

## Glebe Sponsor's late mother honoured on 5 May 2013

On Sunday afternoon 5 May 2013 a 30 metre long lane between Campbell Street and Glebe Lane Glebe was officially named Melina Lane in honour of Melina Galluzzo (1929 – 2005). Up until now this lane had been unnamed.

Galluzzo Fruit Shop at 186 Glebe Point Rd Glebe is a major sponsor of the Glebe District Hockey Club and has supported the Hockey Club for over 30 years.

The shop is now operated by her sons, Damien and Joe Galluzzo, grandsons of the original proprietor of the shop which opened in 1934. Melina was a kindly lady who all of her married life lived above the shop with her husband the late Frank Galluzzo.

She was a stalwart of the Saint James Catholic Church Forest Lodge and supported many people and many organisations in the Glebe community. The Shop to this day, still provides flowers for the Saint James' Church. She was a people person who liked nothing better than to be serving in the grocer shop and meeting customers. The customers loved her as she was a generous, genuine, kind, community minded person. She treated all people with dignity, respect and courtesy. Every person she met was treated the same, whether that person was a prince or a pauper. Class, race, religion, or the colour of a person's skin did not matter to Melina; she treated each person as a son or daughter of God.

Melina was born Melina Arena in southern Italy in 1929 and came to Australia with her parents John and Josephina when she was 3 or 4 years of age. Her father had a Barbers Shop in Glebe Point Road.

Melina married Frank Galluzzo in 1949 at Saint Anthony's Church in Agincourt Road North Ryde, with the reception being held at the Paddington Town Hall. Melina and Frank had seven children, Kathy, Sam, John, Michael, Tony, Joe and Damien. Several of the Galluzzo boys played hockey for the GDHC in the juniors, and Michael played 219 senior games for Glebe between 1978 and 1991 and Damien played 190 senior games for Glebe between 1989 and 2005. Damien's work commitments prevented him from continuing his promising hockey career.

How come a Lane was named in honour of Melina?

There are several unnamed Lanes in Glebe and the City of Sydney Council decided in recent times that these Lanes should be given names. Presumably Google earth finds it hard to cope with an unnamed Lane. The City of Sydney Council asked the Glebe community for suggestions as to what to call these Lanes. Melina's name was put forward by a group called the Glebe Action Community for a small 30 metre long; narrow Lane that runs between Campbell St and Glebe Lane, Glebe. This suggestion was accepted by the Council and the Lane was officially named Melina Lane on 5 May 2013.

Deputy Lord Mayor Robyn Kemmis, a customer of the Galluzzo's Fruit Shop represented the Council and ran proceedings and introduced the three other official speakers, all customers of the shop, the Governor General of NSW Professor Marie Bashir, the Parish Priest of Saint James Church Forest Lodge Father Colin Fowler and Melina's oldest child and only daughter Kathy Gallo. All speakers commented on Melina's selflessness, energy and her ability to only see the good in people.

There was a crowd of over 200 people to witness the official act of naming of the Lane when one of Melina's aprons, which had been draped over the new sign, was ceremoniously removed by her family. Following the official opening the large crowd adjourned to Mano's, a coffee shop situated behind the chemist shop on the corner of St John's Rd and Glebe Point Road and discussed memories of Melina and the effect she had in shaping the Glebe community spirit. It was an upbeat occasion, held under a cloudless blue sky and lovely sunshine, which no doubt Melina had organised from above in her heavenly abode.

There was a diverse cross section of the Glebe community at ceremony, with many of her customers present, people from her beloved St James' Church, people from both local and State Governments, and people from the many charities and organisations she helped and encouraged during her long association with Glebe. The State MP for Port Jackson Mr Jamie Parker was also in attendance.

Prominent in the crowd were some Glebe Hockey Club members in Club colours, acknowledging the tremendous support the Galluzzo family has given and still continues to give the Club. Club Members present were Club Secretary Mark Paterson, Club Vice-President Peter Busch, Club House Manager Andrew Goodrick, in his Club blazer, Gabrielle Wark, Cheryl and Jim Oman, Maureen and Geoff Paterson, Anne and Harry Wark, Lorraine Cheong and Chris Newton. Ex-player Victor Ferrari (357 club games between 1975 and 1993) and his partner were also in attendance.

Melina was a good woman, rightly saluted by having this Lane in Glebe named after her.

