebe

by David Rushton and Helena Klijn

Back by popular demand, a repeat of the 'Radical Glebe' walk led by Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson and Heather Goodall was held on Sunday 14 April. All three of these storied guides are distinguished not only by the breadth of their political and social activism, but by the longevity of their involvement, spanning many decades. Equally remarkable is how much of this activism originated in Glebe.

Thirty-three enthusiastic walkers gathered at 2 pm outside Gleebooks, a long-standing ally and supporter of many of these social justice activist groups.

Helen began by outlining the story of No. 33a Glebe Point Road, the site of Sydney's first gay and lesbian organisation, CAMP Inc., which from 1973 to 1981 offered a telephone counselling service, a newsletter and more, in support of the gay and lesbian community.

We moved on to 67 Glebe Point Road which has had many guises, being home from 1967 to successively: the Sydney University Labor Club; the Communist Party; from 1970 to 1972, Women's Lib House with its reading and meeting room; and from 1972 to 1974, home to Gay Lib – that time including a Gay Pride week in 1973 featuring exciting bus rides and police arrests.



Guides: Helen Randerson, Meredith Burgmann and Heather Goodall (Photo: Helena Klijn)



Heather outside Gleebooks (Photo: Helena Klijn)

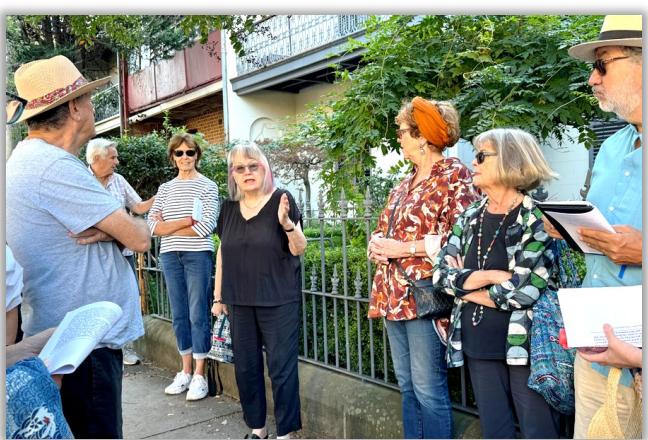
Heather then discussed the history of Gleebooks and its start in 1975 at 191 Glebe Point Road (it moved to the present location in 1990). It was a great source of radical books, and the centre of many copyright and censorship issues, and hosted Salman Rushdie's first public appearance after coming out of protection.

Meredith then told us about 128 Glebe Point Road – Australia's first halfway house (around 1977) and its involvement with the NSW Prisoners' Action Group; prisoners and notable characters included Ray Denning and Darcy Dugan (who opened the house with bolt cutters!).

Helen then discussed 130 Glebe Point Road, home of the Sydney Anarchists from 1975 to 1976. They had their first conference at *The Abbey* on Bridge Road, which Meredith noted was very well organised for anarchists! Among its activities was the Dairy Liberation Front, redistributing milk from the eastern suburbs, and the anti-apartheid movement.



The walkers at Foley Park (photo: Phil Young)



Meredith Burgmann (Photo: Phil Young)

On that issue, Meredith gave a run-down on the squatters in Darghan Street in the early 1970s and their actions to defeat the Springbok tour (featuring ships' chandlers' flares) whilst fending off the Nazis in the same street.

We enjoyed a shady break in Foley Park while Heather told us about the Aboriginal Dance company which started in Redfern in 1972 following the visit of African American woman Carole Johnson, and which moved to Glebe in 1975. We were also given a history of Tranby College, an Indigenous Cooperative College originally run by the Anglican Board of Missions and the unions, key figures being Rev. Alf Clint and Kevin Cook. Tranby College was instrumental in promoting the cooperative model and nurturing key figures in First Nations activism. Tranby has been active in many important campaigns including the 1967 referendum, the Black Deaths in Custody Royal Commission, protests about Pine Gap, and the campaign for a Nuclear-Free Pacific.

We walked down St Johns Road where, at Westmoreland Street, Heather told us of Elsie Women's Refuge, set up in 1974 by Anne Summers, Bessie Guthrie and others. It was the first of its kind in Australia, providing a refuge where, importantly, women (and their children) could stay the night and beyond. Brave volunteers were stationed protectively at the doors at night, quite a frightening experience. Elsie was the model for other such shelters set up later elsewhere in NSW such as at Bourke.

Helen then told us of 149 St Johns Road, site of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, set up after a 1963 police raid of a gay party in Kings Cross. The Council was involved with notable censorship matters – 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' and 'Oh Calcutta!' – and issues such as police misconduct, child welfare, Indigenous activism, and anti-Vietnam protests.

We passed the grand Glebe Town Hall where Meredith spoke of some of the colourful characters who had presided there, including Mayor Foley and his infamous steamroller, and told us that it had been the location of the first lesbian dances – featuring, in 1973, the inevitable police raid.

Informed, energised and entertained, we adjourned for a welcome drink at the Forest Lodge Hotel – well-known to our intrepid guides in past days as an anti-Vietnam and anti-conscription hub.

Walk Report: Glebe's Late Victorian Streetscapes

By Katharine Vernon

The first of three Glebe Society Guided Walks inspired by people and events 50 years ago was an enjoyable occasion and a great learning experience. Jan MacIndoe and I led this leisurely walk exploring the streetscapes of the Toxteth Heritage Conservation Area¹, an area now recognised for its historic and architectural significance.

This walk was held to commemorate the major contribution made by Bernard and Kate Smith to recording and preserving Glebe's heritage. Bernard and Kate were founding members of the Glebe Society and just over 50 years ago they published their seminal book, 'The Architectural Character of Glebe'.

Drawing on Kate and Bernard's research and a collection of their photographs, 17 of us set about exploring the appealing streetscapes of the Toxteth Estate, the area developed between 1884 and WWI. After a brief history outlining the development of this part of Glebe we set off along our route.

Within this relatively small area we found an enormous range of house styles, mostly late Victorian Italianate and Federation dwellings as well as a significant number that included features of both styles, adding to the uniqueness of this heritage area. Such an enormous range of decorative features!



Walk leaders, Katharine Vernon (in yellow top) and Jan Macindoe (in burgundy top) (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)



Walkers considering a house on Victoria Road (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Many of us have trodden the same paths for years, yet this walk gave us the opportunity to stop, admire and learn about the decorative elements of Glebe's architecture that have given this area its distinctive charm. The walk was truly a feast for the eyes!

Little wonder that the Toxteth Estate is recognised as having 'rarity significance as one of Sydney's most important turn of the century townscapes with a high degree of architectural intactness'.

This walk reminded us of the important work of Bernard and Kate Smith and our ongoing contribution as the Glebe Society to preserving Glebe's heritage.

Note: 1. Toxteth Heritage Conservation Area: Heritage Inventory Assessment Report, October 2012.

Glebe Society Guided Walks 2024

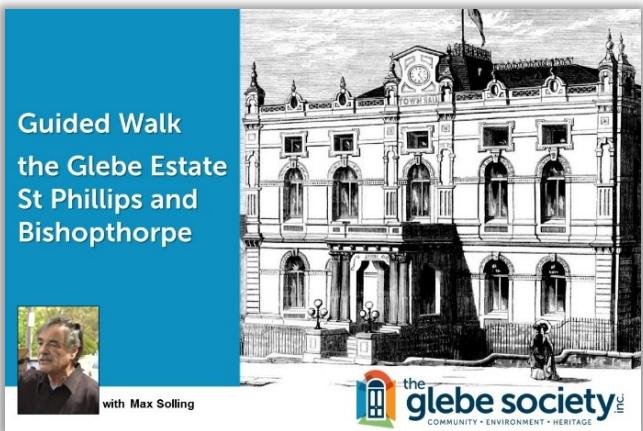
Upcoming Walks

The Glebe Estate: St Phillips and Bishopthorpe

Saturday 25 May 2–4 pm

2024 marks 50 years since the Whitlam Government purchased the 'Glebe Lands'; that is much of the area bounded by St Johns Road and Broadway.

The Glebe Society played a key role in campaigning for this significant part of old Sydney's heritage to be preserved, thus enabling families, who had lived here for generations, to remain as an intact community. The intervention by the Whitlam Government prevented the demolition of many Glebe houses and the dispersal of their inhabitants.



The Glebe Estate is key to the identity of Glebe and is of national significance. This was recognised in 1976 in the original Register of the National Estate, as follows:

Glebe is a history of early Australian urban architecture. As a townscape it is handsome, coherent, and largely complete. The scale and character have been little disturbed by modern intrusion. About one fifth of the houses have been acquired and restored by the Australian Government. Glebe, seen as a whole, is a significant part of Sydney's heritage and character.

Max Solling will lead this walk, which traces some of the early European settlement in The Glebe and the later subdivision into small allotments in St Phillips in 1842 and Bishopthorpe in 1856. Max's guided walks are

always popular; he shares his deep knowledge of Glebe's history in an engaging way through stories of past events and people.

A few places are still available; bookings via Eventbrite: <https://glebe-estate-st-phillips-bishopthorpe.eventbrite.com.au>

The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay

Sunday 16 June 2–4 pm

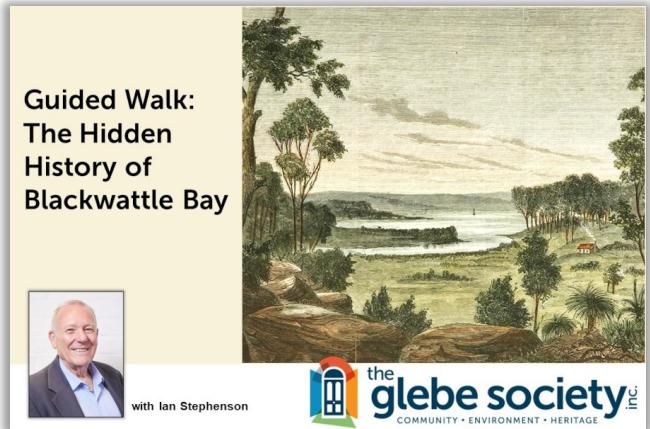
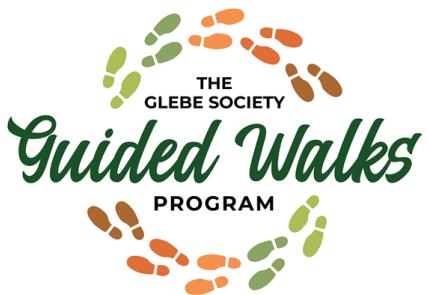
Starting at Victoria Park which was one of the headwaters of Blackwattle Bay, this walk will explore some of the less well-known parts of Glebe and its neighbours.

It will include the Bishopgate estate off Broadway (not to be confused with the better known Bishopthorpe estate to the west of Glebe Point Road); the site of the former Brisbane Distillery in nearby Chippendale, which was located on another of the bay's headwaters; St Benedict's church, designed by Augustus Welby Pugin the great luminary of the Gothic Revival; and the reclamation of the bay for Wentworth Park in the mid-19th-century.

We will explore the beautiful late 19th-century gardenesque layout of Wentworth Park, see its current state and consider opportunities for recovering its significance.

The walk will end at the Kauri Hotel in Bridge Road, where we can all have a gin and tonic and drink a toast to the long-vanished Brisbane Distillery – it was replaced by a school. Is this really progress? Ian Stephenson, our guide for this walk, will no doubt comment on this and other urban renewal issues as we traverse two parks and some of Chippendale's and Glebe's hidden spots.

Bookings: <https://hidden-blackwattle-bay.eventbrite.com.au>



Rookwood Cemetery and Back: A Bus Tour visiting the burial sites of some famous Sydney families and Glebe identities

Wednesday 3 July 9:30 am, returning at 4 pm

An opportunity to visit Rookwood Cemetery, one of Sydney's oldest cemeteries and the largest 19th-century burial grounds in Australia. The Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis has State heritage significance. Max Solling, Glebe historian, will be our guide on this fascinating expedition and will provide expert commentary. Max led his first tour of the Rookwood Cemetery for the Glebe Society back in August 1977. You could say, Max knows 'where the bodies are buried': the Allens, the David Jones, the Horderns, the Tooheys and David Scot Mitchell are just some of those buried at Rookwood, along with many famous (and infamous!) Glebe councillors and mayors.

Rookwood Cemetery was established in 1867 on 200 acres of land, expanding in 1881 to 777 acres. The original design consisted of a central hub with the roads radiating out to the original denominational sections. The original landscape designers could never have imagined the number of religious and cultural groups accommodated in Rookwood today. The denominational sections of the Cemetery also reflect the waves of immigration since the late 1800s. More than a million people, representing over 90 different religious and cultural groups, have their final resting place at Rookwood.

Two early directors of the Sydney Botanical Gardens were responsible for the cemetery's design, construction and planting. Rookwood was conceived as a park with ponds, a serpentine drain, bridges, garden beds, rest houses and chapels. Many of the original trees remain. Although maintenance has been sadly neglected, there is still much to see.

A pleasant lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee. Bookings can be made on Eventbrite in early June when the June *Bulletin* is published. Cost: \$60 (covering bus travel, tour and lunch).

Walks scheduled for the second half of 2024 include:

- Discovering Ultimo: from 'degradation' to renewal – October
- Glebe's St James' and St John's churches – date to be advised
- Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge – November

Calendar of Walks, May – July

The Glebe Estate: St Phillips and Bishopsthorpe

Saturday 25 May
2–4 pm

Leader: Max Solling
Meeting place: Front of Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Road, Glebe
Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)
Bookings: <http://glebe-estate-st-phillips-bishopsthorpe.eventbrite.com.au/>

The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay

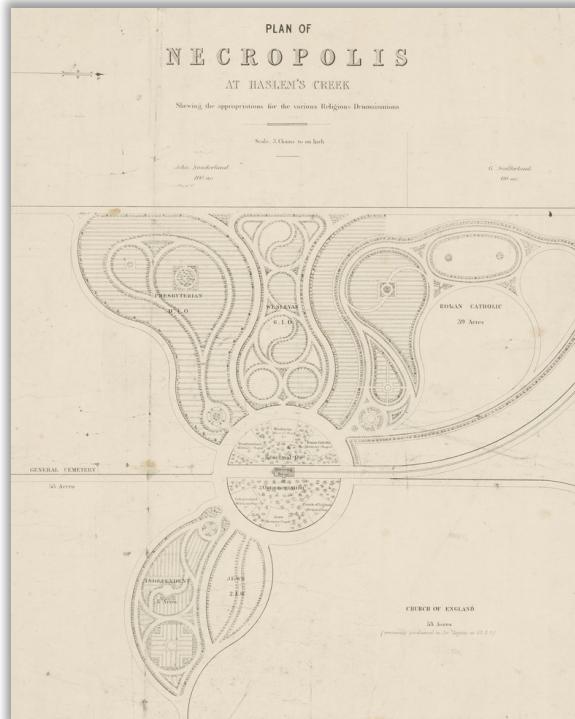
Sunday 16 June
2–4 pm

Leader: Ian Stephenson
Meeting place: Outside the front door of the Chau Chak Wing Museum at Sydney University
Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)
Bookings: <https://hidden-blackwattle-bay.eventbrite.com.au>

Rookwood Cemetery and Back: A Bus Tour visiting the burial sites of some famous Sydney families and Glebe identities

Wednesday 3 July
9:30 am – 4 pm

Leader: Max Solling
Meeting place: Mitchell Street Glebe (exact location to be advised)
Cost: \$58 (covers bus trip, tour and lunch)
Bookings: see next *Bulletin*



Rookwood 'Necropolis' plan (detail)-1868 (slnsw)

Planning Matters

By Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

Submission to the City of Sydney Council: D/2024/257
– 45 Darghan Street Glebe

The application includes an attic addition with front and rear dormer windows, relocating a window and building a studio addressing Lyndhurst Street and the rear lane. The property is a Contributory item in the Lyndhurst Heritage Conservation Area. It is a corner site with frontages to Darghan Street, Lyndhurst Street and Darghan Lane which makes it visually prominent.

View our submission at:

<https://glebesociety.org.au/submission-45-darghan-street-glebe-society-2024-04-25/>



45 Darghan Street (Photo: Ian Stephenson)

Archives for the Future

by Jude Paul

At the last meeting of the Heritage Subcommittee (8 April) there was a discussion about collecting photographs now which will become of historical and heritage interest in the future. To this end, are there members with photos of Glebe or Forest Lodge who are willing to give them to the Society? In the future, the background to a photograph may often be of interest.

We are looking for any photos from members – the more the merrier. The photos will be added to the photograph archives of the Society.

If you would like to donate a photograph or discuss this further please make contact on history@glebesociety.org.au or heritage@glebesociety.org.au. Please include 'Glebe Photos' in the subject line.

Here is a photograph for the archives:



Me-Mel: Blackwattle Bay to Barangaroo ferry (Photo: Tim Hesketh)

In Focus: this month's photo competition

By Tim Hesketh, Editor

Mary Regan

In her photo, 'Sax on the street' (right), Mary shows the excitement of Glebe in party mode.

The expression on the face of the saxophonist is marvellous, showing a naughty pleasure in his art.

Mary is the winner of this month's photographic competition.

See the next page for the two runners-up, Caroline Lipovsky and Phillip Vergison:



Other 'In Focus' entries

How do you capture the effect of an empty space?

In an attractive and interesting photograph called '82 Wentworth Park Road, empty and neglected' (below), Phillip Vergison cleverly shows the desolation of the vacated buildings, emphasised by the photographic angle.



The photo below, 'View of Bicentennial Park' by Caroline Lipovsky, captures the contrast between the colourful (garish) fabric fencing protecting us from asbestos (so topical) with the sturdy, marvellous fig tree behind, which is a feature of this park.



Mystery photo competition

With Lyn Collingwood

This month's mystery photo

Where are we, and what's going on?

Please send your suggestions to
history@glebesociety.org.au
with 'mystery photo' in the subject line.



Last month's mystery photo



77 Ferry Road. (Photo by Lyn Collingwood)

Wayne Carveth, Angela Hallinan and Michelle Fraser identified 77 Ferry Road.

In recent years, the original houses at 75 and 77 Ferry Road have been demolished and replaced by modern structures whose sharp-edged frontages are in contrast to their neighbours, especially No. 79's sandstone.

This side of Ferry Road was developed following the sale of the outer garden of the Avon Estate in 1878. Forsyth Lane, at the rear, gave access to the nightsoil collector before sewerage was connected. Built of sandstone, No. 77 dates from 1881 and was probably similar in style to the double-fronted weatherboard cottage that survives at No. 71. On the death in 1917 of first owner Donald Munro, a labourer, the property passed to his widow Ellen. Their unmarried daughter Catherine Amelia lived there until 1952 when the Munro family's 71-year-occupancy

ended with its sale to ironworker Santo Fossano and his wife Carmelia. Nine years later, they on-sold to father and son brass founders Charles Parker and Charles Owen Parker. Substantial changes were made after 1969 by Solomon David Mitchell, architect, and his wife Katherine Lea. Taking advantage of the slope, they built a lower ground floor at the rear, creating an extra bedroom and bathroom, kitchen and garage. A new wall was erected at the front.

The most recent sale of No. 77 was in 2015. Three years later, the first Development Application was lodged with the City of Sydney for the demolition of the cottage and its replacement by a two-storey building with a second dwelling at the rear. On the evidence that irreversible changes had been made in the 1970s and 1980s and the existing building was 'neutral' (not contributing or detracting from the character of a heritage conservation area), approval was given in 2021 for a 'modern sensitively designed residential infill'.

No. 75 had already been knocked down and replaced by a modern structure. The owner of the original weatherboard house was Abraham George Swadling, an immigrant drayman from Sussex, who lived there from 1879 to 1896 with Catherine (née Munroe). Their daughter Matilda married William Thomas Redford Muras, a plumber who had landed in Sydney as a 17-year-old assisted immigrant. They moved from Forsyth Street around 1896 into the Ferry Road house where they raised eight children. It was still the family home at the time of Matilda's death in 1942.

In 1971 the timber façade was replaced by (then fashionable) exposed sandstock bricks. In August 2015 a Development Application was lodged to demolish the existing structures and build a contemporary two-storey dwelling, garage and studio. Weeks later, Council authorised the work. No. 75 was 'neutral' and its replacement would respect neighbouring Victorian terraces in form, scale and height.

Next Players in the Pub



'The Three Hats'

by Alfred Hennequin,

'the father of the farce'

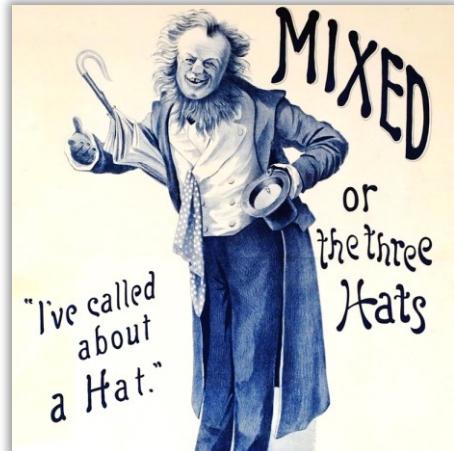
directed by Nicholas Gledhill

Hennequin's intricate plotting of frenetic exits and entrances via three doors was the model for Georges Feydeau, master of the genre.

7 pm Tuesday 21 May

Upstairs at *The Harold*, 70A Ross Street Forest Lodge.

Entry by donation.



Gleebooks' renovated building

By David Gaunt, Gleebooks co-owner

Gleebooks took possession of the fine freestanding building at 49 Glebe Point Road in 1989, having purchased it from the Laming family. It had for years been the dual purpose 'Dealatorium' with 'Laming's Golden Gloves Gymnasium' upstairs (via a separate laneway entrance). We understood at that time that it was variously a large general store (post its 1890s construction) and then briefly the meeting rooms for returned servicemen after WWI. Any more detail or correction to its history would be very welcome.

The rich and varied history of the building means that it's dear to many locals (they tell us!). As one of Glebe's largest commercial buildings and a landmark to many visitors, it would be good to know more.

Gleebooks had opened in the third of the Galluzzo family's shops at 191 Glebe Point Road in 1975 as a second-hand bookshop under the ownership of Tony Gallagher. After Tony's death in 1978, we (Roger Mackell and David Gaunt) took over. We traded at both locations for more than thirty years. We undertook an extensive renovation of 49 Glebe Point Road in 1991–1992, preserving as much as we could of its character and heritage (we even added the verandah, so it's only a 40-year-old feature). At that time, the Glebe Society was a staunch and active supporter of our plans, much to our benefit with Council.



Gleebooks' renovated interior (Image supplied)

Sadly though, the dear old building literally sagged and listed and leaked as the decades rolled by, and it became clear that a major refurbishment was necessary. A guardian angel in the person of our former staff member Liz Allen offered to buy the property and undertake a major renovation. It took three years of (Covid-impacted) planning, negotiation and building (we moved out for 15 months) before we were thrilled to be able to reopen at the end of February. We are delighted that a beautiful building has been reborn out of all the planning, effort and expense. We think it has preserved and enhanced the best the building has offered – and can offer – and represents a fine example of how connecting past, present and future with material and design can work.

Gleebooks turns 50 next year, and you're all invited. Here's hoping we can continue to serve Glebe and the broader reading world for another 50 years!

Pyrmont History Group book sales

By Peter Hickson

'Men of Pyrmont' and 'Women of Pyrmont' book sales: we need your help

Following the seminal work 'Women of Pyrmont', first published in 2017, 'Men of Pyrmont' was finally produced in 2024. The response to the new book has been very positive – 'surprising, entertaining, a joy!'. It is a collection of 42 most diverse reflections on life in Pyrmont, but as with 'Women of Pyrmont', this collection magically morphed into a wonderful mosaic of the liveliest, densest, most diverse community in Sydney.

'Men of Pyrmont' contains stories from First Nations people, immigrants, authors, council members, activists, adventurers, humourists, musicians, GPs, wharfies, humanitarians, fruiterers, soldiers, physiotherapists, engineers, real estate agents, dentists, historians, surgeons, lawyers, pastors, scientists – all acclaiming their good fortune in living in a unique community, soaked in history, struggle, industry, solidarity, independence and identity.

'Men of Pyrmont' and 'Women of Pyrmont' are important books about people, community, purpose, caring and options for positive city living – and are very good reading. We are selling 'Men of Pyrmont' and 'Women of Pyrmont' for \$40 per book.

We are also selling Michael Mathews' 1982 publication on Pyrmont and Ultimo for \$40 a copy.

Books can be ordered by contacting me (peterhickson@me.com) or Mary Mortimer (mary.mortimer@bigpond.com). We will give you details of how to make the payment and arrange prompt delivery of the books. For information, contact Peter on 0450 974 848.



One of the Pyrmont History Group community dinners
(image: Pyrmont History Group website)

For Your Calendar

Tuesday 21 May, 7 pm *Players in the Pub, 'The Three Hats'*, Upstairs, The Harold
Saturday 25 May, 2–4 pm. *Guided Walk: The Glebe Estate – St Phillips and Bishopthorpe*.
Wednesday 29 May, 6 pm. *Eighth Annual Biodiversity Lecture*, Benledi.
Sunday 16 June, 2–4 pm. *Guided Walk: The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay*.
Wednesday 3 July, 9.30 am. *Rookwood Cemetery and Back (bus tour)*
Friday 8 November to Sunday 24 November. *The 35th Annual Glebe Music Festival*.



Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page: glebesociety.eventbrite.com

Note: 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*.

Glebe Society Inc., established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037

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Membership of the Glebe Society

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

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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