

## State government putting profit ahead of the public interest and common sense



*Those members who provided the Society with their email address will have received this message from Glebe Society President, Janet Wahlquist, on 13 June. It is reproduced here, not just for those who don't have email, but because it is SO IMPORTANT!!*

I am writing to you about the future of Blackwattle Bay and the NSW Government's plans to 'revitalise' it.

The Glebe Society objects to the plan on the following grounds:

1. The proposed 45 storey buildings would tower over the Bay, casting long shadows in the morning. For reference: the pylons of the Anzac Bridge are 120 metres high, a 45 storey building is 156m.
2. There is no associated traffic plan. Thousands of people would be living and working there, and that is in addition to the six million forecast to visit the new Sydney Fish Market.
3. There is still no Master Plan for the area, nor has the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy been completed.
4. The proposal is for development on publicly-owned land, but the emphasis is on maximising profits with little consideration of the public good.
5. At a briefing by NSW Infrastructure, a spokesman said the 8.4ha site was one kilometre from the CBD. So, in effect this is an expansion of the CBD to the shores of Blackwattle Bay. Will Glebe be next?

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*The Glebe Society considers this development proposal to be driven more by the need to generate maximum profits to fund the new, unnecessarily expensive Fish Market and for the developers, than for the public good.*

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The NSW Government will need to recoup the \$750 million cost of building the new Sydney Fish Market on Bridge Rd, over Blackwattle Bay. These plans for the current Fish Market site and adjacent privately-owned land are designed to do that.

The Glebe Society opposes the construction of the new Sydney Fish Market. We accept that the Fish Market needs to be redesigned and replaced, but we believe that should be done on the current site.

### **The proposed new Sydney Fish Market**

The Glebe Society opposes the construction of the new Sydney Fish Market on a number of grounds, including:

*(continued next page)*

**Top of page:** The head of Blackwattle Bay is being prepared for the new Sydney Fish Market. The Glebe Society supports the Fish Market being revamped – but on its current site. Blackwattle Bay should be returned to the public as has been promised for decades – NOT taken over by a massive overdevelopment (Photo: Phillip Vergison)

(continued from previous page)

- The impact on local traffic and on local parking;
- The potential for massive pollution of Blackwattle Bay by digging into the Bay (the DA's own figures show polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and total petroleum hydrocarbons in the sediment exceed high trigger levels as do the heavy metals mercury, lead, zinc, copper and nickel);
- The separation of Wentworth Park from the Bay by the scale of the building;
- The lack of the promised Master Plan;
- The NSW Government spending \$750 million on building what will be a glorified shopping centre – not one extra fish will be sold there – that will take business from Glebe shops and restaurants;
- The doubling of the size of the Fish Market, which is based on the expectation of increased tourism, particularly from China. This is seriously threatened by the current pandemic and tensions between Australia and China.

The Government has announced the Sydney Fish Market will be fast-tracked, though at the time of writing (12 June 2020) the DA has not yet been approved. Details of the proposed building, and the Glebe Society's objections, can be found at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10011>

### The plans for the 'revitalisation' of Blackwattle Bay

The Government plans to fund the new Fish Markets by selling (actually leasing on a 99-year lease) the 8.4-hectare site of the current Sydney Fish Markets and adjacent privately-owned land.

It is proposing three scenarios, with buildings of up to 45 storeys tall. The buildings would house between 1000 and 1700 homes and office space for between 4000 to 7000 jobs. The only choice the community gets is the mix of offices and housing. It is not clear

how much will be much-needed affordable housing, but the indication is it will be a very inadequate 5 to 10 per cent.

If the proposed Sydney Fish Market building goes ahead, and is completed on schedule, the land will not become available until 2024/5. The Glebe Society asks, why the hurry? This question is particularly pertinent, given the rapidly changing economic and work environment. There are currently high vacancy rates for CBD offices and apartments, and there is a question mark over the future of Chinese tourism to Australia.

The Glebe Society considers this development proposal to be driven more by the need to generate maximum profits to fund the new, unnecessarily expensive Fish Market and for the developers, than for the public good. I urge you to read the Government's plans for 'Revitalising Blackwattle Bay', <http://infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/blackwattlebay>; then to walk along Blackwattle Bay and imagine the buildings towering over the Bay and the Anzac Bridge and the throngs of people living and working there and visiting the new Fish Markets ...

Janet Wahlquist  
Glebe Society President



Some of the failures of the proposed development of the existing Fish Market site are identified on the website of the local state member, Jamie Parker. (source: <https://www.jamieparker.org/blackwattle>)

## Letters to the Editor

### A heartfelt condemnation of the new Sydney Fish Market, by Judy Vergison

Dear Editor,

*Sydney Fish Market Redevelopment - a modern day development pox on Glebe and the Inner West!*

How disappointing to strongly feel the need to write a letter such as this to denounce the appalling decision recently announced by the NSW Liberal government to redevelop the Sydney Fish Market. Several months ago, an article in the *Bulletin* noted

that 'there's something smelly about the Fish Markets development'. This caption, to my mind, was far too kind – in fact, it should have concluded that 'this redevelopment stinks and is rotten to the core'!

Equally disappointing, is that this appalling decision is entirely at odds with the values and expectations of the Glebe Society, which was formed just over 50 years ago to protect the architectural heritage qualities of Glebe and has pursued a vision for unencumbered public access to a foreshore walk for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike for over 40 years. These values and expectations were



supported and encouraged by the late Jack Munday, whose vision, leadership, courage, innovative strategies and dedication to protect and retain some of the more significant buildings and streetscapes around inner Sydney, prevented what would have been some of the worst development ravages by NSW governments (state and local) and developers from proceeding. These saved buildings and precincts, exemplified by the Queen Victoria Building and the colonial maritime precinct at the Rocks plus numerous buildings and historic neighbourhoods around Glebe are testimony to this vision.



Jack Munday and green ban supporters in Melbourne, 1973. (source: [labourhistorymelbourne.org](http://labourhistorymelbourne.org); photographer unknown.)

So, what have we, as residents of Glebe, learnt over the past 50 years? Why are we witnessing the same old issues, the same old arrogance, the same old disrespect for the reasonable expectations of local people? Why must the residents of Glebe and surrounding villages be forced to accept poor planning decisions that destroy the fabric of our urban living and the enjoyment of visitors to the area?

Before you label me as a classic NIMBY or yet another anti-development ratbag – let me reassure you that I have no objection in principle to a revitalised Sydney Fish Market as the current site is tired, inadequate and a total embarrassment. However, I do believe that this particular Fish Market design is an inappropriate overdevelopment of precious waterfront land; it is in the wrong location and its financial viability is being paid for by a visually dominant, high rise residential package immediately adjacent.

Interestingly, when the NSW Premier made her big announcement, the television crews failed to scan beyond the architect's colourful representation of this wonderful new fish market building. What a pity the public could not see the imposing, 45 storey high residential structure looming above and squeezed into, the current site. No doubt, it will afford uninterrupted views of the congestion on Bridge Rd below and the Anzac Bridge and Rozelle interchange nearby but by any definition, it will be a planning nightmare! The announcement went unchallenged

by the media, and little concern was raised by our local community.

The Glebe Society has supported redevelopment on this site but has consistently raised concerns about its anticipated environmental and amenity impacts and the acquisition of public land for private, commercial gain which appears to be an unwelcomed price to be paid for this redevelopment. In the main, local residents have accepted the Fish Market as a neighbour and have tolerated its presence, without objection to the traffic and other inconveniences that arise from its commercial function. This spirit of good neighbourliness is certainly not reciprocated.

However, despite years of engagement, strategic plans, master plans, public involvement, election promises and slick displays by smooth-talking consultants, little progress seems to have been made to satisfy the local communities' desires and expectations when it comes to making acceptable planning policy for this environmentally sensitive and historic area of Sydney's inner west. The shameful considerations of the future of Callan Park; the apparent memory loss when it comes to the temporary life of the Super Marina in Blackwattle Bay (remember that it was only going to be here for a few months in 2000 during the Olympics?); and the vandalism that is about to be perpetrated on the Powerhouse Museum and its historic contents are all emblematic of a state government that has little, if any, regard for residents and provides an open door and receptive ear to the developer only.

Yes, we listen politely to our politicians and put our case, when invited. But, somehow, we end up witnessing what will be in this instance, a brazen theft of public land and an inappropriate overdevelopment of waterfront land, based on a profound breach of promise by many of our leaders, with no recourse and perpetual dissatisfaction suffered by the residents.

It has been galling too, to witness the methodical and relentless manoeuvrings by the state government, aimed at excluding the Council of the City of Sydney from making any legitimate contributions, on behalf of local communities, to the planning process. No wonder we feel so tired and disillusioned – for many people it has been over 50 years of witnessing and being a victim of, this charade.

Today, as I reflect on the history of the Sydney Fish Market over my 26 years living of in Glebe, this is what comes to mind;

- It has always been run down, internally and externally, and has failed to truly respect the environmental sensitivities of the site
- Screening trees planted along the Bridge Rd frontage have been neglected, left to die and then removed, leaving a row of stumps/scars

- Icemaking machines, waste storage areas and other equipment and structures have been placed and erected along the waterfront, creating a visual eyesore and an offensive odour problem
- Public access and egress for visitors is frequently impaired by active forklift operations
- Garbage containers are ravaged by vermin and birds and rubbish is allowed to spill into the bay, where it is left to rot or be carried away by the tide
- Safe traffic movements are frequently impaired by buses, taxis and motor vehicles whose drivers regularly stop in blatant contravention of traffic control signage in Bridge Rd
- Poor building maintenance.

When contemplating the vision of the Sydney Fish Market promoted our Premier, I foresee:

- A development which robs the community of its current access to the bay waterfront and the direct water vistas and visual amenity beyond
- A 'hotch potch' of development on a constrained site, served by inadequate traffic and transport infrastructure
- A major tourist and residential facility serviced by an already overloaded light rail system.
- The loss of a proposed waterfront-aligned, public walk-way which has been planned for decades. This was promoted by the Glebe Society, which has patiently waited for the Hanson (Pioneer) contract to end and the batching plant to be demolished for this to become a reality
- A 45 storey 'landmark' tower building, completely out of keeping with the surrounding built environs on the existing market envelope
- A significant environmental bill met by NSW tax payers to clean up contamination caused by dredging (as the developer steps aside from this impact), or worse still, no remediation being effected.

The Premier has tried to comfort all who listen by saying that this fish market area is an extension of the Sydney CBD extension. If this is true, Pyrmont and Ultimo will soon be treated with similar disdain! But the Premier has failed to justify why the Fish Markets must be located at the head of Black Wattle Bay, particularly when 85% of the fish sold at the current site is trucked in and the fishing fleet using the Harbour as a base has significantly decreased. The harbour waters will soon be polluted as the builder's dredge and disturb the silt contaminated with industrial waste over the years and local, healthy and passive activities like Glebe Rowers will be swept aside.

This development is being 'fast tracked', purportedly to revitalise the NSW economy in these Covid times and to eventually provide a world class attraction for overseas visitors. The reality is that the local community will be burdened by a 'modern day development pox' for decades to come.

For my closing comments I would ask you to take your mind to the vista of Bondi Beach. In my view, this fish market development is akin to neglecting and then demolishing the famous tidal swimming pool at Bondi Beach, building a new three storey Fish Market above the Bondi Icebergs facility and extending it over the rocks and into the ocean, resuming a significant portion of Bondi Beach for car and tourist bus parking, blocking off direct access to the foreshore walk and lining it with icemaking machines, waste bins and outbuildings and to pay for it all, erecting a 'landmark' 45 storey unit development immediately adjacent, all with only cursory public involvement. The only difference would be that the Bondi site does not have a road network nearby on the scale of the Rozelle interchange currently under construction.

Imagine the uproar if this was happening at Bondi!

Where are we Glebe, with this proposed development? It's time to wake up and take some action!

*Judy Vergison*



*The mighty metal monster 'eating' the Hanson batching plant (Photo: Phillip Vergison)*

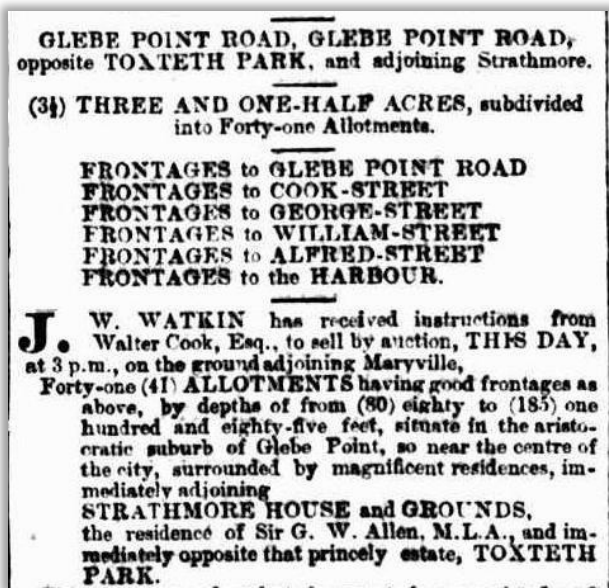


## A pre-emptive strike in the street-naming debate

Dear Virginia,

If people are going to start looking for streets to rename because they were named for people involved in the slave trade and so on, which apparently includes Cook, I would like to point out that Cook St is not named for the explorer. It was named after Walter Albert Cook who bought the Maryville Estate of just over 3.5 acres in 1877. He arranged the Cook subdivision and, to provide access, he established Cook St.

Cheers,  
Sybil Jack



Cook's land is sold off in allotments (source: SMH, Sat 8 December 1877, p.13, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13404044>)

## Pop-up Cycleway in Bridge Rd

Dear Editor,

I am writing this on Monday 29 June. There was a flyer from the NSW Government and City of Sydney in my mail box last week about the pop-up cycleways in each direction along Bridge Rd/Pymont Bridge Rd between Wattle St and Lyons Rd.

The NSW Government is funding cycleways in six inner city suburbs, to encourage people to use their bikes instead of cars or public transport. Work in Bridge Rd is scheduled to start today, but, so far, the only change is the speed limit signs, changed from 60kph to 40kph 'to provide a safer environment for people riding'. Existing parking will be 'temporarily' removed, but no date has been suggested. 'Pop-up' implies 'temporary' but the Lord Mayor of Sydney stated in an interview in March 2020 that she expected the pop-up cycleways to remain a permanent fixture.

By coincidence, my friend Barbara is also getting a pop-up cycleway in front of her house in Moore Park Rd, next to the Cricket Ground. She and her neighbours will be greatly inconvenienced by the lack of parking but they also ask, 'Does this enhance the Victorian ambience of their road?' They have had a busy week with letter-writing and meetings with no success. Dave Sharma, Federal Member for Wentworth, went to one of their meetings and has taken up their concerns with both state and local government. He is a bike rider and agrees – it's far from optimum. There is also dissent among City councillors.

Before the flyer arrived, I had already contacted City of Sydney and Transport for NSW last week, trying, unsuccessfully, to see the plans. Apparently, they were not yet available as final decisions hadn't been made. Plans were not included in the flyer, but I have seen worrying photos of red barriers and striped black and yellow 'pillows' beside the kerb. We should protect our 'Victorian ambience' too.

It's probably too late to stop work in Bridge Rd. We can only hope that common sense prevails and that 'pop-up' is true. If Bridge Rd is not returned to its current state of sensible road sharing soon, we should make our feelings known.

Regards,  
Edwina Doe



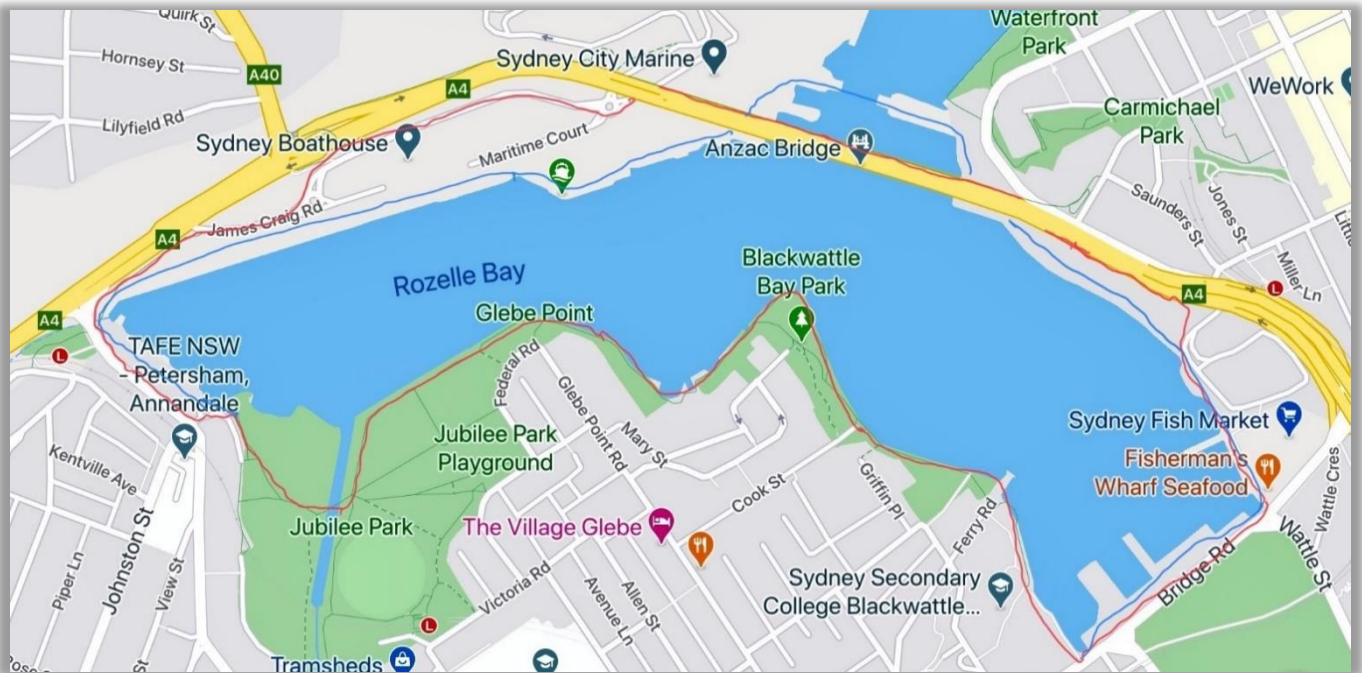
An example of the type of barrier that might be used for the Bridge Rd pop-up cycleway (source: City of Sydney)

## Erratum

In last month's *Bulletin*, Meredith Burgmann's last name is spelt wrongly in two places: the by-line for the main article and in the caption for the photo of Meredith delivering the citation speech for Jack Munday. This has been corrected in the online version of the *Bulletin*. My apologies to Meredith. – Virginia

# Transport & Infrastructure

## A Blackwattle Bay Circular Walk



*The proposed Blackwattle Bay Circular Walk. The blue line represents the proposed walk and the red line shows what is currently possible. (Image supplied by Janet Wahlquist)*

There have been calls for many years for a Foreshore Walk around Blackwattle Bay. A circular walk around the whole bay for pedestrians and cyclists would be an attractive and much needed active transport route. We have seen recently the desire of the community to walk, run and cycle and the more attractive that pathway is, the more used. The Bay Run walk around the Bay of Drummoyne and Leichhardt has been so popular and crowded during the coronavirus lockdown that the Mayors of Inner West and Canada Bay Councils were asking people to stay away and even had rangers turning people away. So why aren't there proper plans for a walkway around Blackwattle Bay? There has been talk about extending the walk to the Fish Markets for years but this has not happened. The walkway/cycleway from Bicentennial Park on the foreshore of Annandale to Pyrmont Bridge Rd in Glebe is very well used and popular.

There are plans, still very much in the formative stages, for that walk to continue through the new Fish Markets and other proposed buildings and under the Anzac Bridge but there are important missing links. There are no plans to do what inner Sydney badly needs in the way of attractive walkways and that is to extend the walkway over the Glebe Island Bridge. Glebe Island Bridge is heritage-listed but unused and neglected, permanently open so the million-dollar boats parked at the Super Marina can easily get in and out. The bridge should be returned to operation

so it can once again be opened and closed and used as a pedestrian/cycling pathway joining Pyrmont and Rozelle/Balmain. Presently a pedestrian or cyclist has to take a winding route onto and off Anzac Bridge which is less than peaceful.

From the Glebe Island bridge there should be a walkway along the foreshore to Bicentennial Park. Presently the pedestrian/cyclist on crossing the Anzac Bridge has to walk/cycle along James Craig Drive then the City West link and the busy Crescent. There are some plans for a new walkway along the Crescent. The waterfront land is publicly owned but privately leased to the Super Yacht Marina and another boat rental business.

Were the Glebe Island Bridge to be restored and renovated so it can open and close it would also provide a much-needed pedestrian/cycle link to Rozelle and Balmain. Presently it is a heritage-listed bridge heading toward demolition by neglect. Why is it not being restored and used? One can't help but wonder if it is the influence of the Super Yacht Marina with their millions of dollars' worth of boats that prefer the convenience of a permanently open bridge for when they decide to take their big boats out.

It is time Government started to take action to create more active transport routes and a Blackwattle Bay circuit is an obvious one.

*Janet Wahlquist*  
Convenor, Traffic & Transport



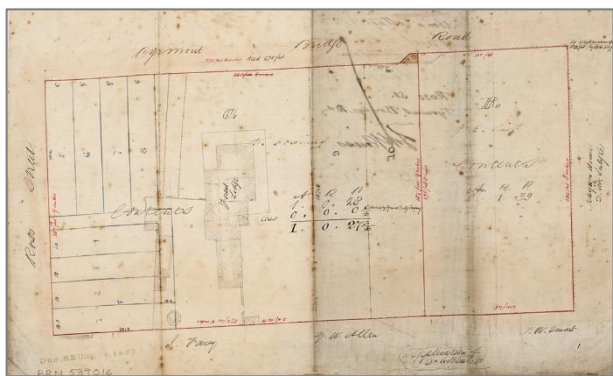
# History & Heritage

## The Search for Forest Lodge, by Rodney Hammett

A chance discussion with Edwina Doe at the start of the COVID-19 lock-down in March 2020 left me with the question 'where was the house – *Forest Lodge*?'

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage in its discussion of the Hereford & Forest Lodge Heritage Conservation Area states (incorrectly, as it turns out), 'The approximate site today would be 208 and 210 Bridge Rd.'<sup>1</sup> I searched for any documents on Forest Lodge and found an interesting plan showing *Hereford House* and *Forest Lodge* on the State Library website. A more detailed plan of Forest Lodge was provided by Lyn Collingwood; at the Dictionary of Sydney. Max Solling and Helen Randerson had written about the history of Forest Lodge; the *Leichhardt Historical Journal* (No.23, p.27) has a detailed discussion on Forest Lodge written by Michael Foster and Max Solling; there is also a Water Board map that shows buildings in the vicinity dated about 1889<sup>2</sup>; and of course the *Villas* book published by the Glebe Society in its 50th Year has a photo and story on the dwelling.

This is the plan from Lyn Collingwood, showing that *Forest Lodge* was near the intersection of Ross St and Pyrmont Bridge Rd (now Bridge Rd).



The plan showing Forest Lodge near the intersection of Ross St and Pyrmont Bridge Rd (Source: SLNSW [Mitchell Map Collection Maps/0528]; date uncertain)

From these sources we learn that architect John Verge designed *Forest Lodge* for Ambrose Foss in 1836, on part of the 31 acres, 2 roods and 15 perches (about 12.8-hectares) granted to him by Sir George Gipps on 8 March 1840. Over time the land was subdivided until we see *Forest Lodge* sitting within the just over one acre lot 'C' shown above. By August 1865 stationer William Downing was the owner of the house and land.<sup>3</sup>

### William Downing (1836-1874)

The youngest of six children, William was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 30 June 1836. Aged 22 he arrived Sydney on the immigrant ship *Admiral Lyons* on 30 December 1858 seeking a new life.

In less than seven years he was in a position to secure the house and land, with a sizeable mortgage, for himself and brother, Robert, who had a growing family. Robert, two years his senior, had married Jane Callam Farquharson in Edinburgh in July 1857. They sailed to Sydney where their first child, Jane, was born in 1858. Next came William in 1862, Robert in 1864, Anne in 1868 and Maggie in 1870 – the last two being born at *Forest Lodge*.

Of the adult Downings, there were four sisters older than Robert and William, the youngest being Jane who had married John Liddle Sheriff in Edinburgh in September 1855. The newly-weds sailed to Sydney soon afterwards arriving 23 February 1856 on the barque *Anne Maclean*.

These three gentlemen; Robert Downing, William Downing and John Sheriff, set themselves up, separately, as booksellers in Sydney. Business problems led John Sherriff into insolvency in 1867 and again in 1872 and he died in May 1881 aged 51.

Robert died much earlier, in December 1870, at the age of 36 leaving a widow with five youngsters. His funeral left from *Forest Lodge*.

**THE FUNERAL** of the deceased **ROBERT DOWNING** will move from his late residence, **Forest Lodge**, Pyrmont Bridge Road, Glebe, to the **Balmain Cemetery**, **THIS DAY**, the 27th instant, at 10 o'clock. Friends will please accept this intimation.

SMH; Tue 27 December 1870, p8

William never married and following the death of Robert, when the house was sold in February 1871, he moved to 35 Westmoreland St, Glebe, with widowed Jane and the children. Three years later William died at this house. He was 38 years old and on 5 October 1874 he was buried in what is now Pioneer's Park at Leichhardt, then known as the Balmain Cemetery.

Jane and her family later moved to live in the Stanmore Terrace in Gottenham St, Glebe, where she died in 1881 aged 46.

The healthiest of the Downing children was Jane, wife of John Sherriff, who lived to the age of 83.

### William Munro (1813-1881)

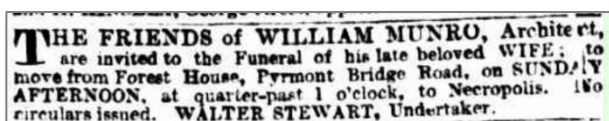
Architect William Munro purchased the *Forest Lodge* property from William Downing in February 1871.<sup>4</sup> Scottish born 26 year old carpenter William Munro sailed from Greenoch, Scotland along with his 58 year old widowed mother and five siblings on the ship *James Moran*, arriving with over 200 bounty immigrants at Sydney on Monday 11 February 1839.

His and his brother's skills were sorely needed in the new colony, with William, Alexander and James all became builders. Freda MacDonnell, in her book *The Glebe: Portraits and Places* (pps. 53-55), describes William's extensive construction career, starting out as a builder then becoming an architect. His commissions included Anglican and Catholic churches in Sydney and country NSW, residential buildings and significant warehouses.

Maybe William was too busy to think about marriage earlier because he was 40 when on 10 July 1852 at St Lawrence Church, George St, he wed Caroline Marsh, the daughter of builder John Marsh. They had three children – Alexandrina Elizabeth Caroline (1853-1926), Elizabeth (1856-1934) and William John (1861-1908). Elizabeth and William were both born in Glebe so identifying Alexandrina's birthplace helps track where the family lived before 1856.

Alexandrina's birth certificate seems not to be listed in the NSW Birth Register however her baptism is recorded in the register for St Luke's Parish, Liverpool – born on 25 May 1853 and baptised on 13 July the same year. In the same record it states the family was living at Parramatta and William was a builder. Later he had an office at 64 Pitt St, Sydney, where he called himself an architect. Sands Directories show him living in Glebe Rd, Glebe, in 1865 and in Derwent St, Glebe, in 1870.

Moving to *Forest Lodge* came at time when his career as an architect was winding down and no doubt a time when he wanted to enjoy family life in comfort. This came to an unexpected end on 6 November 1880 when Caroline died at home, aged about 50. Interestingly in the funeral notice (below) their house was named as *Forest House* and not *Forest Lodge*.



THE FRIENDS of WILLIAM MUNRO, Architect, are invited to the Funeral of his late beloved WIFE; to move from Forest House, Pyrmont Bridge Road, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, at quarter-past 1 o'clock, to Necropolis. No circulars issued. WALTER STEWART, Undertaker.

SMH, Sat 6 November 1880, p.20

William died four months later, on 7 March 1881, aged 68, both being buried at Rookwood Cemetery. When probate on William's estate was determined it was valued at £25,000, a significant amount in 1881.

### William John Munro (1861-1908)

William John Munro had attended Sydney University where he gained a BA in 1880. After the death of both parents he travelled to Scotland for medical studies where he graduated M.B. Ch.M. at Edinburgh University in 1884. No doubt his inheritance, which included 'Forest House', helped fund these studies and travel.<sup>5</sup>

Returning to Sydney in July 1885 and living at 'Forest House' William established a large family medical practice. Then on 20 March 1889 he married Flora Charity McLean at Rylstone, NSW.

Flora was from a pioneering family that had arrived in 1837 from Scotland before becoming graziers in the Mudgee region. William and Flora only had one child – a son, William Ross McLean Munro – born on 15 February 1891 at Glebe.

William (snr) became sick so, mainly for health reasons, in 1896 the family voyaged to Europe where he spent three years studying dermatology in London, Paris, Vienna and Berlin. Returning to Australia he practiced as a skin specialist in Macquarie St, being appointed to the honorary staff of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, a position he held at the time of his death in July 1908. He was only 46 and is buried at the family plot in Rookwood Cemetery. At probate William's estate was valued at £13,160.

The death of William was obviously a shock to his family and friends, and it was at a time when the larger parcels of land in Glebe were being subdivided for residential use. Under William's will the land was transferred to Flora, who was given a life interest, and to his son, William who, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, was by then an architect.

Flora soon moved to Ashfield where she lived with her sister Kathleen in a house Flora jointly owned with her brother Norman. She died on 14 July 1947 aged 84 and, like her husband, was buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

### William Ross Mclean Munro (1891-1960)

In 1912, at the age of 21 William became the sole owner, while Flora's interests were protected by legal caveats. *Forest House* was demolished to make way for the *Munro Terrace* on Bridge Rd.

Some of the retail lots fronting Ross St had been developed by 1911 as can be seen in the 1911 map of Glebe;<sup>6</sup> however ownership was still with the Munro family.

We know the *Munro Terrace* was constructed by 1913 as evidenced by an advertisement (below) which appeared in page 25 of the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday 7 June 1913.



COMPT. furnished d'stairs ROOM, convenient tram, suit 3 mates. 4 Munro-terrace, Bridge-rd, Glebe.

SMH, Saturday 7 June 1913, p.25

The land however was not subdivided until 1957 but was in September 1912 mortgaged to Sir William Charles Cooper of London, a baron.<sup>7</sup> In October 1915 this mortgage was transferred to Tom Raine and Percy Arundel Rabitt, both of Sydney, estate agents.

It seems William was attracted to the London lifestyle and beyond. The passenger list for the departing ship *St Paul*, at Southampton, England, destination New York on 6 September 1913 included student William McLean Ross-Munro. He had changed his name too.



Soon after the outbreak of WW1, William turned up at Cairo on 29 March 1916 to enlist with the Motor Transport Service in the Australian Army. He stated he was an architect with next of kin being his mother in Sydney – Mrs W J Munro, c/o Commercial Banking Co of Sydney. William's particulars were height 5ft 9in; weight 132 lbs; dark complexion; blue eyes and brown hair.

This, his second attempt to enlist, was successful, lasting until January 1917 in Cairo. He was then sent to England and formally discharged on 26 March 1917. He may have married in England in 1918 but certainly he was married to Adela Lidia at the time of the UK's 1939 Register.<sup>8</sup> In 1922 he is listed as a student at Pennsylvania University and on 10 May 1929 he arrived at New York on the ship *New Amsterdam* when he called himself a banker.

A further mortgage was taken out on the one acre site in March 1935 (to the Natural Mutual Life Association of Australia) then discharged in April 1939. The 1915 mortgage continued until April 1949 when the site was subdivided into two parts. Lot A, the retail lots fronting Ross St, was retained by William now a member of the London Stock Exchange. Lot B, purchased by W Nevill & Co, included the Munro Terrace houses and the vacant land behind them.<sup>9</sup>

It was August 1957 when the terrace houses started to be sold separately. William had sold the Ross St lots in 1956-57, a few years before he died in

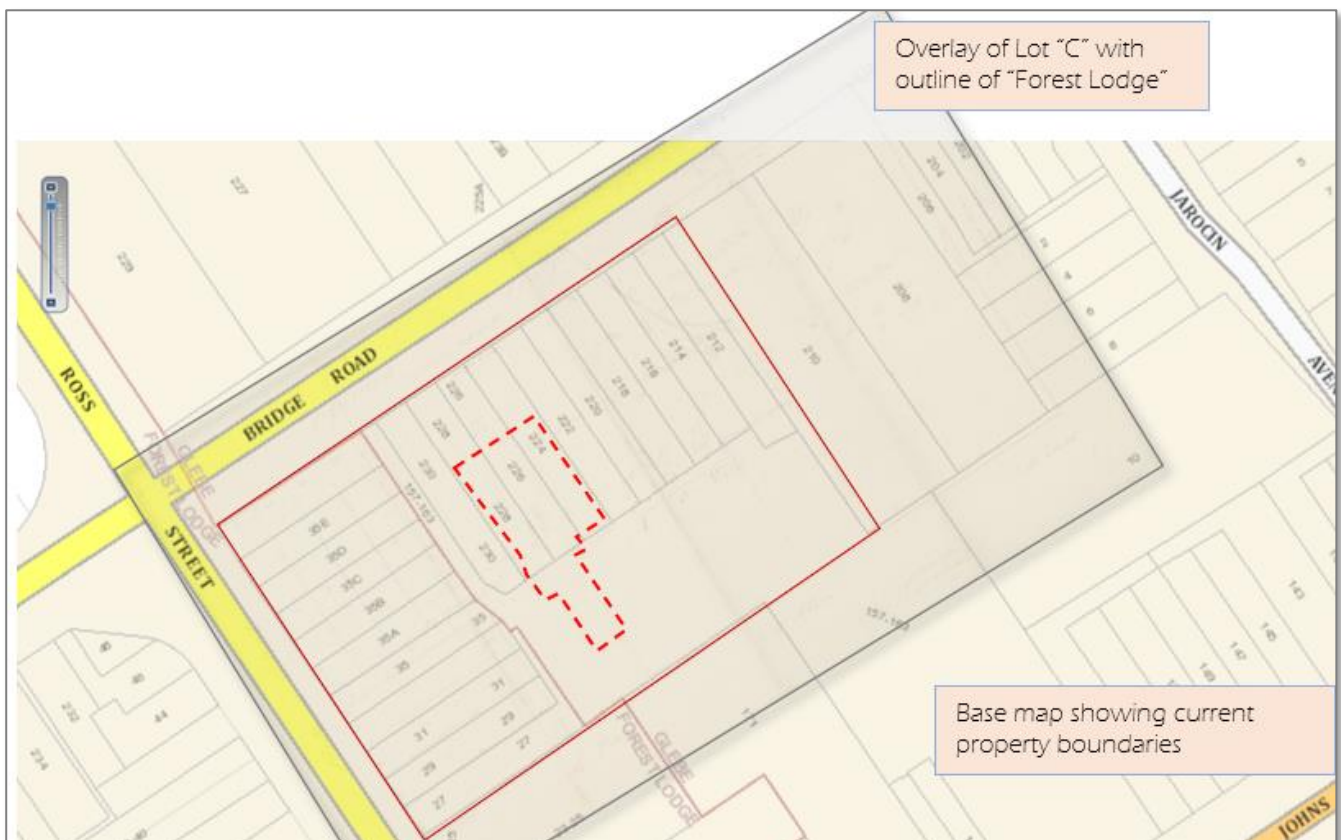
England on 28 August 1960 aged 69, his estate being valued at £3,796 in the UK.



Subdivision into two lots in 1949. (source: author)

### In Summary

It is clear that over time the dwelling *Forest Lodge* becomes known as *Forest House*. The location of *Forest Lodge/Forest House* can be approximated by superimposing the one acre lot over the existing arrangement of lots at the corner of Ross St and Bridge St using the base map from the NSW Land Registry Services website (<https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>). This has been done – see following map – with the outline of *Forest Lodge/Forest House* shown as a dashed line.



The location of Forest Lodge (or Forest House) in relation to current properties (source: Rodney Hammett)

You can see that the house was under Nos 224, 226 & 228 Bridge Rd and possibly a little under Nos 222 and 230. Edwina's house is No 224.

*Forest Lodge* was never near Nos 208 or 210 Bridge Rd, which are outside the one acre lot.

*Rodney Hammett*  
Heritage Subcommittee

**Acknowledgements:** In preparing this article I have sought advice and guidance from others including Max Solling, Lyn Collingwood, Edwina Doe, Robert Hannan, Jude Paul and Virginia Simpson-Young, all of which is gratefully acknowledged.

## Blackwattle Bay and its creeks, by Sybil Jack

Since Blackwattle Bay is currently threatened with overdevelopment this may be the right moment to look back at a little of its history and that of the creeks that drained into it.

A little exploration inland from Sydney Cove when Philip and the 'First Fleet' arrived would have brought them to a freshwater creek running from what are now the grounds of Sydney University and Victoria Park down to a swampy bay where Wattle St and Bay St now start. Archaeological finds make it clear that the clans living around the area used the fresh water and drew fish and rock oysters from the bay, and ate plants and animals from the area surrounding it. The area was soon allocated to incomers. Glebe was given to the Anglican Church via Richard Johnson but thirty-four acres to the east of the creek which became known as *Ultimo* were granted to John Harris the surgeon, who in 1804 built a stately two-storey house on the rise overlooking Cockle Bay. This was said to be at Blackwattle Swamp and was robbed a number of times. He ran a dairy in the area and it remained largely farmland until Harris's land was subdivided and sold in 1859. There was also a farm which originally belonged to William Minchin. From time to time cattle were stolen or strayed from the farms.

A bridge over the creek on the road to Parramatta was soon needed and is mentioned in the newspapers as it became the marker for the corners of the district of Sydney, Bullanaming and Petersham. It was well known enough for the poet M Robinson to include the swamp in a poem for an Anniversary Dinner on 1 Feb 1826:

*If reflected in one glass of whisky.  
If you take a short tramp,  
To Black-wattle swamp  
You may see what a Cooper has gain'd;  
With his vats and his casks,  
His coolers and flasks,  
You'd swear they could never be drain'd!*

In 1810 the swamp was Sydney's water supply when the Tank Stream dried up. In 1824 it was being recommended that reservoirs be established at the

1. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2427756>; 2. See [https://primo-slnsw.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=SLNSW\\_ALMA2193462470002626&context=L&vid=SLNSW&search\\_scope=BJM&tab=default\\_tab&lang=en\\_US](https://primo-slnsw.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=SLNSW_ALMA2193462470002626&context=L&vid=SLNSW&search_scope=BJM&tab=default_tab&lang=en_US); 3. Certificate of Title 17-229; 4 Certificate of Title: 17- 229; 5 Education and travel details from Obituary [Daily Telegraph; Sat 1 Aug 1908, p14]; 6 City of Sydney; Historical Atlas; 1911 Map of Glebe; 7 Certificates of Titles: 116-155 & 6260-90; 8 On 29 September 1939, just after the declaration of WW2, the UK undertook a census of England and Wales which amongst other things was used to produce ration cards. This was named the 1939 Register; 9 Base map from <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>. Lots A & B from Certificates of Title 6260-90 & 6260-69.

swamp for fresh water in dry years and it was (optimistically) expected that the government would 'ever secure this spot from the clutches of private individuals.' There was a reservoir beside the bridge. From an early moment there was a distillery jointly run by Mr Underwood and Mr Cooper near the Military Garden. There was trouble over title in Glebe because of the nature of the original grant to the church but as yet little habitation.



*Detail from a map of the City of Sydney by Woolcott & Clarke, 1854. Blackwattle Cove can be seen at the top of the image, between Lyndhurst and the Ultimo Estate. Blackwattle Creek enters the bay at approximately the base of Cowper St. Waterways flowing into the Creek can be seen at Grose Farm (now Victoria Park) and near the Brewery close to Parramatta Rd near Abercrombie Place, amongst others (source: Historical Atlas of Sydney). See also map on p.19.*

In April 1826 heavy rain broke the mill dams which destroyed the Parramatta Rd bridge and a temporary passage had to be established. In November the new bridge was said to be nearly completed, but the newspapers tell us that in

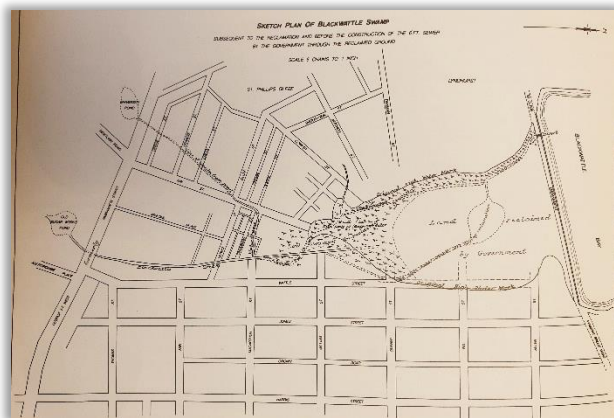


September 'Mr Robt. Cooper's buildings at Blackwattle Swamp suffered some damage from the late gales of Monday night and Tuesday. A dam, which this enterprising individual had with much labour, and at a considerable expense completed, and which served to let off or retain at pleasure. The waters of a romantically situated lake, elevated many feet above the level of the sea, and immediately in rear of the Brisbane Distillery, was swept away, and the labour of many days thus rendered useless.'

By March 1827, however, Cooper's dams were again supplying Sydney with water as well as the water needed for his growing mill, and there were plans to convey the water to the town through pipes.

By then on the Ultimo side of the Swamp Saunders and others began excavation for sandstone and various industrial activities were established along the shoreline of the Bay with access by water.

By 1831 Blackwattle Swamp, was rapidly becoming a small town and in 1832 the area opposite Ultimo House and adjacent to Blackwattle Swamp Brook – an area of water in which people could still swim sometimes with fatal results – was sold for villa residences with water frontage that would enable access by boat to Darling Harbour. Impressive buildings like *Lyndhurst* and *Strathmore* were immediately erected overlooking the bay with identifying marks relying on points like the highwater mark of the waters of Blackwattle Bay.



*This sketch clearly shows the branches of Blackwattle Creek that were enclosed in drains, as well as the main branch of Blackwattle Creek that remained open prior to full reclamation (source: Shirley Fitzgerald & Hilary Golder, Pyrmont & Ultimo Under Siege, 1994; p.68. The sketch is based on tracings of engineering documents)*

From 1842, water and sewerage had become the responsibility of municipal governments, and complaints about the industrial activities began to emerge. When Glebe municipality was established in 1859 the need for culverts and other structures along and across the creek and around the Bay was apparent but evidently costly. Private activity was permitted. In 1857 the Pyrmont Bridge Company

constructed a toll bridge that linked Pyrmont to Glebe Island. To do this, an embankment (with water on both sides) was built across the swamp to give road access from Glebe to Pyrmont, and to enable an abattoir – and, by 1860, boiling-down works – on Glebe Island. At the same time in 1857 the first Sydney sewerage system was being constructed. The Blackwattle Bay stormwater system, still in existence underground and of major heritage importance, was one of the five original combined sewers that were responsible for greatly improving public health. Stormwater and sewerage were diverted from the streets and carried by the sewer into the Harbour.

By the 1870s Sydney's water shortages and growing public health problems attested to the gross inadequacy of existing arrangements. The Glebe Council was not only involved with this but was also struggling with the frequent overflowing in times of heavy rain of the reservoirs on the upper stream.

Plans were debated that eventually led to the 'reclamation' of the Swamp between 1876 and 1880 by infilling with silt and the construction of more sea walls and in 1885 the resulting Wentworth Park, attractively designed with trees and lakes, was dedicated for public recreation although it had been in use as such since 1882 with cricket, rugby, soccer and brass bands performing. In 1893 it was transferred to Glebe municipality. In 1932 Greyhound racing was added to the mix.

Meanwhile on the Glebe side the land of the big houses like *Strathmore* were being subdivided and streets of smaller houses constructed that overlooked the bay.

The introduction of the Bondi Ocean Outfall Sewer (BOOS) in 1889 diverted sewer flow to the ocean and eventually led to the drains being used predominantly for stormwater, hence further improving public health.

Throughout the second half of the 19th century, industrial and maritime use of the bay was increasing on both the east and west side. In the 20th century there was more industrial development. In 1903 a new toll bridge with the latest in technical devices (it was one of the first electronically controlled bridges) replaced the original. A railway was also built running on a viaduct through the park, cutting off its northern end. The new shoreline on the harbour side of Bridge Rd saw the erection of several wharves – originally for the offloading of timber, particularly kauri from New Zealand and later from the 1920s for coal. The dilapidated coal bunker that still (barely) remains is unique. The wharves remained in use until the 1980s when Hansons took over some of the land for concrete batching – structures which are now being demolished. A facility for construction materials may now be built on Glebe Island.

In 1949 when it was felt desirable to establish a fish market in Sydney. A site in Pyrmont on the east side of the Bay was selected initially as a public facility but privatised in 1994. The smaller ship repairing and other business were by this time losing business and were shut down leading to the creation of a walk from the head of the bay round to the parks on the Johnstons Creek side.

In 1992 planning for the construction of a new bridge – today called the Anzac Bridge – to replace the 1903 bridge that linked Rozelle to Pyrmont over Blackwattle Bay began and it was opened in 1995.

*Sybil Jack*

## Mystery Photo, with Lyn Collingwood

### This month's mystery photo



### Where are we?

Please send your suggestions to [history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au)

### Last month's mystery photo

Margaret Whittaker, Helen Campbell and Chris Eyre Holmes identified the site of the old Glebe Library, now units, as 191-5 Bridge Rd, near Clare St. Helen was a member there. Margaret was appointed Branch Librarian of the new library which opened in April 1997 next to St Helen's Community Centre.



*Right: Margaret Whittaker (left) at the opening of the new Glebe Library in April 1997.jpg (photographer unknown)*

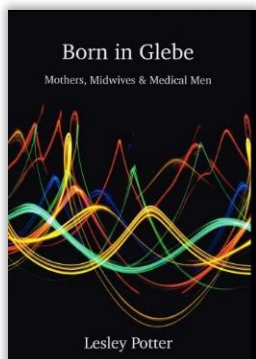
## Born in Glebe: Mothers, Midwives and Medical Men

Intrigued by a small group of midwives working in the suburb of Glebe in the late 19th century, the author sets out to discover the identity of these women and the nature of their midwifery practice. Along the way, investigating those who were present at a number of birth registrations for the year 1890,

to her amazement she discovered there were many other women acting as midwives and attendants at the confinements of Glebe women. The majority of these midwives were untrained, underlining the taunt of Sir James Graham in the NSW Parliament that Sydney was honeycombed with such women.



Despite their reputation as dangerous practitioners most of these women were capable and safe accoucheurs despite the troubling maternal and infant mortality statistics of this period.



Potter positions maternity care within the local historical context of Glebe in Sydney at the closing of the colonial period and before the birth of the Australian nation. Appraising the lives of ordinary people, mothers as well as midwives and medical men, she relates how birthing was conducted on the cusp of

medical obstetric advancements in this important area of health and wellbeing. It also enables the reader to appreciate the growing concern of government and society for the welfare of the

emerging nation determined by its population growth. [Extract from the book's blurb]

Lesley Potter is a retired nurse and midwife with an eclectic academic background; with Bachelor in theology, Masters in English Literature and a PhD in history. For about 40 years, Lesley worked as a midwife in various Sydney Hospitals and is an expert in the history of nursing. She is the Honorary Archivist for the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) and deputy chair of the ACN History Community of Interest. In addition, she is an Honorary Associate of the Nursing History Unit of the Nursing School at The University of Sydney.

Lesley has written and edited a number of books on the history of nursing, including: *Mistress of her Profession: Colonial Midwives of Sydney 1788-1901* (2017) and *A passion to care: nursing and nurses, Western Suburbs Hospital, 1894-1982* (2008).

The book can be ordered using the order form available on our website:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/born-in-glebe-mothers-midwives-and-medical-men/>.

## Community Matters

### Kitchen Pack cupboard is bare!

With the end of hibernation, families from *Elsie* and men from *Rainbow Lodge* are able to take up independent accommodation, and are in need of our Kitchen Packs. But alas, our cupboard is almost bare. We particularly need frypans, saucepans and ovenware, but are also short of food preparation knives, salad/mixing bowls, glasses, and cutlery.

Now that we can get to the shops you might be thinking of replacing some of your older kitchen items. Don't throw them out – donate them to the Kitchen Pack project. And spread the word to family and friends, as word-of-mouth is the best kind of advertising.

Contact Jan Macindoe who will organise collection ([kitchenpack@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:kitchenpack@glebesociety.org.au)).

Jan Macindoe  
Community Development Subcommittee

### Centipede

Like many organisations, Glebe Public School's out of school hours care program, *Centipede*, is facing a cash crisis as a result of COVID-19. A further blow to their bottom line will result from the cancellation (for safety reasons) of the Friends of Centipede annual Soirée, normally held in November. Please read this flyer:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/centipede-can-you-help/>, and consider whether you may be able to make a donation.

Janice Challinor  
Convenor, Community Development Subcommittee

### Glebe Youth Service Update

The team at Glebe Youth Service (GYS) continue to provide a high level of a support, averaging around 120 boxes of fruit and vegetables per week to around 125 households each week. The food relief program fulfils the dual aims of ensuring food security and providing social connection. When GYS staff and volunteers deliver food, they have the opportunity for a physically distanced interaction with community members. This allows for GYS to check in with families and young people and follow up if further needs are identified.

GYS is now coordinating a local food security meeting each fortnight. This meeting is attended by the key agencies working in the food relief space.



From left to right: Michael Sales, Eloise Woods, Molly Hodson, Craig Foster (Photo: Phillip Vergison)

### Visitors see the Glebe Youth Service in action

In mid-May the GYS team had two special visitors to see the service in action. Jamie Parker, Member for Balmain, dropped by to see the great work being

done. A week later, Craig Foster visited Glebe Youth Service and helped pack food boxes at the centre on Glebe Point Rd. As many will be aware, Craig was an Australian soccer player and sports analyst with SBS. He has long been an advocate for footballers and has been human rights and refugee ambassador for Amnesty International. Locally, he provides support to a number of food relief programs and GYS was delighted he was able to make the time for a visit.

Eloise Woods, a youth and family worker at GYS who co-ordinates the food relief program, was with Craig on his visit. Below are a few of her thoughts on the food run with Craig:

*The Food Relief Program is playing a really important role in the Glebe community. It addresses food affordability and facilitates access to healthy food, but importantly enables us to stay connected to local families. It was great to have Craig Foster join our dedicated team of Food Relief volunteers for the day. Craig's enthusiasm and passion for social justice was inspiring and he really understands the importance of getting more support for our work.*

Judy Vergison

## Glebe Community COVID Souvenir Sing

An exciting Glebe Community Project is in our midst! Have you seen any of the gallery style films of communities from around the world singing songs from the safety of their lounge rooms? Well, now it's our turn. Liz and Albert Lecoanet will be making this possible (with the help of the City of Sydney) for our Glebe community to make its own mini film.

Many of you will have seen Liz at the wonderful Opening of the Glebe Society's 50 Anniversary Community Festival. She directed the combined choir of Glebe Public School children and parents and Glebe Community Singers singing *Budjari Gunyalungalung Baraya-La song/Lets Sing Good Dreaming* (as seen in the photograph here). Albert, Liz's husband is a cinematographer.

You are invited to be a part of the Glebe Community COVID Souvenir Sing! Although, you don't even need to sing to be a part of it. You can simply call out *guwi/cooe* in the *Let's Sing Good Dreaming song* or click your fingers in *Fever*. You can also sing one or two songs or all the tracks. For those wishing to sing the harmonies, you are most welcome to make a second recording. Alternatively, you can send in a photo (or artwork) of: your favourite place in Glebe, you sitting in your garden, waving from your window ... the possibilities are endless.

This is not a performance video. It's about having fun and connecting as a community at this time. Of course, with singing come many health benefits too! Everyone in our Glebe community is welcome to participate! 'Glebe' includes: Forest Lodge,

Annandale, Camperdown and Ultimo or anyone with a strong connection to Glebe. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours.

Here is a link to a seven-minute backing track (<https://youtu.be/wDD9z0AZRHE>) with Liz and Pete Kohlhoff (on the double bass). You will also find in the comments of the YouTube backing track, the instructional videos on the pronunciation of the two indigenous languages in *Good Dreaming* and *We are Australian*. Lyrics are provided in a PDF that can be accessed here:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/glebe-community-covid-souvenir-sing/>. Many of you will know at least some of the songs. *Let's sing good dreaming*, by Jacinta Tobin, an indigenous singer song writer, who has kindly given us permission to sing her song in the local language begins the medley of nine songs and it ends with *We are Australian* which you may have seen on the ABC. In between is a fun 'COVID souvenir journey'.



Liz Lecoanet conducts the pop-up choir for the Glebe Society Community Festival in June last year (photo: Phil Young)

## How to Participate

You will need two devices: one to play and sing along with and one to record e.g. a phone, tablet or computer. Please film horizontally (landscape).

1. Click on the YouTube link below.
2. Play the track from beginning to end (even if you don't sing it all) and record yourself on your phone doing so. If you are able to look into the camera that's great, but not necessary.
3. Send the recording of you singing to: [covidsouvenir@gmail.com](mailto:covidsouvenir@gmail.com) subject title 'my film'. If you would like to have your name included in the credits, please put in your name as you would like to see it. OPTIONAL: a few words to describe you.

The Deadline is Monday 20 July. If you need assistance with filming, please let us know. When the video is edited (by 30 September 2020), we will send you a link to see it. Liz and Albert will not be posting it on social media.

We really hope that you will be a part of this snapshot of our wonderful Glebe community at this time. Everyone who is in the mini film is invited to



'Meet Again' and sing it live together when it is safe to do so. More information on this later. Please contact me if you would like the links to the instructional videos on all harmonies or further information on filming, cyber-safety for children etc. Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy the backing track.

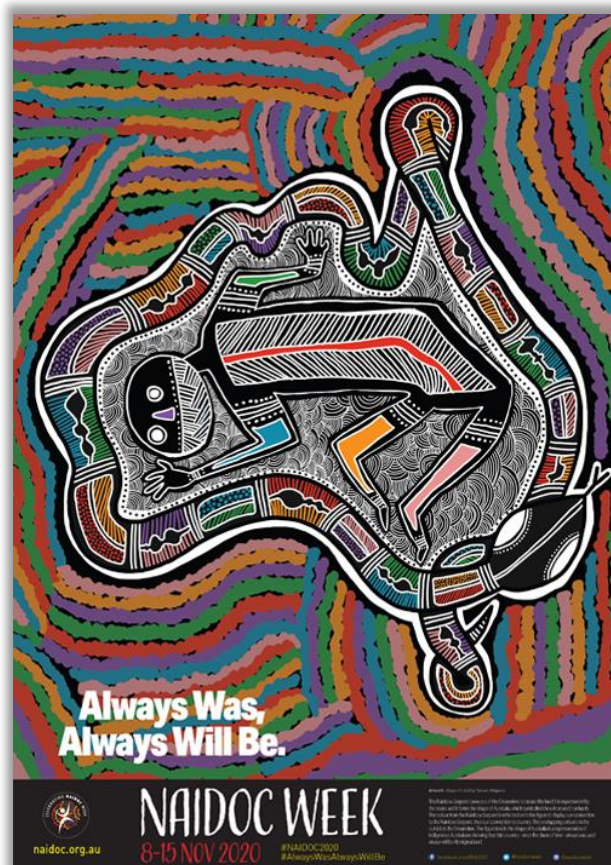
Alex Tyrrell

0421 581 934; [alex@moleman.com](mailto:alex@moleman.com)

## NAIDOC Week 2020

National NAIDOC Week 2020 celebrations will be held from the 8-15 November. The postponement from July was aimed at protecting elders and those in our communities with chronic health issues from the disastrous impacts of COVID19. The 2020 NAIDOC theme is *Always Was Always Will Be*.

This year, the NAIDOC Week poster features the artwork *Shape of Land* by Perth-based artist and designer, Tyrown Waigana. According to the artist, 'The Rainbow Serpent is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country – since the dawn of time – always was, and always will be Aboriginal land'.



(source: NAIDOC Week website)

## Glebe Society matters

### Vale Peru Perumal

*Sadly, the Glebe Society's second president, 'Peru' Perumal died on 26 May 2020. Below is a copy of the speech given by Tony Strachan in support of Peru's nomination for life membership at the Society's AGM in 2003 (Bulletin 7/2003).*

I am delighted to be here today and honoured to have been asked to present the citation for the award of honorary life membership to Peru Perumal. I suspect that everyone thought Peru had been made a life member years ago. Even so, I think it more than fitting that he should be brought to this exalted state in the company of our hero Tom Uren. Perhaps we can have another category of 'exalted life member'. Peru was elected President of the Glebe Society in late 1972, following the esteemed Bernard Smith. He was re-elected, held the office for the usual two years and thus guided the Society at a most important time, probably the most important time in its history.

The Glebe Society has a lot to be proud of. Not only have its achievements in Glebe and Leichhardt been so noteworthy for the area, but these same achievements did have Sydney-wide and indeed

Australia-wide implications. Of course, Glebe and its lively thinkers were not all alone in the early seventies. A big 'something in the air' had been building since the late sixties. What gave Glebe, or should I use the old name of The Glebe, its chance were the unique, substantial threats and dare I say, opportunities of the time. Peru must have been with the planning committee of the Glebe Society from the beginning; certainly, he was there when I came along in early 1971. I'm happy to say we have been firm friends ever since, so if I say anything nice, or even bad, about him, you shouldn't believe the word of a hopelessly prejudiced chap like me. I've been looking up some old files - what a hotbed of lively discussion and ideas that time was! It was all very stimulating and exciting. Peru was involved in every issue – whether as a generator of ideas, or later as official spokesman for the Society. Lest, however, Mr Perumal's head swell too much, I'm sure he would agree that what happened was very much a group effort.

There was so much to do; to have meetings about; to write serious papers about; to lobby about; to get

other groups involved. The almost incredible thing is that everything we set out to achieve was subsequently achieved - even if getting the light rail did take 30 years! This is a remarkable historical achievement and I have heard Peru say often over the years that followed how proud he is to have been so intimately involved with the whole process. In retrospect the Glebe Society had some noteworthy people who were well organised and very tenacious. Everything intermeshed. Everything related to the question of how to make a better more involved society. On the ground we had these immediate issues:

- The DMR planned two expressways, which would have demolished around 1000 houses and destroyed the suburb. The Church of England wanted to totally demolish the houses on its estate and build high rise. They had commissioned a plan, which was published, to do this. When they were dissuaded from this, they simply could not grasp the arguments put to them, in meeting after meeting, that these old 'slums' had immense historical value AND that there were important social issues involved.
- Developers, operating under planning regulations from the dark ages, were beginning to ruin the fine streetscape with the infamous three storey walkups.



*Peru Perumal, the Society's second president (after Bernard Smith), receives life membership from Glebe Society president, Andrew Craig, at the AGM in 2003. (photo: Bruce Davis)*

So, ever practical, together with the people of Balmain, we took over the Council. Peru was amongst the door knockers who managed to achieve the election of Eric Sandblom and David Young for Glebe. He was amongst those who sat on the Leichhardt Planning Committee which wrote the most remarkable new town plan of its time. And of course, the revolutionary idea of 'open council' is still making waves in local government.

Then came the big chance; a new Government was elected in Canberra! Prior to this, as mentioned, the Glebe Society had put various propositions to the Church to no avail. The position was becoming

desperate as the church announced it would sell its estate piecemeal. The Society then wrote the policy adopted by Leichhardt Council. Peru, Eric and I were intimately involved in this. Various advisers to Tom Uren were kept informed. So, one week after the great Labor Party victory, the Leichhardt Planning Committee, sitting on the floor at 35 Arcadia Rd, wondering what on earth to do, made a simple decision – let's ask the new Federal Government to buy the Glebe Estate! Nick Origlass, the redoubtable Nick, immediately rang Tom who said, surprise, surprise, YES! Thereupon began all the negotiations with the Church, within the Labor Party, and in due course, everything the Glebe Society had formulated in 1971 became a reality.

Peru, later as professional architect, formulated most of the practical aspects of the system used to assess houses for restoration and repair. Together we appeared on *This Day Tonight*, the television program of the times. They got the lights perfect for Peru, I looked like I had chronic anaemia. In the meantime, lots of other issues were being taken up. In November 1972 Peru wrote the foreword to the Glebe Society monograph no. 1, by David Potter, 'An Alternative to Inner Urban Expressways' (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/potter-1972/>). A detailed submission was made to the National Trust incorporating a lot of Kate and Bernard Smith's work, regarding the listing of buildings in Glebe. Later Peru and I, together with Bob Clark, worked on the listing of Glebe as a conservation area by the Urban Conservation Committee of the National Trust. There wasn't much doubt about this going through – all three of us sat on the Trust Committee. This listing and the methodology served as the basis of the Leichhardt Town Plan later extended all over the municipality.

So, you see Peru was President at a time of great achievement and excitement. He could not have been that bad as the Society leader. I expressly say so, because there was someone who can only be described as evil, who had other views. After the success of the Campaign for Better Council, the two Glebe aldermen and Peru personally, were subject to a campaign of extraordinary vilification in *The Glebe* newspaper. This did later result in legal action. Today this extraordinary person, one Mr Campbell, may well have ended up in gaol. It may be amusing now to look back at the supposed antics of Captain Midnight Rides Again with Batman and Robin in his wake, but it was not amusing at the time. So, Peru for all his community service, had this absurd extra burden. It says a lot for his strength of character, that he survived, perhaps further strengthened in the process. I commend Peru Perumal to the meeting.

*Tony Strachan*

First convenor of the Society's Planning Committee



## Membership Renewals

Membership of the Glebe Society for 2020-21 is now due, and all members will have received a renewal notice, either by email or by post. Many thanks to those members who have renewed, but if you have not renewed, please do so now. Further renewal notices will shortly be emailed or posted to unfinancial members. Renewals can be done by:

1. Online payment by [clicking here](#) or visiting our website [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au) and then clicking on About the Glebe Society > Join/Renew > Membership Application/Renewal where you can pay by credit card, PayPal or direct debit.
2. Cheque, payable to the Glebe Society, and post it to PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037.
3. If you have difficulty, call our Secretary/Treasurer on (02) 9660-3780.

*Jude Paul, Secretary*

## Printing of the Glebe Society Bulletin

This is the fourth Glebe Society *Bulletin* in the COVID-19 era. Most members are now receiving an

email version, for two reasons. (1) Every month 6-8 members used to meet over a dining table to prepare the Glebe Society *Bulletin* for posting or hand delivery. These volunteers are all Seniors-aged and they have recently expressed their ongoing concern to us about meeting as a group. (2) Additionally, our printer has advised that his business has closed until further notice. The *Bulletin* is now being emailed to every member until further notice. I am printing at home a very small number of *Bulletins* for the 7 or 8 people who do not have a computer or access to email, and for those who need to request a printed copy due to their special needs.

The usual printing of the *Bulletin* will return at some stage, and we assure you that there are no plans for it to remain as an emailed only version.

If there is more than one member in a household, you are entitled to have a *Bulletin* emailed to each member in the household. Contact our Secretary by [clicking here](#) to provide any additional email addresses.

*Phil Young*  
*Bulletin mailout team*

## History & Heritage, cont.

### Interested in one of the heritage icons in and around our area?

One of our members has suggested we remind you all how simple it is these days to look for a particular house or heritage item in the State Heritage Inventory.

Simply go to this site, <https://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/search-for-heritage/search-for-nsw-heritage/>, and type in the address or name of the building or item. This will search the State Heritage Register, Interim Heritage Orders, items on State Agency Heritage Registers, and items listed on City of Sydney's Local Environmental Plan. It will also search for 'declared Aboriginal Places' but you will find none listed for the Glebe/Forest Lodge area.

If you search for a street without a street number, you may find other heritage items of interest. For example, search for 'Avenue Road', you will find three listings: as well as (the to-be-expected) *Toxteth House*, you'll find *Wych Wood* (an 'exceptional example of Federation Arts and Crafts Style showing European influences'), and a listing for the street trees of Avenue Rd: 'Row plantation of Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) along northern side of road located in carriageway'; of heritage significance because they are a 'tree species compatible with streetscape of Federation period buildings'.

If you type in 'Glebe Island Bridge', you will be able to read all about this heritage bridge and appreciate the importance of its preservation.



*Heritage-listed street trees on Avenue Rd (photo: V. Simpson-Young)*

### City of Sydney Council election

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government election is postponed until 4 September 2021.

## Who lived in your street? Henry Smithers Hayes (1801-81)

During the 1840s when Henry Smithers Hayes managed the Brisbane Steam Flour Mill he gave his address as 'Blackwattle Swamp'. Before land reclamation was finally completed in 1880, the muddy headwaters of Blackwattle Bay reached about as far as today's Parramatta Rd. In a real estate quasi-pastoral spin, some auctioneers named the area 'Blackwattle Swamp Brook'. The reality was insalubrious. City councillors referred to the main drain as a cesspool, not flushed for months, with thousands living within range of the 'Blackwattle malaria'. Of particular concern were the slaughter houses which created 'terrible effluvia'.



*Henry Smithers Hayes, portrait by Joseph Tracton Dennis, 1845 (Dixson Galleries, SLNSW)*

The flourmill was part of a complex developed by wealthy ex-convict Robert Cooper on Parramatta St, roughly opposite the stretch of land where St Barnabas Church now stands. Named for the NSW Governor, the main buildings were the Brisbane Distillery and Flour Mill, together with a Sugar House, a warehouse called the Pantechnicon and substantial dwellings including *Brisbane Cottage*. Water for the operations came from three streams channelled into a massive 183m<sup>2</sup> dam, its depth ranging from three to nine metres and the overflow crossing Parramatta St. What was dug out was no doubt used as building material. Robert Jones, a carpenter, was one of the dam's first victims. In 1828 he drowned after going in to bathe and slipping into a hole.

Cooper's operations were already well advanced in 1824 when the Surveyor-General returned from Moreton Bay to discover that they were on the wrong piece of land. Advised that he couldn't build his gin distillery at Glebe because it was owned by the

Church, Cooper had been offered a parcel west of the main watercourse. A pencil sketch was made of the location. But Cooper built to the east, within the Sydney boundary. Suddenly finding that the acreage was valuable as a public water supply source, the Crown prosecuted, but the jury found for the defendant.

Sydney's flour was produced by a handful of privately owned mills and the Carter's Barracks treadmill (near today's Central Station) where convicts inside a cage trod the everlasting staircase to turn heavy grindstones. Cooper's mill produced flour, bran and pollard (a by-product fed to fowls) from grain carted from Liverpool, Camden and Campbelltown. A number of millers (including Barker and Hallen whose major enterprise was at Darling Harbour) occupied the Brisbane Steam Mill before Henry Smithers Hayes took over its management in 1841.

Henry Smithers Hayes was born in Cork, Ireland, the son of a miller. In 1828 he married Mary Smithers (1809-99), the daughter of a Customs officer. In October 1840 they disembarked in Sydney from the *Elphinstone*, a bounty emigrant ship carrying agriculturalists arriving just in time for the summer harvest. The couple brought their seven children; they were to have at least six more.

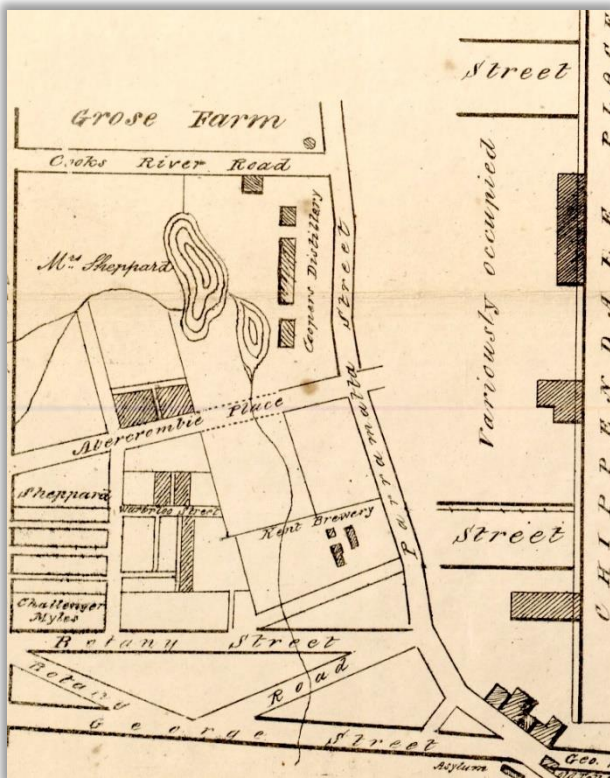
From July 1841 newspaper ads began appearing for the Brisbane Steam Flour Mill store in The Rocks. Apart from flour, the anonymous proprietor promised to sell bread made solely from local wheat, with no 'admixture of sour American flour', at a penny a loaf cheaper than any competitor. After rival bakers demanded his name, he revealed himself as Henry Smithers Hayes and made further pledges to 'grind and dress wheat into flour in a very superior manner'.

Hayes found himself in court a number of times. On arrival in the colony he had entered a short-lived informal partnership with another miller and dairyman. When the two split, they argued about dividing their few assets: some cows, poultry and muskets. The dispute ended in 1842 with a court finding against Hayes who also had to pay costs. The same year he was acquitted of assault and battery on Sarah Kirker who worked in his bakery while her husband delivered bread. Kirker claimed that she was seized by the hair and rough handled by Hayes who was attempting to evict the couple from a room they rented from him. In 1843 Hayes sued Thomas Lyons for £10,000 slander after the market gardener called Hayes a swindler and placed newspaper ads warning people not to lend him money. Lyons had mortgaged part of his Chippendale acreage to Hayes on condition that he be reimbursed £110 p.a. and that rent Hayes was receiving from his houses be paid into a bank



account. As Hayes hadn't fulfilled the bargain, Lyons stated that the contract was null and void. The jury awarded Hayes damages of one farthing.

In 1843 Robert Fitzpatrick was ordered back to the Hayes' household after absconding, a breach of the Hired Servants' Act. One of their maids, Mary Ann Mills, an immigrant from Yorkshire, also took off. She was recaptured in Sydney but not handed over to the local police. Instead, the arresting sergeant took her by steamer back to his watch house at Parramatta so he could claim the ten shillings reward. In 1844 another runaway Maria Ryan was sentenced to two months third class in the Female Factory.



Detail from Chippendale subdivision plan, 1842  
(National Library of Australia)

Hayes made a few enemies close to home when giving evidence on a Tariff Bill before the Legislative Council in 1845. If the duty on spirits were lowered, he suggested, the sale of beer would be affected. In support of Inspector Maxwell's assertion that the Brisbane Distillery bond stores were insecure and prey to thieves, Hayes stated that an illegal pipe in the distillery siphoned off spirits into buckets which were then carried through the yard of the mill towards *Brisbane Cottage*. William Robert Newman, the cottage's tenant, vigorously denied the implication. And Robert Cooper prior to transportation had history as a smuggler.

In another appearance before the Legislative Council, Hayes accused Blackwattle Swamp slaughter-houses of drying out the creek in summer, forcing him to pump used water back into his dam. In 1849 Alexander Cooper and Hayes each offered

a £20 reward after an abutment between the dam's upper and lower levels was cut. Cooper claimed that all the water then went to the mill. Hayes asserted that the water he received was putrid and stagnant.

Despite some unease about Hayes' probity, he was nominated by the Mutual Protection Association as councillor for Cook Ward in 1844 City Council elections. (Hayes stood and received the lowest vote of four candidates.) He commissioned a portrait in oils and joined the thousands of gentlemen celebrating the Queen's Birthday at the new Government House. To all appearances he was smugly prosperous.

All this changed in November 1845 when Hayes was declared insolvent. Creditors began lining up, including the Union Bank, auctioneer G A Lloyd, slum landlord and 1847 City Mayor Thomas Broughton, ironmonger Thomas Woolley, and Charles Dunn owed for £15 worth of his 'Incomparable Ginger Pop'. Amounts ranged from 19 shillings to £100. Robert Cooper and Hayes made claims and counter-claims for money. Meetings dragged on until 1849 when, debts exceeding assets by £501, Hayes was declared bankrupt. He was allowed to keep his clothing and bedding, but a final settlement was not made.

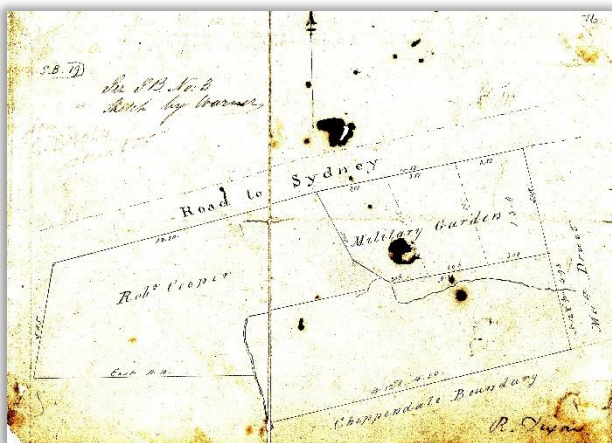
In February 1850 the 17-acre Blackwattle Swamp Estate extending from the Kent Brewery to the road to Newtown was auctioned for £9,500. Its structures included not only the distillery, mill, dam, pantechnicon, sugar house and *Brisbane Cottage*, but 22 stone, 12 brick and 57 substandard weatherboard houses. The Brisbane Steam Flour Mill was by now being rented by James Pemell.

Meanwhile Hayes was making preparations to quit the colony. He booked a passage for himself, his pregnant wife, three daughters and seven sons on the *Harmony* bound for California, no doubt hoping to take advantage of business opportunities offered by the goldrush. Arrested on the ship and brought before the Chief Justice, he was discharged on the grounds that his assets were less than £100. The family made the trip – George Francisco was born in July 1850 – but were back at Blackwattle Swamp by the following May.

For a time, Hayes lived on Elizabeth St near *Lyons Terrace*, keeping poultry but losing another hired servant (Charles Smith who was gaoled for a month), before he decided to set up milling operations in the country, moving through Yass, Tumut and Goulburn. In 1864 Hayes and his wife were held up near Gundagai and relieved of some money by bushrangers Ben Hall, John Gilbert and John Dunn. In 1866 the miller was declared insolvent at Bathurst.

In 1873 Hayes was engaged by the Grenfell Steam Flour & Saw Mill Company to build works to process local grain and timber. He was to pay rent to live on

the premises. In October 1874, after the company manager was thrown from a horse and killed, Hayes went to his office and removed the company books and money vouchers. He was tried for larceny, but acquitted. The next month a trustee of the mill company called on Hayes, advising him that because he had not paid rent, he had broken the contract and was to leave the premises. Hayes refused to vacate but was ordered to do so by a court order. In 1875 he was sued in the Small Debts Court.



*The Surveyor-General's sketch which Robert Cooper ignored (NSW State Records)*

Henry Smithers Hayes died in 1881 at a daughter's house near Forbes, a town where other children settled and where his widow passed away 18 years later. The sons followed their father into the milling industry, some into bankruptcy, and at least one into court.

George Francisco Hayes, who received the insurance payout after the Gundagai flour mill he leased and occupied burnt down, was arrested in 1881 for passing a valueless cheque. A miller at Yass, he was declared insolvent in 1887. Most successful was James who had arrived in Sydney as a nine-year-old. He was elected MLA for Hume 1885-97 and for Murray until 1904, and was Minister for Lands in the See Government. James stipulated in his will that his sons carry on Hayes Bros Mills at Albury.

It is likely that Smithers St in Chippendale, named by 1842, has links with the patriarch. James Pemell's Brisbane Steam Flour Mill was destroyed by fire in 1870.

*Lyn Collingwood*  
Historian

**Sources:** NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Records; Trove website

## 100 Years ago in Glebe & Forest Lodge this month: July 1920

**FOUND DROWNED.**  
A coroner's inquiry was held yesterday concerning the death of Charles Keogh, aged 74, a tramway employee, whose body was recovered from Tamarama Bay, Bondi, on July 20. Patrick Keogh, deceased's son, of Hereford-street, Forest Lodge, said his father was in the habit of fishing from the rocks at Bondi. He left home about 5 a.m. on July 20, and did not return. The coroner found that death was due to drowning, but how or by what means he was unable to say.

*Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 27 July 1920, p.10*

Charles John Keogh with his wife Margaret (née Cleary) and some of their children moved into 95 Hereford St, Forest Lodge in about 1908. Both from Ireland, they married in Sydney in 1880 from which marriage came five daughters and five sons, three dying as infants. Son Patrick was the youngest (b 1898). Second youngest John (b 1897) had enlisted for WW1 in May 1916 but died during the fighting in Belgium on 4 October 1917.<sup>1</sup>

Correspondence exists showing that Charles had in August 1918 asked for John's personal effects to be returned but the Army's London office had advised that due to '... the continual movements of troops during the process of repatriation and demobilisation, it is impossible to pursue [any] enquiries at this end'. One can only assume this was always on Charles' mind.

Margaret with daughter Margaret, a dressmaker (b 1883), and son James, a labourer (b 1890), continued living at No 95 until Margaret died in March 1938, at the age of 82.

*Rodney Hammett*

<sup>1</sup> WW1 Service Record for John Keogh; No 6526

## Johnstons Creek – all the way!

Megan Hicks has used her time in COVID-19 social isolation to follow Johnstons Creek through Stanmore, Annandale and Glebe and write a blog about it. She recently finished up where the



Creek flows (or rather doesn't flow) into Rozelle Bay. With plenty of photos this blog is a fascinating read about the Creek upstream, much of which surfaces only occasionally and is hard to find. Check it out at <https://www.meganix.net/pavement/tag/johnstons-creek/>



## For Your Calendar

*As you can imagine, many events have been cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. ☹️ These, however, are still on – at this stage.*

Wednesday 8 July, 7pm. Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting (by Zoom).

Wednesday 12 August, 7pm. Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting.

Sunday 20 September, 10.30am-2.30pm Glebe Society AGM, Glebe Town Hall.

8-15 November, National NAIDOC Week

1 to 22 November, 31st Annual Glebe Music Festival. [www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

### Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037

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### 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](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au)



*One nearing completion ... one nearing destruction: The ugly Barangaroo Casino and Hanson's batching plant, Glebe. (photo: Phil Vergison)*