



'Meet the Lord Mayoral Candidates' Debate

by Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

NEW TIME: Saturday 20 November (10-11.30 am)

Hear what the Council of Sydney Lord Mayoral candidates have to say in the upcoming local Government elections:

- What's their vision for Sydney over the next four years and beyond?
- What will they commit to do to address the major issues facing Glebe?
- How will they fix the local issues that are important to you?

When: Sat 20 November 2021 (10-11.30 am)

Where: Glebe Town Hall 160 St Johns Rd

About the Forum

The Glebe Society has organised a debate with the candidates for the upcoming City of Sydney Mayoral election. Previous planned forums had to be rescheduled due to COVID restrictions and a change in the election date. This is a free event and bookings on Eventbrite are essential. As well as the 'live' debate in the Glebe Town Hall, the debate will be live streamed via Zoom.

An invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be sent to those who have registered to attend the debate via Eventbrite.

Allan Hogan will again be our moderator. Those who saw Allan in action at the 'Meet the Candidates' we hosted before the last Federal and State elections will recall how well he brings his 'big end of town' journalism skills to these community forums – a great facilitator gives everyone a fair go and, importantly, asks the challenging questions.

Candidates will give a short overview and respond to questions from the moderator on the Glebe Society's strategic issues. The audience will then have the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

(Continued next page)

Lord Mayoral Candidates for City of Sydney Council elections

(in alphabetical order)



Sylvie Ellsmore



Shauna Jarrett



Lord Mayor Clover Moore



Linda Scott



Angela Vithoukas



Yvonne Weldon

You are also invited to submit topics to be covered and questions you would like the Glebe Society to raise. Please send your ideas to **events@glebesociety.org.au** by **Friday 12 November 2021**.

Watch out for more details on each candidate and their key platforms in the Society's regular President's Update email.

BOOK NOW! Numbers are limited to 45 in the room (including candidates).

- Bookings must be made online using Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/20429798978>, for either option, whether in person at the Town Hall or via zoom (more details on each option will be given when you book)
- You will need to rebook from the previous date with the change in numbers and venue

- Preference will be given for members to attend in the room (there will be a waitlist in case numbers increase)
- As per State legislation anyone attending the Town Hall in person must book in advance and provide proof of double vaccination or exemption as well as agreeing to follow the event COVID Safe plan

Candidates in the Debate

We appreciate the flexibility of all candidates accommodating the number of changes in the event dates given the COVID lockdown. At this time six candidates are coming:

- Sylvie Ellsmore Greens
- Shauna Jarrett Liberal
- Clover Moore Independent
- Linda Scott Labor
- Angela Vithoukas The Small Business Party
- Yvonne Weldon Independent

A Special Christmas Treat ...



Please join us at the Society's end of year gathering at Beckett's.

When? Tuesday 7 December, 5.30 - 7.30 pm

Where? Beckett's Bar & Dining 134A Glebe Point Rd

Cost? \$70 each

This price includes a generous selection of canapes, one welcoming drink, mineral water, and non-alcoholic drinks. (Note: Reverts to cash bar after first alcoholic drink). And also live piano background music.

All are welcome – members' family, your close friends and neighbours. Beckett's are opening on a Tuesday night – just for the Glebe Society.

Beckett's is Glebe's new mid-century New York and Parisian inspired restaurant and cocktail lounge – launched to great acclaim in March this year. We are now being welcomed back to this fabulous location as Sydney re-opens. This is your opportunity to experience Beckett's at our Christmas Gathering!

You may know that Jeff Schroeter (from Bayswater Brasserie, Bistro Moncur) has teamed up with local Playwright-Director Wendy Beckett ([Claudel](#)) to create the new brasserie, located on the site of the former Darling Mills space on Glebe Point Rd, adding to the inner western suburb's recent food

revival. Jeff and Wendy are inviting us to enjoy Beckett's.

The sandstone interiors from Darling Mills days remain. As for the rest of the space, Wendy Beckett has enlisted her set designer to channel mid-century New York and Europe's great bistros and cocktail bars of the past, creating a setting that's moody, yet elegant. The refreshed design includes an olive velvet-lined colonnade.



Beckett's, the location of this year's Glebe Society Christmas Party (photo: Phil Vergison)

The lounge bar is in the front of Beckett's; one side a mix of plush low cocktail chairs, banquette seating and small bar tables, the other bookended by a baby grand piano and the bar itself.

Book now to avoid missing out. Online bookings are essential

(<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/204281480407>), and numbers are limited. Please note the NSW COVID safe regulations are in place - you will need

to provide proof of double vaccination or exemption and by booking you agree to follow the standard protocols.

Contribute to our Christmas Giving Tree

Your generosity would again be appreciated in bringing unwrapped personal care items to be used in local community Christmas gift packs. Items needed for adults include soap, toothbrushes &

paste, deodorants, shaving cream & razors, shampoo & conditioner, and socks, plus children's toys and books for the kids.

See the next 'President's Update' email or your booking confirmation email for more details on the event. If you need more info or help with bookings, please call Judy Vergison on 0417 446 425.

'My Vision for the St Phillips Estate': A talk followed by a guided walk

Philip Thalís, BSc (Arch) B Arch (Hons) - Syd Univ, CEEA Arch Urb - Paris-Belleville

Philip is a founding principal of Hill Thalís Architecture + Urban Projects, established in 1992. He has more than 25 years local and international experience across a broad spectrum of architecture and urban projects and has won more than 90 awards, commendations and competitions for architecture, urban design, planning, public domain and heritage projects.

The St Phillips estate belonged to the Anglican church until 1974. It was primarily developed in the 1870s, though the church built some new dwellings in the inter-war period. In the 1970s the Federal government renewed the historic houses and in the 1980s the NSW Government's inner city



housing team inserted low rise public housing into the estate. Two of these sites are currently being redeveloped for 8-storey apartment buildings. Future high level planning documents include the St Phillips estate in the Harbour CBD which suggests that more redevelopment is envisaged. City of Sydney Councillor Thalís believes that conservation areas need to *agile* and *be capable of adapting to change*. In this talk he will speak about the design principles which should be applied to development in the St Phillip's estate taking account of its overall character followed by a walk around the estate.

Date and time: Sunday 28 November 10 am -12 noon.

Location: Friend in Hand Hotel, 58 Cowper St

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/203576371407>

Glebe Society Guided Walks Program

The Glebe Society Guided Walks program will recommence in February. We will publish a schedule in the next *Bulletin*. Thank you to those who booked earlier in the year for Max Solling's Toxteth Estate walk for your patience. We will advise you of a new date as soon as possible.



From the President

by Ian Stephenson

I am very honoured to have taken on this role and would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor Janet Wahlquist. Indeed, the Glebe Society has a tradition of distinguished Presidents

many of whom continue to serve on its management committee. Anthroposophists have a concept called the universal mind which believes we can tap into the wisdom of the ages. With three past presidents on the management committee, as well as many other wise people, there is a lot of wisdom and experience guiding the Society.

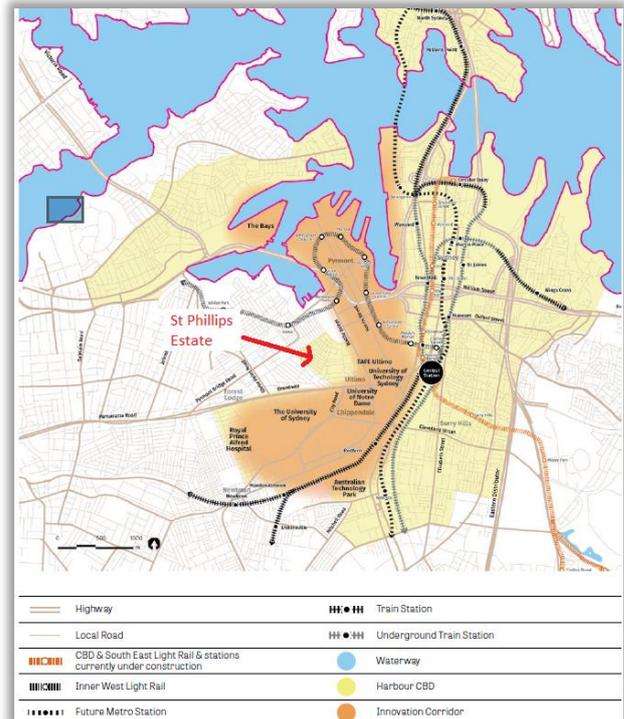
Many things have happened in the last month. Just as the Society elected a new President the State Government elected a new Premier. I sent a letter¹ to Premier Perrottet asking that his government to *commit itself to respecting Glebe's heritage conservation areas and makes no more rezoning applications to increase the height limits of the LAHC's Glebe lands, as once the scale of a place like Glebe has gone it's gone for good.*

On 9 October I attended the tree planting ceremony in the John Street reserve to honour Norma Hawkins of the Blue Wrens, the Glebe Society's nature conservation arm. Norma who turned 99 on

the day of the ceremony has been involved with the Blue Wrens since 2005. She chose the tree, a *melaleuca*, because it provides a perfect habitat for blue wrens. The reserve also has some interpretative panels about blue wrens which Norma instigated a few years ago. So, it's worth wandering up to the John Street Reserve to see Norma's tree and her storyboards. It was my privilege to speak with Norma at the event. She explained to me, with gentle authority, how we all share the one world and if our birds and plants are struggling it is a warning we should heed – we will be next. They are the canary in the coalmine. Norma is an inspiring example of a life enriched by good purpose. The Society is grateful to the Lord Mayor for her help in facilitating the purchase of the tree by the Society (See also the article on p. 9).

In the last month the Society has made submissions on the effect of light pollution from the Glebe Island Silos on parts of Glebe Point,² and on a proposal to install a obtrusive ventilation flue running over the veranda and roof of a listed property in Glebe Point Rd.³

The St Phillips estate in Glebe is under development pressure. High level planning documents such as the Greater Sydney Commission's *Our Greater Sydney, 2056, Eastern City District Plan*⁴ take the estate out of the Glebe Point Village and include it in the Harbour CBD. This raises many questions. Opportunities for increasing the number of dwellings in the conservation area are mainly limited to infill in back lanes or by replacing the low-rise infill of the 1980s with bigger buildings. Are there ways of handling this successfully in an historic suburb which will respect scale, character and social values? What is the right height limit and what should the other planning controls be?



Greater Sydney Commission's *Our Greater Sydney, 2056, Eastern City District* (<https://www.greater.sydney/eastern-city-district-plan/introduction>)

To explore these questions the Society has invited Councillor Philip Thalys, an architect with over 30 years' experience in the design of public space, urban design and heritage adaptation to speak about his vision for the St Phillips estate at 10 am on Sunday 28 November followed by a walk around the estate. To book, see page 3 of this *Bulletin*.

1. <https://glebesociety.org.au/nsw-premier-perrotet-2021-10-13/>
2. <https://glebesociety.org.au/glebe-island-silos-submission-2021-10-27>
3. <https://glebesociety.org.au/79-glebe-pt-rd-submission-2021-10-05/>
4. <https://www.greater.sydney/eastern-city-district-plan>

History & Heritage

Water tank heritage interpretation artwork

By Jude Paul

One of the requirements of the DA for the development of Harold Park was that the water tank associated with the Rozelle Tram Yards be reinstated. Since Tramsheds was built, the Glebe Society has been trying to find out when this was going to happen, as the delay was considerable! I learnt yesterday that the reinstatement of the water tank became a separate DA to the original because stand-alone issues related to this were causing serious delays to the re-opening of the otherwise completed complex.



The water tower at Harold Park viewed from Maxwell St in 2013 (photo: dunedoo, Flickr)



The artwork, *Immerge*, was created by artist, Chris Fox, from the old Harold Park water tower (Photo: Janet Wahlquist)

It seems that the negotiations between Mirvac, City of Sydney and the artist were lengthy and complex. The artist's original design was to reinstate the water tank itself, raise it above ground and make it seem like it was 'sort of flying away'. However, hairline cracks in the metal and the inability to guarantee the absolute safety of the new installation (and/or possibly the extraordinary cost of achieving this) meant this design was scrapped in favour of what we see.

How do I know this? Brian Fuller and I agreed to meet at the tank on 17 October and share our reactions to it. Because we thought it might be a bit of a long chat we brought our own chairs,

'refreshments' and partners. When our group met, the tank was being assiduously hosed down by a bloke wearing high viz. We got into a chat with him; the tank had been coated in fish oil which would settle down in about a month, but was currently collecting a lot of dust and the bloke was preparing the tank for some photos. Brian twigged pretty damned quickly – 'Are you the artist?' he asked.



Jude Paul, Chris Fox (artist) and Brian Fuller (photo: Jane Gatwood)

You can guess the answer. Chris Fox is the most delightful, engaging man, currently working on a 'green wall' (his description) installation as part of the WestConnex complex. And he happily agreed to a snap or two of himself with Brian and I, but not before he scrapped his workman clothes for a more regular outfit.

Who worked in your street? 37 Glebe Point Rd

By Lyn Collingwood

Badde Manors, Glebe Point Rd's oldest café trading under the same name, was vandalised in late September. Fortunately, emergency services arrived quickly and fire damage was minor.

A variety of businesses operated at 37 Glebe Point Rd before *Badde Manors* opened in 1982. For its first 46 years the distinctive building on the corner of Francis St functioned as the *Glebe Hotel*.

In August 1863, Robert Maxwell was granted the first licence. He died two years later, survived by his wife Charlotte and their teenage son William. At a time when there was little employment for women, hotelkeeping provided them with an income and somewhere to live and didn't attract the same opprobrium as barmaidling. Charlotte took over and the pub became known as *Mrs Maxwell's Glebe Hotel*. In 1867 Charlotte married Henry Keys; the birth of Henry Francis Keys (died 1942) was registered in 1869.

Before coroners' courts were built, inquests on local deaths were held in hotels. The *Glebe* was no exception. Investigations included seven-year-old Alexander Duguid, the son of a Francis St 'bus driver, who died after eating loquats; and 13-year-old John McMahon who drowned in a waterhole in Johnson's Bush Petersham. Hotels were also venues for politicians to canvass votes. Proprietor of the Glebe Foundry in Cowper St, Thomas Wearne addressed voters at the *Glebe Hotel* when standing for election to Glebe Council.

In 1875 Hugh Keys (Henry's brother who had arrived in Sydney as an 18-year-old assisted immigrant) died at *Keys' Glebe Hotel* leaving a widow Magdalene and six children. In June 1881 Henry Keys' publican's licence was transferred to his sister-in-law. Four months later Henry died, his given occupation carter and his address Westmoreland St.



Recent scorch damage (Image: Lyn Collingwood)

Over the course of the next decade the *Glebe Hotel's* liquor licence passed between various family members before reverting to Magdalene who transferred it in 1892 to her son Charles Henry Keys. Following Magdalene's death in 1907 there were squabbles over her estate between the executors, her two surviving children. Charles (then living at 134 Hereford St) was successfully sued by his married sister Magdalene Court in 1908, the same year his licence was cancelled (he had been fined for Sunday trading) and a new Licensing Act came into force.

Pressure from the temperance movement, women getting the vote and wanting their men at home, resulted in the shutting down of more than 70 metropolitan hotels. Licensees had to justify in court that their premises were needed. Taken into consideration were bar takings, the amount of beer drunk and accommodation provided, and testimony from local citizens. Charles Keys' immediate successor George Hall, who argued that he had

already spent a lot on repairs, was supported by Ada Keys, the ex-publican's daughter, and Dr Rudolph Bohrsman whose surgery was directly opposite, next to Glebe Public School. At the end of the hearing it was announced that least required in the area were the *Glebe*, together with the *Sydney* on Glebe St, *Lady of the Lake* on Bay and Greek Sts, *Glebe Tavern* on Greek and Franklin Sts, and the *Imperial* on Mitchell and Glebe Sts.

The *Glebe Hotel* closed in October 1909 and the building was advertised as suitable for a shop or a boarding house. It subsequently housed *The Golden Wattle* saloon run by John and Elizabeth Siddens but their colonial wine licence was removed in 1924 during another drinking crackdown by the Licenses Reduction Board. Retired schoolteacher Robert Ezra Cox ran a real estate agency there from 1938 to 1943, after which the triangular property was put up for sale. It was advertised as 2-storey brick with an iron roof, containing a shop, ten rooms, a bathroom and laundry. Postwar, 37 Glebe Rd was a bootmaker's shop. There's another *Glebe Hotel* today: the recently renamed *Australian Youth* on Bay St.

Sources: Bellingen Gelato Bar; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Records; Trove website



Badde Manors cherubs, 1999 (Image: City of Sydney Archives)

Fish Markets: no pedestrian crossing until late 2022

By Asa Wahlquist

Pedestrians walking along the Blackwattle Bay side of Bridge Rd will have to wait until the fourth quarter of next year, 2022, for a temporary pedestrian crossing to be installed near Wentworth Park Rd. A permanent crossing is scheduled for 2024, when the new Sydney Fish Markets will open. The main entrance for parking and deliveries will be from a driveway at the intersection of Bridge Rd and

Wentworth Park Rd and lights will be installed to facilitate this.

The Fish Market Community Advisory Committee regard the 2022 date as far too late to deal with a potentially dangerous situation, and at their last meeting passed the following resolution:

That the New Sydney Fish Market Community Consultative Committee formally records its serious concerns in relation to pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety issues around the site of the New Sydney Fish Market, now that the various construction works on the site and along Pyrmont Bridge Rd have commenced. These concerns include: Inadequate & ineffective signage relating to the recently introduced 40km/h speed limit on Pyrmont Bridge Rd; significantly increased pedestrian & cyclist traffic and inadequate protection for pedestrians crossing Pyrmont Bridge Rd adjacent to the south western end of the site; dangerous traffic conditions at the corner of Pyrmont Bridge Rd and Wentworth Park Rd: and the long lead times of the temporary and permanent measures currently proposed to address these problems, such as the traffic signals at that intersection.

In the light of the Community Consultative Committee's serious concerns about safety we request relevant agencies give these matters urgent attention, as we consider the current situation is unacceptably dangerous and likely to become worse.

The resolution was moved by community representative, and well-known walker, John Faulkner. When the north side footpath is closed for roadworks, pedestrians are forced to cross Bridge Rd near Wentworth Park Rd. Mr Faulkner described the situation as an accident waiting to happen.

The aim of the resolution is to highlight the problem and request the traffic authorities improve road safety. The committee noted it was not a reflection on the Multiplex, nor Infrastructure NSW.

Letter to the President

Hi Janet,

I've noted the latest *Bulletin* article highlighting pedestrian danger on Bridge Rd and agree this is an important issue. Bridge Rd carries well in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day (*Bulletin* 7/2021), many travelling above the speed limit as this latest article emphasises. The article pinpoints the danger to pedestrians near the Fish Market development, however the overall impact of Bridge Rd traffic throughout Glebe is substantial especially the effect on amenity for anyone not in a vehicle. For me the elephant in the room is why as Glebe residents we have quietly accepted this is OK.

The installation of the pop-up cycleway brought with it the gift of the 40 km speed limit. I am frankly horrified the Glebe Society have objected so strongly (*Bulletin* 7/2021) to the cycleway. I'm not for

Fish Market Committee member and City of Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor, Jess Scully, has pursued the matter with Transport for NSW. She said the resolution would be helpful in pushing the case, particularly in prompting local police to enforce the 40km/hour speed limit. Transport for NSW is responsible for installing clearer 40 km signage on Bridge Rd, as this is a state road. This has been requested by Cr Scully and the City several times over the last year. Transport for NSW has indicated that approval for the budget to install this signage is currently with NSW Treasury for approval. Cr Scully will continue to follow up to seek installation of this signage as soon as possible.

In the last week of October, Multiplex, the contractor for the new Fish Markets, undertook work to investigate the location of the main service lines. This involved closing the footpath and reducing traffic to one lane during the work day. Traffic controllers were on site at the Wentworth Park Rd end, to guide pedestrians safely across Bridge Rd.

Multiplex will alter its work schedule during the Higher School Certificate examination period, and cease noisy work during exams.

The site is adjacent to the Blackwattle Bay campus of the Sydney Secondary College, which has one of the largest Year 12 cohorts in the state. Under COVID-19 health regulations, all windows and doors must remain open. Principal Leiza Lewis, thanked Multiplex for the initiative. She said the students, 84 per cent of whom hope to go to university, had been affected by lockdowns last year and this. 'The students' anxiety and stress levels are ridiculously high,' she said, 'Even the parents ...'

a moment suggesting the cycleway is perfect – it is not – however it presented an opportunity to change the way Bridge Rd functions and I would have loved to see the Glebe Society capitalise on the bigger picture rather than take a narrow negative approach.



I hope the Glebe Society will continue its important lobbying to improve Bridge Rd. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Anna Michielsen

Mystery Photo

With Lyn Collingwood



Last month's mystery photo

Robert Curry, who lives in Bellevue St, identified the view as the ground on which *John Byrne Court* now sits, with St Ita's in the background. Daniel Walkington also recognised the location.

The vacant site (bounded by St Johns Rd, Wentworth and Mitchell Sts and Park Lane) was known as 'Crane's paddock' when the mystery photo was taken in 1953 (see last *Bulletin*).

John Byrne Court was built 1959-62 as public housing. Postwar plans to build duplex homes on the land had been rejected by the then owner, the Church of England, as too expensive.

Left: John Byrne Court (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Below: last month's Mystery Photo



This month's mystery photo

Where are we?

Answers to history@glebesociety.org.au

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

By Andrew Wood

The City has released for community comments its Draft Plans of Management for Glebe's crown lands (General Crown Reserves Draft Plan of Management, Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management and Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management¹). The Society will be responding to the draft plans and our letter will be published on the website.

Sydney Water's naturalisation work on the Johnstons creek/canal has been completed and the wetlands are now filling again at high tide.

Creekside plantings, however, should be enhanced with a dense shrub layer and small native trees

planted to replace what has been removed in the creek naturalisation process. More estuarine species are also needed. It is wonderful to report that fauna (fish, pelicans, turtles, eels, ducks and herons) have returned since the completion of the work. In a recent local survey, Nick and Janice Sangster counted 219 birds of 12 species.

The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group has continued with essential weeding and a working bee/seed collection is planned for Sunday 21 November. Four enquiries have been received for membership of the Group. The City has given permission for shallow plantings in an unremediated

site and volunteers will need to be given an induction to permit work on the site – induction is planned for early in 2022.



Naturalised Johnstons Creek (photo: Phil Vergison)

For John Street Reserve, Bob Richards reports:

The main news of course is the celebration that was held on Tuesday October 19 to celebrate Norma

Tree planting ceremony in honour of Norma Hawkins

On 19th October a commemorative tree was planted on behalf of the Glebe Society at John Street Reserve to recognise Norma's outstanding contributions to Glebe and the wider community. It was also the occasion of Norma's 99th birthday. Below is a speech given by Norma on the day:

Thank you to the Glebe Society and its Blue Wren Subcommittee for the gift of this beautiful *melaleuca linariifolia*. And thank you to the City of Sydney Council for planting it here, in John Street Reserve, in time for my birthday today. I first saw this lovely tree late on the last day of September when a phone call from Julie, my neighbour, told me 'Your tree is there, and in five minutes time, Bob and I will take you for a tour' ... And there it was, standing sturdily in its protective railing. For me it celebrates not only my birthday, but also Neighbourhood and Community.

My 41 years in St James Ave have brought me many valued friends, including Julie and Bob Richards, who give me constant care (which is what they do for John Street Reserve) and Jeremy Oorloff, the Founder and committed Secretary of the Friends of John St Reserve, and his wife Karen.

The description, 'John Street Reserve – a habitat for blue wrens and other small birds, and a bio-diversity garden' was the inspired proposal of the Council's Deputy Mayor, the late Robyn Kemmis. In close collaboration, the Friends and the Blue Wren group,

Hawkins' 99th birthday and showing her guests the beautiful tree planted in her honour in the Reserve courtesy of the Glebe Society. I also recently liaised with Council re the maintenance of the Reserve. Hopefully, these discussions will result in action in the weeks ahead. Fingers crossed.

The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group continue weeding the sites, removing leaves from the blocked drains and collecting litter. In order to attract new members, the City will be asked to install a new sign giving contact details for the Group; also the City will be requested to install an additional light to provide illumination under the large Morton Bay fig tree at the Lombard St steps. The Group is investigating a name change to reflect the Indigenous inhabitants of the area or a local identity.

1. <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/your-say-proposed-plans-of-management-crown-lands>

informed, sought and received community endorsement of this description.



Norma Hawkins beside the tree planted in her honour. With her are (left to right) Ian Stephenson, Andrew Wood and Janet Wahlquist (photo: Jude Paul)

The creative design of the Reserve came from the City's landscape architect, and was followed by a request that the Blue Wren Subcommittee submit a list of trees, shrubs and grass that would protect and nourish the concept of bio-diversity. Judy Christie (from Birds in Backyards) and the late Jan Craney

provided some 500 names, which were then included in the plan.

Recently I noticed two small groups of picnickers in the Reserve, with food and drink, blankets spread on the grass, and small children running around chasing each other. There were no unleashed large dogs, and no unleashed soccer balls, just people quietly enjoying themselves. Those of us optimistic for the future of the Reserve need to focus on the words Robyn used in defining it as 'a *habitat* for blue wrens and other small birds, and a *bio-diversity* garden'. We must guard and protect it ... it is our contribution to saving the planet.

Glebe's environmental assets

By Eva Ancher, Year 6

Lockdown has been hard on us all. As well as being a time to stay at home, this isolation has definitely been a time to explore your local environment. Going for walks, bike rides or runs around the neighbourhood has been very therapeutic in this time of crisis, whether it is by yourself or with your family. In this article I will be writing about the parks of Glebe, the Johnstons Creek naturalisation program, and the little actions we can take to protect our suburb.

My name is Eva Ancher, and I am a student in Year 6. I am doing a project at school where we need to make a change in our community. For this project I was going to plant trees in the community, but I could not, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. My aim for the project was always to encourage others to take action for the environment. I have made sure to keep that focus when I had to come up with a new plan. I decided to explore the Pocket Parks of Glebe through the Glebe Society self-guided tours website, research what is being done to enhance our environment in the Johnstons Creek naturalisation program and write about it. We have some amazing nature in this suburb which the community should recognise and protect. By appreciating the natural areas of Glebe, people can be more aware of the actions of conservation and transformations happening to increase biodiversity.

In my self-guided walk, the Pocket Parks of Glebe, I was fascinated by the history along the way. The parks were well maintained, and the backstory of the parks was clearly presented on the website and the signs in the parks. By reading about the history of each location, I was able to find out a lot more when it came to what the council is doing to maintain the biodiversity and keep them clean. There are bins in the majority of these parks which prevent litter, and there are many plants to create a lovely atmosphere. I recommend this walk to

Judy assures me that there are encouraging sightings of wrens. My hope is that they will rediscover their corridor and shelter safely in my tree – and that when its life span is ended, another tree will be planted. How timely for us that Bird Life Australia announced just this month that the superb fairywren had been voted 2021 Bird of the Year.

We hope that our Glebe community will have these tiny seductive little birds in our birdbaths again, and dancing on our clothes lines. Thank you all for coming.



Local school student Eva Ancher looking at Johnstons Creek Naturalisation.

everyone who is interested in learning more about the history of Glebe as well as being in nature.

The Johnstons Creek Naturalisation program has been progressing for quite a while, and we are nearly at the end of the journey. I am very excited for what is to come, as the design is already so beautiful. There is a great deal of information about all the environmentally friendly focuses around the construction. I have also emailed Sydney Water for more information, and I am very impressed about the number of eco-safe goals. Some things that I think are incredible are, the estimated life of the creek is now (due to the renewal) 150 years+, there are cameras placed over the channel to monitor the tide's rising and falling, protecting the whole park, and at the end of the project there will have been the planting of 25 000 native plants! The creek was created in 1898 and the reason for renewal is because of the banks deteriorating. Many different plans were created to confirm that the program is doing everything that is necessary to keeping the environment safe. Overall, this project of

transforming Johnstons Creek has enhanced the health of the creek, made the whole area much more natural, increased the stability of the creek walls, and made a home for more native vegetation and wildlife.

There are so many amazing things being done to make Glebe even more eco-friendly. By using this

as a motivation, everyone can play a role in preserving the environment. By saving water and energy in your house, picking up rubbish and encouraging others to make a change, you can play a role in reversing the effects of climate change and helping the world for the better.

The 32nd Annual Glebe Music Festival

Saturday 7th to Sunday 28th November (<https://www.glebemusicfestival.com/calendar.html>)

By David McIntosh

COVID restrictions have lifted in good time for the 32nd Annual Glebe Music Festival to go ahead. A full [COVID-safe plan](#) has been worked out which includes limits on the number of attendees, social distancing and the wearing of masks. According to NSW Health, only those who have been fully vaccinated or those with medical exemptions can enter the Glebe Town Hall. Bookings are required for COVID reasons, and links to the TryBooking site for each event are provided below:

The program can be found here:

https://glebesociety.org.au/glebe_music_festival_2021-program/

Concert 1: Sunday 7th November at 3 pm Glebe Town Hall

Thoroughbass directed by Diana Weston (harpsichord) with Anna Fraser (soprano), Shaun Ng (viola da gamba), Joanne Arnott (recorder) and Tara Hashambhoy (violin). Tickets \$40. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEFC>

Concert 2: Saturday 13th November at 7 pm Glebe Town Hall:

Wolf Mail (guitar) and Milena Barrett (Blues and Soul). Tickets \$40. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEFD>

Concert 3: Saturday 20th November at 3 pm Glebe Town Hall:

Sydney Baroque Players historic instruments: Ruth Crosby (recorder and flute), Phillip Murray (flute), Owen Watkins (recorder and oboe), Fiona McMillan (oboe and oboe d'amore), George Mills (theorbo), Sophie Funston (cello). Tickets \$40. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEFF>

Concert 4: Sunday 21st November at 3 pm Glebe Town Hall:

Lawergren and Lowe. Georgia Lowe (harp), Susannah Lawergren (soprano). Tickets \$40. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEFG>

Concert 5: Sunday 28th November at 3pm St John's Church Glebe:

Josie and the Emeralds St Cecilia 2021. Free entry donations welcome. Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUEFI>

2021 Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 10 October, 46 members attended the 2021 AGM, via zoom. Below is the report provided by the outgoing President, Janet Wahlquist, followed by details of the Commendations bestowed upon three members for their contributions to the Glebe Society.

Outgoing President's Report (September 2020 to September 2021)

By Janet Wahlquist

Glebe Island Bridge

One of the campaigns in which we have been actively involved in the last year has been to save and restore Glebe Island Bridge.

On the 3rd of December 2020 it was 25 years since the Bridge was closed and we held a Rally on that day to protest its state of disrepair and need for it to be restored for use as a pedestrian and cycle way. The Rally was well attended not just by Glebe Society

Members but also residents from Glebe, Pyrmont, Ultimo, Rozelle Annandale and Balmain. Cyclists, and passive water sports people also attended. We also received positive publicity for the Bridge's cause.

We have continued to press for proper plans to be put in place for its restoration. There have been some positive signs from government and Transport NSW (who is responsible for the bridge) that they are looking at its repurposing. It has been included in plans for the

Blackwattle Bay Precinct Plan, The Bays West Plan and the Fish Markets Plan as something that will be there but it is not actually part of the plan itself.

We have the support of both City of Sydney and the Inner West Council in our bids for restoration.

Our continued work has involved the launching of the Glebe Island Bridge Website and continuing contact and pressure on Transport NSW.

Protecting Glebe from Overdevelopment

This year has been an important one for our activity in saving Glebe from overdevelopment and protecting our village nature.

The fact that the State Government owns most of the southern end of Glebe and has decided to slowly sell it off and to replace two housing department low level multi-unit blocks with 8- and 12-storey blocks of units has been of great concern. We have been actively opposing these State Government Plans.

The selling of public property, which has been both public housing and used for community purposes, is something we have been active against. The reason for these sell offs is both to raise money and because the government is not prepared to pay the cost of necessary repairs. Much of the public owned housing has been allowed to fall into disrepair.

2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd & 17-31 Cowper St

We have been actively involved in opposition to the proposals for redevelopment of 2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd and 17-31 Cowper St to replace them with 2 x 8-storey and 1 x 3-storey buildings. We objected in the first instance to the removal of the properties from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation area which the State government needed to lift the height restrictions. The removal was approved. We then objected to the development application. Members of the Management Committee then spoke at both the Council's Planning Panel and subsequent Council meeting opposing the development. Unfortunately, this was approved. The State Government announced at the last minute that the housing would be 100% public housing and the Council approved the development.

Franklyn St

The second development of Housing Department property of concern has been the proposal to demolish the existing low-rise units and replace them with 3 x 12-storey residential units of which only one third will be for public housing and the rest would be sold to private buyers. These properties are the homes of many long-term housing residents who will be required to vacate and move elsewhere. There has been strong resident opposition to the proposal and the Society has supported the residents. The redevelopment proposal increases the density by 350%, provides completely inadequate open space and is out of keeping with the heritage nature of Glebe. The Society has made objection to the proposal and has supported rallies by

residents opposing the redevelopment. As yet no Development Application has been lodged.

The Society met with the Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey regarding State Government plans for Glebe and to voice our opposition to current plans. We were told that there were no further plans at this stage for larger redevelopments.

We have also had meetings with City of Sydney Councillors making our opposition known. We are also in contact with our State representative Jamie Parker who is strongly opposed to these State Government proposals.

Bidura

The Society has also been concerned about the private large scale apartment development proposed at the rear of the State and Locally listed heritage home, Bidura. The fate of the Metropolitan Remand Centre was eventually determined by the Land and Environment Court, and it can be demolished.

The Society made a submission that called upon Council to require the protection of historic Bidura House both now and beyond the construction works behind it. We want to make sure the importance and relevance of Bidura House and its appropriately scaled setting is not further disrupted by inappropriate landscaping and contextual elements that may occur adjacent to the building.

Blackwattle Bay

The State Government released its Proposal for the redevelopment of Blackwattle Bay. The plan for this is an extraordinary overdevelopment of the Bay with towers of up to 45-storeys high, little open space, no reasonable plans for the extra traffic that will be created and will have Glebe looking at a wall of buildings. We have attended two meetings called by the Lord Mayor of Community representatives opposing the Plan. The Council strongly opposes the plan and seeks the support of residents to oppose it. We have made a submission opposing the plan. This will be an ongoing battle.

The Fish Markets Development

The Society remains concerned about the impact the building of the Fish Markets will have on Glebe. We have a representative on the Fish Markets Community Consultative Committee, and we will be able to have input into the issues that will arise in relation to pedestrian, vehicle and cycle traffic, pollution in the bay, noise and parking. So please let the Society know about any issues you have and these can be raised. The plan for the Fish Markets over the water next to the foreshore park and Glebe High School, the position of which we opposed, is a done deal.

Bays West Precinct

A further Development has been proposed for the White Bay Area. This proposal is still in the planning

stages. Part of the proposal involves the repurposing of Glebe Island Bridge and extending the foreshore walk. The size of the redevelopment is important and the access of the public to foreshore and increased parkland are also issues which impact on Glebe. We made a submission in relation to this redevelopment proposal.

Concrete Batching Plant at White Bay

A Concrete Batching Plant was proposed for White Bay. It will take up foreshore land which should be for community use for an ugly industrial use. This is in part to replace Hymix where the Fish Markets are to be built but it is larger in scale and will operate 24/7. We objected to the plant being particularly concerned about the noise and scale which will travel across the water to Glebe. It has been approved.

Videos of Glebe

We were approached by Chinese students from the University of Technology who wanted to make a video. With the guidance of members of the Management Committee they made a video about Glebe called *Treasure in the City: Glebe*. It is a lovely video spoken in Mandarin about Glebe from a Chinese student's perspective.

Ian Stephenson has worked on and produced six videos about Glebe. The videos provide some of the history of Glebe and the battles Glebe has fought to remain the place it is now. They then move on to addressing the battles we are facing today. They present a great perspective on Glebe and our history and are well worth viewing.

Heritage Act 1977 Review

The Society has concerns about some of the potential weaknesses in protection proposed in the Government's plan to review the Heritage Act 1977. Our concern is that for other than a few iconic heritage properties the proposed changes will result in making it easier to develop heritage listed properties. We have made a submission objecting to these changes.

Community Centre for Glebe

The Society continues to push for a Community Centre to be established at Glebe Town Hall to promote greater opportunities for community activities to be held in City of Sydney. Although we had a meeting last year with the Lord Mayor about this proposal with the advent of the pandemic this project has been placed on the back burner by the Council. The ability to arrange venues for community activities despite proposals for improvement even prior to the most recent lockdown had only worsened and a Community Centre continues to be a clear need for Glebe and Forest Lodge.

Pop Up Cycleway

Members of the Glebe Community have continued to express their concern about the safety and lack of access for residents as a result of the Pop-Up

Cycleway on Bridge Rd. Despite being temporary and only until March 2021 its temporary status continues. The cycleway which stops and starts continues in its current state, with no resolution of any of the issues raised by the Society or residents.

Blue Wrens

The Blue Wrens have continued to actively promote biodiversity in Glebe Forest Lodge providing three grants to educational facilities to encourage knowledge among younger community members. They continue to carefully monitor our bird community, organising an eighth annual bird survey in November 2020.

Their annual biodiversity lecture given by John Turnbull, a Research Fellow from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of NSW was fully booked and a most interesting insight to our local marine environment.

Glebe During COVID

Members of the Glebe Society have been active in assisting members of the community impacted by the lockdown during the pandemic. Recently COVID struck a number of more vulnerable members of our community and a request was made by the Glebe Youth Service who have been supporting community members with the provision of food and other essential items. A call out was made to Glebe Society membership and \$25,000 was raised for the Youth Services activities. Many thanks to you all.

Glebe Society

On an administrative front we are proud to have launched a facelift to our website which hopefully will make it easier to navigate and make more accessible the thousands of pages of information on Glebe which are available on the website. We have the Communications Subcommittee and in particular Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg and Virginia Simpson-Young for their hard work in this regard.

Funding and Membership Campaign

We have been actively trying to raise funds so that we have funds available for campaigns and other causes which the Society supports. Unfortunately, many of our fundraising activities and community activities have had to be cancelled due to the COVID lockdown. We have participated in a membership drive by producing postcards which have been letterboxed to solicit more members. As a result, we welcome new members.

We anticipate that with an end to lockdown a number of Glebe Walks will be up and running in the New Year. We also expect to launch more activities such as Glebe Voices. We encourage members to participate.

Thank you to the Management Committee

I want to say a special Thankyou to the Management Committee Members who put in a large amount of work.

The number of volunteer hours and effort put in by committee members is outstanding. I have been in other volunteer organisations and the volunteer hours and passion put in by Glebe Society volunteers is incredible. I would like to thank the committee members: Mark Stapleton, Dorothy Davis, Jan Macindoe, Ted McKeown, Allan Hogan, Mary-Beth Brinson, Michael Morrison, Nick Sangster, Andrew Wood, Asa Wahlquist, Judy Vergison, Brian Fuller and Ian Stephenson.

Both Ian and Brian have been invaluable in their knowledge of heritage and planning and great people

Commendations for members

The following members received Commendations at the AGM:

Norma Hawkins

Norma has been a great advocate for maintaining and encouraging bird and other native life in our community. She was a founding member of the Blue Wrens Subcommittee. This work has greatly improved the amenity of Glebe and Forest Lodge for all its residents and users. She has had a commitment to the improvement of our environment in Glebe and Forest Lodge over many years. She was involved in The Friends of Orphans School Creek which was aimed at the improvement of the habitat of Orphans Creek to encourage the saving and growth of the wren population. She is an active member of Friends of John Street Reserve whose work was also directed at saving the Blue Wrens of Glebe and Forest Lodge.

She has been an advocate for the promotion of biodiversity and educating the community as to its importance. We thank you for your enthusiasm and support of projects such as the Craney Small Grants to encourage preschools and primary schools to learn about biodiversity.

A tree was planted on Norma's 99th Birthday in John Street Reserve to honour her. (See story & photo p. 9)



Norma Hawkins (photo: Andrew Wood)

Jude Paul

Jude organises the AGM and does a lot of networking to obtain nominees for office bearers and ordinary members of the Management Committee.

to attend meetings with government and council people. I thank them. Jude Paul, Secretary, I thank for her effort in making sure things get done and her endless enthusiasm. Jane Gatwood, Treasurer I thank. She is seriously underappreciated for all the effort and hard work she puts into the less glamorous but necessary job of managing our finances.

Finally, Virginia Simpson-Young our editor who works tirelessly to put out our fantastic Bulletin. She says she is retiring the position at the end of the year which will be a great loss for the Society and irreplaceable. I hope you might change your mind. Many thanks.

She takes a leading role in the physical distribution of the Bulletin hard copy. She is the first point of contact for new members. She takes a leading role in fundraising and recently has played a major role organising and doing the legwork for the membership drive. She organised from start to finish the Society's entry in the National Trust Heritage Awards for which the Society received a commendation.

She is involved or has knowledge of almost all aspects of the Glebe Society. She wears the Glebe Society on her sleeve every day.



Jude Paul at the Volunteers' Party after the 50th anniversary festival in 2019 (photo: VixPix)

Judy Vergison

Judy had a large role in organising our 50th anniversary celebrations and making sure everything worked. She has been the events coordinator for some years and she goes to great trouble to make sure all details are covered, and the event is of a very high standard. She has organised many Christmas parties and the social side of the AGMs. Her contributions to discussions and decisions of the Management are often those which bring clarity to an argument. She has put in great effort for the Glebe Society



Judy Vergison with Phil Vergison at the Volunteers' Party after the 50th anniversary festival in 2019 (photo: VixPix)

AGM on our social media

The Zoom recording of the AGM is now on our social media pages:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMaM7NGLq4Y&t=12s>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGlebeSociety/videos/293490082336974>

For Your Calendar

Saturday 7 to Sunday 28 November, *The 32nd Annual Glebe Music Festival*, various venues

Sunday 7 November, 6.45 am, *Spring Bird Survey*, Paddy Gray Reserve

Sunday 7 November, 3 pm. Concert 1: *Thoroughbass 'Two remarkable women'*, Glebe Town Hall

Saturday 13 November, 7 pm. Concert 2: *Wolf Mail (guitar) and Milena Barrett (Blues and Soul)*, Glebe Town Hall

Saturday 20 November, 10-11.30 am, Meet the Lord Mayoral Candidates' Debate, Glebe Town Hall & by zoom

Saturday 20 November, 3 pm. Concert 3: *Sydney Baroque Players*, Glebe Town Hall

Sunday 21 November, 3 pm. Concert 4: *Lawergren and Lowe*, Glebe Town Hall

Sunday 28 November, 10 am-12 noon. 'My Vision for the St Phillips Estate' with Philip Thalís, Friend in Hand Hotel

Sunday 28 November, 3 pm: Concert 5: *Josie and the Emeralds*, St Johns Church

Tuesday 7 December, 5.30 - 7.30 pm, Glebe Society Christmas Gathering, Beckett's Bar & Dining

Friday 17 December, 2-4 pm, *Sarah Murdoch King's 100th Birthday Party*, Glebe Town Hall (see insert)

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

Management Committee

President	Ian Stephenson	0415 919 874	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	Janet Wahlquist		pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au
Secretary	Jude Paul	0438 600 882	secretary@glebesociety.org.au
Minutes Secretary	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	minutes@glebesociety.org.au
Treasurer	Jane Gatwood	0488 118 355	treasurer@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Allan Hogan	0411 607 813	allan@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Ted McKeown	02 9660 3917	ted@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Michael Morrison		michael@glebesociety.org.au
Ordinary member	Mary-Beth Brinson		mary-beth@glebesociety.org.au
Bays & Foreshores	Asa Wahlquist	02 9660 8261	bays@glebesociety.org.au
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au
Communications	Allan Hogan	0411 607 813	communications@glebesociety.org.au
Community	vacant		community@glebesociety.org.au
Heritage	Brian Fuller	0409 035 418	heritage@glebesociety.org.au
Planning	Ian Stephenson	0415 919 874	planning@glebesociety.org.au
Environment	vacant		environment@glebesociety.org.au
Transport & Traffic	vacant		transport@glebesociety.org.au

Working Groups & Contacts

Glebe Island Bridge	vacant		transport@glebesociety.org.au
Archivist	Lyn Milton	0419 412 477	archives@glebesociety.org.au
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	editor@glebesociety.org.au
Events	Judy Vergison	0417 446 425	events@glebesociety.org.au
Local History	Lyn Collingwood		history@glebesociety.org.au
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Glebe Voices	Fiona Campbell	02 9660 0185	glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au
Web content	Tarny Burton	0419 633 238	webmaster@glebesociety.org.au
Website technical	Tarny Burton	0419 633 238	support@glebesociety.org.au
Facebook	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	facebook@glebesociety.org.au
Twitterer			twitter@glebesociety.org.au

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 9 of 2021 (November 2021)

Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110
- Additional donation welcome

How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



Glebe Society members collecting food donations at Broadway Shopping Centre for the Glebe Youth Service (photo: Dorothy Davis)