



Running the Gauntlet on the Bridge Rd Cycleway

by Ian Stephenson and Jude Paul

The Bridge Rd pop-up cycleway was a temporary expedient initiated in September 2020. At the end of March this year the Minister for Active Transport, Rob Stokes, announced it was to be made permanent despite there being no solution to the many safety and access issues.

These include:

- Disappearing cycleways – the bike path vanishes at four points forcing cyclists to merge with traffic or go onto the footpath.
- Lack of access for residents. There is now no capacity for parking, not even for drop-off and pick-up. The Society has received a harrowing email from a resident whose wife has chronic heart and lung disorders requiring frequent hospital visits. She cannot walk long distances. Her husband has no choice but to park on the footpath and the cycleway. He regularly cops abuse from cyclists while getting his sick wife in and out of the car. Caring for a person with a disability is hard enough – he should not be subjected to this.

Ben Fordham of radio 2GB has spotted another problem. Now that Bridge Rd is a single lane each way with no parking, garbage trucks block the traffic forcing drivers to go onto the wrong side of the road. It's akin to driving in a third-world country. See <https://tinyurl.com/m8cvnj4> to watch the video and hear an interview with Di Anstey, a Bridge Rd resident.



Drivers running the gauntlet on Bridge Rd (image courtesy Radio 2GB)

The Glebe Society wrote to Minister Stokes over a month ago (<https://tinyurl.com/yckpmxdp>) asking him to defer the decision to make the cycleway permanent and look at all the options for delivering a safe cycleway including better alternatives to a narrow arterial road where the cycleway merges with traffic. No reply has been received to our letter.

We also spoke with the Communications and Engagement Officer of Transport NSW who advised that Transport NSW had looked at other options but Bridge Rd remained the preferred solution. We requested a meeting with a traffic engineer in which the other options and approaches to safety and access for Bridge Rd could be explained. No reply has been received to this request either.

... continued next page

Glebe Society Guided Walks Program



The Glebe Society Guided Walks program for June and July is now available.

Full details, including how to book, are on p. 14 of this *Bulletin*.

Date	Name of Walk	Leader
5 Jun	<i>Radical Glebe: sites & stories of ferment in the 60s/70s</i> (Waitlist)	Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson, Heather Goodall
16 Jun	<i>The Good, the Bad & the Ugly: 100 years of infill housing</i>	Ian Stephenson
21 Jul	<i>University of Sydney's new Health Research precinct: contemporary architecture and state-of-the-art research</i>	Dorothy Davis

The State Government's line is that they are looking at improved safety and the provision of parking bays but there is no word as to how these things can be achieved. For the record, The Glebe Society is in favour of cycleways but believes they must be safe for both cyclists and motorists.

Bridge Rd is a narrow arterial road; the cycleway merges with the roadway in a number of places, has blind

corners and crosses many private driveways, entrances and side streets along its path. Many of these hazards cannot be mitigated without compromising all road users and residents.

The government must reverse its decision to make the cycleway permanent.

From the President



by Ian Stephenson

Max Solling, the great chronicler of Glebe (how lucky we are to have him!), gave a stirring address at the Anzac Day service at the Glebe War Memorial. An edited version of the speech can be found on p. 4 of this *Bulletin*. Father Dominic of St James' Church ably

presided. Councillor Linda Scott representing the Council, and I, on behalf of the Society, laid wreaths. The Rev Mark Wormell of St Johns Church afforded his usual hospitality in making St Johns available for morning tea afterwards. Lyn Milton, our archivist, was there presiding over the comestibles, ensuring that no-one went unfed. The singing of *Oh God our Help in Ages Past* was distinctly better than usual thanks to the grand organ accompaniment provided by Phil Young. It's my favourite hymn, *we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree*, my pleasure being enhanced by its inclusion in Evelyn Waugh's picaresque novel *Decline and Fall*. I had some concerns when I saw our remarkable memorial, one of the finest in Sydney, covered by a great packing case. Was this an art happening? But on the Friday before Anzac Day, it was unveiled. It had been cleaned. Well done, Clover!

Readers will be familiar with the assault on Glebe by the spot rezoning of 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd in order to allow the construction of two eight-storey buildings. It hasn't stopped there. The NSW Land and Housing Corporation have now indicated their interest in redeveloping 82 Wentworth Park Rd.

The Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan are currently being reviewed by the Council. The Society has met with a number of Councillors and will shortly be meeting with Council planners to discuss the review. One of the matters we have raised is the need to retain the existing height and FSR controls across Glebe including in land outside heritage conservation areas. A particular concern is the need to ensure the topography of Glebe remains legible when viewed from the east. This affects building heights along the Wentworth Park Rd, Bridge Rd to Burton St and Taylor St.



City of Sydney Councillor, Linda Scott, and Glebe Society President, Ian Stephenson, placing wreaths on the Glebe War Memorial on Anzac Day (photo: Phil Young)

Heritage & Planning

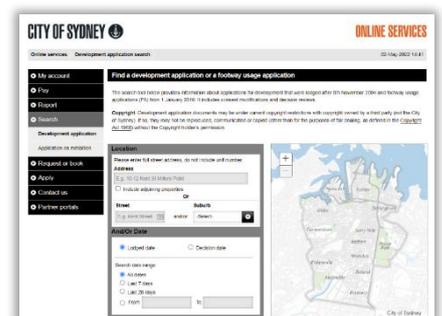
Glebe Society submissions on development applications

by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee convenor

The Management Committee recently resolved that there are benefits to members if they are informed of the submissions made by the Society in relation to certain Development Applications (DA) that are considered to have an impact on the Heritage Conservation Areas, the streetscape, the public domain or the local amenity.

The Committee acknowledges that residents and developers do want to undertake additions and renovations to their properties that are conducive to 21st-century life. Sometimes, however, they or their consultants are not aware of – or appear to downgrade

Screenshot of the City of Sydney DA Tracker (<https://online2.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/DA>)



the importance of – compliance with the well-considered Planning Controls that serve to protect and enhance the values of the Heritage Conservation Areas that we all enjoy and cherish.

The Committee gives due consideration to the merits of making each submission, before approval is given to lodge it.

In each *Bulletin*, we will publish a link to all submissions lodged with the City of Sydney during the previous period. Members will be able to access the submission via a link that appears with the property address. The link will also be available on the website.

We will also provide the DA number for those wishing to undertake further research into the Development Application documentation.

While this advice is provided after the submission has been made, and therefore after the closing date, all those wishing to undertake a more proactive interest can register their details with the City of Sydney to receive direct notification of all DAs in your nominated area. This

will enable you to make your own submission before the closing date.

Access to all DA documentation is via the City of Sydney's DA Tracker on its website (<https://online2.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/DA>). The DA Tracker is easier to use if you know the precise property address and or the DA number.

The Glebe Society submissions lodged over the last month were:

Property address (DA reference)	Link to Glebe Society's submission on our website
83 Derwent St Glebe (D/2022/65)	https://tinyurl.com/bde3kbfe
4 Short St Forest Lodge (D/2022/130)	https://tinyurl.com/mrmdth7t
8 Short St Forest Lodge (D/2022/129)	https://tinyurl.com/5h3pcyj7
287 Broadway Glebe (D/2022/168)	https://tinyurl.com/bdf932d4

The threats to Glebe's urban and social fabric continue

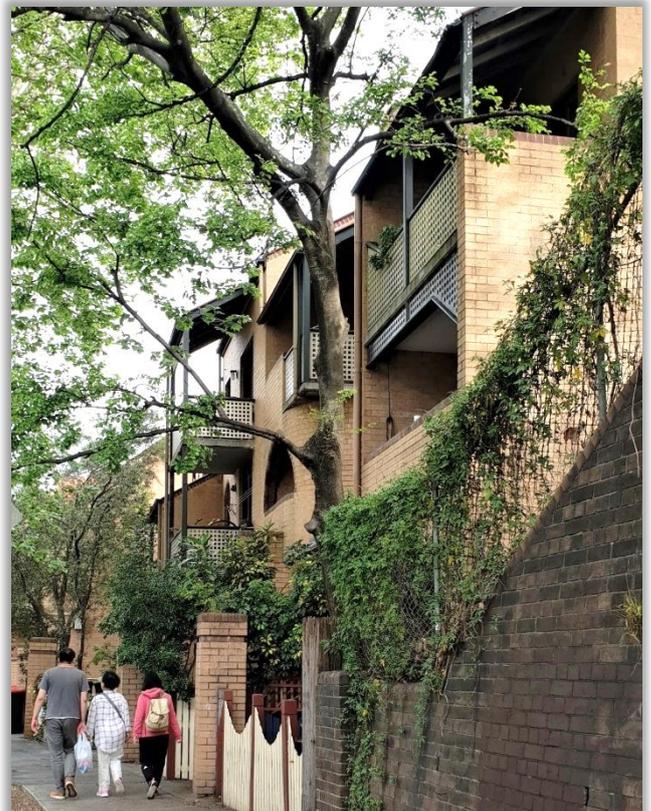
by Ian Stephenson

Last Wednesday the demolition of 17-31 Cowper St commenced. This sensitively designed low-rise infill public housing complex with its beautiful internal courtyard is to be replaced by two eight-storey buildings.



A worker demolishing 17-31 Cowper St (photo: Ian Stephenson)

The same week the NSW Land and Housing Corporation advised *Hands off Glebe* that they are investigating 'the opportunity to renew 82 Wentworth Park Road' in order to understand its potential to deliver more social housing on the site.



82 Wentworth Park Rd (photo: Ian Stephenson)

82 Wentworth Park Rd was also designed in the late 1980s by the NSW Housing Commission. It is a fine building which respects the character and topography of Glebe while providing great amenity for residents. It is located in a heritage conservation area. Its redevelopment has serious implications for the historic context of Glebe and is likely to impact on views of Glebe from the east and from Glebe across Wentworth Park, especially Bellevue St.



82 Wentworth Park Rd, on the corner with Cardigan St
(image: Google Streetview)



82 Wentworth Park is a key site for views to and from Glebe
(image: Ian Stephenson)

Glebe gets its first Blue Plaque

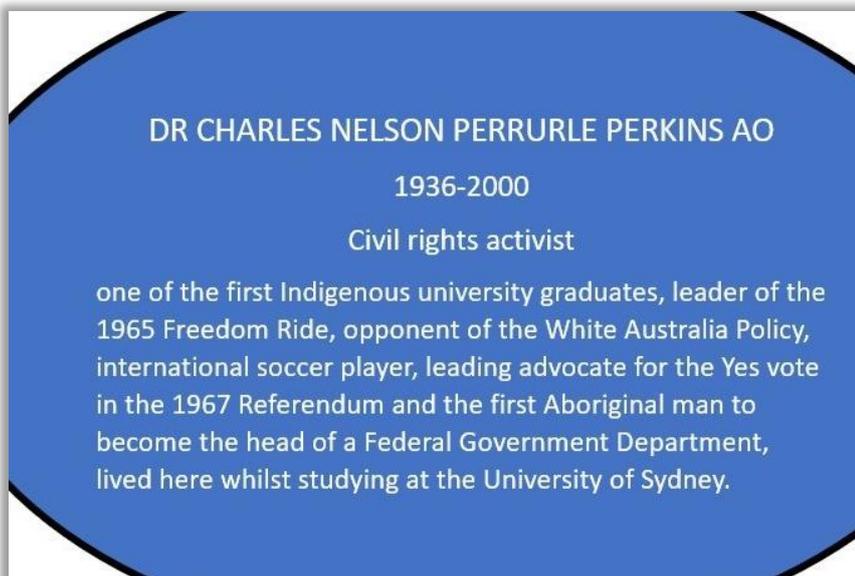
by Ian Stephenson

The house Charles Perkins lived in at 27 Catherine St, Forest Lodge, was included in Heritage Minister James Griffin's recent announcement of an additional 17 Blue Plaques to the four previously decided. He said 'the plaques were selected from over 750 nominations received from community members, organisations and local councils'. Below is a list of the 17 new plaques, and their local government areas:

- Arthur Bryant Triggs – Yass Valley
- Camden Red Cross – Camden
- Elizabeth Jane (Bessie) Robinson – Cabonne
- Duke Kahanamoku – Northern Beaches
- Joseph Laurie – Port Macquarie Hastings
- Ethel Turner – Ku-ring-gai

- Professor Leech – Snowy Monaro
- June Bronhill (June Mary Gough) – Broken Hill
- Betro Abicare – Albury
- Bishop Linton and architect John Sulman, Bishop's Lodge – Hay
- Nancy Bird Walton – Port Macquarie Hastings
- Charles Perkins – City of Sydney
- David Lennox – Parramatta
- Fr Thomas Vincent Dunlea – Sutherland
- Brett Whiteley – North Sydney
- The Sisters of the Little Company – Wagga Wagga
- Mark Cowley Lidwill – Hornsby

Read more about the Glebe Society's nomination of Charles Perkins former residence in Forest Lodge on p. 5 of [Bulletin 1/2022](#).



Left: the Glebe Society's suggested text for the Blue Plaque for 27 Catherine St, Forest Lodge, where Charles Perkins lived while at the University of Sydney. Right: 27 Catherine St today (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Glebe's Plaque Nominations, Part 3

by Ian Stephenson

The third site nominated by the Glebe Society for a Blue Plaque is Women's Liberation House, 67 Glebe Point Rd.

The building is important for its ability to represent the early days of second wave feminism in Australia. First wave feminism was focused on suffrage and legal obstacles to gender equality, second wave feminism broadened the debate to include a wider range of issues: sexuality, family, the workplace, reproductive rights, *de facto* inequalities, and official legal inequalities.

In 1967, the first Women's Liberation organisations were formed in major north American cities like Berkeley, Boston, Chicago, New York City and Toronto. Women's Liberation started meeting in Sydney in Glebe and Balmain in 1969, but the catalyst for growth came in 1970 when Barbara Levy made premises at 67 Glebe Point Rd available as headquarters.

Women's Liberation House had a meeting room, reading rooms where the latest newspapers, magazines and books from abroad could be read and workshop areas. It was a collective where women could analyse the structural biases against women in Australia and work to change them.

Professor Ann Curthoys recalls discovering at Women's Liberation House 'that your personal feelings of

inadequacy were not because you were inadequate but because society made you as a woman feel inadequate' and realising that women tended to look for male approval and didn't seek or value solidarity with other women. She has recorded that 'from these two basic points all sorts of other ideas emerged. For instance, analyses of the importance of women having financial independence, of the relationship between the workforce and family life, of male objectification and fundamental disrespect for women, and a growing emphasis on women's cultural expression, and much else. All these came out of those meetings.'

In 1971, Australia's first women's liberation newspaper in Sydney, *MeJane* was produced at 67 Glebe Point Rd. Women involved at Women's Liberation House included Lesley Lynch, Sandra Hawker, Martha Ansara (an American filmmaker), Coonie Sandford (another American), Lyndall Ryan, Camille Guy (a New Zealander), Mary Murnane, Bessie Guthrie, Suzanne Bellamy and Ann Curthoys.

The content for the nomination is largely derived from Ann Curthoys' *Radical Glebe: a talk in the Glebe Society's Glebe Voices series, 22 February 2012*: <https://glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/radical-glebe-a-personal-view-by-ann-curthoys/>.



Left: text submitted by the Glebe Society in its submission for a Blue Plaque for 67 Glebe Point Rd as the birthplace of Women's Liberation in Australia. Right: 67 Glebe Point Rd today; now the enigmatic Pamakon Café (photo: Ian Stephenson)

Max Solling's Anzac Day address 2022

by Max Solling

This morning I would like to share some thoughts on the impact of two World Wars and a Depression on the fabric of our society and on the government's 1940s post-war reconstruction plans for remaking Australia.

The First World War transformed the framework of Australian politics, society and culture with enduring

consequences. The war began with the enthusiasm of enlistment, found meaning at Gallipoli, brought melancholy scenes of anxious families waiting for hospital ships, and ended with veterans finding a country different from the one they left.

Over 416,800 Australian men enlisted, and over 300,000 embarked for war service. Around 60,000 were killed or died of wounds or illnesses, and at least 150,000 were wounded in body and mind. Those who returned home wrestled with memories of the war, which took a heavy toll. They faced a country divided over conscription issues, and the resulting acrimony still rankled, and they faced a nation burdened with war debt. Poverty and inequality were rife: the Commonwealth's 1915 War Census revealed that most people owned nothing beyond what they carried, and 5% of the population owned two-thirds of all private wealth.

In the lead-up to WWII, there was no doubt that this loyal Dominion would follow Britain and take a stand against German aggression, should that be necessary. A further reason for caution was the threat of Japan. Australia's defence planning relied on British military strength to prevent a Japanese thrust south. After war was declared in August 1939, German forces overran France in June 1940, and Britain and its Dominions were fighting alone. The attack upon the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 signalled Japan's entry into the war and a campaign which saw Malaya, Singapore, Burma and the Dutch East Indies captured by the Japanese by March 1942. The loss of Singapore on 15 February 1942 showed the sun was setting on the British empire, and 17,000 Australians were taken into captivity. The Dominions had once sent soldiers to fight in distant wars assuming that British sea power would keep their homeland safe. On 19 February 1942, Japanese aeroplanes bombed Darwin, inflicting 243 deaths and sinking eight ships in the harbour.

American troops began disembarking in Australia in December 1941, and General Douglas MacArthur landed in Australia in March 1942 as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific. The US Navy repelled the Japanese Fleet heading for Port Moresby in the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942, and one month later, the Japanese were defeated decisively by the US Navy at Midway Atoll and lost control of the Pacific. Almost one million Americans passed through Australian towns and ports between 1942 and 1945 *en route* to action in the Asia-Pacific region. Australian forces held the Japanese attacks on Papua and New Guinea and, in desperate fighting in the jungles and mountains, retook Kokoda in November 1942. By the end of 1942, the Japanese advance was halted, and, after the Battle of Stalingrad ended early in 1943, the tide in Europe had turned against Germany.

Over 30,000 Australians were taken prisoner during WWII. Of the 22,000 prisoners held by Japan and its allied territories, one-third died in captivity, representing one-quarter of all Australian combat deaths in the war. Japan signed the Surrender on 2 September 1945. WWII was less divisive than 1914-1918 and cost fewer lives – 34,000 in a population of seven million – yet it stimulated much greater change.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, there was an abject failure of protective arrangements in Australia. House construction had come to a standstill in the 1930s, and

there was a marked shortage of accommodation. Most households in Sydney and half those in Melbourne were made up of tenants, the most vulnerable renting terrace houses in the inner suburbs that had fallen into disrepair and lacked the most basic facilities. The birth rate was low, and population growth stalled: Australia's population had reached five million in 1918, six million in 1926 but was still under seven million in 1939. Australia was hit hard by the worldwide Depression; over a third of the workforce was unemployed in 1932, a time of great wealth inequality. A new kind of economic management was needed to maintain full employment and to expand the provision of education and social welfare.



Max Solling addressing the approximately 100 people who gathered for the Glebe Anzac Day Service (photo: Phil Young)

Post-WWII reconstruction

WWII marked a significant shift in the social compact. There were widespread and vivid memories of the sacrifice that war entailed and a strong belief that the burden must be shared fairly across the community: 'There will have to be a fairer distribution of wealth', John Curtin told parliament in 1942. Post-war reconstruction was a term applied to plans of the Curtin-Chifley governments to provide a new post-war economic and social order. As there was an estimated shortfall of 350,000 houses, an important part of their agenda was a housing program to protect low-income earners. Thousands of families were living in sleep-outs, garages, boarding houses or doubling-up with families or friends.

Idealists in Australia got together to make plans to rebuild a better country and those who planned and directed these plans were resolute in the commitment to bring about lasting improvements. H.C. ('Nugget') Coombs and Ben Chifley were fundamental figures in the peculiarly Australian design of reconstruction. Moved by Keynesian ideals and troubled by the suffering he had seen in England during the Depression, Coombs, as Director-General of Post-War Reconstruction, declared that a commitment 'to a better life after the war, especially for those who had been denied it by unemployment and poverty, would make it important to ensure a physical and social environment in which an adequate and fulfilling life would be possible'.

In an enlightened time of universal provision of social services and egalitarianism, Coombs' department appointed the Commonwealth Housing Commission, which emphasised that 'a dwelling of good standard and equipment is not only the need but the right of every citizen - whether the dwelling is to be rented or purchased, no tenant or purchaser should be exploited for excessive profit'. The Post-War Reconstruction Department also prepared ambitious plans for health, transport, rural reconstruction, industrial development, migration and public works. The planning also emphasised the importance of local communities in nation-building and expanding support for families through local facilities such as libraries, health centres and recreational clubs. In his autobiography, *Trial Balance*, Coombs reveals that throughout his career, he was guided by a deep humanitarianism, a passionate conviction that the function of government – of public service – was to assist the weak or less fortunate and that the economic system should be managed to ensure a more secure and better lifestyle for the community as a whole.

Post-war reconstruction was a unique opportunity to break with past inefficiencies and inequities. Although the Labor government was re-elected in 1946, it struggled to maintain the initiative against powerful interest groups that opposed its reforms and challenged its controls. The improvements effected by post-war reconstruction came to be taken for granted, yet it was an occasion of creative endeavour that deserves to be remembered.

For the first three decades of the 20th-century, Australians' opportunities for social mobility were limited by a struggling economy and an education system that was intent on keeping people within their class. The four decades from the 1940s was a time of higher social mobility. However, in the last 30 years, according to Andrew Leigh's study of inequality, we have become a more unequal society. Australia today is almost twice as unequal as it was in 1980.

The new model of socio-economic organisation we have today, Spanish sociologist Manuel Castells observed, was designed to achieve higher profits and reduce the power of the labour force. State intervention has shifted away from social redistribution and toward capital accumulation.



Around 100 people gathered at the Diggers' Memorial for the 2022 Anzac Day service (photo: Phil Young)

Community Matters

Because of you we were able to help so many families!

by Keiran Kevans, Coordinator, Glebe Youth Service

Thanks to the generosity of the Glebe Society donations last year, the Glebe Youth Service was able to provide food relief to many families in need in Glebe through 2021. Glebe Youth Service (GYS) is a not-for-profit charity committed to supporting young people reach their potential, achieve their goals and contribute positively to their community and have been supporting the community for 30 years.

Through COVID-19 and lock down restrictions, Glebe youth and their families experienced significant challenges. GYS was in a position, with your support, to help them in new and much-needed practical ways. The 2021 COVID-19 lockdowns were significantly different from 2020. In addition to the increases in cases and numbers isolating we were seeing whole family networks needing to isolate simultaneously, meaning that families were unable to utilise their own support networks during their isolating or infectious period.

GYS pivoted to introduce a variety of food relief programs to support families and ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and the community. This range of food relief services included food hampers and cooked meals, essential shop and drop program and Coles e-gift cards.



GYS operated as a home delivery service, providing families with cooked meals from Plate It Forward alongside Foodbank dry goods hampers. In addition, GYS introduced the 'Essential Shop and Drop' program for COVID-19 positive or isolating households. Through this program, a dedicated GYS worker would receive a shopping list of essential items for a positive or isolating household, then conduct the shop and drop it off at the household following a stringent COVID-19 risk assessment and safety plan. Understanding the importance of connection and keeping occupied during these times, we provided activity packs for children and the provision of phone credit and any necessary

technology. We continue to provide this service as the pandemic also continues. All phones were obtained through the Reconnect Project, an organisation that refurbishes old mobile phones.

Coles e-gift cards continue to be provided to families for the purposes of one-off emergency relief, alongside miscellaneous vouchers as they become available to us.

Because of existing community partnerships and connections, GYS was able to maximise the diversity and reach of the food relief programs. GYS partnered with other local services and businesses including Living Hope Community Church, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, Addison Road Community Organisation, and Broadway Shopping Centre to ensure adequate provision and diversity of food security services to the Glebe community.

This practical and important service was made possible because of the generosity of the Glebe Society donations last year. From everyone at Glebe Youth Service and from the families of Glebe, Thank You!

Thank you, Glebe Society, for help us make a difference to the lives of so many.



The food drive at Broadway Shopping Centre. Glebe Society Members collected the donations and ferried them to GYS (photo: Phil Vergison)

Glebe Society member opens a pilates & yoga studio on Glebe Point Rd

by Gaiti Rabbani

As a member of the Glebe Society and a local, I recently reached out to the Glebe Society to introduce my newly opened Mindful Movement studio. Virginia, the editor of the Society *Bulletin* was kind enough to visit our studio and, having heard my story, she suggested that I share it with fellow members.

I am so very proud and fortunate to call Glebe my home. I left the UK when I was 19 and have lived in the Middle East for over 20 years before settling in Sydney, 11 years ago. My partner and I are relatively new to Glebe, though not the area. We lived in Harold Park for four years before buying a house in Glebe last year.

The idea of setting up a studio was born in Harold Park, which is a beautiful community, serviced with so many facilities, yet I felt a Pilates/Yoga studio was sorely missing. I used to drive 20 minutes to find what I would consider to be a good class. Battling city traffic, struggling to find parking, and then having to pay for parking too!

I managed my own corporate consulting business and taught Pilates at weekends for several years. I know that the pandemic brought home many truths for all of us – for me it made me realise how fulfilling teaching had become for me. In fact, it was one of the only things that kept me going during lockdowns. Thanks to technology, staying connected with clients and teaching via Zoom was possible and thanks to our gorgeous bayside parks, Pilates in the Park was a frequent event.

The pandemic has made it apparent that personal wellbeing, a sense of community and social connection have made it to the top of our respective priority lists. I decided to take the plunge and open my own studio with these values at the core of it.



Gaiti Rabbani with her partner, Wimal Samarasinghe (photo supplied)

It was still a rough concept in my mind when I stumbled upon the converted warehouse at 393 Glebe Point Rd. I wanted a place that could become a destination and ultimately a sanctuary for our clients. I immediately saw the potential in the loft style space tucked upstairs behind a round art deco window. It was a sound recording studio before and needed extensive renovations and significant investment to open up the space and allow natural light. It ticked a lot of boxes; the bayside location is superb and the friendly neighbourhood cafés were also a big plus.

Aside from a physical space, I am trying to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive space that promotes a sense of community and belonging. I am very aware of the intimidation factor associated with Pilates and Yoga. Many people have an image of Pilates that suggests you need to have a certain level of fitness, or be in good shape, before you even join. Many of our clients enter our space initially with some apprehension – about their own ability and fitness level, and sometimes age. Some

have not exercised for two years or so and many have injuries.

I'm a big believer in the transformative powers of movement. I discovered Pilates later in life through injuries of my own that require constant management. 'Gym intimidation' is real, I have experienced it and I am doing everything I possibly can to make the Studio Form & Flow experience is a warm and positive one. Where possible, I personally welcome each newcomer to reassure them and offer support on their wellbeing journey. I just want to help people discover the joy of movement in a safe and enjoyable way.

Our launch didn't quite go to plan. Council took several months to approve the DA application and knocked back our application to install subtle signage, so we haven't

Players in the Pub

By Lyn Collingwood



Players in the Pub

Thanks to all the Glebe Society members who have supported our theatrical experiment over the years (since 2009!).

We are negotiating performance rights for our next play reading on Wednesday 1 June at our new venue, The Friend in Hand Hotel,

58 Cowper St. Plays start at 7 pm.

been able to mark our spot, and many locals don't realise that the studio is now open. Nevertheless, I feel optimistic as the Studio has started to gain momentum through our constant marketing efforts and most importantly, word of mouth. Our clients are doing our marketing for us. The reviews are so positive and heart-warming.

Watch out for further news as we arrange to host a Stretch&Flow for Seniors later this year.

If you're a Glebe local, I would love for you to come on up and see what lies behind the round art deco window at 393 Glebe Point Rd. Just come and say hello. Our website is www.studioformandflow.com.

If you are not already on our contact list, could you please send your email address to: history@glebesociety.org.au, with 'Lyn: Players in the Pub' in the subject line. As soon as the play is confirmed, we'll be in touch! And you can follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PlayersInThePub>).

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday 1 June at the Friend in Hand!

Who Lived in Your Street? Richard Beaumont Orchard (1871-1942)

By Lyn Collingwood

Richard Orchard was one of the male celebrities sketched in *Sydneyites as we see 'em*, published in 1915. He was then living at *Claremont*, 22 Allen St, a house which bore that name into the 1940s.

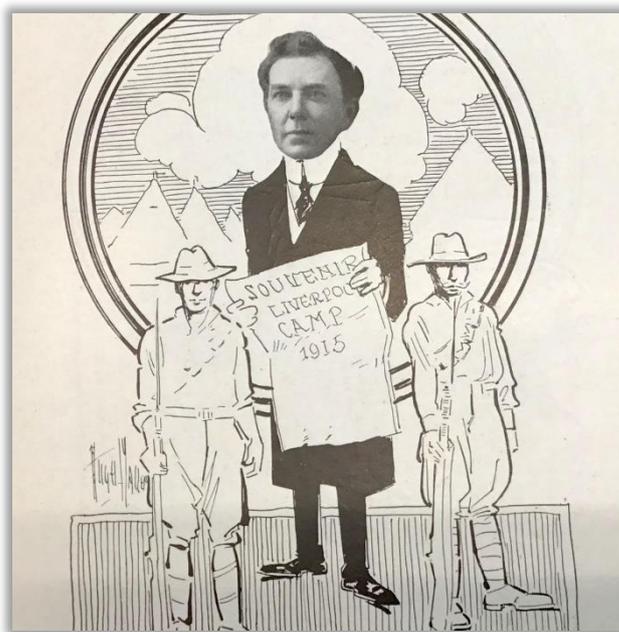
The eighth child of a Cornish blacksmith, Orchard was born on 14 October 1871 at Cockatoo near Maryborough, Victoria. The family moved to Sydney where he worked as a post office messenger boy before joining one of his brothers travelling around rural NSW selling jewellery from a two-horse wagon. They made some extra money staging 'biopix' magic lantern shows.

In the 1890s, Orchard started a watchmaking business in Newtown and after two years set up as a jeweller in George St in the city. R. B. Orchard Ltd, jeweller and watchmaker, was floated as a public company in 1913.

With William James Proud and Edmund James Coote, Richard Orchard founded the Retail Jewellers Association of NSW and was president of the Cornish Association of Sydney.

Having run unsuccessfully for the Sydney Municipal Council and the State seat of Hawkesbury, Orchard won the Federal seat of Nepean in 1913 as a Liberal candidate and was re-elected the next year. After another successful campaign in 1917, he joined Billy Hughes' Nationalist government. He served as a member of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee before being appointed Assistant Minister for Recruiting

(March 1918 to January 1919) and a member of the war and peace loan committees. As chairman of the peace celebrations committee, he recommended that festivities be restricted to two days. Orchard did not contest the 1919 general election. He was appointed CBE in 1920.



Richard Orchard, 'The Soldier's Friend' (image: Newspaper Cartoonists' Association of NSW's *Sydneyites as we see 'em*.)

The Liverpool military camp for newly enlisted men was situated within Orchard's constituency. In 1915 Orchard instigated an inquiry into conditions there. The recruits' complaints included being treated by a doctor whose ancestry was German, and a shortage of greatcoats for those on 24-hour guard duty during winter. More serious were allegations of men being sent to the Front with inadequate training. Not enough bandaging practice was given. A third of the recruits were unfamiliar with rifles, not knowing how to load them or extract a shell. They practised with old weapons but were sent overseas with new ones they didn't know how to use. One witness testified that casualties at Gallipoli would have been fewer if the men had been trained. Glebe cricketer and recruiting poster pinup boy Tibby Cotter said he'd never been sick in his life before going into the camp. Hygiene was a major problem.

After the inquiry's recommendations were adopted, Orchard visited the Liverpool camp where Diggers presented him with an illuminated address and carried him shoulder high to his car. In 1916 'The Soldier's Friend' went to England at the invitation of the Imperial Parliamentary Association and toured the Western Front.

Orchard raced 18-footers in Sydney Harbour and appeared in amateur productions of plays and light opera. A skilled platform speaker, he contested the Federal seat of East Sydney in 1925, banking on the support of single women living in Darlinghurst flats who, according to *Punch*, would vote for his actor's charisma. He lost, however, to the ALP's John West who held the seat from 1910 until his death. In 1928 Orchard stood unsuccessfully for the Senate.

Mystery Photo competition

With Lyn Collingwood

Last month's mystery photo

This line of shops on Glebe Point Rd was demolished in the 1970s to expand Glebe Public School's playground.

The houses with dormer windows at far right remain, separated from the present grounds by Elsie Walk.

Syd Green's Menswear rang a bell with Nerida Kikken whose brothers Richard and Brian went there to be outfitted for their first jobs.

Lance Haigh visited the shop a couple of times and in the 1990s met Syd's daughter, the wife of a fellow firefighter in the NSW Fire Brigade.

Rodney Hammett established that Syd's mother Margaret was dealing in second-hand clothing at no. 44 in the 1920s and that the family lived at that address for some time.

This image of the Glebe Fair held in the school grounds c. 1973 shows the metal fence (far left in the Mystery Photo).

Thanks to Phil Young for supplying the photographs.

In 1924 Orchard went to England as a government representative to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. He was highly critical of a decision to send thousands of cases of Tasmanian apples which would never ripen because they were full of black spot. The Americans, in contrast, would maintain their reputation by always exporting only their best produce.



Right: Richard Orchard aboard SS Niagara
(Image: Sydney Sun 13 December 1924)

On the Wireless Advisory Board from 1929, Orchard was a founding Commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission 1932-39. He was a director and president of the Smith Family, and president of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust. A Methodist, he died on 24 July 1942 at Darling Point, survived by a son and three daughters and Maria Annie née Austen whom he had married in 1895. Orchard Park at Bobbin Head is named after him.

Sources: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; Trove website.



This month's mystery photo

Where are we? Please send your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au



The Heritage fleet's *John Oxley* is heading off to be re-floated



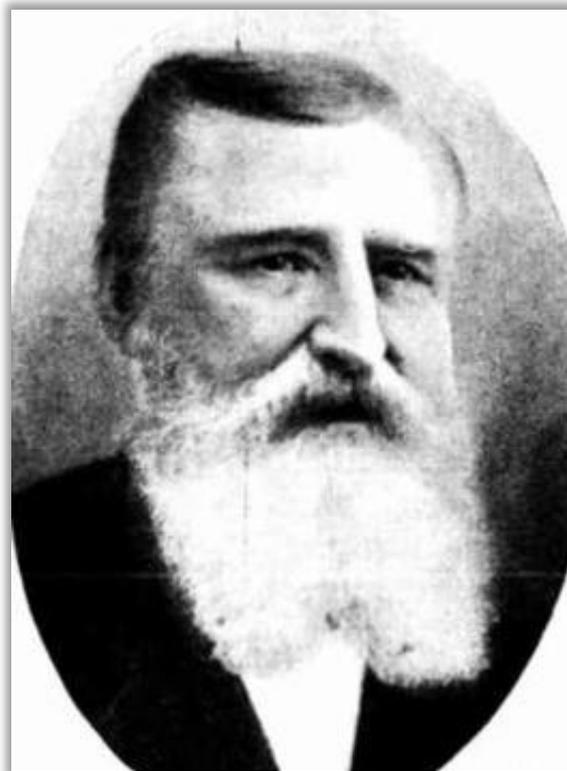
The hull of the coastal steamer, John Oxley, is carefully manoeuvred through the Pyrmont swing bridge, bound for the dry dock at Garden Island and re-floating, 30 March 2022 (photo: Phil Vergison)

Flour Mills in Glebe Point Rd

by Rodney Hammett & Sybil Jack

When I was writing the story on the Federation Flour packaging and the Brockhoff flour mill at the corner of Glebe Point Rd and Broadway ([Bulletin 1/2022](#)), Sybil Jack asked about an earlier steam flour mill, operated by James Pemell, at the same site.¹ That was the impetus for a collaboration and follow-up story. First, though, it is relevant to understand some of the background to Sydney's early flour mills, so the reader is encouraged to review Sybil's detailed article on flour mills in *The Dictionary of Sydney* (https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/sydney_flour_mills_before_1850).

James Pemell (1816-1906) was the son of James Pemell, a London baker. James jnr arrived in Sydney around 1836 and soon became a baker in the city he was to make his home. He married English-born Jane Fish in 1839 and they had two daughters and two sons. Pemell initially bought wheat from the farmers in the Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and surrounding districts, and sent the wheat for milling to a windmill in William St. But James was an astute businessman so, to improve his margin and to have a better control of his business, he needed his own mill and one that did not depend on the wind.



James Pemell (Source: Sydney Mail, 4 Apr 1906, p. 877)

Pemell purchased property in Grose's *Bishopgate* estate (Lots 13 and 14 in Section 1) when Joseph Hickey Grose put it up for auction due to insolvency in May 1845. Pemell paid £32 10s. Two years later, in 1847, Pemell purchased lot 15 for £45 and, in 1850, he purchased lots 16 to 19 for £375.² (See Figure 1). A steam flour mill was constructed on lots 13 and 14 with a water supply from a well on the property and a pipeline from the nearby pond across Parramatta Rd (now Lake Northam) in Victoria Park (see Figure 2).

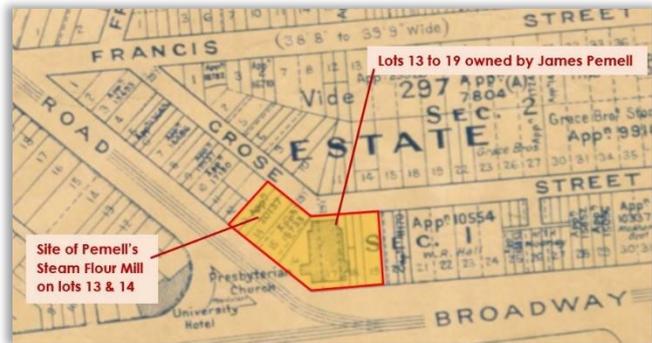


Figure 1: Lots 13 to 19 purchased by James Pemell in Glebe (Source: Base Map – CoS Historical Atlas, 1910 Map of Glebe (part), annotated by R Hammett)



Figure 2: Location of James Pemell's land in Glebe and Chippendale, outlined in red (sources: Base Map - maps.six.nsw.gov.au; Chippendale overlay from Vol 56 Fol 4, c. 1867, by R Hammett)

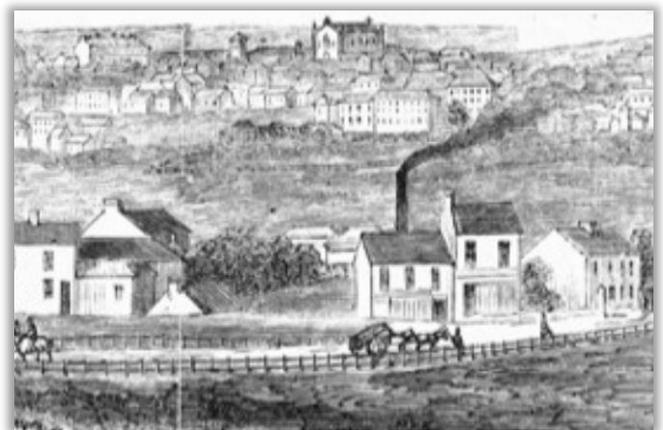
James' baking business flourished; two tons of flour were reportedly being baked each night. This changed in 1851 when the news of gold in country New South Wales and Victoria led to an exodus of workers from the city, leaving Pemell with no carters for his freshly-made bread. His solution was to sell the bread carts and horses, which ended this phase in his career.³ As well as labour problems, Pemell was unable to obtain clean water for his Glebe steam mill. This was due, in part, to the Victoria Park pond water being polluted by bus-horses being watered and washed there. Eventually Pemell abandoned this Glebe mill for a better one in Parramatta St (today's Broadway). The Glebe land was sold in 1860 for £2,000. Lots 13 & 14 were described on the title as 'land together with flour mill thereon erected and all plant machinery implements, and things belonging to or connected therewith.'⁴

The Presbyterian Church, through its elders Joseph Paxton, William Elphinstone (the younger), Andrew McCredie, William McCredie and James Douglass,

purchased lots 15, 16, 17 and part of lot 18 in 1875.⁵ Their new church was constructed largely over lots 16 and 17 and part of lot 18 (the church can be seen on the 1910 base-map in Figure 1). Land that was surplus to the church's needs, lot 15 and a small part of lot 16, was transferred to James Balfour Elphinstone who built the existing building at 279 Broadway. The Brockhoff family purchased J.B. Elphinstone's building in 1906 for use as an office. In 1938, the Brockhoffs purchased the then vacant church site (the church had been moved to Bridge Rd in 1927, where it stands today). It was on this site that the Brockhoffs constructed their own flour mill.⁶ The remaining part of lot 18 was purchased by Brockhoff & Co in 1941. Brockhoff & Co sold all their Glebe property in 1966.

Pemell's Chippendale land was part of Robert Cooper's (1824-1852) industrial complex that had previously been the British Military Garden (c. 1814-1824). Cooper was granted just over 17 acres of land where he developed a distillery, flour mill and sugar house, as well as a dam to supply water for the steam used in these establishments. Warehouses and dwellings were also built on the site. The flour mill was managed by Henry Smithers Hayes in the 1840s (see Lyn Collingwood's article in [Bulletin 05/2020](#)). It is likely that Cooper sold the flour mill and land to Pemell at about that time, as Cooper went into voluntary bankruptcy in 1852. The property was certainly known as 'Pemell's mill' by October 1851; in that month, newspapers carried reports of an employee's death there following an accident.⁷

In 2015 and 2019, some of the Cooper's site, including a part that became Pemell's mill, was the subject of detailed archaeological investigations and reports when new buildings were planned for the site.⁸ These investigations have helped locate the exact position of numerous historical structures.



Pemell's Mill, Glebe, 1854 (source: extract from 1854 Panoramic view of Sydney, from Sydney University)

The earliest Sands Directory, dated 1858, shows the occupants on the southern side of Parramatta St, west of Abercrombie St. St Benedict's Church was (and still is) at the corner of Abercrombie St and Parramatta St. Heading west, the next property was the Brisbane Distillery, then, at No 124, was James Pemell's Steam Flour Mills, followed by the Colonial Sugar Refinery's stores and works.

Some of these properties can be seen in Samuel Elyard's 1868 watercolour titled *Colonial Sugar Co, Chippendale* (Figure 3). In the background of the watercolour can be seen Sydney University's quadrangle and Great Hall and Glebe can be seen in the middle background. Two chimneys with their associated buildings can be easily seen just beyond a road which is probably Abercrombie St. A dam (Brisbane Reservoir) is to the left of these buildings. The chimney and buildings on the far right of the painting are probably Pemell's steam flour mill.



Figure 3: *Colonial Sugar Co, Chippendale* by Samuel Elyard, 1868 (Source: SLNSW a1528154). Larger version: <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/n51V50x9>.

With the end of the goldrush, Pemell's business was again profitable; enough to allow him to sell his Balmain residence (Bleak House) and take his wife and three children on a European trip from March 1861 to October 1863.⁹ Back in New South Wales, he resumed his political career when elected as the Member for Canterbury in February 1865, a position he held until May 1869. Pemell had previously held public office as a City of Sydney Councillor (1851-1852) and as a member

of the NSW Legislative Assembly (1859-1860). His fortunes were dealt a blow in 1870 when his Chippendale mill was destroyed by a fierce fire that started in the early hours of Sunday 18 December. In June 1871 the site was described as 'the remains of Pemell's mill' and in June 1873 'Pemell's old mill'.

Undeterred, Pemell started milling again at Hay St, Haymarket. By this stage, his milling and commodities business ownership included his sons James (1846-1931) and Peter (1848-1932).

Pemell's wife, Jane, died in 1882. James Pemell lived to the grand age of 90 and died at his Newtown home on 26 March 1906. He and his wife are buried in the Randwick Cemetery.

Other reading: Sybil Jack's article, *Blackwattle Bay and its Creek*, in [Bulletin 05/2020](#), and Shirley Fitzgerald's article, *From Pig Mary and offal to desirable park*, in [Bulletin 05/2008](#).

Notes: ¹ Pemell's steam flour mill is also mentioned in Max Solling's *History of Glebe*, p.61, 2nd para; ² NSW Land Register Services: Bk 9 No 333; Bk 13 No 837 & Bk 20 No 874; ³ Trove: Sydney Mail, Wed 4 Apr 1906, p. 877; ⁴ NSW LRS: Bk 98 No 385; ⁵ NSW LRS: Bk 148 No 465; ⁶ NSW LRS: Bk 796 No 429, Vol 2071 Fol 16 & Vol 5058 Fol 49; ⁷ Trove: Empire, Mon 6 Oct 1851, p.3; ⁸ *Archaeological Test Excavation Report* by the Archaeological Management & Consulting Group, 2019 and *Archaeological Assessment & Impact Statement* by Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, 2015, both for UTS; ⁹ Sale of his residence Bleak House in Balmain with his imminent departure to England – *SMH*, Wed 9 Jan 1861, p. 6. Letter in *SMH* from passengers who had arrived in England after their passage from Sydney on the La Hague – *SMH*, Thu 13 Jun 1861, p. 4. Letter in *SMH* from passengers recently arrived in Sydney from England on the La Hague – *SMH*, Fri 30 Oct 1863, p. 4.

Early photographs wanted

by Ian Stephenson

A member who lives at 39 Lodge St wants to restore the veranda of her house and is looking for old photographs that show the original veranda.

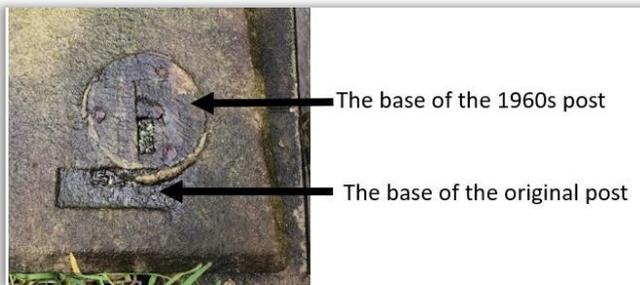
The house, which is located next to the Glebe Town Hall, had a new veranda built in about 1960 which was subsequently removed.



Left: 39 Lodge St with the 1960s veranda. Right: the house as it is now (images: Google Streetview)

There are some clues in the extant fabric of the house about the scale of the veranda. The stone flagging survives and contains marks suggesting where the original posts were. Marks on the render of the walls of the house show the position of the wooden plate from which the veranda was hung and also indicate that it had a concave roof. However, a photograph would help establish the details.

If any reader has an image or images showing the original veranda, could they contact me on planning@glebesociety.org.au.



(image: Ian Stephenson)

The brush turkeys of 2037



A member sent in this photo of a brush turkey outside his house in Allen St. He appeared to be on his way to Toxteth Rd. (photo: supplied)

Glebe Society Events

Glebe Society's 7th Annual Biodiversity Lecture

The Glebe Society's Annual Biodiversity Lecture will take place on Wednesday 25 May, 6 pm at *Benledi House*. Unfortunately, the lecture is now fully booked, but you can put your name on the waiting list in case spaces become available. To do this, go to the booking site: <https://2022-biodiversity-lecture.eventbrite.com.au>.

The Lecture will be given by Professor Dieter Hochuli from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney. Prof Hochuli, who is also the leader of the Integrative Ecology Group, will speak on: *How nature survives and thrives in urban environments, and why it matters for the future of our cities.*

Event Report: Walking tour to Barangaroo

by Jude Paul

I doubt we could have lucked a better Sydney autumn afternoon to enjoy the transformation of this container shipping terminal (formerly off-limits to most of us) into a diverse and vibrant harbour precinct.

Katharine Vernon shared her well-researched account of Barangaroo, the woman. The recreated sandstone headland can be enjoyed from many places along the Wulugul Walk which links the ferry terminal to Barangaroo Reserve. The Cutaway is currently displaying installations as part of the 23rd Sydney Biennale - an added bonus.



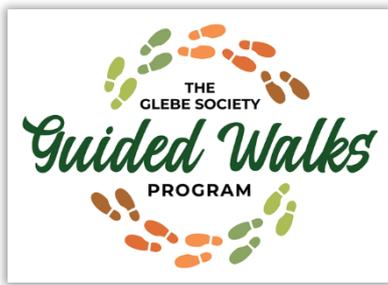
Was there a downside? Sadly yes. The ferry trip from Glebe to Barangaroo passes under the Glebe Island Bridge. The damage caused by the neglect of this significant link around the harbour foreshore is only too clear, as is the languishing opportunity to transform this historic bridge into a unique pedestrian and cycling thoroughfare linking the Inner West to the CBD.

Thanks Phil and Katharine for this tour and the informative notes and photos in your handout.



Left: The Cutaway exhibition space, Barangaroo. Right: Glebe Island Bridge, falling further into disrepair. (photos: Phil Young)

Glebe Society Guided Walks Program



About the Walks: More information about each Walk is available from our Eventbrite page: <http://glebesociety.eventbrite.com>. Walks are suitable for people of average fitness. Duration is generally 1.5 to 2 hours. The number of attendees is around 15.

Add your name to the waitlist: If a Walk is booked out, a waitlist option is available. You will be contacted if a place becomes available.

Interested in a repeat Walk? Depending on demand and feasibility, a repeat Walk may be offered, and waitlisted people will be given priority. Email dorothy@glebesociety.org.au to indicate your interest in a repeat Walk.

Upcoming Walks

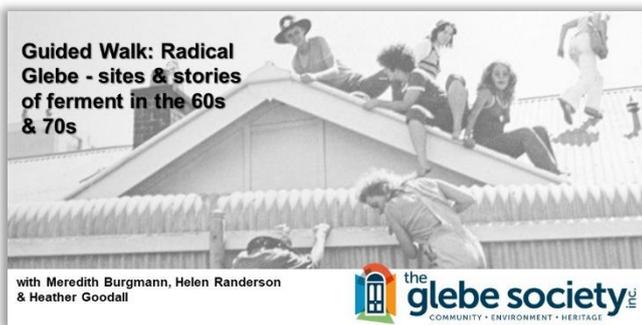
Radical Glebe: revisiting the sites and stories of radical ferment in the 1960s and 70s (Waitlist only)

Leaders: Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson and Heather Goodall

When and where? 2.30-4.00 pm Sunday 5 June. Meet outside Gleebooks.

Waitlist: https://radical_glebe.eventbrite.com.au

We will stroll down Glebe Point Rd and visit the addresses where CAMP Inc, Gay Lib, Women's Lib and the Sydney University Labor Club were established in the 1960s/1970s; Gleebooks and its interesting early history will be followed by the NSW Prisoners' Action Group's half-way house and its next door neighbour, the Sydney Anarchists. We will talk about the Elsie Women's Refuge in Westmoreland St, the first of its kind in Australia; the HQ of the anti-Springbok campaign in Darghan St; the Green Ban protests and squatter action at Lyndhurst; the NSW Council for Civil Liberties in St John's Rd; Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College where Eddy Mabo studied; and Glebe Town Hall which was the venue for protest meetings and radical fundraisers.



We will finish at the famous Forest Lodge Hotel which was the epicentre of anti-Vietnam and anti-conscription agitation. You may like to stay for a drink (participants' expense) for more conversation and stories!

Leaders: Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson and Heather Goodall. All are long-time residents of Glebe/Forest Lodge and well known as social activists and researchers. Meredith is a Labor Party member and a former President of the New South Wales Legislative Council, and co-author of 'Green Bans, Red Union: The Saving of a City'. Helen is a researcher focusing on

inner-city areas as places of radical activity. Heather is Professor Emerita of History at UTS, whose research interests include Indigenous histories and relationships in Australia.

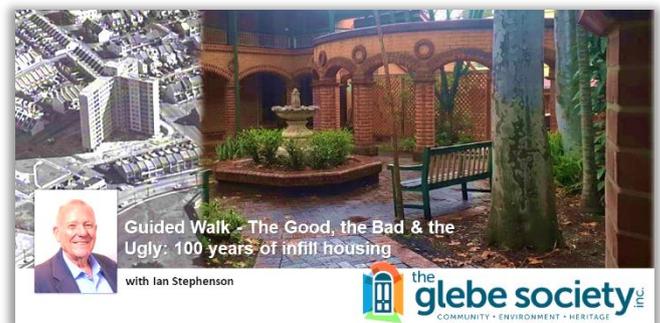
Glebe Infill Housing: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly (Repeat Walk)

Leader: Ian Stephenson

When and where? 2.30-4.30 pm, Thursday 16 June. Meet at small park, cnr Bridge Rd and Colbourne Ave.

Bookings: https://glebe_infill_housing.eventbrite.com.au

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 the Lyndhurst, St Phillips and Bishopsthorpe estates and includes the renewal of the historic church estates by the Commonwealth government from 1974 and the work of the NSW Housing Commission's Inner City Housing Team in the 1980s to remediate the demolitions made for the Western Distributor and insert sympathetic low-rise infill into Australia's most intact inner-city suburb. It includes historic houses, terraces, apartments, adaptive re-use and the 2011 Glebe Affordable Housing Project. There will be a particular focus on the 1980s infill housing which is to be demolished for eight-storey buildings in Cowper St.



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.

University of Sydney's new Health Research precinct: contemporary architecture and state-of-the-art research

Leader: Dorothy Davis and University of Sydney Guide

When and where? 10.15 am Thursday 21 July. Meet at the Ross St entrance to the University.

Bookings: Bookings open on Eventbrite on 9 May: <http://glebesociety.eventbrite.com>

Visit the Charles Perkins Centre and the Susan Wakil Health Building on the University campus behind the Sports Ovals (Ross St entrance). Our tour will cover both the architectural aspects of the buildings and the biomedical research and clinical teaching undertaken in both.

The Charles Perkins Centre is named after the celebrated Indigenous leader with links to Glebe. Its research focuses on obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Inside the foyer you will be transfixed by its grand six-storey atrium with cantilevered balconies which 'carves out a glowing white canyon in the centre of the building'. We will then visit the medical clinic, the X Lab – a large teaching space – and the labs on the restricted floors, with a staff member describing some of the research areas.

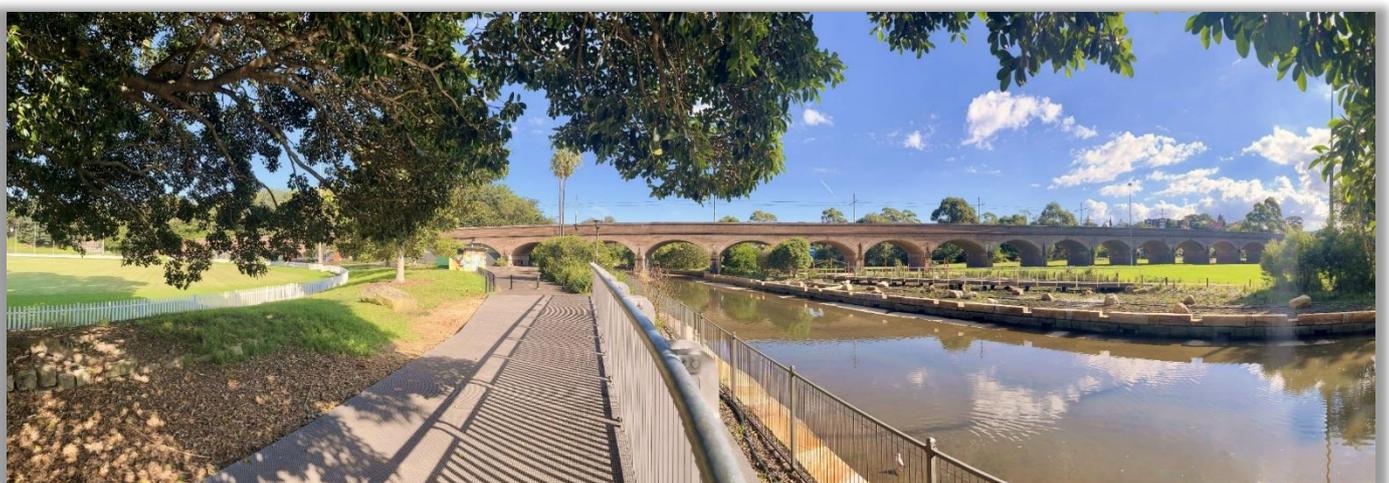
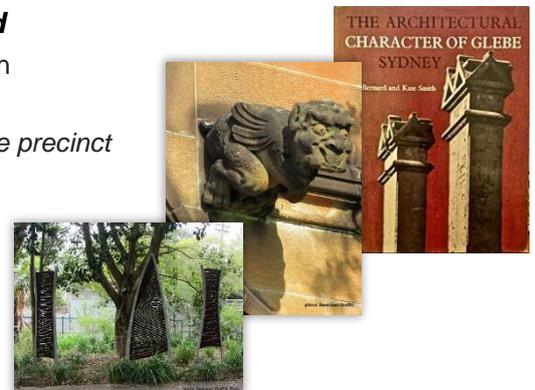
The Susan Wakil Health Building has been designed by several world-famous international architects. Located at the intersection of two waterways historically significant for the Gadigal people, the Susan Wakil Building was designed as an extension of the landscape. Its shaded gardens, terraces, ledges and paths extend the spaces of learning, reflection, and social exchange into the outdoors. Water cascades from Upper Wakil to Lower Wakil and down towards the rest of the campus network. The building is purpose-built for medicine and health disciplines. Its facilities include clinical simulation teaching spaces, research labs workspaces, a lecture theatre and a rehabilitation gym.



The Charles Perkins Centre (photo: Jason Tong)

Walks planned for the second half of 2022 – dates to be advised

- *Bernard and Kate Smith and The Architectural Character of Glebe (Ian Stephenson) (October)*
- *University of Sydney's sandstone buildings: a stroll around the heritage precinct (with Katharine Vernon)*
- *Forest Lodge: a history walk (Max Solling)*



Johnston's Creek and the light rail viaduct next to Jubilee Oval, April 2022 (photo: Phil Vergison)

For Your Calendar

Wednesday 25 May, 6.00 pm Biodiversity Lecture – Professor Dieter Hochuli at *Benledi*, Glebe Library.
 Sunday 5 June, 2.30-4 pm. *Guided Walk: Radical Glebe* with Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson, Heather Goodall.
 Thursday 16 June, 2.30-4.30 pm. *Guided Walk: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* (REPEAT Walk) with Ian Stephenson.
 Wednesday 1 June, 7 pm. *Players in the Pub*, Friend in Hand Hotel, 58 Cowper St.
 23-26 June. *Glebe Art Show*, Tramsheds Community Room. More information: <https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/>.
 21 July, *Guided Walk: University of Sydney's new Health Research precinct* with Dorothy Davis.



Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page:
<http://glebesociety.eventbrite.com>

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 3 of 2022 (May 2022)

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



The end of Laurel Tree House childcare and the selling-off of yet another publicly-owned property (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

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