

Blue Wren Subcommittee – terms of reference 2026

Objectives

To implement the Subcommittee’s policy statement (following) especially through:

- increasing the diversity, abundance and distribution of indigenous fauna and flora;
- promoting a network of wildlife corridors linking key habitat areas;
- involving the local community in habitat creation, enhancement activities and public education on the importance of biodiversity.

Policy statement

From a strategic perspective we recognise the continuing population growth in our suburb, which includes many young families with children living in medium density accommodation. This places heavy demands on the limited community open space available.

The Blue Wren Subcommittee endorses the recommendations of the 2008 report *Superb Fairy Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project* (also endorsed by the Glebe Society) and will work towards their implementation. In doing so the Subcommittee will:

1. Work to value, retain and enhance biodiversity in Glebe and Forest Lodge, and its bays and foreshores, for current and future generations.
2. Foster the education of residents, school children, businesses and other parties leading to an increased awareness of the value of native plants and animals in our suburb.
3. Liaise (including lobbying, and the provision of information, perspectives and feed-back) with the City of Sydney, local schools, other organizations and local residents to retain and enhance biodiversity in our suburb.
4. By organising planting days and other events, actively promote the enhancement of biodiversity in our suburbs’ parks, school grounds, light rail corridor, and private gardens, with special emphasis on the density, structure and type of plantings needed to provide habitat for small birds.
5. Promote local bushcare volunteer organisations who support the continued establishment and maintenance of biodiversity in our suburbs’ parks and other open spaces.

Action Plan

We will continue to work towards the implementation of the following reports: *Superb Fair-Wren Habitat in Glebe and Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project* (Sue Stevens, 2008) and *Glebe’s Hill Unravelling Its Biodiversity Secrets and Potential* (Dieter Hochuli, Manuel Lequerica Tamara and Genevieve Heggarty. 2024).

1. We will actively promote the enhancement of biodiversity in our suburbs’ parks, school grounds, light rail corridor and private gardens. We will work towards the conversion of Glebe’s Hill, a fenced site of contaminated land near the Jubilee Park light rail stop, into a “wildlife habitat refuge”. In association with the City of Sydney, Planet Ark and other groups, we will organise/assist events to involve the local and wider communities in the habitat restoration, ideally to coincide with National Tree Day (Sunday, 26 July 2026) and/or World Environment Day (Friday 5 June 2026). We will undertake a spring bird survey in October 2026 and hold an annual lecture on an aspect of biodiversity. Also, should funds be available we will award Craney Small Grants to our suburb’s preschools and schools.
2. We will liaise (including lobbying, and the provision of information and feedback) with the City of Sydney, other organisations (including Metro Light Rail and Sydney Water) and residents to retain and enhance biodiversity in our suburb. We will be supporting the work of volunteers from two local bushcare groups (Orphan School Creek, and Palmerston Ave and Surrounds) as well as liaising with bushcare groups in nearby suburbs.
3. We will liaise with the Society’s Bulletin editor and Webmaster to advertise and record the Subcommittee’s events and to increase awareness of the value of native plants and animals in our suburb.