

# Glebe Society in action 1969-2019

## Guide to posters



## Glebe Society in Action: 1969 - 2019

Welcome to the exhibition. On display are a selection of photos and posters that provide a snapshot of the activities of the Glebe Society over its 50 year history.

From protesting against expressways and the threatened demolition of the Glebe Estate in the 1970s, to opening up the foreshore in the 1980s and 1990s, and working to preserve Glebe's architectural heritage and its environment, the Glebe Society has played an important role in protecting the character and strong sense of community of Glebe.

In this exhibition we celebrate the work of hundreds of volunteer members who have played a vital part in the Glebe Society's heritage, environment and community endeavours. Of course, the Glebe Society has not been the only player in the events portrayed here. The Society has worked in association with many community organisations, service groups, universities and schools, local, state and federal governments and especially the City of Sydney in more recent years.

The actions of the Glebe Society have been grouped as follows:

- The Founding of the Glebe Society
- Early protesters
- Anti-expressway campaign
- Saving the Glebe Estate
- *Not just campaigns* --- other activities in the 1970s
- Accessing the waterfront: parklands, *Bellevue* and WBG Incinerator
- Return of the trams
- Community action
- Enriching our community
- Caring for the environment
- Honouring our diggers
- Recording our history
- Exploring our neighbourhood
- Getting together
- 'Welcome to Glebe'

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the use of photographs and documents provided by the following: Glebe Society Archives, Bernard Smith Collection, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Allan McEvoy Photograph Collection, Walter Burley Griffin Society and Leichhardt Library amongst others.

We wish especially to thank Tom Psomotragos for his contribution in providing professional assistance in the selection, layout and printing of photos and posters used in this exhibition.

Many photographs in this display are the work of three photographers:

**Tom Psomotragos**, a professional photographer who has lived in Glebe for 20 years after leaving Melbourne which he still loves! He works across all fields but much of his focus is on photographing the people of Glebe. His recent project, with Eulalie Moore, is called *Welcome to Glebe*.

**Phil Young**, a keen photographer since he was a teenager when he started developing and printing B&W and colour film and slides in his darkroom. Still an enthusiastic photographer, he enjoys taking photos for The Glebe Society, and has a remarkable collection of photos of Glebe.

**Bruce Davis** who has dabbled in photography since childhood and contributed occasionally to newspapers and magazines, particularly over the last 20 years to the Glebe Society *Bulletin*.

**Exhibition Curation:** Dorothy Davis and Katharine Vernon, Glebe Society members, assisted by many other contributors including Roberta Burke, Edwina Doe, Ted McKeown and Lyn Milton. Poster display arranged by Tom McKim. Graphic design by Tarny Burton.

## Poster 1



**Glebe 50 years ago**

**During the 1930s:**

- An increasing number of houses had been built, particularly in the area of the Glebe and the Glebe and the Glebe, with little concern for the Glebe.
- The Glebe was used as a site for various public works in the Glebe of the Glebe and the Glebe.
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**In the early 1970s:**

- Construction of new houses in Glebe was in progress, with some being long and narrow.
- There were few planning controls on home and development by the Glebe.
- The Glebe was used as a site for various public works in the Glebe of the Glebe and the Glebe.
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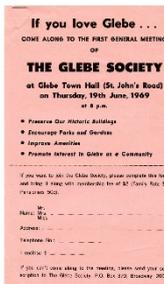
All these factors combined to destroy the character of Glebe.

Left photo: Glebe Station, c. 1972  
Right photo: Glebe Park, 1972



## Poster 2

# The Glebe Society was founded 50 years ago



The Glebe Society's first annual meeting was held on 19 June 1969 at the Glebe Town Hall. Bernard Smith, as its first President, found resident action 'a new and exciting experience.' (Max Solling, *Bulletin* 8/2011).

Plans to form a Glebe residents action group had taken shape through a series of informal discussions amongst like-minded people and a series of more formal discussions and meetings during February and March 1969.

'Early in 1969 people gathered at 23 Avenue Road, Glebe, the home of Bernard and Kate Smith, and it was there that schemes were laid to hatch the Glebe Society. The first General Meeting was held on 19 June, 1969...' (Max Solling, *Bulletin* 9, 1979).

The Society implemented a structure of sub-committees and initially three were formed:

Town Planning  
History  
Social activities.

This structure of sub-committees has continued over the years and has proved to be one of the Society's major strengths, for it has enabled members to focus on specific areas of interest and thus build expertise within its ranks.

The Glebe Society Committee as at September 1969 comprised:

President	B Smith
Sr Vice Pres	D Darroch
Jr Vice Pres	D Colvey
Treasurer	R Brickhill
Secretary	S Darroch

### Sub Committee Heads

History	Max Solling
Planning	Dennis McManus
Social	Kate Smith
Community	Bill McLeod

### Committee

Mr T Metherell  
Mr R Payne  
Mr R Walker  
Dr J Hext

(From GS Press clipping book, Glebe Society Archives)

'The society will concern itself mainly with problems threatening Glebe as a pleasant place to live. Our approach will be two-pronged: to ensure that adequate thought and planning goes into new projects in the area; and to preserve and conserve what is good in the already existing buildings and places of historic interest.

'To get things done we need expert advice, plenty of willing helpers, good publicity, and most important, plenty of members.' (Kate Smith *Bulletin* 1, 1969).

## Poster 3

**Bernard Smith (1916 - 2011)**

**Kate Smith (1915 - 1989)**

Fifty years on, the Glebe Society continues to value the huge

contribution of both Bernard and Kate Smith to Glebe.

Bernard and Kate were leaders in the movement to set up a Glebe Resident Action Group in 1969. They were passionate about preserving Glebe's heritage and were fearless in the pursuit of those issues that threatened the physical fabric of Glebe. (Max Solling, correspondence).

Bernard and Kate Smith's 'love affair' with Glebe began in their 50s when they returned to Sydney, the city in which they met, married and raised their two young children, Elizabeth and John. Following Bernard's appointment as founding Professor of Contemporary Art and Director of the Power



Institute of Fine Arts, University of Sydney, in 1967, they moved from Melbourne and chose to live in Glebe due to its proximity to the university.

They enjoyed their walks around Glebe and became increasingly interested in the mix of housing styles reflecting the socially diverse community that has been a hallmark of Glebe's history. Inner city neighbourhoods were becoming more desirable places to live. Yet Glebe was facing wholesale demolition. As they met others who shared their enthusiasm for Glebe the idea of forming a resident action group took hold.

Bernard and Kate Smith were founding members of the Glebe Society and prominent in the campaigns in the early seventies. Bernard served as inaugural President from 1969-71 and again served as President from 1974-75.

Kate was as involved as Bernard in the Glebe Society.

'Her enthusiasm, warmth and energy were evident; her love of Glebe was engaging. No-one recruited more members to the new Society than Kate; no-one could resist a call from her to participate in an anti-expressway demonstration.'

Together they explored Glebe's rich architectural history. Kate spent many hours of painstaking research and meticulously recorded crucial information for dating local houses. In close collaboration with Kate, Bernard wrote the text of their *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, first published in 1973, detailing the stylistic evolution of housing in Glebe. Bernard is credited with introducing the now commonly used term 'Federation' style of architecture. 'Their Glebe book provided hard evidence to justify the whole suburb being declared a Conservation Area...' (Max Solling, *Bulletin*, 8, 2011)

'I must record our sadness that we shall be losing from the Glebe scene our foundation President, Bernard Smith, and that active stirrer and promoter of activities, Kate Smith. Our very sincere thanks to them for all that they have done in, for, and about Glebe...' (Jeanette Knox, *Bulletin* 6, 1977)

## Poster 4

### Early protesters



Together we stood shoulder to shoulder with others to express our outrage over decisions by Leichhardt Council and the State Government that were threatening to destroy the character of Glebe.

'Two key threats to Glebe's townscape preoccupied the Glebe Society: the construction of

expressways through Glebe; and poor planning/building controls resulting in the demolition of historic houses by developers to make way for red brick walk-ups ('flats'). Furthermore, there was mounting concern regarding the Church of England's plan to sell its housing stock in Glebe to developers.

'There was much to do. There were protests to draw attention to the issues and The Glebe Society members became involved with anti-expressway groups and the 'Save Lyndhurst Campaign'. They were joined by others including the BLF (Builders Labourers Federation), for Jack Munday, its Secretary, placed a 'green ban' on one of the finest historic houses in Glebe, Lyndhurst, thus stopping any planned demolition by BLF members. Glebe Society members were kept busy: planning meetings, lobbying politicians & local councillors, recruiting local residents to join the protest action, writing submissions, liaising with other resident action groups to coordinate protest action, holding media interviews and producing newsletter updates for Glebe residents.

'The almost incredible thing is that everything we set out to achieve was subsequently achieved' (Tony Strachan, *Bulletin* 7, 2003)

## Poster 5

### Ferry Road demonstration

#### 61 Ferry Rd: Saved from demolition.

Houses were being torn down for flat development. Two hundred people joined a noisy demonstration organised by the Glebe Society to protest against a proposed high-rise development in Ferry Road. They were led by Bernard Smith, armed with a loudhailer, on a march from Foley Park to Ferry Road on 6 March 1971.

The Glebe Society was concerned about Leichhardt Council's inadequate planning controls. On 2 March 1971, a development application for a block of flats at 61 Ferry Rd was discussed by Council. The Glebe Society acted quickly and within only four days they mounted a demonstration led by Bernard Smith. 'We were not prepared to sit by and do nothing. The Society organised a highly successful demonstration of some 200 people... It was orderly, colourful, and kept to the footpath.' (Bernard Smith, *Bulletin* 3, 1971)

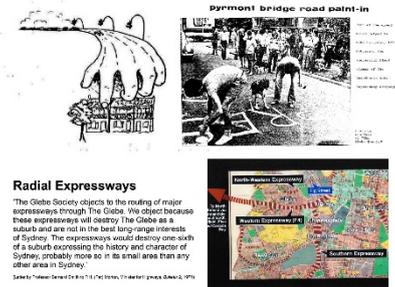


*The Glebe*, the local newspaper, reported on the demonstration and wrongly claimed that Bernard had 'accused Council of being arrogant, double-dealers and betrayers'. During the following Council meeting on March 16 (Alderman) Dr Foley of Glebe castigated the Glebe Society and its president as 'a gang of larrikins and dastardly plant-trampplers.' (source: Max Solling, *Bulletin* 9, 1979) He complained that the Glebe Society had trampled on the geraniums in his front garden. (source: Bernard Smith, *Bulletin* 8, 1994)

However, it was clear that the demonstration had achieved its goal. By a unanimous decision, the Leichhardt Council rejected the development application for a block of flats at 61 Ferry Road. Council wisely took note of the widespread opposition to the proposal.

## Poster 6

# The proposed expressways that would have destroyed Glebe and Forest Lodge



From its formation in 1969 until 1977 a major concern of the Glebe Society was the proposal to construct a Western Expressway and a North-Western Expressway that would have totally devastated Glebe and Forest Lodge.

The County of Cumberland Planning Scheme was a post-war land use and transport strategy developed in 1948 and adopted by the State Government in 1951. It envisaged the demolition of the 'slums' of the inner suburbs of Sydney and their replacement by high-rise apartment buildings, and the construction of radial expressways to move road traffic in and out of the city centre (sound familiar?). By the late 1960s it was clear to everyone except the State Government and the all-powerful Department of Main Roads that this outmoded thinking was entirely counterproductive.

As far as Glebe and Forest Lodge were concerned, the impact of the proposed expressways would have been devastating. Hundreds of homes would have been lost. Glebe and Forest Lodge would have been cut into three separate ghettos, and the majority of the population would have had significant problems accessing any school. All social cohesion would have been lost; it was a planning disaster.

Bernard Smith wrote to the Minister for Highways (recorded in *Bulletin 2*, 1971)

'The Glebe Society objects to the routing of major expressways through The Glebe. We object because these expressways will destroy The Glebe as a suburb and are not in the best long-range interests of Sydney. The expressways would destroy one-sixth of a suburb expressing the history and character of Sydney, probably more so in its small area than any other area in Sydney.'

Community fury bubbled over when the route of the North-Western Expressway was changed at the request of the National Coursing Association to avoid the grandstand at Wentworth Park, but so as to go straight through one of the most significant colonial mansions in Australia, *Lyndhurst*.



*Lyndhurst* in its derelict condition c 1972 and a recent photograph.

*Lyndhurst* was designed by John Verge and built between 1833 and 1837 for Dr James Bowman, Principal Surgeon of the Sydney Hospital and a son-in-law of John Macarthur. By the 1970s the building had been allowed by the State Government to fall into almost total decay. The fact that it was to be demolished in order to save the grandstand for patrons of greyhound racing at Wentworth Park helped to galvanise community opposition to the North-Western Expressway.

*Lyndhurst*, the second oldest surviving mansion in Glebe, had been allowed by the Department of Main Roads to be occupied by squatters, vandalised, and almost

demolished by neglect – but it was still recognised as a highly significant building.

The Glebe Society, in company with the Annandale Association, the Glebe Anti-Expressway Action Group, the Save Lyndhurst Committee and Leichhardt Council protested loud and long against the expressways, and were successful in convincing the Builders Labourers Federation to impose a 'Green Ban' on the demolition of *Lyndhurst*.

In 1974 the Federal Labor Government, under Minister Tom Uren, purchased the Glebe Estate from the Church of England, and cut off all Federal funding for radial urban freeways. The State Government eventually capitulated, and the expressway reservations were finally withdrawn in 1977.

Restoration of *Lyndhurst* was undertaken by the Historic Houses Trust. The architect for the project, Clive Lucas, sought and obtained the assistance of the Glebe Society in clearing out the cellars, and the house was eventually restored to its former glory – albeit no longer on its original 35 acre allotment. The property is now privately owned, but the owners have kindly allowed the Society to use the house and grounds for functions from time to time.

## Poster 7

# John Dengate (1938 – 2013)



Renowned folk singer, tin whistle player, activist and a member of the Glebe Society, penned songs in protest against the expressway plans of the early 1970s. He performed *Take Your Bulldozers Away* at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

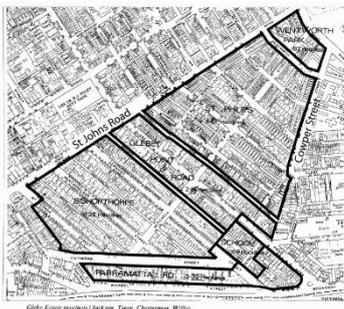
celebrations of the Glebe Society in 2009.

John was a musician, a singer-songwriter in the Australian traditional and folk fields. His output of songs, verse and satire gave a unique insight into Australian life with his comments on social and political aspects. As a generous and knowledgeable teacher, he had an immense influence on numerous performers and writers. From 1970 on, he won numerous awards for his writing and accolades for his performing at Folk Festivals across Australia.

John's song *Take Your Bulldozers Away* expresses the deep emotions that he and many Glebe residents felt in the face of the State Government's expressway plans.

(The lyrics on this poster are reprinted with the kind permission of Dale Dengate and with thanks to Christina Mimmocchi.)

### Poster 8



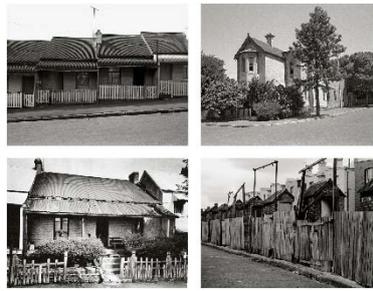
## The Glebe Estate

Map of the Anglican Church's two housing estates, St Phillips and Bishopthorpe, located at the south-east end of Glebe. Known as 'The Glebe Estate' and comprising 723 dwellings and 27 commercial buildings on 47 acres, the Church of England provided low-income housing that supported roughly 3,000 residents in 1975.

### Poster 9

## Saving the Glebe Estate

The Glebe Society was instrumental in saving the Glebe Estate, a ground-breaking urban renewal project. In 1972 the



Church of England planned to sell the Glebe Estate. The historic estate was threatened with wholesale demolition, displacement of traditional low-income residents and redevelopment. The Glebe Society took up the cause; '...the issues involved are vital to everyone concerned about Glebe – what happens to the church lands affects the appearance, character, community feeling and social cohesion of the whole of Glebe...'. (Vernon Winley, *Bulletin* 10, 1972).

### Poster 10

## Restoring the Glebe Estate

In the Glebe Estate by the early 1970s:

- houses were in poor repair, many with outdoor toilets, leaking roofs, and dangerous electrical wiring, some houses having only a single power outlet;
- rents were low and the Church claimed it could not afford to maintain the properties; and
- residents were generally long-term. Strong family networks existed. It was reasonably common for extended families to be living on the Estate. Hence, a degree of mutual support and sense of 'community'.

The Church of England was labelled a 'slum landlord' in an ABC TV report. (Max Solling, *Grandeur and Grit*, 2007)

The Glebe Society became concerned that, if the sale of the Estate proceeded, the architectural and heritage uniqueness of the Glebe Estate would be lost and that a

community of long term tenants would be displaced. Public acquisition of the Glebe Estate was recommended.

The Glebe Society was instrumental in saving the Estate Glebe by:

- preparing a case for the preservation and restoration of the Glebe Estate, and
- gaining the support of Leichhardt Council Mayor, who then lobbied the Federal Government to purchase the Estate. The Church also lent support to such a proposal and in its submission to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Poverty held in 1972. (Tony Harris, *Basket Weavers and True Believers*, 2007).

The Federal Department of Housing and Construction's 1980 report on the Glebe Project credited the Society's original planning study and their 1973 submission as influencing Leichhardt Council's decision to push for public acquisition.

Tom Uren, Federal Minister for the newly formed Department of Urban and Regional Development in the Whitlam Government, was sympathetic. The Federal Government purchased the Glebe Estate in 1974 for \$17.5 million, with a further \$8.1 million set aside for the rehabilitation of the housing. Residents welcomed the news, for they were no longer threatened with eviction.

The restoration of housing on the Estate commenced with an initial focus on roofing to seal all the housing against the weather. Further rehabilitation and preservation of the Glebe Estate was undertaken in the following years. The Federal Government initially planned to have the entire Estate rehabilitated by 1979, but the defeat of the Whitlam

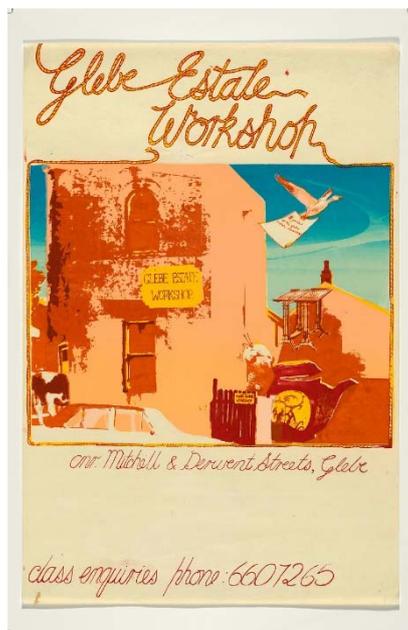


government meant that by 1984 less than a quarter were finished.

In 1985 the Commonwealth Government transferred the Glebe Estate to the NSW Department of Housing and it was absorbed into the pool of public housing.

### Poster 11

## Poster designed for the Glebe Estate Workshop



Leonie Lane ANG

The Glebe Estate Workshop was an initiative of Bernard Smith when he was Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Sydney and involved in Glebe as a founder of the Glebe Society. Bernard Smith sought funding for the development of creative arts workshops in the Glebe Estate, including weaving, pottery and painting.

### Poster 12

## Not just campaigns...! Early activities in the '70s

*Social club or social conscience?*

'In the last year the question of our social role, and our commitment to the overall well-being of the people of the Glebe has been an issue that has

exercised [our] minds'. (Editorial comment, *Bulletin* 8, 74)

Both roles were embraced in the early years



### Poster 13

## Tom Uren and Jack Munday: Two heroes of the campaign against expressways

Tom Uren, formerly Minister for Urban and Regional Development in the Whitlam Cabinet, and Jack Munday, formerly Secretary of the NSW Branch of the Builders Labourers Federation, played significant roles in the long-fought campaign that eventually resulted in the abandonment of the planned Western and North-Western Expressways.

**Tom Uren**, who died in January 2015 at the age of 93, was a Labor stalwart and Federal Minister for Urban and Regional Development from 1972 to 1975. He was harshly treated as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, but like "Weary" Dunlop, he forgave his captors and worked for reconciliation with Japan. He was renowned for his humanitarian work.

His two great achievements, as far as Glebe and Forest Lodge are concerned, were the purchase by the Federal Government of the Glebe Estate from the Church of England Property Trust, and effectively forcing the abandonment by the State Government of the

proposed Western and North-Western Expressways, which would have completely destroyed our suburb.

Tom Uren always claimed the entire credit for these actions, and it is certainly true that without his intervention and the positive support of the Federal Cabinet, Glebe and Forest Lodge would not have been saved. But the Glebe Society can certainly claim the credit for encouraging Tom and the Cabinet to take the actions they did.

The outcome was that the Cabinet, at Tom's urging, agreed to purchase the 19 hectares of the Glebe Estate, comprising 723 houses and 27 commercial sites, for \$17.5 million, with a further \$8.5 million committed for rehabilitation.



Jack Munday (left) and Tom Uren

Finally, Tom prevailed on the acting Prime Minister, Jim Cairns, to cancel all Federal funding of urban radial expressways. The State Government capitulated, and Glebe and Forest Lodge were saved.

**Jack Munday** is the other hero of the anti-expressway movement. A staunch trade unionist, he was elected secretary of the NSW Branch of the Builders Labourers Federation in 1968. Under his leadership, the BLF concerned itself not just with industrial safety and the pay and conditions for its members, but also with filling the void created by insensitive, incompetent and corrupt planning at every level of government. Jack took the view that the provision of open space, the preservation of communities, and the preservation and conservation of heritage buildings and precincts were more important than jobs 'at any price'.

The first 'Green Ban' was imposed in 1970 on a proposed residential development at Kelly's Bush, which resulted in the preservation of a significant area of waterfront bushland in Hunters Hill. This was followed, between 1971 and 1975, by over forty other Green Bans, shutting down construction projects with an estimated value of between three and four billion dollars.

Two of these Green Bans were placed on the demolition of *Lyndhurst* and the construction of the North-Western Expressway. These effectively prevented the Department of Main Roads proceeding with its "slum clearance" projects in Glebe.

The stopping of the expressways was the product of the efforts of many individuals and groups, including the Glebe Society. But if you had to identify two heroes of the campaign, they would have to be Tom Uren and his old mate, Jack Munday.

## Poster 14

### The Glebe waterfront 50 years ago – a mere 80 meters of public access

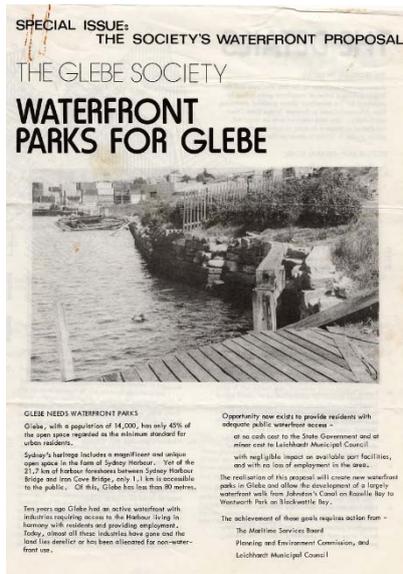


Photographs show the waterfront pre-1970 and *Bellevue* built in 1896 and renovated in 2007.

Fifty years ago the Glebe waterfront comprised a mix of genuine waterfront industry, other industry, demolition and desolation. Harbour Lighterage barges supplied the major timber mills with logs, and the *Goliath* and *Camira* supplied the cement plants. Other activities included boat building, repair, storage and stripping, and chemical manufacture.

## Poster 15

### Waterfront parks for Glebe



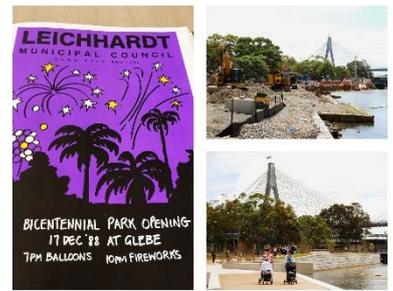
The Glebe Society's founders had recognised Glebe had well below its quota of open space with little potential for improvement in conventional areas. However decline in genuine waterfront industry, government ownership of waterfront land and temporary short-term leases to non-waterfront industry allowed the Society to argue for open space to be established on the waterfront. Ultimately this has resulted in a total of about 20 hectares of waterfront open space and about 2.5 kilometres of waterfront access.

The 1979 proposal comprised a detailed map and an Action Plan. 'A proposal has been sent to the two Ministers and the Mayor seeking a series of waterfront parks linked by walkways (on the waterfront where possible) stretching from Johnston's Canal to Pyrmont Bridge Road (Wentworth Park.)' (Action Plan page 2)

## Poster 16

### Bicentennial Park

Bicentennial Park was created to mark the 200th anniversary of European settlement in 1988. The area of reclaimed land, which was owned by the Maritime Services Board and leased to timber companies, extended the



foreshore in front of Federal and Jubilee parks. It became Stage 1 (east of the canal) of the new park and was opened in 1988 with a fireworks display.

After more than a decade of campaigning by the Glebe Society for this wonderful site, the stars suddenly aligned: our need for open space was manifest; the relevant minister (Jack Ferguson) was happy to talk to us and encourage us; the various individual sites had short leases; the Leichhardt Council could not have been more helpful; and suddenly there was money available for Bicentennial Park.

The final piece in the waterfront walk jig-saw: construction works and public use of the foreshore walk.

The Glebe Society's vision had always been a waterfront walk right around the bays (hopefully to be linked with a similar walk towards the city at one end and towards Balmain at the other). Thanks to the City of Sydney Council, the walk has been completed to Bridge Road but not without problems at every juncture.

At its inception The Glebe Society was faced with innumerable problems including the lack of open space. Glebe had only 40% of the open space deemed a minimum for our area and population. The improvement owes much to The Glebe Society.

On the matter of the lack of open space, options were limited. Substantial open space existed at Wentworth Park and Jubilee Park, and a good playing area existed at Federal Park in Annandale. The problem? Harold Park and the track at Wentworth Park were green on the maps and

looked inviting, but they were totally alienated from the public. Further, population increases exacerbated by the development of units replacing single dwellings and the lack of potential for open space in the heart of Glebe meant the waterfront became our focus.

And things they were a changing! The Glebe Society has constantly supported local small scale genuine waterfront industry. But it didn't escape the Society's notice that during the 70s raw material stopped being brought by water to the local industries and it became trucks in and trucks out. Logs which had previously been delivered by lighters were now being delivered by truck which returned to take the plywood sheets off to the retailers. Along Federal Road, which was to become the main axis through the joined Jubilee Park and the planned Bicentennial Park, no genuine waterfront industry existed by the end of the 1970s: the fuel storage tanks on the last site before Federal Road Bridge were demolished and the site became a dumping ground; the chemical plant had gone; the Police Citizens Boys Club had long since moved to The Crescent; the remaining timber yard was a secondary activity receiving its plywood sheets by fork-lift from Hardy's (or National), cutting them to retail sizes and returning them by fork-lift. There were only remnants of the harbour pool outside the Anchorage. There was no longer a genuine waterfront industry there to overcome. Thus our serious campaign for open space could begin. It was eventually to be given a solid kick-along by the realisation that our campaign could be linked to the Bicentenary.

That's not to say the campaign lacked appropriate drama: the Glebe and Annandale components of the park being separated; delays putting funding at risk; squatters causing a massive delay by occupying the last building at a critical time in the schedule; the money running out before the final focus, a fountain at the junction of the

major axes, could be built. At the opening, Bob Carr likened the campaign to The Wars of the Roses. A fair summary.

The Blackwattle Bay Park exemplifies why the Glebe Society has been so successful and has earned its longevity. Too torturous to go into here, but harnessing the immediate community, the broader community, the unions...and eventually the developer to some small degree, is no mean feat. Without the Society's involvement, in all likelihood the developer would have gotten away with the bully-boy tactics manifested in the sudden appearance of bulldozers ready to begin work at the site that would have resulted in the entire site, right down to the waterfront, being covered in units.

The realization of the Foreshore Walk had to overcome many obstacles. At the beginning we had only the dead-end of several streets providing public contact with the water, although a brief pause by Pope Paul VI at the end of Glebe Point Road in 1970 led to the establishment of a small, but very attractive piece of waterfront open space at the north-western end of Glebe Point Road (which went right to the water in those times). A similar triangular piece opposite belonged to the council, but it was leased out for boat storage.

Other challenges were gaining full width of the foreshore at 'Pavilions'; Council securing title to the waterfront at 'Anchorage': a court case to sort title to the land between 'Bridgewater' and its marina; safety issues over the machinery/crane/industrial installation at Strides'; another court case at the end of Cook Street;... and, for many years it looked as if the only way this final part between Glebe Rowing Club and Pymont Bridge Road could be completed would be by a boardwalk over the water. Sanity prevailed!

(Memories of John Buckingham, Glebe Society Convenor, Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee in the 1980s)

## Poster 17

### Glebe Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator

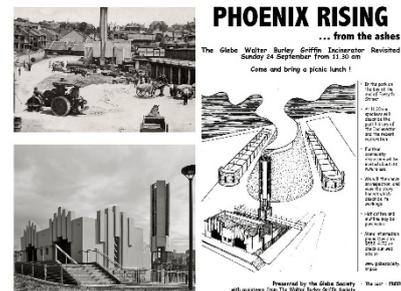


Image (bottom left) courtesy of Walter Burley Griffin Society

The Glebe Incinerator and its colonnaded sheds, designed by Walter Burley Griffin, were built on the foreshores of Blackwattle Bay in 1932. After it ceased functioning as an incinerator, its chimney and furnace were demolished in 1952 leaving approximately two thirds of the original building, and over the years the colonnaded sheds suffered.

From 1996 the Glebe Society was monitoring plans for the Fletchers site, which included the incinerator. The Society was well represented on the 2001 committee that drew up the recommendations for the incinerator and the discussions that followed for many years.

In September 2006 the Glebe Society celebrated the rebirth of the incinerator with a picnic ('Phoenix Rising ... from the ashes') and continues to be concerned about its use.

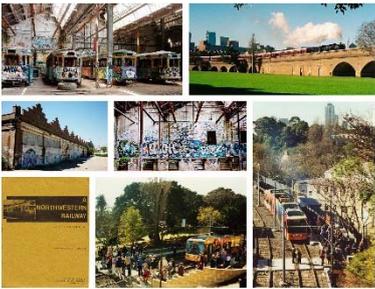
There are signs all around the incinerator explaining its operation, and they are well worth reading as they won an Architecture award for their interpretation of an industrial site. The rows of columns extending from the incinerator to the Council sheds designed by Griffin as part of his landscaping of the site. Griffin was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, the famous American architect, and his Australian designs reflect his interest in Mayan temples and the modernist Art Deco movement.

## Poster 18

### Once abandoned, now riding the rails again

In 1958 the NSW Government ceased tram services to Glebe. Several retired trams were left to rot in the former Rozelle depot (now known as the Tramsheds) where they were forgotten except by vandals. In 1974 the Glebe Society published a monograph (No 2), *A Northwestern Railway instead of the Expressway*, proposing the reintroduction of trams (reinvented as light rail), using the disused freight railway running from Central through Darling Harbour and Glebe to Dulwich Hill.

In 1976 the Glebe Society organised the 'Great Train Ride' – a round trip from Redfern to



Redfern through Glebe. Locals were invited to check out the route in a train hauled by a steam engine. The government eventually saw the merit in the Society's idea and light rail service began in August 1997 from Central to Wentworth Park. It was extended to Lilyfield in 2000 and completed to Dulwich Hill in March 2014. The Glebe Society took part in the celebrations at Glebe and Jubilee Park stops in 2000.

'The *Telegraph* on 12 February 1980 ran an article on the possibility of upgrading the goods railway through Glebe into a passenger line. The railway runs from Redfern through Railway Square, Wentworth Park, Glebe, Lilyfield and Leichhardt to Summer Hill. Much of the article was based on the Glebe Society Monograph No.2, prepared by John Gerofi and Jim Coombs in

1976. Channel 9 followed this up with an item on the 6.30 news.

'With the widespread interest in alternative transport systems to cars and buses, the Glebe Society's spadework is paying dividends.' (Tony Larkum)

The following article appeared in the Glebe Society *Bulletin* 4, 1983

#### **The Great Glebe Steam Train Ride**

Ron Best, one of our members, was the instigator, promoter and organiser of the Train Ride and on behalf of the Society - our very grateful thanks for all your work. Our thanks also to the NSW Rail Transport Museum for allowing us the use of the train and other facilities.

The train - nine cars built about 1910 were relics of pre-electrification Sydney suburban operations - was pulled by Locomotive 5461, built at Eveleigh Locomotive Works about 1916 and which has been restored by the Museum's volunteers.

The journey started from Redfern in order to gain access to Darling Harbour. Did you know that at Redfern there is the Engine Dive, the line running in a tunnel beneath platform 1. This line allows locomotives and empty trains from Eveleigh depot to reach Sydney station without crossing all ten tracks on the level?

...The first part of the journey was particularly interesting through Darling Harbour and over the viaduct across Wentworth Park and into the 800 metre Glebe Tunnel - lights switched on and smoke billowing back and into the carriages.

There were plenty of spectators along the track, cameras at the ready, waving us along as the engine chuffed and the whistle announced our arrival. For the Society members, their kids and grandkids, friends and the train aficionados it was all great fun.

But the train ride also had its other purpose, and that was to

again draw attention to the fact that part of the route could be used as part of a Light Rail system.

The section is that from the goods yard at Lilyfield through to the new Entertainment Centre in Haymarket. It would be linked with unused tunnels in the city and former tram reservations in the eastern suburbs to create a light rail network joining the Opera House to Balmain, Abbotsford, Coogee, Maroubra and la Perouse.

In view of the plans announced for Darling Harbour the Light Rail Association considers that the need for such a line is great and if the goods line is not used in this way, it will probably be closed permanently as the Darling Harbour Goods Yard is moved out.

## Poster 19

### Friends of Centipede – fun fund-raising



Friends of Centipede was launched in 2012 by the Glebe Society to support the ongoing operation of Centipede, an organisation that provides an Outside School Hours Care service for school-aged children on the school grounds of Glebe Public School.

Friends of Centipede commenced under the auspices of the Glebe Society to raise much-needed additional funding for Centipede. Centipede is the before and after school care centre at Glebe Public School that also provides breakfasts and dinner, educational programs and holiday activities. Many of the children come from disadvantaged homes meaning that fees for out of hours school care are beyond their

family's reach. We encourage community members and local businesses to join the Friends of Centipede in our annual fundraising event held in October or November each year at the Glebe Rowing Club.

## Glebe Post Office Rally, 2011

On Sunday 19 December 2010 Glebe rose up in rage as a result of an item in the *Sunday Telegraph* about the intended closure of Glebe Post Office.

On the following Monday, members of The Glebe Society and other residents met to decide on action. The result was to hold a public rally on 20 January 2011 to Save Glebe Post Office. We had unprecedented media coverage. Police from Leichhardt Area Command provided full support. Speakers included the State Member Verity Firth, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, resident Meredith Burgmann, President Glebe Chamber of Commerce, Sofi Lidgren, and Federal Member Tanya Plibersek. The Glebe Society gave wholehearted philosophical and financial support to the campaign. The resolve to get full postal services in Glebe failed. However it was one community campaign that occurred without any opposition. The Glebe community showed its strength in mounting a united, strategic and professional campaign.

### Poster 20

## Wentworth Park Community Games

Wentworth Park has for many years been largely the preserve of greyhound racing. But on 11 May 2008 the thoroughbred hounds were displaced by family mutts competing for the 'Wenty Park Mongrel Cup', and residents old and young from surrounding areas competed in many and varied sports to win the Glebe Ultimo Pymont (GUP) Cup (actually one red and one blue

gumboot mounted on a piece of wood).

Anne Fraser, a member of the Wentworth Park Community Games Day Organising Committee which comprised representatives from Glebe (including the Glebe Society) Forest Lodge, Ultimo and Pymont, explained the event's raison d'être in the *Bulletin* 5, 2007:

*Just like old times - Wentworth Park is going to be the venue for a games afternoon focusing on a fun match of touch football. Glebe will challenge Pymont/ Ultimo to prove we are a sporting suburb worthy of our origins!... There will games for all ages and everyone will have a chance to score for their suburb all afternoon: Tug of war, pétanque and a marathon run around the circumference of the Park to list but a few.*



*There also will be music and food stalls so you can come and relax and watch the fun even if you don't want to get directly involved. The Sporting Complex will be open for all to wander through and there will be displays of the history of the park and a history of the greyhounds at Wentworth Park.*

*The purpose of the event?*

- *To have a fun community get together that includes all surrounding suburbs.*

- *To raise the profile of the park in people's minds (it is a vast underutilised area of open space in our midst), and*
- *to encourage the State Government to invest some money in developing the park for the increasingly populated areas surrounding it, in particular to contribute financially to the replacement of the ugly sporting complex walls by see-through security fencing and restore the architectural integrity to the arches.*

The Games attracted large crowds, particularly dog owners keen for their pets to win the Wenty Park Mongrel Cup. The Games continued until 2012

### Poster 21

## The Mural in Elsie Walk, Glebe

Elsie Walk is the small laneway between Derwent Street and Derwent Lane bordering the Glebe Primary School. The Elsie Walk mural, a project initiated by Glebe Community Action Group, was painted in 2018 by two local artists, Auntie Kath Farrowell and the late Elizabeth Rooney. The Walk and its mural recognise Elsie Women's Refuge, the first refuge set up in Australia in 1974 providing services for women and children escaping a violent home.

The mural honours the establishment of Elsie when a



small group of feisty women seized two vacant houses in Westmoreland Street and converted them into a women's refuge. At each end of the wall are the black and white silhouettes of sheltered mothers and children. In the centre is a brilliantly coloured fantasy space, featuring grass, water, a distant shore and a rainbow of hope.

After the artist died her image was painted into the mural, kneeling as if still in the act of painting, and children from the school and the Rooney family added their child-like flowers. A small ceremony was held at Elsie.

## Poster 22

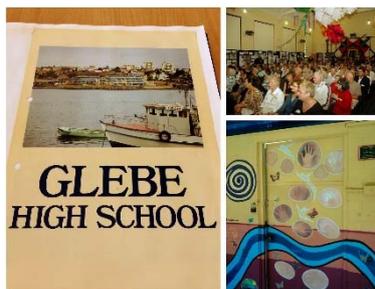
### A High School for Glebe

The Glebe Society successfully campaigned for a high school to be built in Glebe. The Glebe High School was established in 1979, initially housed in demountable classrooms on the industrial waterfront site previously owned by George Hudson. Permanent buildings were built in the early 1980s. It was renamed the Blackwattle Secondary College in 2002 and is now Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle campus.

'In my report last year I expressed the hope that we would still see the industrial slum the Hudson's site replaced by a much-needed high school. We have continued to 'nag' by letter and phone this year, following our media campaign last year, and it does now appear that the Education Department has broken through the bureaucratic toils of the Maritime Services Board and the Valuer-General's Department and that the school is likely to become a reality.' (Jeanette Knox, *Bulletin*, 6, 1977)

In its first year as a high school, 109 students were enrolled, catering only for Year 7. It expanded to provide a full complement of high school education, and since 2005 has

exclusively been a senior campus catering for Years 11 and 12.



### Glebe Public School

The Glebe Society held a 'birthday party' to celebrate Glebe Public School's Sesquicentenary (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary) in 2008.

There was standing room only when past students and friends of the school filled the hall which had been beautifully decorated with Peter Travis's kites. The festivities on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 included an historical display and dramatic re-enactment of events and personalities from the school's past written by Glebe Society member, Lyn Collingwood.

'The school would like to thank The Glebe Society for its generous support of our Sesquicentenary celebrations. We appreciate the good spirit and hard work that went into our special day, it is so gratifying to see the community come together for a common cause.' (Vicki Pogulis, Principal, Glebe Public School, *Bulletin* 10, 2008.)

'We caught up with a few old friends and found a few new ones. It was great to hear the old stories and see the photos...Please thank the presenters for us again, what fun'...(former student who attended the School 50 years ago, *Bulletin* 10, 2008)

A booklet: *Glebe Public School: The Story of a School* was written by Lyn Collingwood and published following the event.

**River Song Mural** at Glebe Public School. The design and theme of the mural was developed by Aunty Elaine Russell – a prominent Aboriginal

artist and member of the Glebe community.

## Poster 23



### Have a chat café at the Old Fire Station

Laurie Murphy who looks after the café once a week, with some attendees

### 'Sewing for good' project

Glebe Society members at the Glebe Town Hall sewing bags for the Asylum Seeker Centre in Newtown.

### Kitchen Starter Pack Project

A completed starter pack, donated by Glebe Society members for a family of four moving from Elsie Refuge to their own accommodation.

### Christmas Gifts for our wider community

Gifts collected at the Glebe Society Christmas Party.

### Nick Hespe (1950 – 2017)

Nick will be remembered as our community's outstanding Neighbourhood Service Centre Manager. In addition to administering all Council resident business, he attended and supported many community action group meetings on a regular basis. Nick understood our community and provided professional assistance to residents.

## Poster 24

### Glebe tram mural project

Lord Mayor Clover Moore attended the mural's unveiling on 8 March 2017.



The Glebe Tram Mural was conceived as a Community Project to commemorate Glebe's transport heritage and complement the preserved tram tracks in Glebe Point Road, to create an artwork for public enjoyment and to engage older local residents in their recollection of stories related to tram use.

The Glebe Society received a generous grant from the City of Sydney to finance the project. People who contributed to the project include muralist Kelly Wallwork, painter Max Solling Jnr, designer Jane Fissenden, project manager Janice Challinor, and older people whose memories were recorded; Sadie King, the late Ruth Russell, Steven Perry, Barbara Brillley, Michael Kelly, Kay White and local historian Max Solling Snr.

The Tram Mural is located at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Hereford Street.

## Poster 25

### Mark - the dog walker and local identity



Mark is well-known for his friendly greeting of locals and strangers alike on the 431 bus, as a dog walker along the Glebe foreshore and as a collector of litter, keeping our streets and parks clean.

## Poster 26

### Candidates meet the electors

The Glebe Society has sponsored 'Meet the Candidates' events as far back as 1987. All members and local residents are invited to hear what their candidates in Local Government, State and Federal elections have to say on



issues of importance to them, and to ask questions.

This is a free, non-partisan community event and, while all nominated candidates are invited, not all accept the invitation!

## Poster 27

### Robyn Kemmis (1943-2015)



As Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillor in the City of Sydney, and a committed member of the Glebe Society, Robyn Kemmis worked strategically and tirelessly for effective outcomes in planning, heritage and community.

A Glebe resident for 35 years, and a feminist, Robyn was passionate about social issues, including Elsie Women's Refuge and the concerns of public housing residents. Robyn also had an important career as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UTS where she was instrumental in setting up the Ultimo education precinct. Her humour, intellect, energy and generous spirit were all the qualities that made Robyn 'special'. In her memory, a park in Franklyn Street was formally named to acknowledge her contribution to the community.

The sudden death of Robyn in December 2015 touched many of us and she will long be remembered for her personal and public contribution to Glebe.

## Poster 28

### Street fair, Glebe Point Road, 2005

The first Glebe Fair was held in November 1984, with assistance of the Glebe Society. Over the years a number of community fairs have been held in Glebe.



By 1984 Glebe Point Road was recognised widely for its range of restaurants. As part of Carnivale, the Multicultural Festival in Sydney, the restaurants in Glebe decided to hold a food fair. They approached the Glebe Society for help with arrangements such as road closures, garbage services, police services etc and several Glebe Society members willingly pitched in to ensure the fair was a success. On the day of the festival The Glebe Society's stall attracted people interested in learning about the history of Glebe.

An estimated 5000 people attended the fair on Saturday, 22 November 1984, which was a perfect spring day. It was the beginning of a series of community fairs held annually in November each year.

The Fair was held each year until a few years ago.

## Poster 29

### Art and About

*Art and About* is an annual City of Sydney Council event showcasing creative and stimulating initiatives involving the city villages and the CBD. The 'Glebe Kite Kaleidoscope' was a Glebe focused *Art and About* project. Peter Travis's kite installations



were a wonderful feature across Glebe. Peter also conducted kite making workshops for families and managed a kite flying day for their art kites to be flown in Bicentennial Park. It was a great celebratory community festival, bringing together the many interest groups of Glebe.

A highly regarded artist internationally, Peter designed the colour scheme for Parliament House, Canberra, famously designed the Speedo budgee smuggler swimming costume and was a significant figure in the pottery and music world.

## Poster 30

### 'Love Your Park' – A collaborative and inspirational artwork!



Decorating the M.J. Dougherty Reserve, on the corner of Mitchell and Wentworth Streets in Glebe, was the objective of an artistic collaboration co-ordinated by community artist Karen Weiss.

Local residents of all ages and cultural backgrounds made clay tiles, then designed, decorated and attached them to the Reserve's concrete walls, creating a work of art for themselves in their own environment. 2010.

## Skippedy Skip

Glebe Public School's front fence was transformed into the colourful public art work *Skippedy Skip* as part of the Sydney City Council's Glebe Point Road Project. Designed by artist Nuha Saad 2009.

## Poster 31

### A music festival in Glebe - every year!

In the late 1960s Margaretta Cottage in Leichhardt Street, Glebe was the home of Dr. Vincent Sheppard, an early member of the Glebe Society, who had built up a



unique collection of keyboard instruments. When he died in 1987 ownership of the cottage and its instruments passed to Dr. David McIntosh, the Festival's founder and Artistic Director.

The inaugural Glebe Music Festival occurred in 1990. The very first 'performance' was a reading of poetry in honour of St Cecilia followed by a musical performance of the Hamburger Sonata by CPE Bach. The underlying philosophy of the Festival, run in conjunction with the Glebe Society, is to bring together local and international musicians at different stages of their careers. Its eclectic programming includes chamber music, opera, dance, jazz, cabaret and burlesque. Concert venues now include the refurbished Glebe Town Hall, St Scholastica's Chapel, Gleebooks, the Record Reign Hall at St John's

Bishopthorpe, and the University of Sydney's Great Hall.

In 2019 the Festival will run from 1 to 24 November. Details at <[www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)>

### Poster 32

## Glass gallery on Glebe Point Road



The Glass Artists' Gallery has been a fixture in Glebe since the late 1980s. Owner Maureen Cahill has brought to Glebe some of the best international and Australian contemporary glass exhibitions

### Poster 33

## Getting down and dirty



Glebe Society's long-standing concerns about the state of our local environment and our bays encouraged members to roll up their sleeves. Our clean up teams have removed dozens of bags of rubbish, scrubbed graffiti, and even removed a large carpet from the mud.

The contribution of Mark Weisser towards a cleaner Glebe was

recognised when, on 19 July 2013 on the foreshore of Rozelle Bay, Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis read a letter from the Lord Mayor thanking Mark and acknowledging his ongoing work clearing our streets and parks of litter.

### Poster 34

## Local kids create a wonderful wall!

The Glebe Community Action Group came up with the concept to paint a mural on a bare wall that bordered the small park on the corner of Mitchell and Glebe Streets, one which creatively reflected the environment of Blackwattle Bay before European settlement.

Ben, a talented graffiti artist with a background in youth work, inspired the local kids' creativity and guided them in the work.

## St Helen's Community Garden

St Helen's Community Garden is open for anyone in the community to join and work together with other members to grow herbs and vegetables in communal pots and share the produce. The aim is to build community cohesion and provide an environmental educational role.

The garden started with a meeting in May 2012 followed by lengthy discussions with Sydney City Council over design and funding.

It applied for and was awarded a matching grant from Council and built the first raised beds in December 2013. The garden now has 80 members of all ages and from diverse backgrounds. The garden was expanded in 2014 and again in 2016 when it was awarded another matching grant.



The garden is an organic garden and uses tank water. It also has 12 compost bins and 10 worm farms. The garden tries to grow its plants from organic seeds, seeds saved and select heritage varieties where possible. It meets every Sunday from 9 to 11 am and harvests from the garden; members share what they collect. Passers-by are encouraged to pick herbs and flowers from a bed beside the path.

Last year the garden was featured on the ABC TV 'Gardening Australia' program. The garden maintains a blog at [sthelensgardeners.wordpress.com](http://sthelensgardeners.wordpress.com)



Photograph: Patricia Baillie

## Naming of Glebe's lanes

**Bernard Lane** (off St John's Road along the back of Broughton Street houses.)

This lane honours the contribution Bernard and his wife Kate made to Glebe as founding members of the Glebe Society. The lane was opened by the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore on 22 September 2013.

The community would have liked to include Kate in the name of the Lane but official place-naming protocols meant this was not feasible. Members of the Smith Family including Bernard and Kate's daughter, Elizabeth Heathcote and their grand-daughters, Kate Challis and Sarah Smith were present.



**Melina Lane** (between St Johns Road and Norton Street.)

Glebe remembers Melina Galluzzo, a well known and loved member of the Glebe community who, with her husband Frank, worked in Galluzzo's Fruiterers for over 50 years. The Galluzzo family was joined by friend the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir and Federal Member for Sydney, Tanya Plibersek at the official opening on 5 May 2013 by Deputy Lord Mayor, Robyn Kemmis.

**Elsie Walk** (the short path along the western boundary of Glebe Public School).

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, officially opened Elsie Walk on 28 May 2012 to honour the establishment in 1974 of Australia's first women's refuge. The events leading up to the

founding of Elsie Women's Refuge are documented in Anne Summers' autobiography, *Ducks on the Pond* (1999). Anne Summers was one of the founding members of Elsie Refuge.

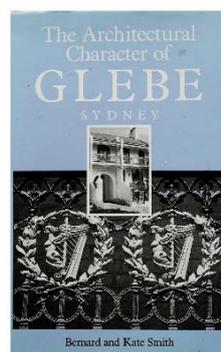
**Dave Sands Lane** (between Denman Lane and Mitchell Lane West behind Philip Street).

Dave Sands Lane was officially opened by Robyn Kemmis, Deputy Lord Mayor, on 26 July 2015 to acknowledge Dave Sands' significant contribution to the Glebe community and his achievements as a successful Aboriginal boxer.

Dave Sands was the first Australian boxer to achieve success overseas, returning from the United Kingdom in 1949 with the Middleweight Championship of the British Empire. He spent considerable time in Glebe, training at the Golden Gloves Gym (Lamings Gymnasium) then at the back of a property in Westmoreland Street. Lamings gym was later to move to the building that is now the home of Gleebooks. A plaque honoring Dave Sands as 'a Great Australian and Gentleman, One of Nature's Greatest' is near the Jubilee Fountain on the corner of Glebe Point and Parramatta Roads. He was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame in 1998. Dave's three children attended.

## The Architectural Character of Glebe

This iconic record of Glebe's architectural heritage by Kate and Bernard Smith was published in 1973 and reprinted in 1989.



## Recollecting the past



### Grandeur and Grit: A History of Glebe

The Lord Mayor Cr Clover Moore launched Max Solling's book at the Glebe Library in October 2007.

### Birthplace of Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister

Barton plaque, University Footbridge, 21 March 2009. Eva Rodriguez Riestra, Public Art Program Manager, City of Sydney, Liz Simpson-Booker, Glebe Society, and the Lord Mayor Cr Clover Moore, at the unveiling.

There was no street, park or public place in Glebe which recognised that Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister, was born in Glebe. The Glebe Society campaigned for nearly a decade to rectify this. The bronze Barton plaque was formally unveiled on the Sydney University side of the Parramatta Road footbridge and was finally installed on one of the pillars of the palisade fence on the Arundel Street (Glebe) side of the footbridge. The choice of the site acknowledged Edmund Barton's birth in Glebe on 18 January 1849 as well as his connections with Sydney University (as a student and later as a member of Senate).

### Past Presidents and friends

Photograph taken at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glebe Society at *Margaretta Cottage*, June 2019.

From left to right: Andrew Wood, Neil Macindoe, Mavis McCarthy, Bruce Davis, Robert Armstrong, Jeanette Knox, John Buckingham, Jim Coombs, Edwina Doe, Andrew Craig, Jan Macindoe, Tom Uren,

Jack Munday, Albert Mispel, Peter Strickland, Albert Renshaw.

### Cover of Glebe Point Road Main Street Study stage 2 1991

Glebe Point Road is of great historical and architectural importance as a largely intact example of a nineteenth century Australian suburban main road. The Glebe Society was an active participant in the Glebe Point Road Main Street Studies. The completion of stage 2 of the Study provided a leap forward in the identification of the heritage items in Glebe Point Road and proposals to retain its essential character and significance. Many of the buildings in Glebe Point Road were photographed.

Briefing on Glebe Point Road for consultants undertaking the Stage 2 Project:

'The Glebe Point Road study is a joint project of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and the Glebe Society. The aims of the project include enhancing the amenity and attractiveness of the GPR for residents, visitors and business.

'Glebe Point Road survives as one of Sydney's most intact 19<sup>th</sup> century townscapes with the existence of early 1860s commercial and residential development so close to the City. It contains good examples of Victorian row shops and a wide variety of attached and detached housing, some of a very early date. In addition, a number of public and ecclesiastical buildings by distinguished architects also survive. The street is characterised by mature street trees and private garden planting which provide a green and attractive environment. It is a thriving centre for residents, visitors and tourists and is well known as a vibrant, varied and stimulating commercial centre with restaurants, specialty shops and other facilities.'

Objectives for the study are related to conserving and enhancing the identified character and heritage items of Glebe Point Road; providing a clear Statement of

Cultural Significance of Glebe Point Road; providing guidance for restoration of existing heritage buildings and new development; and providing a list of significant buildings and items for inclusion in a Heritage Schedule; as well as outlining broad principles for streetscape improvement works.

The report of the Main Road Study can be found at [www.glebesociety.org.au/heritage/protection-of-heritage/](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/heritage/protection-of-heritage/) Scroll down to Glebe Point Road Main Street Study Two Vol 2.

In 2018, Ted McKeown and Lindsay Foyle took new photos of the same properties photographed in 1991. Peter Thorogood also took some additional photos to match the 1991 photos. He used these pairs of photos to create online comparison sliders which allow viewers to compare how these properties have changed in the intervening 27 years.

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/about-glebe/history-heritage/glebe-point-road-now-then/>

### Recording our History

Interested in finding out more about Glebe's history and the Glebe Society? Our many resources include:

- The Glebe Society's comprehensive website – [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au)
- Our Glebe Island Bridge website - <http://glebeislandbridge.com>
- Glebewalks <https://glebewalks.com.au>
- Glebe Society *Bulletins* which are searchable via our website
- The Glebe Society archives
- *Historic Glebe*, published by the Glebe Society 1988, revised 1998.
- *Celebrating Conservation and Change in Glebe: 40 years of the Glebe Society*, and
- a new publication for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to be available later in 2019.

- The photographs in the Bernard Smith collection, held in Glebe Library.
- Glebe Voices, a regular series of talks by eminent Glebe people.

### Poster 38

## Glebe Point Road: the good, the bad and the vacant!



*Time for a new Glebe Point Road project?*

### Poster 39

## Commemorative Ceremonies

Each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day the Glebe Society is involved in a commemorative ceremony to honour our servicemen and women. The largest-ever crowd attended the Anzac Day service at the Diggers Memorial in Foley



Park on the centenary of the Anzac Day Landing, 25 April 2015. For the Anzac Day Service in 2018, red poppies, knitted or crocheted, one for each Glebe resident who served in WWI, were placed on the iron fence.

For many years Max Solling has delivered an address reminding us of the men and women from Glebe who served their country in the World Wars.

Leading up to the Anzac Centenary Commemoration a Lone Pine donated by The Glebe Society was planted at Foley Park and one was also planted at the University of Sydney. These were grown from seeds collected from the lone pine at the Australian War Memorial which, in turn, was grown from seed collected from a pine cone taken from Gallipoli in 1915. These plantings will serve as an ongoing reminder of lives tragically lost.

The Society's involvement in the Anzac Centenary did not end on Anzac Day. The Society held an exhibition in 2015, *Sacrifice, Struggle and Sorrow: Glebe's Great War 1914-1918* in the Glebe Town Hall. This exhibition focussed on the experience of the Glebe men and women who served during World War One and the immediate aftermath of the war on the Glebe Community.

## We campaigned to bring our 'Digger' home

The RSL joined forces with the Glebe Society to mount a campaign to return the statue of the WWI 'digger' to its original home at the Tramsheds, where it had stood from 1916 until 1958. When the tram depot closed and its services were replaced by the Leichhardt Bus Depot, the digger statue, too, was moved to the bus depot.

This statue was the result of a fund-raising campaign held amongst the tram depot workers. It was so successful that there were sufficient funds for a sculptor to create an iconic soldier monument. On Sunday 26 November 1916 about 1,000 gathered to witness the unveiling of this statue erected to honour the memory of the tram depot 'boys' who had fallen at Gallipoli and the Western Front during the first years of WWI. The statue of a digger was set on a white plinth containing the names of 34 men who had died serving their country.

We are proud of 'our' digger and grateful to the City of Sydney for restoring both the digger and plinth in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WWI. A service of rededication was held in November 2018 to mark its return to its original home at the Tramsheds.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  
LEST WE FORGET**

### Poster 40

## Temple and Churches Walk



Visit by Glebe Society members to Sze Yup Temple, St Scholastica's Convent chapel, St James Catholic Church and St Johns Glebe, March 2010.

This walk will be repeated during the festival.

## All aboard the *Waratah*

Glebe Society members enjoyed a trip on *Waratah* tug refurbished by Heritage Fleet volunteers, Sunday 31 October 2010. The convenor of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition, John Brooks, provided the commentary. The wind was strong but the weather held fine!

### Poster 41

## Visits to art galleries and local artisans

Book binders David Newbold and Terry Collins at Newbold and Collins, formerly located in Glebe.

Glebe Society member Lydia Bushell admires the craftsmanship of book binder, David Newbold, 2010.

Glebe Society members gather around the life-size clay models of

members of the Inner City Clay Workers Gallery in St John's Road, 2011.

## Glebe Walks



Explore the heritage suburb of Glebe on foot, with a self-guided walk on your smart phone or tablet. You will find links to Google Maps, photos to illustrate each stop and a short commentary on the stories behind our streets, parks, houses and public buildings. See [glebewalks.com.au](http://glebewalks.com.au)

Each walk covers a different aspect of Glebe's rich history and heritage, and takes you on routes only a local would know. You are invited to explore the work of early architects, our waterfront with its long history of change, colourful characters from our past, unexpected small parks, late Victorian streetscapes and the geology that underlies it all. There is even an excursion into the early sections of Sydney University.

The walks were developed by long term Glebe residents and Society members, Neil and Jan Macindoe and Liz Simpson-Booker.

### Poster 42

## Glebe locals enthral their audiences

At Yuga Florists and Café, Setsuko Yanagisawa demonstrates the principles of cut flower care and arrangement during the Glebe Society Art Galleries Walking Tour in November 2011.



David Gaunt, co-owner and founder with Roger Mackell of Gleebooks, explains the challenges and joys of bookshop ownership, at a Glebe Society New Members night, 2011.

**Poster 43**

**Social activities**

Photographs clockwise from top left:



Robyn Kemmis, John Dengate, Jack Munday and Lesley Lynch at the Society's 40th party.

An 'antique road show' event at The Retreat, Leichhardt Street, Glebe, November 2007.

Christmas Party, St Scholastica's Convent, Toxteth House, 2011.

The Glebe Society's 40th anniversary party at the Woolcock Institute, Glebe, June 2009.

The Glebe Society organises a number of social and information events including the annual Christmas Party, open houses,

walks and talks and practical workshops on such topics as using a mobile phone, and renovating your heritage house.

Two of the most popular are the monthly Thirsty Thursday dinners at local restaurants, and Glebe Voices.

Initiated in 2012, Glebe Voices is a well-attended series of three to four talks a year designed for the membership of the Glebe Society but also advertised to the Glebe community. The talks provide an opportunity for the Glebe Society to involve a wider audience.

These events are free; the only criterion is that there should be some involvement with Glebe – either the speaker or the topic. Topics range from early music and instruments to artificial intelligence to mangrove trees in Blackwattle Bay. Guest speakers receive no payment, and we are hosted by local cafes and restaurants who provide their facilities free-of-charge, for which we are very grateful

**Welcome to Glebe**

**Poster 44**



A collection of photographs of local people taken as part of the *Welcome to Glebe* project.

'We thought we were doing a portrait of Glebe, but over the last seven years we came to realise, we're really doing a portrait of the community.' Tom Psomotragos.

Photographs by Tom Psomotragos and Eulalie Moore