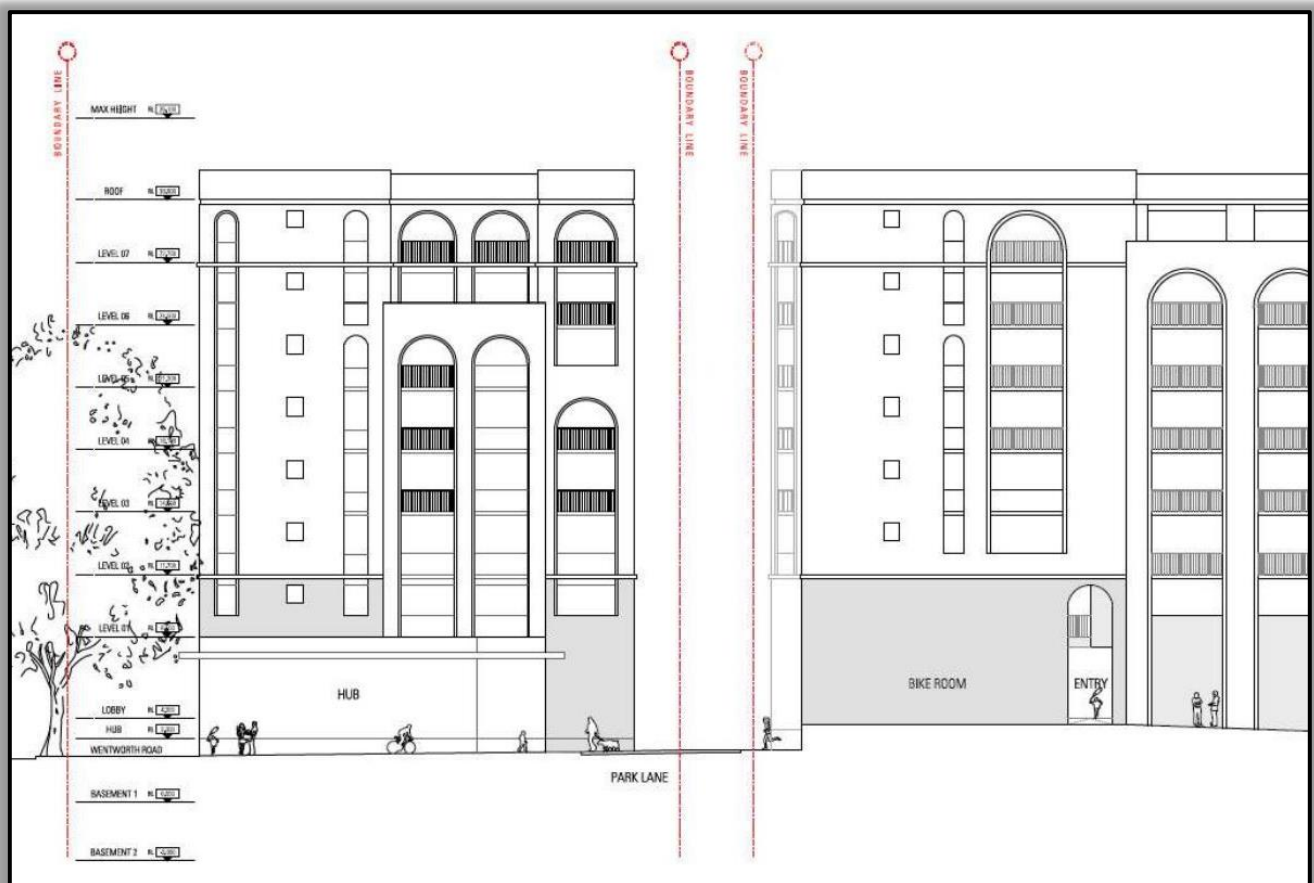




An update on the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's rezoning application for high rise in the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor



The design of the two eight-storey apartment buildings that NSW Land and Housing Corporation intend for 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd Glebe.

Numbers 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd are part of the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area. The current height limit is nine metres. To construct tall buildings, a spot rezoning is necessary. The Society has objected to the rezoning application as has the National Trust.

The Trust noted

it is a bad precedent to simply modify the boundary of a Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) to allow development that would otherwise be considered unsympathetic and not contributing to the cultural values of the place.

Heritage Conservation Areas are vulnerable to edge effects. Those areas closest to the boundary suffer the greatest from development outside the HCA. Further encroachment into a HCA will result in the erosion of the HCA's integrity. The scale of an adjacent development that is outside of a conservation area cannot be used as a precedent for inappropriate work within a HCA – this is the whole purpose of such boundaries.

These are very wise observations. A copy of the National Trust's objection can be read here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/national-trust-submission-re-hca-rezoning-2021/>.

In response to concerns raised by the President of the Society with the Lord Mayor about the rezoning, Andrew Thomas, Acting Director City Planning/Development/Transport advised that

an independent heritage impact assessment has been prepared for NSW Land and Housing Corporation. That assessment concludes that demolishing the existing buildings will have a negligible impact on the significance of the heritage conservation area and that the proposal to remove the subject site from the conservation area would be an acceptable heritage outcome. Mr Thomas's letter can be viewed here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/cos-thomas-letter-re-hca-rezoning-november-2020/>



The Society included in its objection a detailed critique of the Heritage Impact Assessment commissioned by LAHC and found it was based on inadequate research, contained errors of fact and was flawed in its conclusions. This view was supported by the eminent conservation architect Dr Clive Lucas OBE and the distinguished architectural historian Dr James Broadbent AM.

The Society's objection can be read in full at <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/TGSI-Cowper-St-objection-7-Dec-2020.pdf>. An example of the specious argument in the Heritage Assessment is the statement 'the site is located within a pocket of varied architectural styles and densities of development and that interpreting the existing buildings as cohesive with the values of the conservation area are less applicable.' Numbers 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd, in fact, adjoin 42 terrace mid-Victorian houses.



The architectural context of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd (image: The Glebe Society)

Mr Thomas's letter of 17 November 2020 stated 'the heritage assessment considered that the existing buildings can potentially confuse interpretation of the mostly Victorian architectural values of the conservation area'. This is a very weak argument for demolishing a pair of two-storey structures in a conservation zone and replacing them with eight-storey apartment buildings. If LAHC object to the style of the present buildings they should replace them with buildings of an appropriate scale for the conservation area, not eight-storey ones.

The assertion in LAHC's heritage assessment that the design of the buildings is not sympathetic to the heritage conservation area is not supported by the conservation architect Clive Lucas. Dr Lucas was commissioned by the Federal government to advise on the conservation of the former church estates in the 1970s, so knows the area well. He has noted that '17 to 31 Cowper St ticks all the boxes, scale, character and materials. It is what all infill development in historic areas should exactly do. It is an exemplar.' Nor has it previously been the view of LAHC that the buildings do not contribute to the HCA as they have included them in their Section 170 Register (section 170 of the NSW Heritage Act requires State government departments to keep a list of their heritage assets).

The problem lies with the NSW Government's Communities Plus Program. This is a model whereby Land and Housing sites are redeveloped by tripling their density. Tripling the density needs much taller buildings which is why spot rezoning is required. The amount of social housing is increased by a small amount while the remaining two-thirds of the developments are sold.

The liveability of social housing is greatly reduced as low-rise apartments that are integrated into historic neighbourhoods are better to live in than high rise, which alienates people from the outside world and their communities.

Housing for All, the City of Sydney Local Housing Strategy states that the NSW Land and Housing Corporation has large consolidated land holdings, that these sites tend to have relatively high dwelling density and that 'it is difficult to apply the Communities Plus program to these sites, as the resultant tripling of density is rarely consistent with creating good places.'

The City Plan 2036 notes that

the City's conservation areas provide housing at the highest population densities in Australia and continue to house an increased population, some at rates greater than the metropolitan average rate of increase. The small lot sizes, variety of accommodation types and over two centuries of accumulated growth have produced successful urban environments that accommodate change and warrant protection.

The city has a rich supply of medium density, standalone, detached, semi-detached and terrace houses, mostly in heritage conservation and residential zoned areas. Each of these local areas have a distinct character and a range of housing types that contribute towards the city's housing diversity. It is crucial that the local character and housing diversity in these areas is preserved as future housing growth will consist almost entirely of apartments in medium to high-density developments. By 2036, it is expected that over 80 per cent of people living in the city will live in apartments.

Number 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd are the first Glebe LAHC sites where a rezoning application has been lodged. More will follow.

LAHC have indicated their intention to apply to Sydney City Council to rezone the Philip Cox designed social housing in Bay St, Glebe St and Franklyn St for 14-storey buildings (See our article on page 4 about this development).

LAHC are the largest landholder in Glebe and have substantial holdings of 1980s infill housing. If implemented, the Communities Plus model will decimate our historic suburb.

In what can only be described as disrespect for proper process, the Sydney City Council and Glebe residents, LAHC announced on its website last December that the Government has awarded a contract for managing one of the eight-storey apartment buildings proposed for Cowper Street to Bridge Housing. This is for a building that cannot be erected under the current zoning and for which no DA has been lodged! They also claim that 'this landmark development at Cowper St and Wentworth Park Rd is a great example of how the NSW Government is working to deliver new and better social housing in inner Sydney, that also enhances the unique character of

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation 'are the largest landholder in Glebe and have substantial holdings of 1980s infill housing. If implemented, the Communities Plus model will decimate our historic suburb.'

— Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

the local area'. This is wrong on both counts, the development provides lower quality social housing and compromises the unique character of the area.

Council staff are currently preparing a report which will address the submissions made in respect of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd. The Glebe Society has been advised that the rezoning application will then be considered by the Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee which comprises all Councillors and the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Clover Moore (9265 9229, cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au), the Deputy Lord Mayor – Councillor Jess Scully (9246 7396, jscully@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) and Councillor Professor Philip Thalís (9246 7383, pthalis@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) are members of both Committees.

It is to be hoped that Councillors will heed the concerns about the Communities Plus model raised in *Housing for all, the City of Sydney Local Housing Strategy* and will respect Glebe's heritage conservation areas in line with the current Development Control Plan and *the City Plan 2036*.

If you are concerned about the rezoning of parts of Glebe to accommodate eight-storey buildings it is important to let your elected representatives know before the rezoning application is determined. A full list of Councillors' names and contact details is printed below.

Lord Mayor, Clover Moore 9265 9229, cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Deputy Lord Mayor, Jess Scully 9246 7396, jscully@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Craig Chung 9246 7375, cchung@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Christine Forster 9288 5921, cforster@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Robert Kok 9265 9427, rkok@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Jess Miller 9246 7362, jmiller@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Professor Kerry Phelp's AM, 9246 7347, kphelps@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Linda Scott 9288 5917, lscott@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Professor Philip Thalís, 9246 7383, pthalis@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Angela Vithoulkas, 9288 5909, avithoulkas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Franklyn St Estate Demonstration

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

On 30 January our compatriot organisation *Hands Off Glebe* held a demonstration opposing the redevelopment of the Cowper St and Franklyn St estates.



The estate provides 108 low rise apartments set in open space (image: Ian Stephenson)



LAHC propose demolishing the buildings, replacing the gardens with roads and building towers up to 14 storeys high (image: LAHC website)



Hands off Glebe rally to save the Franklyn St estate (image: Peter Boyle)

Speakers included Denis Doherty of Hands Off Glebe, Ian Stephenson, the Glebe Society, Jamie Parker, the member for Balmain, Paul Keating, Maritime Union of Australia, Emily Bullock, Franklyn St representative and Dr Alistair Sisson, a research associate at the University of New South Wales City Futures Research Centre.

The estate currently provides 108 apartments set within gardens. The proposed development will have 425 apartments. To enable this a spot rezoning will be needed to change the existing height limit from 15 metres to 42 metres.

Of the 425 apartments, only 140 will be for social housing, a net increase of 22. However, as Jamie Parker explained, the number of social housing bedrooms will probably be less as a large proportion of the community housing units will be one bedroom. The current complex contains 254 bedrooms.

As outlined in the last *Bulletin* the estate is over 1.3 hectares in area, with 1/3 of one kilometre of street frontage on Franklyn St, Glebe St and Bay St., All the current street frontages address heritage conservation areas in which there are a number of individually listed heritage buildings. It is situated within the Mountain St Heritage

Conservation Area. Its size and location make it a key site linking the low rise Victorian residential character of Glebe with the historic warehouses which define Ultimo. This gives it a great strategic importance in contributing to and defining the character of the area and its streets.

The current Development Control Plan provides a good framework for preserving the character and identity of the area, but this will be trashed if spot rezoning is approved. Good planning will be sacrificed for the misnamed Communities Plus Program – it really should be called the Communities Minus Program.

The concept fails the people of NSW on many levels including tenants' amenity, respect for tenants, good design and respect for heritage and context.

The Lord Mayor's response to the Glebe Society can be read here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/from-Lord-Mayor-re-Franklyn-St-21-January-2021.pdf>



On page 37 of our last *Bulletin* ([Bulletin 10/2020](#)), Janice Challinor shared this picture showing timber shakes being revealed as a new roof is removed. The Society received correspondence from Helen Randerson, who once owned the house:

Hi Janice & Virginia

I saw your photo in the latest bulletin and believe it is the facade of 62 Campbell St Glebe. I lived in this house from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. It had been beautifully renovated by a woman called Jan Angel, had been featured in magazines and on Glebe heritage walks as an example of a well refurbished 1880s cottage. I was aware that Jan had kept the wooden shingles (or shakes) under the new iron roof. It used to contain 2 bedrooms, a living and dining room, a 'breezeway' connecting to a galley kitchen, laundry and bathroom, opening on to vegetation.

Sadly, a recent DA appears to have allowed the house to be demolished leaving only the facade. This is the photo I took of what remains of the house from the rear lane on 30 November 2020 – mostly concrete – and two of the original fireplaces still visible. It made me very sad to see how Glebe's heritage is being erased so easily.

The matching terrace next door at 64 Campbell St (on left of photo) has also been partially demolished.

Regards

Helen Randerson



(Photo: Helen Randerson)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Janet Wahlquist

Glebe Island Bridge

We continue our campaign to see the Glebe Island Bridge restored. Lord Mayor Clover Moore has indicated her support for its restoration and we are to meet with the Manager of Transport Planning for the City of Sydney about the bridge. We have also been in contact with Transport for NSW who are investigating all aspects of the Bridge's future in the hope of a meeting.

We have updated the Glebe Island Bridge Website (<https://www.glebeislandbridge.com/>) and we intend to update it regularly with information about Glebe Island Bridge and progress in our campaign for restoration.

Meeting with Councillor Kerry Phelps

Councillor Phelps attended our Christmas Party in December and requested that the Glebe Society show her sites of concern to us. Planning Convenor Ian Stephenson and I met with Councillor Phelps and a member of her staff in early January and participated in a walking tour of the two Public Housing projects in Franklyn St and Cowper/Wentworth Park Rd. Councillor Phelps was very receptive to our concerns. We also walked down to the proposed Fishmarket site where the former concrete plant was still being demolished. The concrete plant demolition shows that the Fishmarket will be built 100 per cent in or over what is now Blackwattle Bay, there is no land there. Again, Councillor Phelps indicated that she was receptive to the concerns of the Glebe Society.



Ian Stephenson (Planning Convenor), Councillor Kerry Phelps and Janet Wahlquist (President) on the fact-finding mission to Franklyn St (photo: Kerry Phelps' office)



Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor, addressing the gathering at the 'Hands Off Glebe' rally on 30 January to save Glebe's public housing (photo: Phil Vergison)

Centre which would manage the use of the Town Hall for the benefit of the Community. The Lord Mayor was encouraging of the proposal and agreed that the proposal be assessed. COVID and the closing of many of Council facilities, including the Glebe Town Hall, stalled this process. We intend to continue to campaign for a Community Centre. This being a Council election year, we hope the proposal might be viewed favourably.

We look forward to an active and positive 2021 and we welcome the involvement of members in any and all of our campaigns and activities.

Fight to save Public Housing from demolition and Glebe from High Rise Developments

The Glebe Society has agreed to join with Hands Off Glebe in the campaign to save Glebe from high-rise development and the demolition of the homes of Public Housing residents which are compliant with Glebe heritage and zoning. On 30 January, many members attended the rally opposing the development and demolition. There is more about this campaign elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

Parks in Glebe and Forest Lodge

Members will be well-acquainted with the redesign and upgrading of Federal Park. After a significant delay in 2020, when the builders went out of business, the new park is taking shape and it looks like the park will offer attractive and inventive play areas for children of most ages and adults as well as seating for observers, a barbecue picnic area and a skate park.

We are spoilt in Glebe/Forest Lodge for attractive parks, large and small, and the new Federal Park illustrates what is possible. We would be interested to hear any ideas members have as to how they think their local park could be improved to meet their needs better. Write to us at president@glebesociety.org.au.

A Community Centre at Glebe Town Hall

Last year we met with Lord Mayor Clover Moore about a proposal that the Glebe Town Hall house a Community Centre which would manage the use of the Town Hall for the benefit of the Community. The Lord Mayor was encouraging of the proposal and agreed that the proposal be assessed. COVID and the closing of many of Council facilities, including the Glebe Town Hall, stalled this process. We intend to continue to campaign for a Community Centre. This being a Council election year, we hope the proposal might be viewed favourably.

Update on Bridge Rd 'pop-up' cycleway

by Jude Paul, Secretary

The COVID-19 legislation that enabled the introduction of a 'pop-up' cycleway on both sides of Bridge Rd Glebe/Forest Lodge terminates on 25 March 2021. A decision will be made within eight weeks of this date to either remove it or establish it on a permanent basis. To make the cycleway permanent, Transport for NSW must undergo a rigorous community consultation process.

Several articles in 2020 *Bulletins* ([7/2020](#) and [8/2020](#)) outlined the Society's long advocacy for and commitment to the increased use of cycles as a means of transport. Most recently, the Glebe Society organised a well-attended rally to highlight the role the (now disused) Glebe Island Bridge could play in supporting a safe pedestrian and cycling access route to and from the city and surrounds. A full report of this rally is in [Bulletin 10/2020](#).

Since the opening of the first Pyrmont Bridge in 1858, Bridge Rd has functioned as both an access road and a popular address. By the 1880s, dense residential subdivision along both sides of the road itself and the many adjoining, mostly narrower, side streets and laneways reflected much of the heritage architectural design and character extant today, particularly along the two-kilometre section from Ross St Forest Lodge east to the site of the new Fishmarket. In addition to two intersections controlled by traffic lights, there are a further four cross-intersections, 11 side streets and 27 private driveways in Bridge Rd. For the many users of these points, access to Bridge Rd requires crossing the cycleway to do so.

From its mid-19th century origins until today, the road has adequately borne the complex and diverse needs of its many users, including various types of vehicular transport, residents, pedestrians, pre-school and school children and businesses. Nonetheless, under COVID-19 legislation, immense changes were made to the functioning of this road to improve the safety of a unique sub-set of road users. The subsequent installation of a dedicated cycleway on both the southern and northern sides of Bridge Rd now sees approximately 40% of the road width itself (intermittently) dedicated to the exclusive use of one group of road users – a road that is estimated to carry over 20,000 vehicle movements per day.

Has the cycleway been a success?

The design of the cycleway has created several problems for residents, businesses and schools along the road and for other vehicular road users. These problems include:

- 'Blind' corners where road users have to drive into the cycle path to gain a clear view for their entry to Bridge Rd. By nature of its 19th century origins, many of the two-storey terrace house rows on either side of Bridge Rd are built plumb to the corner of adjoining streets and laneways.
- The adaptable function of the road as a clearway at busy times, with restricted parking at other times has gone. This has severely impacted local residents' ability to plan for the delivery of any service, access to parking for emergency, disability and medical services, drop-offs, moving house etc. The need for all service providers to find a parking spot 'somewhere 'round the corner' in Bridge Rd and immediately adjoining precinct is highly problematic.
- The intermittent nature of the cycle path. There are many gaps in the pathway that require a merge between cyclists and road users, so-called 'pinch' points. At a number of these points, cyclists mount the footpath to continue their journey.
- In a recent response to a resident's concerns about the safety and amenity of this road, Clover Moore noted her belief that a cycleway on Bridge Rd would improve access to schools such as Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus and medical facilities such as Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. It is unclear whether Ms Moore knows the drawing area for SSCBB campus, but



*The cycleway near Cross St, Forest Lodge
(photo: V. Simpson-Young)*

much of it is already well-served by the current light rail service, including a stop on the school's doorstep. As for students cycling from Balmain or Lilyfield, here's a question. Will I cycle the (very) long way along Bridge Rd or will I choose the existing, scenic cycle/pedestrian path around Blackwattle Bay? And for clients of RPA's medical services, some more questions – will I cycle to hospital for surgery or will I get a family member/friend /taxi to drop me off? Will I cycle home after treatment or get someone to pick me up in a car?

There is no trick to calculating the use of this cycleway. Stand anywhere on Bridge Rd and have a go yourself. However, residents have had no luck obtaining official data from either the City of Sydney or Transport NSW. Likewise, residents have received no detailed response from the City of Sydney to an independently commissioned safety audit. It is known however that a number of accidents between cyclists using the pop-up cycleway and vehicular traffic have required medical attention.

Where to next?

Society members can express either support or concern by contacting the following:

Transport for NSW: Tyson Kinnane – 1800 573 193; covidpopup@transport.nsw.gov.au

City of Sydney: Craig Ryan – 9265 9333; crryan@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Lord Mayor Clover Moore – cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Report from the Point

by Liz Simpson-Booker

Technicians spent a day or two last week working on the 'Earth v Sky' light installations and yesterday there was someone working, and testing, the control box for the same. (We were thrilled to think the repair hadn't fallen off Council's to-do list.) Unfortunately, the Earth v Sky artwork still isn't operational.

I wrote in early January in a personal capacity to Jamie Parker to express concern about the Anzac Bridge lights, pointing out the importance of aesthetics in relation to this much-photographed icon (lights missing, replacements dissimilar, etc). Jamie has passed my concerns on to the Minister; no reply to date. In the absence of any response from the Transport Minister, I am guessing what is going on with the bridge lights – the lights across the entire deck are being changed from a yellow light (sodium vapour?) to an energy-efficient (?) but far less dramatic model.

SMH's webpage had an edited extract from Elizabeth Farrelly's new book *Killing Sydney* which is something of a paean to the inner suburbs, including Glebe. There are a couple of nice photos on the site. I've read *Killing Sydney* which tells a pretty depressing story, and only tangential references to Glebe but Farrelly's overall argument is very relevant. The extract can be seen here: <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/books/my-love-affair-with-sydney-and-my-fears-for-its-slow-strangulation-20210115-p56uhd.html>



Artwork, *Earth v Sky*, in the foreground and Anzac Bridge in the background (photo: Jamie Williams: <https://www.cityartsydney.com.au/artwork/earth-vs-sky/>)

***Bidura* continues to deteriorate – photos from this month**



(photo: Phil Vergison)



(photo: V. Simpson-Young)

HISTORY

The YHA site in Forest Lodge

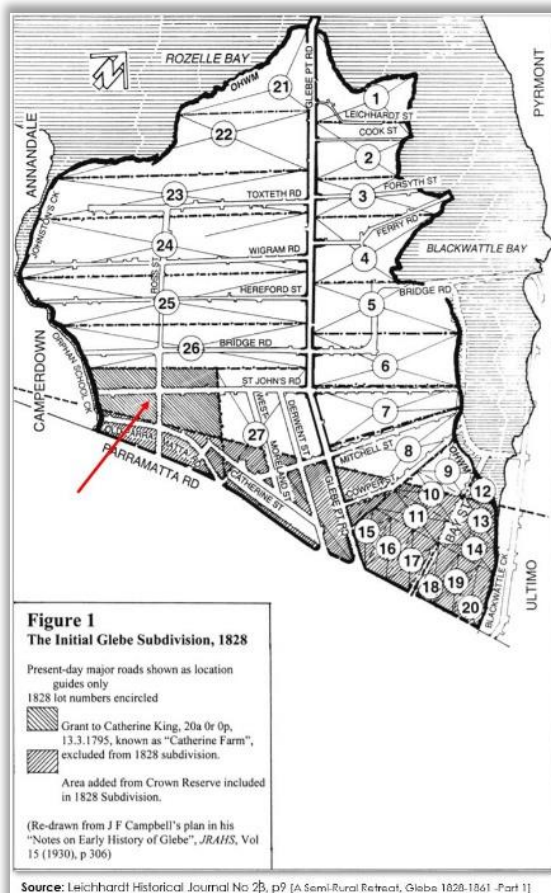
by Lyn Collingwood & Rodney Hammett

Last August's *Bulletin* ([Bulletin 6/2020](#)) noted the closing of the YHA Australia hostel at Glebe Point. This article details the history of 28 Ross St, Forest Lodge, a house that was altered to function as Sydney's first YHA hostel, which opened in 1976. (While the building was being restructured, an upstairs bedroom was used as a location for some domestic scenes in the feature film *Caddie*.)

The Forest Lodge allotment, part of Catherine Farm (20 acres of land granted to Catherine King in 1795), was purchased by George Wigram Allen in 1862. In October 1875 clergyman George Sutherland bought 28 perches (708 m²) from Allen for £300.¹ On the site, fronting Ross St and St Johns Rd, Sutherland built a 14-room mansion with balconies at ground and first floor levels. The Sutherland family moved into their new home in 1877. A coach house was added to the rear in 1885.²



No 28 Ross St in the 1880s (YHA Publication)



Moderator of the Presbyterian Church for Eastern Australia, George Sutherland preached hellfire and damnation at St George's Free Presbyterian Church in Castlereagh St. He had relocated to Sydney from Dunedin after his conduct there was censured, and his resignation sought by the NZ Presbyterian Synod. Viewed by many as sour and illiberal, Sutherland thought Sundays should be spent wholly in church and threatened perdition on those, such as letter sorters, who worked on the Sabbath and on any who enjoyed time on their one day off work riding in a cab or sailing on a pleasure craft. He also demanded, on the grounds of his talent, that his salary be substantially increased. Sutherland's squabbles with members of his St George's congregation became notorious throughout Otago and, although he was farewelled with 100 sovereigns by his supporters, others were only too glad to see the back of him.

Rev George Sutherland



Source: Ancestry.com

Early in 1872, Sutherland made a reconnoitring visit to the Australian colonies. In September he, his second wife and five of his children sailed on the *Rangitoto* to Melbourne from where they transferred to the coastal steamer *Dandenong*. Two months later Sutherland began preaching in Sydney.

It was no doubt one of Sutherland's enemies who relayed details of the clergyman's new workplace back to NZ: the Sydney church featured ugly stained-glass windows, hard and uncomfortable seats, and a small congregation ('250 at most') of mostly elderly, gloomy and austere worshippers. There was a sprinkling of children but hardly any young men or young women. People stood to pray and sat to sing and much of the service was in Gaelic. During the singing the correspondent found himself trapped between two 'screech-owls'.

Born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada on 14 January 1830, George Sutherland trained at Halifax, was ordained in 1854, ministered at Charlottetown 1856-66 and worked for the unification of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was chaplain to the provincial parliament of Prince Edward Island, a member of the Board of Education, and wrote a handbook on the island's geography, natural resources and economy.

In June 1857 Sutherland married Charlotte Lydia Mott, one of ten children of politician and confectionery manufacturer Henry Yeomans Mott. The Mott family were prosperous chocolate makers. Four children were born of the union: Elizabeth Mott (1858-1909), Isabel Fraser (1860-1946), Constance Adelaide (1861-1933) and George Whitfield. After

Charlotte's death, Sutherland married Louisa Julia Ballam (a Nova Scotian born in 1834 at Arichat). They had three children: Jane Elmina Louise ('Ellie' 1866-1949), Victor Ernest (1869-1946) and Irene Beatrice ('Rene' 1874-1956).

In 1867 Sutherland took up the posting in Dunedin. His second daughter remained in Canada, perhaps with her wealthy uncle Jonathan Prescott Mott who was childless and had informally adopted other family members. Isabel in 1887 wed Henry Spurr Creighton at Halifax. She kept in touch with three of her unmarried sisters who visited her as adults.

George Sutherland's sermons on topics such as baptism were printed in Dunedin. In Sydney, he published a journal *Australian Witness* and treatises on Christian psychology, papal domination and moral training in schools. In the early 1890s, Sutherland decided he needed a quiet place to concentrate on writing and moved his family to *Mount Arcadia* off Pennant Hills Rd, Parramatta. The Forest Lodge house was rented out. In 1893 Mrs Andrews used the building as Queen's College, a day and boarding school for 'young ladies' and a primary school for boys. It then functioned as Tara Seminary, a girls' private school run by Caroline Hosier who had trained as a pupil-teacher in the public system. She lived on the premises with her widowed mother Sarah and sisters Theresa and Julia. The Hosiers left sometime after Sarah's death in January 1895.

George Sutherland died in office.³ He was with his younger son Victor on 27 July 1893 when he collapsed in the street near *Mount Arcadia*. The patriarch left an estate valued at £5,794 and a complicated will dealing with property in Nova Scotia, Forest Lodge and Parramatta.⁴ The main beneficiary was his widow and executrix, and provision was unequal for the seven children from his two marriages, their ages then ranging from 19 to 35. George Whitfield disputed the will but lost a case against his stepmother in 1896, the court deciding that

because he and his 'American' siblings were left annuities by an uncle in Nova Scotia they were excluded from having an interest in their father's estate. Louisa Sutherland died from pneumonia and heart failure on 5 June 1899 and was buried at Waverley Cemetery. By this time she had returned to Forest Lodge and had assigned all her entitlements in her husband's estate to her two daughters.⁵

Grand Chaplain of the Orange Lodge, the Reverend Sutherland was vehemently anti-Catholic. In an act of defiance, his oldest child Elizabeth converted to the rival faith, moved into a Glebe Point boarding house and worshipped at St Mary's Cathedral. This was probably after her father's death as in his will he left her a block of land at Beecroft, auctioned in 1900. Elizabeth died on 20 September 1909 at Bathurst but was buried with other family members at Waverley.

Third daughter Constance was educated at Glebe Public School and Sydney University, graduating BA in 1887 and MA in 1889 (one of three females).

By 1900 she had been appointed principal of the Church of England Deaconess High School, a boarding establishment. Constance travelled a great deal. Prominent in the National Council of Women (its secretary Rose Scott), she was in London when approached to attend the 1911 international conference in Stockholm as the organisation's Sydney delegate. She repeated the exercise in 1914 at the International Council of Women in Rome. In 1928 she sailed from Sydney on a health trip on the *Medic* to London, after which she continued to Nova Scotia to see her sister Isabel and dispose of some property. In 1930 she was welcomed back in Sydney by Ellie and Rene but was soon overseas again. Constance made her will in Canada in August 1933 before returning to London where she died on 17 December 1933.

First son George Whitfield was another academic success story, graduating BA from Sydney University, MB in Edinburgh and MD in London. On returning to Sydney, he lived in fashionable *Lyons Terrace* on Liverpool St. Survived by his wife Ruth Agnes and their newborn Constance Margaret Irene, George died on 3 March 1896 and was buried in Waverley Cemetery.

Fourth daughter (Jane) Elmina was educated at Sydney Girls' High where she was a classmate of writers Ethel Turner and Louise Mack. She graduated with a BA in 1891, majoring in Philosophy, English, Greek and Latin after which she and her sister Constance were on the committee of the Sydney University Women's Association. In 1907 Elmina and Irene returned from three years' overseas travel, mainly in England and America where, in company with Constance, they visited women's clubs, notably in Boston. A school teacher, Elmina was a founder and first secretary of the Women's Club, and served on the committee of the Women's National Movement for Temperance. During the First World War, she organised women's pro-conscription rallies. Elmina died on 30 September 1949 at the Neutral Bay home she shared with her surviving sister and was buried in the Presbyterian section of Waverley Cemetery.

Second son Victor Ernest lived for most of his adult life in the Parramatta district. He gave his profession as an architect and civil engineer and was frequently in court as both plaintiff and defendant. In 1888 he was the victim of an assault by two teenagers; a decade later he was fined for travelling on an expired train ticket. In 1896 he was awarded £250 damages for injuries received when, out riding with his sister Irene, his pony was struck by a cart and a shaft penetrated his thigh. By 1900 Victor was in a financial fix, accused of fraud and declared bankrupt. Following the death in 1924 of Caroline née Ellison, Victor married Rita Phyllis Brell, 34 years his junior. The couple divorced. Victor died on 4 May 1946 and was buried near his first wife in the St Mary Magdalene churchyard, St Marys. There were three children from the first marriage: George Ballam Hilton



28 Ross St today (photo: Lyn Collingwood)

(1900-82), Helen (born and died in 1913) and Sheila Margaret (1914-2001). And two from the second: Robert (1928-92) and Brian (1931-5).

Youngest child Irene Beatrice kept house for her schoolteacher sisters. During the First World War, she and Elmina opened up 28 Ross St as one of the metropolitan district centres for soldiers' wives and mothers, providing help and shelter for those in need. (The *Police Gazette* of 13 November 1918 gave *Tara* as the address for the mother of private Charles Crowley, a deserter.) After the war, Irene and Elmina moved to Waverton and then to 35 Wycombe Rd, Neutral Bay, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Irene did not marry and nothing further is known of her private life and interests.

In 1923 *Tara* was advertised as a boarding house offering 'superior board, airy rooms, electricity, a bath heater, and every convenience; ladies from £1, gentlemen from 25 shillings'.⁶ By 1938 it was the *Audley Guest House*, advertised to country visitors in country newspapers as '... at tram stop, only 2d from the city, excellent table, airy rooms, tariff 30 shillings, bed and breakfast 22/6.'⁷ *Tara* remained a guest house, albeit a shabby version of its former grandeur, until 1966 when it was leased to Gala Knitwear (Manufacturing) Pty Ltd resulting in changes to the building.

With the 1949 death of Elmina, Irene became the sole owner of 28 Ross St. In 1957 she sold it to her niece Sheila Margaret Armstrong, the wife of grazier Jack Trench Armstrong of Nyngan.⁸ Sheila, the daughter of Victor Ernest Sutherland, in July 1974 sold the property to YHA, ending almost 100 years of Sutherland family ownership. The other Sutherland property at North Parramatta became the Smith Family's home for needy children in 1933; it was purchased in 1958 by the Tara Anglican School for Girls.⁹



One of the first
'Smith Family'
Christmas
celebrations at Mt
Arcadia, c. 1934.¹⁰

Considerable research has confirmed that there is no connection between the name *Tara* for the Forest Lodge property and the Tara Anglican School for Girls.

Notes: ¹ NSW Land Registry Services, Bk154 No382; ² *Daily Telegraph*: Wed 2 Sep 1885, p1. See also sheet 31 of the 1883-7 survey of Glebe; ³ *Daily Telegraph*: Sat 29 Jul 1893, p8; ⁴ *Findmypast*, NSW Wills; ⁵ NSW Land Registry Services, Bk645 No692; ⁶ *Sydney Morning Herald*: Tue 19 Jan 1923, p7; ⁷ *Mudgee Guardian*: Tues 23 Dec 1938, p4; ⁸ NSW Land Registry Services, PA 32892 & Vols 4928-101/102; ⁹ Mt Arcadia and the Smith Family [*Barrier Daily Truth*: Mon 17 Mar 1952, p4]; Hills District Historical Society – Mt Arcadia Children's Hospital; ¹⁰ <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/about-us/our-story>

Other Sources Glebe Society *Bulletin* 8/1976; McCulloch, John E S *Beds, books and backpacks: the story of YHA in Australia*; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW registry of births, deaths and marriages; NSW State Records; NZ Papers Past website; Sands *Directories*; Trove website; Ward, Rowland S A *Witness for Christ*; Ward, Rowland S, *The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia 1846-2013*; Youth Hostels Association of New South Wales *A Short History of the Development of YHA 1942-1980*.

Mystery Photo

with Lyn Collingwood



Above: 45 Ferry Rd today (photo: Lyn Collingwood)

Our Last 'Mystery Photo'

Madeleine Jennings identified the location as the Ferry Rd/Avon St intersection, opposite Ernest Pedersen Reserve. The photo of the house was taken in 1970.

Corner buildings usually first functioned as pubs or shops. With a large yard and stabling, no. 45 (originally no. 1) Ferry Rd was a grocery until at least 1932. Its first shopkeeper ca 1884-8 was George Dunn. During the depressed 1890s, there was a regular turnover of tenants. When Edwin Evans vacated, he put his near new Eureka stove and double-barrel shotgun up for sale, as well as his brass tea scales.

In 1908 the entire grocery and haberdashery stock was auctioned, together with a horse and harness, scales, ice chest, marble slabs and a showcase. Roger Florence O'Sullivan moved from Queensland with his wife and young family and set up as O'Sullivan and Co. grocers. The firm had a continuous association with the Glebe site for well over two decades.

Right: advertisement in *The Catholic Press*
11 June 1914 p.31

O'SULLIVAN AND CO.,
Grocers & Provision Merchants.
45 Ferry-Road, Glebe Point,
Also 126 Market-Street, City.
Telephone—Glebe 759.



This month's mystery photo

What are we looking at?

Please send your suggestions to
history@glebesociety.org.au

100 Years ago in Glebe & Forest Lodge – this month: March 1921

by Rodney Hammett



Daily Telegraph Wednesday 2 March 1921, p.8

Cricket in a different era

Glebe boys Warren Bardsley and William Albert Oldfield were in the Australian cricket team that would shortly depart for a tour to England. Further details of the Glebe Cricket Club can be found in the 2016-01 issue of the *Bulletin*; an article by Ian Edwards.

The NSW members of the team left Sydney on the *RMS Osterley* for Melbourne on Saturday 12 March. Here the Victorian players joined the team for an overland trip to Western Australia where they played a game at Kalgoorlie before a match against a Western Australian team in Perth on 19-22 March. The match had to finish early on the third day so that the team could re-join the *Osterley*, now at Freemantle with the South Australian members on-board, for their journey to England.

In England, they played test matches on 28 May (Nottingham), 11 June (Lords), 27 June (Leeds), 23 June (Manchester) and 18 August (The Oval). Each game was restricted to three days, as was usual for that time, however, later this became five days as we know it today.

Captained by Warwick Armstrong, Australia won the first three tests and drew the last two, to retain the Ashes. Warren Bardsley featured, making 66 runs in the first test, then 88 and 63 not out in the second test. On their return a match was held in South Africa in September, meaning it was not until 24 December the Victorian and NSW members arrived back in Melbourne by train at Spencer St station, welcomed home by family and a crowd of well-wishers.

Sources: *Casino & Kyogle Courier and North Coast Advertiser* (Sat 12 Mar 1921, p3); *Melbourne Herald* (Sat 24 Dec, p1); *Wikipedia*

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Christmas Appeal 2020

by Janice Challinor, Community Development Subcommittee

The Glebe Society Christmas Appeal provided several gifts for many individuals living in supported accommodation in Glebe last year, and children undertaking programs at the Glebe PCYC, despite the restrictions COVID placed on the collection and distribution process. The wonderful generosity of the staff of Chris O'Brien's Lighthouse Hospital, without whom the appeal would be much less successful complemented the donations of Glebe Society members significantly.

Altogether we were able to deliver several gifts each to 81 children of parents in the following facilities: Elsie Women and Children's Refuge, Rainbow Lodge, Detour House and the Girls' Refuge, Katherine York and those children engaged in Glebe PCYC



Chris O'Brien Lighthouse Christmas gifts (photo: Chris O'Brien Lighthouse)

development programs. There were also many donations of personal care items and small luxuries for the 25 adults living at the facilities. It also deserves to be noted that there were sufficient gifts to be given to all of the 40 plus children of men engaged with the Rainbow Lodge Outreach program, and there is a large box of educational games, books and stationery items awaiting delivery to Centipede at Glebe Public School when the school term commences.

This community caring initiative demonstrates the generosity of all who engaged in 2020, including several individuals who offered to 'shop late to fill in the gaps' when we had sorted and allocated gifts and knew where the shortages might be. As there were no age or gender groups not well catered for these good folks were asked to consider giving a cash donation to Centipede at Glebe Public School, for whom we were unable to run our annual fundraiser in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

It is a privilege to be able to facilitate this community caring initiative, and I would like to personally thank all who contributed in whatever capacity to this annual activity.

The popularity of Kitchen Packs continues

by Jan Macindoe, Convenor, Community Development Subcommittee

Thanks to the thoughtful donations of Glebe Society members and their friends and families, Elsie Women's Refuge and Rainbow Lodge have been provided with kitchen packs like the one shown here. This pack is for a family from Elsie, and the packs provided to the single men from Rainbow Lodge are a little smaller but equal in quality. The packs are given to those leaving for independent accommodation in the community. Unfortunately, a shortage of such accommodation means that boarding arrangements are sometimes necessary, and in those cases, there is no requirement for kitchen equipment. However, it is expected that demand will increase this year, and we have an on-going need for more crockery, cutlery and kitchen equipment as shown in the photo.



A Kitchen Starter Pack (photo: Diane Hutchinson)

So if your cupboards need cleaning out, we will always welcome used items in good condition. And do mention this project to friends and family who may find surplus kitchen equipment and dining ware. Word of mouth is the best advertisement.

Many thanks to those who have donated previously. Feel free to contact me, Jan, any time, and I can arrange for a pick-up. My phone number is 0424 537 557.

Donation for Glebe Public School Bus

The Glebe Society donated \$1,000 towards the running of the Glebe Public School bus.

The bus is used for the Glebe TreeHouse which was facing serious difficulties in securing funding for the program this year. The donation enables the program to be extended to both term 1 and 2.



Sewing for Good

by Janice Challinor, Community Development Subcommittee

The Sewing for Good (SFG) group continued to produce sewn, knitted and crocheted items during 2020, despite losing access to the original venue at Glebe Town Hall in January when the management protocols for the space were changed by GCDP and its interim University of Sydney acting manager. Then lock-down happened. The four women members who continued to produce items have variously sewed at home while keeping in communication through WhatsApp, then reconvened fortnightly at the home of one to continue this activity after lock-down was lifted.

As well as tote bags, the original products, created from recycled donated material and given to the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) at Newtown, the range of items has increased significantly. Items made by the group this year have included scarves, tea-towels given to the Kitchen Starter Pack Project, knitted beanies, doorstop

owls, teapot cosies, and masks. At Christmas 2020 this was supplemented with Christmas wreaths and Christmas bunting. So prolific has the production of tote bags etc been that several stalls have been held to raise money for the ASC where the number of bags exceeded their needs. The first of these was for Christmas 2019, then one at 92 Glebe Point Rd with the support of owner Angela, and another for Christmas 2020 at 158 GPR with the support of kindly neighbours with a big front yard.



Customers at 92 GPR sale (photo: Janice Challinor)



Sewing for Good tea cosy (photo: Janice Challinor)

Another initiative was to ask Joe and Damien Galluzzo to sell bags and masks to their customers. They generously agreed to do so, from which SFG received foodstuffs to take to ASC in lieu of monetary payments. The Galluzzos liked the concept of lined tote bags made with potato bag outers so much that they commissioned 100 to be made as Christmas gifts to suppliers and corporate customers. SFG would like to publicly thank them for their support. Then masks were offered for sale to the volunteers and staff at local Glebe based community radio station 2RPH (Reading for the Print Handicapped). The masks were so popular that an unaligned *a capella* group's director commissioned SFG to make 25 masks with inbuilt sound boxes so they could keep singing, despite the need for masks. This alone raised \$750.

Altogether the SFG group has raised over \$4,000 for the ASC, all provided in the form of foodstuff and other essential products. Another \$1,500 worth of foodstuff was directed to Centipede at Glebe Public School for their breakfast and dinner programs.



Finally, thanks should also be made to Pauline at the Sewing Box at Balmain who has given, free of charge, a great deal of recycled yet unused material to the SFG group. While the members of the group wish to remain anonymous, they will continue to accept material from Glebe Society members who would like to donate it through the Community Subcommittee. If you are interested in supporting this project please text 0401 505 657 and your call will be returned.

Balmain Hospital Consumer Representatives

by Edwina Doe

Among other jobs in retirement, I proofread documents for **rpavirtual**, a part of the Sydney Local Health District which includes RPA and Balmain Hospital.

That is how I was sent the notice below, and I'm passing it on, as to my knowledge three Glebe Society members are in-patients at the moment, and many members would have been visitors and patients over the years. Nicholas would be pleased to hear from you if you are interested.



Balmain Hospital is looking for individuals to join their long-standing consumer representative group. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please ask them to contact Nicholas Bates, Community Participation Coordinator, Community Health, Balmain Hospital, Aged, Chronic Care and Rehabilitation Services. nicholas.bates@health.nsw.gov.au.

More info about the Community Advisory Committee can be found here:

https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/balmain/comm_participation.html

GLEBE, NATURALLY

News from Blue Wren Subcommittee

by Andrew Wood, Convenor Blue Wrens Subcommittee

City of Sydney's Crown Lands plans of management

At the end of last year, the Subcommittee prepared (with Ted McKeown's help on Wentworth Park) the Society's submission to the City, which addressed questions related to nine Crown Lands sites in Glebe: Glebe Foreshore Walk (east), Federal Parks 1 and 2, Bicentennial Parks 1 and 2, Pope Paul VI Reserve, Jubilee Oval, the Jubilee Park Tram Stop Reserve (including the so-called 'Hill' on the northern side of the Tramsheds) and Wentworth Park. A copy of the submission is available on the Society's webpage: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/to-cos-re-crown-lands-dec-2020/>. Members of the Subcommittee attended Zoom workshops and pop-up information sessions as part of the City's community consultation process.

Important issues raised in the Society's submission included:

- The City's management of the Crown Lands in Glebe and Forest Lodge, as remnants and reconstructed landscapes of rare green open space in a densely built city, provides opportunities for a renewed commitment to Indigenous sustainable management principles of 'Caring for Country'. These management practices should support the health and well-being of the land ('country'), in recognising Aboriginal custodianship of these lands, and local Aboriginal expertise should be sought where possible. The planting and maintenance of diverse native plant species to provide shade and habitat, a mix of native grasses, shrubs, small trees, 'native meadows' (as at Prince Alfred Park), dense small bird habitat and re-establishment of original vegetation (where appropriate) should be encouraged to promote biodiversity, environmental awareness, and a sense of continuity with Sydney's pre-1788 history. There needs to be tight regulation on the proportion of these lands that can be built on or leased -- to maximise deep-soil planting areas, as an offset to the loss of private garden space in modern housing/apartment developments and to protect this land for future generations.
- Since 1938 the central portion of Wentworth Park (the 'sporting complex') has been the more or less exclusive preserve of the greyhound racing industry, originally the National Coursing Association (NCA), and now the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA). In 1985 the NCA built a massive grandstand, which now stands almost empty on racing nights, and which is effectively an office building in a public park. When the GBOTA licence expires in 2027, or before that when greyhound racing ceases at Wentworth Park and the commercial leases in the grandstand come to an end, the whole of the park including the sporting complex should once again be accessible to everyone.
- Parks must be large enough to provide open spaces where people can be undisturbed and quietly enjoy a passive activity such as sitting and reading a book. It will be necessary to actively manage the parks for their different uses so that peaceful, quiet zones are created in locations of natural ecosystems – all aimed at improving mental health and a connection with the local environment. Such sites should be freed from lively activities and dogs.

- Sporting activities should be confined to those open spaces where they currently take place. The one exception to this suggested limitation is that when the greyhounds depart from Wentworth Park, the greyhound track should become a public oval (similar to the Reg Bartley Oval in Rushcutters Bay Park). It should be noted that there are very few parking spaces that could support an expansion of the existing sporting facilities in Glebe. It should also be noted that the proposals for the future park at the WestConnex Rozelle Interchange site, adjacent to Glebe, include ovals and spaces for other sporting activities. Every open space should have clearly delineated separate areas where dogs are not permitted as well as those where dogs should be leashed and where dogs should be permitted to run freely.

'The Hill' on the northern side of the Tramsheds shopping centre should be retained as a dedicated urban wildlife habitat refuge. Due to its contaminated land, 'The Hill' is currently fenced off from the surrounding area and cannot be used as a park open space. Its position, fencing and vegetation can provide an environment for abundant wildlife including birds, lizards, bees and small mammals to shelter and flourish. Organisations such as the Australian Wildlife Conservancy have shown that through successful management practices, fenced land areas can offer optimal opportunities for feral animal and weed control, as well as providing a safe haven for native fauna. In the Society's bird surveys raptors, crested pigeons, brush turkeys and other birds have been identified on this site. Such a wild habitat refuge would be unique in the local government area and could also provide a safe site for the translocation of bird species, including the blue wren, which is no longer found in Glebe.



'The Hill' on the northern side of the Tramsheds. The Society has proposed that this Crown Lands site on the northern side of the Tramsheds be retained as a dedicated urban wildlife habitat refuge. (Photo: Andrew Wood)

Progress on Johnstons Creek re-naturalisation



(photos by Phil Vergison)

FROM THE EDITOR

by Virginia Simpson-Young

In the article 'Glebe Society's Aleppo pine has been on the move' on page 23 of the last *Bulletin* (10/2020), one of the photos has an incorrect caption. The picture of the sapling captioned 'The sapling in Foley Park in 2015' was in fact a picture of the sapling planted in the University of Sydney. The caption has been corrected in the online version of the *Bulletin*, and now reads: 'The sapling as originally planted in 2015 on what is now the site of the Chau Chak Wing Museum'. My apologies to the authors Ted McKeown and Lydia Bushell for this error, which was my own.

In the last *Bulletin*, I mentioned that Unik Printing, who had been printing the *Bulletin* for many years, was a COVID casualty. I am very pleased to tell you that they have risen from the ashes and are back in business. They're located at Unit 3/21 Chester St, Camperdown NSW 2050. Their phone number is 9550 6833.

The copy deadline for the next *Bulletin* is 24 March, and the *Bulletin* will be published on 1 April. All *Bulletin* dates for 2021 can be found here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/publications/bulletin/bulletin-schedule/>. Contributions are always welcome – especially from newbies. If you want to discuss an idea further or just want more information, contact me via editor@glebesociety.org.au.



(Photo: Ted McKeown)



The developing site of what was Glenmore Meats, Wentworth Park Rd Glebe February 2021 (photo: Phil Vergison)

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Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 1 of 2021 (March 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

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



Misty morning, Wentworth Park (photo: Phil Vergison)