



# Glebe's Children

*A Short History with pictures and primary sources*

Childhood. It's a time of beauty and innocence. It's a time to play, learn, develop, & explore.

But not every child has the opportunity to enjoy their childhood as they should.

The suburb of Glebe has played a large part in the individual narratives of thousands of children. Just some of them are presented here.

Childhood is experienced differently by everyone but the place you spent time in as a child in will always leave its mark.

Likewise, children are the lifeblood of a community. These children and their stories are crucial to the history of Glebe.



Figure 1. Glebe Point Road. Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales.



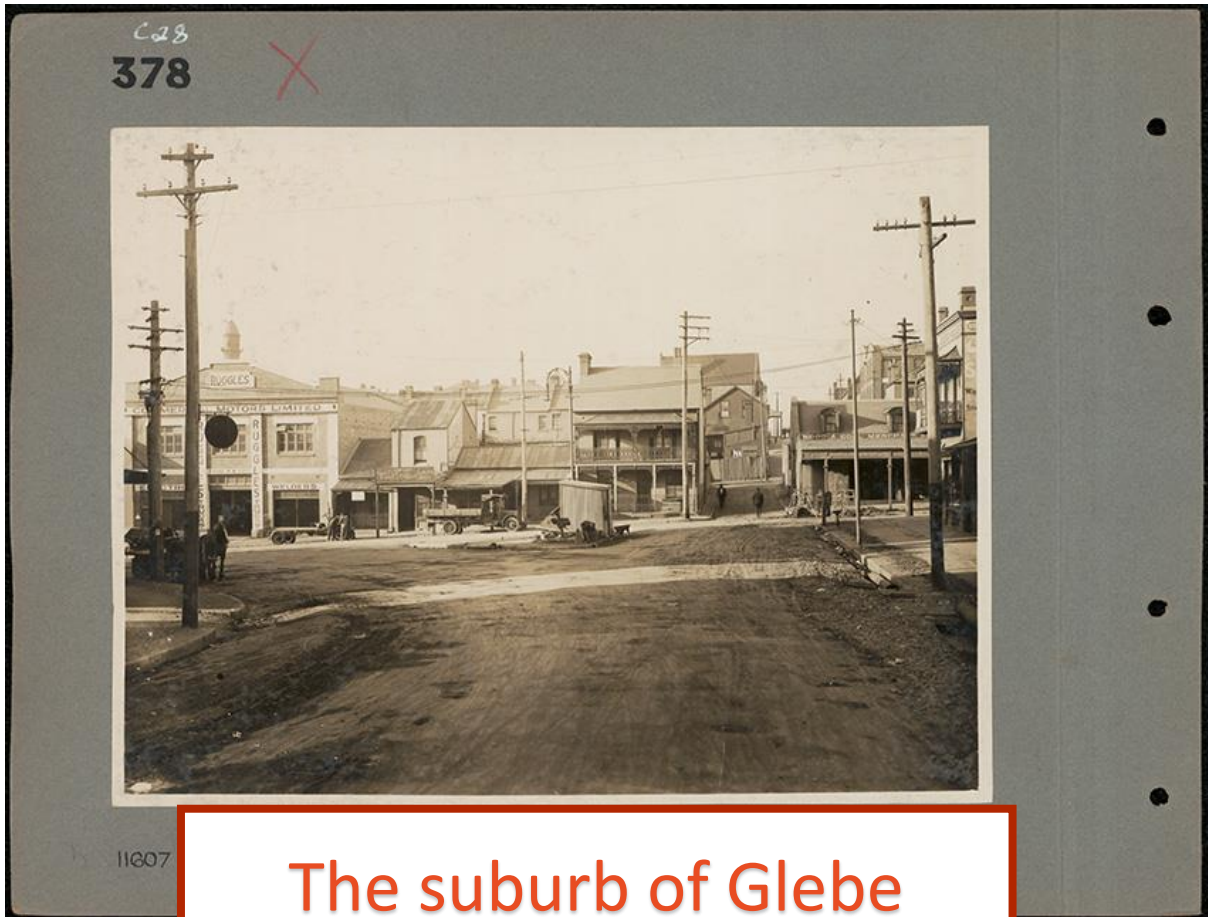


Figure 2: Glebe c. 1920s (Courtesy of State Archives)

## The suburb of Glebe

Glebe is an inner western suburb of Glebe. In the early colonial years Glebe was born with the grant of land to clergy and was expanded in the 1820s with free land grants (1).

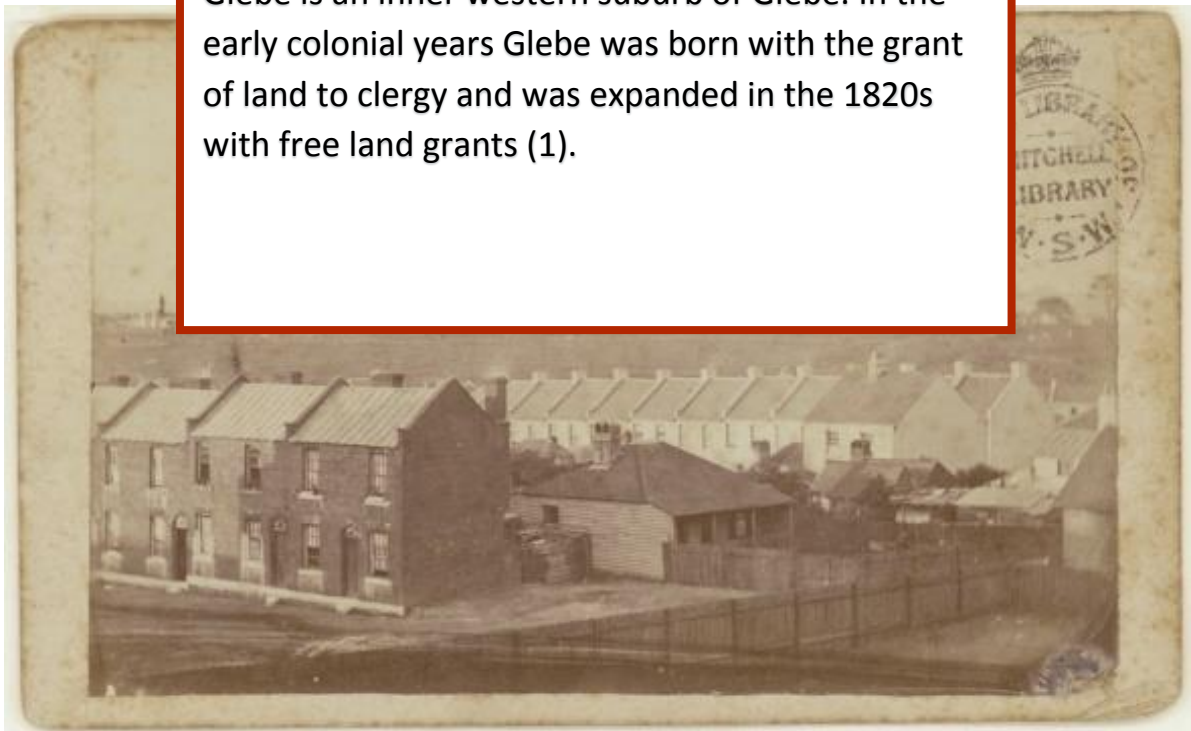


Figure 3: The Glebe (Courtesy of The State Library NSW)

***PART 1:***  
***GLEBE'S SCHOOL CHILDREN***

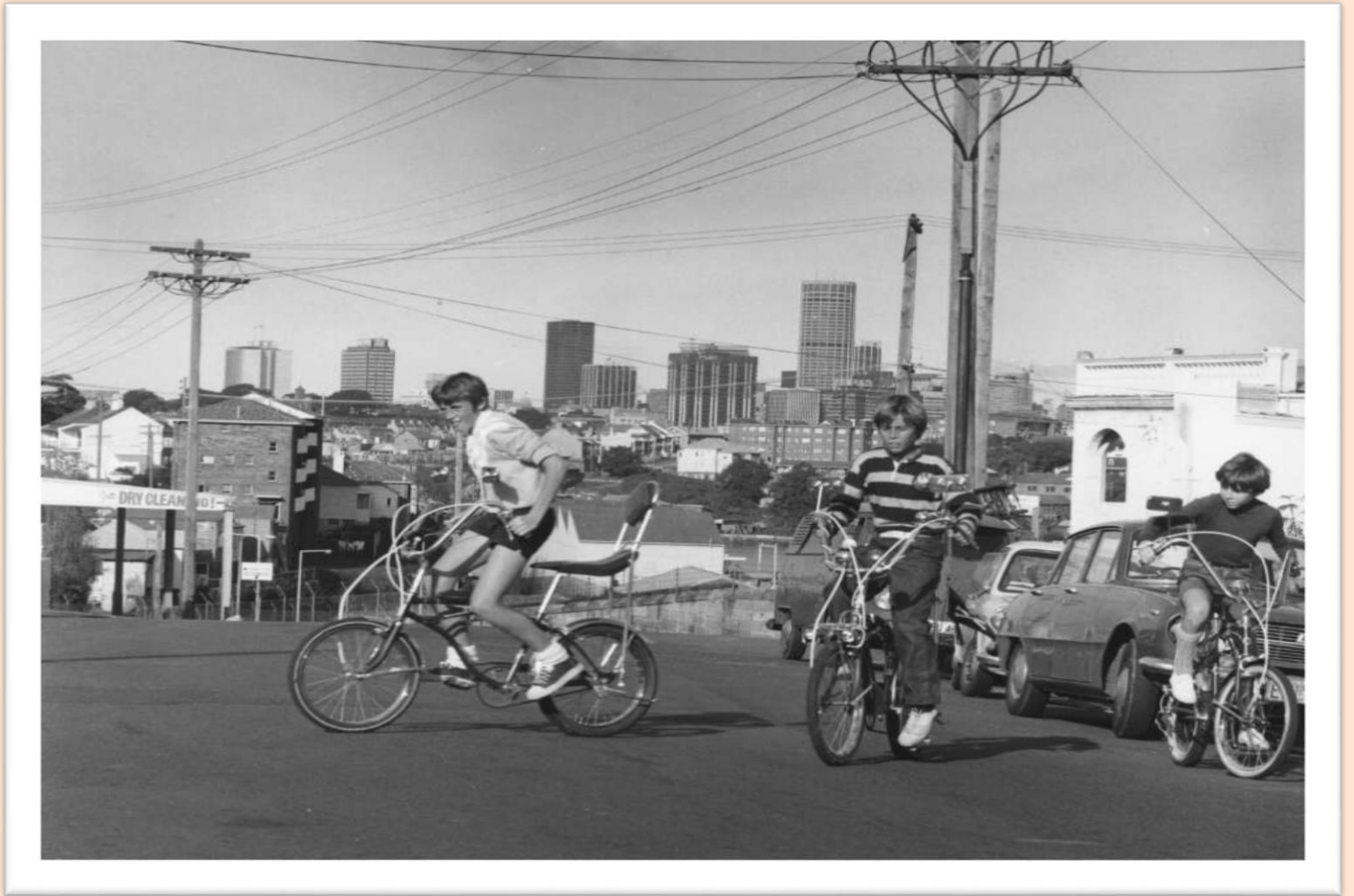


Figure 4: Boy's on bikes (Courtesy of the National Library of Australia)

## THE GLEBE RAGGED SCHOOL

In 1861 the population of Glebe was 3,712, by 1901 it had jumped dramatically to 19, 220. This was partly due to the existence of the Glebe ragged school, a school where the poorest of the poor could send their children for basic numeric, literary and religious instruction.

The Glebe Ragged School opened on the corner of Bay Street and Glebe Street in 1862, the third of such schools in Sydney. These children were often quite literally dressed in rags, and therefore were not accepted at the public school (2). The Ragged School system was born in England, and was based on a philosophy of Christian outreach.

The children were instructed in reading, writing, cyphering, singing and evening classes. They were also encouraged to attend religious services and activities. In addition, some children were provided with industrial work such as manufacturing, sewing and plaiting.<sup>1</sup> Harsh corporal punishment was not often used in the school, for the reason that:

We know that to flog would be useless in as much as some of the children had been accustomed to be stripped naked and beaten with weapons which we could not use, and with a vigour which far exceeded our disposition or ability.(3)

The ragged school movement was progressive at the time as it was based on changing and helping families within their current situation rather than simply removing the children from their parents. (4) Volunteers within the Ragged school movement conducted home reports and often found the children were living in circumstances of extreme poverty, violence, and neglect.

With the growth of other schools in the area, particularly the Public School, the ragged school population declined but did not close its doors until 1927.

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*Let us join hand and heart in noble work of teaching those sunk in **the animal life**, the brighter hopes which await them: Let us show them that there is a happiness of which they have as yet formed no idea but which once felt is not forgotten and when they have come to the knowledge and felt happiness we may safely **leave them to their instincts** to pursue it.(5)*

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In New South Wales prior to the 1860s the education was not widespread, and tended to be confined to the home. In Glebe some private tutors and small academies were in existence, but were obviously reserved for the more wealthy inhabitants of the suburb (6). In 1880 the NSW Government passed The Public Instruction Act in which the State assumed full responsibility for primary education “without sectarian or class distinction.” (7) This Act provided significant funds to help establish public schools around the State, as well as making education mandatory for all children (in theory).

### *St John's Bishopthorpe School*

The Anglican Church of St John's established a school on their parish grounds on Glebe Point Road in 1857. The new school building was built entirely from funds raised from parishioners.

The School originally had 112 children enrolled, and provided accommodation for 100. Most of the students paid fees but 4 were classified as 'paupers' (8).

By 1880 the school was struggling to stay open, due to the growth of Glebe Public School and the opening of nearby Forest Lodge Primary. The School struggled on for another thirty years by charging six pence fees and finally closed its doors in June 1915.



Figure 5: St John's School House (Courtesy of the State Library of New South



# Glebe Public School

DESIGN FOR A NATIONAL SCHOOL HOUSE AT THE C

*The ...  
signed*

With the growth of the suburb, there soon emerged a need to build a speciality school house that could accommodate more children. Planning for The style of the new national school was to be gothic and have a capacity for 250 children (9).

The Glebe Public School opened in its official capacity on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1862 with an enrolment of 55 girls and 61 boys. Originally the curriculum was very narrow, focusing on basic reading and writing, and attendance was very sparse. Five years later, in 1867, the school had enrolled 165 boys and 145 girls (10). The students' knowledge had improved with the curriculum now broadened to subjects such as algebra and Latin.

Enrolments continued to grow steadily throughout the years. This led to the establishment of the Girls Department in 1881 which separated the girls from the boys in another building (classes were not again mixed until the 1960s). At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Glebe was becoming very overcrowded which meant that class sizes were unmanageably large. This problem was exacerbated by the First World War which created a shortage in teachers.

Absenteeism continued to be a problem at the Public school. Many children would skip school but it was also common for parents to keep children at home to help with chores or looking after children. For example, one mother was permitted to withdraw her eldest daughter to help care for her seven siblings, including a brother aged four, "his back growing out, at times he was quite an invalid." (11)

FRONT ELEVATION .

The public school also sought to improve the health of its pupils. In 1922 milk companies began supplying milk to Sydney's poorer schools. The milk was not refrigerated so the children would often drink warm milk in the play yard.

The School also provided extracurricular activities for the children. Swimming excursions to Clovelly Beach were very popular in the early 1990s. Glebe also had a number of sporting teams, particularly excelling in Rugby.



## GLEBE PUBLIC: SCHOOL PICTURES



Figure 6: Glebe Public School c. 1930s (Courtesy of the State Records Authority, NSW)



Figure 7: Glebe Public School 1919 (Courtesy of the State Records Authority, NSW)





Figure 8: Glebe Public School 1939 (Courtesy of the State Records Authority, NSW)





Figure 9: Glebe Public School 1929 (Courtesy of State Record Authority NSW)



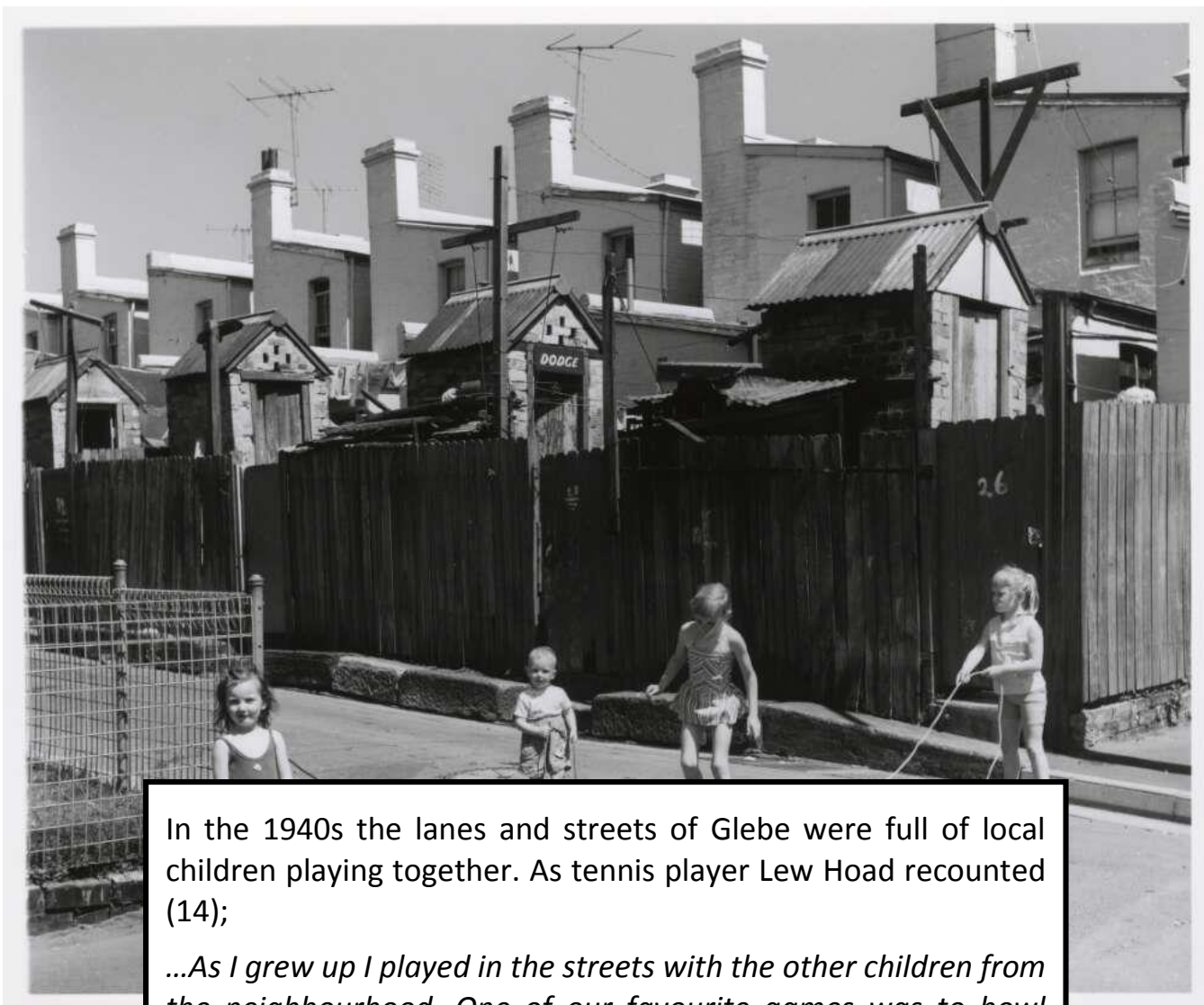
Figure 10: Glebe Public School, 1940 (courtesy of State Records Authority NSW)



## Playing in Glebe

Up until the 1920s there were paddocks for kids to play in.<sup>1</sup> Rapid development soon meant that children had to find more inventive ways to play in the streets and lanes of the suburb. There remained a number of parks and the tennis courts were extremely popular (12).

In 1910 the Glebe Picture Show opened at 84 Glebe Road which became a favourite past time for the children of Glebe (13).



In the 1940s the lanes and streets of Glebe were full of local children playing together. As tennis player Lew Hoad recounted (14);

*...As I grew up I played in the streets with the other children from the neighbourhood. One of our favourite games was to bowl motor tyres down the narrow lane at the back between our house and the tennis courts. We put my brother Kelly inside a tyre, bunched up like a circus acrobat, and bowled him down the lane.*

Figure 11: "Children at Play" Raymond de Berquelle, NLA

## **WILD KIDS**

### **THE REMINISCENCE OF JACK STUTSELL**

*I can remember scaling home from Glebe Junior Technical School and we all did this... I jumped off at Blackall's the Chemist on the corner of Booth and Johnson Streets and got grabbed by a chap who turned out to be an inspector for the Transport Department... anyway they got me down the Police Station and I had to appear at the Children's Court for Scaling the trams, and I got 12 months good behaviour good behaviour bond. But everybody did things like this... The local policeman used to kick me in the a\*se, whether I did anything or not.*

- In Alan Roberts "Growing Up" 1982

***PART TWO:***  
***GLEBE'S LOST CHILDREN***



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*The second narrative of childhood in Glebe is a very dark and distressing one. Glebe was home to two of the three metropolitan care homes for children from the 1920s to the 1980s. Within these homes the childhoods of many were irrevocably damaged through neglect, abuse and emotional torment.*

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# Child Welfare policy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century hundreds of thousands of Australian children experienced institutional care. Children were placed in care for a number of reasons; by admission by parents, becoming orphaned, family poverty or being made a ward of the state (15).

In 2004, the Australian Government wrote a Report into the experience of children who grew up in institutional care. The stories that came out of this report were tragic – revealing a multitude of experiences of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. But many children also suffered from neglect, deprivation of healthcare, education and food as well as issues associated with separation from family members and lack of love and affection (16).

Glebe plays a large part in this sad story. For its played host to many of the children who grew up in care, either for a short period, for a while or on multiple occasions. On a child's admission to the care of the Minister, by one of both parents, they were placed in a receiving depot such as Bidura and Royleston.

Bidura Children's Home located at 357 Glebe Point Road was mostly for girls and very young children. Royleston Boys Home was located at 270 Glebe Point Road for boys over the age of seven.

Once admitted to one of these institutions, the child had a medical examination and was observed by staff and interviewed by a placement officer (18). Bidura and Royleston were known as 'depots' as children would frequently be placed in one of these institutions before being relocated. According to a commissioned report into child welfare in the 1950s:

*Many children who come under the care of the Department are unsuitable for immediate foster home placement. Some are lacking in rudimentary home training; these unfortunate victims of neglect on the parts of the parents show behaviour problems born of insecurity. Many are found to*

**“WE CAN DEGRADE PEOPLE BY CARING FOR THEM; AND WE CAN DEGRADE THEM BY NOT CARING FROM THEM; AND IN MATTERS SUCH AS THESE, THERE ARE NEITHER SIMPLE ANSWERS NOR SIMPLE SOLUTIONS...  
DEPENDANTS, PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE DEPENDENT AND OFTEN UNABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES, DESERVE MORE THAN OTHERS TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF OUR BENEVOLENCE AND THE INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SOCIAL GOOD WILL.” (17)**

*be suffering from malnutrition and in need of extensive medical and nursing treatment. After a period of adjustive training or treatment in a departmental establishment, these children usually become suitable for boarding out (19).*

## **Public Opinion**

It may be assumed that there was a degree of public criticism on the expenditure of the Department on Homes for dependent Children. As Donald Mclean wrote in his report:

*“these children have never been used to such a standard of living” say the critics, “and they can’t appreciate it.”*

*Behind this policy [of provision of clothes, music etc.] is the belief that every child is entitles to opportunities to live a full life towards which good parents’ guide their children. To achieve such a life the child must develop standards of moral values, standards of home life and standards of social conduct. (20)*

In line with these sentiments, Bidura and Royleston are described in terms of comfort. Bidura has “green lawns and playground equipment for outdoor recreation.. [and a] bright school-room...” And similarly Royleston is an “attractive old house [that] has many interesting features, including a huge Swedish green-tiled stove, beautiful inlaid floors, and a ballroom, which is now the boys’ dining room.” (21)



# Bush Lean-to Home For Mother, Four Children

Four young children huddled under a canvas lean-to in dense bush were found by police with flashlights at Middle Creek, North Narrabeen, early yesterday morning.

Twin girls of nine months were in a small push-cart, to which a dog was tied. One twin had a swelling on her head caused by a tick.

A boy of five and a girl of two were asleep on the ground, under bags and old clothes. The boy, when awakened, said he had been "looking after his baby sisters."

The children's shelter, a strip of canvas draped over bushes, was found after Sergeant Searl, Detective Ballerum and Senior Constable Adams, of Narrabeen, had waited in the bush to intercept a man wanted on several charges.

The man and a woman came along a bush track. The man ran into the bush and disappeared. The woman said she was living with her four children in a tent hidden off the track.

The woman and the children were arrested and taken to the Narrabeen police station, where the police warmed milk for the twins, and gave a meal to the two other children and their mother.

The mother said she and her family had been forced to vacate rooms they had rented in the Narrabeen district.

"Only the rich can get homes now," she asserted.

The twins were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, where the tick was removed. A doctor

at Vincent's Hospital, where the tick was removed. A doctor told the police that while the children were slightly undernourished, they were not suffering from malnutrition.

The nurses at the hospital were so taken by the twins that they said they would like to adopt them.

Yesterday at the Children's Court the mother was charged with having failed to provide adequate nursing, medical aid, and shelter for the children. She was admonished and discharged.

The children were committed to the care of the Child Welfare Department. The twins were taken to the Myee Children's Home at Rockdale. The boy and the other girl were sent to the Bidura Children's Home at Glebe.

The woman, who is 26, returned after the court proceedings to the lean-to in the bush to collect her belongings. She said she would make further efforts to get a home.

Police have not seen the man since he vanished in the scrub.

This article is an example of a child's admission into state care through neglect of parents. The article notes how the siblings are separated: "The twins were taken to the Myee Children's Home at Rockdale. The boy and other girl were sent to the Bidura Children's Home at Glebe. This kind of separation of children was common, and caused much distress of children at the time as well as damaging relationships for life.

## Boarding Out or Institutional Care?

Welfare Policy tended to fluctuate between the two options of boarding out (institutional care or fostering) and institutional care for most of the twentieth century.

In the early years of the colony, the most common welfare option for orphaned or neglected children was care in a religious institution. However a commission launched in 1873 came out scathing of institutional care – noting the violence and coldness that existed in many institutions. (22) Therefore a shift towards fostering occurred in the later half of the Nineteenth century.

In the 1930s state children once again began to primarily be housed in institutions, due to a lack of foster families. It was not until the 1960s was attention given to considering children's needs and the effects of institutional care. In the 1970s and 1980s many of the child welfare homes were finally closed.

### Increasing Adoptions in New South Wales From Institutions' Care to Happy Home Life

**THAT every foundling, orphan, neglected or unwanted child — "nobody's children" — shall have all the benefits of a normally happy home, with the maximum chance of success in the future, is the object of the Child Welfare Department, under whose supervision 1,112 children were adopted during the year ended June 30.**

**Of these, 12 entered homes in which the income was more than £1,000 a year, 40 went to homes of the £500 to £1,000 a year category, and 1,060 found "parents" who earned under £500 a year, but whose income was considerably above the basic wage.**

**T**HE story of the Child Welfare Department is little known. Little is heard of its work, of the humanitarian principles to which its unceasing efforts are devoted, or of the life tragedies which are contained in its secret files.

Here is no prosaic Government department, with the red tape of officialdom. On the contrary, here is a story of human life, of new hope, new opportunity for the child who, because of the circumstances of its birth, babyhood, or early childhood, would so few years ago have been destined to spend its life almost as an outcast.

Here, too, is the story of the love of childhood that has prompted so many people in this State to open their homes to a "son" or "daughter" and to bestow upon the adopted child the same affection and material advantages that normally would be endowed upon children of their own.

In fact, in many cases the adopted child shares a home in which there are already children, statistics showing that almost 45 per cent. of adopted children go to homes where there is already one child or more. In one-child homes they seem to be particularly welcome as companions for the often lonely only child.

panions for the often lonely only child.

Since 1925, when the adoption system was instituted by the department, 4,172 out of the 9,611 children adopted went to homes where there was already one child.

To-day many adopted children, happily unaware of the circumstances in which they became members of their "parents'" households, are facing life with all the advantages that in the past would have been denied them.

It is interesting to look back into the past and to compare present-day conditions.

#### PERFECTION OF INFANCY

**W**HEN the Italian sculptor Andrea della Robbia was commissioned to decorate the foundling hospital in Florence he designed a series of medallions which the world has long taken to its heart. These exquisite little figures in their white swaddling clothes against blue backgrounds have been reproduced in countless numbers, for they are more than works of art. They are symbols. They tell the story that "nobody's child" comes into life with all the perfection of infancy, and that, although unwanted, is no less beautiful than one born to a heritage of luxury. The world has been slow to learn this lesson, and it required the mighty pen of a

This article came at a time where adoption was seen to be the ideal outcome, however it also meant many children who could not be adopted were left in institutional care. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 August 1939, p. 12)



## *Royleston Boy's Home*

Royleston is located at 270 Glebe Point Road. Between the years of 1921 and 1983 it served as a care home (or 'depot') for children placed into state care. There are a variety of names attributed to the Home including Roylestone Home for wayward and abandoned Boys, Roylston Home for Crippled Children, and Royalston (23).

Most boys who went through the child welfare system in New South Wales would have spent at least some time at Royleston. It also housed boys who were awaiting hearings at the Metropolitan Children's Court.



Figure 12: Royleston (Courtesy of Dictionary of Sydney)



## *Child Welfare Department Report, 1934:*

“Royleston” is situated on land owned by the Crown at 270 Glebe-Road, Glebe, and is used to accommodate male foster children admitted to State Control.

This also is an old building which was purchased by the Department. It is much better suited to its purpose than is “Bidura” – especially as it is only intended as a temporary residence for wards. It suffers in comparison with non-Governmental homes built to accommodate a problem as described elsewhere (Part XI (A)).

Four of the rooms, and a back balcony, are used as dormitories by the inmates – with accommodation for 46 wards. It has on occasion contained 59 wards, a number of whom had to sleep on the shakedown on the floor. (24)

### *First Impressions: Michael Davey*

*Royleston was a gloomy and depressing place. It had a cold and sterile aspect to it that was overwhelming. This was related to the autocratic and disciplined environment that was a natural part of childcare in government institutions at the time. Nevertheless, in places such as Royleston it was as if we were unwanted misfits in a society where almost anyone could take advantage of us if they wanted to. Clearly, this setting attracted a particular type of adult who knew what they were looking for.*

*The property of Royleston occupied an area that was approximately 20 metres wide and 60 meters deep. It had a small playground down from the main building and on the northern side it was lined with a high corrugated iron fence. It was impossible to see through or over it and at times it felt as if we were in prison... (25)*

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## *Ronald Arthur's Story*

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Ronald Arthur was eight years old in 1938 when he first step foot in Royleston Boys Home. He recounts that he was one of fourteen boys staying at the home, all of whom were aged fourteen and below.

He describes Royleston as prison-like. It had a large 12 foot fence with barbed wire and big gates.

During his time at the Home he remembers wearing an old pair of shorts and a shirt but no shoes. He was only given shoes to wear when they went to church.

*“ Royleston was a place where they watch you have a shower. If you peed in the shower you got the strap. And it was only cold water, not hot water. So we used to cop it every day. Because it's natural you know, when cold water hits your body....It was a cruel place....” (26)*

As Ronald suggested, going to Church on Sunday was perhaps the only time the children were allowed to leave the Home. As Michael Davey recounts:

*On Sundays we were allowed out of Royleston to go to a church, just up Glebe Point Road. I was always excited at the prospect. We were marched up in pairs and interestingly, the girls who had been placed in Bidura Children's Home also marched in pairs to Church, but on the other side of the road.*

*When church was finished we were offered drinks and scones, which were made by some caring old ladies. I used to sit excitedly in the pews not paying attention to anything except how good the morning tea would taste. This was because Royleston never had any decent food. It always lacked real taste. The scones and jam at church were food fit for a king!  
(27)*

## Youths Wreck Schoolroom

SYDNEY, November 18. - Police early today arrested three youths at gunpoint in a debris-strewn classroom of a Glebe (Sydney) public school. They said it was one of the most destructive orgies of vandalism on record.

The youths, two aged 15 and the other 16, were escapees from the Royleston Boys' Home, Glebe.

They were hauled from behind desks, where they were found cowering, in one of the littered classrooms.

The police found a battered nearly new £150 tape recorder, three wrecked radio sets, destroyed school records, valuable paintings wrenched from the walls, smashed window glass, torn books strewn on the floors, the school piano minus its lid and with the hammers ripped from their sockets, and ink-spattered classroom walls.

### ESCAPEES ARRESTED.

The three youths who arrived in town some three weeks ago, stating that they were in search of work, were found to be escapees from the Royleston Home for Boys at Glebe. They were subsequently arrested by the Merriwa and Willow Tree police and returned to the institution.

Articles such as those above demonstrate some of the negative attitudes the community had towards children in care homes, particularly the boys. It was common for language of imprisonment to be used when describing care children ("escapees" and "inmates" are examples.)

It is particularly shocking that the boys found vandalising Glebe Public were arrested *at gunpoint!*

The other article shows the inability boys had to leave state care once admitted, even to find work on their own terms.

## *Bidura*



Figure 13: Bidura House (Courtesy of City of Sydney)

Bidura House is located at 357 Glebe Point Road. The Government purchased the building in 1920 to become a Depot for State Wards. Bidura primarily housed girls as well as boys under the age of six. Older boys down the road to Royleston. This meant that families were often separated, and although located close geographically, there were not many opportunities for the boys and girls to spend time together. (28)



## *Child Welfare Department Report, 1934:*

“ This home is situated on land owned by the crown at 357 Glebe-Road, Glebe, and is used to accommodate young male and female foster children admitted (or committed) to State control.

It is an old house, which was purchased by the Department. It is quite unsuitable for its present purpose – it demands unnecessary work for the adequate return and supervision is difficult.

... The inmates sleep in five rooms, and on an open air balcony – the maximum bedding accommodation being fifty-one; the house is often over-full, at times accommodating sixty when children have had to sleep on the floor.

...Complaint has also been made that the school accommodation is inadequate and that a governess, employed by the department, attends only half a day. This criticism puzzles me. Why should a governess be employed at all? Why should school accommodation be provided in the home? Why cannot this class of child attend the ordinary public school?”  
(29)

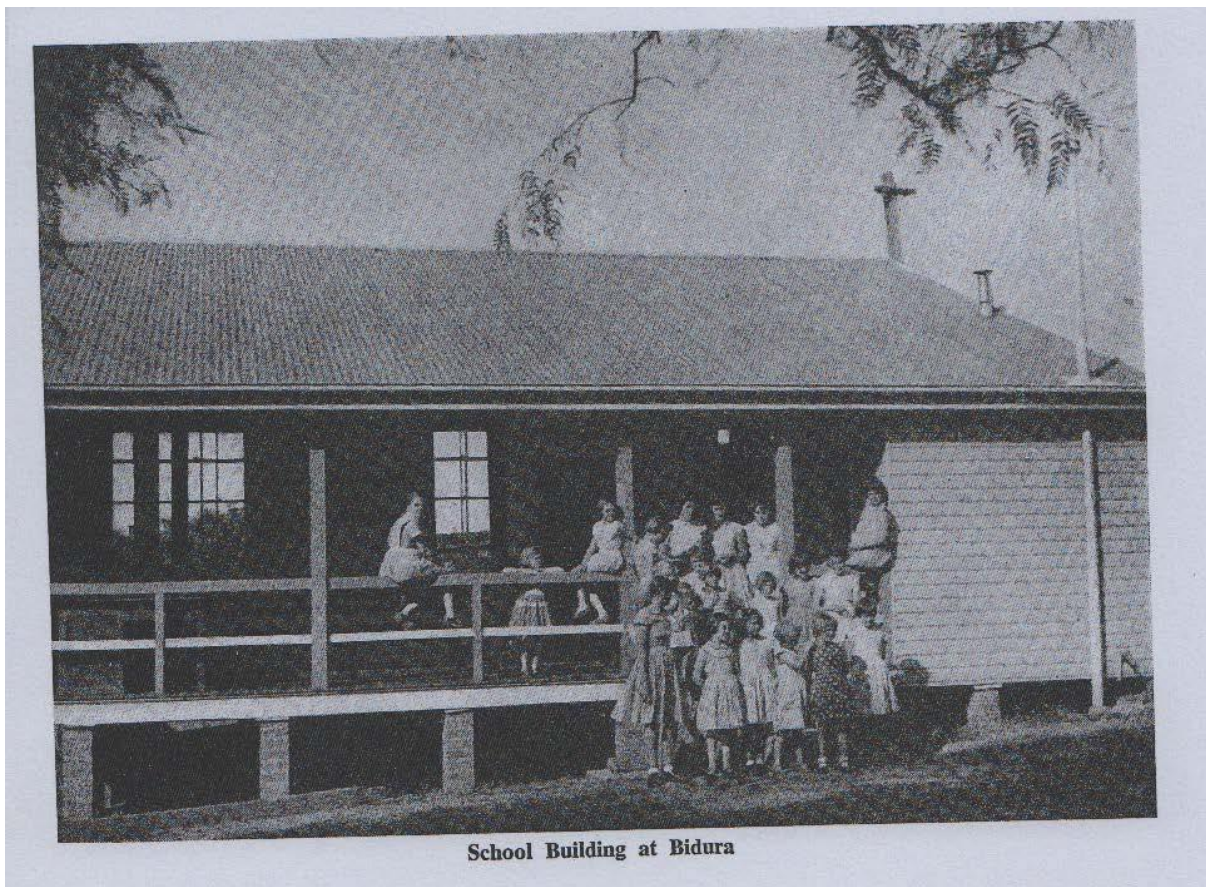


Figure 14: School Building at Bidura (Courtesy of State Library of NSW)



## Mary Maud Wood

### Memoir of Her Childhood

*When we went to the home [Bidura], the three of us sat down on the lawn in the bottom off the yard and we all cried. The three of us cried because we were parting. We'd been together for so many years and this was the end. It was a very sad couple of days we had. But we got over that, we had to.*

*I stayed at Bidura for some time. I had some happy times there. When I was eleven the Smith family came at Christmas time and gave us a concert and some nice lollies.*

*I took the train to Grace Bros and then I got on another tram to Glebe Point. I got out at the stop near Bidura and when Matron Gibbs saw me she said, "Oh hello, Mary. What are doing?" I said "I've come home" "Oh, dear," she said. "Give me what you've got." So I gave her what I packed and she said, "Now go and see Miss Henry." Miss Henry said, "All right, Mary. There's your clothes." There were plenty of nightdresses and knickers there. She said, "Have a bath and put them on. There's your bed upstairs."*

*Of course all the other girls were in bed by this time. We were always locked in these places. The shutters are closed every night at four o'clock and when all the girls are in their dormitory Miss Henry locks them in. So she had to unlock the door and there was an empty bed for me. In the morning when the other girls saw me in the bed they thought I was a new girl. "Where did you come from? What did you do?" and so it went on for a couple of minutes. When we went down to breakfast we heard the phone ring and we listened. We heard the matron saw, "Oh yes. She came in at ten to eight." It was Mrs Leary ringing up to find out if I had gone back to the home. I never saw her again. Thank God for that. (30)*

**Mary Maud Wood's experiences of a childhood in care are very typical. She spent the first ten years of her life with a foster family and was placed at Bidura after the death of her foster mother. She had a number of short boarding out stints before returning each time to Bidura. At fifteen she was put on the "working list" and began helping out at a boarding school located at a convent. She only left the convent after she turned eighteen and got married. Mary also demonstrates the conflict care leavers felt towards the homes they spent time in; they were often places of hardship but also the closest thing to "home."**

# Runaways

In comparison to Mary Maud Wood's memoirs that reflect of her running away from a foster family to go back to Bidura, newspapers from the period are filled with reports of runaways.

**Girls Abscond From Home**

Police, last night, were searching for two girls who absconded from the Bidura Girls' Home, Glebe Road, Glebe.

The two girls were missed at 7 p.m. and the matron of the home, Matron Greer, notified Glebe police.

Police issued the following descriptions:

**Dawn Johnson**, 15, 4ft 10in, thin, fair short hair, big blue eyes, wearing white dress with embroidered flowers on hem, pale blue coat, white shoes.

**Lorna Butler**, 16, 5ft 3in, long dark brown hair, medium build, wearing blue floral skirt and white blouse or cream suit with burgundy braid, brown overcoat.

Sergeant Rowland, of Glebe police, is in charge of investigations.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 13 May 1952, p. 3.

**MISSING CHILDREN IN SYDNEY**

**THREE INMATES LEAVE GIRLS' HOME**

SYDNEY, Wednesday.

Police are searching for three girls who were missed from the Bidura Girls Home, Glebe, last night.

The girls, who are aged 15, 14 and 13 respectively, left the Home at 7 p.m. It was believed at first that they had gone to a house in Redfern, but police inquiries revealed that they had not been there.

Glebe police are searching for Noel Barnes, 11, who has been missing from his home in Ferry-road, Glebe, since yesterday morning, when he should have gone to school.

The Newcastle Sun, 16 October 1935, p. 7

**Girl Believed To Have Run Away**

SYDNEY.—A 14-year-old girl missing from Bidura State Home for Girls, Glebe (Sydney) is believed to have run away following an argument with one of the staff.

The girl, Thora Constance Boyle, was missed at about 5.45 a.m. today.

Her description is: Medium build and complexion, short brown hair, hazel eyes, unusual jaw bones, very white teeth, dressed in colored frock, red cardigan, black shoes.

She is a State ward.

The Newcastle Sun, Monday 9 April 1951, p. 5

# They'll ALL ENJOY CHRISTMAS Parties

Christmas trees, church bells, colored lights, paper streamers, bright postcards, toys, excursions, presents, plum puddings—these are the things which mark the approaching season of festivity.

YOUNG, old, poor, rich. They can all join in for the spirit of Christianity is abroad, and those who have even a little give to those who have naught.

Organisations which have been handicapped by lack of funds get a fresh lease of life and by concerted efforts arrange for comforts for the needy, the unemployed, the sick, the blind, the deaf and dumb, and even the friendless prisoners in our gaols.

\* \* \*

MEMBERS of the Hurstville Auxiliary of the Crippled Children's Association got as much pleasure from seeing the happiness they gave to 40 crippled boys and girls on December 2, as did the youngsters themselves.

Scenes such as this will be re-enacted every day and every evening in every place, and by many organisations for many weeks to come.

In the Crippled Children's Association alone 23 such parties have been arranged and excursions planned to Balmoral, Taronga Park, Fairyland, and the various beaches.

\* \* \*

THE Sydney City Mission, with its numerous branches, has a big programme for the month.

Christmas trees are to be erected in the various mission halls, and on each occasion children will be seen to react in different ways to the sight of Santa Claus and his beautiful tree. There will also be many parties for mothers, and parcels of food will be distributed on December 25. Special provisions will gladden the hearts of the under-nourished children at Boral and Springwood, while a dinner for the unemployed is also being given in the Sydney Town Hall by the City Mission in conjunction with the Retail Traders' Association.

Old and afflicted people are to be similarly entertained, and on December 9 many old-age pensioners are to experience the thrill of a motor outing.

\* \* \*

THE Salvation Army also has a long list of festivities, and on Christmas Day Commissioner and Mrs. McKenzie, accompanied by the social secretary (Brigadier Bentley) and party will pay a round of visits.

Breakfast time will find Father Christmas ringing his bell and poking his head in the window at "The Fold,"

be left to guess whether he'll come to earth by means of the chimney or the stairs.

Before the day is over this busy person will have distributed hundreds of

presents to the old ladies at the Booth Home, to the men at St. Peter's Industrial Home and Balmain, and to the girls at Stanmore.

Nearly 300 parcels of jam are to be given out on another day, while chocolates are to be sent to children in hospitals, to the military cottages, to the Parramatta Men's Home for the Blind, to Lidcombe, and to Newington.

But weeks of work follow Christmas-tide, which is only the beginning of the festive season.

On December 30 the camp at Collaroy is to be invaded by 120 girls, and later by a similar number of boys for a fortnight.

Then the camp is to have a short respite, only to be the centre of renewed activities when women in necessitous circumstances visit it.

\* \* \*

THE Kindergarten Union has 16 Christmas trees to arrange at its various schools, beginning on December 8, while the Girl Guides Association has been busy preparing for their functions for many weeks past.

This is also the social season for the Smith Family of Jovvreaders, Unlimited—the season when members indulge in a ceaseless round of calls.

The engagement book of the Smith Family for this month has the following entries: December 11, Myce Hostel, Arncliffe; December 13, Correll Hostel, Marwickville; Decem-



## WARDS OF THE STATE Entertained by "White Horse Inn" Cast.

Leading members of the cast of "White Horse Inn" entertained an audience of wards of the State at Royleston, Glebe Point, yesterday morning. A large number of children applauded rapturously while the chief comedians Charles Norman, Jack Kellaway, and Sydney Wheeler, romped through a series of comical sketches. The small boys were especially delighted by the hearty dancing of the Tyrolean dancers, and the small girls in the audience could not resist the temptation to join in when Sydney Burdell, who organised the entertainment, sang some popular songs. Stella Wilson sang, and one of the children at the home presented her with a posy, and made a little speech of gratitude. Bobby Grieves, a juvenile member of the "White Horse Inn" company, gave a song and dance, and Jack and Sylvia Kellaway presented a dancing and singing number that won ecstatic applause. Eight members of the orchestra of the Theatre Royal provided the music.

Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 3 July 1934, p. 7

The Australian Women's Weekly, Sat 9 December, 1933, p. 28

Contemporary newspaper articles show that the public was receiving the message that the children in care homes were being treated well (but not *too* well as alluded to by Donald McLean).

***Any nation that does not care for and  
protect all of its children does not deserve  
to be called a nation  
Nelson Mandela***

Informing ourselves about the darker aspects of our past as well as remembering the light is crucial to understanding our present and informing the future. These photos and recollections from people who have called Glebe home at various points in time serve to teach us to remember to care for children but be thoughtful and careful in such care.



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