



The big picture – is there a Bays Precinct strategy anymore?

by Lesley Lynch

Sadly, the answer to the above is no. The sudden death of UrbanGrowth as a strategic player following its brave (and apparently justified) refusal to accept any of the developer proposals for the White Bay power station site has returned the Bays Precinct to uncoordinated development lacking visible strategic coherence.

The left-over bit of UrbanGrowth-as-developer only retains responsibility for the Blackwattle Bay development – so there is, once again, no one agency with strategic oversight of the development of this extraordinary area of publicly owned harbour foreshore.



The area contained within the 'Bays Market District' (image: thebayssydney.nsw.gov.au/destinations/bays-market-district/)

The Government's failure over recent years to deliver (or permit?) a coherent and integrated transport plan for the Bays Precinct and surrounding areas has pretty much strangled the original concept. Note this was central to Google's public reason for pulling out of its

original bid to locate its main offices in White Bay.

The dominance of WestConnex and the need to finalise decisions relating to the new City metro have overridden the possibility of coherent transport planning relating to the Bays Precinct. The most recent (23 March) communication from UrbanGrowth indicates that there might now be some action on this – *'We're continuing to work closely with Transport for NSW and Sydney Metro on planning for a metro station at The Bays Precinct.'*

However, I would guess this is more a matter of UrbanGrowth being told rather than participating in decision making.

UrbanGrowth has indicated they 'are in the process of engaging an independent consultant to carry out an evaluation of the Reference Group ... I hope they don't spend much money on this – the Group could give them a succinct evaluation for free.'

The demise of the community reference group?

The Bays Precinct CRG has run its designated two-year term. I – like others – did not attend the last meeting. It was never able to function as a meaningful consultation process because there was such a tight restraint (almost certainly from the Government) on UrbanGrowth sharing ANY useful information with the Group.

UrbanGrowth has indicated they *'are in the process of engaging an independent consultant to carry out an evaluation of the Reference Group, including the Terms of Reference'*. I hope they don't spend much money on this – the Group could give them a succinct evaluation for

free. In the meantime it has been suggested the CRG will continue to meet under the old terms of reference.

Meetings with City of Sydney and MPs

The City of Sydney Council has initiated regular meetings with Bays community representatives, local MPs (Jamie Parker and Alex Greenwich) and the Inner West Council to consolidate our information on the Government's intentions in relation to the Bays Precinct and surrounding areas and to explore ways we can influence its decisions.

The most recent one was held on 1 March – Asa Wahlquist and I attended for the Glebe Society.

The main discussion was on the magnitude of and flow-on impact on traffic and general amenity of major development and construction activities in this part of the inner west over the next few years.

These include: the move of Hansons' cement mixing plant to Glebe Island; the construction of the new Fishmarket and the highrise redevelopment of the current Fishmarkets site both supposedly commencing in 2018; the construction of the new City metro and its tunnels and stations including one in the Bays Precinct; the WestConnex construction work around the Rozelle interchange and a proposed dive site on Victoria Rd for one of the harbour tunnels.



Artist's impression of the proposed revitalisation of the Sydney Fishmarket. (image: thebayssydney.nsw.gov.au/destinations/bays-market-district/)

Glebe Island will become the service/supply centre for nearby construction activities. I also understand that it is planned to service all supplies and waste removal from excavation work on the new Fishmarket site by boat. We have difficulties envisaging what these plans mean for Blackwattle and White Bay.

The lack of visible transport planning to cope with the massive increase in traffic that can be expected from the WestConnex and the Fishmarket developments was also a key issue.

The lack of meaningful (or any) consultation or information from the Government or its agencies was of course the ever-present issue. A number of proposals to address this were considered and a meeting with the Premier is being requested.

Status report on the new Fishmarket

I previously reported on a meeting we had last year with the Danish architect 3XN contracted to design the Fishmarket building at its new site at the head of Blackwattle Bay (the current Hansons' cement mixing site). UrbanGrowth and the architects subsequently held similar public briefings.

I reported some optimism that these respected architects may come up with a terrific design for the new Fishmarket building.

This optimism was counterbalanced by the multitude of constraints and problems surrounding the venture: the limited space of the site and the technical challenges of building largely on and under water; the total lack of information about traffic management on Bridge Rd or parking provisions given the projected 6 million visitors pa; the relationship with, and implications for, Wentworth Park and – most importantly – the typical lack of any public information demonstrating the relative public and private benefit of the decision to relocate the Fishmarket to this small and difficult site to allow the sell-off (we presume) and private development of the current publicly owned Fishmarkets site.

Since then we have had no official information about progress. However the release of the design is due and we have been expecting it for some time. The Government schedule is for construction to commence before the end of 2018.

There are rumours that the architects have found the proposed site is too small and so have made a bid to extend the footprint for the structure further out into Blackwattle Bay. Now isn't that a surprise!

Master Plan for the old Fishmarkets site

The big action relates to the redevelopment of the old Fishmarkets site and adjoining Bank St sites.

As reported previously, an urban designer (FJMT) was appointed in August to design a master plan for what has been dubbed the 'Bays Market District'. This is also due but has not yet surfaced.

It is being developed (as far as we know) with the same lack of related traffic management or transport and social infrastructure planning information. As high rise residential and commercial development is planned for most of the site, this appears to be an incoherent and reckless approach to urban planning.

Consequential relocation of All Occasions Cruises to Bank St

No decision has yet been made in relation to the highly controversial proposal to relocate Joe Elias's All Occasion Cruises operation from its current site next to the Fishmarkets (B1 B2 wharves) to Bank St for 10 years to allow the construction of the new Fishmarket.

It is, however, my understanding that the relocation has been approved – and the Government will announce it soon.

This approval will be granted notwithstanding the, seemingly inconsequential, fact that 210 out of the 220 submissions in response to the proposal strongly objected to it on a host of grounds. The objecting submissions included those from the Glebe Society and the City of Sydney.

Of course there is nothing unusual about such disregard for community opinion these days. In this instance, it will be just the another step in the whole dodgy process from 2009 when Elias was controversially granted a long lease and a

development approval by Minister Joe Tripodi for the Blackwattle Bay site on the basis of a non-complying application – after the CEO of Maritime Services Steve Dunn dismissed the valid ongoing tender process. (Both the Minister and the CEO were subsequently found to be corrupt by ICAC – albeit in an unrelated matter.)

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, has made a further attempt to persuade the Government to block this obviously ill-judged and inappropriate relocation by writing directly to Premier Berejiklian (letter dated 22 November 2017):

There are serious concerns the proposal will have significant and ongoing impacts and that it is in direct conflict with the wider needs of the Bays Precinct transformation and the State Government's long-standing commitment to prioritise the site for community uses.

There are also concerns the Government will approve the application, despite overwhelming public concern, given the marina's existing lease arrangements.

...will you urgently instruct Urban Growth to withdraw its application before the Government approves it.

We can but await the decision.

Lesley Lynch
Convenor, Bays and Foreshores

The best scenario for *Bellevue's* future? It's a tough one

A development application is before Council for a restaurant and café in the heritage listed cottage, Bellevue, in Blackwattle Park at Glebe Point. As Glebe Society President, Allan Hogan, explained on the front page of the last Bulletin (No 1 of 2018), there are pros and cons with this.

What are the pros? The beloved café would open again and a new restaurant would come online; but most importantly, Bellevue, through its occupation, will be protected rather than risking continuing neglect by disuse. As Allan stated in his article, 'The Society believes that the preservation and maintenance of Bellevue, and its value as a community amenity, is most likely to be achieved if the building has a permanent tenant. The Society does not favour any particular tenant but understands that if the lease limits the possibility of a successful commercial venture, the building could become an empty shell with the dangers that poses to its preservation.'

As for the cons ... Can the local streets handle the additional traffic and parking issues that may well result from a restaurant staying open late into the evening? Will the noise from departing jolly diners disturb neighbours in this normally peaceful neighbourhood? In our submission to Council on the DA in January, the Society demanded that issues of parking, noise, hours of operation, and landscaping be addressed before approval was granted.

We have received a couple of letters from members reflecting the pros and cons and these are reproduced below:

Dear Editor,

Although there seem to be protests about the opening hours for Bellevue until 10pm, I wonder if this is an over-reaction? We all, I am sure, miss having it open and loved it when it was – but it's clearly not viable to have to close by 7pm.

Bellevue is down the hill at a fair distance from the last house and I imagine many people going

there would walk as there is very little parking nearby. I would encourage people to support this proposal as people talking inside a restaurant would not be heard and a few cars up and down the street before 10pm should not be too much of a problem, should it?

Let's do all we can to make sure we support this proposal.

Christine Stewart

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to hear Bellevue Cottage may soon open as a café again. That is, until I saw the DA. It is proposed to open seven days a week, from 6am to 10pm, for up to 248 patrons.

It is a cottage. As I remember, it has three or four toilets. The DA must be an ambit claim. There are two Disabled Parking spaces at the entrance – and no other parking. What folly is this?

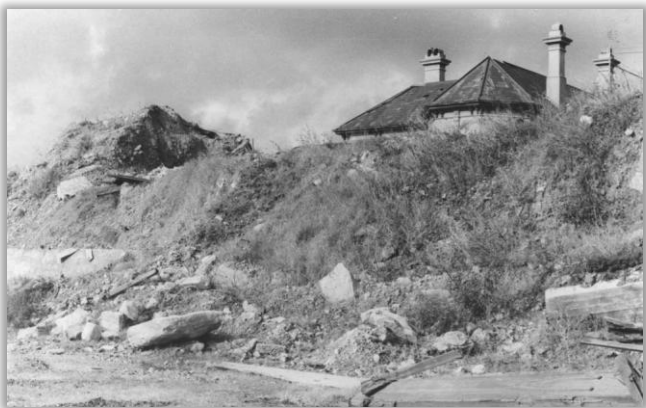
The only way back to Glebe Point Rd from Bellevue Cottage is via Oxley and Stewart Sts. I

live in Stewart St, comprised of four strata blocks (73 units in all) with parking for one vehicle per unit. It has no legal parking at all. Residents with more than one car per unit must park in Oxley or Leichhardt Sts. Residents of terraces in Leichhardt St, with no off-street parking, are forced to park long distances from their homes at night now. Tradesmen and couriers have difficulty finding even temporary parking in business hours. Visitors already park on our driveways and our lawns, without consent. The DA proposes that patrons of the 'up-market French café' will be encouraged to use public transport – buses, light rail, car-sharing – or even bicycles. Lycra-clad diners? It is a fantasy. Unrealistic and disproportionate – for a quiet but densely populated residential area.

Sixty five objections have been submitted. An amended, more appropriate proposal is needed.

Janet Simpson

Bellevue also featured in last month's mystery photo



Last month's mystery photo, taken in the 1970s and provided by Phil Young, is *Bellevue* in Leichhardt St. Coincidentally, Jim Bendfeldt, who lived there 1972-3, has been in touch. He recalls goat races on the 'large grass-covered mound of dirt, our own private hill' after a Dural visitor arrived with several animals in tow. 'We played 'King of the Castle' involving the young goat (usually the winner), ourselves, a Labrador and a fickle cat. Once the kid escaped and we found it up the road in an upstairs office surrounded by terrified office workers standing on their desks.'

Jim was one of *Bellevue's* last legal tenants:

We nicknamed the house The Ritz although most locals (mistakenly) called it Venetia. It was run down and didn't have electricity connected, but a couple of years earlier some local artists and students were able to negotiate an agreement with the then landlord to rent the

house and stables, for the princely sum of \$5 per week as an art studio. The makeup of Bellevue's residents would change periodically; they included Sydney Uni students, local artists, hippies and anti-expressway activists.

It was great value for us. During the Whitlam years tertiary education was free but we had little money and the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme didn't come into effect until July 1973. To pay for food and rent we worked as window cleaners, magazine sellers and bartenders, and there was plenty of local casual employment at the Markets (before they moved to Flemington) and the railways at Darling Harbour (before its development).

Downstairs at Bellevue there were several tiny rooms, some without windows and just big enough for a mattress. (We learned that Bellevue was at one time owned by a sea captain and the crew stayed in these rooms when the ship was in port.) Upstairs was a little grander with high ceilings, floors covered in geometric patterned ceramic tiles, and fireplaces surrounded by colourful picture tiles. The lounge room was a very large double room. Beside the big kitchen was a walk-in pantry. There was a communal shower area, but the only water was cold so they must have been a hardy bunch in the old days. Occasionally we would feel a breeze coming from a vent in one of the walls. One day we removed the louvered wooden

cover and found a series of narrow passageways behind it. We were hoping to discover some treasure, but all we found was an old Victorian shaving mug so we re-attached the cover to keep any vermin out.

We kept the house clean and tidy. Whenever someone first moved in they would occupy one of the tiny rooms downstairs, and once a room became vacant upstairs, they would move into that. From time to time we would wake up of a morning to find a collier ship sailing past the window on its way to the old coal wharf at Blackwattle Bay.

The doors all functioned and we patched up any broken windows with clear plastic sheeting. The fireplaces worked, and in winter we scavenged scrap timber along the waterfront and sacks of coke that had spilt on the coal wharf. Instead of electric lighting, we used candles and kerosene Tilley lamps. There was an icebox in the kitchen to keep food cool, and we cooked on a couple of Primus kerosene stoves. A local bakery gave us fresh bread, misshaped loaves that couldn't be sliced. We couldn't fish in Sydney Harbour because the water was too polluted but there were plenty of 'cheap eats' cafés along Glebe Point Rd. We had close friends on a small farm near Dural and would occasionally swap city life for rural living.

We created our own entertainment. We would have jam sessions on our little timber wharf with up to a dozen people joining in, mostly Glebe locals. One evening a man driving home to Paddington with a piano on the back of a flat tray truck spotted us as he was waiting for the Glebe Island Bridge to swing closed. He turned up at the bottom of Leichhardt St, climbed onto the back of the truck and started playing. Well, that certainly was a night to remember. As we didn't have any immediate neighbours, we could play music well into the night without bothering anyone.

Other times we would walk down to Harold Park when the races were on, and climb up the low cliffs below Cliff Terrace overlooking Minogue Crescent. From there we could watch all of the races and enjoy an outdoor picnic supper.

We went on a few adventures. One day after a storm, a corrugated iron water tank washed up near Bellevue. Three of us climbed in and decided to paddle it across to Balmain. It was slow going as the tank was round and we were paddling in circles, pushed by a south-easterly breeze. So we took off our shirts and tied them together and between the two paddles to make a crude sail, and this got us across Blackwattle Bay.

On another occasion we found a cast iron bathtub washed up and dragged it out of the harbour. It floated but was very unstable, so we made an outrigger from a metal drum strapped to a length of timber, and then paddled it around the old Glebe Island Bridge and back to Bellevue.

Later someone moved in who had a canvas canoe, which we would paddle everywhere from the coal terminal (where the fish market is now) to Balmain and even to Circular Quay where we moored near the Water Police wharf to discourage anyone from stealing our craft. We would then catch the bus to Haymarket and buy up lots of fruit and veggies at Paddy's Market and then come home by canoe. One day we accidentally paddled into shipping lanes and were towed back to Glebe by a Maritime Services boat!

Jim also has vivid memories of Parkes Developments and the battle for Bellevue. We plan to publish these in a later *Bulletin*.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian

History & Heritage

Who lived in your street? *Llangollen*. By Lyn Collingwood

Built on the waterfront at Blackwattle Bay at a cost of £75 for ship chandler and sailmaker George Linley Robinson, *Llangollen* was occupied by November 1844. The original stone house, reached by a circular drive and fronted by a dramatic staircase and an 80-foot verandah, had four bedrooms, dining and drawing rooms, servants' quarters and wine cellars. On its 1½ acres, watered by a fresh spring water well, were

a coach house and stables, fowl yard, flower and vegetable garden, and jetty. More rooms were added later and the grounds developed with croquet and tennis courts, swimming baths and a boatshed, cowsheds and an orchard. George's brother, soap manufacturer Richard Wilkinson Robinson, lived up the hill in *Guildford Lodge*, built on land purchased from George Miller in 1842. *Guildford Lodge* is now 431 Glebe Point

Rd, and *Llangollen* 12 Leichhardt St. Both houses have been demolished.

George and Esther Robinson née King relocated from St Peters to *Llangollen* and were soon looking for a laundress and house servant. After their marriage at Christ Church St Laurence on 30 April 1845 their daughter Agnes Georgiana and her husband Custom House agent Michael Metcalfe jnr moved in. In June 1845 George Robinson bought *Skellatar* a 10,000 acre property at Muswellbrook, but in January 1846 its house and orchard was advertised for rent and the next month Robinson auctioned his mahogany furniture, ornaments, engravings of the Duke of Wellington and Victoria and Albert, plus farm animals, agricultural machinery and boiling-down equipment. Also put up for sale was a child's bed, although Robinson's youngest son was born the next month. (This was Charles Cecil who became a bank manager and was at Braidwood when Ben Hall was bushranging in the district. Charles died in 1927; his obituary claimed he was born at sea. Charles' older sister Evelyn, baptised at St Peters in 1843, married James Smith Adams in 1861 and moved with him to Mornington, Vic. where James set up as a butcher. Evelyn Adams gave birth to nine children and died at Geelong on 30 Jan 1915.)

In 1851 George Robinson was at *Ferry Cottage* on Glebe Rd. Now an accountant and arbitrator with offices at 20 Macquarie Place, he was Secretary of the Second Benefit Building Society, and of the Church of England Cemetery Company set up in 1848, its revenue primarily from sales of plots in the Camperdown graveyard adjacent to St Stephens Church. In 1852 Robinson moved to Melbourne with his business Woolley & Robinson, merchants and bond storeowners. In 1857, announcing that he was leaving the colony, he sold up his Eastern Hill possessions including his horses and carriages, a mangle and a harmonium.

Son-in-law Michael Metcalfe was also a director of the commercial cemetery enterprise. Born in Yorkshire in 1813, he arrived in Sydney in 1837 and set up as a commission and insurance agent. He established Metcalfe & Co. general merchants and shipping agents, and was connected with the Australian Mutual Provident Society, the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, and the Australian Gaslight, Australian Steam Navigation, Illawarra Steam Navigation and Wallsend Coal companies. A High Church Anglican, Metcalfe was also bursar to St Paul's College and treasurer to the Melanesian Mission fund, and with John Betts (of *Kew Cottage* Glebe

Rd) a foundation trustee of Christ Church St Laurence. His wife was on the visiting committee of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute.



Llangollen on Blackwattle Bay. It is now demolished.

During the 1840s *Llangollen* was advertised for sale several times but the Metcalfes remained its tenants until ca 1853 by which time they had the first three of their eleven children. Annie Georgiana (born 9 July 1846, in 1873 married real estate agent and MLA John Mitchell Purves) died in 1923. Annie's closest siblings George (born 1849) and Walter (born 1852) both died in August 1854.

The Metcalfes made several trips to London, the resting place of daughter Ethel Mary (1867-77), probably the birthplace of Algernon James (in the 1880s a tenant of *Enfield House* Bridge Rd, he died in 1932) and where Florence Agnes (born 1858) and Beatrice (born 1865) married. The other Metcalfe children were Edward Milner (civil servant, 1854-1925), Charles Theophilus (insurance broker, 1860-1919), Estella Constance (born 1863, she married at Albany WA) and Wilfred Cecil (barrister, born 1870).

By 1860 Michael Metcalfe was a wealthy merchant and the family settled at *Petersleigh* a fashionable home at St Peters. They worshipped over the road at St Peters Church where Metcalfe donated a lectern, installed a window in memory of his daughter Ethel, and kept a close eye on the church's finances, arguing against the purchase of a new organ and urging that people in arrears of pew rents be sued. In 1882 he was appointed a Commissioner of Customs. To mark his death (at *Bothwell* Macleay St Potts Point on 27 October 1890) the Sydney Exchange flag was hoisted at half-mast, and his surviving children donated a memorial window in St Andrew's

Cathedral. His widow Agnes died at Darling Point on 14 September 1895 and was buried with her husband in the St Peters Church graveyard.

After the Metcalfes moved out *Llangollen*, now the property of local chemist Charles Mercian Penny, was occupied briefly by solicitor M C Stephen who kept bloodhounds. Its next tenant was Octavius Bayliffe Ebsworth who had had business dealings with George Robinson. Ebsworth moved there from Surry Hills with his wife and sons Edward (1852-1925) and Alfred (1854-1917).

The son of a wool-broker, Octavius was born in 1827 in London and followed an older brother to Sydney where he joined Mort & Co. before going into business on his own as a wool-broker and manufacturer. In 1868 he was awarded a medal for colonial tweed. On 6 July 1852 he married Frances Mary Barker whose family were wool millers in Sussex Street. (London-born Frances had sailed to Australia as a four-year-old.)

The third Ebsworth child, George, was born at *Llangollen* on 14 July 1856, followed by Fanny Amy on 18 February 1858. By now Octavius was hoping that no more progeny would come along for a few years as he found the boys impossible to discipline. On Boxing Day 1858 Fanny died in her father's arms, of dysentery and 'inflammation of the brain'. The weather was intensely hot, the boys had croup, Octavius was distraught and his wife exhausted. After Frances gave birth to Arthur Charles in 1861 there was a gap before their fifth son Francis Octavius was born in 1869 by which time they had moved to *Tytherton House* Burwood. Octavius Bayliffe died suddenly on 23 June 1870 of diphtheria following an insect bite. As a mark of respect sales of wool, tallow and hide were postponed. His widow died aged 89 at Woollahra on 27 February 1914 and was buried Church of England in the family grave at Camperdown. George, who twice survived bankruptcy as a livery stables proprietor, died in 1927; Arthur, a solicitor, in 1953; and Francis, also a solicitor, in 1958.

In 1857 Charles Mercian Penny's son Charles William inherited his father's considerable Glebe property including *Llangollen*, but he died in 1860 and the estate passed to Charles William Penny jnr who tried several times to sell the house. Short-term tenants included draper Antoine Arthur Coutin and his wife Annie; Surveyor-General and officer in the Volunteer Rifles Allaster Grant Maclean; and Major Chauval.

From 1862 to 1879 *Llangollen* was occupied by the family of bankrupted ironmonger William George Ainsworth who shifted there from Parramatta Rd. His wife Elizabeth Ann died aged 53 at *Llangollen* on 30 May 1864. After his own death at age 60, of apoplexy at Bowenfels in July 1873, his affairs were handled by his son, agricultural machinery importer Richard John (1834-96) who by 1867 had moved to Glebe from Richmond with his wife Ann Elizabeth née Sharp (1842-1902) and their sons William Richard, Thomas Richmond and Joseph. Born at *Llangollen* were Ann Elizabeth on 5 June 1867, Emma Sharp on 30 December 1871 and Martha Euphemia on 2 August 1874.

Emma died of typhoid at Snail's Bay Balmain on Boxing Day 1885 just before her 14th birthday and was buried in Balmain Cemetery, as was her brother Thomas Richmond in 1888. Ann Elizabeth married Henry Augustus Rudder in 1886 and died in 1938; Martha married Alfred Ward in 1897 and died in 1910; Joseph died in 1944. Eldest son William Richard, educated at Thomas Bowyer's Collegiate School Glebe Rd, was elected an alderman on Leichhardt Council and mayor in 1905. A produce merchant selling hay and corn, he became a real estate agent and president of the Leichhardt School of Arts. In 1917 he bought property in the Sutherland Shire where he was again active in local government. He died at Leichhardt on 12 January 1922 and was buried in the Church of England section at Woronora.



Octavius Ebsworth, a hand-coloured photograph set in the reverse of a cameo brooch, ca 1852. (Source: Mitchell Library/SLNSW)

After the Ainsworths went to Balmain, *Llangollen* was put up for auction in 1880. Land and estate agent Henry Edward Vaughan of H E Vaughan & Sons moved in. A founding member of Glebe

Masonic Lodge in 1881 and president of Glebe Bowling Club, Vaughan as Glebe alderman on Sydney Council heard evidence at the 1883 Royal Commission into Noxious and Offensive Trades including much on the Glebe Island abattoir. After leaving Glebe he was an alderman on Campbelltown and Katoomba councils. Vaughan married twice and had 13 children. Aged 58, he died at his country house at Katoomba on 5 January 1901 and was buried with full Masonic honours in the Church of England section at Rookwood with his first wife Mary Anne née Brown. They had left *Llangollen* by the time of her death at age 45 on 8 September 1884.

Glebe architect Ambrose Thornley jnr moved around the corner from *Florence Villa* to *Llangollen* where he kept a boat and launch and entertained lavishly with guest entertainers such as popular baritone Arthur Hunter. The grounds now featured tennis and croquet courts, a bowling green and garden fountains. The house was serviced by town water and gas, and the tram terminus was nearby.

Born in Glebe in 1844 and educated at Fort St and Sydney Grammar, Ambrose worked with his father as a carpenter, graduating to master builder and architect. Locally he built dozens of shops and houses (including *Bellevue* on Leichhardt St) and is best known as the designer of Glebe Town Hall. Keen on bowls, he played with the Glebe Club at Wentworth Park and Victoria Park. He succeeded his father as Glebe alderman on Sydney Council.

In 1868 he married Caroline Matilda Prior at St Barnabas. Their six children were born at Glebe. Mary Ambrosine, born 1869, died unmarried in 1943 at North Sydney; Robert Henry, real estate agent born 1871, died 1937 at Oberon; Florence Caroline, born 1873, married Reginald Alfred Eichler 1914, died 26 January 1916 at Haberfield; Ambrose Thornley the third, born 1876, died 1929 at Hurstville; Albert Edgar, house painter born 1878, died 1947 at Newtown; James Victor, born 1881, died 15 December 1962.

As was common, the household included single women dependants. Ambrose's widowed mother-in-law Eliza Green died at *Llangollen* in 1890.

Thornley fell on hard times, one of the many victims of the 1893 economic depression. With fewer clients, he borrowed money to buy shares and was declared bankrupt in 1895. He moved to Port Hacking where he planned to enjoy

retirement with his new motorcar and motorboat. His last business venture was as licensee of the *Grand Hotel* at Rockdale. Thornley died at Bexley on 3 August 1911, survived by his widow and six children, and was buried with his parents in the Church of England section at Rookwood. His widow, who died on 15 November 1922, was also interred there.

After sailing from New Zealand with a chartered captain and crew aboard the *Nautilus* William Paul Featherstone was at *Llangollen* by 9 September 1893 when he advertised the steam-yacht for sale. Born at sea in 1839, Featherstone was the son of Charlotte and Michael Featherstone, a pioneer of Brighton SA. William married Hobart-born Elizabeth Esther Smithson (1841-1915) in 1859 in Adelaide where the births of their first seven children were registered: William Ernest (1861-99), Arthur Edwin (1862-1930), Minnie Ethel (1865-6), Ethel Edith (born and died 1867), Raymond Eustace (1869-74), Amy Elizabeth (1873-99) and Osmond Benjamin 'Jack' (1875-1941). The two eldest sons died in New Zealand; the three infant burials were in St Jude's Anglican Church cemetery Brighton; Amy died from typhoid in Fiji while on a trip to visit Samoa.

Featherstone owned 18-room *Avenue House* set in 60 acres at Brighton with a bathing house. The property was leased long-term to the YMCA, providing a steady income. Featherstone took his family to Auckland where three more children were born: Stanley Victor (1877-1932), Rothurst Frederick 'Ross' (1882-1946, died NZ) and Hephzibah Coralie (1884-1969).

Adopting the first name 'Fairy' later spelt 'Faire', Hephzibah Featherstone played hostess at *Llangollen* parties. During the First World War she ran fundraising fetes there with sock knitting competitions, stalls and spinning jennies in the grounds, afternoon tea on the terrace and continuous concerts playing in the drawing room. The house, now featuring hand-painted angels on its ceilings, was also the venue for farewell evenings for departing soldiers. At a fundraiser on her houseboat at The Spit, Fairy organised rowing races, fortune telling, quick sketch portraits and musical entertainment. At the Hotel Australia she raised money for the Australian Nurses' Gift Fund, and helped out at the Voluntary Workers' Café in the city. She acted and sang in amateur theatricals and revues. For the North Sydney District Comedy Club she performed with singer Dorothy Helmrich and Horace Frederic Quartly (1891-1943). She and

Horace also sang with the Petersham Choral Society.

Before he enlisted on 6 August 1917 Horace and Fairy became engaged. On 19 June 1918 he embarked from Sydney with reinforcements on board the *Field Marshal* and served with the 56th battalion. Discharged in London in August 1919, he returned to Australia and married Fairy Featherstone at St Andrew's on 11 October, a society wedding performed by the Dean of Sydney, their attendants including members of Glebe's Preddy and Hogue families. The reception was held in the Voluntary Workers' Café, but after a couple of hours Fairy took off with a friend for Melbourne and said she didn't want to be married. Horace petitioned for divorce eight months later. He died at Ryde in August 1943 after his car collided with a US military truck (its occupants fled the scene). His ex wife continued performing with the Greentree Players into the 1930s. As Faire Hephzibah Coralie Quartley, she died on 8 September 1969, a woman of 'independent means' who derived her income from shares.

Fairy's brother Arthur Edwin (1862-1930) was also involved in a publicised divorce. After his marriage to Violet Louise Mumme on 15 October 1896 they honeymooned in Melbourne where Violet claimed he went to the races and came home drunk every night. In Sydney after visiting his parents Arthur left his wife outside while he went into each of the eight hotels they passed, coming out of the last with a bottle of whisky and striking her. When the first of their four children was born he pointed a revolver at her but it misfired and the bullet lodged in the ceiling. He was admitted to RPA with a flesh wound to his forehead. Violet took him back several times on promises to reform but matters had come to a head by March 1904 when William Featherstone arranged for his daughter-in-law to live in Melbourne. The pair finally separated in August 1906 and by May 1911, when the divorce was finalised, Arthur was living in Auckland where he died on 19 December 1930.

The Featherstone family matriarch Elizabeth Esther was visiting Townsville when she died on 3 July 1915. Her widower died at *Llangollen* on 4 July 1916 and was buried alone in Waverley Cemetery. He left an estate of nearly £20,000.

In 1918 *Llangollen* was bought for £5,000 and converted into a hostel for country girls attending Hereford House Training College on the site of what is now Foley Park. The renamed *Anderson House* originally accommodated 25, each student having her own bedroom with balcony

access, but by 1930 the number had increased to 40, including ex-students, with girls sharing rooms. Amenities comprised a sitting room, study, laundry and dining room with a waitress in attendance. Although there were rules about being in by 7.30pm and two hours each night of silent study, most seemed happy there, reading the *Land* newspaper together and renewing friendships at the Easter Show. After graduation students were expected to serve three years in country schools.

The hostel was under the charge of a matron. Its first was Georgina Talbot Simonson (1880-1963), second youngest of eight daughters of US shipwright turned builder Henry Edgar Johnson Simonson and Annie née Gentleman (1842-1916). At least two of Georgina's sisters had long careers as public schoolteachers. The second matron Margaret 'Maggie' Elsie Ward (she died unmarried on 4 April 1951) ran the hostel until its closure after Hereford House ceased taking students in 1932.

The 12 Leichhardt St site was subsequently bought by timber merchants Vanderfield & Reid and the mansion was demolished ca 1945.

Lyn Collingwood
Historian

Sources: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: Octavius Ebsworth, Michael Metcalfe; *City of Sydney* website: Sydney's aldermen; *Featherstone Genealogy* website: Horton, Laurel *Grave Reflections*; Horton, Laurel and Halls, Thomas *St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River*; information from Lianne Gratton; MacDonnell, Freda *The Glebe: Portraits and Places*; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Records: probate packets; O B Ebsworth papers in Mitchell Library MSS 1679; Sands *Directories*; *Sunday Times* 12.10.1919; Trove website.



The grounds of Anderson House ca 1931 looking towards Blackwattle Bay, a vegetable garden on the left and tennis court at rear. The Teachers College students on the lawn are using their bodies to form 'Ando', their nickname for the hostel. (Source: Lianne Gratton)

Planning & Infrastructure

Big changes in Planning have come into effect – time to get to know your Local Planning Panel

In what is a monumental centralisation of the planning system in NSW, Planning NSW has made it mandatory from 1 March for all Sydney councils and Wollongong City Council to establish Local Planning Panels. Planning NSW tells us that these panels are part of ‘an updated, modern planning system that is simpler, faster and designed to ensure high quality decision and planning outcomes for the people of NSW.’ (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-updated/Guide-to-the-updated-Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-1979>)

But just how ‘local’ is a Local Planning Panel? According to Planning NSW, ‘the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP has appointed independent, expert Chairs for Councils to appoint to their Panel. Councils will also choose two expert members to appoint to its Panel from a pool established by the Department of Planning and Environment and approved by

the Minister for Planning. It will be up to Councils to recruit and appoint community members to the Panels. ... The referral criteria for both development applications and planning proposals have been set by the Minister for Planning.’

(<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Independent-Hearing-and-Assessment-Panels>). Doesn’t sound very ‘local’ to me!

Neil Macindoe, Planning Convenor, would like to draw members’ attention to the new Local Planning Panel for City of Sydney, established in February. At the time of going to press, the panel will have met on 28 March and there was nothing from Glebe on the agenda. The information below is taken from the City’s website.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications Subcommittee

Local Planning Panel: an independent committee

[Extract from City of Sydney Council webpage: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/committees/local-planning-panel>]

Local planning panels are independent committees appointed by councils to determine certain development applications. These panels are not subject to the direction or control of the council, except on matters relating to panel procedures or to the time the panel must deal with a matter consistent with a ministerial direction issued under section 117 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The City of Sydney Local Planning Panel was established by Council resolution on 19 February 2018.

The City’s Local Planning Panel has four members, comprising a chair (nominated by the Minister for Planning), two expert members (selected by Council from a pool of experts approved by the Minister for Planning) and a community representative (selected by Council).

The Minister for Planning has issued a direction under section 9.1 of the *Environmental Planning*

and Assessment Act 1979 that identifies the development applications which are to be determined by local planning panels on behalf of councils in the Greater Sydney region and Wollongong. The referral criteria for the City of Sydney are identified in schedule 3 of the direction.

Agendas and minutes

You can search or browse our Council and Committee meetings archive (<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/meetings/council-meeting-archive>) for business papers, minutes and electronic recordings of meetings. The archive includes past papers for the current year.

Code of conduct

All members of the panel are bound by the Code of Conduct for Local Planning Panel Members.

Operational procedures

The Minister for Planning has issued a further direction under Section 9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 setting operational procedures which are designed to ensure that local planning panels meet their obligations in the most efficient and effective manner.

The operations of the panel will be consistent with the operation of Council and its Committees and the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

Speaking at panel meetings

As part of our democratic process, members of the community are invited to speak directly to members of the Local Planning Panel about items on the agenda.

To enable the panel to hear a wide range of views and concerns within the limited time available, we encourage people interested in speaking at meetings to:

- register to speak by calling Council on 9265 9394 before 12 midday on the day of the meeting
- check the recommendation in the agenda report before speaking, as it may address your concerns already and you only need to indicate your support for the recommendation
- note there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time
- avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the panel may not already know

➤ if there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing

➤ be prepared to quickly return to the microphone and respond briefly to any questions from panel members, after all speakers on an item have made their presentations.

At the start of each Local Planning Panel meeting, the Chair may re-order agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Members

Chair

Richard Pearson
(Alternate – Abigail Goldberg)
(Alternate – Steven Layman)

Expert members

Helen Lochhead
Shaun Carter
(Alternate – Steve Kennedy)
(Alternate – Peter Romey)

Community representative

Amelia Thorpe
(Alternate – John McInerney AM)

[Editor's note: referral criteria, code of conduct and operational procedures referred to above can be found in Planning NSW's Rules for Mandatory Local Planning Panels, here: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Independent-Hearing-and-Assessment-Panels/Statutory-rules.>]

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

'Wild Sydney: living with animals'

All members of the Society and their friends are welcome to attend a talk to be given by Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist from the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. It will be held at 6pm on Monday 16 April at *Benledi* (Glebe Library) and will be followed by a glass of wine and nibbles.

Planting day at Orphan School Creek

Commencing at 9.30am on Saturday 14 April, a planting day will be held at the Orphan School Creek Reserve. Please meet Judy Christie (0437 693 372), the leader of the bushcare volunteers,

at the Wood St, Forest Lodge entrance to the Reserve.

10th anniversary of the publication of 'Superb Fairy-Wren Habitat in Glebe & Forest Lodge – a community based conservation project'

The Subcommittee and members of the six bushcare groups in Glebe held an Autumn Party at Andrew Wood's apartment on Friday 16 March to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the publication of the 'Blue Wren Report'. Sue Stevens, the consultant ecologist and urban small bird specialist who wrote the report, was

an honoured guest. Sue's work was funded by a \$10,000 grant to the Society from the City of Sydney's Environmental Grants Program.

What led to the decision in 2006 to apply for an environmental grant?

In autumn 2005, Norma Hawkins regularly watched a pair of Superb Fairy-wrens feeding their young offspring in her backyard in St James Ave. It's very likely that this represented the last breeding event of wrens in Glebe.



In July 2006, a group of Glebe residents, including Judy Christie, Fiona Campbell, Jeanette Knox, Roberta Johnson and others, who were members of the Society and Friends Residents/Ratepayers of Orphan School Creek Gully (FFROGS – now known as The Friends of

Orphan School Creek) submitted an application to the City of Sydney's initial Environmental Grants Program to fund a local environment project to 'help our wrens' (an initiative suggested by Fiona).

The project submitted in the name of FFROGS aimed at surveying our Blue Wren population, developing a conservation plan and carrying out education and habitat-enhancing activities. It took a little persuasion to convince the City that 50% of the grant should be spent on an external consultant to ensure the appropriate methodology and rigour behind the surveys and final reports.

The application was successful; however, the funds could not be awarded as FFROGS was an unincorporated organisation. Thus, after consultations with the Glebe Society and the City the application was resubmitted in the name of the Society (which was incorporated). The funds were awarded and, in mid-2007, the Blue Wren Subcommittee was established under the leadership of David Mander-Jones. Sue Stevens, an ecologist and urban small bird habitat specialist, was appointed as a consultant for the project.

By the spring of 2007, a range of surveying methodologies were underway to record the sightings of blue wrens in Glebe, including a community snapshot survey directed by Sue Stevens, letterboxing of residents and online reporting.

Sue's report was released in 2008 and accepted by the City of Sydney and launched on their website. On National Tree Day in 2008, the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore and Deputy Lord Mayor, Robyn Kemmis, attended a habitat planting in Paddy Grey Reserve in Hereford St along with over 200 participants who collected wren-friendly plants for their gardens – the overall project was declared A SUCCESS!

So, where are we today? Sue's report has withstood the test of time and is now recognised as an outstanding reference work for those establishing habitat for wrens and other small insect-eating birds. Although wrens have not been recently seen in Glebe, the Blue Wren Subcommittee continues to work in assisting the six volunteer bushcare/landcare groups which together with the City of Sydney are caring for many of the parks in our suburb. The recent extensive plantings of wren-friendly natives are amazing to see and we give thanks for the hundreds of volunteer-hours that have resulted in such dramatic enhancements of the flora in our parks.

To read a copy of the 'Blue Wren Report' and to find information on how to help make your garden blue wren friendly, go to: www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/files/BlueWrens_Report.pdf

Judy Christie, Fiona Campbell, and Andrew Wood;
Blue Wrens Subcommittee



Sue Stevens (left), ecologist and urban small bird habitat specialist, together with Judy Christie, Jeanette Knox and Norma Hawkins (founding members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee) at a party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the publication of Sue's 'Blue Wren Report'. (image: Jude Paul)

William Carlton Gardens – a secret garden in the heart of Glebe

On reading the Blue Wrens Subcommittee report in the last *Bulletin* which described the trials and tribulations of the Ferry Road Bushcare Group working to enhance blue wren habitat in the William Carlton Gardens, a Glebe Society member who lives adjacent to the Gardens contacted the Society. She wanted to share with members what she and other locals have also been doing to protect and improve the vegetation and habitat in the Gardens.

William Carlton Gardens were established in 2002 when the land occupied by John Maloy's carting firm was sold for residential development. The Council required dedication of the land at the top of the cliff for open space and a walkway to access waterfront parklands from Glebe Point Rd, and also to open views along the Light Rail corridor to Wentworth Park and the head of Blackwattle Bay¹. Being on a steep slope down to Blackwattle Bay, the Gardens provide a delightfully varied habitat for many species of animals and plants; not to mention challenges for the Council's contractors, Citiwide, which perhaps over-zealously, recently cleared vegetation that was habitat for small birds.

For many years, a group of local residents have been concerned about the rubbish (bottles and plastic etc) and overgrown weeds that have been accumulating in the Gardens, and have been quite dissatisfied by Council's efforts to redress this. The Gardens include a beautiful sandstone paved viewing platform from which the public can take in excellent views of Blackwattle Bay and the city beyond. For some time, local residents have been urging the Council to keep this view clear of vegetation so that it can be enjoyed by all, as was originally intended. In December last year, Council lopped the lower

branches of the trees that obscured the view from the platform, while at the same time removing vegetation from the cliff-face.

Local residents are appreciative of the efforts of the Ferry Road Bushcare group and other volunteers in nurturing the Gardens; in fact residents from the apartment block at 42 Lombard Street have contributed \$1,000 to new plantings undertaken by volunteers.

Such care and commitment to their local green space by the supporters of William Carlton Gardens – whether our members living adjacent or the Ferry Road Bushcare Group – is essential if we are to protect and improve Glebe's natural environment.

¹William Carlton Gardens is a stop on the 'Pocket Parks of Glebe' Walk.

(https://glebewalks.com.au/?tb_walk_stop=william-carlton-gardens). The description of the history of the Gardens is taken from this page.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Convenor, Communications subcommittee



William Carlton Gardens fronts residential properties (left) (image: V. Simpson-Young)

Get your Glebe Society Keep Cup

The Society is doing its bit by making available Glebe Society-branded Keep Cups for the bargain price of \$5. The cups are good quality and come in a mix of colours, sizes and material.

The easiest way to get a cup is to come to *St Helen's* (next door to the community garden near the library) on the 1st or 3rd Wednesdays of April between 3pm and 5.30pm. If you are unable to attend at those times, please email Asa, the Environment Subcommittee convenor to arrange an alternative on environment@glebesociety.org.au.



The most excellent Glebe Society Keep Cup is now available (image: Diane Hutchinson)

Featured on Gardening Australia: Glebe's celebrity gardener, Jock Keene, and Glebe's celebrity garden, St Helen's Community Garden

The ABC's *Gardening Australia* on 23 February featured two segments on Glebe. The first was about Jock Keene's edible street garden and the other is about St Helen's Community Garden, also the brainchild of the busy Jock Keene.

Congratulations to Jock, Jan Macindoe and all the others involved.

You can watch the episode via the link on our website:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/gardening-australia-films-in-glebe/>.

Community Matters

Kitchen Starter Pack Update

Glebe Society members' response to this project has been wonderful – so many items delivered to the first drop-off session at St Helen's and by pick-ups as well as cash donations. Thank you all.

For April, the drop-off dates are the first and third Wednesdays (4 April and 18 April), 3pm to 5.30pm (slight change of time), at the Meeting Room, St Helens Community Centre.

You can drop off any core items for our Packs or other items suitable for the optional box (see [March Bulletin](#)). We especially need saucepans

and, for the optional box, mashers/graters and unbreakables. We are also short of glasses and tumblers. If you prefer, email Diane on vice-president@glebesociety.org.au) to arrange a pick-up.

Diane Hutchinson
Community Development Subcommittee

Stop Press: we have just been advised that the City of Sydney is supporting our Kitchen Starter Pack Project – our grant application was successful!

Share and Save – in Glebe

It was a joy to attend the 'Share and Save – in Glebe' event on Saturday, 24 March at *Benledi House*, supported by the City of Sydney.

The workshop brought together people from the Glebe community to share the new and exciting Sydney Sharing Map (<https://thesharingmap.com.au/>), a collaborative online mapping resource that allows you to explore great 'sharing initiatives' in your local area. Sharing initiatives include tool libraries, community gardens and skills sharing.

In the workshop, we played a game to help us understand the power of the sharing economy, were taught how to use the map (very easy!) and added initiatives to the map.

We were also lucky to be visited by celebrity gardener, Jock Keene, from the St Helen's Community Garden who talked to the group about the process of setting up a community garden.

The online map is a wonderful way to connect with your neighbours, save money and the planet! If you know of any sharing initiatives in Glebe, please 'Suggest a listing' on the Sydney Sharing Map (<https://thesharingmap.com.au/>)

Alice Simpson-Young



Scones, jam and cordial provided by Capitol Foods Co, ingredients sourced from backyards (image: Alice Simpson-Young)

Creative and Connected

Glebe Voices kicks off for 2018

Advice from the Society's President, Allan Hogan, that a *Glebe Voices* event with Allan interviewing Lisa Pryor promised a lively discussion and that members should book early was wisely given.

The event on Friday 23 March did book out early. There was also quite a bit of lively discussion. Lisa writes for the *New York Times* on 'urbanism, politics, culture and medicine'. As well as other life experiences, she can draw opinions from her experiences over different careers and areas of study. She's a medical doctor in Sydney and a former journalist for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as well as an author of *A Small Book about Drugs* and *The Pin-Striped Prison*, the latter of which was inspired by her experience of studying for her law degree at the University of Sydney.

There were plenty of ideas canvassed over the evening. What do we want for Glebe? What's happened to the diverse and dynamic inner city neighbourhoods of the past? How does our increasingly prosperous neighbourhood connect with the diversity of other neighbourhoods in other parts of Sydney? And then we touched on politics ...

Thanks to a growing list of suggestions for future speakers – including some from people in the audience on the night – we're considering other potential speakers who might share their thoughts at more *Glebe Voices* over the year.

Fiona Campbell



Lisa Pryor, guest speaker at *Glebe Voices* on 23 March, with President, Allan Hogan (image: V. Simpson-Young)

Anzac Day in Glebe

The Anzac Day ceremony will be held at Foley Park at 7.30am on Wednesday 25 April as an act of remembrance of those who have given their all for their country.



The service will be led by Rev Mark Wormell, Rector of St John's, Glebe; the address will be given by Max Solling and the Lament will be piped by Rob McLean.

After the service, morning tea will be served inside St. John's Church, at the rear. All welcome.

Thirsty Thursday

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to meet in restaurants in and around Glebe, usually on the first Thursday of each month, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe.



We try to pick places where we can share dishes, and have eight or so people at each table. Put these details in your diary now:

- On Thursday 5 April at 7pm we will go to *Despaña*, 101 Glebe Point Rd.
- On Thursday 3 May at 7pm we will go to *Sri Lankan Street Food*, 381 Glebe Pt Rd.
- And on Thursday 7 June we will go to *Darbar* at 207/209 Glebe Point Rd. Please note the new address, next door to the Commonwealth Bank.

Please email or ring Edwina on 9660 7066 by 6pm on the Wednesday before to let us know if you are coming, or if you are likely to be late.

Edwina Doe

Players in the Pub

It was hoped we could restart *Players in the Pub* in April. However, renovations upstairs at the Toxteth Hotel won't be finished in time. We're still planning the play by Ayn Rand (Trump's favourite author, pictured at House Un-American Activities) as our first 2018 reading.



Lyn Collingwood

'Webs stretched across the suburb': Anna Couani's essay on Glebe

If you are interested in Glebe's social history and in great writing, you will certainly be interested in Anna Couani's feature piece in the Sydney Review of Books

(<https://sydneyreviewofbooks.com/new-essay-anna-couani-glebe/>).

In her essay titled *Beauty is now underfoot wherever we take the trouble to look*, Anna reflects on her decades-long connection with Glebe, 'like a series of webs stretched thin across the suburb, across the seven different places I lived in. My architectural, artistic, feminist and literary histories are all here, overlaid and traversing the decades.'

Anna was part of the group of experimental writers in Glebe in the 70s and 80s (mentioned in Max Solling's book, *Grandeur and Grit*). As social history, this essay is fascinating – who was living where (and with whom!), when, and so on. Of course it is more than that, and I leave it

to the reader to discover that 'more' for themselves. Anna's essay is illustrated by several of her artworks, including her 1974 charcoal on linen drawing (reproduced here) of the Glebe Island Bridge.

Anna now runs The Shop Gallery at 112 Glebe Point Rd, in the premises that were once the Cornstalk Bookshop. From 5-10 April, the Shop Gallery is hosting an exhibition called 'Natural Selection', described as 'a curated selection of art, craft and objects featuring native flora and fauna'.

Anna's essay is one of a number published by the Sydney Review of Books in the series

'Writing NSW'

(<https://sydneyreviewofbooks.com/category/writing-nsw/>); 16 literary essays 'rooted in the geography, culture and social life of NSW'.

Virginia Simpson –Young

Vintage Glebe' by Anna Couani

*the land sloped all the way to the water
with no fence
and at the water's edge in the shallows
was a small beach
and walking into the water
the brown mud squelched between your
toes
seemed saturated with grease
embedded with shards of civilisation
sharp things*

*today the waterfront walk has claimed a
slice
of waterfront land
from the end of the bay winding around
to the busy highway
beautifully landscaped Council initiative*

*I stand at the water looking up at the old
mansion
at its bay window
at the still unpainted derelict walls
just as they were 45 years ago*

*now the slope to the water
once dry and bare
is jungle*

*the big Harbour Lighterage crane
now an arch over the path
historical remnant*



Glebe Island Bridge – 76 x 61 cm, oil and charcoal on linen 1974 (image: Anna Couani)

Blasts from the Past

by Sarah Fogg

The Seventies: Bulletin no 2 of 1978

Use the Library!

A similar situation is occurring with the Glebe Library. The people of Glebe are simply not supporting it enough. And yet the library has good facilities and even a garden with trees. The children's section is very good but gets far less attention than it deserves. The lack of support must also jeopardise the Glebe Library's importance in the eyes of the powers that allocate funds, giving the impression that Glebe is a strange non-reading outpost of civilization (of which Leichhardt is, of course, the hub!!). The lack of borrowers also tends to make the staff's job rather tedious and frustrating.

Glebe Library was then a branch of Leichhardt Library and located at 191-195 Bridge Rd. Little did they know how well patronised the Library would become once moved to the corner Glebe Point Rd and Wigram Rd! The 'similar situation' referred to was falling numbers at Forest Lodge Public School.

The Eighties: Bulletin no 2 of 1988

Traffic Petition from The Glebe Society

TRAFFIC PETITION

The undersigned residents of Glebe call the attention of the N.S.W. Government, the Department of Main Roads and Leichhardt Council to the fact that Glebe has long since reached its full capacity to absorb commuter traffic, making life in this beautiful and historic area of the Inner City increasingly noisy, polluted and hazardous.

WE REQUEST that instead of isolated, ad hoc measures to reduce the overflow of through traffic, the N.S.W. Traffic Authority, the Department of Main Roads and Leichhardt Council, in consultation with the residents of Glebe, draw up a plan for the entire Glebe area, as has been done in other suburbs.

WE REQUEST that any new Glebe Island Bridge be low level, and be completed before the City-West Link Road is built, so that the additional traffic will not have to travel through Glebe.

WE REQUEST that the proposal to build a container terminal access road to connect with The Crescent across Rozelle Bay be dropped, and this access road be redesigned to connect directly with the City-West Link Road (Western Gateway).

WE REQUEST that in all streets within the Glebe Conservation Area existing original sandstone kerbs and gutters be left intact, and not replaced at great expense by concrete, as Leichhardt Council proposes.

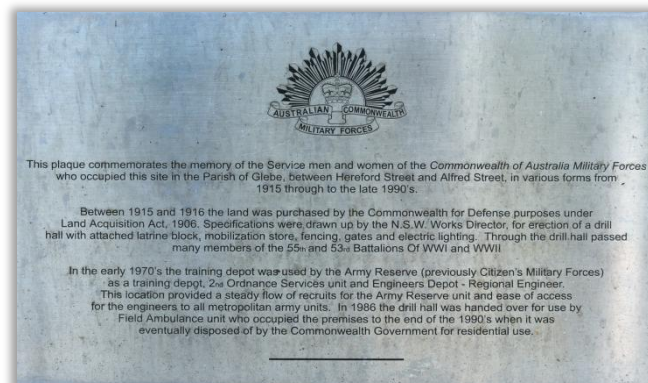
WE REQUEST that plans to attract further private vehicles into the Inner City be suspended, and that new methods of increasing the capacity and variety of public transport, including light rail, be examined.

Our calls on the replacement of sandstone kerbs and gutters with concrete and proposed container access road at The Crescent were largely heeded. Not so the height of the Glebe Island (now Anzac) Bridge.

Army stands firm

Attention! As you were! The Army will not retreat from its commanding position on the Forest Lodge ridge. Alan Robertson contacted Army public relations and was told the present unit would withdraw but another would replace it. Members may now stand, and breathe, easy.

Not firm enough clearly. The drill hall that once stood at 69-73 Hereford St was replaced by townhouses in the 90s. The existence of the former drill hall is marked by a plaque:



Plaque to commemorate the Army drill hall / training depot that occupied the land at 69-73 Hereford Street, now a residential complex. The plaque can be found on the Glebe Society's Plaque database:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/about-glebe/history-heritage/plaques-in-glebe/plaques-in-glebe-map/>

(image: Phil Young)

The Nineties: Bulletin no 2 of 1998

Sydney airport(s)

The Society is vehemently opposed to KSA being the only airport for the Sydney region! KSA's curfew and the cap of 80 movements per hour must remain. There must not be a fourth runway at KSA, or 87 movements per hour, or dispensing with the curfew (which rather should be tightened) or any further expansion of KSA in any other form that could be devised.

The Society put in a submission on the 1998 draft EIS for Badgerys Creek Airport, noting that it was about the twelfth submission it had made to relevant authorities on the subject of Sydney airports since 1989. The Society argued for the building of a second Sydney airport, also for protection of water quality in Warragamba Dam, rail access from the start and noise buffering at Badgerys Creek. The federal government's go-ahead eventually occurred in 2014.

The Noughties: Bulletin no 2 of 2008

Glebe Conservation Study (extract from Councillor Macindoe's report)

As mentioned in previous *Bulletins* the Glebe Conservation Study makes significant changes. Seven Conservation Areas, unified by similar styles, replace the existing single area. Glebe Point Road is given special status, with its many Heritage Items vetted and reorganised. Eleven new Heritage Items are listed. Every building and streetscape in the new Conservation Areas is classified.

The Glebe Conservation Area Study was conducted between 2005 and 2007. It is the basis of the current eight Conservation Areas in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

\$30,000 to preserve Wireless House

Glebe's Wireless House, which was used as a public broadcasting facility during the Great Depression, will use its funding to ensure the site can again become a feature in Foley Park with the view to occasional 'broadcasting'

'Blasts from the Past' now has its own section on our website. Click on the 'Our Bulletin' tab on the main page (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/>), and you will see 'Blasts from the Past' listed. Click on that, and you'll see last month's Blasts – and future Blasts, as they are created.

Sarah Fogg
Communications Subcommittee



Upcoming History lecture: The Legacy of Jack Munday: Half a Century after Kelly's Bush



Members may be interested in attending the Royal Australian Historical Society Lecture titled 'The Legacy of Jack Munday: Half a Century after Kelly's Bush'.

Without the green bans of the 1970s and after, the face of Sydney and many other Australian cities would be very different today.

This illustrated talk will cover radical unionist Jack Munday's leading role in the fight against the 'slash-and-burn' philosophy of the green ban era – with a review of his ongoing legacy and

inspirational leadership over half a century of dedicated activism.

The speaker, James Colman, is a Sydney-based architect, planner, freelance writer and part-time university lecturer. From an initial intensive period of architectural practice in Australia and abroad he moved into urban design and town planning.

When? 4 April at 1-2 pm; Where? History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney. Free event.

Bookings and further information: <https://www.rahs.org.au/event/lecture-the-legacy-jack-munday/>

For your calendar

Wednesday 4 April, 1-2 pm. Jack Munday talk, History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney.
 Thursday 5 April, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Despaña*. 101 Glebe Point Rd.
 Saturday 14 April, 9.30-11.30am. Planting day at Orphan School Creek. Meet Wood St, Forest Lodge.
 Monday 16 April, 6pm. Talk by Dr John Martin. Benledi (Glebe Library), 186 Glebe Point Rd.
 Wednesday 25 April, 7.30am, Anzac Day Ceremony, Glebe War Memorial, Foley Park.
 Thursday 3 May, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Sri Lankan Street Food*. 381 Glebe Point Rd.
 Thursday 7 June, 7pm. Thirsty Thursday: *Darbar*, 207/209 Glebe Point Rd.



Recurring events:

Wednesday mornings from 8.30am. Glebe Bushcare Group, near Jubilee Park. Contact Sue – 9692 9161.
 Thursdays, 7.30pm. Sahaja Yoga, Glebe Town Hall

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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- Individual member: \$45
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The 3801 crosses the Wentworth Park viaduct on a tourist trip, 14 April 1991 (image: David Johnson, www.trainman.id.au)