

'The Hill' in Glebe – past, present and future

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor

'The Hill' is a fenced-off area of contaminated Crown land on the northern side of the Tramsheds. The Glebe Society has recommended that the site should become an undisturbed urban nature refuge.

Summary of historical background

by Max Solling, local historian and Honorary Life Member of the Glebe Society.

- The Hill on the fringes of the then Lilliebridge Running Grounds (later Epping racecourse and, from 1929, Harold Park) became the major local garbage tip (Epping tip) from 1890 to about 1910.
- In 1901, Glebe Council accepted the tender of McEnally Brothers to haul tons of house garbage by punt out to sea for dumping, operating every alternate day. Nearly all Sydney councils had discontinued this practice by 1914 but not Glebe; in 1922 Glebe punted 90 tons of house garbage weekly out to sea. In 1932, Glebe was the only municipal body still dumping garbage at sea. The practice ceased when Glebe's incinerator in Forsyth St, next to the Council depot, began operating in July 1933.
- An area of about 13 acres at Glebe was dedicated for public recreation in 1909 and called Jubilee Park.
- In 1913 it was decided that a new Glebe Island railway line was to pass through Jubilee Park with a tunnel built under Glebe Point to connect with Pyrmont and Darling Harbour. Tenders were let from 1918 for the supply of stonework in the viaduct across Jubilee Park and the railway line opened on 23 January 1922.
- Glebe Council's health inspector Mr Young stated in July 1926 that Epping racecourse was formerly a garbage tip and was altogether unfit for building purposes. Refuse had been found even at a depth of 16 feet. The Board of Health had already declared the land unfit for residential purposes ('Epping Course – Not to be built upon', SMH, 19 July 1926, p.13).

- Following its use as a tip, The Hill became a paid carpark for patrons of Harold Park's trotting and dog racing events. The construction of the Rozelle Tram Depot adjacent to The Hill was fully completed in 1909 and housed 195 trams; it ceased operating in 1958.



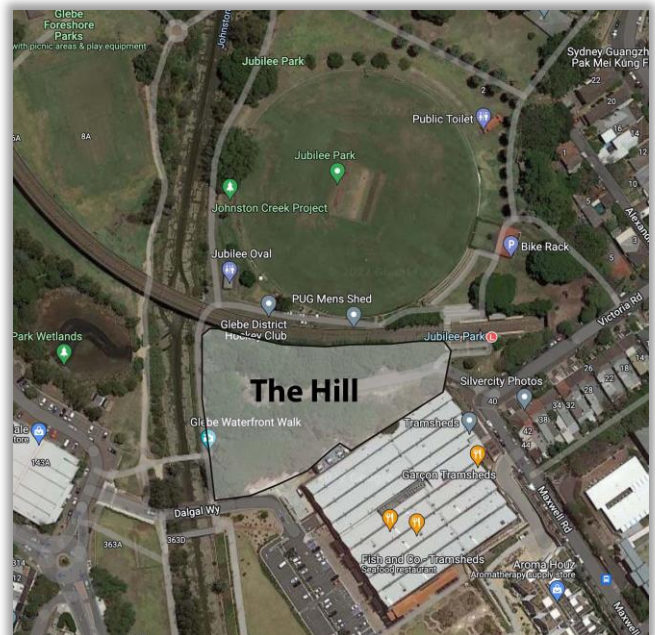
The entrance gates to The Hill near the Jubilee Park light rail stop and the site of the Society's proposed urban nature refuge on this parcel of contaminated Crown land (photo Andrew Wood)

Comment about The Hill from 'I Own the Racecourse!'

by Helen Randerson, member of the Glebe Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee.

Patricia Wrightson, in her 1968 book, *I Own the Racecourse!*, described The Hill as:

a small corner of vacant land ... The ground was covered with rank grass, scraggy bushes, old cardboard cartons and a scattering of tins and bottles. A great old Port Jackson fig hung over a fence behind it ... A lane ran off from one corner. In the mouth of this lane and under bushes and deep in the shadows of the fig, green and yellow eyes blinked and widened where the brave, shabby cats were hiding.



Aerial view of Glebe in which The Hill is outlined to show its approximate boundaries between the Tramsheds and the light-rail railway line. The image on the left is from the 1949 Aerial Survey (Sydney Historical Atlas); the image on the right is from Google maps.

The Hill: a valuable biodiversity site in our City

by Judy Christie, member of the Glebe Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee, Convenor of the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group and Leader of the Society's annual spring bird survey.

Community engagement in the 1990s: Volunteers working with the Rozelle Bay Community Nursery in the mid- to late 90s planted native plants, including *Casuarina sp*, on the south-east edges of The Hill site. Common birds at that time, observed by volunteers, included Superb Fairy-wren, Silvereye and White-plumed Honeyeater, as well as various non-native species. Plantings came to a halt when the light rail stop at Jubilee Park began construction, and The Hill was closed off from about 2000.

Current biodiversity values: The Hill is a Crown land site and has been included as one of the sites in the annual Glebe Spring Bird Survey. Sightings have included Brown Goshawk and Australian Brush Turkey. However, without site access, it is impossible to ascertain whether other species might be present, including reptiles, microbats or other native species.

The Hill does have some good patches of lantana, which, although not native, is now recognised as providing important habitat for small native birds. It also attracts insects like the Blue Triangle butterflies commonly seen there. Apart from The Hill, most lantana shrubbery has now been removed in the vicinity of Johnstons Creek. There have been no local sightings of birds such as Superb Fairy-Wrens since 2017, although further southwest along the light rail corridor, there are substantial lantana patches and small native birds are still common.

Installing wildlife cameras (<https://outdoorcameras.com.au>) and acoustic recorders to gather information on current species present and/or threats to wildlife could be an initial step to establishing The Hill as a native wildlife protection area.

Establishing The Hill as a feral-free biodiversity haven: Creating undisturbed habitat – especially small bird habitat – in the Johnstons Creek corridor is very challenging because of the heavy pedestrian traffic, bikes and dogs. Although there are some bush restoration patches, most patches are too fragmented, suffer from vandalism or focus on canopy cover, which limits dense understorey.

The Hill represents the best opportunity to create an undisturbed urban nature refuge in the Johnstons Creek corridor, where plants and native wildlife are protected from disturbance. Such a refuge could also create opportunities for future urban nature research projects.

The Glebe Society and its Blue Wren subcommittee are requesting that Council consider:

1. Undertaking feasibility studies to develop options for transforming the site without expensive remediation and with staged removal of non-native trees and vegetation. Options could include cutting trees to ground level and spraying out weeds before covering all with a deep layer of soil or crushed sandstone, followed by shallow re-planting.
2. Investigate feral-free fencing options that do not involve extensive excavation.

Meeting with City of Sydney to consider the Society's proposals for The Hill

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Convenor

An online meeting was held on Tuesday, 5 July, to discuss the Society's proposals. The meeting was chaired by Cailin Martin (Property Strategy Planner). Also attending from the City were Jacqui Brooks (Parks Assets and Services Manager) and James MacNamara (Urban Ecology Coordinator). The Glebe Society was represented by the President and six members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee. Our 2022 Biodiversity lecturer, Professor Dieter Hochuli from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Sydney and leader of its Integrative Ecology Group, was also present.

The following decisions were made at the meeting:

- The City has no objections and supports the monitoring of wildlife on The Hill, including the use of cameras and acoustic recordings, which could be undertaken by Professor Hochuli's group at the University of Sydney.
- The Hill is subject to an Aboriginal land claim, but the City recommends that the site be monitored for wildlife as an interim measure. The ownership of The Hill may be transferred to the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council, which would then make final decisions about the site.
- The City would probably fund any future remediation of The Hill.
- The City will organise an onsite inspection of The Hill once the weather has improved.
- The City will send the Blue Wren Subcommittee details of community grants that could be used to fund the monitoring proposals.



From the President

by Ian Stephenson, Glebe Society President

We are now at the end of the first month of the new financial year. Our AGM will be held at the Glebe Youth Service, 84 Glebe Point Rd, on Sunday 11 September, from 11am to 1pm. Refreshments will be provided.

The Society is looking for members to join our management committee, particularly a Community Development Convenor and an Environment Convenor. Several people already work across these areas. For example, the Communications, Planning and Events Convenors all work in areas related to community, including the *Bulletin*, Glebe Walks and planning campaigns.

The Community Development Convenor's role would be to liaise with other committee members about their work in the community field, report to the management committee on what is being done overall, identify new projects or gaps and recommend strategies to implement them. They could also re-establish the Community Development Subcommittee to assist them, if they wished.

It is a similar situation for Environment; our ecology arm, the Blue Wren Subcommittee, does such amazing work. I would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining the management committee as Community Development or Environment Convenor.

On Tuesday, 26 July, with our Secretary Jude Paul and Treasurer Jane Gatwood, and I attended the opening of the National Trust's *No Time to Spare* exhibition at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

The exhibition takes its name from the 1962 exhibition that the National Trust Women's Committee held at the David Jones Art Gallery. At that time, NSW had no heritage legislation. The year before, despite a hard-fought public campaign, the beautiful 1830s house, *Subiaco*, was demolished for a carpark. The house was designed by John Verge, who also designed Glebe's *Lyndhurst*.



1961 photo of The Vineyard at Rydalmere NSW (later known as Subiaco). Designed by architect John Verge for Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur and completed in 1836. (Image: Sydney Living Museums)

The 1962 exhibition was part of a well-considered strategy to get support for conservation. Photographs of the buildings were taken by the distinguished photographer, Max Dupain. In 1963 they were published by Ure Smith. Mr Justice McClemens' introduction to the book is as valid today as it was in 1963:

We are not a bankrupt nation, we are a nation with a great future, we are a nation in which development is taking place rapidly. Because of this preservation of the best of our links with the past becomes vitally important. Valuable work is being done, it is true, but it is too little and soon it will be too late.

No Time to Spare II opened last year at Observatory Hill. It will be in Parramatta until September and is then going to Bowral. Perhaps we can arrange to give it a run at the new Tramsheds Community Centre? Glebe features in the exhibition, including Glebe Island Bridge and the brutalist *Bidura* Children's Court. Also featured were the nearby magnificent clock tower of Central Station – soon to have its scale dwarfed by a 182-metre office building behind the old parcels office in Railway Square – and the Ultimo Powerhouse, where Lionel Glendenning's 1988 Sulman Award-winning building seems to be earmarked for demolition.



Suzette Meade (left), a redoubtable heritage warrior, beside a photograph of Willow Grove, now demolished to make way for the Parramatta Powerhouse. The house was once a maternity hospital where the Society's Secretary Jude Paul (right) was born. (Photo: Ian Stephenson)

Community Matters

What the 2021 Census says about Glebe and Forest Lodge

by Alex Byrne

The recently-released preliminary results of last year's Census highlight some of the characteristics of our 2037 enclave and some differences from what we might expect.

Glebe and Forest Lodge house quite a small population of 16,641 people with a slightly higher proportion who are women, 51.8% in 2037 vs 50.6 % for NSW. We're a bit younger than state and national median ages, at 36 years against 39 for NSW and 38 for Australia. But we are significantly lower in our percentages of school-age kids and people over 50 years, displaying a pronounced demographic bulge among 20 to 39-year-olds.

This pattern is mirrored in education, with very much lower percentages in preschool (4.6% vs 6.8% for NSW), primary (14.6% vs 26.5%) and secondary (10.4% vs 20.9%), but 2 ½ times as many in higher education (38.1% vs 15.3%), and right on the average in vocational education (8.4%). Not surprising when we have three universities on our boundaries and others easily accessible!

Our households average two people, with more than half being couples without children living with them (52.2% vs 37.9%). Of those with children, two-thirds

are couples, and one-third are single parents, 85.5% of whom are women. Families with children average 1.6 children, presumably leaving some space for a dog. Compared to the state, significantly more of us aged over 15 are not married (51.9% vs 42.1%), and nearly twice the NSW proportion are in de facto relationships (18.9% vs 10.6%). Only 2.6% described themselves as widowed, half of NSW's 5.1%.



A 'typical' resident of postcode 2037 – according to the 2021 Census (photo: Nicolás Boullosa, Flickr)

Not surprisingly, given our streetscapes, we are very much more likely to live in medium-density terraces, semi-detached houses, townhouses or flats than elsewhere in NSW, 84% vs 33.4%, and even more than the Australian average of 26.8%. Occupancy of separate houses is even more dramatically different: a teeny 4.5% for Glebe and Forest Lodge compared to 65.6% for NSW and 72.3% for Australia. Our homes are also smaller, averaging 2.1 bedrooms compared to the state and national average of 3.1. We are twice as likely to be renting (61.2% vs 32.6% for NSW) and our rents are higher than state and national averages, as are our mortgage payments.

Reflecting our inner-city lifestyles, our households are much less likely to have a motor vehicle; if we do, we seldom have more than one. Only 17.9% of our households have more than one car compared to 55.1% across Australia.

More of us were born overseas, 43.4%, than across NSW, 34.6%, and Australia, 33.1%. Overseas birthplaces were most likely to be China (4.9%), England (4.8%), New Zealand (2.8%) or Vietnam (1.8%). Much the same was recorded for the countries of birth of our fathers and mothers. This diversity is also reflected in our claimed ancestry, which is less likely to be Australian and more likely to be Chinese, Irish or Scottish. As might be expected, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cantonese feature much more highly among languages other than English spoken at home; perhaps surprisingly, Spanish and Greek are also in the top five.

The long-standing Indigenous population of Glebe is visible, with 2.6% of respondents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (vs 3.4% for NSW and 3.2% for Australia).

Despite the number of churches and temples in the district, 54.5% describe ourselves as having no religion against 38.4% for Australia and the lower 32.8% for NSW. Only Buddhism is more followed in 2037 than state and national averages, with 3.7% adherents against 2.8% for NSW and 2.4% for Australia.

In summary, the typical resident of postcode 2037 might be described as a young- to middle-aged woman renting a flat or terrace and unlikely to have a car. If she is studying, she is probably at university. Very likely to have been born overseas, she is unlikely to be religious, married or living with children. Future releases of Census data will tell us more about her and about the rest of us who live in one of Sydney's oldest villages, postcode 2037.

2022 Annual General Meeting



Our AGM will be held at the Glebe Youth Centre, 84 Glebe Point Rd, on Sunday 11 September from 11 am to 1 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Nomination forms, agenda and draft 2021 AGM minutes here: <https://glebesociety.org.au/2022-agm/>

A New Community Centre for Forest Lodge and Glebe?

by Mary Mortimer, Friends of Pyrmont Community Centre Convenor

Pyrmont Community Centre is temporarily using the Harold Park Community Centre while their premises are closed for renovations. Mary Mortimer brings us up to speed on the Pyrmont Community Centre so we can get to know our new, if temporary, neighbours.

When new families poured into new apartment blocks in Pyrmont from 2000, they looked for social and community facilities. The old Pyrmont Public School had been renovated and half of the building served as a Community Centre, with two gyms. New residents were keen to use vacant rooms for a variety of other activities and willing to organise themselves. The City of Sydney declined to share control but agreed to cooperate with an informal body, Friends of the Pyrmont Community Centre.

In 2009, the first new programs – over-55s exercises and a choir – faced complicated forms to fill: How many participants would be Indigenous, non-English-speaking, MPs, female, over 80 or indeterminate? We complied, a community-minded Centre Manager was appointed and the documentation ebbed away.



The Pyrmont Community Centre's Ukulele group (photo: Trish Curotta)

Activities expanded. By the time COVID arrived, over 50 programs were operating: a monthly community dinner, dance and exercise classes, karate, ukulele group, fundraising concerts, children's ballet, Little Kickers, Mah Jong, a Book Group, a stitching circle, pilates, yoga, scrabble, a movie day, a photography group.

A young pregnant woman came to Pymont from Spain with her husband when he got a job here. She knew no-one until she joined the stitching circle. The other women supported her, teaching her to sew and make clothes for the baby, and celebrated with her when the baby arrived.

A Friend donated an excellent piano and a piano teacher gave local children lessons. A children's choir began and the adult choir continues. A group of Friends painted and fitted out an unused corridor. It became a drop-in space that accommodated a link to the City library and a book exchange, with donated bookcases and books.

There are notice boards along Harris St promoting these activities. Volunteers produce and distribute *What's On in Pymont* every two months to keep our community informed about what is available for them.

COVID brought many programs to a halt, but Centre staff produced a newsletter that they emailed to Pymont locals, with cartoons and online links to exhibitions, recipes, local history, exercise, art, entertainment and more. And they phoned isolated community members to check how they were going.

Activities are now reviving – carefully – as many people are still nervous about sharing space with others. But we are learning to live with coronavirus by being fully vaccinated, wearing masks in crowded areas and staying home if we feel unwell. Some of these activities are managed entirely by Centre staff, others by residents: most involve collaboration, often under the aegis of the Friends of the Pymont Community Centre. Equally important, the friendships made at the Centre bring together residents who develop other programs, such as Christmas in Pymont, Pymont Ultimo Landcare, and the Pymont Walking Group.

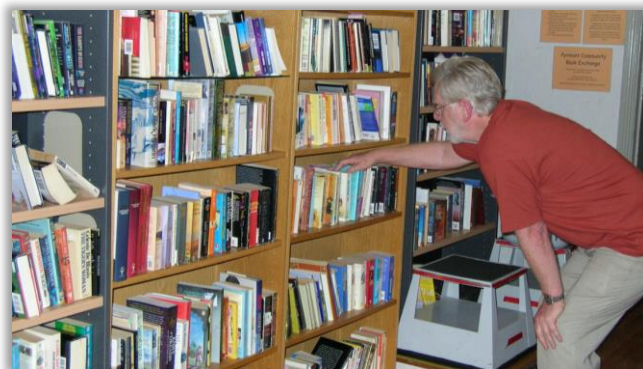
In short, the revitalised Centre has helped to create a community out of a bunch of strangers.

We trust that the Pymont community will be able to use the Harold Park Community Hall to maintain these connections while our centre is being rebuilt, and we hope that residents of Forest Lodge and Glebe will join us. We invite everyone to join us for a community dinner on the last Friday of each month. Volunteers set up the hall and provide the food; diners are asked to book, bring their own drink and a donation to help cover the cost.

Pymont Sings! already has members from Glebe, Newtown, Leichhardt and beyond. We welcome new members who enjoy singing. We pay a fee to employ a professional conductor and pianist, but we can discount it for those who have difficulty.

We hope that more community activities will take place over the next few months. Possibilities include a book group, fitness classes, an art/craft class/group, playgroup, kids' ballet, karate and dance.

Let's work together to turn the Harold Park Community Hall from a venue for hire into a genuine community centre. Contact Jan Macindoe jnmacindoe@gmail.com, Dorothy Davis dorothydavis@fastmail.com.au, or Mary Mortimer mary.mortimer@bigpond.com, 0410 679 204 with questions, suggestions and offers of help.



Pymont Book Exchange at the Pymont Community Centre (photo: Mary Mortimer)

Heritage & Planning

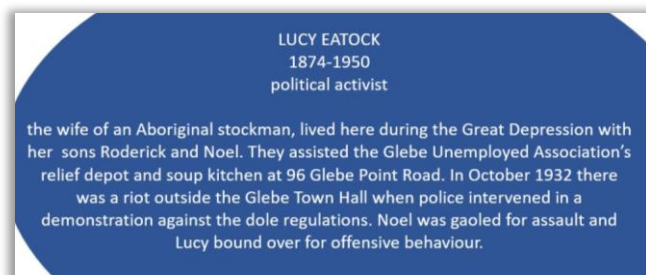
Blue Plaque Nominations Part 6: 148 St Johns Rd Glebe

by Lyn Collingwood

The sixth site nominated for a Blue Plaque is 148 St Johns Rd Glebe, the home of Lucy Eatock.

Lucy's story recalls Glebe in the 1920s-1930s: the plight of the unemployed, the bitterness of industrial unrest, the informal network that supported the poor.

The Great Depression followed hard on the 1929 timber workers' strike, which brought industrial unrest to Glebe, where timber yards dominated the waterfront. There were violent clashes between local labourers and 'scabs' brought in from other districts by the mill owners.



Mock-up of Blue Plaque proposed by the Glebe Society for 148 St Johns Rd Glebe.

Strikers were supported by a relief depot and soup kitchen set up by the Unemployed Workers' Movement at 96 Glebe Point Rd. After ten months, the timber strike was broken, but the need for emergency relief continued. In 1932 'Old Mother Eatock' was one of the volunteers supporting the soup kitchen, a familiar figure delivering blackberry pies and mutton to families of the unemployed.



Numbers 146, 148 and 150 St Johns Rd, Glebe (photo: Lyn Collingwood)

The ninth child of a Presbyterian bushman, Lucy Harriet Wakenshaw married Aboriginal stockman William Eatock in 1895 in Queensland. They had nine

children. Tired of living in tents and humpies, Lucy brought her youngest children to NSW and supported them by working as a domestic servant. In Sydney, three sons laboured at the St Peters brickyards, another was apprenticed to an electrician, and a daughter was employed in an umbrella factory. The family were active unionists and members of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA).

To be eligible for the dole, applicants had to fill in a form with 32 questions, many of which were seen as demeaning, and there was widespread opposition. In October 1932, a protest meeting outside Glebe Town Hall turned ugly when police tried to break it up.

Five of the demonstrators were arrested. Although a St Johns Rd grocer testified that Lucy's youngest son Noel was not present at the disturbance, he received the longest sentence (2 ½ years) and lost an appeal. Lucy was bound over for offensive behaviour.

Lucy left the CPA, convinced that it had not done enough to support Noel and another son Alex who had been gaoled for resisting eviction from a Bankstown house. A few sympathisers shared her disillusionment; an Eatock Defence Committee sent Christmas hampers to both men in gaol.

Lucy died in Brisbane in February 1950, survived by five of her children.

Australian Institute of Architects – NSW Architecture Awards for 2022

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor

'A joyful Forest Lodge home' in Wood St has been awarded the Wilkinson Award for the best new home in 2021. *Stable House* is owned and designed by Qianyi Lim, a Director at Sibling Architecture and Associate Professor of Practice (Architecture) at the University of Sydney.

The Jurors stated:

Stable House is a small family home that pops with joy and colour. Sibling Architecture has created an incredibly adaptable house with an eye to the future, without losing sight of the past. It belies its small footprint, with a series of overlapping spaces, artful voids and curated views of greenery. The house weaves within the skin of the existing stable wall creating a delightful quality of natural light and depth of texture. The folded roof form is both a sensitive design response to neighbours and a delicate canopy of light. Central to the home is the kitchen. Designed with memories of extended family gathering around for meals – the space is perfectly proportioned to fulfil this function in a small footprint. Jurors agreed that the house is an inspirational model for how pockets of forgotten space in densely populated areas can be transformed into calm sanctuaries for living.



Stable House in Forest Lodge which received the Wilkinson Award for Residential (New) Architecture at the 2022 NSW Australian Institute of Architects Awards (photo Kat Lu).

This is the second occasion on which the Wilkinson award was made to a house in Glebe/Forest Lodge – in 2020, Chenchow Little Architects received the award for their house in Ferry Rd.

Qianyi was also awarded the Emerging Architect Prize:

Amongst a group of highly talented nominees, the jury considered that Qianyi's impressive and rounded career portfolio that spans across private practice, education and advocacy made her the ideal candidate

for this prize. Qianyi has used her reach in the profession to champion diversity and advocate for women in architecture through invited panels and talks. Further to this, her built work puts Sibling's research into practice exploring relevant societal themes such as models of home ownership, ageing and multigenerational housing.

Harbour triumph for the Sydney Heritage Fleet

by Alex Byrne

Walkers in Bicentennial Park will have seen dramatic changes across Rozelle Bay in March and April. The pilot ship, *John Oxley*, which had stood high on a floating dock for 22 years, was painted, floated away and returned to our Bay. Sydney historical ferry *Kanangra* did the reverse – towed to Garden Island, loaded onto the floating dock and returned to Rozelle Bay.

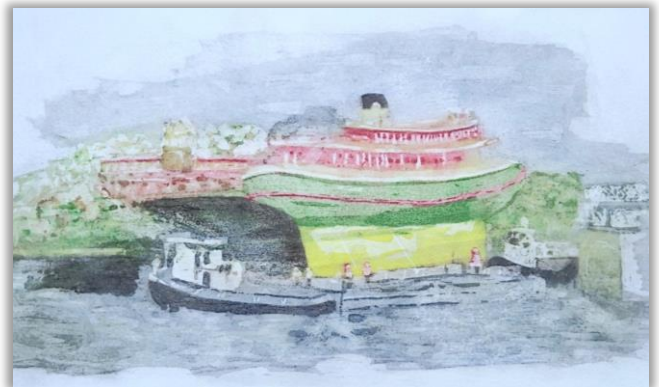
This was the culmination of years of restoration of the *Oxley* and meticulous planning for 'The Swap' – our codename for this complex project. Its complete success was a triumph for the Sydney Heritage Fleet and the hundreds of volunteers at its Rozelle Bay shipyard, the James Craig mooring and the offices at Wharf 7 Pyrmont.

The four stages of The Swap involved two large tugs towing the floating dock (with the *John Oxley* on it) to Garden Island, refloating and returning *John Oxley* to Glebe Island and then Rozelle, towing *Kanangra* to Garden Island, and finally, settling *Kanangra* on the floating dock and returning with a celebratory flotilla. Early morning walkers may have seen the complex manoeuvres in the Bay and the vessels being taken through Glebe Island Bridge with only a metre clearance on each side.

Kanangra was built in Balmain in 1912 as a steam-powered ferry, later converted to diesel power. It was an inner harbour ferry that served Sydney for decades until retired and passed to the Sydney Heritage Fleet.

Volunteers have been restoring the timber-framed decks and saloons while it has been moored next to the floating dock. Now we move into a new phase in which the steel hull can be replaced, the engine restored, and the superstructure completed. We hope to see *Kanangra* taking passengers to celebrate the centenary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the ferry's 120th anniversary.

As can be seen across the Bay, the hull is huge, so its restoration will take great efforts by the Fleet's dedicated volunteers and considerable funds to pay for the steel plate and other materials. New volunteers and donations are welcome – see shf.org.au for more details.



Aquatint of Kanangra passing through Glebe Island Bridge by Alex Byrne, 2022.

Glebe Society submissions on development applications

by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee Convenor

The Management Committee believes there are benefits to members if they are informed of the Society's submissions concerning certain Development Applications (DAs) that it considers impact Heritage Conservation Areas, the streetscape, the public domain or the local amenity.

The Committee acknowledges that residents and developers 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 the importance of – compliance with the well-considered Planning Controls that protect and

enhance the values of the Heritage Conservation Areas we all enjoy and cherish.

There are occasions whereby the Society's own research of local heritage architecture may well be invaluable to the community generally and more specifically to those contemplating upgrading or extending their home.

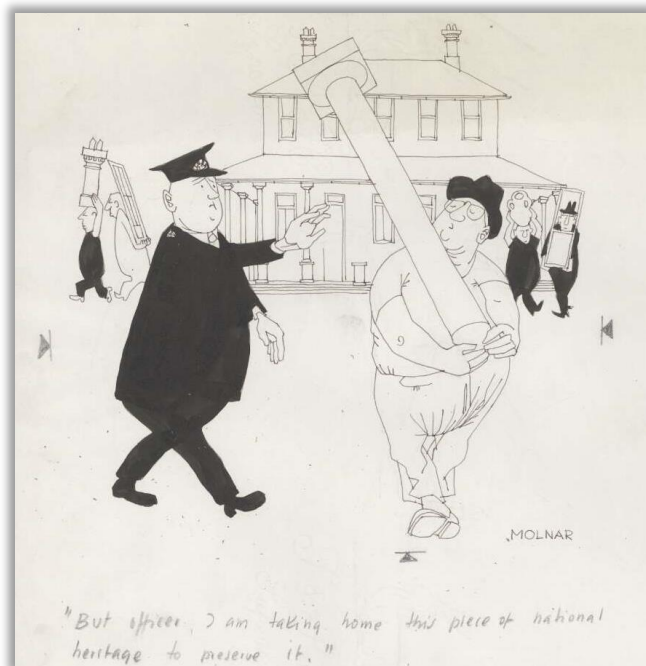
There have been recent instances where property owners have welcomed the Society's contribution towards their upgrade proposals. That contribution is not professional advice or comment but an indication of how the proposals would satisfy the Planning Controls referred to above.

Below are details of the submission lodged with the City of Sydney in the last month and a link to that submission on our website. The DA number is provided for those wishing to further research the Development Application documentation.

Whilst this publication is after the submission has been made – and therefore after the closing date – for those wishing to undertake a more proactive interest, you can register your 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 future submission before the closing date.

Access to all DA documentation is via the City of Sydney's DA Tracker on its website. The DA Tracker is easier to use if you know the precise property address and/or DA number.

The Glebe Society has made one DA submission to Council since the last *Bulletin*: DA number D/2022/673 for 43 Toxteth Rd, Glebe:
<https://tinyurl.com/44ws9kt6>.



Molnar's cartoon, 'But officer, I am taking home this piece of national heritage to preserve it.' (Image: Sydney Morning Herald ca. 1960, National Library of Australia)

History – Glebe & Forest Lodge

'Toby Tosspot', Glebe resident and Australia's first prime minister

In June's Glebe Society *Bulletin* was an article about two prime ministers with a Glebe connection – Edmund Barton and Anthony Albanese. Edwina Doe was reminded of Barton's nickname, 'Toby Tosspot', and shared this 2017 article¹ by Campbell Rhodes, 'Tosspot to Bodgie: Seven Prime Ministerial nicknames':

The first prime minister, Edmund Barton, had been known as 'Toby' since childhood. The Bulletin magazine named him 'Toby Tosspot', after a poem by George Colman, and the name stuck. It was based on Barton's love of long dinners with more than a few glasses of fine wine – a 'tosspot' is a slang term for a habitual drinker. His opponents latched onto it as an insult, and continued using it long after Barton's retirement. A nastier variant was 'Toby Tub', which is a kind of chair, referencing Barton's weight and accusations of laziness.

No prizes for guessing which PM's nickname was the (Silver) Bodgie!

Bob Hawke's greying coiffure led to comparisons with the 'bodgies and widgies' of the 1950s. By the time he was Prime Minister his hair had adopted a less dramatic appearance, but the nickname 'Silver Bodgie' had stuck nonetheless.

1. 'Tosspot to Bodgie: Seven Prime Ministerial nicknames', by Campbell Rhodes. Website of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, 9 June 2017, <https://tinyurl.com/ywrky85r>.



Edmund Barton, aka 'Toby Tosspot' (source: Spy)

Glebe Point Rd – spot the difference

by Jude Paul

Using information available in the Sands Postal Directory 1922 (Suburbs/Trades and Professions) and Trove.nla.gov, the following is a snapshot of business activity on Glebe Point Rd 100 years ago – in 1922:

Trade or Profession	Number
Dressmakers/Costumiers	6
Plumbers/Gasfitters	4
Hairdressers	6
Fruit Shops	7
Grocers	11
Tailors	4
Real Estate Agents	5
Chemists	6
Confectioners	7
Furniture Dealers	5
Second-Hand Dealers	7
Butchers/Ham and Beef Shops	9
Boot and Shoe Repairs, Shoe sales	9
Drapers	3

There were two or more of each of the following: newsagencies, dentists, doctors, wine retailers, tobacconists, printers, banks, laundries, hospitals, produce merchants and bakers. There was a picture framer, a 'moving picture theatre', a cabinet maker, a fish shop, a flour mill, a bookseller, a saddle maker, an ironmonger, a poultry dealer, a bird dealer, a milliner, a post office, a pianoforte importer and a garage. Madame Ethel Peer held spiritual meetings at 12 Glebe Point Rd. Like several other small business activities, this was conducted from a private home, but most businesses operated from a shopfront.

There was one identifiable café – the Post Office Café at 175 Glebe Point Rd. It was managed by Miss Amelia Keppie, a member of a large Mudgee family who had moved to the city in the 1890s. It is unknown if the two hotels on Glebe Point Rd in 1922 (*The Ancient Briton* and *The Currency Lass* on the corner of Mitchell St and Glebe Point Rd) sold the three penny (3 cents) counter lunches, the common hotel fare of these times.

Some businesses continued through several generations of one family. By 1922, Christian and Margaret Raith's Bishopthorpe Bakery at 62 Glebe Point Rd was well established and continued as a bakery in the hands of two Raith sons into the 1950s, well after Christian Snr's death in 1938. (Since then, the building has been a garage, the Architectural

Heritage shop and an art space. It is currently empty, with a DA to turn it into a boarding house). A Raith daughter, Isabella, married Norman MacQueen. Like his father William before him, Norman was a dentist. They both practised in the front room of 134 Glebe Point Rd (now Becketts). Norman continued this practice for many years following his father's death in 1928 when he was hit by a motorcycle. One hundred years on, we have a very well-known example – the Galluzzo family at 187 Glebe Point Rd, now in its third generation at the site. In 1922 this was a fruit shop owned by the Dalbora family and is one of the few locations that continue to operate in the same business field. Another example is the Different Drummer next door to Galluzzo's. In 1922 it was licensed to sell wine.

At 75 Glebe Point Rd (now Thai Massage), Glebe had a specialised fish shop thanks to a NSW Government Initiative to ensure that cheap fish was within reach of every citizen. By 1922, there were a number of government-run fish shops across the state, competing with private providers. The Glebe shop, established during World War 1, was the No.5 State Fish Depot.

Misadventures for these businesses seem to have been rare. Thieves blew open the safe at the Ironmongers at 108 Glebe Point Rd and stole between £30 (\$60) and £40 (\$80). There was a fire in William Birrell's confectionery shop at 45 Glebe Point Rd. Fred Perry, Hairdresser and Tobacconist at 155 Glebe Point Rd, was charged with using his premises as a betting place.

The Freestons were charged with using underweight scales in their grocery store at 405 Glebe Point Rd. But another local shop demonstrated quite the opposite. In July 1922, investigators for the *Sunday Times* visited a number of butcher shops across Sydney, always ordering 2lbs (0.9kg) of gravy beef. The packages were then taken to the Sydney Weights and Measures Department for official weighing. The report of this investigation noted that, in the main, correct standard weights had been received by the purchasers, with only a small number of short-weight packages. However, the package from the Carlton Butchery at 142 Glebe Point Rd was awarded the most generous. It weighed 2lbs 7ounces (1.1kg), the quality of the meat was judged to be 'good', and the price of 3d. a pound was reasonable (*Sunday Times* 30 July 1922).

In 1922, Norman MacQueen (the dentist at 134 Glebe Point Rd) and Bert Lewis (a printer at 71 Glebe Point Rd) were both Aldermen on the City of Sydney Council.



Norman MacQueen, Glebe alderman from 1922-1925 (Image: City of Sydney Archives)



Bert Lewis, Glebe alderman 1920-1925 (City of Sydney Archives)

Glebe Point Rd 2022

Nearly half of the 130+ commercial premises I could identify today are either vacant or operating as cafés or restaurants. Many vacant shops had become cafés or restaurants before their latest closure.

This shift to eateries is not new and by no means exclusive to Glebe. At a Glebe Society talk in 2010, food critic John Newtown reported that the number of restaurants in Glebe/Forest Lodge overall had grown from seven in 1976 to 50 by 2001 (*The Glebe Society Bulletin*, Issue No.2 2010). Of all the restaurants mentioned in John's talk, only three remain today – The Glebe Point Diner, Nazdrowje Polish Restaurant and Nawaz Flavour of India.

The comfort of mall shopping is familiar to us all – oblivious to the heat, the icy wind or the rain outside, plus the big adventure of trying to find your car afterwards. Likewise, there is the convenience of not leaving home to shop at all. No personal hygiene issues, no thought whatsoever for what you'll wear and no lost car.

However, I think most of us still enjoy a stroll on the high street, whether to buy necessities or just window shop. This is often the pleasure of walking in foreign cities. The key prerequisite for this to be enjoyable is shops loosely grouped together selling things we want

to buy or like to look at. Sadly, our high street shops have lost diversity and uniqueness.

My interest in this question was piqued by a new shop at 85 Glebe Point Rd. The shop sells Japanese cooking knives and small, mostly ceramic, homewares. I was struck by how much this shop deviated from the new 'normal' and wondered what was sold there 100 years ago. In 1922, the occupant of 85-87 Glebe Point Rd was Hunter J & Son Ltd. This company sold very fashionable men's, women's and children's shoes and had more than 70 branches throughout NSW. Their main shop, the City Boot Palace, was on the corner of George and Market St Sydney.



'Women's and Matrons' Boots for every need'. John Hunter & Son Ltd 1926 catalogue (Source: National Library of Australia, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-265262103>)

Who worked in your street? James Henry Mills (ca 1855 -1933)

by Lyn Collingwood

J. H. Mills was a missionary who worked in the Glebe-Pymont district for 35 years. He ran the Glebe branch of the Sydney City Mission from an office in the Mission Hall in Bay St, which opened in 1894. Scheduled activities included Sunday School, gospel services and prayer meetings, Bible classes, and meetings of Christian Endeavour, Band of Hope and women's groups. A boys' club with about 50 members focused on physical training, while sewing

was the main activity of a 75-member girls' club. On weeknights, a soup kitchen catered for about 100 children who were fed soup and bread in the Hall and given extra bread and jam to take home. Excursions were arranged to Clifton Gardens, the Botanic Gardens, and the Mission's holiday home at Cronulla. Assistant missionaries, 'Sisters' Atkins and Pite, paid weekly visits to the Glebe Ragged School.

Drinking and gambling were viewed by Mills as major social evils. Five hotels were within a 300-yard radius of the Glebe Mission Hall, and a local pawnshop did good business. Mills paid home visits to families whose three-room houses were occupied by as many as 16 people and whose children spent much of their lives on the street. He tried to make the Mission Hall an inviting space. In April 1905, it became a refuge for 100 families whose houses were flooded after heavy rain. Blankets and clothing were provided to residents of Athlone Place, which was under ten feet of water.

An Englishman by birth, Mills was converted to Christianity in the Centenary Hall in York St by Methodist revivalist preacher William George Taylor. By the time he joined the City Mission in 1890, Mills, like Taylor, was an accomplished brass bandsman and open-air evangelist.

Mills died aged 78 at his Mosman home on 9 April 1933. After a funeral service in the St Johns Rd Mission Hall (opened in 1929), he was buried in the Independent section of Rookwood Cemetery. Among the mourners was William Martin, designer of the Glebe War Memorial.

Mills was survived by his wife Mary Ann, son George and two married daughters. Another son, Andrew, had died in 1900. Suffering from bubonic plague, the 24-year-old had been taken by ambulance from the family home in Leichhardt to a Woolloomooloo wharf,

where he was transferred to a steamer destined for the quarantine station at North Head. He died after being exposed to the weather for three hours on the open deck.

Sources: NSW cemetery records; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; Owen, June, *The heart of the city: the first 100 years of the Sydney City Mission* 1987; Sydney City Mission Annual Report; Sydney City Mission, *Sydney City Mission Herald*; Sydney City Mission Jubilee – 50 years 1862-1912; Sydney City Mission Presenting ten decades 1862-1962; Trove website.



James Henry Mills, missionary, pays a home visit
(Image: Sydney City Mission Jubilee)

Mystery photo

with Lyn Collingwood

This month's mystery photo

Where are we?

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





Last month's mystery photo

Pictured were trotters in their Harold Park stables before a race meeting in 1981.

Ken Bradley thought they might be horses belonging to Sutton McMillan or Sam Aggett. An ex-St Scholastica's student remembers walking past stables on her way to PE lessons in Jubilee Park and seeing the horses making their way to Harold Park.

The stables are at 5 Victoria Rd. (Image: Peter Crawshaw)

Glebe, Naturally

News from volunteer bushcare groups

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor

The Society's annual spring bird survey will be held on Sunday, 23 October commencing in Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford St at 7.30 am. All Society members and friends are welcome to help with the survey – please contact Judy Christie (0437 693 372) if you would like to attend.

The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held a successful planting day on Saturday, 25 June 2022, and their next one will be on the morning of Saturday, 6 August (contact oscbushcare@gmail.com if you would like to attend). There remains a need for signage at the site to state its importance for establishing biodiversity in the City and acknowledging the work of the bushcare volunteers. Local residents have removed and at times excessively pruned recently planted native flora, demonstrating the continued necessity for the education of our citizens so that they understand and appreciate biodiversity in our inner-city pocket parks.

The City has agreed to prune foliage and mulch the area around the plaque in Jubilee Park commemorating the award of an Olympic Landcare Grant. Also, the City has been informed about the recent flooding of the western part of Federal Park. The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group has considered renaming the landcare sites

from Palmerston Steps to an Indigenous name or that of a local identity.

Nick Sangster, a member of the Subcommittee, will meet with Jenny Kent, the City's Community Gardens and Volunteer Coordinator, to discuss the formation of a new local volunteer bushcare/landcare group in Harold Park.



Volunteers enjoying a COVID-safe morning tea after work (photo: Judy Christie)

Craney Small Grant connects SDN Child Care Centre kids with the bush

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor, and Ashley Knott, SDN Child Care Centre Director

The small grants program was established in 2018 and 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's parks and gardens. Jan was particularly interested in the education of children (there are 14 schools and preschools in our suburb), leading to an increased awareness of the value of native plants and animals in our suburb. Funding for the grants has

continued following a generous donation from another member of the Subcommittee.

The final report from SDN Child Care Centre, located in Glebe St, is on the outcomes of their 2021 Craney Small Grant, awarded for their project, *Native plant vertical garden*. The final reports from other 2021 recipients, Glebe Public School and Explore and Develop childcare, have been included in previous *Bulletins*.

2021 Craney Small Grant

SDN Glebe was thankful to receive funding from The Craney Small Grants Program. We invested in a native plant vertical garden project that would engage the children in caring for the natural environment and instil an appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. We started this journey by visiting and purchasing native plants from IndigiGrow, an Aboriginal social enterprise in La Perouse specialising in just Native Bush plants. We selected native herbs and bushes suitable to our climate and planted them in the preschool and toddler spaces.

During NAIDOC week in 2021, we introduced the plants to the children, built their understanding of the importance of nature around them, and started conversations about native Australian flora and fauna. The children developed an understanding that some of our natives have medicinal properties and call them 'magical plants' as they help soothe skin or ease headaches when made into tea. Other plants like the bush mint give off a delightful scent when children squish it between their fingers.

Since planting the garden, the educators and children have continued to learn about native plants and how to care for them. Over the last 12 months children have investigated the impacts of too much rain, not enough sun, and how visits from our local possums impact the plants. The children have been using problem-solving skills to come up with solutions to keep the plants healthy.

Over the last year, it has been wonderful to watch how each of the spaces has evolved by adding native plants to our environment. The children incorporate them daily into their play, either by using the herbs and bushes in cooking and sensory experiences or as props for imaginary play. Some children have even been inspired by their shapes and colours and incorporate them into their drawings.

The children have continued to grow their connection to the environment and gained an understanding of how they can be protectors of it. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching our spaces come alive, deepening both educators and children's understanding and appreciation of the beautiful place we live.



Letter to the Editor

from Vicky Marquis

I would like to echo Karen Kolbe's support (*Bulletin* 5/2022) of the Blackwattle Bay ferry service, which is a wonderful way to travel to the city.

It is, of course, a shame that it is not yet linked to Opal; however, the more use it gets, the more likely this will occur. If you have a concession card, it is only a little over \$3 straight to Barangaroo and a walk on through Wynyard into the city. At Barangaroo, there are links to other ferry services.

The wharf itself in Blackwattle Bay needs more signage – it uses an existing timber wharf just below *Bellevue Cottage* (now Antoine's restaurant) where there is a takeaway coffee outlet, but it could do with a larger sign and, as Karen suggests, more promotion.

Parking around access to the ferry is limited; however, it is a short walk down from Glebe Point Rd. The ferry is small, and a cute addition to the Bay and its surrounds. As a commute to the city, it is also a great way for tourists to enjoy the harbour. In time it will no

doubt extend its service to the new fish markets. I think it's a case of 'if we don't use it, we'll lose it'.



Vicky's painting of the Glebe ferry (photo: Vicky Marquis)

Quiz: Know Your Suburb

This quiz, which appeared in [Bulletin 4/2004](#) was created by the late Ian Edwards. Answers on the bottom of p.16.

1. In which year was the Glebe Society founded?
2. Who was the Glebe Society's first president?
3. Which famous colonial architect designed the Great Hall of the University of Sydney and St John's church, Bishopthorpe?
4. Whose record reign is commemorated by a plaque on the front wall of St John's church hall?
5. Which Australian Prime Minister was born in Glebe?
6. Who was the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney in 2004?
7. Who was the President of the Glebe Chamber of Commerce in 2004?
8. Which building in Bridge Rd, previously a church, is the subject of a controversial development application?
9. What is the name of the educational institution of which the old Glebe High School in Taylor St is now a part?
10. Which Glebe building was previously the Homoeopathic Hospital?

Creative Glebe

33rd Annual Glebe Music Festival

by David McIntosh, Festival Artistic Director

The 33rd Annual Glebe Music Festival will take place from 4th to 27th November. At this year's Festival, eight concerts are scheduled. The full program is available on the Festival's website:

www.glebemusicfestival.com.

Opening this year's Glebe Music Festival are Milena Barrett (Blues and Soul) and Wolf Mail (guitar) at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Friday 4 November at 6.30 pm. This will be the third appearance at the Festival by Milena and Wolf – join them to experience their signature rapport with the audience, and a relaxed and laid-back evening, chilling out in this magical bookstore and enjoying complimentary food and drinks at the interval. Tickets \$20 (concessions \$10). Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/CANTW>



Milena Barrett and Wolf Mail (image: supplied)

And another remarkable duo – Lawergren & Lowe in *Operatic Magic!* at the Glebe Town Hall, Sunday 6 November at 3 pm. The sublime duo of soprano Susannah Lawergren and harpist Georgia Lowe return to the Festival with exquisite harp arrangements paired with arias by Bellini, Puccini, Grieg, Charpentier and Strauss, as well as beloved Australian and American composers. Tickets \$20 (concessions \$10). Book at <https://trybooking.com/CANVG>.



Lawergren & Lowe in *Operatic Magic!* at Glebe Town Hall, Sunday 6 November at 3 pm. (Image: supplied)

The Glebe Society Community Festival now has its own website!

by Allan Hogan, Communications Subcommittee Convenor

The Community Festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Glebe Society was an outstanding success, praised by Members and the many visitors it attracted. It was a celebration of our successes over half a century in preserving the heritage and community of Glebe and making it a great place to live. The Festival took place at the Harold Park Community Hall from 23 to 30 June 2019, with several activities taking place in the surrounding community. Over 2,500 people attended the Exhibition, and 1,100 people attended events.



Now there's website devoted to those eight memorable days, and the many events and presentations which were so widely enjoyed. The website link can be found on the Glebe Society's homepage or go to it directly here: <https://50years.>

glebesociety.org.au/. There you'll find full details of the Festival's exhibitions and presentations, and the stories behind the preparation and planning for these events. To mention a few: The Glebe History Walks with Max Solling; a panel discussion about the Founding Women of the Glebe Society; Radical Glebe (where the panellists were at the forefront of several social activist movements based in Glebe in the 1960s and '70s); and the Displays which included the wonderful illustrations and histories of the Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge, pre-1870.

A storeroom within the Community Hall made an excellent theatre where videos of works by local artists, and film biographies of Tom Uren and Jack Munday were screened. A feature of the screenings was the Bernard Smith photo collection of Glebe from the early '70s. Dramatic performances were directed by Lyn Collingwood and included 'The Mayoral Procession' – a whirlwind history of all the City of Sydney mayors since 1842 and 'Glebe's Colourful Characters A-Z', a hilarious account of the crooks, politicians and bigwigs who have lived in Glebe.

In future editions of the *Bulletin*, organisers of the Festival events will reveal the efforts that went into making them a reality and share some of their behind-the-scenes stories. And thanks should go to Tarny Burton, the Society's webmaster, who created the promotional material for the Festival and played a major role in planning and designing the website.

Players In The Pub

Shakespeare's Mothers: Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know

by Kath Perry, after William Shakespeare



Director: Roz Riley

Cast: Cat Martin, Kath Perry,
Patrick Trumper

7 pm, Wednesday 24 August,
Friend in Hand Hotel, 58 Cowper
St, Glebe.

Donations bucket for New Theatre. Masks recommended. The kitchen is open from 5.30 pm. Please order early. We always aim to start on time!



Answers to 'Know Your Suburb' Quiz

1. 1969; 2. Bernard Smith; 3. Edmund Blackett; 4. Queen Victoria; 5. Edmund Barton; 6. Clover Moore; 7. Peter Lean; 8. *The Abbey*; 9. Sydney Secondary College – Blackwattle Bay Campus; 10. *Benledi*.

(Quiz questions, p.15)

For your Calendar

Saturday, 6 August 9.30-11.30 am *Orphan School Creek Bushcare weeding working bee.*

Wednesday 24 August, 7 pm *Players in the Pub*, Friend in Hand Hotel

Sunday, 11 September, 11 am – 1 pm; *Glebe Society AGM*, Glebe Youth Service, 84 Glebe Point Rd

Sat 4 Nov to Sun 27 Nov. *Glebe Music Festival*. Various locations

Last Friday of the month. *Community Dinners* (formerly at Pyrmont Community Centre), Harold Park Community Hall.



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

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

Management Committee

President	Ian Stephenson	0415 919 874	president@glebesociety.org.au
Vice President	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au
Past President	Janet Wahlquist		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	vacant		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		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. 6 of 2022 (August 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; write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.



*A Glebe institution the rowing club, Ferry Rd, July 2022
(Photo: Phil Vergison)*