

## Modified Blackwattle Bay Plan still not good enough

by Asa Wahlquist, Bays and Foreshores Convenor

The Blackwattle Bay Plan has been revised<sup>1</sup> after more than 2,000 objections to the first plan were lodged. While there are some improvements – the 45-storey building has been lowered to 35 storeys, the density has been decreased by 15 per cent and the waterfront walk has been widened to 30 metres – the site is still massively overdeveloped. The proposed towers would overshadow the foreshore walk, creating wind tunnels and depriving the proposed parks of much needed sun.

We note that about half the proposed site is currently privately owned and understand that the owners are reluctant to sell. We question what this will mean for those occupying the redeveloped site: living next to a concrete batching plant and next to the Western Distributor would be noisy and the air polluted.

The revised plan would still overshadow Glebe in the early morning. The buildings would tower over the Bay, destroying its natural amenity, and bring increased traffic pressure to our roads that will also have to cope with unacceptable increases in traffic and parking from the new Sydney Fish Markets.

1. Revised plan: [https://insw.com/media/3592/bays016-blackwattle-bay-state-significant-precinct-2022\\_digital\\_fa.pdf](https://insw.com/media/3592/bays016-blackwattle-bay-state-significant-precinct-2022_digital_fa.pdf)



*A park at Bank St – under the Anzac Bridge?? (source: Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct, Response to Submissions Overview, July 2022)*

## The Hill as a future wildlife refuge – meeting with the City of Sydney

An onsite meeting was held at 8.30 am on 18 August 2022 at The Hill, a crown land site on the northern side of the Tramsheds. The meeting was organised by Cailin Martin, the City of Sydney's Property Strategy Planner, and was also attended by Jacqui Brooks (Parks Assets and Services Manager), James Macnamara (Urban Ecology Coordinator), the President of the Glebe Society and four members of its Blue Wren Subcommittee, Kim Hague-Smith (Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group) and Professor Dieter Hochuli (University of Sydney).

As we know, The Hill was a garbage tip until about 1910, subsequently becoming a parking area for patrons attending the Harold Park races (trots and

dogs) and is currently a fenced area of contaminated crown land.

On entering the site from the entrance at the junction of Maxwell Rd and Victoria Rd, about the first half of the central area is covered with bitumen related to its former use as a car park. There are thriving stands of lantana near this entrance and on the Tramsheds side of the site. The predominant tree, the deciduous Mediterranean hackberry (*Celtis australis*), is a noxious weed – saplings cover the site with mature trees on The Hill's northern side and in the light rail corridor. A scattering of she-oaks (*Casuarina spp*) planted by volunteers in the late 1990s are present across the site. Enormous Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus*

*rubiginosa*) are located on the southern side, adjacent to the Tramsheds, and many Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) are present on the steep western slope of The Hill.

Despite the large trees on the slopes and edges of the site, there's a fair-sized open, sunny, central area, currently covered by mainly low-growing weeds and bits of rubbish – this could be an area suitable for future plantings of low-growing flowering plants to attract pollinators.

There is a lot of rubbish (pillows, bike parts and milk crates related to recent former camping sites) and assorted small piles of building rubble, all of which could be easily and speedily removed. The City needs to investigate a rectangular mound of stones at the site to see whether there is a pit underneath, the status of the old public path between The Hill and the Tramsheds, and whether there is a Sydney Water easement over a section of the site.

As far as bird life was concerned there were lots of noisy miners in the Casuarinas, a kookaburra was heard in the Port Jackson Figs and a couple of butcher birds were seen flying very close by. Professor Hochuli said that native bees, butterflies and cicadas were also possible inhabitants of the site.

The inspection of The Hill demonstrated its great potential as an urban wildlife refuge once new plantings of native flora are established. The next step is for the Society, in collaboration with Professor Hochuli's group at the University of Sydney, to apply for an Innovations and Ideas Grant from the City, which will enable the recording of wildlife presently

using the site by the installation of cameras and acoustic recording devices.

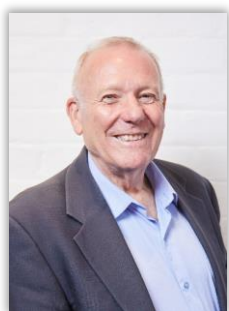
In the future, this contaminated site could be covered with crushed sandstone as the planting medium – it is cheap and is the perfect medium for a large selection of flowering plants (wildflowers) that only grow in low nutrient soils.



*Ian Stephenson, the Society's President, and Ian Macnamara, the City of Sydney's Urban Ecology Coordinator, at the inspection of The Hill (photo Andrew Wood).*

## From the President

*by Ian Stephenson*



The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Glebe Youth Centre at 84 Glebe Point Rd at 11 am on Sunday 11 September. All members are welcome.

The Pyrmont Community Centre is now using the Harold Park Community Hall at the Tramsheds while their centre is

being renovated. On the last Friday of each month at 6 pm they hold a community dinner. All community members of Pyrmont, Forest Lodge and Glebe and their friends and families are welcome to attend.

I attended the August dinner, along with some other Glebe Society members. It was a delightful evening with good company and good food.

There was even entertainment with Emily Turner and Ian Warwick performing a vignette from *Make Believe*, their show at the Sydney Fringe Cabaret Club.

The next community dinner will be at 6 pm on 30 September. The meal is prepared by volunteers and provided free of charge; however, a donation is requested. BYO drinks. Bookings are desirable. To book, contact Mary Mortimer on 0410 679 204 or email [mary.mortimer@bigpond.com](mailto:mary.mortimer@bigpond.com). I hope to see a good Glebe contingent joining with our friends from the east.



*Community Dinner hosted by Pyrmont Community Centre (source: City of Sydney)*



Another activity that might be of interest is the Glebe Art Society's Glebe Foreshore Art Walk & Plein Air Painting, which is happening from 10 am to 4 pm Sunday 25 September. This is a great opportunity for anyone taking a walk or a slow jog along the water to see artists at work. For more information see <https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/>.



(source: Glebe Art Show ([www.glebeartshow.org.au/](https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/)))



Artist Jane Bennett at work, Blackwattle Bay, August (photo: Phil Vergison)

## 2022 Annual General Meeting



Members are invited to our 2022 AGM, which will be held at the Glebe Youth Centre, 84 Glebe Point Rd, on Sunday 11 September from 11 am to 1 pm. Join us afterwards for drinks and light refreshments (this is a free event). Nomination forms, Agenda and draft 2021 AGM minutes are here:

<https://glebesociety.org.au/2022-agm>

Please book online to help with catering. If you need help with making a booking please call the Events Co-ordinator on 0417 446 425. To register for the AGM, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/403903234447>

### How you can be more involved in the Society

We would welcome more members to be involved on the Management Committee or one of the special interest subcommittees. You don't need to be an expert, just be passionate about Glebe. Getting involved helps you connect with locals and provides a great opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our special Glebe community. Want to know more? Please contact the Secretary on 0438 600 882.

### Save the Date: Glebe Society Christmas Party

The Glebe Society Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 11 December from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Gardener's Grill (the historic sandstone building in Victoria Park). More details next month.

(right ) the stone cottage in Victoria Park as it was in 1934, with virtual Christmas decorations added in 2022  
(source: City of Sydney Archives)



## History 2037

### Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 7: Matilda Steer

by Lyn Collingwood

The seventh site nominated for a Blue Plaque is 79 Glebe Point Rd where the clairvoyant Matilda Steer (1858-1931) lived.

Married to a van driver and mother of six, Steer augmented the family income by charging for private

consultations and admission to her public seances at the turn of the 19th century when there was a craze for the occult.

Prime Minister Alfred Deakin and novelist Rosa Praed were spiritualists.

Steer advertised her services (controlled by Test Medium Zethyne Vuelice) in the spiritualist journal *The Angel of Light* along with other business and medical clairvoyants, psychometers, palmists, psychometrists and clairaudients. Glebe practitioners included Madame Simpson and Madame Zanzi.

Steer deserves recognition as a working-class woman trying to make a living when choices were limited. At a time of high infant mortality and during the period of the Boer War she no doubt gave comfort to clients seeking to make contact with loved ones out of physical reach.

The Vagrancy Act 1902 made fortune-telling illegal and plainclothes police walked the streets looking for offenders. Glebe mother-of-eleven Elizabeth Lowe took a chance when she declared 'clairvoyant' as her profession on the 1903 electoral roll.

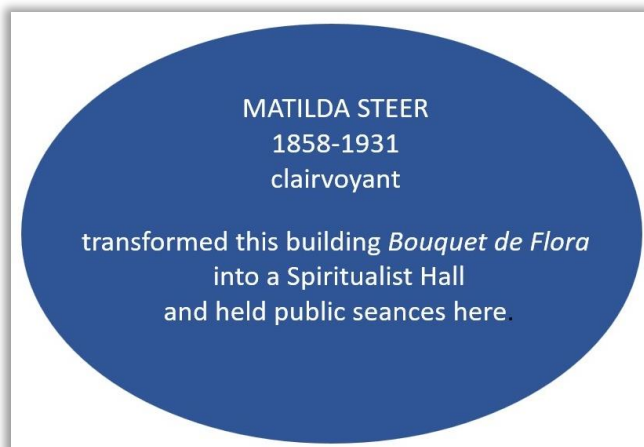
Although located only 300 metres from Broadway, 79 Glebe Point Rd is a free-standing mid-Victorian villa which still has its front garden. While there are a few other free-standing houses, and some terraces as

well, in this part of Glebe Point Rd whose front gardens survive, the majority have lost their gardens to shopfronts.

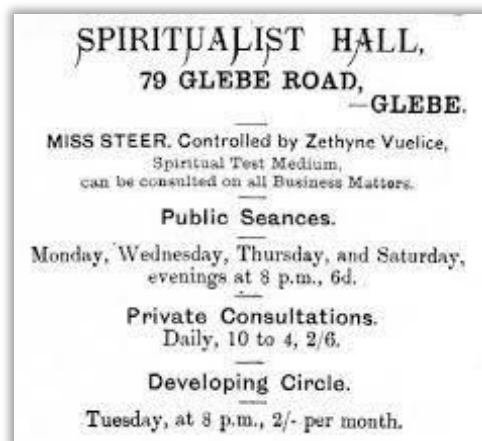
See *Bulletin* 9/2011 (pps. 6-7) for an in-depth look at the goings-on at 79 Glebe Point Rd and other Glebe locations where spiritualists plied their trade.



79 Glebe Point Rd (photo: Ian Stephenson)



Suggested Blue Plaque for 79 Glebe Point Rd, once the residence of clairvoyant, Matilda Steer.



Source: *The Angel of Light: A Monthly Journal of Spiritualism*, 15 Nov. 1899

## Mystery Photo

with Lyn Collingwood

### Last month's mystery photo

It was the headquarters of the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1960, when rats were a major problem.

Tim Jurd, a Glebe resident from 1953 to 1990, identified the railway viaduct arches near Jubilee Park and the event as a community sport such as hockey.

Julie Byrne narrowed the location to the club; Dorothy Pellarini recognised the players as her brother Brian Howe seated with Barry Goodrick; Maureen Paterson also identified Brian and Andrew Goodrick's dad plus club patron's wife Dot Kenny.







## This month's mystery photo

Where are we?

Please send your suggestions to  
[history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au)

## Creation of Allen St, Glebe

by Rodney Hammett

When reviewing a recent DA in Allen St, I found the firm that prepared the heritage impact statement had irrelevant and incorrect information regarding the history of Allen St. For others who might like to know the history behind the creation of Allen St, here are some relevant facts.

Advertising for the first subdivision of Toxteth Park in May 1886 shows Park Rd as the original name of what was to become Allen St (see Figure 1 with Park Rd circled in red). The upcoming sale was described as 'The Sale of the Season'.<sup>1</sup>

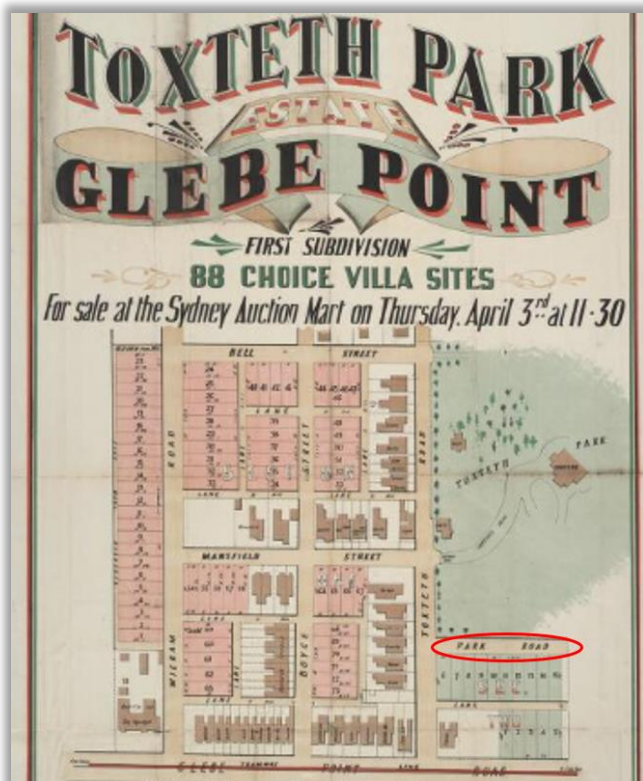


Figure 1. (Source: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230189835/view>)

Housing lots were first developed on the eastern side of Park Rd for sale from 1889 (Figure 2). Note that Toxteth Park House & Grounds were on the western side of Park Rd, but this area was not yet for sale.

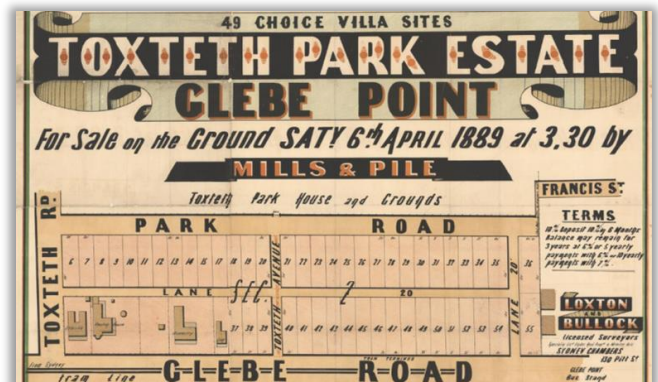


Figure 2. (Source: <https://nla.gov.au>)

Water mains were laid in Allen St during 1895-96.<sup>2</sup> Allen St was first listed in Sands Directory in 1895, when 11 dwellings were included (Figure 3). Street numbering was introduced in 1896 for the western side and in 1901 for the eastern side.

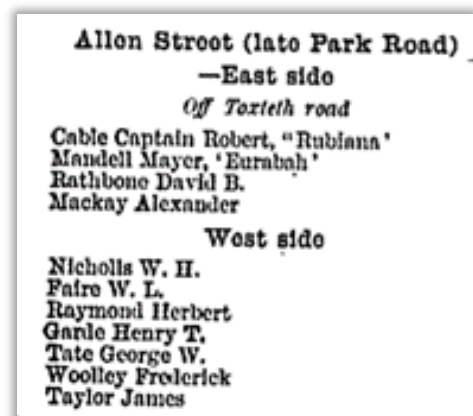


Figure 3. (Source: Sands' Directory)



It would seem that Park Rd became known as Allen St in 1894. Allen St was of course named after the Allen family who owned the Toxteth Estate and lived in what we now know as St Scholastica's College.

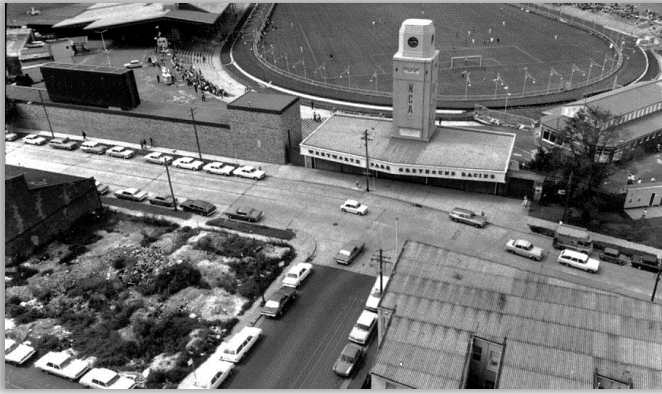
The southern portions of Toxteth Park, between Toxteth Rd and Arcadia Rd, including some of

Avenue Rd, also started to be developed 1895. See *Bulletin* 05/2021 for details of the early development of Arcadia Rd and Avenue Rd.

1 **Trove:** Evening News; Thu 15 Apr 1886, p. 8

2 **Trove:** Sydney Morning Herald; Thu 4 Jul 1895, p. 6

## Millard Reserve and the Glenmore Meats site – then and now



*The land on the bottom left of this photo taken in 1973 is now Millard Reserve (source: Glebe Photographic Essay, City of Sydney Archives)*



*Millard Reserve, corner Wentworth Park Rd and St Johns Rd Glebe, with the recently completed Millard Apartments beyond, built on the site of the former Glenmore Meats, August 2022 (photo: Phil Vergison)*

## Heritage protection and planning

When the greyhounds leave Wentworth Park will be unified. Have your say

City of Sydney is developing a 'community vision' for Wentworth Park and is seeking input by 5 September. Have your say here:

<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/vision-setting/your-say-wentworth-park>

On their website, the City of Sydney writes:

In its Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy, the NSW Government has committed to relocating the greyhound track, currently licenced to the Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association until 2027, to create one large, unified park. The north and south sections of the park are currently under the City of Sydney's care. We welcome the State Government's commitment to provide this significant parcel of Crown land as public open space.

Working towards a consolidated park is also an identified action in the City of Sydney's Wentworth Park plan of management. When the City of Sydney is appointed Crown Land manager for the entire park, we'll revise the plan of management to reflect the community's vision for this open space.

(<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategies-action-plans/park-plans-of-management>).



*A different slant on community consultation, inviting input/ideas for the future of Wentworth Park (photo: Phil Vergison)*

We invite you to imagine a unified park and tell us what you'd like to see and do there. From sports facilities, to playgrounds and spaces for relaxation, we want to hear how you use the park now, what you like about it and how you see it being used in the future.

We'll use your feedback to create a draft concept plan for the site, which will be available later in 2022 for further community feedback.

*Wentworth Park ... it is one of the jewels in Glebe's crown. Since at least 1878, the whole of Wentworth Park has been 'set apart and dedicated in perpetuity for a park or place for public recreation'. The park was important in 1878, it is vital now.*

Ted McKeown, former Chair of the Board of Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust and member of the Glebe Society Management Committee, from Wentworth Park – Jewel in Glebe's Crown in Bulletin 4/2016 (p. 10), and also on our website:

<https://glebesociety.org.au/wentworth-park-jewel-in-glebes-crown-by-ted-mckeown/>



*This view of Blackwattle Bay from Glebe Point was painted between 1870 and 1873 and is attributed to Francis H. Boyer. The bridge is now Bridge Rd and the bay to the right of the bridge is now Wentworth Park (source: SLNSW)*



*Panorama of Wentworth Park, no date or creator (source SLNSW)*

## Glebe Society's recent submissions on development applications

*by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee Convenor*

The Management Committee believes Society members benefit if they are informed of the Society's submissions concerning development applications that may impact local Heritage Conservation Areas, the streetscape, the public domain or local amenity.

The Committee acknowledges that residents and developers want to undertake additions and renovations to their properties that are compatible with 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 that we all cherish.

On occasions, the Society's own local heritage architecture research may be invaluable to the community generally, especially those contemplating upgrading or extending their home. The Society

obviously fully supports such activity and is pleased to offer encouragement when it occurs.

During the past month, one of the two submissions made by the Society was in full support of the DA as submitted.

Below are links to the Glebe Society's submissions lodged in the last month. The DA number is included for those wishing to view the DA.

27 Lodge St Forest Lodge D/2022/670:  
<https://tinyurl.com/jdh42rz5>

39 Lodge St Forest Lodge D/2022/730:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2t42ub8k>

Access to all DA documentation is via the City of Sydney's DA Tracker on its website:  
<https://online2.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/DA>.



# Glebe, Naturally

## News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

*by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor*

Judy Christie will again organise the Society's spring bird survey commencing at 6.45 am in Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford St on Sunday 23 October and all Society members and friends are welcome to attend. Please contact Judy on 0437 693 372 if you would like to come.

As a first step in their 2022 Tree Management Plan, the City has asked residents for comments about street trees where they live and will release a draft of its revised management plan before the end of the year, when the Subcommittee will make comments for inclusion in the Society's submission. Applications for the 2022 Craney Biodiversity grants will be sent to the 14 schools and preschools in Glebe at the start of October with a closing date of Friday 18 November 2022.

Ten volunteers from the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group attended a working bee on Saturday 6 August 2022 and the next bee is planned for Sunday 11 September. The City has not yet delivered top soil to the site and has not thinned the overpopulation of Sydney blue gums, which were not the originally dominant trees in Glebe. Glebe was formerly covered with a Turpentine-Ironbark Forest with a dense understory of shrubs. The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group reports that the City has agreed to install a new light in the

upper part of the park; there has been replanting in areas excessively pruned; the City has been asked to change the name of the area from the current Palmerston Steps; and the group is regularly cleaning a blocked storm water grate.

Around 100 people attended the City's planting day in Federal Park on Sunday 31 July and there is a need to surround the area with loop fencing to prevent dogs damaging the new plants. Also, the City has planted many new trees, including Melaleucas, Eucalypts and Lillypillies, in Bicentennial Park.



*Plantings near Palmerston Steps (photo: VSY)*

## Community Matters

### A quick spin with COGG

*by Mark Stapleton, Glebe Society Vice-President*



CoGG (Coalition of Glebe Groups) last met Wednesday 17 August and received reports from the City of Sydney including the development of a community vision for Wentworth Park, the Glebe Point Rd upgrade and the repair of the wind turbine in Jubilee Park.

Other reports included the Glebe Society highlighting the State Government consultation on Bays West Stage 1 rezoning proposal, FLAG including the Tranby Glebe Stories Festival October 15-22 and Hands off Glebe.

CoGG discussed Elger St pedestrian issues, appropriate parking for drop off and pick up, cycleway kerb ramps with pedestrian crossing for safe passage to awaiting transport and the state government trial ferry service from Glebe to Barangaroo.

### A mini Glebe Street Fair?

*by Mark Stapleton, Glebe Society Vice-President*

The City of Sydney's *Sydney Streets* program will close part of Glebe Point Rd to celebrate local neighbourhoods, bring communities together and support high street businesses. For local businesses, it's an opportunity to produce in-store activations to help attract customers and patrons to their venues, and potentially extend trading to outdoors subject to availability and approval. Along with enabling road closures, the City will provide some acoustic roving entertainment, chairs and tables around the street and portable toilets.

Sydney Streets is part of a community recovery plan, supporting the economic and social recovery of businesses and local communities impacted by the pandemic. *When?* Saturday 5 November, 11 am-10 pm. *Where?* Glebe Point Rd – between Parramatta and St Johns Rds.



# Transport & Infrastructure

## On Track

by Phil Vergison

### The goods line turns 100

This brick-lined structure and the adjacent viaducts crossing Jubilee Park and Wentworth Park are 100 years old this year.

The viaducts are the longest (28 arches) and second longest (21 arches) respectively, brick viaducts built for the New South Wales Railways.



*Railway viaduct ca. 1922-1927, photographed by Arthur Ernest Foster (source: SLNSW)*



*The Glebe Tunnel envelops a westbound light rail vehicle bound for Dulwich Hill in August (photo: Phil Vergison)*

### Return of the light rail

And in other rail news ... At the moment, only two of the fleet of trams removed from service because of their 'cracked frames' have been returned to duty. Services for the most part are still provided by trams purloined from the south-eastern network like this one, slowing to a stop at Glebe recently:



*Sydney Light Rail to Dulwich Hill (photo: Phil Vergison)*

## Save the Glebe Blackwattle Bay Ferry

by Hannah Brack, UTS Bachelor of Management student

Have your say! We are a group of university students working to ensure the Glebe Blackwattle Bay Ferry has adequate demand before the end of its trial this year to ensure the service is sustained. The F10 service currently runs from Glebe (Blackwattle Bay) to Barangaroo in just 13 minutes! Perfect for a peaceful commute to work, trying the many lively restaurants in Barangaroo or having a spring picnic with the kids on Stargazer Lawn. Check out timings on Google Maps or the TripView App. The service runs seven days a week and is bike, kid and COVID-friendly. As it is a trial, it is not on the Opal network yet so please bring a card to tap!

Please fill out our survey at <https://forms.gle/T2cQxspTtJWcHFZ86>, so we can understand the current and potential demand to use this data to develop effective strategies! Many Thanks!

*In collaboration with UTS Shopfront we chose this project as part of our subject 'Current challenges in Tourism' where we gain experience working in the community sector for a not-for-profit organisation and help to make a positive social impact.*



*The ferry at Blackwattle Bay (photo: Hanna Black)*

# Creative Glebe & Forest Lodge

## 33rd Annual Glebe Music Festival

by David McIntosh, Artistic Director, Glebe Music Festival

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

[www.glebemusicfestival.com](http://www.glebemusicfestival.com)

Back to *Margaretta Cottage*, 6 Leichhardt St Glebe (or 18A Cook St for disabled access) on Friday 11 November at 7 pm. In a return to the early days of the Glebe Music Festival at *Margaretta Cottage*, *Home and Hearth* by Thoroughbass directed by Diana Weston (piano), with Danielle Grant (soprano) and Tara Hashambhoy (violin).

The program will include less well-known lieder by Franz Schubert, Ignace Pleyel's Sonata for pianoforte and violin, Joseph Haydn's 12 Variations for pianoforte, and some popular songs of the early 19th century that have been discovered in Sydney Living Museum's Library.

Tickets \$40 (concessions \$20) which includes supper and drinks. Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/CANVJ>

Jane Downer from Oxford UK directs Austral Harmony in a programme called *Florid Sentiments*, at the Glebe Town Hall, 169 St Johns Rd, Saturday 12th November at 7 pm.

The program will include the Arcangelo Corelli Violin Sonata III in C major *Adagio, Allegro, Adagio, Allegro*; George Fideric Handel's Cantata *Mi Palpita il cor* for soprano, oboe and basso continuo *Recitative & Arioso, Aria, Recit, Aria*; Handel's *Flammende Rose* for soprano, violin and basso continuo; Handel's *Süßer Blumen Ambralflocken* for soprano, oboe and basso continuo; William Babel's *The Overture of Rinaldo* for harpsichord solo, Handel's *Aria Combatti da forte* for Almirena from Rinaldo, Handel's *Aria Bel piacere e godere* for Almirena from Rinaldo; and the Handel/Babell *Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa*.

Tickets: \$20 (concessions \$10)

<https://www.trybooking.com/CANVM>



Home and Hearth players: (L-R) Diana Weston (piano), Danielle Grant (soprano) and Tara Hashambhoy (violin). (images: supplied)



### Players in the Pub

We are still settling into our new home at the *Friend in Hand* and have pencilled in the next booking for Wednesday 28 September.

If you are not on our mailing list, but would like to be, please email [history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au) with Lyn Players in the Pub in the subject line.



# Subcommittee Annual Reports for 2021-2022

Subcommittee annual reports not included in this *Bulletin* will appear in the October *Bulletin*.

## Blue Wren Subcommittee Annual Report 2021-2022

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor

The Subcommittee has 16 members and met on six occasions over the last 12 months. Our oldest member, Norma Disher-Hawkins, turned 99 in October last year and the Society arranged for the City to plant a *Melaleuca linariifolia* in her honour in John Street Reserve close to her house in St James Ave. Since moving to Glebe over 40 years ago, Norma has made outstanding contributions to the wider community and to Glebe, especially in the establishment of the biodiversity garden in the Reserve.

As far as we know, there are no superb fairy wrens resident in Glebe. In February this year, however, a Society member from Hereford St (not far from Paddy Gray Reserve) saw male and female wrens in the front garden. Dr Holly Parsons (Program Co-Manager, Birds in Backyards) says we don't know how far wrens will travel to disperse after breeding – although distances of around 5 km could be expected. The previous sighting was in May 2021 when a pair of wrens were seen in the native flora on the foreshore walk in front of the *Anchorage* home units.



Okay, it's not a Superb Fairy Wren, but it's a bird and it's in Glebe! The indefatigable Brush Turkey does his thing, undeterred by the nearby tram. (photo: Phil Vergison)

The Society's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Bird Survey was held in November 2021 and was led as usual by Judy Christie. It was our largest team of surveyors with 20 people taking part, counting birds for 20 to 45 minutes in 11 different parts of Glebe and Forest Lodge. Not

surprisingly, with the additional people to count birds and more parts of Glebe and Forest Lodge covered – as well as the inclusion this year of Lake Northam in Victoria Park – we found 970 birds of 28 species (last year it was 623 birds of 26 species).

The two most common birds again were the native Noisy Miner and the Rainbow Lorikeet. The Noisy Miner continues to dominate all our open spaces and numerous nests have been seen. The Australian Magpie numbers jumped significantly and again they seem to be breeding wherever there are the tall trees that they prefer for nest sites. Pied Currawongs are also breeding locally and increasing, feeding on fleshy fruited trees such as figs and especially the now common street-planted Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*), as well as weedy species like Privet (*Ligustrum spp*) and particularly Celtis (*Celtis australis*). Among the non-native species the biggest increase was in numbers of Feral Pigeons, now called Rock Dove, reflecting their original origins in Europe on rocky cliffs. This year's survey will be held on Sunday 23 October and all members and friends are welcome to attend.

Also, earlier this year Sydney Water completed its naturalisation work on Johnstons creek/canal and it is wonderful to report that fauna (fish, pelicans, turtles, eels, ducks and herons) has returned. In a survey, Nick and Janice Sangster counted 219 birds of 12 species along the creek.

Following the City's extensive upgrade of Palmerston Steps, four volunteers led by Anna Szanto continue the work of the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group in caring for the parks. The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group has 20 volunteers who attend regular planting days and working bees. It is led by Judy Christie. Other parks in Glebe are maintained principally by the City's contractors (Skyline Landscape Services and the National Trust's Bushland Management Services); however, the Subcommittee maintains a watching brief over each and the details are as follows: Paddy Gray Reserve (Bryan Herden), John Street Reserve (Norma Hawkins and Bob Richards), Bicentennial and Federal Parks (David Lawrence) and Harold Park (Nick and Janice Sangster).

There are 14 schools and preschools in Glebe and each received an invitation to apply for a 2021 Craney Small Grant to support a biodiversity project in their school. Three grants were awarded and successfully

completed during the year: Glebe Public School (*Glebe Public School Environment Project*), Glebe SDN (*Native plant vertical garden*), and Explore and Develop (*Connecting to Country through classroom ecosystems*). Applications for the 2022 round of grants will close in November this year.



*Professor Dieter Hochuli and Andrew Wood inspecting the Hill (photo: Ian Stephenson)*

The Society's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Biodiversity Lecture entitled 'How nature survives and thrives in urban environments, and why it matters for the future of our cities' was given in May by Professor Dieter Hochuli from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney and leader of the Integrative Ecology Group. Helen Randerson reported that some of Dieter's research has focused on the wellbeing benefits of engaging with nature. In an urban setting, how accessible and close it is ('nature near you') seems to be more important than how good it actually is. Research on the benefits of urban trees has shown that there are both heat and biodiversity benefits, whilst research on urban children's connections to nature has shown significant differences with both age and gender, pointing to the need to find new ways to engage children. A forthcoming book by Dieter and colleagues, *Creatures in Your Neighbourhood* will try to encourage everyone to look at what's happening 'under their own noses' – in their local environments.

The Subcommittee has also helped prepare the Society's responses to various City and State Government plans. The City's Draft Plans of

Management for Glebe's crown lands (General Crown Reserves Draft Plan of Management, Wentworth Park Draft Plan of Management and Johnstons Creek Parklands Draft Plan of Management) were commented upon in December 2021. In its submission the Society stated:

*The City's management of the Crown Lands in Glebe and Forest Lodge, as remnants and reconstructed landscapes of rare green open space in a densely built city, provides opportunities for a renewed commitment to Indigenous sustainable management principles of 'Caring for Country'. These management practices should support the health and well-being of the land ('country'), in recognising Aboriginal custodianship of these lands, and local Aboriginal expertise should be sought where possible. The planting and maintenance of diverse native plant species to provide shade and habitat, a mix of native grasses, shrubs, small trees, 'native meadows' (as at Prince Alfred Park), dense small bird habitat and re-establishment of original vegetation (where appropriate) should be encouraged to promote biodiversity, environmental awareness, and a sense of continuity with Sydney's pre-1788 history.*

Of particular interest is the future of The Hill, a site of fenced contaminated land (a former garbage tip) on the northern side of the Tramsheds. The Society is proposing that it become an undisturbed urban nature refuge and has received support from the City to monitor the existing wildlife on the site by the use of cameras and acoustic recording devices (for detecting bats).

The Subcommittee worked with Keith Stallard, a Society member and resident of Balmain, on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Bays West Place Strategy. Keith proposed, with the support of the Society, that a wildlife eco-corridor should be established as an essential and important part of the Strategy and that it should include links to similar corridors in Glebe, Annandale and Callan Park. The President, Ian Stephenson, said that the important and necessary initiatives proposed in Keith's proposals are entirely aligned with the Society's biodiversity objectives which include: increasing the diversity, abundance and distribution of indigenous fauna and flora; establishing a network of wildlife corridors linking key habitat areas; and involving the local community in habitat creation, enhancement activities and public education on the importance of biodiversity.

At present the Subcommittee is helping to prepare the Society's comments on the City's 2022 Draft Street Tree Master Plan which will be submitted later this year.



## Planning Subcommittee Annual Report 2021-2022

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Subcommittee Convenor

Glebe's well defined physical boundaries, unusually intact and layered urban fabric, remarkable history, topography and demography make it a unique suburb. Perhaps the most important quality of all is Glebe's residents love of place. The Society has been working to nurture Glebe's special magic for over fifty years. Active engagement with the planning process is an important part of this. The Society has been very busy in this area over the last year. Our work has included making submissions on development applications, participating in meetings with the City of Sydney and the NSW Land and Housing Corporation, Infrastructure NSW and making detailed submissions on State Significant Development.

I am going to report on our planning work using three headings: *Visionary Projects*, *Opportunities* and *Threats*. So, this is a **VOT** analysis not a **SWOT** analysis.

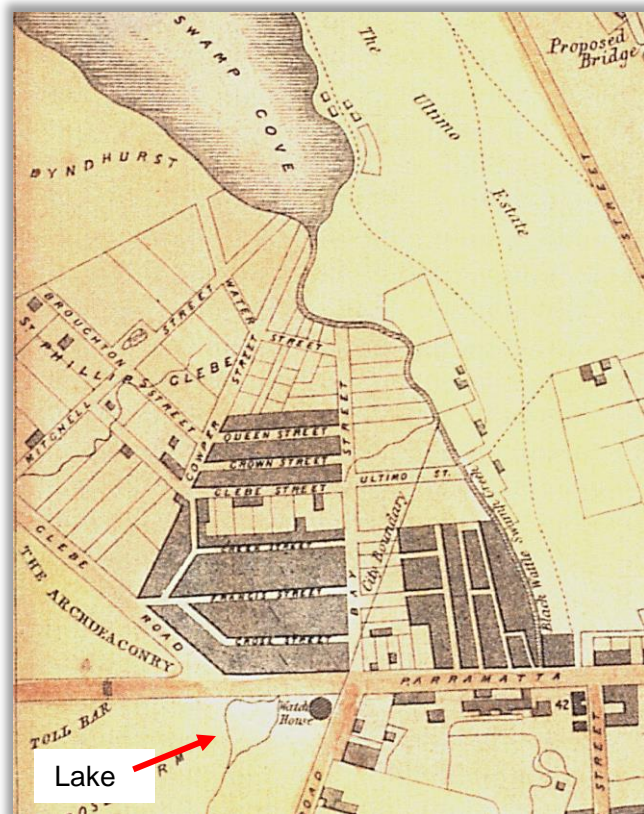
### Visionary Projects

We all know Handel's great tenor aria *Every valley shall be exalted*. One of the miracles of planning in Glebe has been the transformation of industrial wasteland into foreshore parks. These form our northern boundary. Recently Sydney Water completed the Johnstons Creek naturalisation and wetland project which forms our western boundary. This has been beautifully realised. Our eastern boundary, which is Wentworth Park, is the missing piece in the ensemble.

The park was created in 1882 from reclaimed land. The original scheme was artfully designed to accommodate active and passive recreation. Over the years it has been compromised but there are green shoots sprouting. The State Government has signalled its intention to remove the greyhound track.

The Society recommended to Sydney Council's review of the Wentworth Park's plan of management that there should be an integrated plan for the whole park. Pleasingly, Council is now in the process of developing a unified plan of management.

We also recommended that higher level planning documents for Sydney include Wentworth Park as a visionary project. This includes retaining the legibility of the topography on the park's western edge, not burying it in a mountain of masonry, recovering and celebrating the area's Indigenous significance – as well as a sense of the post-colonial gardenesque layout – and creating a green link which connects and interprets the former bay's relationship to its extant headwaters, Lake Northam in Victoria Park. It can become a park like no other.



This 1855 map shows Blackwattle Creek openly flowing from Parramatta Rd into 'Blackwattle Swamp Cove'. The waterway upstream of Parramatta Rd is underground. The lake seen in the lower left of the image is now Northam Lake in Victoria Park, one of the sources of Blackwattle Creek. Blackwattle Swamp was reclaimed and is now Wentworth Park. Blackwattle Creek continues to flow, but in the murky depths of a heritage-listed sewer (source: City of Sydney Historical Atlas)

### Opportunities

The Development Control Plans for Glebe include the objective, where feasible, of recovering lost details of buildings within heritage conservation areas. The Society has immense knowledge about the built form of Glebe. We see this as something to be shared. It was very pleasing to see our research inform the re-creation of the rich details of the façade of 3 Avenue Rd which had been removed in the 1970s (see Figure 3 below).

We also prepared a report documenting missing elements on the front elevation of a house in Boyce St and are hopeful that we will see a similar result there. The Society is always happy to share its knowledge of Glebe's built environment with residents.

As outlined in Brian Fuller's Heritage Convenor's Report we met with Councillors and Planners to discuss the Local Environment Plan and Development

Control Plan reviews. Nearly all of Glebe is within heritage conservation areas. These have quite detailed principles about managing development while retaining heritage significance. We would like to see it made easier for residents to access information about this, to understand what it means and get more guidance about the best way to extend their houses sympathetically. We are pleased to advise that Council are looking at diagrammatic exemplars as a means of providing greater clarity for applicants.

## Threats

Glebe's proximity to the city, the rising value of land and the fact that the State Government is Glebe's largest property owner is putting pressure on the conservation of Glebe's urban and social fabric.

In the 1980s the NSW Housing Commission added the equivalent of 1,000 bedrooms of infill housing to Glebe. This included good work to heal the wounds left by the Department of Main Roads' demolitions in the *Lyndhurst* estate for the Western Distributor. The brilliance of the work was that it fitted in with the scale of Glebe and included verandas and small front gardens so the new dwellings gave residents the same connection with the street as Glebe's old houses.

Last year the Land and Housing Corporation removed 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area allowing for the construction of two eight-storey buildings. In November 2021 the development application was approved.

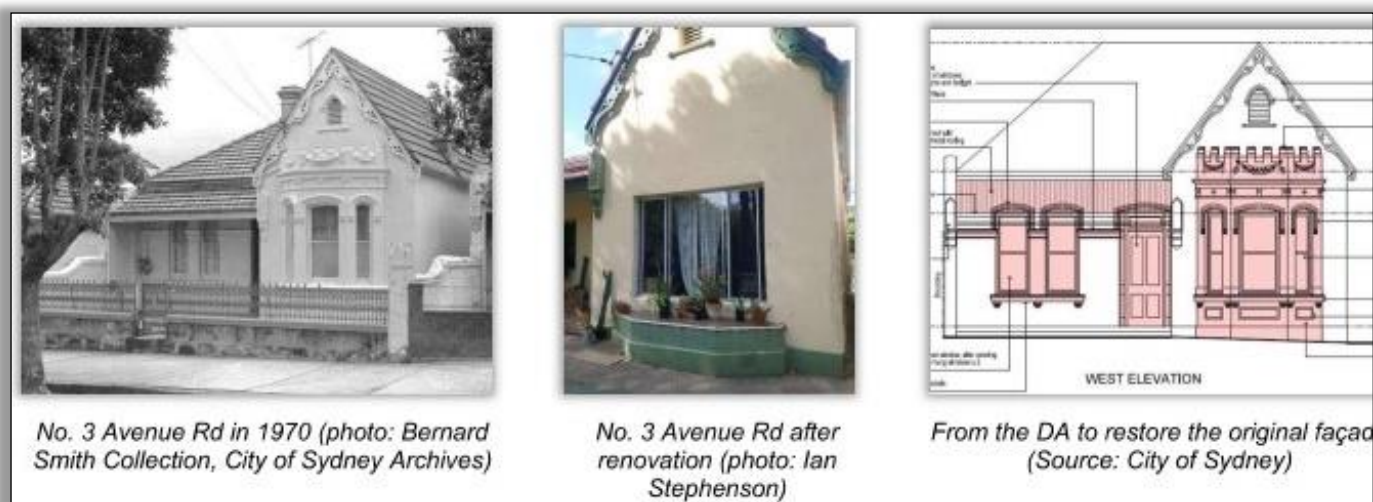


Figure 1. No. 3 Avenue Rd was shorn of its bay window and stucco decoration in the 1970s. The Society prepared an analysis of the facade which identified surviving features and documented missing elements (image: Ian Stephenson)

The Land and Housing Corporation now plan to demolish 82 Wentworth Park Rd. It was designed as part of the rehabilitation of the *Lyndhurst* estate after the Department of Main Roads demolitions and is part of an ensemble of three buildings (the other two being 49-55 and 61-63 Bellevue St) whose broken forms, pitched roofs and verandas use the topography to complement and reinforce Glebe's traditional urban edge with Wentworth Park.

The cost of demolition and rebuilding is greater than refurbishment. This is a well-built and beautifully designed building – what is proposed is not. Demolition comes at a personal cost, as it dislocates long term tenants. Nor is it an environmentally sustainable option. The scheme provides little increase in the number of bedrooms and this will be at great expense.

It would be much better to refurbish and retrofit and provide additional housing through sensitive infill development.

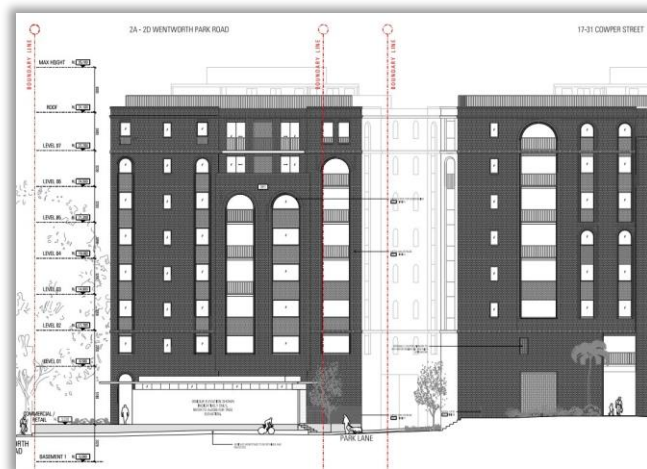


Figure 2. The two eight-storey buildings to be built in Cowper St on land excised from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation Area





Figure 3. 82 Wentworth Park Rd which is to be demolished



Figure 4. Its replacement (source: Pope Property, [www.popeproperty.com.au](http://www.popeproperty.com.au))

It is a real concern that the NSW Land and Housing Corporation will continue to redevelop its larger sites in Glebe, thus overturning 50 years of good planning and destroying the character of our suburb.

The sale of old houses in the former church estates is another concern. They were purchased by the Federal Government in 1974 in order to maintain parts of Glebe for people on low incomes. They are an integral part of Glebe's broad social demographic. These houses were put in good order by the Federal and State governments but have been woefully neglected in recent years.



Figure 5 The condition of Bidura's front fence is a security risk to this State Heritage-listed building and a visual blight on Glebe (photo: Phil Vergison)

The controversial *Bidura* development continues to be a problem. The development application has not yet been determined. In the meantime, the old house, and particularly its front fence, continues to decay. *Bidura* is on the State Heritage list. The NSW Heritage Act

defines minimum standards of maintenance for State Heritage listed items, including fences, and has provisions for their enforcement. The present condition of the fence of this landmark building is a blight on Glebe and should be remedied.

### Other Work

The Society objected to the terms of renewal of the illuminated advertising on the Glebe Island silos, due to its intrusive effects on residences in parts of Glebe Point. We also recently gave evidence to the Independent Planning Commission on this matter. We objected to the application for a liquor licence at 387 Glebe Point Rd. The application has been withdrawn. During the year we made a number of other submissions in relation to development applications. These can be read on our website.

The Bridge Rd pop-up cycleway is a continuing concern. We are not opposed to cycleways but this one is unsafe for cyclists as it disappears in a number of places forcing them into the roadway or onto the footpath and is unfair to residents in the way it has removed all the parking on Bridge Rd. This has unacceptable impacts, particularly on carers. Regrettably, the Minister for Active Transport, the Hon. Rob Stokes, has not replied to our letters, and requests to meet with traffic planners to better understand the options and alternative have not been acceded to.

We made submissions to the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment on the Pyrmont Place Master Plan, particularly in relation to Wentworth Park, and also on the Bays West Masterplan and the State Significant Precinct Study for Blackwattle Bay, and its recent revisions. Asa Wahlquist, the Bays and Foreshores Convenor, will report on the latter two issues in the next *Bulletin*.

I would like to thank Brian Fuller, the Heritage Convenor, and the planning staff of the Council of Sydney for their help in unravelling the intricacies of the planning system, Rodney Hammett for his forensic research skills, Asa Wahlquist for her thorough and

clear analysis of the Blackwattle Bay Masterplan, Jude Paul, Robert Hannon and Peter Crawshaw for helping with fieldwork and Virginia Simpson-Young for featuring planning in the *Bulletin* and the web.

## Heritage Subcommittee Annual Report 2021-2022

*by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee Convenor*

### Membership

Members of the Heritage subcommittee are Lydia Bushell, Margaret Cody, Lyn Collingwood, Rodney Hammett, Allan Hogan, Joseph King, Ted McKeown, Jude Paul, Margaret Sankey and myself. Thank you to all members for their continued dedication in working towards the heritage preservation and enhancement of Glebe and Forest Lodge for the benefit of our community now and into the future.



### Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

The review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 has continued into 2022. Members may recall that there were 295 submissions by incorporated heritage organisations, resident groups, local Councils, members of Parliament and the general public. As a result of those submissions, the Social Issues Standing Committee (Upper House) submitted 26 recommendations to the State Government. The State

Government in turn indicated its support of those recommendations (some in principle only), notwithstanding that further consultation has been occurring with nationally-based heritage groups. The details of those consultations have not been made public and have the appearance of occurring behind very closed doors.

Given the State election is to be held in early 2023, the Government's focus will no doubt be directed to other matters, and so it may be some considerable time before we see an indicator of the direction of the review. In the meantime, we have turned our attention to the review of the City of Sydney's DCP and LEP, as these local planning controls are very instrumental to the protection and adaptation of our built heritage.

### Review of the Local Environmental Plan 2012

The City of Sydney's current Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan came into force in 2012. After 10 years, it is timely that they are reviewed to assess their relevance to the ongoing social, environmental, heritage and economic issues.

While the public will have a chance to 'Have Your Say' when the draft proposals are released later in the year, the Society decided to make representations early to ensure that the needs of the local community were heard well in advance. A small working party (representing the Planning and Heritage subcommittees) of Ian Stephenson, Ted McKeown, Rodney Hammett, Jude Paul and myself reviewed the current controls and considered those matters that need to be strengthened, easier to interpret and redefined. Given that Glebe and Forest Lodge are collectively within eight Heritage Conservation Areas (HCA), it is appropriate that our considerations should have a heritage focus.

We met separately with Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillors Linda Scott, Yvonne Weldon and Sylvie Ellsmore to exchange views on those issues of importance to Glebe and Forest Lodge. It was invaluable to have met with some of the new Councillors. We also met with members of the City's Strategic Planning Staff on two occasions, who were very generous with their time.

Our representations have included the following matters:



- HCA boundary adjustments – we were told that none are proposed
- The importance of the preservation of ‘contributory’ items (in addition to listed items) to the character of the HCA, particularly at the time of additions
- That the redevelopment of ‘neutral’ buildings should not be detrimental to the character of the HCAs
- Any proposed variations to the controls in regard to Height of Buildings (HOB) and Floor to Space Ratio (FSR) should not have a detrimental effect on the character and significance of the HCAs
- The need for clear guidance towards environmentally-sustainable development initiatives while maintaining the significance of the HCAs
- The opportunity for a concentrated strategy towards laneway development that provides adaptable reinterpretation while adhering to the character significance of the HCAs, simultaneously promoting greater canopy cover or landscaping instead of monolithic rows of garage doors
- User-friendly access to the Locality Statements and Heritage Inventory Assessment Reports that are required assessment criteria for submission with any development proposal
- Greater guidelines towards the preparation of the required Heritage Impact Statements to be submitted with each development proposal
- Diagrammatic examples of permissible development to provide clarity to owners, their consultants and the City’s own assessment staff, e.g., dormers, attics, rear additions and garages
- Greater allocation of deep soil planting areas within each development proposal



*‘Monolithic rows of garage doors’ in the unnamed lane between Lodge St and Forest St, Forest Lodge (photo: V. Simpson-Young)*

## Blue Plaques

Members will recall that the NSW Government recently initiated the Blue Plaques program. Similar to the UK program of the same name, it is designed to celebrate memorable people, events and places that have made a contribution to local communities or regions, and which are now embedded into our history and heritage, and consequently the fabric of our State.

The 17 recipients of a Blue Plaque for 2022 were announced in April. Of the many submissions prepared by The Glebe Society, the nomination of Charles Perkins, Civil Rights Activist and Forest Lodge resident, was within the list of 17. Dr Perkins lived at 27 Catherine St Forest Lodge whilst studying at the University of Sydney.

The research, collation of information and preparation of nominations were carried out by Lyn Collingwood, Jude Paul, Ian Stephenson and Ted McKeown. Our gratitude to them for undertaking such an arduous, informative but rewarding task.

Blue Plaques nominations are scheduled to be an annual event.



*27 Catherine St, once the home of Charles Perkins, will be one of the first properties to be given a Blue Plaque (photo: VSY)*

## Community Engagement

On behalf of the Subcommittee, Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett continued to work with a community that looks to the Society for heritage and historical information about Glebe and Forest Lodge.

Direct enquiries via email to @heritage and @history totalled 49, while a few others were redirected from the Society's website. For the *Bulletin*, Lyn contributed eight mystery photos and nine 'Who lived/worked/filmed in your street' entries. Rodney and Sybil Jack wrote eight and five articles respectively on various aspects of our suburb's history; Virginia Simpson-Young penned two and Ian Stephenson gave details of four of the nominations for a Blue Plaque.

Many enquirers were family historians, while others sought information on the history of their houses. International correspondents included a Bornholm Museum curator wanting to identify a house owned by Danish consul Ludolph Marcker; a UK resident with fond memories of Ernie Ridding who recycled fridges and donated them to the poor; a Betts family descendant living in Canada who was delighted to receive from Robert Hannan, a copy of an 1836 letter describing life on Glebe Rd.

The donation to our archives of a vintage Sydney Flour plastic bag prompted stories on Glebe's flour mills. More intriguing was the offer of an original Waratah stove. Jude Paul (living in *Waratah*, built for the stove's maker Benjamin Stone) considered rehousing it, but its owner found another taker. Not proffered, unfortunately, was a scan of a photo of Bridge Rd's *Jarocin*, of which the Society has no image.



*A detail of the tiling on the verandah of Waratah, on Glebe Point Rd.*

Sometimes snippets of information add to our knowledge of how people lived their everyday lives. One correspondent mentioned that his father as a child lived on Lodge St and worshipped at St Johns.

The boy was severely chastised by his aunt for going to sit in a front pew instead of the family pew at the rear. The socially superior seat was that of Judge Wilkinson who lived next door in *Hereford House*, in what is now Foley Park.

If you come across a photo of an earlier time in Glebe or Forest Lodge, please forward to [history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au)

The subcommittee is hugely indebted to Lyn and Rodney for the volume of work that they undertake as we engage with our community.

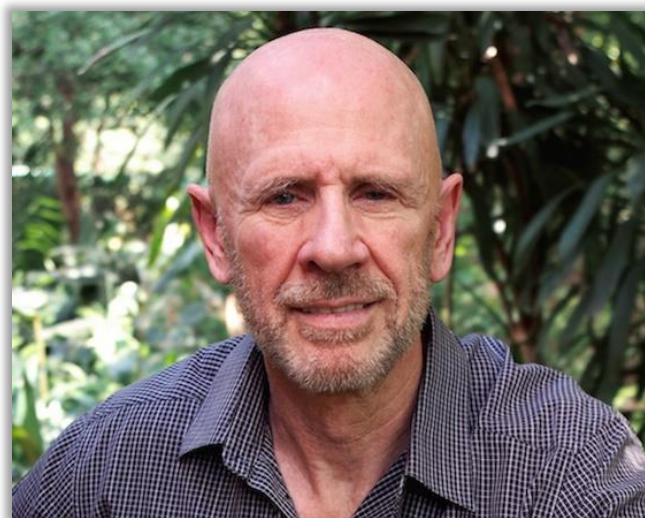
## Heritage Convenor

After four years in the role, I believe it is time to hand the baton over to someone new.

The activities of the Heritage subcommittee are governed by its Terms of Reference, which in turn requires that the Subcommittee act in accordance with the Society's constitution. Within that context, members of the Subcommittee and the Convenor, focus on those matters that are of significance at a point in time. Of course, as humans we naturally align to those issues that we are personally passionate about.

For me, the responsible and sustainable preservation and adaptation of Glebe's heritage assets is a high priority, ensuring that these assets (public and private) continue to be highly maintained with relevant and useful purpose. Each new Convenor has an opportunity to influence a new perspective to our activism for better heritage outcomes.

It's a great role, superbly supported by some very knowledgeable and passionate people. Should any member wish to know more about the role, I would be more than happy to chat.



*Brian Fuller, Convenor of the Heritage Subcommittee will be retiring from the role at the AGM (photo: supplied)*



## For Your Calendar

Sunday 11 September, *Orphan School Bushcare Group*, working bee, contact Judy Christie 0437 693 372  
 Sunday, 11 September, 11 am-1 pm; *Glebe Society AGM*, Glebe Youth Service, 84 Glebe Point Rd  
 Sunday 25 September, 10am-4pm. *Glebe Art Society's Glebe Foreshore Art Walk & Plein Air Painting*  
 Wednesday 28 September. *Players in the Pub*, Friend in Hand Hotel  
 Friday 30 September, 6 pm. Community Dinner with Pyrmont Community Centre, Tramsheds.  
 Sunday 23 October, 6.45 am *Annual Spring Bird Survey*; contact Judy Christie 0437 693 372.  
 Sat 4 Nov to Sun 27 Nov. *Glebe Music Festival*. Various locations  
 Saturday 5 November, 11am-10pm, Sydney Streets'. Glebe Point Rd – between Parramatta and St Johns Rds  
 Sunday 11 December, 5pm-7pm. *Glebe Society Christmas Gathering*, Gardner's Grill, Victoria Park.  
 Last Friday of the month. *Community Dinners* (by 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      |
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| Past President      | Janet Wahlquist   |              | pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au  |
| Secretary           | Jude Paul         | 0438 600 882 | secretary@glebesociety.org.au      |
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| Environment         | vacant            |              | environment@glebesociety.org.au    |
| Transport & Traffic | vacant            |              | transport@glebesociety.org.au      |

#### Working Groups & Contacts

|                        |                        |              |                                 |
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| 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. 7 of 2022 (September 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](http://www.glebesociety.org.au); write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au).



*A limited future? The monolithic Wentworth Park Grandstand in August 2022 (Photo: Phil Vergison)*