

6 April 2025

Ms Karen Sweeney
Urban Forest Manager
City of Sydney
Email: sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Sweeney,

Significant tree register update 2025

The Glebe Society would like to have the following trees added to the City's Significant Tree Register:

1. Pepper Tree (*Shinus molle*) – front garden of *Bidura*

The mature Pepper Tree (*Shinus molle*) in the north-western corner of the front garden of *Bidura*, the heritage-listed Victorian Italianate villa at 357 Glebe Point Road, should be added to Glebe's list of significant trees.

Background from the Dictionary of Sydney

[Bidura](#) stands on [Cadigal](#) and [Wangal](#) land which was granted to the Church of England in 1789 as the Sydney Glebe and subdivided in stages after 1828. The allotment where Bidura now stands was acquired in 1857 by [Edmund Blacket](#), who had based himself in Glebe since resigning his position as colonial architect to work on the [University of Sydney](#) in 1854. Blacket designed and completed his residence Bidura in around 1862, and five of the eight Blacket children were born there before Blacket's wife, [Sarah](#), died in 1869.



Pepper Tree in front garden of Bidura, Glebe Point Road

2. Eight “Ring” Trees (Port Jackson Figs [*Ficus rubiginosa*]) in the Annandale side of Glebe’s Bicentennial Park

The eight mature Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa* – the ‘ring’ trees) located at the north-western end of the Bicentennial Park in Glebe should be added to the Tree Register.

Background - David Lawrence, a local resident, reports:

“I would like to nominate the large fig trees in Annandale Bicentennial Park as they are a constant reminder of the battle for the park on the Annandale side of Johnson Creek. The State Government in the 1980s wanted to move all of the infrastructure from Goat Island onto the Annandale side as a trade-off for the land on the Glebe side to create the Bicentennial Park there. This action led to the community fighting back and the formation of the "Save Rozelle Bay Association" campaign waged over several years. Because of the backlash, the government was forced to withdraw the plan.

However, two attempts were then made to create a marina at the end of Rozelle Bay with the land on the Annandale side as a car park and a very small park. Leichhardt Council supported this and the battle continued until the government finally relented and handed the land over to Council's care and control.

The Council financially at the time wasn't in a position to fund the work required to create the park. However, a private company helped clear the site, cap it and lay the turf. The community encouraged the council to establish a nursery, "Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery" which is still functioning, to propagate and plant native species, all done by volunteers.

The eight fig trees: they, together with some other trees were funded totally by Annandale residents and businesses to the tune of \$7,000. Significantly they are planted on what was the 1940s shoreline. As well Council's public art program led to the "Time Rings" around the trees. Each stone has the birth date of young Annandale residents of the 1990s. As the trees grew the stones were moved by the expanded root systems.

I believe the trees should be included on Council's list of significant trees in a historical context as well as a reminder of the importance of community action required to improve environmental outcomes in the inner-city areas.”



View of “ring” trees in Bicentennial Park, Glebe



View of “ring” trees in Bicentennial Park, Glebe



“Ring” stones around one of eight Port Jackson Figs in the Bicentennial Park, Glebe



Each “ring” stone has the birth date of a young Annandale resident

Yours sincerely,



Duncan Leys – President