

14 April 2026

Councillor Clover Moore AO  
Lord Mayor  
City Of Sydney

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Copies to: Joel Johnson, Manager, City Greening and Leisure ([jjohnson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jjohnson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)) and Charlotte Fletcher, Urban Ecology Coordinator ([CFletcher@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CFletcher@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)).

Dear Clover,

### **New sightings of Superb Fairy Wrens in Glebe's mangroves**

Judy Christie, organiser of the Society's annual spring bird survey, reported on the 29 March: 'Good news! This afternoon about 4pm on a lovely sunny afternoon I saw a male and female Superb Fairy-Wren (our iconic 'Blue Wrens') on the western edge of the mangroves at the bottom of Federal Park in Rozelle Bay.

Attached are photos of the location and a non-breeding male (blackish bill and dark blue tail). They were there for some time then flew 20 metres west to a patch of lantana then into a nearby tree and presumably moved around the foreshore of Rozelle Bay (near where they were spotted last year) and back towards the wetlands of Rozelle Bay Parklands where they have been seen regularly since the Parklands opened'.

These are classic stepping stone movements for small birds like Superb Fairy-wrens which have been absent from Glebe for most of the last 10-15 years. As the Society's submission to the City suggested (*Proposed Updates For 2014 Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan*) more mangroves in particular, could create more habitat stepping stones.

Through the Blue Wren sub-committee of The Glebe Society, word quickly got out that Blue Wrens had finally been spotted. And within a week on 4<sup>th</sup> April at much the same time, Kim Hague-Smith (a member of the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group) also observed three wrens in the same patch of mangroves and one was photographed feeding on the adjacent grass.

Professor Dieter Hochuli from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney commented on the sightings – 'That's a wonderful observation to support the creation of small habitat plots to help make the urban matrix more navigable for

a lot of urban fauna. It will be interesting to see if the Rozelle parklands might be the source. It's becoming increasingly urgent to look beyond boundaries for different LGAs to manage the landscape effectively.'

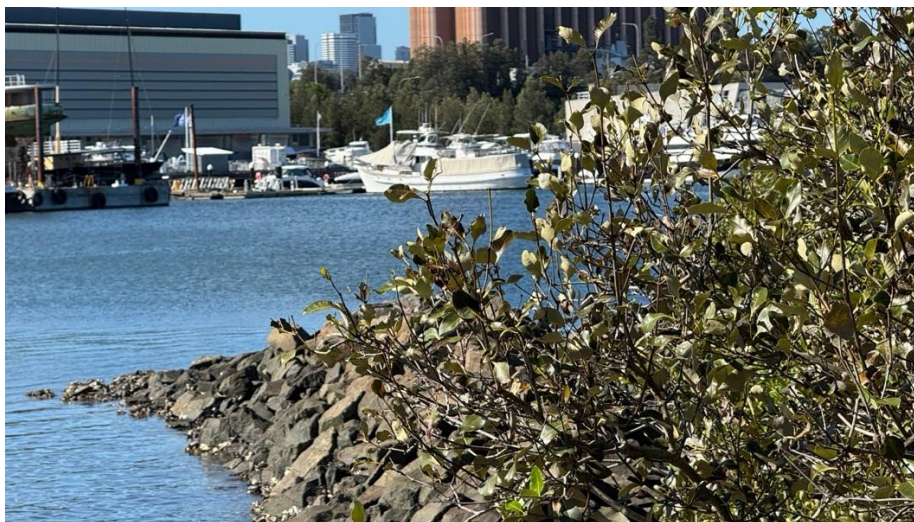
It is more than 20 years since mangrove seeds collected from Olympic Park were planted by the City on the foreshore of Federal Park. We certainly did not expect that such a now well-established waterfront site could provide a safe habitat for blue wrens.

The City can take credit for its foresight in re-establishing the mangroves in Rozelle Bay. Restoring biodiversity sites in the middle of a large city is time consuming and complex – we congratulate the City of Sydney on such a successful outcome!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Leys', written in a cursive style.

Duncan Leys, Acting President



Mangroves on the Rozelle Bay foreshore at western end of Federal Park where wrens were seen (photo Judy Christie).



Non-breeding male Superb Fairy-Wren in mangroves on the foreshore of the western end of Rozelle Bay on 29 March 2026 (photo Judy Christie).



A wren feeding in the grass adjacent to the mangroves on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April (photo Kim Hague- Smith).