

‘Meet the Candidates’ – Council Elections 2021

by Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

When: Sunday 15 August 2021 (11 am – 12.15 pm)

Where: Harold Park Community Hall
Tramsheds, 1 Dalgai Pl Glebe

Hear what the City of Sydney Lord Mayoral candidates have to say before the upcoming local government elections (to be held on Saturday 4 September 2021):

- What's their vision for Sydney over the next four years and beyond?
- What will they commit to do to address the major issues facing Glebe?
- How will they fix the local issues that are important to you?

The Glebe Society will host a *Meet the 2021 Sydney Lord Mayor Candidates Forum* at the Harold Park Community Hall, Tramsheds (Why not book in to a Tramsheds restaurant for lunch afterwards?).

So far, four candidates have accepted our invitation:

- Clover Moore
- Linda Scott
- Yvonne Weldon
- Sylvie Ellsmore

(Liberals will confirm their candidate when their pre-selection process is complete)



Lord Mayor Clover Moore
(photo: Wikipedia)



Linda Scott, Labor candidate
(photo: National Press Club)



Yvonne Weldon
(photo: supplied)



Sylvie Ellsmore, Greens candidate (photo: <https://greensoncouncil.org.au/category/sydney-candidate-1/>)

Allan Hogan will again be our moderator. Those who saw Allan in action at the *Meet the Candidates* forums hosted by the Society the last Federal and State elections will recall how well he brings his ‘big end of town’ journalism skills to these community forums – a great facilitator gives everyone a fair go and, importantly, asks the challenging questions.

Candidates give a short overview and respond to questions from the moderator on the Glebe Society's strategic issues. The audience will then have the opportunity to ask questions from the floor.

You are invited to submit topics to be covered and questions you would like raised by the Glebe Society. Please send your ideas to events@glebesociety.org.au by Friday 30 July 2021.

Watch out for more details of each candidate and their key platforms in the Society's regular Member Update email and in the next *Bulletin*.

This FREE event is open to members, all local residents and Glebe/Forest Lodge business owners. Booking on Eventbrite are essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/meet-the-candidates-cos-lord-mayor-election-2021-tickets-161369026101>. Book now to avoid missing out! Feel free to share this event link with locals in your network.

Under COVID-19 Safety Rules we anticipate that a maximum of 200 people will be able to attend. The COVID situation will be monitored and arrangements put in place to meet new requirements.

Position Vacant: Editor(s) for the *Bulletin*

by Allan Hogan, Convenor, Communications Subcommittee

It was with regret that the Management Committee accepted the decision of Virginia Simpson-Young to stand down as Editor of the *Bulletin* and as Convenor of the Communications Subcommittee. At its last meeting the Management Committee put on record its appreciation of the energy and dedication Virginia has brought to both positions and expressed its gratitude for the years of service she has given the Society and its members. The Committee was pleased that Virginia will continue to be an active member of the Communications Subcommittee.



The publication of the *Bulletin* is one of the most important functions of the Society, and it's vitally important that the high standards set by Virginia are maintained. For over 50 years the *Bulletin* has kept members informed of the Society's activities and concerns, and published engaging and entertaining contributions by talented local writers. The *Bulletin* has been described as 'the glue that holds the Society together'.

Hopefully, among our members there is someone (or maybe more than one person) with the skills and energy to take over from Virginia and ensure that the *Bulletin* continues to be a must-read publication, not just for our members but for others who find enjoyment in reading its contributions. Virginia has offered to help with the transition process and there are others who are part of the present production team who will provide assistance.

Please contact me if you would like to consider taking on the job: communications@glebesociety.org.au, 0411 607 813.

Erratum

In last month's *Bulletin*, the article, *Glebe Society goes into Bat for the Bay* was attributed to Janet Wahlquist but was written in fact by Asa Wahlquist. My apologies – Editor

Membership Renewals

by Jane Gatwood, Treasurer

Membership of the Glebe Society for 2021-22 is now due, and all members will have received an email about the need to renew their membership. You can renew either online or by post. Many thanks to those members who have renewed, but if you have not renewed, please do so now. Renewals can be done by:



1. Online payment here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/membership/membership-applicationrenewal/> or by visiting our website www.glebesociety.org.au and

then clicking on About the Glebe Society > Join/Renew > Membership

Application/Renewal where you can pay by credit card, PayPal or direct debit.

2. Cheque, payable to the Glebe Society, and posted to PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037.
3. If you have difficulty with the above options, just call our Secretary/Treasurer on (02) 9660-3780.

We thank you for your support during the past 12 months and we look forward to another year of good work for the community.

Attention: *Bulletin* contributors

The next *Bulletin* is published on 29 July.

Contributions are always welcome. If you'd like to discuss an idea, contact me, Virginia, via editor@glebesociety.org.au.

Author guidelines and 2021 *Bulletin* schedule: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/publications/bulletin/bulletin-schedule/>

Guest article: Long-standing community childcare under threat

by Tiffany Brittain, Jennifer Engle, Shannon Harvey, Mathilde Montredon and Anne Rogerson –
parents of children attending Laurel Tree House.

Laurel Tree House, a long-standing and much-loved not-for-profit childcare centre at 61 Arundel St in Forest Lodge, is set to close at the end of the year after Land & Housing Corporation (LAHC) announced its intention to sell the site in the Spring. The Centre has been run by KU Children's Services for forty years and many in the local area have a strong connection to the Centre. Parents of children currently attending the centre have launched a campaign to save it, with a petition now standing at nearly 1,000 signatures and strong support from Jamie Parker MP and Councillor Linda Scott.

Laurel Tree House is unique among childcare options in the area, as a heritage building with beautiful and adventurous outdoor space; a small, family-like atmosphere; a long-serving, culturally diverse and highly skilled team; and as an institution with deep connections to the local community and Sydney University.



Laurel Tree House Childcare Centre (source: Google Street View)

Background

KU Children's Services have rented the property from LAHC for forty years, first on a 'peppercorn' rent and more recently on a commercial rent. LAHC first announced their intention to sell the site in 2013 but local campaigning prevented the sale and allowed KU to retain the service. KU offered to purchase the site at that time, including developing plans to expand the number of places offered at the Centre and receiving financial commitments from the City of Sydney to support upgrades. However, this offer was not accepted by LAHC. In early 2021, LAHC again advised KU of their intention to sell the site through auction in the Spring of 2021. Families of children currently attending the centre were advised in April that KU would not seek to purchase the building at auction and that Laurel Tree House would close at the end of the year.

Current status

Parents have been campaigning for the past two months to bridge issues between stakeholders to save this precious community asset. Jamie Parker MP and Councillor Linda Scott have been strong advocates for keeping the Centre open, with Jamie negotiating with

LAHC to provide KU with a first right of purchase (which it appears has not previously been available), and Linda writing to Housing Minister Melinda Pavey on behalf of the campaign. Families and local community members with connections to Laurel Tree House have compiled a 22-page dossier of 'love letters' to the Centre, including families' stories of what makes the Centre so special and children's drawings.

Parents have also noted concerns that KU will not deploy their significant net cash assets, contributed by generations of parents and subsidies, to save a top-rated and in-demand service and have asked for a cogent and transparent explanation for this decision.

In response to concerns raised by parents of the service about the lack of transparency around KU's commercial decision to close the service at the end of the year, KU Children's Services' Board met to review the decision to close. The closure decision was reaffirmed in writing to parents on 16 June, with the Chair of the Board indicating that there was 'no scenario' in which Laurel Tree House was seen to be viable in the future.

While the KU Board Chair and Co-Chair were happy to meet with selected parent representatives, they would not explain the 'scenarios' which had been considered by the Board or the exact basis upon which the long standing, top-rated service was considered to be non-viable, citing, unexpectedly, 'commercial in confidence' and a 'lack of legal duty' to disclose this information. Subsequent conversations illuminated however that a key issue for KU Children's Services is the size of the Centre. It currently operates as a Long Day Care service with spaces for 38 children per day and KU have indicated that this is too small to be financially viable, given the high staffing costs to provide quality early childhood education.

KU ... would not explain the 'scenarios' which had been considered by the Board or the exact basis upon which the long standing, top-rated service was considered to be non-viable, citing, unexpectedly, 'commercial in confidence' and a 'lack of legal duty' to disclose this information.

Additionally, despite a joint KU executive and parent working group being set up to find solutions to save the service, the decision by KU's Board was made before

they were advised of LAHC's willingness to provide KU with a first right of purchase. However, KU management indicated that this does not change their decision. Instead, KU argues that LAHC have failed to maintain the property over the past seven years since the original campaign to save the Centre, and that the works required to upgrade the Centre are now cost-prohibitive. In a meeting with parents on 15 June and a follow-up meeting with parents and Jamie Parker on 16 June, KU further indicated that there is now no situation in which they would be willing to continue operating the Centre, even if the Centre were gifted and upgrade costs covered. This is despite KU Children's Services, a not-for-profit, having net cash assets of over \$45 million at the end of December 2020 and an operational surplus in 2020 of \$7.6 million. It is also despite KU's mission statement to invest in 'children and education, not profit'.

Why it matters

The proposed sale of Laurel Tree House represents yet another attempt at privatisation of community assets in Glebe. It also represents a disappointing trend in the corporatisation of the not-for-profit sector, with a drive to bolster financial reserves over mission.

While there are now a number of newer for-profit childcare centres in the area, none are comparable in strength of connection to the community. In the 'love letters' compiled by families to support the Centre, what is notable is that Laurel Tree House has provided an anchor for community far beyond being 'just' a childcare centre. In one story, the parents had met as toddlers at Laurel Tree House, grown up in the area, and then sent their child to Laurel Tree House. In other stories, families spoke of moving to the area from overseas and finding community, security and support in Laurel Tree House.

Outdoor space is at a premium in our local area. Our children live in apartments with small balconies or townhouses and terrace houses with tiny backyards. Laurel Tree House has large, beautiful outdoor spaces centred around a laurel tree, where children can run, climb, explore and get dirty. The rooms of this heritage building look out onto the outdoor area and children have the freedom to roam between indoors and out. They grow vegetables, fruit and herbs and learn to cook with them. In other centres in the area, children are stuck in upstairs rooms and have to be escorted to outdoor spaces at set times.



What next?

Councillor Linda Scott has tabled a motion for the Council Meeting of 28 June to save Laurel Tree House. The motion requests that the Lord Mayor write to the Housing Minister and ask that the NSW Department of

Housing undertake the necessary repairs to allow the building to continue operating as a childcare centre.

Parents of children attending Laurel Tree House have shared their 'love letters' dossier with the KU Management and Board and have asked them to review their decision on closure in light of their

obligations as a registered charity, stated values, significant balance sheet and new information about LAHC's willingness to negotiate with them.

Parents have also noted concerns that KU will not deploy their significant net cash assets, contributed by generations of parents and subsidies, to save a top-rated and in-demand service and have asked for a cogent and transparent explanation for this decision.

Parents and friends of Laurel Tree House ask for the support of the Glebe and broader community. Please could they sign the petition and write to the Housing Minister, the Lord Mayor and KU Children's Services to

ask them to work together to save this vital community resource. Or, if this is not achievable, to explain why.

Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/clover-moore-save-ku-laurel-tree-house-children-s-centre>

Housing Minister: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-water-property-and-housing>

Lord Mayor: cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Chris Legg, CEO of KU Children's Services: Chris.Legg@ku.com.au

More Glebe Walks

by Dorothy Davis, Glebe Society Walks Coordinator



Join members and friends to discover new aspects of Glebe and its fascinating history as we walk the streets, back lanes, open spaces and parklands, through heritage areas, new apartment developments and examples

of adaptive re-use of old buildings.

Two interesting walks are scheduled for August.

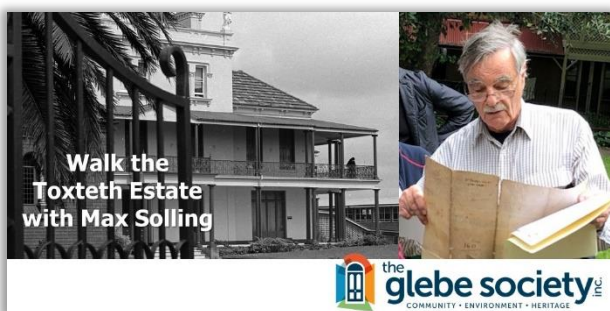
For the first, accompany local long-term resident Jan Macindoe, across the Rozelle Bay end of Glebe and Harold Park, and for the second investigate the architecture and history of the Glebe Estate's 'infill housing' with Ian Stephenson, the Glebe Society's Planning Convenor.

Max Solling's walk on 11 July was fully booked; however, because of COVID-19 uncertainty we have rescheduled the walk for Sunday 12 September.

Watch out for details in the next *Bulletin* of a walk along the Glebe Foreshore from Glebe Point Rd to the new Fishmarket site with Asa Wahlquist in September.

Change of date: Walk the Toxteth Estate, with Max Solling – now Sunday 12 Sept!

Due to the COVID lockdown, Max Solling's Toxteth Estate walk has been postponed until 12 September. Registered attendees have been notified of the date change. If you have registered but are unable to attend, please be sure to cancel as there is currently a waiting list.



Walk: Harold Park to Rozelle Bay – layers of history and renewal, with Jan Macindoe

Thursday 12 August 2.30 pm

You are invited to join Jan Macindoe in exploring the swampy end of Glebe. Allen's Glen (aka Frog's Hollow, Harold Park and more) has been transformed many times. These changes reflect the many, and sometimes sudden, changes in technology and transport over time, and even changes in accepted ideas of how to have fun on a Friday night.

Beginning at the Tramsheds, and helped by old maps and photos, we will look for evidence of the original landscape, and its varied uses and stories, as we wander from Harold Park, along the canal (now being 'naturalised') to Rozelle Bay. We will aim to end our wander at the former Toxteth House, as we try to imagine it in its splendid forest setting in the mid-19th-century.

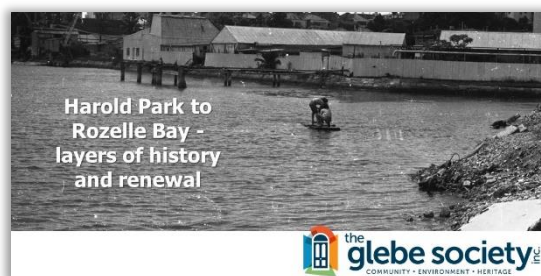
Jan Macindoe has lived in Glebe/Forest Lodge for over 40 years. Together with Neil Macindoe and Liz Simpson-Booker, she developed the various walks published on the Glebe Walks website.

When: Thursday 12 August, 2.30 pm

Where: Meet outside Garcon café in front of the Tramsheds.

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/harold-park-to-rozelle-bay-layers-of-history-and-renewal-tickets-160706153431>

Cost: Glebe Society members \$20; non-members \$25. **Refund policy:** Refunds up to one day before event. Eventbrite's fee is non-refundable.



Walk: The Good the Bad and the Ugly, with Ian Stephenson

Sunday 29 August, 2.30 pm

Glebe is a great place to walk, with heritage streetscapes, significant historical buildings, the foreshore walk, parklands and a rich social and industrial history.

This walk explores a century of infill housing in Glebe including cottages in the St Phillip's Estate built by the Church of England, new apartments built by the Commonwealth as part of the Glebe Project and the remarkable work of the NSW Housing Commission's Inner City Housing Team in the 1980s. The walk includes apartments, cottages and adaptive re-use, the 2011 Glebe Affordable Housing Project on the old Wentworth Estate and the proposed Princes' Quarter in Cowper St. The walk starts at the corner of Bridge Rd and Lyndhurst St and will finish at the Nag's Head Hotel in Forest Lodge. Duration is two hours, distance 3.5 kilometres.

A detailed handout will be given to all attendees.

Register now at Eventbrite so you don't miss out. Numbers are limited.

When: Saturday 28 August, 3-5 pm.

Where: Meet in the small park bounded by Bridge Rd, Coulbourne Ave and Lyndhurst St.

Cost: Glebe Society members \$20; non-members \$25. **Refund policy:** Refunds up to one day before event. Eventbrite's fee is non-refundable.

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-a-hundred-years-of-infill-housing-tickets-161362787441>

This walk will be led by Ian Stephenson. Ian is the Glebe Society's Planning Convenor. He is on the Board of the National Trust and has worked in the museum and heritage field for over 30 years including as Director of Historic Places in Canberra, with the National Trust in NSW and SA and for the University of New England.



Heritage Matters

by Brian Fuller, Heritage Convenor

Glebe Society submission for the review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

The State Government has called for public submissions in relation to the proposed review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977. Submissions are to respond to a Discussion Paper, so at this stage there are no draft amendments to the legislation.

The Society believes that the Discussion Paper does not go far enough in its commentary to support legislation that meets the needs of a community seeking a holistic recognition of all our heritage alongside sustainable and creative environments in which to live and work.

It also seems to restrict itself to State listed items only, while continuing to ignore the greater number of locally listed items and Heritage Conservation Areas. In the case of Glebe and elsewhere, *all* items of heritage contribution must be protected by the same legislation.

Read the Society's full submission here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/TGSI-Submission-Review-of-the-NSW-Heritage-Act-1977-26-June-2021.pdf>

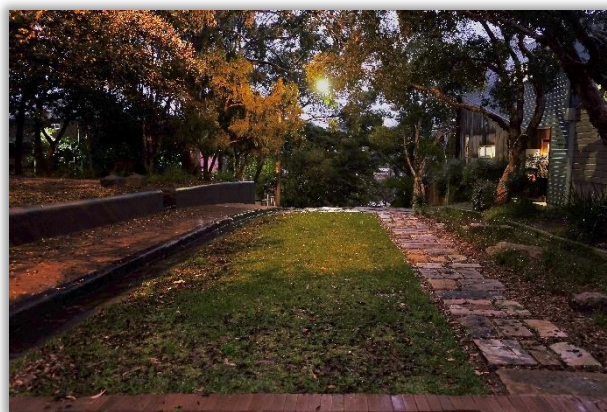
Damage to heritage-listed sandstone cobbled pavement

Many readers have no doubt noticed the City of Sydney progressively upgrading the local green parks within Glebe and Forest Lodge as part of the *Greening Sydney 2030 Strategy*. The Society welcomes these environmental initiatives by the City.

However, the upgrade and extension of the Cardigan St Reserve has come at the cost of the removal of some of the historic sandstone paving in the closed section of Cardigan St. This sandstone paving was associated with the historic Lyndhurst Estate.

Whilst the City obtained a Heritage Impact Statement prior to undertaking the work, the Society has concerns that not all processes were observed both prior to and during the work.

The letter to the City can be read here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/to-Monica-Barone-re-Cardigan-St-Reserve-25-June-2021.pdf>



Cardigan St Reserve (Photo: Phil Vergison)

Society meets with State Government to discuss affordable and social housing

Convenors Ian Stephenson (Planning) and Brian Fuller (Heritage) were recently invited to join Deputy Lord Mayor Linda Scott at a meeting with the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing to discuss the State Government's intentions in relation to the provision of affordable and social housing within Glebe.

Members will be aware that the Society has made strong objections to the spot rezoning in the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area to facilitate the construction of high-rise residential towers.

The messages to the Minister were that Glebe is a unique place because of the survival of its urban and social fabric and that cities are enriched and vitalised by places like Glebe which is as important to Sydney as Spitalfields is to London and Back Bay is to Boston.

We raised concerns about the maintenance of the church estates and asked that the Land and Housing Corporation make no more rezoning applications to increase the height limits of LAHC sites in Glebe, that they respect Glebe's heritage conservation areas and explore opportunities to add additional housing by low rise infill designed to reflect the scale and character of Glebe.

The meeting was cordial and we are hopeful of continued dialogue that will bring better outcomes.

Ian Stephenson and Brian Fuller

Council's heritage education program

Members may recall a joint initiative of the Glebe Society, Millers Point Residents Action Group and the Paddington Society requesting the City of Sydney to initiate educational programs for owners of heritage homes (unlisted or listed) in our Heritage Conservation Areas who are seeking to maintain, restore or preserve their homes.

Despite some early promises the initiative has had a slow gestation, held back due to budgetary issues followed by COVID.

Finally on the back of Council's website providing advice to residents about paint colours and solar panels in Heritage Conservation Areas, and a meeting between Councillors Jess Scully and Philip Thalys together with Janet Wahlquist, Brian Fuller and Ian Stephenson of the Society, Council is progressing to broaden the scope of the advice to residents.

Whilst still in the early stages of fruition, a copy of Council's resolution at its meeting of 17 May can be read on the attached link <https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/documents/s52748/Protecting%20Heritage.pdf>

We look forward to this initiative becoming a reality, further enhancing the 'City of Villages' that we enjoy.



A cottage in Forest Lodge (image: Phil Vergison)

Repair works on White Bay Power Station

Janet Wahlquist, President, received an email from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 25 June 2021 with information about repair works on the White Bay power station:

You'll likely see some safety and heritage works underway on the chimneys at the White Bay Power Station over the next few weeks.

The reinforcement of the chimneys is being undertaken as part of Place Management NSW's obligations under the Heritage Act to preserve and maintain the buildings.

Phased work on other areas of the site and other aspects of the building will be undertaken between now and 2023.

The structural repair works starting this week include:

- *Strengthening the internal part of the northern chimney*
- *Foundation works to both the northern and southern chimneys*
- *Painting to the lower parts of both chimneys and work to prevent further corrosion*
- *Temporary removal of the external ladders that run up the chimneys whilst the chimneys are repaired*

We'll keep you updated with information about the phased repairs.



White Bay Power Station Balmain (Photo: Sacha Fernandez, Flickr)

'It's only words': the melancholy of the St Phillips Estate

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

Sitting down to write about the DA currently on exhibition, to build two eight-storey apartment buildings and five faux terrace houses in the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area, the plaintive melancholy of the Bee Gees' 1968 hit song *Words* came to mind.

Changing the pronoun from you to I, the song seems an accurate representation of the NSW planning system as it relates to the St Phillips Heritage Development Control Plan (DCP): *I think that you don't mean a single word you say, it's only words.*

Why so bleak? I have been researching the history of the area for a forthcoming Glebe Society video. In 1949 the land to the east of Cowper St was resumed by the Housing Commission and between 1953 and 1967 15 three-storey blocks of flats were built.

The 1962 textbook *Local Geography in the secondary school* has a picture of them. The same work refers to the monotony of Glebe's terrace houses. To my eyes the flats look worse.



The Housing Commission Redevelopment Scheme, c.1962 (Source: Sydney Teacher's College Faculty of Geography, Local Geography in the Secondary School, Sydney, 1962, between p. 38 and p. 39 [Max Solling Collection])

By the 1970s, taste had changed and it was the terrace houses which were cherished. By the 1980s Glebe was protected by heritage conservation zones. The boundary in this area for the St Phillips estate was, rather sensibly, Cowper St.

In 2008 the Department of Housing commissioned a study from John Oultram to provide guidelines for the use of the area. In Section 8.7, Oultram noted 'there is considerable scope for new buildings on the site provided that they pay due regard to the scale of the surrounding areas'.

This also was very sensible – the 1950s flats could be demolished but make sure what you build in their place respects the scale of the conservation area across the road.

In 2011 the Glebe Affordable Housing Development Control Plan was passed to allow redevelopment of the land. It was also required to 'protect, preserve and respond to the heritage significance of the surrounding heritage conservation area'.

As can be seen from the images below these controls were not very well implemented.



The St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area is on the left side of Cowper St and the Glebe Affordable Housing Scheme on the right (source: Google street view)



The Glebe Affordable Housing Project viewed from Cowper Lane (Source: Google street view)

The high rise outside the conservation area is now being used to undermine the conservation area itself.

Thus, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd in their Heritage Impact Statement [HIS] for the DA at 17-31 Cowper St note:

the proposal will allow for a structure that is substantially taller in height to the major significant character of the area. However, it should be noted that the dominant areas of low-scale residential terrace housing are located to the west and in the core of the heritage conservation area, while in immediate areas and the east we have many larger scale residential developments.

Efforts to mitigate this impact has been made through stepping the heights of development, with a lower three-storey development facing west towards the centre of the St Phillips Conservation Area. Here, the design has thoughtfully emulated the surrounding historic character with the three-storey terraces that front Mitchell Lane¹, ensuring that area of the development does not overwhelm the opposite block of single-storey Victorian terraces.

Given that the site adjoins 42 terrace houses, the statement that 'the dominant areas of low-scale

residential terrace housing are located to the west and in the core of the heritage conservation area' is disingenuous and the idea that five terrace houses can screen two eight-storey apartment buildings is ludicrous. Are these magic terrace houses which are being proposed?



The five new terraces and the two eight-storey apartment buildings from Paddy Doherty Reserve (Source: Johnson Pilton Walker, Design Report, Glebe Mid-Rise Project LAHC 2019/128 - BGW9F, 9 April 2021, p. 14)

Having argued on specious grounds that changing the scale of the western side of Cowper St from low rise to high rise at its northern end (the entire western side of the street, all half a kilometre of it, has no building higher than two storeys!) is acceptable, the Heritage Impact Statement then seeks to discredit the design of the infill which is to be demolished.

While the building is a representative example of the last major period of development in Glebe, there are other more interesting examples of this style of infill housing in the vicinity such as 2-18 Mount Vernon Street and 42-58 Catherine Street, Glebe [which is one apartment block].

This is a long-discredited idea of conservation based on a dubious notion of connoisseurship that you only need to keep the best example of a genre and everything else can go. How you identify what is the best is by no means straightforward and in any case there are so many other important things such as context, history and value to the community which determine heritage value.

The implications of this idea that you only need to keep the best example of an architect or building type are staggering. For example, Francis Greenway designed three churches in NSW: St Luke's, Liverpool; St James', Sydney and St Mathew's, Windsor. Some argue St Mathew's is the best, so if they are right that means other two can go.

St James' can be replaced by a 20-storey building, because the NSW Supreme Court which is across the road in King St is 20 storeys high, but with the proviso that the new building has to have a low rise building at its east end to soften the interface between it and the Hyde Park Barracks. It will need to be one of these magic terraces the NSW LAHC are proposing for Glebe.

The infill in Mount Vernon St and Catherine St which Extent Heritage Pty Ltd like was designed by John Gregory whilst that in Cowper St was by David Tory.

Jack Munday said at the Glebe Society's 40th anniversary:

"We have to redouble our efforts to make sure that whoever is in power in Macquarie Street, we've got to tell them, that they can't destroy all of Sydney and therefore we've got to fight for the heritage we own, for the heritage that we've built and the heritage we want to inherit."

Mind you their report doesn't tell us that, it's strong on assertion and weak on evidence.

The eminent architectural historian Dr James Broadbent AM wrote of the Cowper St project:

the proposed development erodes the conservation area whose logical boundary is, and should remain, Cowper Street. This is not only a matter of maintaining the well and logically defined boundaries of the conservation area but also of respecting the planning ideas under-pinning the Glebe urban renewal scheme itself which can now be appreciated as a sophisticated and important piece of urban planning and heritage conservation planning of the late 20th century. That planning itself is of significant heritage value and should be respected, maintained and not amended piecemeal.

Just as the Glebe planning scheme as a whole is an important example of mid to late 20th century heritage conservation in urban areas, so the individual houses are fine and considered responses to the design and heritage significances of the 19th century houses. The respect and appreciation shown in the design of the infill houses to the scale, materials, colours, textures and forms of the old houses is masterful: sophisticated, romantic yet practical.

Extent have another argument in their armoury which is that 'the buildings on the site, while marginally sympathetic infill styles, are not exemplary of their type and can potentially confuse interpretation of the mostly Victorian architectural values of the Conservation Area'.

They are saying that because 17-31 Cowper St echoes the form, scale and pattern of the neighbouring houses (as good infill in an historic townscape should) people might think it is a 19th-century building. What nonsense.

Curiously, they raise no such objection to the pair of eight storey apartments designed to look like woolstores, which are to replace the present building. Surely, if this logic applies to the building being demolished it must apply to the proposed buildings? In any case it is very confusing having the apartments based on an historic building type which does not occur in the St Phillips estate.

JPW, the architects for the development explain that

the Glebe Mid-Rise Project is a considered response to the site's rich history and context. The urban form responds to the locality's varied building typologies, old and new, and creates an effective and appropriate transition between adjoining blocks of different scales and uses. Using the precedents of Glebe woolstores and the Sydney terraces, we found an urban composition that fits comfortably with the surroundings, without compromising the amenity or liveability for residents and neighbours.

The woolstores that the proposed buildings are modelled on are in Ultimo not Glebe – a different suburb with a very different history. Preserving local identity is exactly what the Council's City of Villages planning framework has been about, but it looks like that is now passé – so it is farewell to the St Phillip's estate and welcome to little Ultimo. Confused and confusing is what this project is.

Preserving local identity is exactly what the Council's City of Villages planning framework has been about, but it looks like that is now passé

Another difficulty relates to amenity and liveability. The strength of the public housing in Glebe's church estates has been the way it connects residents to the street and the community. This applies to both the old houses and the 1980s infill.

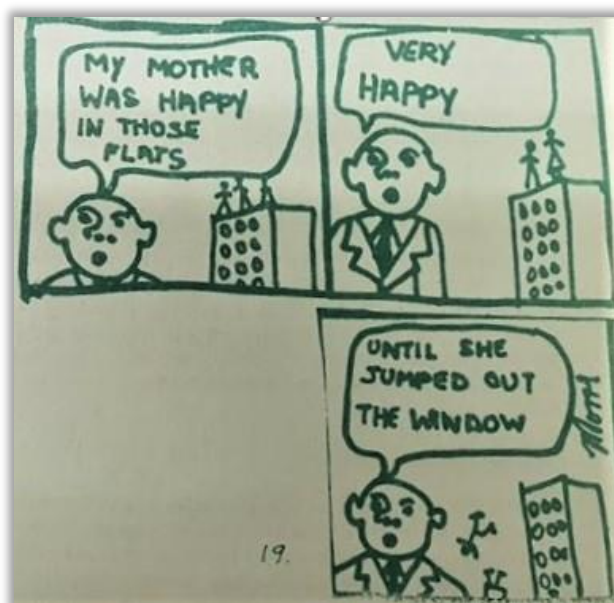
The urbanist Jan Gehl has written that

high rise separates people from the street, meaningful contact with ground level events is possible only from the first few floors in a multi-story building. Between the third and fourth floor, a marked decrease in the ability to have contact with the ground level can be observed. Another threshold exists between the fifth and sixth floors. Anything and anyone above the fifth floor is definitely out of touch with ground level events.

The public housing tenants in Glebe don't need a Danish urbanist to tell them this, they know it from their lived experience. That is why they are fighting so hard to save the Franklyn St estate from being razed for high-rise.

The new apartment buildings are to have roof gardens. The architects say these 'will provide a 'backyard' amenity to the apartment residents, and opportunities for social connection'. So, in the new St Phillips estate if you want to have an informal chat over the fence with your neighbours you will need to do it from an ultra-lite plane.

Glebe is a unique because of its proximity to the city, its coherence, its scale, its broad social demographic, the way the urban fabric integrates residents of public housing into the community in old houses, and well-designed low-rise infill. Now we are heading for a tale of two cities with the private owners in houses and the public housing tenants in high rise apartments.



Anne Summers, *The Little Green Book, the Facts on Green Bans*, Tomato Press, Glebe, 1973, p. 19

Over the last five decades the policy of Commonwealth, State and Local government has been to conserve the heritage of Glebe. Substantial density has been added at the fringes, at Harold Park, for example but now it is eating its way into the conservation areas. In March Sydney City Council approved the removal of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area but I understand this has not been enacted yet.

Many dubious arguments are being put to destroy the St Phillips conservation area such as if there is a low-rise Neutral² building and it is close to a tall building, it can be demolished and replaced by a tall building. The most frustrating thing of all is that goal of creating additional public housing could be achieved by sensitive infill.

It is tempting when looking at the way Glebe's highly evolved instruments for managing its conservation areas are being undermined, to give way to despair and think of the Bee Gees in respect of local and State Government, *I think that you don't mean a single word you say, It's only words.*

However, we do live in a democracy, local and State governments are elected and we have to keep the pressure up. When bad decisions are made such as spot rezoning in conservation zones, call it out. If bad developments proceed, call them out.

As Jack Munday said at the 40th anniversary of the Glebe Society:

We have to redouble our efforts to make sure that whoever is in power in Macquarie St, we've got to tell them, that they can't destroy all of Sydney and therefore we've got to fight for the heritage we own, for the heritage that we've built and the heritage we want to inherit.

The Glebe Society is lodging an objection to the Cowper St DA, you should too. The details can be found at <https://online2.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/DA/IndividualApplication?tpklapapl=1532758>.

Notes: 1. Actually, the backs and sides, not the fronts, of the terraces face Mitchell Lane and they are one and two storeys high not three. 2. Buildings in conservation areas are defined in the Development Control Plan as Listed, Contributory and Neutral.

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

Keith Stallard's proposals for wildlife corridors in the *Bays West Place Strategy*

by Keith Stallard and Andrew Wood

Last month the Subcommittee, together with the Society President (Janet Walquist) and Convenor of the Bays and Foreshores Subcommittee (Asa Walquist), met with Keith Stallard, a Balmain resident and Society member, to discuss his proposals to have wildlife corridors included in the State Government's *Bays West Place Strategy*. Keith demonstrated that an eco-corridor should be an important and essential part of the Strategy with links to similar corridors in Glebe and Annandale and to Callan Park and the Greenway (see solid green line in Keith's diagram below; the dotted green lines are the connections to Glebe/Annandale and Callan Park and the Greenway). The meeting supported his plans.



Proposed wildlife eco-corridor (image: Keith Stallard)

Keith's proposals were initially submitted to the Department for Planning, Industry and the Environment in response to their invitation for comments on their consultation draft of a *Bays West Place Strategy*. After speaking with Keith, Jamie Parker (the member of the Legislative Assembly for Balmain) supported Keith's wildlife corridors submission and presented a copy of his plan to Rob Stokes (Minister for Planning and Public Spaces), Jamie also sent a copy to the Chair of the Rozelle Parklands Working Group, who in turn forwarded it for review by Transport for NSW.

Further, Keith has recently met with John Stamolis, the independent councillor for the Balmain ward of the Inner West Council, who helped arrange a meeting with the planning team at the Inner West Council and they 'strongly support the eco-corridors initiative'. In addition, the Strategic Planning and Urban Design team at the City of Sydney confirmed that the eco-corridor proposal is consistent with their policies and their submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and recommended that 'the Department consider biodiversity and ecology growth opportunities as part of a range of sustainability considerations'. That is, the City's objectives are aligned with the objectives of the wildlife corridors concept.

In speaking with the team responsible for finalising the *Bays West Place Strategy*, Keith discussed the dire need to reverse environmental decline in our area of Sydney, how eco-corridors might do this, and how essential it was for the *Bays West Place Strategy* to establish and maintain inner city wildlife corridors – concepts which have the overwhelming support of local residents.

In conclusion, Keith's objective is to get ecological regeneration, preferably by eco-corridors, as a non-negotiable objective of the *Bays West Place Strategy* as this document will set the parameters for development of the Bays West precinct over coming decades. The *Place Strategy* should be finalised and published in July.

Biodiversity lecture

by Elizabeth Dark, Regina Haertsch, Peter Simpson-Young and Andrew Wood

The Society's sixth annual biodiversity lecture was given by John Turnbull, a Research Fellow from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New South Wales, at 6 pm on Tuesday 1 June at *Benledi House*, Glebe Library. His talk was entitled 'Biodiversity on our blue doorstep – fascinating creatures in Sydney harbour and coastline' and was attended by 40 Society members and friends – a full house. The annual lecture is made possible by the generous donations to the Blue Wren Subcommittee from the Estate of the late Jan Craney (a former Convenor of the Subcommittee), Robert Hannan, Norma Hawkins, Mary Holt and Roberta Johnson.

This was a night not to be missed – not only for the knowledge John had about his subject but also for his commitment to promoting the health and conservation

of our marine ecology and for the way he held our attention on the night. John is one of Australia's leading experts in Sydney's marine wildlife and conducts large surveys with the help of passionate local divers and citizen scientists.

We are fortunate to have a harbour with such marine biodiversity – Sydney Harbour has over 600 endemic species of marine wildlife. John pointed out that the number of fish species in our Harbour alone, compares to the entire coastline of the UK. He explained that ocean currents, like the Eastern Australian Current (famously depicted in the movie *Finding Nemo*), make it difficult for marine wildlife to migrate away from the region, resulting in the local animals evolving in isolation. The wildlife in Sydney's ocean is as unique as Australia's wildlife on land.

There were a lot of insights with John's awards for special characteristics of different species including those for:

- the 'most successful' fish (eastern hula fish)
- the 'most colourful' fish (eastern blue devil fish)
- the 'most intelligent' local (octopus)
- the 'best invisibility cloak' (cuttlefish)
- the 'I'm happiest to see you' fish (blue groper, NSW's State Fish)
- the 'hardest to believe you' fish (seadragon that nourishes the eggs of its young until they hatch)
- the 'most melancholy' fish (seahorse which has a prehensile tail and the young are carried to full term by the male seahorse)
- the 'better than floride' award (sponge gardens).

After hearing about the colourful world below the water in our harbour, John's points about the pressures from human fishers on our marine ecology added a thoughtful end to the evening and what we want for the future. For example, line-fishing and spearfishing selectively target the predatory fish which would otherwise help regulate sea-urchin populations, and their numbers have sky-rocketed leading to decimation of critical kelp forests.



John Turnbull, who gave the Society's annual biodiversity lecture, with Judy Christie and Nick Sangster (photo: Andrew Wood)



The 'hardest to believe you' fish', the weedy seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) (Photo: John Turnbull)

2021 Craney Small Grants to support biodiversity projects in our local preschools and schools

by Andrew Wood

This small grant program is named in honour of Jan Craney, a respected and much-loved former convenor and member of the Blue Wren Subcommittee. In her will Jan left the Subcommittee a bequest to foster biodiversity in our suburb. Jan was particularly interested in the education of children leading to an increased awareness of the value of native plants and animals.

This year, the Subcommittee received three grant applications, which were assessed by Judy Christie, Anna Szanto, Janet Walquist and Andrew Wood. Each of the applications was considered worthy of a grant and the details of the awards are as follows:

- SDN Preschool Glebe – *Native plant vertical garden*; \$1,450.
- Explore and Develop, Preschool, Annandale – *Connecting Country through classroom ecosystems* –\$1,100.
- Glebe Public School – *Glebe Public School environment project* – \$2,000.

On completing the project, a report of about 300 words accompanied by a photograph is to be submitted to the Subcommittee. The report will be suitable for publication in the Society's *Bulletin* and website.

Reserve update

Last month, the City installed new grass in John St. Reserve and the area is fenced off for approximately six weeks. There are future plans for much needed infill planting of native flora in the garden beds but no definite date for that part of the upgrade just yet.

Fish Markets Community Consultative Committee report

by Asa Wahlquist, Bays & Foreshores Convenor

Multiplex took control of the new Fishmarket site on Bridge Rd on the last day of May. The New Sydney Fish Markets Community Consultative Committee, at its second meeting, was told work would continue to remove the remaining 406 piles, after the installation of a new silt curtain to capture pollutants.



Blackwattle Bay in the 1970s (source: City of Sydney)

Test piles will then be installed. Valuable geotechnical information will be collected at this stage, and there will be fine tuning of the resulting noise and vibrations. This is covered by a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan, which can be found the infrastructure NSW website.

Seawall revetment is also underway, that is basically replacing 80 to 90% of the existing seawall. In the process the seabed under the seawall will be cleaned up. So far they have found wharf structures and a sunken pontoon. An archaeological assessment, which was a condition of consent, has already been undertaken, and a close eye will be kept on any findings for historical or archaeological significance.

Senversa Environmental Consultants have taken baseline measurements on water quality in Blackwattle Bay, and will continue to monitor water quality. The

Glebe Society intends to keep a close eye on the results.

The Committee asked about pathways for Indigenous workers in Multiplex. We were told the company has an Aboriginal Participation Plan, and several committee members provided the company with links with local Indigenous organisations.

There is no on-site parking for workers on the site, and the Glebe Society is particularly concerned about what this will mean for on street parking in the community. Multiplex's policy is to encourage workers to take public transport, a rather challenging suggestion given the only nearby public transport is the light rail.

Committee member Paul Elliott suggested they follow the lead of the film industry and rent an adequate-sized parking lot, and then bus workers to the site.

The Committee was also assured that trucks would not be permitted to marshall near the site. Concrete will come in by truck, despite there being a concrete works on the Blackwattle Bay waterfront, with a larger one planned for White Bay.

The purpose of the Committee is to hold the developers and Infrastructure NSW to account, to raise community concerns, and to insist the community be consulted and taken into consideration.

The Glebe Society was formally recognised as a stakeholder representative on the Committee, after being formerly rejected. I would like to thank John Faulkner, who is a Community Representative on the Committee as well as a Glebe Society member, for his belief that it was imperative that the Glebe Society should be a stakeholder member of the CCC, and his determined efforts to ensure the Glebe Society is now a full member.

The hours of work are 7 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday, and 7.30 to 3.30 pm on Saturday. There will be no work on Sundays or public holidays.

Complaints can be made to:

Blackwattle.Bay@infrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Community Matters

What community activities would you like to see in Glebe?

by Jan Macindoe, Convenor Community Development Subcommittee

Do you remember when the Glebe Town Hall, prior to renovation, was the venue for many community activities? I remember Pilates and Yoga classes, children's dance and community choirs, and I always enjoyed hearing bush dances called as one wandered past the building of an evening.

Following renovation, the cost of hiring the Town Hall, and the complexity of the application process, have precluded the kinds of small-scale activities run by enterprising locals.

Now there are virtually no community activities in Glebe, either supported by the City of Sydney or using their venues. Even before COVID, St Helen's Community Centre was the main venue for activities, but with only one hireable room, occupied by fitness classes in the morning and bingo in the afternoon, there was no option for a wider range of activities.

The City Council's retreat from a role in facilitating community activities contrasts markedly with the situation in the adjoining Inner West Council. Compare

the What's On websites of both Councils. The Inner West listing of activities, accessible from the main page of their website, offers a wide range of exercise, art, craft, discussion groups, and more, aimed at all ages, and offered across many venues. Check it out here: <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/whats-on/#/>.

By contrast, the City of Sydney's What's On page is more like a guide for visitors and tourists to major cultural events, at the Opera House, Art Gallery and Botanic Garden for example. It covers areas from the Lower North Shore to the Eastern Suburbs – areas not in the City LGA – and is not focused on the City's own 'villages' (<https://whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>).

The Community Development subcommittee has been campaigning for a long time for the Glebe Town Hall to again be a staffed community centre. To be clear, we do not want Council staff to organise activities themselves, but rather to invite, facilitate and promote activities offered by enterprising locals or small groups. In person support is needed to navigate the venue booking process, application for reduced or waived fees, access to venues and promotion.

In the Lord Mayor's response (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/from-lord-mayor-re-glebe-town-hall-community-centre-31-may-2021/>) she says that Kirsten Woodward, Manager Social Programs & Services, will contact the Society 'about your request to have a staffed community centre at Glebe Town Hall, and the activities you would like to see take place there, and whether these programs would be better suited to hold in another venue in the local area.'

Background on the Glebe Town Hall Community Centre proposal

by Virginia Simpson-Young

In *Bulletin* 1 of 2020, Janice Challinor, then convenor of the Community Development Subcommittee, wrote about the Subcommittee's decision to recommend that the Glebe Town Hall be used as a Community Centre. The Subcommittee had spoken with many older people in the community who had identified a lack of social and other services for themselves and their friends. Janice wrote: 'We came to the conclusion that Glebe would benefit from a dedicated Community centre, and that Glebe Town Hall, due to its geographically central location and variety of useful spaces would be appropriate for such a development.'

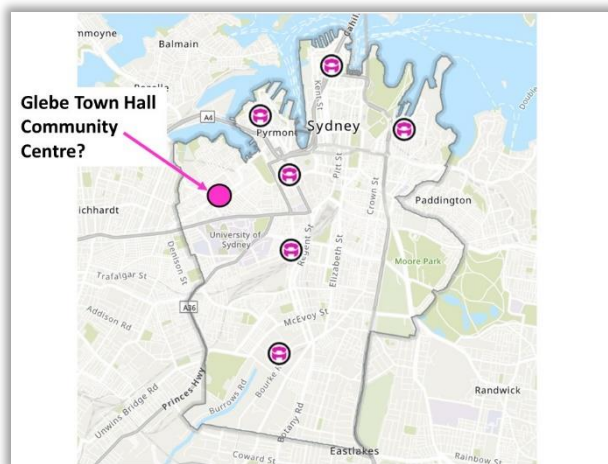
After liaising with other local groups and service providers the Glebe Society submitted a proposal to the Lord Mayor and the Council of the City of Sydney, asking that they give serious consideration to such a proposal.

The Society was very pleased to hear that its proposal led to a motion put before Council by Cr Jess Scully on 7 March last year. The motion, 'Community service provision in Glebe' was passed unanimously. The motion asked the City of Sydney's Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Investigate how services in Glebe might be consolidated and made more accessible to a

This is our opportunity to make a thoughtful and ambitious response! The Community Development Subcommittee would like to hear from members about the kinds of activities you would like, and just as importantly, where you would like them to be offered.

Send your ideas, vague thoughts, or even reminiscences to Jan Macindoe at community@glebesociety.org.au.



Existing community centres in the City of Sydney LGA (circles with icons). The location of the proposed Glebe Town Hall Community Centre is marked by a solid circle.

(Sources: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/community-centres-with-additions-by-the-Bulletin-editor>)

wider range of constituents, particularly focusing on the needs of older residents;

2. Investigate options for service provision in Glebe, and report back via CEO update;
3. Solicit input from Glebe community organisations like the Glebe Society, the Coalition of Glebe Groups, Glebe Connected, Glebe Community Development Project, local Aboriginal elders and others to discover where the City's service provision in Glebe could be enhanced, and incorporate feedback into delivering the Social Sustainability Policy & Action Plan's commitment to 'ensuring our community facilities continue to respond to changing community needs and preferences by analysing user trends, emerging unmet demands and opportunities to improve delivery.'

The following month, on 28 April, Lord Mayor Clover Moore convened a meeting on Zoom to consider the views of the Glebe Society on the topic of creating a Community Centre at Glebe Town Hall (GTH). At the end of the productive meeting, the Lord Mayor undertook to further address the Society's proposal

with her staff, with a view to increasing the Glebe Town Hall's contribution for community benefit.

The Society took heart from Council's willingness to engage on this issue, but – not unsurprisingly – Council soon needed to turn its full attention to dealing with the devastating impact of COVID on its operations and people of the Sydney LGA.

In April this year, as it seemed our lives were regaining some semblance of normality, the Society wrote to the Lord Mayor again about our proposal (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/email-to-lord-mayor-re-glebe-town-hall-community-centre-5-april-2021/>).

As mentioned in Jan Macindoe's article above, the Society received a response from the Lord Mayor on 31 May.



Glebe Town Hall (Photo: Russellstreet Flickr)

Closure of Kitchen Pack Project

by Jan Macindoe Community Development Convenor

The highly successful Kitchen Pack Project has now been brought to a close. Since the end of 2017, we have supplied 80 packs to clients leaving Elsie Women's Refuge and Rainbow Lodge for independent living in social or community housing.

The Glebe Society is very grateful for the support of its members and their friends who have provided their used kitchenware that formed the basis of the packs, as well as financial and other volunteer support since the start of the project. Special thanks goes to Diane Hutchinson for her dedicated effort over this time. Her closing report on the project can be read here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Kitchen-Pack-Final-Report-June-2021.pdf>



A kitchen starter pack (Photo: Diane Hutchinson)

Arcadia Rd (South) – the first owners and builders

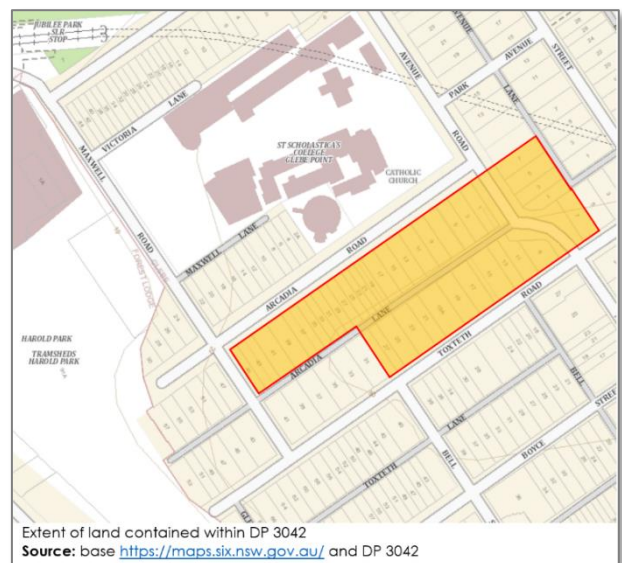
by Rodney Hammett

When I wrote about Arcadia Rd in *Bulletin* 4 of 2017, I had enough information to write about the first owners of Arcadia Rd (north). Since then, I have learnt more about the NSW Land Records system and can now report on the southern side of Arcadia Rd.

The Toxteth Estate, owned by George Wigram Allan of Toxteth Park (now St Scholastica's), was 96 acres of land lying between Wigram Lane and Victoria Rd on the one side, and between Glebe Point Rd and Harold Park on the other.

The Toxteth Estate was progressively subdivided from 1884. Undeveloped land on the southern side of Arcadia Rd became Lots 1 to 22 in Deposited Plan (DP) 3042, the extent of which is shown below on a current plan with house numbers. These Arcadia Rd lots were sold between April 1894 and August 1895.

Of these 16 purchasers, five were builders who probably built at least 13 of the 23 houses – Robert Coupland Winn (No 3), Patrick O'Reilly (Nos 5, 7 & 9), Joseph Alfred Smith (Nos 11 & 13), James Howard Brown (No 15) and William Maguire with wife Susan (Nos 21, 23, 27, 39, 41 & 43). Both Robert Winn and James Brown have been mentioned in earlier *Bulletins* (*Bulletin* 04 of 2017 and *Bulletin* 10 of 2019).



The first recorded birth in Arcadia Rd was on 4 April 1897 – a son (Halwyn) to Robert and Alice Heath, who were tenants at No 21.¹ The family moved to Chatswood in 1899, where Halwyn, his sister Hazel (b. 1899) and brother Robert (b. 1903) grew up. Halwyn enlisted for WW1 in February 1918, survived, and later

enlisted for WW2 in 1942. He became a farmer at Leaderville, NSW, and died in 1960 at the age of 62.

As was typical throughout the Toxteth Estate, many of the purchasers entered into mortgages with solicitors Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen. The builders, too, availed themselves of this opportunity. However, as we will see, some found out the hard way that you did not want to miss a scheduled repayment!



15 Arcadia Rd today (photo: Phil Young)

Builder **Patrick O'Reilly** was responsible for the distinctive houses at Nos 5, 7 and 9; he lived in Leichhardt at the time. To fund the land purchase and build the houses, on 1 June 1894, O'Reilly took out a mortgage with solicitors Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen, and another with George Boyce Allen. A few months later, on 13 October 1894, O'Reilly established a further mortgage with Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen. A few days later, on 18 October 1894, he took out yet another mortgage, this time with Henry Alexander of Sydney.

The signs were there that O'Reilly was struggling financially, so it was no surprise that Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen stepped in to protect their investment in February 1895. O'Reilly was able to sell No 9 in January that year to John Cole of Ultimo, a school teacher (so we can assume the house was built by then) who lived there until 1910. The house was then sold to Jane English, married to the draper, John English, in August 1910.

Nos 5 and 7 Arcadia St, built by Patrick O'Reilly, were sold by the mortgagees in July 1895 to merchant Joseph Edward Lepper who lived in No 7 until about 1900. After letting No 5 to tenants for a few years, Joseph sold the house to Catherine O'Brien in March 1898.

Patrick O'Reilly was declared bankrupt in 1896. I have not been able to establish his whereabouts after that time.

Builder and contractor **Joseph Alfred Smith** was born in Bethnal Green, London, in 1864. He was the only son of cab driver Henry and his wife, Jane. Smith arrived in Sydney in the mid-1880s as a cabinet maker before becoming a builder in Sydney's inner west, living at Leichhardt and Annandale. He married Anna

Louisa Isenhood on 29 March 1899 at All Souls' Church, Leichhardt.

| Arcadia Rd (south), First Owners | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| House Nos | Lot Nos | Purchased by | Date Purchased |
| Avenue Rd | | | |
| 1 | Part 22 | Leila May Furse | Sep 1894 |
| 3 | Parts 21 & 22 | Robert Coupland Winn | Sep 1894 |
| 5 | 20 & parts 19&21 | Patrick O'Reilly | May 1894 |
| 7 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 11 | 18 & parts 17&19 | Joseph Alfred Smith | Jul 1894 |
| 13 | | | |
| 15 | Part 17 | James Howard Brown | Oct 1894 |
| 17 | Part 16 | Lawrence Joseph Delany | Mar 1895 |
| 19 | Parts 15 & 16 | Frederick William Chave | Aug 1895 |
| 21 | Part 15 | William Maguire | Jun 1895 |
| 23 | | | |
| 25 | Part 14 | John Leopold Weingarh | Oct 1894 |
| 27 | Part 14 | Susan Maguire | Apr 1895 |
| 29 | 13 | John Robertson | Apr 1894 |
| 31 | 11 & 12 | Frederick Mudie | Jun 1894 |
| 33 | | | |
| 35 | 10 | Patrick Martin Duffey | May 1894 |
| 37 | 8 & 9 | James Richard Pegg | Apr 1894 |
| 39 | 2,3,4,5,6 & 7 | William Bowler & Humphrey Barker Bond | Mar 1895 |
| 41 | | | |
| 43 | | | |
| 45 | 1 | William Cronin | May 1894 |
| Maxwell Rd | | | |
| Source: CoT 1122-4 & 1122-5 | | | |

Joseph Smith built Nos 11 and 13, selling No 13 in December 1894 to Mary Ann Hay and No 11 in February 1896 to John Joseph Power, a licenced victualler of King St, Sydney. The Smith family later moved to the north shore, living at Roseville and raising Freda Gwendoline (b. 1900), Alfred Hill (b. 1901), Gordon Hill (b. 1907), who became an optometrist and Marjorie Allison (b. 1911). Joseph Smith died on 10 June 1919 aged 55 and is buried in the Gore Hill Cemetery. His estate was valued at £15,911. Anna lived for another 49 years, dying in 1968 at the age of 95.

When builder **William Maguire** purchased part of lot 15 in June 1895, we have to assume that the astute Allen family knew that he had been declared bankrupt on his own petition five years previously.² William Maguire must have considered himself fortunate to have secured a mortgage from Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen. Lot 15A is now occupied by a fine pair of two-storey houses, Nos 21 and 23 Arcadia Rd. These houses are a testament to Maguire's building skills. But things were not going well for Maguire: in May 1901, the mortgagee in possession sold the houses to Constable Joseph Jackson of Glebe. Tenants had moved into these houses in 1897.



21-23 Arcadia Rd this year (source: Phil Young)

Little is known about William Maguire, who was born about 1845. In 1884, Maguire married Susan Pyne at St Thomas' Church, North Sydney, and a decade later, in 1894, they had a son, John. William Maguire died at Chatswood in 1926, aged 81. His estate was valued at £7,587.

Susan Maguire (née Pyne and wife of William) purchased part of lot 14 in April 1895, also with a mortgage from Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen. No 27 is similar in style to Nos 21 and 23, which suggests it was probably built by her husband, William Maguire. William and Susan only lived at No 27 for one year, 1896. Down on their luck, the house was sold by the mortgagee in possession in January 1899.

Susan had been born in Victoria in 1858 and died in 1939, aged 81, while living at Crows Nest. She is buried with William at the Macquarie Park Cemetery.

Lots 2 to 7 were purchased in March 1895 by **William Bowler**, a builder from Newtown and **Humphrey Barker Bond** a builder from Petersham, with a mortgage from Reginald Charles Allen and Arthur Wigram Allen. By July the same year the mortgagees had sold these lots to builder William Maguire because Messrs Bowler and Bond could not service the loan.

The Allens then provided a yet another mortgage for William Maguire.

These six lots were amalgamated into three on which William Maguire built three houses – Nos 39, 41 and 43. As we know, William Maguire became insolvent, leading to the mortgagees selling the completed houses during 1898 and 1899.

¹ *The Argus*, Melbourne; Thu 22 Apr 1897, p. 1

² *NSW Government Gazette*; Fri 11 Apr 1890, p.3070

[Editor's note: A detailed article that combines both sides of the road will be added to the website shortly.]

Glebe needs a nursery for local native plants

In 1 May, Janet Wahlquist, President, wrote to the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Blue Wrens Subcommittee which identified a need for a native plant nursery in the LGA (see <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/to-clover-moore-re-establishment-of-a-native-nursery-1-march-2021/>). The Society has since received a response (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/from-Lord-Mayor-re-native-nursery-9-June-2021.pdf>)



Rozelle Bay Community Plant Nursery located at Whites Creek Annandale.

(source: <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au>)

Who lived in your street? William Priestly Macintosh (1857-1930)

by Lyn Collingwood



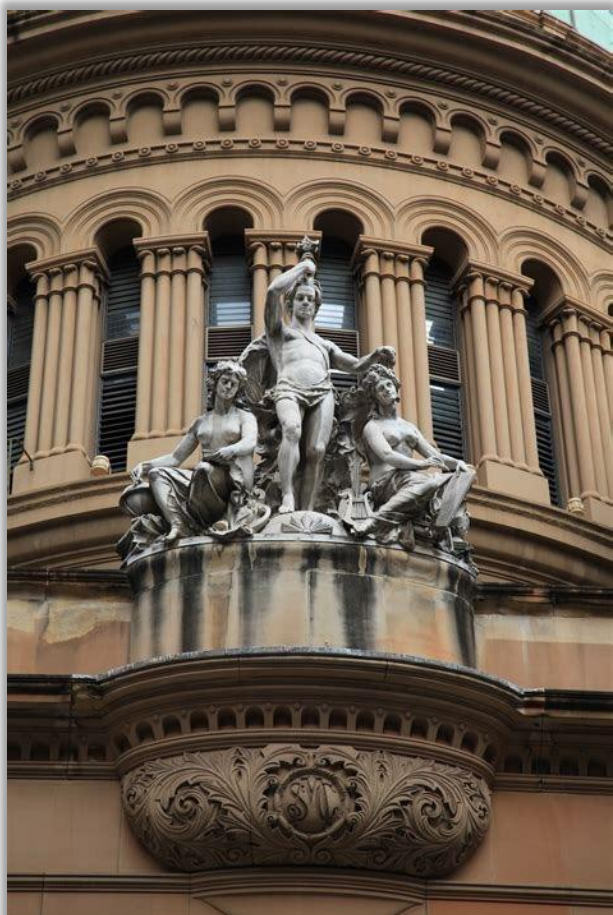
Source: *Construction and Local Government Journal* 29 Jan 1930)

In 1897 William P. Macintosh was 'executing every kind of sculpture' in the yard of his Hereford St house when he received a prestigious commission. A committee comprising Sydney Mayor Isaac Ives, City Architect George McRae and Colonial Architect Walter Liberty Vernon had judged his entry the best in a competition to design twice-life-size allegorical figures to sit on top of the

entrances to the Queen Victoria Building, then known as the New Market Buildings.

The sculptor decided that the works would be carved from Italian marble. He took his plaster models to Carrara, Tuscany, where he spent a year fashioning their transformation. *En route* he travelled through the USA, visiting San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Washington, Philadelphia and Boston. In Europe he spent time in Paris, Brussels, Dresden, Cologne, Berlin, Rome, Venice, London and Liverpool. Macintosh was impressed by American architecture, and considered the French school the rising power, replacing Rome as the world's art centre.

In 1899 the marble statuary landed at Circular Quay, in two consignments. Crowds gathered in George St and York St to watch the massive pieces, covered with a coat of plaster for protection, being hoisted into place. The statues remained swathed in canvas (which grew progressively grubbier and raggedy) until their official unveiling in April 1900. (The event coincided with an outbreak of bubonic plague in The Rocks, and the Public Library's branch inside the QVB building was closed to allow thorough cleansing of the premises and books.)

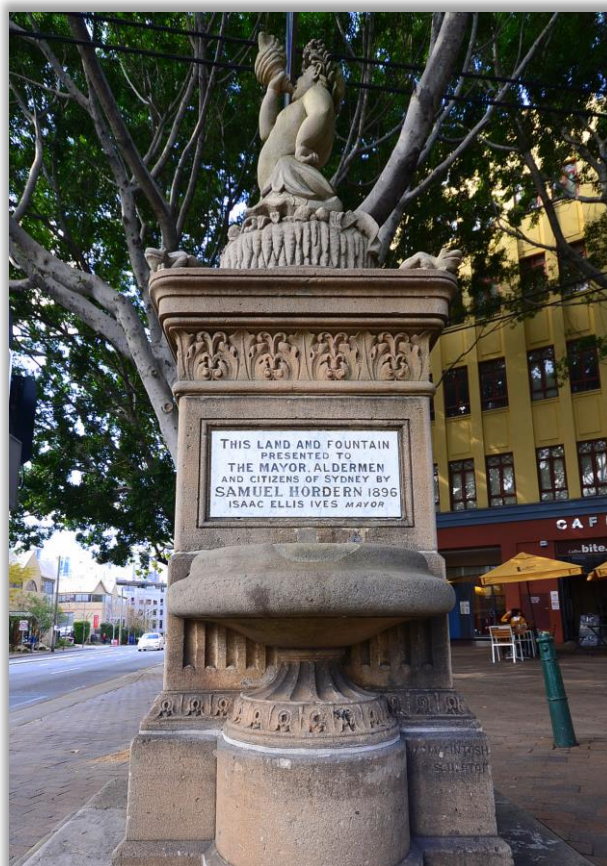


York Street group, QVB. The male figure holds aloft a torch to guide Science and the Arts and Crafts, represented by the seated females. (Image: City of Sydney)

Other surviving examples of Macintosh's large-scale figures are the Pyrmont sandstone explorers on Sydney's Lands Department building. With James Fillans, he completed the first (Ludwig Leichhardt, Joseph Banks and Burke and Wills) in a workshop in the grounds of Sydney Technical College in Harris St. Later statues were carved in a studio on the corner of Ross St and Parramatta Rd, probably within the grounds of *Braeside*, the home of Colonial Architect James Barnet who had submitted the original list of explorers to Sir Henry Parkes. When a relative complained that William Hovell had been recognised but not his companion, Barnet gave assurance that Hamilton Hume's monument was being worked on. Although placed high above street level, the Lands statues are remarkably detailed, Macintosh having

consulted family members for information and photos showing their physicality down to the veins on their hands.

Macintosh also made the coat of arms above the entrance to the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place; the flora and fauna sculptures on Sydney Technical College in Ultimo; a public drinking fountain in Pyrmont; war memorials in Double Bay and country NSW; and sculptures on public buildings in Brisbane and the AMP and Water & Sewerage Board buildings in Sydney. His last major project was the Australian coat of arms for Parliament House, Canberra. (By then he had moved to Kogarah and fashioned the stone blocks in the backyard of his house.)



Drinking fountain at the Pyrmont St and Edward St intersection. 'Battered' by 1923, it was threatened with demolition. Originally fitted with taps and cups, it no longer works.

Smaller commissions included a bust of Tennyson for Sir Henry Parkes, a marble and bronze medallion portrait for the Ashfield Infants Home, and mortuary statuary and death masks. 'Smoke, joke and let dull care go by' was inscribed on the base of a 'Fun' bust Macintosh made for a billiard room. It featured an ivory head, a bronze cap with electric lights instead of bells, and a gas outlet from a cigarette in its mouth where patrons could light their cigars and pipes.

Born near Ayr in Scotland, Macintosh studied anatomy and sculpture in Edinburgh before migrating to New South Wales in 1880 and enrolling in Lucien Henry's modelling classes. In 1884 Macintosh married Margaret Eliza Page in a Congregational ceremony at

Newtown. The couple lived at St Leonards where Osmond and Oliver were born and died. With their surviving son Allan, they moved to 43 Arundel Terrace Glebe in 1888 and shifted to Westmoreland St and Mount Vernon St before settling at 162 Hereford St. In 1901 Macintosh visited the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, New York (where US President McKinley was assassinated).

Macintosh died at Kogarah on 9 January 1930 survived by his widow, son Allan (1886-1961) and daughter Agnes Dorothy Halyard (1890-1964). At the time of his death he was studying anthropology with Professor Radcliffe Brown. He was buried with his youngest son Will Waldo (1900-26) in the Presbyterian Cemetery Woronora. Margaret Macintosh died on 7 September 1950. The Art Gallery of NSW holds 'Youth in a Tam-o-shanta', a portrait by Macintosh of his son Allan.

Footnote: The QVB building was threatened with demolition in 1927 to make way for the widening of York St. The Lands Department building in Bridge St has been converted to a luxury hotel.

Sources: NSW electoral rolls; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; Sands *Directories*; Trove website.

Rozelle Depot won the garden contest in 1928 and 1929



Rozelle Tram Depot (source: Wikipedia)

John Korff and Hereford St

by Sybil Jack



John Korff (source: Max Solling Collection)

One of Hereford St's most important and colourful families in the 19th and early 20th century were the Korffs, who gave Coffs Harbour its name.

John Korff, a qualified shipbuilder and naval architect arrived in Sydney in 1835 and first settled on the Hunter where he built a cutter called the *Rovers Bride* and another the *Victoria*. When he was sufficiently established his

wife and three children came over in 1840 – Mary (née Gordon) allegedly with a 1,000 guineas strapped around her waist. With this he escaped bankruptcy in the downturn of the early 1840s. He and his sons went on to build a schooner called the *Sisters* in 1842 and a ketch called the *Brothers* that traded between Newcastle and Sydney, and several other ships. He soon had a dry dock in Glebe and built *Orchard House* and another house called *Orchard Cottage* on Hereford St to live in. His wife, Mary, died there in 1867.

As a marine surveyor and a Lloyds insurance underwriter John Korff made a reasonable living and with his son Frederick, who by December 1869 had moved to Hereford St at no 21 (*Lemonville*, where a son was born) he established a ferry service to Balmain and had plans for one to Manly.

When he died on 14 December 1870, all the ships on the harbour flew their flags at half-mast.

Shortly thereafter *Orchard House* was described as: 'hall, 7 rooms, storeroom, wine cellar, study, laundry, dairy, kitchen and about 4 acres, also 3 roomed cottage.'

His grandson, John Conrad Korff, was killed in WWI.



The Korff property, Orchard Lodge, on Hereford St can be seen in the middle of this 1886 map (source: City of Sydney Historical Atlas)

Researching land records

With the *May Bulletin* we included a handout on how to research land records.

This handout is now accessible on our website: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/how-to-research-land-records/>

Mystery photo

by Lyn Colingwood

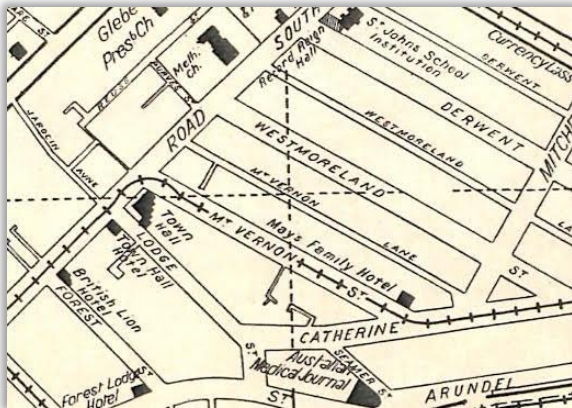
Last month's mystery photo



Wayne Carveth identified the shot as Mount Vernon St Forest Lodge looking south: 'I can't recognise any of the buildings but the intersection at the top of the photo is the only more-or-less T-intersection that was on the Glebe area tram lines.'

The photo was taken by John Ward in 1963 and is held by the City of Sydney Archives. The Clayton Steam Roller belonged to Adrian Price who parked it in his street.

The 470 bus route follows that of the old tramlines. This double decker was photographed in 1970. (Image: City of Sydney Archives)



The Mount Vernon St tramline route, late 1920s (*Robinson's Street Directory* n.d.)

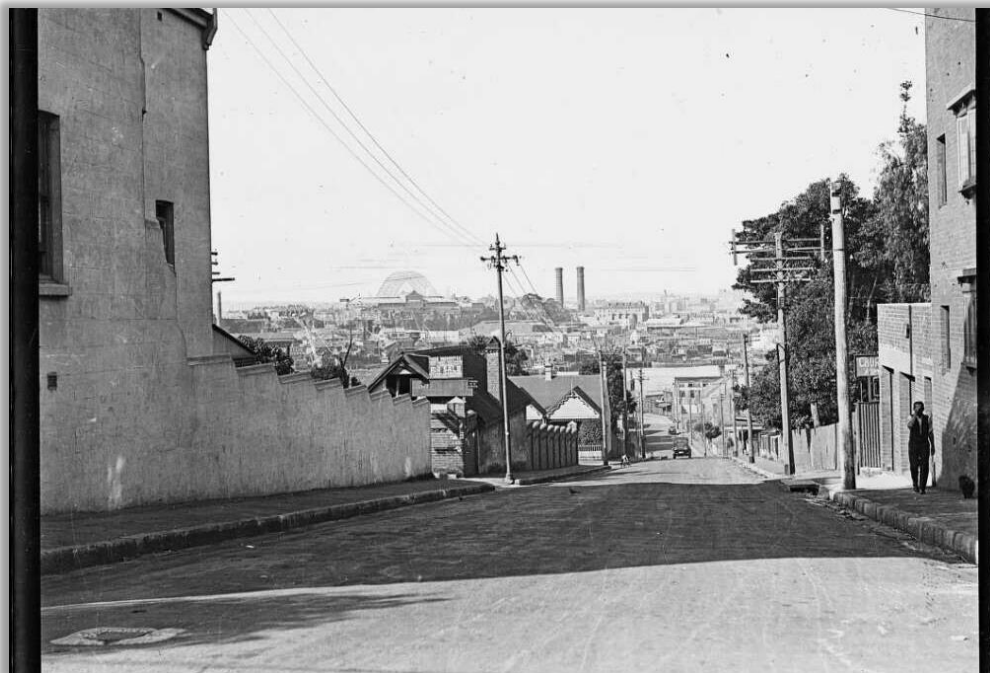
Mount Vernon St looking towards Catherine St, today. (Image: Lyn Collingwood)



This month's mystery photo

Where are we?

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



Creative Glebe

Players In the Pub

by Lyn Collingwood



Due to COVID restrictions, *A Saint for Our Times* was cancelled. We hope to stage it when the Toxteth can accommodate us. Everyone on our database will be informed, and please check Players in the Pub on Facebook. We have

readings lined up for the rest of the year.

Next Players in the Pub ...

A Bawdy Evening with Geoffrey Chaucer

Conceived and directed by Barry French

When: 7 pm Wednesday 28 July

Where: Upstairs Toxteth Hotel 345 Glebe Pt Rd (entry via Ferry Rd staircase)

Cost: Free admission. Donations bucket (for New Theatre's new roof)

The kitchen is open from 5 pm. Please order early. We always aim to start on time!

And please bring your mask!

Gleebooks' Circuit Breaker Free Post

Gleebooks writes:

In light of the current Sydney lockdown we are doing our bit to help stop the spread by offering free postage once again!

To make sure you are still able to get your books while stuck at home, we're offering free post on all orders from the City of Sydney and Inner West local government areas. For those of you living a little further than that, we're also offering free postage for orders over \$100 for the rest of NSW. Lockdown is always hard, but we hope this means you won't miss out on your latest reads.

As a small silver lining, our June/July Gleaner has just dropped (see below) so there are plenty of recommendations to keep you entertained during uncertain times. Simply select the books you would like on our website, we'll automatically deduct the postage and have the books out to you as soon as we can.

Stay safe everyone, we'll see you on the other side.

Gleebooks



Now that I've got your attention (source: Gleebooks)

For Your Calendar

Thursday 12 August, 2.30 pm. *Walk: Harold Park to Rozelle Bay – layers of history and renewal*, with Jan Macindoe
 Sunday 15 August, 11 am-12.15 pm. *Meet the Candidates*, Harold Park Community Hall, Tramsheds
 Sunday 29 August, 2.30 pm. *Walk: The Good the Bad and the Ugly*, with Ian Stephenson
 Sunday 12 September, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. *The Toxteth Estate Walk* with Max Solling
 Wednesday 28 July, 7 pm. *Players in the Pub: A Bawdy Evening with Geoffrey Chaucer*, Toxteth Hotel

What community activities would you like to see in Glebe?

Bookings via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/the-glebe-society-4066434169>



Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

Management Committee

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| President | Janet Wahlquist | | president@glebesociety.org.au |
| Vice President | Mark Stapleton | 0417 238 158 | vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au |
| Past President | Brian Fuller | 0409 035 418 | pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au |
| Secretary | Jude Paul | 0438 600 882 | secretary@glebesociety.org.au |
| Minutes Secretary | Mark Stapleton | 0417 238 158 | minutes@glebesociety.org.au |
| Treasurer | Jane Gatwood | 0488 118 355 | treasurer@glebesociety.org.au |
| Ordinary member | Allan Hogan | 0411 607 813 | allan@glebesociety.org.au |
| Ordinary member | Ted McKeown | 02 9660 3917 | ted@glebesociety.org.au |
| Ordinary member | Michael Morrison | | michael@glebesociety.org.au |
| Ordinary member | Mary-Beth Brinson | | mary-beth@glebesociety.org.au |
| Bays & Foreshores | Asa Wahlquist | 02 9660 8261 | bays@glebesociety.org.au |
| Blue Wrens | Andrew Wood | 02 9660 6104 | bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au |
| Communications | Allan Hogan | 0411 607 813 | communications@glebesociety.org.au |
| Community | Jan Macindoe | 0424 537 557 | community@glebesociety.org.au |
| Heritage | Brian Fuller | 0409 035 418 | heritage@glebesociety.org.au |
| Planning | Ian Stephenson | 0415 919 874 | planning@glebesociety.org.au |
| Environment | vacant | | environment@glebesociety.org.au |
| Transport & Traffic | vacant | | transport@glebesociety.org.au |

Working Groups & Contacts

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Glebe Island Bridge | vacant | | transport@glebesociety.org.au |
| Archivist | Lyn Milton | 0419 412 477 | archives@glebesociety.org.au |
| <i>Bulletin</i> Editor | Virginia Simpson-Young | 0402 153 074 | editor@glebesociety.org.au |
| Events | Judy Vergison | 0417 446 425 | events@glebesociety.org.au |
| Local History | Lyn Collingwood | 02 9660 5817 | history@glebesociety.org.au |
| History of Glebe | Max Solling | 02 9660 1160 | |
| Glebe Voices | Fiona Campbell | 02 9660 0185 | glebevoices@glebesociety.org.au |
| Web content | Tarny Burton | 0419 633 238 | webmaster@glebesociety.org.au |
| Website technical | Tarny Burton | 0419 633 238 | support@glebesociety.org.au |
| Facebook | Virginia Simpson-Young | 0402 153 074 | facebook@glebesociety.org.au |
| Twitterer | | | twitter@glebesociety.org.au |

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 5 of 2021 (July 2021)

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
- Additional donation welcome

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



Sewer vent York Lane Glebe (Photo: Phil Vergison)