HIGH RISE FOR GLEBE’S
ST PHILLIPS HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREA
by Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

Nearly forty years of good planning designed to conserve the scale of the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area through height controls was overturned on 29 March when Sydney City Council approved the NSW Land and Housing Corporation’s application for a spot rezoning of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd.

The rezoning removes two allotments from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area and amends the Local Environment Plan to enable the erection of two eight-storey apartment buildings.

Buildings in Glebe’s conservation areas are ranked Contributory, Neutral and Detracting. The difference between Neutral and Detracting buildings is primarily about scale. In the part of the St Phillip’s Heritage Conservation Area which is being rezoned, there is only one Detracting building, the 11 storey John Byrne Court. In the entire HCA there are only two, the other being the Glebe Telephone Exchange in St Johns Rd.

The sites which are being removed from the conservation area contain a pair of two-storey 1980s infill buildings comprising four terrace houses and 15 one-bedroom flats. The 2012 Development Control Plan directs that the ‘demolition of neutral buildings will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the replacement building will not compromise the significance of the conservation area’. A pair of eight-storey buildings clearly will; however, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation’s solution to the conflict is to apply for a spot rezoning to remove the buildings from the conservation area.

The people of Glebe have warded off many threats in the past including slum clearance, freeways and home unit blocks.

Now is the time for renewed effort with State and Local Government to ensure the character and identity of our unique suburb is cherished and nurtured through sound planning controls for once it’s gone it’s gone forever.

Sydney City Councillors unanimously approve the spot rezoning of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd Glebe to allow eight-storey buildings (image from Council webcast, 29 March 2021)

On 22 March – the day Council’s Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee [THPC] were considering the proposal – the NSW Minister for Housing the Hon. Melinda Pavey announced that the development would be 100% social housing.

It was bitter-sweet advice. Sweet because it increases the amount of social housing and bitter because the planning is inept. Rather than being a ‘visionary housing development’ which ‘will blend seamlessly into an historic environment’ as the Minister claims, it will destroy the scale of historic Glebe.

The NSW Government is the largest landholder in Glebe. The amount of social housing could be increased through sensitively designed low-rise infill development, as was done in the 1980s. This approach both respects the urban fabric and is better to live in. Instead, the State Government is taking the lazy path by forcing through a rezoning to allow towers to be built in a conservation zone.

Glebe, with its intact 19th century streetscapes and broad social demographic, is an amazing survival. The State Government should be nurturing and not destroying it.
At the THPC, Emily Valentine Bullock, a resident of the Franklyn St estate, said ‘we are happier that it is all social housing but it is not desirable social housing’. Ian Stephenson, Brian Fuller and Ted McKeown of the Glebe Society spoke about the negative impact on the urban fabric of Glebe, the loss of amenity for social housing tenants, the creation of a divided suburb split between low rise and high rise and the precedent it created for further spot rezoning of LAHC owned neutral sites on the edge of Glebe’s conservation zones.

The Lord Mayor Clover Moore acknowledged these conflicts when she said that,

the relationship proposals have to the built form of the surrounding community is a real priority for us and LAHC doesn’t believe it has to go through the same steps as every other developer. Every other developer has to respond to our controls and our vision for the community.

Going, going, gone: the courtyard at 17-31 Cowper Street, Glebe (image Ian Stephenson)

The fact that the Transport Heritage and Planning Committee declined to make a recommendation to Council is indicative of the reservations some members had about the proposal.

David Burdon, the National Trust’s Director of Conservation, while addressing the Central Sydney Planning Committee a few days later, said that the Trust had classified Glebe as an urban heritage conservation area because ‘it was handsome, coherent and largely complete, the scale and character having been little disturbed by modern intrusion’. He said it was a ‘unique suburb hard fought for, for a very long time’.

At the Council meeting on 29 March, Councillor Scott observed that this

is a proposal which could have respected the heritage, it could have made a positive contribution to Glebe instead it clearly does the opposite. When you degrade an item in a conservation area, that brings into challenge the whole of the conservation area. It is very important for this Council to robustly defend the heritage of Glebe in any future proposal.

And Councillor Phelps noted that

in massively increasing the density on this site we are not allowing for precious open space for the residents. The existing building which is there is rather a charming building with archways and original brickwork and an open community space in the middle open to the sky and with greenery. This proposal is anything but greening this part of Glebe.

Councillor Thalis said the majority of demand for social housing in Glebe was for one and two person households and that where this scheme has merit is that it brings without demolishing a single historic terrace house a difference in stock into Glebe. He counselled that we shouldn’t think of conservation areas as set in stone or set in paper or set in red tape. We need to have a city which is agile, which moves with the times to include the social needs as they change in society.

Council staff in their summary of responses raised in submissions noted

the built character of the area is one- and two-storey residential terraces sitting adjacent to 5- to 10-storey residential mixed-use developments, particularly at the eastern edge of the conservation area, along Cowper St [the Mezzo development on the opposite side of Cowper St]. It is appropriate therefore that the scale of the proposed controls responds to this contemporary context.

This is a specious argument which could be used to justify the continued erosion of the scale of the conservation area. With so many LAHC-owned Neutral sites in Glebe the conservation areas could become unviable and the scale of Glebe’s streetscapes destroyed forever.

The report noted that

this is not considered to set a precedent, with any future proposal to demolish any other structure elsewhere within the conservation area being subject to its own assessment and assessed on its own individual merits.

Graham Jahn, Director City Planning, Development & Transport, advised that ‘this is a Crown rezoning, it faces Wentworth Park and it’s on the circle facing the park. If you are going to develop a site owned by the Crown this is one of the sites that you could because of:

➢ its position near the park
➢ its position on a main road
➢ it is next to a recent development
➢ it is not on the site of Victorian terraces or heritage listed properties
➢ the buildings not even being contributory, and
➢ it is public land.

Yet, these criteria fit a number of other LAHC sites in Wentworth Park Rd and also arguably in Ferry Rd and Taylor St; if you fast forward, the Fishmarket is a ‘recent development’. In Glebe, the State Government
is the largest landowner, the biggest developer and poses the biggest threat to our urban and social fabric. If the height controls on other Neutral LAHC sites in conservation areas are weakened by rezoning it opens the way for privately owned Neutral sites to obtain additional height, either through reviews of the DCP, or by arguing that the development standard has been virtually abandoned or destroyed.

The people of Glebe have warded off many threats in the past including slum clearance, freeways and home unit blocks. Now is the time for renewed effort with State and Local Government to ensure the character and identity of our unique suburb is cherished and nurtured through sound planning controls for once it’s gone it’s gone forever.

Jack Mundey Memorial Service

The State Memorial Service for Jack Mundey AO took place on Wednesday 10 March at the Sydney Town Hall. Glebe society member Helen Campbell attended and provided this brief report:

Bob Carr, master of ceremonies, introduced each presenter, and Yvonne Weldon from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council welcomed us to country.

The memorial was a fitting celebration of a man who was well ahead of his time on many issues:

➢ Women’s equality and rights were a passion before feminism was even an issue. Lee Rhiannon and Meredith Burgmann spoke on these subjects.

➢ Saving the environment around our suburbs and our state by the green bans was set up by the NSW Builders Labourers Federation. David Noonan, National Secretary of the CFMEU Construction and General Division presented an overview of Jack’s pioneering work in this area. They prevented Glebe being cut into three by two proposed expressways!

Lord Mayor Clover Moore presented a heartfelt tribute about her time working alongside Jack.

Peter Watts, Emeritus Director, Historic Houses Trust of NSW spoke of Jack’s crucial work in saving many important buildings around Sydney among which was our magnificent State Theatre.

The Trade Union Choir gave a rousing performance of the trade union anthem Solidarity Forever. Other musical interludes included Rocking the Foundations by Pat Fiske, Amazing Grace sung by Stella Zigouras, and Imagine by John Lennon.

Judy Mundey talked about her life with this very special man, giving us details of Jack’s personal life.

The gathering dispersed in a reflective mood to the sounds of Massenet’s Meditation from Thaïs.

The memorial service can be viewed on YouTube here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaJSyAbU8Ic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaJSyAbU8Ic). If you can’t access it from this link, go to YouTube and search for: Jack Mundey Memorial Service.

PLANNING & TRANSPORT

Update on Glebe Island Bridge and Bays West Place Strategy

by Janet Wahlquist, President

It was with some surprise and also joy that we learned from the Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes, of his plan for White Bay, which also including a plan to open the Glebe Island Bridge to pedestrians and cyclists. The Bays West Place Strategy is here: [https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/bays-west](https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/bays-west).

At this stage the Strategy sets out a broad vision for what is proposed. One of its focal points is the retention and repurposing of the White Bay Power Station. It also sets out a broad plan for the development of the White Bay Peninsula.

The Strategy sets out five areas to be addressed:
1. Land Use and Function
2. Design of Places and Spaces
3. Transport and Movement
4. Heritage and Culture
5. Infrastructure Delivery and Governance

The restoration of the Glebe Island Bridge falls within both Transport and Movement and Heritage and Culture.

The Strategy sets out six Big Moves:

**Big Move 1:** Repurpose White Bay Power Station to become a focal point of the precinct.

**Big Move 2:** Make a crossing from Bays West to Pyrmont to create more convenient and direct active transport connections.

**Big Move 3:** Connect community to water, while recognising and supporting the working harbour and port operational requirements.

**Big Move 4:** Deliver a significant, connected, activated public open space near the water at an early stage.

**Big Move 5:** Make the most of the opportunity that a new Metro Station presents to renew the precinct and surrounds through development that has a strong dependence on public and active transport.

**Big Move 6:** Enable a world class harbour foreshore walk.

Key points of the Strategy are the proposed use of the land and design:

- Deliver a range of housing, including affordable housing, to support the jobs created in the precinct and the ongoing growth of the Eastern Harbour City and metropolitan Sydney.
- Retain, manage and allow the essential strategic port and maritime industry uses to grow and evolve to ensure they continue to support the NSW economy.

In discussing the proposed design, the Strategy states:

- A key focus of the precinct is the design of open space and social infrastructure, ensuring careful integration with the natural, industrial, maritime and cultural heritage.
- Promote design excellence and embed a people-focused approach to deliver high quality and diverse built form and amenity outcomes.
- Promote biodiversity and improve water quality in the harbour whilst restoring and expanding the green and blue natural systems.
- Deliver a world class sustainable precinct which is carbon neutral and delivers efficient management of energy and water, and the elimination of waste.

Two of the main issues the Glebe Society has been campaigning for is the restoration of the Glebe Island Bridge (Big Move 2) and the creation of a Foreshore Walk (Big Move 6). The map gives some idea of what is envisioned.

**Pedestrian Link over Rozelle Bay**

We were very pleased to see a proposal to link Glebe Point with Rozelle Bay near Victoria Rd by a pedestrian bridge creating another attractive pedestrian and active transport route. It suggests that finally some importance is given to the community need for open space and walking and cycling options. We’re not sure what is proposed regarding the current boat use of the area west of the proposed walkway. Presently that area houses the Heritage Fleet workshop, a catamaran...
rental business, the Superyacht marina and a boat storage facility.

The Strategy is that the development of White Bay will take place in stages. The first stage centres around the opening of the Metro Station and repurposing of the Power Station which is to be completed by 2030. It is also envisioned that the Glebe Island Bridge would be restored and ready for use by 2030. The larger plan is intended to be complete by 2040. As to whether the Rozelle Bay walk will be completed within this time frame is unclear. The pedestrian bridge across Rozelle Bay is proposed for 2040.

You can have your say or make a submission on the Strategy by 29 April 2021. Use this link: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/bays-west.

Fire in the Control Cabin on Glebe Island Bridge, 1983

by Virginia Simpson-Young

Speaking of the Glebe Island Bridge …

According to NSW Transport’s archives (https://historicalarchive.transport.nsw.gov.au), a fire irrepairably damaged the control cabin of the Glebe Island Bridge, necessitating its complete rebuild and technology upgrade:

On Friday, 26 November 1982, the control cabin on Glebe Island Bridge was destroyed by a fire. The electrical equipment, which operated the opening span, was damaged beyond repair and temporary arrangements were made to allow the movement of shipping from Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays.

The new cabin was constructed at the Department of Main Roads Central Workshop. In order to retain its historic character, the design of the original structure was adhered to as closely as possible.

The completed cabin, which was installed on 19 December 1982, was designed with original features. The main innovation was a modern split system air conditioner which was added for operator comfort. Modern electrical control equipment was designed for the bridge opening mechanism. Small crane type joy sticks replaced the old tram type controls for the traffic gates, lowering of the end bearings and slewing.
A missing transport link – let’s protest!

by Edwina Doe

There’s a missing link in our city transport system. If you, like me, can’t understand why our 431 and 470 buses are not allowed to use the pivotal stop near the Haymarket Light Rail stop, please contact Ned Cutcher, Senior Electorate Officer at Jamie Parker’s Electorate Office (balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au). I’ve been emailing Jamie and Ned about this since November 2019 and they have been in frequent contact with the Minister for Transport, without success. In his latest reply, on 31 March, Ned says:

Thanks again Edwina. You’re right, it makes no sense at all.

I think the only way to get them to see sense will be for the community to get involved. Are you aware of any neighbours or friends who are similarly put out by this?

I have asked Ned how other people in the Balmain Electorate, with Parramatta Rd as a border, could be mobilised.

Letters to the Minister

In February last year, the Glebe Society president wrote to the Rod Staples, Secretary Transport for NSW, expressing concern about the difficulty in accessing the light rail from Glebe via the 431 or 470 bus. The letter said: ‘We believe that people should be encouraged to catch public transport and that the various public transports should be accessible and convenient to their users. We request a review of where the 470 and 431 stops be made so it is closer to the Light Rail Stop.’

Although the bus stops on those routes were altered for some months last year (much to the delight of Glebe-ites going into town), the routes have – inexplicably – reverted to the former bus stops!

In February, the Society wrote once again to the Transport for NSW Secretary ². Let’s hope this doesn’t become an annual event!


Is this disability discrimination?

by Virginia Simpson-Young

Many people with a mobility impairment (including many older people) rely on public transport. They may, for example, need to attend Services NSW in the city or travel down George St to Circular Quay or catch the light rail to UNSW. But if you have a mobility impairment and live in Glebe, you may not be able to do these things.

Sure, we have buses that go into the city (431, 433, 470 etc) but now they shoot past the most appropriate bus stop (located on Pitt St near the corner of Barlow St — stop ID: 2000428). If you’re on the 431 or 470, you’ll need to get off the bus 350 metres before the stop (outside TAFE on George St, stop ID: 200017) or 400 metres after the stop (Hay St opp. Belmore Park, stop ID: 2000429).

For a person with a mobility impairment, 350 or 400 metres can be a very long way – in fact, it can be too far.

The people disproportionately affected by these changed bus stop arrangements are people with disabilities. Hence, my question whether Transport for NSW is guilty of disability discrimination.
Update on Bridge Rd Pop-Up Cycleway

From Janet Wahlquist, President: The Bridge Rd Pop-Up Cycleway survey ended on 29 March. The Survey gave participants few options in their answers so it is questionable whether all the issues of concern will be addressed. We await the results.

The Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance, in a radio interview on 18 March with Ben Fordham on 2GB discussed the current consultation. He agreed that parts of the cycleway don’t even join up. He said he would be happy to move the cycleway in Glebe to another location if one can be found that didn’t create other problems elsewhere.

From Jude Paul, Secretary: Members recently received an update from the President which included a link to the Transport for NSW survey of the Bridge Rd cycleway. The reply date for this survey was 29 March 2021. This survey said ‘we are inviting the community to share their views about the pop-up cycleway before any decisions are made on future plans’. I was pleased to receive the President’s Update because this was the first I knew about it, despite living on Glebe Point Rd and believing myself to be part of the community. I rang the number listed with the survey and a woman confirmed that residents in many, many of the streets north of Bridge Rd were not included in the formal leafletting, despite Bridge Rd being an important access road for us all.

I don’t know how many members looked at the survey but I’m guessing those who did would find the statement ‘inviting the community to share their views’ as confusing as I did. The survey seemed to assume you liked the cycleway and they were just wondering what you thought about ways of improving it. The only place to raise any concerns was the last question inviting further comments.

My concerns about both the safety of this cycleway and the appropriateness of its location remain.

Note: In February, the Society received a response from Transport NSW to its letter expressing concerns about the safety of the Bridge Rd cycleway. The response can be viewed here: https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Letter-from-Transport-re-popup-cycleway-February-2021-scaled.jpg.

Glebe, Naturally

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

by Andrew Wood, Convenor, Blue Wren Subcommittee

2021 Biodiversity Lecture

All members and friends are invited to the Society’s 2021 Biodiversity Lecture, entitled Biodiversity on our blue doorstep – fascinating creatures in Sydney harbour and coastline, to be given by John Turnbull MMarScMgt, MBA, BE, Research Fellow, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales. It will be held at 6pm at Benledi House (Glebe Library, corner Glebe Point Rd and Wigram Rd) on Tuesday 1 June and will be followed by drinks and nibbles – there will be no charge for attending the event.


Report on completion of 2019 Craney Small Grant

A generous bequest from the late Jan Craney, a former convenor of the Blue Wren Subcommittee, is being used to fund biodiversity grants which support teaching and learning in Glebe’s 14 pre-schools and schools. In 2019, a grant of $1,000 was awarded to Mr Christopher Roberts, a teacher at Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay. Due to Covid-19 there were some delays in completing the work funded by the grant, but here is their final report:

Dear Blue Wren Subcommittee,

2019 Craney Small Grant Report: Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay’s Native Tree Garden

With your generous assistance, Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay campus has utilised the 2019 Craney Small Grant to build a native tree garden and learning space.

This student led project has allowed students to develop links with the local community, learn about sustainability as well as engage in civic activism and project-based learning.

As part of the planning process the student-led Environment Committee attended IndigiGrow in La Perouse to gain insights on native plants from Aboriginal community leaders. This was then followed by school events, such as clean-up days along the Blackwattle Bay foreshore and planting days.

The native tree garden now includes two nursery beds which have coastal rosemary, sea berry saltbush and round leaf mint bush amongst others. The surrounding garden is also being developed with floor covering such as pigface and other young plants such as Cousin It, lemon scented tea tree and grevillea winter wonder.

The garden infrastructure was built by VET Construction students to include steppingstones, nursery beds and a seating area, which serves as a meeting and learning space. The seating area was also painted by the student body to develop a sense of connection and community to the space.

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The garden connects to the surrounding area and acts as a natural corridor for native species. This has allowed for students to have direct access to native foods and explore the relationship to our natural world. There are plans in the near future to include more plants, a water tank and ceremonial fire pit.

The attached photo shows Year 11 students enjoying the garden.

We thank you for your contribution and will be sure to keep you updated as the native tree garden grows.

Best wishes,

Christopher Roberts
Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay

Other news from the Subcommittee

➢ The Society has sent a letter to City requesting that it establish its own native plant nursery to supply flora for its parks and reserves (at present the plants are purchased/sourced commercially or from other Councils).

➢ A Working Group of community, local and state representatives has been formed (https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/rozelle-parklands/index.html) to consider the Transport for NSW proposals for the ‘specific recreation and sporting uses as well as any other required facilities’ for the Rozelle Parklands, which are to be constructed over the Westconnex tunnels at the northern end of The Crescent in Glebe. David Lawrence, a member of our Subcommittee, has suggested to the Working Group that the Parklands be given an Indigenous name, ‘Buruwan’, which is Aboriginal for ‘north wind’ and which was the name of the park in Annandale that was removed and is becoming part of WestConnex.

➢ The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held working bees on 30 January and 14 February with attendance of more than 10 people for each day – activities were mostly weeding but also a little planting or seed scattering and pruning. A further planting day will be held on Saturday 10 April and all Society members are welcome to attend.

➢ In Paddy Gray Reserve, with the recent rains, only a few of the native plants have died. There is a continuing problem of damage caused by over usage of the Reserve particularly by off-leash dogs digging up the turf. Blady Grass (Imperata cylindrica, also known as cogongrass or kunai grass), is dominating at some sites and needs to be removed by the National Trust gardeners, who have the contract for the Reserve’s maintenance.

➢ The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group report that the overall upgrade to the parks will be completed in early April when their future maintenance is handed from the contractors to the City. The Group is especially pleased with the new drains, the plantings of Lilly Pillies and Blueberry Ashes (Elaeocarpus reticulatus) and the installation of a tap in the lower part of Palmerston Avenue Park. The Group will be contacting the City regarding some work that still needs to be completed including an additional light in the upper Park, installation of additional loop fencing, the pruning of the Morton Bay Fig, the reinstallation of rubbish bins, and the trimming of ivy and lantana entering the park from the light rail corridor.

➢ Harold Park/Johnstons Creek: Rock work on the naturalisation of Johnstons Canal is progressing towards Rozelle Bay; the project is to be completed in June. Ducks and herons are now frequently seen in the canal and it is expected that native flora will be planted along the banks once all the rock work is completed.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Who Worked in your Street?

By Lyn Collingwood

In 1943 the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) bought the sports newspaper, the Newsletter and its printery at 21 Ross St, Forest Lodge. The nominal purchasers were Katoomba businessman Bruce Joseph Milliss and CPA Treasurer John Spencer Simpson. Both men had thick Security files. After material was seized in a raid on his Sydney house during the brief period the CPA was declared illegal in 1940, Simpson went to Perth where he was gaoled for subversive activities. Milliss was pursued beyond his death in 1970 by ASIO which examined his probate in detail.
At the Newsletter Printery, Quality Press added race books and Trotguide to the Newsletter. Also printed were Il Risveglio for the anti-fascist group Italia Libera; Russia and Us for the Australian-Russian Society (its patrons Dr Hewlett Johnson the ‘Red Dean’ of Canterbury and Bishop Burgmann of Goulburn, its president Clive Evatt and vice-president Jessie Street); Filmnews for the Sydney Filmmakers Co-operative in the 1970s; and Education for the NSW Teachers’ Federation, under a new imprint Spotpress, in the 1980s. Women’s Liberation posters and anti-Vietnam War materials were also printed at Ross St.

21 Ross St today (grey building on the left) (source: Google Maps)

The Communist Party’s most important publication was its official organ Tribune (successor to The Communist and the Workers’ Weekly) which rolled off the Forest Lodge press for almost five decades. Distribution of the flagship newspaper relied on dogged CPA members who sold it on Sydney streets in suburbs as diverse as Pymble and Balmain. To encourage competition, their names and sales numbers were published regularly. Other CPA literature included the Maritime Worker, the Australian Worker and the Communist Review.

Newsletter Printery was newsworthy in October 1944 when printers at Fairfax’s Sun agitated for a 40-hour week. The proprietors decided to send copy elsewhere for inclusion in a composite paper and sacked or suspended any journalist who refused to write for it. During the 13-day dispute, nine editions of an emergency News were produced by journalists working out of the main CPA building in George St and printers operating the Ross St plant. Newsagents in 1951 refused to home deliver papers when the Prices Commissioner reduced their profit margin despite ruling a penny increase (to fourpence) a copy. Newsagents displayed posters printed by Newsletter: ‘Price Rise Conditions Unfair’.

In 1945 Newsletter pamphlets supporting Indonesian independence turned up in a government workplace. An incensed Eric Harrison, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, urged a ‘Red purge’ of Communists employed by the Public Service.

In July 1949, in an atmosphere of growing McCarthyism and four months after the formation of ASIO, the ‘barn-like’ office of the Ross St printery was one of the premises raided during a crackdown on the CPA. Officers scrutinised Fatty Finn and Middy Malone comics (whether these were the staff’s light reading or copies sent for review is unknown) but what they were supposed to be looking for was evidence of bank transactions supporting suspicions that money was being sent to striking coal miners. The affair ended with a court ruling that any withdrawals were justified business expenses.

In 1950 the federal Attorney-General received a copy of Wharlie from ‘a concerned citizen’ anxious to protect the prime minister’s reputation. The roneo-ed newsletter attacked Menzies’ involvement in the Korean War and urged readers to sign a petition to ban the Atom Bomb. William Charles Wentworth, a staunchly anti-Communist parliamentarian, lobbied for sedition charges to be laid against Adam Hutton Ogston. However, the case was considered ‘borderline’, and the matter lapsed. (In the same year, Ogston stood unsuccessfully as a Communist candidate in the federal elections, addressing supporters in the Glebe School of Arts.)

A Central Committee member who gave his occupation as ‘political organiser’, Ogston was in trouble again in the Coronation year, 1953, over an article in the Communist Review. ‘The “Democratic” Monarchy’ criticised the cost of the celebration and asserted that the royal family had nothing in common with ordinary people but was a bulwark against social change. With the other key Ross St personnel (Herbert Bovyll Chandler and James Norman Bone), Ogston was charged with sedition. Agents raided 21 Ross St and searched Ogston’s Sans Souci house and
Chandler’s bedroom at Pymble and photographed diaries, film festival records, address books and account books. Much of the scribbled material was barely legible. While finding the offending article in bad taste, the Federal Court dismissed the charges and awarded 200 guineas costs to the three men who maintained that the government was looking for any excuse to attack Communists – Menzies using the Red scare whenever an election was imminent.

The Ross St premises and plant were auctioned to a mystery buyer in 1951, but the CPA remained tenants. In 1989 the printery moved to Victoria Rd Marrickville. Two years later, the CPA was dissolved. The last Tribune appeared on 3 April 1991; its leading article opposed the Gulf War. The author was Denis Freney, whose wake was held in the Harold Park Hotel in 1995.

Postscript: Another newspaper printed locally was The Rock, which ran off a press owned by The Rock Newspaper Co. and Protestant Publications at 110 Glebe Point Rd. In 1949 its publishers were sued for libel by a Hobart parish priest over an article claiming girls at a Sandy Bay laundry run by the Catholic Church were ill-treated. The £10,000 suit appears to have been dropped. No. 110 was later the premises of Liberty Press.

Sources: Australian Archives; Trove website.

Mystery Photo

with Lyn Collingwood

Last month’s mystery photo: Karin Kolbe identified last month’s mystery photo as 417 Glebe Point Rd where a major development is now underway, including excavation for an underground carpark

This month’s mystery photo

This public art work has been removed recently. Does anyone know the story behind it? Please let us know: history@glebesociety.org.au

Eglintoun Village at Glebe Point

by Rodney Hammett

Alexander Brodie Spark secured lots 1 and 21 from the 1828 subdivision of the Church of England’s Glebe land. His grand plan for lot 21 was for Eglintoun Village, comprising 31 lots at Glebe Point, as shown in the 1841 plan from the State Library of NSW.¹ Lot 1, also at Glebe Point, was east of Glebe Point Rd, almost to Cook St.

The Glebe land, like the proverbial curate’s egg, was good in parts. Most lots were sold at the 1828 auction, but some final bidders declined to proceed. As a result, some lots were not finalised until 1830. Such was the case for the 20-acre Lot 1, which A.B. Spark purchased in July 1830 for £12 13s per acre. He had purchased the 20-acre Lot 21 in 1828 for £13 per acre.² Interested readers can find further details of subdivision in Max

¹ Available online, State Library of NSW.
² Available online, State Library of NSW.

Described by some as an influential merchant, businessman and free settler, Alexander Brodie Spark was to others a person whose ‘severe judgments on wrongdoers were rarely matched by self-criticism and his oft-expressed piety seemed meaningful only when he was distressed’. Born in Scotland in 1792, Spark arrived in Sydney on the Prince Charlotte in April 1823. A.B. Spark created a prosperous merchant business in Sydney and, in the process, gained favour with the government, resulting in his being granted numerous parcels of land throughout NSW. To these, he added other land holdings in NSW, Victoria and New Zealand. Between 1833 and 1836, Spark built a substantial home for his family on his Tempe farm, now known as Tempe House. This became a fashionable meeting place for influential colonists. Seemingly with the colony at his feet, he guaranteed loans for his friends and acquaintances. By 1840, however, Sparks was forced into bankruptcy by debt, drought and the end of the pastoral boom.

With the Bank of Australia in possession of his Glebe land, the Eglinton Village never eventuated. A close examination of the 1841 plan (above) reveals the names of some purchasers. These purchasers have been confirmed by comparison with a later map from the 27 March 1848 conveyance (Book 14 No. 539). Liz Trickett, who now owns a property within the area, explained the subsequent ownership and history of lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 at a talk in 2006 (Bulletin 7 of 2006, p.3).

In about the 1860s, George Allen purchased lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 & 19 (the red line bounds these lots on the above plan). Allen added these lots to his Toxteth Park Estate. After Allen died in 1877, the estate was progressively subdivided; the last part of Allen’s estate to be sold was the land that had belonged to A. B. Spark (Lot 21). The subdivision was advertised for auction sale by Richardson & Wrench on 29 October 1904 (see the advertisement, with new lot numbering).

Even though the lots are much smaller today than in 1841, some of the street pattern remains. Spark St became Eglinton Rd, and Francis St (near lots 2, 3, 22 & 23) became Edward St. The road between lots 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 became Pendrill St. (See Bulletin 9/2019 for an article on the Rev John Pendrill). The Sze Yup Temple now occupies lots 22 & 23.

A. B. Spark never saw his former estate’s new layout because he died at his Tempe home on 21 October 1856.

Purchasers of the lots fronting Glebe Point Rd in the 1904 subdivision are listed in the table below. Details for the first purchasers in Northcote Rd were the subject of an article in Bulletin 9/2017 and, for Alexandra Rd, in Bulletin 10/2019. Separate research for Eglinton Rd – the Eglinton Road Project – was undertaken by Genny Kang, Max Solling, Jeannette Knox, Erica Robinson and Carole Herriman in 2013 and is available here: https://www.glebesociety.org.au/street/the-eglington-road-project/.

As shown in the table above, some of the original lots along Glebe Point Rd were further subdivided to produce additional houses. Lots 9 & 10 being used to build a row of four terraces.

Mary Agnes Barnett (née Reid) was from Berrima, where she was baptised in the Holy Trinity Church on 30 October 1864. Her parents were John, a
blacksmith, and Catherine. Mary was the second of ten children and the eldest girl. No doubt, Mary helped in the family chores at Berrima until she married Albert Barnett at St Johns Church, Parramatta, in October 1886.

Mary’s husband, Albert, was from Cheshire, England, and worked as a builder in the Bowral area. Their first three children were born in Bowral before the family moved to Burwood in the late 1890s. From Burwood, Albert and Mary Barnett moved to Glebe, where their fifth child was born in 1904. Their children were: Ethel (1888-1929), Gertrude (1890-1932), Beatrice (1892-1960), Albert (1898-1955) and James (1904-1959).

In January 1898, after leaving Bowral, Albert obtained an auctioneer’s licence. He died, aged 49, on 13 August 1911. Albert left an estate of £393 15s 10d to his wife.

In about 1910, after three years living in No 278 (on Lot 11), the family moved to Mosman. They retained No. 278 Glebe Point Rd, and Mary, along with some of her extended family, returned in the 1930s and lived there until the 1940s. In 1948, the property was transferred to Albert and Mary’s daughter, Beatrice. (In 1918, Beatrice had married Ladislas Adam de Noskowski who became the Polish Consul-General in 1933.) Mary died at Mosman in 1955. She was aged 90.

Lot 12 was sold in May 1905, after which 276 Glebe Point Rd was built. This house had many owners and, in 1970, it was sold with No. 274. The two properties were demolished and replaced by a motel that later became the R. J. Williams Lodge. We await the next chapter of development on this site.

late Mr. Spora’s Estate

Probate has been granted of the will of the late Mr. Gaetano Francis Spora, of Mowbray Rd, Artarmon, who died in September last, leaving an estate of the value of £31,886. The testator, who appointed the Perpetual Trustee Company, Ltd., his executors, bequeathed an immediate legacy of £3,000 to his widow, Johanna Mary Spora, and £100 to Annie Jones, if in his employment at the time of his death. To St. Joseph’s School for Poor Children he left £300, and similar amounts each to St. Vincent’s Hospital, Westmead Boys’ Home, Hospice for the Dying, Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, St. Joseph’s Orphanage, Kincumber, and Industrial Blind Institution, William Street, Sydney. The residue of the estate he bequeathed for the benefit of his widow and children.

Dolly Telegraph: Thu 23 Nov 1922, p6

Gaetano Francis Spora, known as ‘Frank’, was born in Spezia, Italy in 1868. He arrived in Sydney on the Yarra in 1886. His occupation was listed in the ship’s manifest as a baker. Gaetano became a successful businessman, and was, for some time, the owner of the Gladstone Hotel on the corner of William St and Palmer St, Woolloomooloo. ‘In a quiet wedding at the Sacred Heart Church, Darlinghurst’ on Wednesday 2 February 1898, Gaetano married Johanna Maria Murphy. The couple had eight children: Joseph (1899-1903), John (1900-1967), Catherine (1901-1982), Francis (1903-1977), Cyril (1905-1988), Leo (1906-1961), Thomas (1910-1911) and Mary (1911-1983).

Frank purchased lots 9 & 10 in May 1908. His occupation is listed on the Certificate of Title (1876-21) as a licenced victualler. Frank built a row of four two-storey terraces: Numbers 280, 282, 284 & 286, which he kept as investment properties.

In December 1903, while the family lived at the Gladstone Hotel, Frank and Johanna’s son, Joseph, died, aged only five. In 1911, the family moved to Olivette, which was located on Mowbray Rd in Artarmon. While living here, the family lost another child, Thomas, who was only one year and five months old when he died in 1911.

When Frank died on 16 September 1922, aged 54, Johanna was left to raise four sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 11 to 22. The estate Johanna and her children inherited was valued at £31,886, a fact recorded in newspapers throughout Australia. Property made up about 75% of Frank’s estate and included holdings in Glebe and Double Bay.

As can be seen in the Daily Telegraph article from 1922, Frank bequeathed gifts to needy institutions, which reflected the charitable donations he was known for during his lifetime.

The executors of Spora’s estate retained ownership of numbers 280, 282, 284 & 286 Glebe Point Rd until May 1936, when the four properties were transferred to Mary, the couple’s youngest daughter. In 1959, Mary sold the houses individually. Mary had been a nurse and lived in the Eastern Suburbs. It was interesting to discover that, in July 1939, Mary and a friend travelled to Colombo (now Sri Lanka) for a holiday, returning in August.

Frederick Arnold Banks was three years old when he and his family arrived in Sydney on Sunday 10 December 1854 aboard the Marchioness of Londonderry.

Frederick’s father, John Charles Banks (1819-1882), was a plumber. John and his wife Mary (née Arnold) and their five surviving children came to Australia as assisted immigrants. They paid £44 towards the fare, and the remaining £52 required was lent to them by the Family Colonisation Loan Society. (History buffs would know that the Eureka Stockade had occurred at Ballarat a few days earlier, on 3 December 1854.)

Frederick was the fifth of 10 children, two of whom had died as infants in England before 1854. John and Mary extended the family with another three children, born in Glebe, where they settled. John Banks was in the building trade – sometimes described as a plumber and other times a contractor. He and his sons made a
good living when the housing stock in Glebe was entering a boom period. Frederick formed a partnership with his older brother, John Charles Arnold Banks, in August 1878. They traded as Banks Brothers, painters, glaziers and paperhangers. Their business was located at 108-110 Glebe Point Rd. The business was variously described as an oil & paint store, ironmongery and a wholesale retailer.

Frederick married Martha Dunton on 12 November 1873 at Mrs Dunton’s residence, in Susan St, Newtown. Frederick and Martha had four children who were all born in Glebe: Elise (1884-1968), Percy (1885-1886), Clarise (1887-1971) and Frederick V (1888-1889). By 1890 the family was living at 104 Glebe Point Rd. In 1908, the family moved to 288 Glebe Point Rd, which they named Lymington after Lymington, Hampshire, where Frederick was born in 1850.

Keen to be part of the Glebe community and its wellbeing, Frederick was elected in 1897 as an alderman to the Glebe Municipal Council for the Bishopthorpe Ward. This was a role he continued until 1905. At one time, Frederick was the vice-president of the Glebe Rowing Club. He died at home on 26 July 1914, aged 63. In his will, Frederick was described as an oil and colour merchant and master painter. His estate was valued at £1,915 9s 7d.

Martha and her daughters, Elise and Clarice, continued to live at Lymington until it was sold in 1923, the same year Elise married Charles McCarthy. Clarice had married Basil Jackson in 1919. When Lymington was sold, Martha moved to Marrickville, where she lived close to Clarice and her family and died there in October 1933, aged 83. Frederick and Martha are buried at Rockwood together with their young sons Percy and Frederick.

Elizabeth Caudwell (née Marsh) had married Charles William Caudwell in Hackney, London, on 28 August 1884. Not long after their marriage, Charles and Elizabeth (and over 300 other assisted immigrants) boarded the ship Dorunda bound for Brisbane. They arrived in Brisbane on 21 October, and Charles took up work as a painter. Elizabeth was the daughter of Colonel William Marsh of the Indian Staff, a fact which was disclosed at the time of Elizabeth and Charles’ Silver Wedding in 1909 while living at No 290 Glebe Point Rd.

The Marshes’ daughter and only child, Florence, was born in Queensland in 1885. At the 1903-04 Census the family was living at 8 Hereford St, Glebe. Charles’ occupation was described on the census as glazier and painter. By 1913 the family had moved to Haberfield and Charles was working as a glass merchant. Elizabeth sold No. 290 Glebe Point Rd to Richard Wilfred Harris in April 1906, so it is possible Charles had some involvement in the construction of the house (in 1930, Charles is described as a builder in the electoral rolls). Charles died at Five Dock in 1934, aged 74. Elizabeth lived out the rest of her years in Five Dock where she died in 1949 at the grand old age of 93.

Francis Crocker, a produce merchant, purchased Lot 6 in February 1910, then sold it in December 1913 to Sarah Dixon, wife of Thomas Dixon, builder, of Newtown. Two semis were built on Lot 6 (numbers 292 and 292A), and it is likely that Thomas Dixon built them in 1913-14. The semis were sold to Christy Neilson of Mackay, Queensland, in May 1914 and are first recorded as occupied in the Sands Directory of 1915. They remained in single ownership and let by various owners until 1967 when they were sold separately.

Thomas and Sarah Dixon lived at 36 Georgina St, Newtown. Thomas died in January 1916, aged 60. Sarah then went to live at Coogee, where she died in 1927, aged 72.
Benjamin Stone of Waratah Stoves bought the vacant lot (part of Lot 5) and built a new house on it (No. 294), where he lived until 1959. Lyn Collingwood’s *Who Lived in your Street in Bulletin* 3/2018 presents the families who lived at No 294.

Emily Lucy Gerrett (née Barham) was a Glebe girl, born on 21 October 1852, the youngest of nine children. Her father was a butcher with premises in Glebe Point Rd. Her father died in 1858 at the age of 50, leaving a widow and seven children to deplore their loss.¹⁴

Emily married Joseph Evan Gerrett, a draper, on 1 February 1875 at her mother’s residence in Gross St, Glebe. Emily and Joseph had six children: Hilda (1876-1965), Norman (1878-1879), Joseph (1880-1881), Mabel (1882-1952), Harold (1884-1950) and Herbert (1887-1889).

Joseph had a men’s outfitter shop in George St West (current day Broadway). Joseph may have been a good tailor, but he was a poor businessman and was bankrupted twice – first in 1878, then in 1885. Joseph is last found in records living at 9 Gross St in 1893. It is likely, though, that he was still living in Glebe after that, because, in August 1905, when Emily purchased the remaining part of Lot 5, Emily is described as the wife of Joseph Evans Gerrett, draper. At the time of that purchase, Emily lived at 43 Toxteth Rd with her children, Hilda, Mabel and Harold. They moved to Mosman in 1907, and Emily died at 17 Heydon St Mosman in 1947, aged 94.

Emily’s estate, including numbers 296, 298 and 300 Glebe Point Rd, was valued at £2,793 5s 6d and left to the three children. Numbers 296 and 298 were sold at auction in December 1948. The properties were marketed as ‘well-constructed brick residences in a well-populated residential suburb ACCOM Hall 4 Bedrooms Din rm /Lnge Bathrm Kit Lndry LET at 32/6 per week’.¹⁵ No. 300 was sold in November 1953.

Isabella Elizabeth Woodfield (née Short), the wife of master mariner Captain Russell Woodfield, purchased No. 13 Northcote Rd in December 1907, about a year after purchasing vacant lot 4 (No 302 Glebe Point Rd). The Woodfield/Short family details are in *Bulletin* 9/2017. Isabella’s husband, Russell, died of an aneurysm in 1913, aged 44. Isabella died in 1927, aged 56, while on holiday to the UK and was cremated at Chelsea; they did not have any children. No 302 was bequeathed to Isabella’s sisters Rose (Mrs R.H. Crammond) and Laura (Mrs D. Kerr) along with the bulk of her estate, which was valued at £18,122 17s 7d for probate.

No 302 was eventually sold in April 1945, after Rose’s death in 1941.

Elias Davis was living in Glebe when he purchased Lots 1, 2 and 3. Born in Sydney, the third of Isaac and Sarah’s seven children, Elias married Melbourne-born Fanny Davis at the Great Synagogue in Sydney on 7 January 1891. Their only child, Norman, died as an infant in 1892. At this time, the family had just moved into their newly built house, Francesca, at fashionable 70 Wigram Rd, built by Henry Beeson on two lots from the second subdivision of the Toxteth Park Estate.¹⁶

Elias was a successful jeweller and pawnbroker who had premises at 655 George St, Haymarket. Elias and Fanny moved to Buckhurst Ave, Point Piper, in 1914. They named this house Francesca, as they had their Glebe house. It was here that Fanny died on 21 August 1915, aged 55. Elias died in hospital on 15 September 1920, aged 66, leaving an estate valued at £20,617.¹⁷ Both are buried in the Rookwood Cemetery.

Two pairs of single-storey semis had been constructed on Lots 1 and 2 (Nos 306-312 Glebe Point Rd), and the trustees of Elias’ estate sold them individually at the end of 1921. The single house constructed on Lot 3 (No. 304 Glebe Point Rd) was sold by the trustees (or possibly bequeathed) in November 1921, to Arthur Emanuel Salmon of Point Piper. Arthur was the husband of Elias’ sister. Arthur sold the property in August 1923.

Of the 20 new dwellings constructed between 1906 and 1915, only four (Numbers 278, 288, 290 and 294 Glebe Point Rd) were occupied by their owners – tenants occupied the others. Some of the owners lived elsewhere in Glebe.

Why was ‘The Point’ not as attractive a place to live as it is today? A future article will examine the external factors that affected the lives of these residents.

Notes: ¹ SLNSW; Call No M2 811.1823/1841/5, Z/M2 811.1823/1841/3; ² For further details see also *Leichhardt Historical Journal No*23, ³ Spark, Alexander Brodie (1792-1856); Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/spark-alexander-brodie-2684/text3755, ⁴ published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 26 February 2021; ⁵ Tempe House is of exceptional historical significance as a remarkably intact 1830s villa still within its largely unaltered landscape setting. Designed by John Verge, Tempe House is an exceptional and rare example of Classical Georgian architecture, self-consciously designed as an ‘Arcadian villa’ for a picturesque setting and the only such example in the Sydney Metropolitan area. See https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045451; ⁶ SMH; Tue 4 Jan 1899, p7 [Licencing Court]; ⁷ Daily Telegraph; Sat 5 Feb 1898, p14 [Social]; ⁸ Freeman’s Journal; Thu 13 Jul 1939, p15 [The Social Round]; ⁹ Ancestry.com; NSW Assisted Passenger Lists 1828-1896; ⁵ SMH ; Sat 31 Aug 1878, p1; ¹⁰ Evening News; Fri 21 Nov 1873, p2; ¹¹ Sydney’s Aldermen; https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/frederick-arnold-banks/; ¹² Findmypast; NSW Wills; ¹³ SMH; Tue 24 Aug 1909, p6; ¹⁴ SMH; Wed 12 May 1858, p1; ¹⁵ SMH; Wed 7 Jul 1948, p11 [Auction Sales]; ¹⁶ Book 457 No 643; Book 459 No 239 & Book 1236 No 519, Elias Davis purchased Lots 60-63 of Section 3; ¹⁷ Daily Telegraph; Tue 26 Apr 1921, p3 [Stamp Duty].

Glebe Society *Bulletin* no. 2 of 2021 (April 2021)
100 Years ago in Glebe & Forest Lodge - this Month: April 1921

by Rodney Hammett

Opening of new Hostel for Girls at 29 Arundel St, Forest Lodge

This hostel for girls still exists at 29 Arundel St, a testament to its need and the generous support from the community in the 1920s, especially from country NSW, which helped pay for its construction.

Miss Fulton who was appointed Warden of the hostel came from England with a wide experience of similar roles in America, England and Australia. In Western Australia she was head of a girls’ camp and in Queensland she presided over a hostel.

Above: Miss Fulton, Sydney Mail
Wednesday 11 May 1921

Right: Sydney Morning Herald; Wed 20 April 1921

Left: 29 Arundel St today (photo: Rodney Hammett)

Anzac Day Ceremony

7:30 am Sunday 25 April
Glebe War Memorial, Foley Park

The Anzac Day Ceremony will be held at the Glebe War Memorial on Sunday 25th April at 7:30 am.

The service will be led by Rev Mark Wormell, Rector of St John’s, Glebe, and the pipes will be played by Rob McLean.

Max Solling will give an address on Glebe and World War II.

After the service, morning tea will be served at St. John’s Church.
Laptops for Glebe Youth Service

Glebe Youth Service (GYS) is currently seeking donations of second-hand laptops and tablets. Many young people in our community have had their education impacted by COVID. A barrier to learning for some kids is the lack of a laptop or device.

If you have any unwanted devices or are thinking of upgrading, please consider donating your older machine to a local young person via GYS.

For more information, you contact the GYS Coordinator, Keiran Kevans on 0410 606 940 or Keiran@glebeyouth.org.au.

You can also make a direct donation to GYS via this link: https://www.givenow.com.au/organisation/public/907

The Bulletin

Just a quick reminder that you can change your Bulletin preference (email ↔ print) at any time by emailing our secretary, Jude, at secretary@glebesociety.org.au or phoning her on 0438 600 882.

Players in the Pub

An evening of radio drama!

The Blind Beggar Dies, an episode of The Shadow directed by Cassady Maddox.

plus … an Australian classic directed by Lyn Collingwood.

7 pm, Wednesday 21 April.

Upstairs Toxteth Hotel cnr Ferry & Glebe Point Rds Glebe.

Free admission, donations bucket. The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please order early. We always aim to start on time!

Sanitary lanes (aka. dunny lanes)

Sanitary lane, Bellevue St Glebe: Once an integral and necessary part of the layout among the terrace house development of Glebe (and other inner west suburbs) was the sanitary lane which afforded access for the regular exchange of sanitary pans from the free-standing toilet next to the back fence. (image: Phil Vergison)
FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday 10 April 10 am, planting day at Orphan School Creek park, contact Judy Christie - 0437 693 372.
Wednesday 21 April, 7 pm. Players in the Pub. upstairs, Toxteth Hotel.
Sunday 25 April 7:30 am Anzac Day Ceremony, Glebe War Memorial, Foley Park
Tuesday 1 June, 6 pm. Biodiversity Lecture by John Turnbull at Benledi House, Glebe Library.

Glebe Society Inc.
Established 1969

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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

Soon to disappear – the Sydney Fishmarket, as seen from Wentworth Park (photo: Phil Vergison)

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