

The end of an era: last YHA hostel leaves 2037

The Glebe Point YHA at 262-264 Glebe Point Rd closed on 5 July, ending the YHA's 45-year involvement in Glebe. The first Sydney YHA was established in Forest Lodge in 1976 followed by Glebe Point YHA in 1987, then Hereford Lodge YHA in 1988.

As nearby residents will no doubt attest, the Glebe Point YHA was busy (at least until COVID-19 hit). So why did it close? Silke Kerwick, Public Affairs Manager for YHA Australia, told the Glebe Society:

It is a strategic imperative for YHA to regularly review what the backpacker market wants in terms of accommodation, and to keep pace with their ever-changing expectations. Properties such as Sydney Harbour YHA in The Rocks (with all ensuite rooms) have raised the bar in catering to today's youth travellers, and Glebe Point YHA, being an older property, was unable to offer this level of amenity. YHA has long-term strategic plans to increase budget accommodation of high quality in the Sydney CBD, including additional capacity at Railway Square YHA, to be developed over the next few years.

The site of the Glebe Point YHA, the former Glebe Motel, 'surpassed anything in the folklore of hostelling. It had once been used as a brothel and required an incredible amount of renovation before its decrepit exterior and interior were fit for its new purpose as the 160-bed Glebe Point hostel.¹ Once established, the hostel was seen as a drawcard by the Glebe Society: 'For a large proportion of young people visiting Sydney from interstate and overseas, their strongest memories will be of the Glebe area' (*Bulletin* 5/1985).

The Glebe Point YHA opened in 1987 and indeed drew many young travellers to Glebe. Not all stayed at the hostel, however, with some spending the night in their vans near the waterfront. The Glebe Bushcare Group was very concerned about the environmental damage caused by backpackers 'living in the parking area near the wetlands adjacent to Chapman Rd; seeing as many as 16 camping vehicles parked there' one Saturday in March 2015 (*Bulletin* 2/2015). This practice was significantly curtailed when parking restrictions were introduced

by Council (*Bulletin* 3/2015). Despite this and some other downsides, backpackers have been an integral part of the Glebe community, supporting local businesses, including small supermarkets and 'cheap and cheerful' restaurants.

The Glebe Point YHA was sold on 5 June. Adam Droubi from CBRE Sydney told the Society that the building sold for \$7m. The undisclosed buyer is 'in the business of running hostels' and plans to re-open it for that purpose.



The signage on the former Glebe Point YHA is now whitened out (photo: Phil Young)



The Glebe Point YHA hostel in 1991 (Bechervaise & Associates Pty Ltd. 1991. Glebe Point Road Main Street Study Stage Two.)

Hostelling in Australia

YHA is part of an international movement which began in 1912 in Germany when the first *Jugendherberge*, or youth hostel, was established in the Altena Castle. The international organisation, now known as Hostelling International, was formed in 1932. Hostelling arrived in Australia in 1939 when the first youth hostel was established at Warrandyte in Victoria.² Fifty years later, the biggest YHA hostel was in Glebe, the Hereford Lodge YHA.³

Forest Lodge 1974 to 1992

The Forest Lodge YHA was where it all started in Sydney. During the 1960s and 1970s, YHA saw increasing demand for Youth Hostels in city regions. Many earlier hostels were sited in country areas, but YHA wanted a foothold in capital cities with hostels that would function as 'gateway' hostels for the state or territory.

A history of the YHA in Australia⁴ reports that, in the early 1970s,

the ongoing search for a potential hostel in Sydney intensified. Even the former showboat Sydney Queen was considered. ... Inner-city Glebe was reconnoitred for a hostel site and a suitable property was found on the corner of St Johns Road and Ross Street. ...YHA NSW bought the property at auction for \$88,000 on 22 February 1974. It comprised three buildings, two of them being factories ready for demolition to make space for rebuilding.

The third property, which still stands, was built in 1870s by the Reverend George Sutherland as a manse, and boasted wrought iron verandahs, timber shutters and iron railings. The Society will bring you more information about this building in a future edition of the *Bulletin*.



*The Sydney Youth Hostel in Ross St, which operated from 1976 to 1992. The original building (insert) is hardly recognisable after dilapidation over time and its renovation by YHA (image: John McCulloch and James Murray, *Beds, Boots and Backpacks: The Story of the YHA in Australia*, Playright Publishing, 1997)*

The building was in very poor condition, but YHA NSW could not afford to restore it to its former glory. Instead, 'a clinker-brick wall was built and trees planted'.⁵ The *Bulletin* noted the purchase of a 'fine house' by YHA and reported that the Society had been 'asked for ideas on renovation.' (*Bulletin* 9/1974). The hostel at Forest Lodge was known as 'Sydney Youth Hostel'.

In a letter to the Glebe Society published in the *Bulletin* (8/1976), R. B. Willis, Secretary of YHA and a Glebe Society member, extended to members an invitation to the Sydney Youth Hostel's Official Opening by the NSW Governor, Sir Roden Cutler on 30 October 1976.

After a year of operation, Willis provided *Bulletin* readers with an update: 'When the Association purchased the building it had deteriorated into almost a wreck, which was being used as a doss house. A vast amount of work had to be done on the building to bring it up to the required standard' (*Bulletin* 2/1978). He included a breakdown of the origin of 'overnighters' for the first year:

Of those from overseas, there were hostellers from 35 countries. The countries from which more than 10 people used the hostel since the opening are listed below :

Canada	889
Denmark	22
France	65
Germany	83
Great Britain	486
Ireland	16
Israel	19
Japan	139
Malaysia	26
Netherlands	62
New Caledonia	30
New Zealand	1,756
Rhodesia	16
Switzerland	122
Thailand	43
United States	308

Most of these hostellers used public transport.

International users of the Forest Lodge YHA in its first 12 months. Figures provided by YHA were published in Bulletin 2/1978

The Glebe Society held a coffee morning at the hostel on Saturday 2 September 1978, 'by kind permission of the Warden, Pam Seibert. Members will have a chance to see how the building has been restored, and to find out something about the Hostel's aims and achievements' (*Bulletin* 9/1978).

The YHA hostel in Forest Lodge closed in 1992.

Hereford Lodge YHA (1988-1998)

Spurred by the tourism associated with the Bicentennial in 1988, YHA opened its 'flagship establishment' in Sydney at 51 Hereford St – 'Hereford Lodge'. The building cost YHA around \$6 million (*Bulletin* 6/1996). Opening this hostel was

part of YHA's strategy to 'concentrate' its city hostels in the Glebe area to 'deliberately avoid going down-market', making an unfavourable comparison with Kings Cross commercial hostels.⁶

Hereford Lodge YHA opened its doors on 7 October 1988 and 'offered 27 serviced accommodation rooms and up to 250 hostel beds in ensuite bedrooms spread over three floors.' The hostel touted its rooftop garden, spa and pool in its advertising.



Hereford Lodge YHA in 1996 (photo: <https://4travel.jp/travelogue/10101027>)

Locals were not happy with the large number of travellers who descended on their residential street. Bob Connolly, who lived on Hereford St, across the road from the YHA, describes his first experience of the relatively new YHA in the early-1990s: 'at about half past five in the morning, these two huge busses turned up and spent about 20 minutes disgorging 100 people, kept their motors running for about 40 minutes'. (See below for an extract from an interview with Bob). The outcome of resident protest was that Leichhardt Council and the Land and Environment Court required that the number of beds be reduced to minimise the hostels impact on local residents.

In 1996, the Glebe Society's Planning Convenor expressed concern about a DA by the building's new owners to convert the building into a 90-unit block, 'including 80 very small, single room units of 23 m². Each will contain a new kitchen, and seem to resemble a London bed-sit, a form of accommodation which I am sure many of us have experienced'. The Society was particularly concerned about insufficient parking. Planning convenor, John Hoddinot, conceded, 'I do not have an easy solution as to how to increase the number.' (*Bulletin* 6/1996). Council rejected the new owner's DA largely on the basis of insufficient parking, but the DA was upheld by the Land and Environment Court (*Bulletin* 2/1997).

The hostel closed in 1998 and is now private apartments (mostly studio apartments) and is called *Hereford Court*.

Hereford Court still stands, and is a stark reminder of the need for vigilance to prevent bad planning decisions. In 1982, the *Bulletin* reported that 'the 47-51 Hereford St site development application went to the Land and Environment Court where No. 47 was saved but the rest lost to unsatisfactory development.' (*Bulletin* 07/1982). I doubt anyone looking at the façade of *Hereford Court* could disagree with this assessment.

Virginia Simpson-Young

Notes: 1. John McCulloch and James Murray, *Beds, Boots and Backpacks: The Story of the YHA in Australia*, Playright Publishing, 1997; 2. <https://www.yha.com.au/about/yha-organisation/>; 3. McCulloch & Murray; 4. op.cit. 5. op.cit; 6. op.cit.



Hereford Court at 51 Hereford St today; the former Hereford Lodge YHA (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Bob Connolly remembers local opposition to the Hereford Lodge YHA

Bob Connolly was living across the road from the Hereford Lodge YHA in the early 1990s. Our editor interviewed him about action taken by a group of locals to address the problems arising from a large YHA in a residential street:

We spent a year in Niugini, shooting Black Harvest. When we left the previous year, Hereford Lodge was a long-term residential hostel for Colombo Plan students. (If it wasn't the Colombo Plan it was a related government thing that involved mature aged students).¹

I think there were something like 100 beds. The Youth Hostels Association bought the place and

without putting in a DA (as I understand it), transferred it to a 350-bed² youth hostel! Our bedroom was the front room, and at about half past five in the morning, these two huge busses turned up and spent about 20 minutes disgorging 100 people, kept their motors running for about 40 minutes; and that's when we realised this had happened.

The street was basically split down the middle about it. The usual thing was happening, the joint was gentrifying and so you had, across the road, the Professor of Anthropology of Sydney and down the road, a teacher at TAFE, and we lived in this house. But there were three, four or five houses belonging to the old working-class Catholic population that were here – salt of the earth – but they couldn't see anything wrong with it. I think they thought it was ok because we didn't. There was a little bit of that going on.

Anyway, we started a battle. We probably had 20 meetings about it; they were mostly over at the Youth Hostel itself. Nothing moved until Larry Hand came on the scene – September 1991, he got elected in his first term as Mayor. None of us knew anything about council politics, I thought councils did the garbage and cleaned the road. I had absolutely no idea that they were so involved in that sort of thing. Basically, there was a huge amount of conflict over the built environment of the municipality and what it was going to turn into. We dealt with the Council officers and they attempted mediation but got nowhere. It turned out that, at the time, the Mayor, a guy called Brady, was very pro-development and he thought it was great. It was only when Larry got elected – he came on the scene and took one look at the situation and said to YHA, 'No, you've got to put in a DA'.

The Council voted 12-0 for the DA to be approved but with a limitation on the number of beds. There had been either one or two beds in these rooms because the Colombo Plan people are in their mid-20s and the YHA just overnight dumped them full of as many bunks as they could! I mean, I've been to Youth Hostels all around the world, but this was a residential street. YHA took it to the Land and Environment Court and lost, basically.

Bob Connolly is a film-maker and author who lives in Hereford St Glebe. Bob and his late wife, Robin Anderson, made the *Highlands Trilogy*; the three films of which have won over 30 international awards. Amongst his other films is the remarkable *Rats in the Ranks*.

Bob spoke at the Glebe Society's 'Glebe Voices' on 5 September 2018 at Glebe Town Hall. The transcript of his talk can be read here:

<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/bob-connollys-address-glebe-voices/>.

1. Bob Connolly refers to the hostel's former use for students on the Colombo Plan. For some time in the 1970s and 1980s, the hostel housed students enrolled in the International Training Institute program which provided management training for professionals from developing countries in the Pacific, Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Accommodation at Hereford Lodge was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs' Australian Development Assistance Bureau (Sources: Wikipedia, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 22 August 1978, Issue No. G33, p.68; Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd 30th Annual Report 1980-81); 2. In the history, *Beds, Boots and Backpacks*, the hostel is described as having 250 beds.



Larry Hand and Bob Connolly inside the Leichhardt Council Chambers (photo: Steven Siewert, SMH, 8 June 2006)

Valé Peter Thorogood

The July meeting of the Management Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Peter Thorogood's nomination for Life Membership, to be voted on by members at the AGM.

Sadly, Peter died on Friday 17 July, so his election will not now proceed. However, we are happy to say that Peter knew of his nomination and expressed his appreciation.

Our thoughts are with Mary, Jay and Sam and their families.

The draft citation prepared for submission to members was as follows:

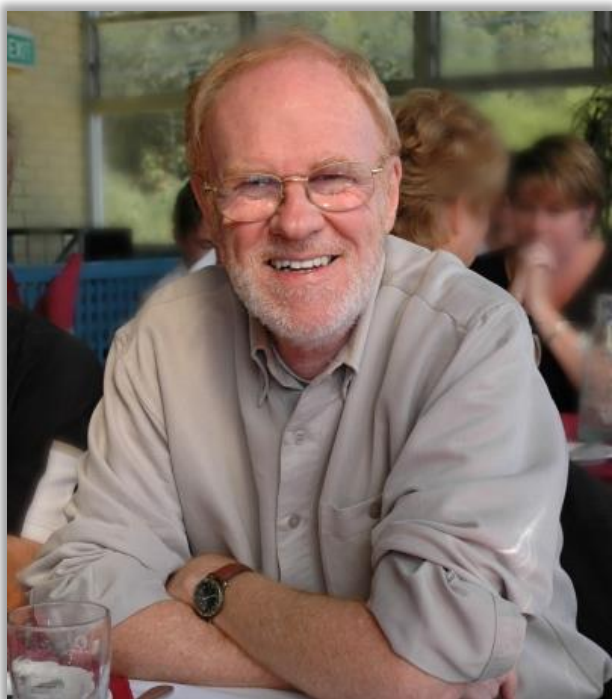
At its meeting on 8 July 2020, the Management Committee considered the possible appointment of Peter Thorogood as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Peter's contribution to the Society has been immense, but much of it has taken place in the background, and he has always been a quiet and modest person. He has rendered extraordinary services to the Society for at least two decades.

We all communicate by email now. Peter has made this possible by establishing and maintaining our email system. This is a huge job, as he has to manage storage space allocation, security and so

on. To the best of our knowledge, our email has never gone down.

Peter took over the Society's original, rather clunky, website and applied his professional expertise to completely rebuild it using the latest technology. He maintains the website from the technical perspective, which is the most onerous aspect of the website. Peter looks after its security including fending off 'denial of service' attacks, and he manages the storage issues and everything else relating to the website. In addition, Peter built websites for the Glebe Island Bridge and Glebe Walks.



The website has been a victim of its own success and now requires a rebuild to provide functionality that was inconceivable or impossible 10 years ago (greater interactivity, greater flexibility and so on). Peter is on the website redesign working group and has attended meetings even though he has been in ill health. Despite the need for a freshen-up, the website remains a treasure trove of information, much of which can be found nowhere else.

Through Peter's efforts, the Bulletin has been made available in digital form for many years. These digital Bulletins are accessed by researchers within the Society and outside. In addition, Peter has, each month for many years, laboriously cut and pasted items from the Bulletin onto the website. In doing

this, Peter is contributing the bulk of the material that has been added to the website over the years.

Clause 3(a)(ii) of the Society's constitution states that one of its objects is to provide 'opportunities for members to express their views on issues affecting Glebe'. Peter set up the website to include a 'comments' function and the ability for the public to email the Society. These are probably the main channels by which the general public contacts the Society. In addition to these website features, Peter has enabled members and the general public to express their views by setting up our social media, a necessity for an organisation in this era, including our Facebook pages and Twitter account. He also set up and maintains our YouTube channel and has uploaded all the videos on the site, including relevant videos he found elsewhere and added to playlists.

Being our 'tech guy', Peter fields many queries from subcommittee convenors and others who are experiencing digital difficulties. He provides assistance promptly and with great patience. He maintains all the accounts and passwords for our diverse media, which must be a very frustrating job, as people often need to contact him about forgotten passwords.

Peter has been a member of the Communications Subcommittee for at least 12 years and has attended the vast majority of meetings, assiduously reporting each time on relevant statistics, security threats and other issues.

Even though Peter is a professional website and IT developer, his decades-long contribution to the Glebe Society has been entirely voluntary. He has provided substantial and strategic leadership to the Society in the area of our digital activities, including email, website and social media. Peter has never been conspicuous in his work, but the results of his work have been very conspicuous indeed.

It is therefore proposed that there be an item on the agenda of the next Annual General Meeting of the Society in the following terms:

'That a resolution appointing Peter Thorogood as an Honorary Life Member of the Society be passed as a special resolution'.

Proposed: Virginia Simpson-Young; Seconded: Ted McKeown; Carried unanimously.

Virginia Simpson-Young
Communications Subcommittee Convenor

Planning Matters

DA For RJ Williams Lodge Approved

The Society is disappointed with the City of Sydney's decision to approve the DA by which the Wesley Mission proposed to re-purpose the building

at 274-276 Glebe Point Rd Glebe. The DA sought to vary the usage of the building from a much-needed aged care facility to a boarding house.

There are no residential aged care facilities in Glebe or Forest Lodge. Residents who wish to 'age in

place' are currently unable to remain in our Glebe / Forest Lodge community.

There were 107 submissions to the DA, the majority of which are probably objections. The Glebe Society, while supportive of proposals that provide needed social and affordable housing, was unable to support the DA as submitted. The basis of the objection was the change of use, its over-intensification, breaches of the FSR and height restrictions, and also the lack of off-street parking.



Artist's impression of the repurposed RJ Williams Lodge (image: City of Sydney)

In approving the DA, the City indicates that the compliance with the building height and floor space ratio is unreasonable or unnecessary in this case.

Whilst approving the DA, the City rejected the Plan of Management, and a new Plan is to be submitted. It is noted in the conditions of approval that the new Plan of Management is to be reviewed after two years alongside public consultation.

Fully occupied, this will be a crowded building, with many living in a 16m² room as their home. The Plan of Management will need to address the resultant social implications, and in this new world we are experiencing, pandemic control measures.

The building is to be used only as a boarding house and operated by a registered social or community social housing provider pursuant to the definition in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009.

Here is a link to the Letter of Approval dated 1 July 2020: <https://tinyurl.com/y2x8d49c>

Here is a link to general information about boarding houses under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009: <https://tinyurl.com/yxtqxlx4>

The building is now able to offer low cost accommodation to singles, retirees, students and young couples as their principle place of residence for three months or more. Backpacker accommodation is not included.

Brian Fuller

17-31 Cowper St, 2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd, Glebe

You may recall that, in the last *Bulletin* of 2019 (10/2019), we discussed a proposal by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), and the Princes Trust of Australia to develop a mix of social, affordable and private housing on the site, 17-31 Cowper St, 2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd.

The article detailed the extent of the Society's preliminary concerns with the proposal.

The Society understands the existing site includes 15 x one-bedroom units and 4 x three-bedroom units available for social housing needs. The proposal for redeveloping the site suggested that a total of 75 new units would be constructed, but there was no qualification as to the allocation of social, affordable and private units, so that there was no certainty that there would be an increase in social housing beds over current numbers.

The process of redevelopment necessitates a Planning Proposal be approved by the City of Sydney prior to the lodgement of the DA.

The developers have made application for the Planning Proposal. The City of Sydney has prepared a paper in support of the Planning Proposal to amend the Sydney Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2012, in so far as this site is concerned. Here is link to download the City's supporting paper (Attachment A): shorturl.at/beMN9

The site is currently zoned R1 General Residential, has a maximum building height of nine metres and a floor to space ratio (FSR) of 1.25:1. The Planning Proposal seeks to increase the maximum building height to eight storeys and increase the FSR for the Wentworth Park Rd site (north site) to 4.3:1 and for the Cowper St site (south site) to 3.1:1.

The paper suggests that the City and LAHC have worked together to ensure an increase in the number of potential social housing units, increased setbacks along Cowper St to ensure the retention of street trees, and an additional storey added to compensate for the reduced floor plate as a result of the Cowper St set back.

The paper suggests a potential for 100% allocation of social housing to the north site – two x studios, 26 x one-bedroom units and seven x two-bedroom units. The south site to contain 14 x one-bedroom units, 20 x two-bedroom units and 5 x three-bedroom units.

In order for the proposal to proceed, the site would need to be removed from the protection of the St Phillips Conservation Area.

The project timelines within the paper suggest the Planning Proposal will be on public exhibition during September/October 2020, consideration of

submissions in November/December 2020 and finalisation of the LEP in April 2021.

The Society intends to fully consider all the implications of the Planning Proposal and to make an appropriate submission within the time frame.

Brian Fuller



Schematic representation of the proposal – eastern elevation (source: City of Sydney)

Yelvertoft DA Refused

The City of Sydney has refused the Development Application for the construction of a two-storey contemporary residence to the rear of the Heritage listed *Yelvertoft*. The new dwelling was to front Alfred St, and would have significantly diminished the curtilage of this heritage cottage.

A copy of the refusal letter can be read via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5zu88bx>.

The basis of the City's refusal included:

- The proposal does not enhance the amenity and quality of life for local communities, nor

does it reflect the existing or desired future character of the locality

- The proposal does not conserve the existing heritage listed building, nor respond sympathetically to the existing surrounding built form
- The proposed subdivision does not preserve the setting of the heritage item and obstructs remaining views of the item from the public domain, nor respond to the heritage issues of the site
- The proposed tree removal is not considered to achieve excellence and integration of landscape into the design
- The proposal is inconsistent with the desired development for Forest Lodge and does not respond to the adjacent heritage item and the heritage conservation area
- The siting and design of the proposal does not respond to building setbacks on Alfred Rd and the heritage significance of the heritage item
- The proposal does not provide adequate residential amenity for the future occupants and adjoining properties in terms of visual privacy

The Society did object to the DA, predominantly on heritage grounds, and is therefore pleased with the City's refusal.

The owner has the right of appeal to the Land and Environment Court within six months of the DA refusal.

Brian Fuller
Heritage Convenor



Some images of the interior of Yelvertoft. (left) central hall looking to the principal entry and (right) original floorboards (source: Urbis Pty Ltd, 2019. Schedule of Conservation Works 75 Hereford Street Forest Lodge <https://tinyurl.com/yymwllql>)

Glebe Point Rd Retail: COVID-19 Impact

In September last year the Heritage Subcommittee undertook an audit of Glebe Point Rd retail shops in order to track the retail impact on the many heritage buildings in the stretch between Broadway and Bridge Rd. At that time there were 19 vacancies.

The Society prepared a submission to the City of Sydney recommending a variation to the Planning regulations to stimulate retail and commercial activity for the benefit of the community hub that is Glebe Point Rd. The City is still considering it.

As at 1 July 2020 the number of vacant shops had increased to 24. There are another 10 that have either closed temporarily due to COVID-19, or are offering home delivery only, but the shop is still closed. Hopefully they all will recover and reopen after the pandemic.

Brian Fuller
Heritage Convenor

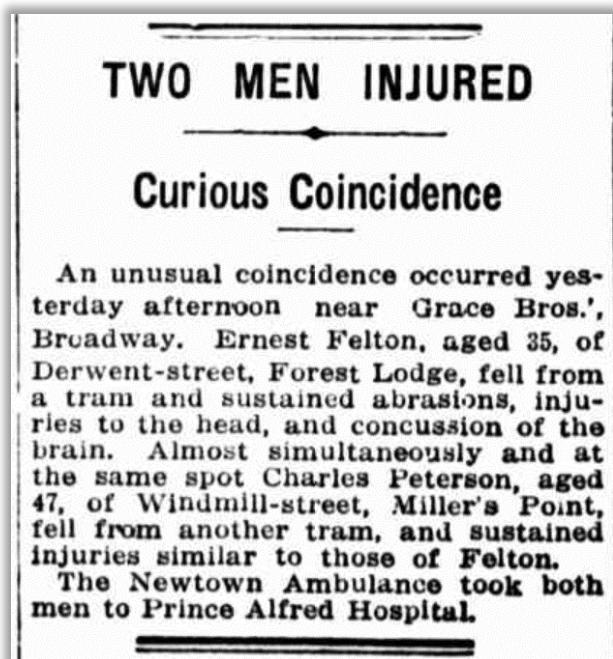


Glebe Point Rd shops for lease (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

History & Heritage

100 years ago in Glebe & Forest Lodge – this month: August 1920

Prepared by Rodney Hammett



The Sun; 22 August 1920, p.2

Researcher's Note:

The injured person from Derwent St was Ernest Norman Felton, born 1886 at Kempsey, NSW. A veteran of WW1 who had survived gassing and a

gunshot wound to his cheek in France, he had come to Glebe in about 1912 in search of labouring work and found the love of his life – 16-year-old Ruby May Benjamin. They married in Glebe in 1913, and had a son William Norman on 14 October 1915.

Ernest enlisted on 12 August 1916 at the Royal Agricultural Show Grounds (now the Moore Park Entertainment Centre) his service record revealing he was 5ft 4ins tall (152 cm), dark complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair.

In a machine gun regiment, he departed Australia in March 1917 not to be discharged until 23 February 1919.

In 1920 it is most likely that he, Ruby and William were living with Ruby's maternal grandmother, Emma Huxtable (née Norman), at 5 Derwent St, Glebe.

The injury which Ernest sustained in August 1920 wasn't enough to disable him immediately but he did die relatively young; in 1936, aged 50. His obituary suggests this early death could have been attributed to his war service.¹

Ruby remarried in 1941. William married in 1935, saw service in WW2 and died at the Concord Repatriation Hospital in 1959 aged 44.

¹ Macleay Chronicle (Kempsey); Wed 25 Nov 1936, p.4 [Mr Ernest N Felton]

Sisters in Crime

by Rodney Hammett

Neighbours Sarah Peninton and Doris Flanagan living respectively at No 13 and No 11 Bridge Rd were partners in crime when hauled before the Magistrate at the Glebe Court on Tuesday 3 September 1929.¹

On an afternoon in August, both women were accused of having used insulting words, from their balconies, to labourers on their way home from George Hudson's Glebe timber yards during the 1929 Timber Strike. Nos 11 & 13 Bridge Rd still exist today; they were close to the Hudson's site which is now occupied by the Sydney Secondary College. Sarah and Doris were convicted and bound over for 12 months.

The Courts weren't as forgiving to 19-year-old machinist Sydney Arthur Henry Cuthbert for having used insulting words to a crane driver during the same strike. He was fined £3, with 5 shillings witness' expenses, the option being 21 days' hard labour.



The plaque at Sarah Peninton Reserve (photo: by Rodney Hammett)

Sarah's exploits are remembered with the naming of the Sarah Peninton Reserve and the plaque beside Bayview St, Glebe, near the Glebe tram stop.

Doris' story has however largely gone unreported – until now.

Doris Adelaide Aitken, the sixth of eight children, was born in Paddington in 1890 to parents Duncan and Annie Crawford. She married Hugh Flanagan (b 1885) in 1909. Her father was a slater, no doubt working on the Paddington terraces still existing today. Older brother Wilfred, a slater, and Doris' husband Hugh, a wood machinist, both enlisted for

WW1 in 1915 then fortunately both returned in 1919. Hugh suffered a gunshot wound to his back while fighting in France in 1917 which must have troubled him for the rest of his life.



(image: Rodney Hammett)

After the war Hugh most likely returned to work at the George Hudson complex beside Blackwattle Bay and was therefore on strike when Doris had a few colourful words to say to the strike-breakers.

Doris and Hugh had three children, Leonard (1910-1954), Doris Lilian (1912-?) and Mavis (1914-1994). They rented numerous houses in Glebe; 15 Cowper St (1910), 6 Queen St (1915), 10 Taylor St (1920-1927), 11 Bridge St (1928-1931) then at 58 Talfourd St from 1932 until Hugh died in 1946 with Doris last being recorded there in 1954.² What happened to Doris after 1954 is unknown.

Of the children, Leonard was a troubled man, not helped by his WW2 experiences between 1942 and 1945. Nothing definitive has been found of Doris Lilian following her marriage to Charles Robert Stewart at St John's Church; on 20 April 1935.

In Glebe in 1939, Mavis married Scotsman Watson Rennie. He had arrived as a three-year-old with his parents in 1914. Enlisting for WW2 in July 1942, Watson became a captain in the Army, and remained a soldier until 1958. After his military career he became an electrician. The family settled in the Gosford area, where Watson died aged 78 in 1989. Mavis lived until 1994 when she died aged 80.

Both are buried at the Palmdale Lawn Cemetery on the Central Coast.

Sarah Ellen Peninton (née Farley) had married Benjamin Peninton in Glebe in 1907. She was the eighth of nine children to Phillip and Elizabeth (née Callaghan). Sarah, born in 1882, was a Glebe girl, her father one of the numerous carriers living in the suburb.

Benjamin came from a Glebe family, too. His father, Christopher (1861-1896), was born in Sydney while mother Margaret Byrnes (1863-1902) hailed from County Clare in Ireland. It seems Benjamin's grandfather Reuben had been transported to Tasmania in 1832 as a 13-year-old for stealing two silver tea-spoons; he later became a stonemason in NSW.³

Benjamin and Sarah had a son in 1910 who unfortunately only lived five days. Joan (1912-1996) followed, then Phyllis (1913-1976) and Margaret (1915-1987). Benjamin was a carter, possibly working with his father-in-law, Phillip.

Moving from 13 Bridge Rd in the late 1930s the family lived at 112 St Johns Rd where Benjamin died in 1947 aged 67 and Sarah at the age of 70 in 1952.

Both are buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Benjamin in the Anglican section and surprisingly (maybe) Sarah in the Catholic section.

Rodney Hammett

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 September 1929 p.11 [Timber Strike Cases]; ² Sands Directories & Electoral Rolls. ³ Ancestry.com family trees.



Another view of Sarah Peninton Reserve (photo: Rodney Hammett)

Mystery photo, with Lyn Collingwood



(photo supplied by Melissa Brooks)



(Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Last month's mystery photo

It was a corker, and no surprise that no one identified it! Compared to the cluttered place it was c.1919, the spot is a blank facade today. It's 98 Bridge Rd near Lyndhurst St. In front of the shop is one of the three sons of the widowed confectioner tenant.

Cadbury's Cocoa is still manufactured but Signet aromatic tobacco and TADS (The Australian Direct Supply Mineral Water Company at Redfern) soft drinks have gone, together with other products advertised here. Whether the library sign is a remnant from an earlier use or whether there were a few books inside for fee-borrowing is unknown.

In 1927 Glebe Council decided the shop's awning was an encroachment on the footpath and ordered the property's owner Amelia Elizabeth Marshall to remove it.

Thanks to Melissa Brooks who contacted the Society via Facebook with this photograph. The boy in the photo is Melissa's great-grandfather.

This month's mystery photo



Where are we?

Please send your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au

News from Blue Wren Subcommittee

The Subcommittee held a face-to-face meeting on Tuesday 14 July, our first since February 2020. Under COVID-19 rules provided by the City, our volunteer bushcare groups are now able to resume work in Glebe's parks. A working bee to remove weeds from Orphan School Creek Park was attended by six volunteers on Friday 26 June; the next working bee to plant further native flora and remove weeds will be on National Tree Day at 10am on Sunday 2 August (if you would like to attend, please contact Judy Christie – 0437 693 372). Also, the City has removed the builders' rubble and household garbage that had been dumped in the Park as well as fallen tree branches.

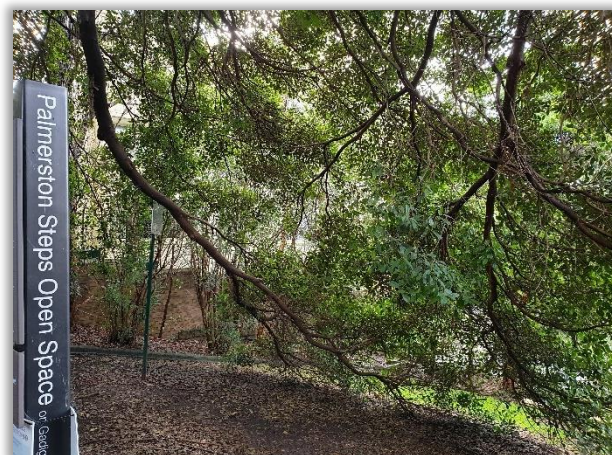
On 17 June, Anna Szanto, the leader of the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group had an onsite meeting with Jenny Kent, Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator, City of Sydney, to discuss the plans for the park. The upgrading of the park, which is about to commence, is expected to take five months and will include the removal of the oleanders (*Nerium oleander*) on the northern boundary and a noxious weed tree (*Celtis australis*).

Given the continuing outbreaks of COVID-19 infections, it was decided at this time not to hold the 2020 biodiversity lecture to be given by Anne Dickson, President of the National Parks Association of NSW; it may be possible to schedule her lecture towards the end of the year. Judy Christie will again organise the Society's spring bird survey commencing in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St at 6.45 am on Sunday 1 November 2020 with breakfast afterwards at *Esca* in Glebe Point Rd. If it is raining, the survey will be postponed to 8 November.

It was decided to delay posting the Craney Small Grant applications to fund biodiversity projects in Glebe's preschools and schools until January 2021; normally they are mailed to the schools in May. The Subcommittee will write to the schools telling them of the arrangements for 2021.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy will be holding a 'Feral and Domestic Cats Enquiry'. Helen Randerson and Judy Christie will write a submission, by 30 July 2020, from the Society; there is a particular need for Federal Government to provide grants to local governments to support the education of residents on the proper care of their pet cats by keeping them indoors and preventing their predation of native fauna.

Andrew Wood
Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor



Palmerston Steps Open Space. The Oleanders can be seen against the wall (photo: Anna Szanto)

Community Matters

Community Development Subcommittee members needed



Okay, you *won't* get to feed a baby elephant, BUT you *will* get to make Glebe a better community!

The Community Development Subcommittee is looking for new members.

If you're interested in finding out more about what would be involved, contact community@glebesociety.org.au.

Children learn through experiences. Can we help provide some variety in Glebe?



The richness of a child's environment is one of the factors which determines how he or she learns and develops. Physical challenges, exposure to cultural expressions such as music, art and literature, and gradual increases in personal responsibilities and opportunities to

overcome difficulties are all experiences which help mould character and develop a person's resilience. When these occur in a safe and supportive environment, development outcomes are generally enhanced. While coddling is not positively formative as it tends to retard progress, challenges are. So, for this reason activities and programs offered to children at Centipede at Glebe Public School are intended to enhance a child's development, whatever their background and previous experiences.

Of course, we are all aware of the impact COVID-19 is having on restricting social activities and opportunities, as well as its economic impact on families and services. Centipede has been weathering the current situation through careful management, with support from the community and the City of Sydney. There are however some

resources Centipede would like to have but cannot afford to purchase in sufficient quantity.

If you have any of the following items in good usable condition languishing at your place, perhaps because they are no longer needed, donations of same would be much appreciated. They may be donated directly to Centipede, or by contacting me so I may collect and forward them for you.

Needed items include: any sports equipment including bats and balls, card games, board games (if complete number of pieces), stationery (textas, pencils, sticky tape, glue sticks etc), appropriate-to-age books, imaginative play toys (farm sets, robots, zoo animals etc), dolls, barbies and kids dress ups.

Essentially any resources appropriate for 5 to 12-year-olds can be utilised by the centre or passed on to 'at risk' children and families in the community, if Centipede cannot use them.

Please contact me by email community@glebesociety.org.au or send me a text on 0401 505 657. Thank you for considering this appeal to help others in our Glebe community.

Janice Challinor

Community Development Subcommittee Convenor

Creative Glebe

31st Annual Glebe Music Festival

The Artistic Director of the Glebe Music Festival, Dr E. David McIntosh AM AMusA, is also an infectious diseases specialist and vaccinologist. He is based in London, Amsterdam and Brasilia, and is currently developing vaccines against the pandemic coronavirus.

Because of the travel restrictions to and from Australia, David has had to cancel the visits by the baroque oboe player Jane Downer from Oxford, the cabaret singer Rex Melville from London, the Dutch mezzo-soprano Claire Munting, the Bulgarian concert pianist Evgeny Genchev and the Brazilian fashion designer Ray Agnus de Lima Soares.



David McIntosh, Artistic Director of the Glebe Music Festival as well as an infectious diseases specialist and vaccinologist (photo: YouTube)

In November this year, the Glebe Music Festival will be centred around the weekend Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November as follows:

Concert 1: Saturday 21 November at 3pm, Glebe Town Hall: Fiona McMillan Sydney Baroque Players historic instruments: flute, oboe/oboe d'amore, horn and bassoon. Tickets \$20/\$10.

Concert 2: Saturday 21 November at 7pm, Glebe Town Hall: *Thoroughbass* directed by Diana Weston with soprano Anna Fraser in a programme 'Bach to Bach' including works for viola da gamba, harpsichord and voice, by JS Bach, Handel, Bononcini, CF Abel and JC Bach, with a focus on the London connections of two pairs of composers. Tickets \$20/\$10.

Concert 3: Sunday 22 November at 3pm, Glebe Town Hall: *Josie and the Emeralds* www.josieandtheemeralds.com St Cecilia concert. Tickets \$35/\$25.

Tickets will be available at the door, although advance bookings are advisable. The concerts will be recorded and possibly live-streamed (more information on that later). Tickets can be booked through Trybooking:

1. Fiona McMillan Sydney Baroque Players <https://www.trybooking.com/BIRZK>
2. Thoroughbass, Diana Weston, Anna Fraser: <https://www.trybooking.com/BIRZH>
3. Josie and the Emeralds: <https://www.trybooking.com/BIRZO>

City of Sydney: 'No Greyhound Racing at Wentworth Park'

At its meeting on Monday 27 July, City of Sydney Council passed a motion proposed by Councillor Philip Thalys to oppose greyhound racing at Wentworth Park. In support were Lord Mayor Clover Moore along with Councillors Kok, Miller, Phelps, Scott, Scully, Thalys and Vithoulkas. Councillors Chung and Forster voted against the motion. To read the resolution in full, see <https://tinyurl.com/y5uvllu6>.

The resolution began by demonstrating how Wentworth Park has been used for well over a

Local, Brooke Green, wins national composition prize

Congratulations to Glebe local, Brooke Green, who won the 2019 Jonathan Blakeman National Composition Prize for her work, *From the Heart*. Brooke Green was inspired by an issue of national importance.

From the Heart is inspired by the ongoing contention in politics and the media surrounding the Uluru Statement of the Heart and whether the main ideas of the statement – having a First Nation's voice in the constitution and creating a Makarrata commission – should be adopted by the government.

'It's a way of getting the issue out there. I can sign petitions and go on marches, but I like to make something that may seep into people's unconscious a bit more. I'm hoping that my pieces bring about some change. I don't know if that's idealistic or not', she says.

'It's also a way of commemorating some of the people who've died on Manus Island and Nauru. By naming them, I think it personalises them, and by dedicating a piece to them, they remain in people's memories.'



Brooke Green, who won the 2019 Jonathan Blakeman National Composition Prize for her work, *From the Heart* (photo: newsroom.unsw.edu.au)

century for public recreation. In 1885, the land was set aside for that purpose and has been used for diverse recreational activities since, including Rugby Union, Cricket, Rugby League, movie screenings and brass bands. Between 1928 and 1936, it contained a speedway track which closed because of track damage and noise complaints. Greyhound racing had already been taking place at Harold Park, but a second greyhound racing licence was issued in 1939, permitting greyhound racing in Wentworth Park.

Rise of the anti-greyhound racing movement

After the airing in February 2015 of a Four Corners program exposing animal cruelty in the greyhound racing industry, the NSW government announced, in July 2016, that greyhound racing would be banned the following year. The ban was opposed by Labor in the parliament, and the government experienced strong opposition to the ban across the state, particularly in regional areas, leading to the ban's reversal in October 2016.



The soulful eyes of a beautiful greyhound (photo: Pixabay)

Animal cruelty is one of the main reasons that City of Sydney has resolved to oppose greyhound racing at Wentworth Park. The motion passed by Council on 27 July, stated that:

- around 10,000 greyhound puppies are bred each year for racing;
- the industry has admitted to killing up to 17,000 healthy greyhound dogs each year. Some are never deemed fast enough for the track, some sustain injuries on the track and some retire;
- greyhounds who do make the race track are put at significant risk of injury and death. Up to 200 greyhounds are injured during races each week and around five greyhounds are killed as a result of racing;
- animal cruelty extends to live baiting practices involving the use of live kittens, rabbits, piglets and possums during training; and
- some trainers have been found to dope dogs with cocaine, caffeine and anabolic steroids to enhance their performance;

The industry does not agree with Council's assessment. On 29 July, the *Greyhound Recorder* quoted Greyhound Racing NSW's Tony Mestrov who said that his organisation 'absolutely rejects the Lord Mayor's assertions about the welfare and integrity of our participants and dismiss her figures and claims as factually incorrect'.

The NSW government, despite reversing its ban on greyhound racing, has responded to animal cruelty in the industry. In 2017, it formed the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, an independent regulator for the NSW greyhound industry in NSW. According to its website, the Commission was established 'to promote and protect the welfare of

greyhounds, safeguard the integrity of greyhound racing and maintain public confidence in the greyhound racing industry'. In May this year, the Commission released the Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice which will come into effect on 1 January 2021. The government is also reviewing the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.

As well as animal cruelty, Council's resolution expressed concern about gambling on greyhound races, which is, it says, in the order of \$4 billion annually. Gambling is well understood to be a cause of much harm to gamblers, their families and the wider community.

In addition to potential harms associated with greyhound racing, the resolution expressed Council's view that Wentworth Park should be available to the general public for recreation. The Lord Mayor said on her Facebook page, 'coronavirus restrictions have reminded us just how valuable parkland is'. The City's COVID-19 Community Recovery Plan identifies the need for more parks and open space so that people can exercise at a safe distance and, more broadly, benefit from communing with nature.

Response to Council's 'No Greyhound Racing at Wentworth Park' resolution

As a number of racing media outlets were quick to point out, City of Sydney Council's opposition to greyhound racing at Wentworth Park has no practical effect: Racenet.com.au, on 30 July, quoted the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Kevin Anderson, whose portfolio includes racing: 'Thankfully Clover Moore and the almond latte crew have no say over what happens at Wentworth Park'. Unless the state government decides otherwise, greyhound racing can continue at Wentworth Park as long as the NSW Greyhound, Breeders, Owners & Trainers Association has a lease over the site; a lease that does not expire until 2027.

The Lord Mayor has made City of Sydney's opposition to greyhound racing known to the state government on multiple occasions. On this occasion, as a result of the resolution, the Lord Mayor will write to a number of NSW government ministers to request the removal of greyhound racing from Wentworth Park and reinstatement of the land as crown reserve for public recreation uses.

Virginia Simpson-Young

Sources: Max Solling, *Wentworth Park: Its History and Uses*, Glebe Society website, 2008; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-07/the-downfall-of-nsw-greyhound-racing-after-live-baiting-scandal/7577250>; Wikipedia; The Greyhound Recorder; <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/>; City of Sydney, *Community Recovery Plan*, June 2020 (https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/322076/community-recovery-plan.pdf); www.racenet.com.au.

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

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

Sunday 1 November, 6:45am, Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St: Spring Bird Survey

8-15 November, National NAIDOC Week

Saturday 21 November, 3pm. Glebe Music Festival: *Sydney Baroque Players*. Glebe Town Hall

Saturday 21 November, 7pm. Glebe Music Festival: *Thoroughbass*. Glebe Town Hall

Sunday 22 November, 3pm. Glebe Music Festival: *Josie and the Emeralds*. Glebe Town Hall

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; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or
- Email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



The former Glenmore Meats site with foundation preparations well underway. (photo: Phil Vergison)