



## From the President

By Ian Stephenson

Tyson Kinnane of Transport NSW arranged for some members of the management committee; Duncan Leys (Transport), Tamira Stevenson (Environment), Allan Hogan (Communications) and me to meet with representatives of Transport NSW at Bridge Rd on 18 November to discuss the cycleway and get an update on proposed improvements. Tamira uses the cycleway, so it was good to have her input. The Transport NSW team included officers responsible for design and safety.

Transport NSW listened to our concerns, the key points of which are:

*The cycleway is discontinuous. Over its 1.3 km length, it disappears in nine places forcing cyclists onto either the road or footpath. Excluding the shared cycle pedestrian path at the viaduct, the cycleway is non-existent for 845 metres. As shown in Table 1, there is no cycleway for 25% of the route heading east and 40% heading west.*

**Table 1**

<b>Cycleway section, heading East</b>		<b>Section length (metres)</b>
Lyons Rd to Barr St	no cycleway	35
196 Bridge Rd to Clare St	cycleway	
Clare St to Woolley St	no cycleway	86
Woolley St to 163 Bridge Rd	cycleway	
163 Bridge Rd to Gottenham La	no cycleway	204
Gottenham La to 21 Bridge Rd (Burton St)	cycleway	
<i>Subtotal</i>		<b>325</b>
<b>Cycleway section, heading West</b>		
22 Bridge Rd to viaduct	cycleway	
Viaduct to just before Railway Parade	footpath	30
Just before Railway Pde to Talfourd St	cycleway	
Talfourd St to opposite Rosebank St	no cycleway	135
Opposite Rosebank St to Opposite Woolley St	cycleway	
Opposite Woolley St to Hewitt Av	no cycleway	50
Hewitt Ave to Jarocin Ave	cycleway	
198 Bridge Rd (just after Jarocin Ave) to 250 Bridge Rd	no cycleway	200
250 Bridge Rd to 280 Bridge Rd just before Junction St	cycleway	
280 Bridge Rd to 304 Bridge Rd	no cycleway	100
304 Bridge Rd to Barr St	cycleway	
Barr St to Lyons Rd	no cycleway	35
<i>Subtotal</i>		<b>550</b>
<b>Total length no cycleway</b>		<b>845</b>

No parking is permitted along Bridge Rd. Table 2 below shows the distance between cross streets where residents might be able to find a park. The streets highlighted in yellow are between Glebe Point Rd and Ross St. Residents here have particular difficulties because of the lack of back lanes and long distances between cross streets. The removal of all parking is particularly difficult for people with disabilities but also affects tradespersons, deliveries and removals.

**Table 2**

<b>Cycleway heading East</b>	<b>Length</b>
Lyons Rd to Cross St	168 metres
Cross St to Foss St	114 metres
Foss St to Ross St	100 metres
Ross St to Clare St	223 metres
Clare St to Woolley St	84 metres
Woolley St to Rosebank St	100 metres
Rosebank St to Glebe Point Rd	57 metres
Glebe Point Rd to Talfourd St	62 metres
Talfourd St to Gottenham St	59 metres
Gottenham St to Burton St	245 metres
<b>Heading West</b>	
Railway St to Gottenham St	211 metres
Gottenham St to Talfourd St	59 metres
Talfourd St to Glebe Point Rd	63 metres
Glebe Point Rd to Jarocin Ave	340 metres
Jarocin Ave to Ross St	148 metres
Ross St to Junction St	182 metres
Junction St to Barr St	170 metres
Barr St to Lyons Rd	33 metres

### **Planned Improvements**

Transport NSW advised that the narrowing of the road for the pedestrian crossing at Woolley St is to be removed. This will allow the cycleway to be continuous heading east from Clare St to Woolley St (86 metres) and opposite Woolley St to Hewit Ave heading West (50 metres). This is an improvement. The cycleway will disappear in seven rather than nine places for a total length of about 700 metres.

The unsightly red paddles are to be replaced by a low kerb. Consideration is being given to the need for kerb crossings for users of prams, trolleys and wheelchairs.

We were advised that they were aware that the parking issues and regulation of parking are a Council of Sydney responsibility but a request would be made to Council to facilitate more car drop off and pickup and delivery zones in side streets.

### **Timing**

The works to make the cycleway permanent will not commence until the current works to upgrade the power supply to the new fish market are completed. This is likely to be after March 2023 at the earliest.

### **Other Options**

The Management Committee is particularly concerned about the stretch of cycleway between Glebe Point Rd and Ross St because of safety for cyclists and amenity for residents. However, it must be noted that not all our members share this view. The Sydney Bike Network map (Figure 1) proposes a regional bike way branching off Bridge Rd at Gottenham St and going to Bay St. We asked if the feasibility had been explored of using the proposed Gottenham St branch to divert the cycleway along St Johns Rd and Junction St thereby eliminating the most problematic stretch? Transport NSW advised that this had been explored but was not considered feasible because bikes would have to cross Bridge Rd and because the direct route was preferred. They agreed to send the Society the feasibility study. The Society recommended that there be improved signage to make motorists more aware of the places where the bike path merges with the traffic stream. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

The Management Committee is particularly concerned about the stretch of cycleway between Glebe Point Road and Ross St because of safety for cyclists and amenity for residents. However, it must be noted that not all our members share this view. The Sydney Bike Network map (Figure 1) proposes a regional bike way branching off Bridge Rd at Gottenham St and going to Bay St. We asked if the feasibility had been explored of using the proposed Gottenham St branch to divert the cycleway along St Johns Rd and Junction St thereby eliminating the most problematic stretch? Transport NSW advised that this had been explored but was not considered feasible because bikes would have to cross Bridge Rd and because the direct route was preferred. They agreed to send the Society the feasibility study.

We have received some correspondence from members on this issue: one supporting the cycleway and requesting a more balanced view from the Society and another suggesting we look at the Bourke St, Surry Hills cycleway as an example of a better design. I welcome this feedback.

**Continued next page**

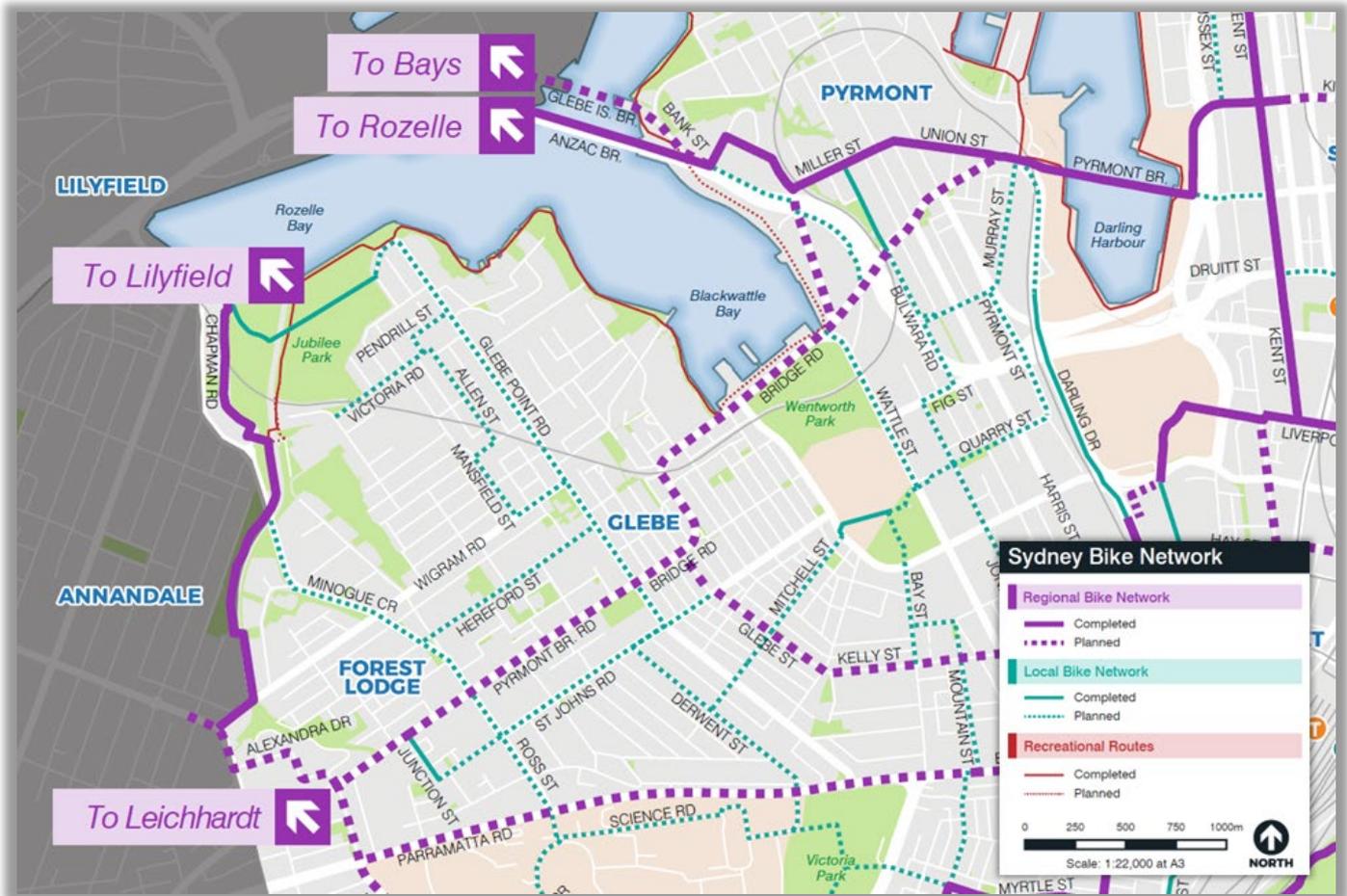


Figure 1. The Sydney Bike Network Map (detail) (Source: City of Sydney, [tinyurl.com/589upd4x](https://tinyurl.com/589upd4x))

Bourke St Surry Hills is 13 metres wide from kerb to kerb (see Figure 2). It has a separated cycleway for two-way cycle traffic, provides for two-way vehicular traffic and allows for parking on both sides of the road.



Figure 2 The Bourke St Surry Hills cycleway (Image supplied)

Interestingly Bourke St and St Johns Rd are about the same width from kerb to kerb, 13 metres (Bridge Rd is only 9 metres).

Once the Bridge Rd cycleway is made permanent, it will be in place for a long time. I think it is important to look at all the options before it is made permanent. Would the Bourke St model with a diversion to avoid the most problematical section of Bridge St thereby eliminating the discontinuities and improving access work better?

In October, the City of Sydney released the St Johns Rd improvement scheme, which involves widening the footpaths of St Johns Rd. The Society made a submission recommending that they take a wholistic view of all the transport needs, particularly cyclists, before determining whether to proceed with the proposal.

We would like to thank the staff of Transport NSW for meeting with us.

Given that no construction can take place until the second quarter of 2023 at the earliest, we feel there are still other options which need to be explored.

# What's Happening to *Bidura*?

By Allan Hogan

John Howard would not be happy. The white picket fence at the front of *Bidura* on Glebe Point Rd is in serious need of repair. For months, passers-by have noticed more gaps between the palings and a leaning tilt unsuccessfully restrained by strategically placed posts.



The picket fence in front of *Bidura*. (Image: Allan Hogan)

*Bidura* was built in 1860 by Edmund Blackett, the architect of Sydney University and St Andrews Cathedral, and is listed on the State Heritage Register. The State Government sold it and the building behind it, known as the Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC), to a property developer in 2014. The State Heritage listing protects the 1860 building from demolition and requires the owner to maintain and preserve it. The developer, Vision Land, has submitted plans to the City Council to demolish the MRC and replace it with an apartment block. Those plans have been highly controversial and the subject of submissions by the Glebe Society. The Council is expected to make a decision about the latest DA in mid-December.

In the meantime, the picket fence resembles the teeth of a street brawler who has had a few fights too many. Contacted by the *Bulletin*, Vision Land said 'The structure of the fence is beyond repair, and as such

we have been looking to contract out the works to replace it. Unfortunately, we have been unable to commence works previously as we had not yet received development consent for the site from City of Sydney.'

But Vision Land says there's 'a pathway forward wherein we can commence works for *Bidura House* prior to receiving development consent for the full site. We are currently preparing documentation for *Bidura House* works and hope to go to tender in February next year subject to being able to source qualified contractors.'



A hole in the soffit at *Bidura* (Image: Allan Hogan)

Perhaps more serious than the fence is what's happening to the building itself. A close examination of the eaves suggests that there might be some water leakage in the roof. There's clearly a hole in the soffit (that's the technical term) and why this has occurred is a mystery. Is it rot? It seems unlikely that anyone would have punched a hole there, but at least it's a convenient entry for the local fauna.

The NSW Heritage Act gives powers to the Heritage Council to make orders about maintenance for heritage listed buildings. The Glebe Society contacted the Heritage Council to ask if it intended to make such an order for *Bidura*. At the time of going to press there had been no reply.

## Great volunteer opportunity ... you could be the Society's *Bulletin* Editor!



We are looking for a new editor after 10 years of Virginia's stewardship which moved the Society into full colour and the integrated online digital era across a range of communication channels.

You may have ideas on the format, frequency and design – we are very open to hear those. Continuing the regular *Bulletin* publications is critical for the

Glebe Society which has been around in a range of forms for over 50 years.

There is training and support for anyone interested in taking on this valuable and interesting volunteer role.

A number of willing photographers will keep you supplied with images.

**Want to know more?** Contact Allan Hogan Email: [communications@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:communications@glebesociety.org.au)

# Thank you, Keiran! All the best for the future

*By Judy Vergison*

Keiran Kevans (Glebe Youth Service) has made what he says is the most difficult decision of his life in deciding it is time to leave GYS on 25 November 2022.

The Glebe Society has great respect and gratitude for the way Keiran has brought together so many community groups in Glebe.

Below are a few reflections from Keiran on his time at GYS and building such strong connections in our Glebe community.

**Best wishes for the future! ... from all of us in the Glebe Society**



*Keiran Kevans, Co-ordinator of the Glebe Youth Service has left GYS after many years in the role. (photo: supplied)*

## A Message from Keiran to Glebe Society members

*Being a part of the Glebe community and people's lives has been an immense and unforgettable joy. Seeing many young people go on to do good things in their lives and their ongoing connection to Glebe and GYS is rewarding beyond words. There are many things to reflect on after 16 years, but I will focus on just a few.*

*I am very proud that we have been able to secure funding for After Dark (against the odds) for the past 12 years. We have seen our income and service footprint grow and diversify over the past decade. We have strengthened and expanded our local and sector connections and partnerships.*

*We may be a youth service in name, but we are now truly a child, youth and family support and community development organisation.*

*Seeing the building at 84 Glebe Point Rd improve over the years has been very satisfying. When I arrived in 2006, the place was in some state of neglect- we have greatly improved the function, aesthetic, and amenity of our centre.*

*Art, music and film are great ways to engage local young people and provide them opportunities to tell their stories. It was such a joy to be a part of numerous community murals – such as 'Enjoy Glebe', 'Respect', 'Nothing More Nothing Less', 'Energy Energy Energy' and Kurliwan inside the Peter Forsyth Auditorium.*

*Having Archie Roach perform at the launch of the Kurliwan mural was a real personal highlight. We cannot underestimate the power of the arts to engage, heal and unite, and being a part of so many creative projects was tremendously rewarding.*

*There are many people who I would like to thank, but it is simply not possible to mention everyone. I want to especially thank all the GYS team over the years, and members of the Management Committee for the past 12 years. From UTS, Mitra Gusheh and Dianne Moy have been tremendous allies. In government, Tanya Plibersek, Jamie Parker, Linda Scott, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, and Jess Scully all deserve a massive thanks for their support of GYS and Glebe. I have learnt so much from so many and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to work together.*

*The Glebe Society has always been an active advocate and supporter. Your generosity during COVID lockdowns in the Glebe Estate was nothing short of amazing. Within three days you donated enough money for GYS to quickly stand up a highly impactful program to meet the specific needs of locals - as well volunteering to collect, sort and deliver food donations. You just can't imagine the difference that made for so many families in Glebe.*

*A massive and heartfelt thanks to the local young people I have gotten to know– it is truly a privilege to know you and thanks for letting me share a part of your journey, I will always remember you.*

*Thank you, Glebe. This has been the best, most challenging and rewarding thing I have ever done. I am sad to say farewell, but my heart is full, feeling deeply rewarded by my time in Glebe and grateful for the opportunity to work at GYS.*

*I leave knowing GYS is strong and will continue to be a part of the Glebe social fabric for many years to come.*

*With love and gratitude, - Keiran Kevans*

# History, Glebe & Forest Lodge

## Dr Rudolph Bohrsmann and Racism

by Simon Bohrsmann

(Simon Bohrsmann is a former journalist who now lives in London)

In the first year of WW1, a fist fight breaks out on a Bondi tram between the colourful Glebe baker Christian Raith and a younger man named William Dawkins. Other passengers claim Raith, a German, shouts he wishes he was back home to lend a hand in the war.

They tell him to shut up 'in view of the present very high tension'. The tram stops and the combatants tumble outside and Raith knocks Dawkins to the ground and is on top of him when police charge in and arrest him. Raith is fined £2 or two weeks in prison for riotous behaviour, and Dawkins escapes with a few bruises.

It's a local angle on the war and one newspaper headline declares: 'Britisher and German Fight'.

The punch-up is a glimpse of the anti-German hysteria that swept Australia at the time. People turned on their neighbours and German Australians became the 'enemy within' and were ostracised, abused and even locked up.

At the time of his scraps Christian Raith, 54, had lived in Australia for 33 years since he had worked his ship's passage as a baker. He was one of more than five million Germans who left their homeland between 1820 and WW1, mostly because of politics, poverty, religion and opportunity.

I came across the story of Mr Raith the baker because he was a good friend of my great uncle, Dr Rudolph Bohrsmann, who was a big wheel in Glebe at the time, both as a local doctor and an aspiring politician. I should mention I knew very little of this until, a few years ago, when I read a story in the Glebe Society *Bulletin* about Rudolph, by Glebe chronicler Lyn Collingwood. Lyn's work made me realise I had been walking alongside my family's ghosts in Glebe, with my eyes closed.

In 1854, another emigrant to young Sydney was a 20-year-old tailor called Matthias Christian Bohrsmann from Altona, now part of Hamburg. He escaped conscription in the Schleswig Wars and he was my great grandfather and Rudolph's father. They sang a patriotic song in Altona at the time with this line: 'Our future lies on the far wide sea'. These emigrants included winegrowers, farmers, carpenters (and tailors).

Rudolph's father Matthias became a very wealthy businessman and Rudolph and his three brothers (but not his two sisters) were sent to university. All became

doctors. Rudolph graduated in Medicine from Sydney University in 1894 and by 1898 had set up his Glebe practice.

In 1913, Rudolph decided to run for NSW Parliament and he won a secret selection ballot against the unpopular former government minister Jimmy Hogue. Rudolph won by a thumping 876 votes to Hogue's tally of 148. The press disliked Hogue. The *Bulletin* said he was 'flooded out in a storm of enlightenment' and the Sydney Truth declared Hogue was better at billiards than politics. A squad of policemen was close by on the night of the ballot, in case of trouble between the supporters of the two candidates.

Rudolph opened his campaign in front of a big crowd in Glebe Town Hall, on 16 September 1913. He later addressed a campaign rally from the balcony of Mr R. Miller's house at 96 Bridge Rd, Glebe.

His younger brother, my grandfather Gustav, ran in the same election as a Liberal for Newtown. Both of them lost.

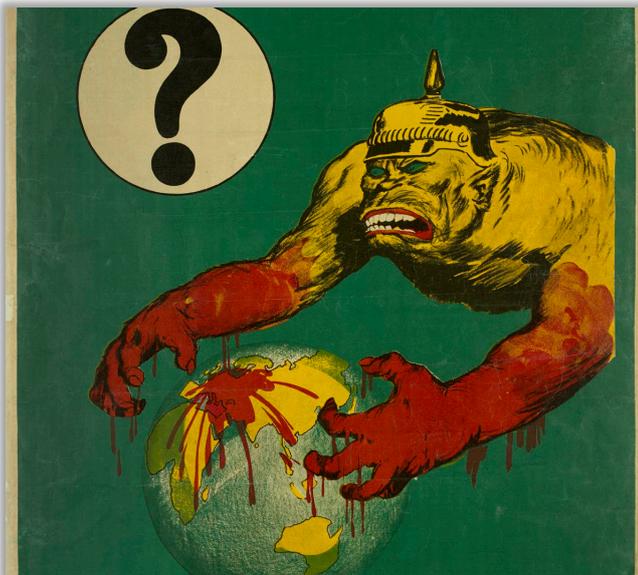
It was the Bohrsmanns' last chance for political elevation because the following year war broke out and thereafter it was not a good time for anybody with a German name to run for public office. Rudolf and Gus and their brothers and sisters were born here, but their surname was not.



Rudolph (at right with pipe) at a family picnic. (Image: Undated photo, Bohrsmann family archive)

*The Mirror of Australia* was a newspaper, of a sort, which lasted from 1915 to 1917 and boasted its campaign had seen over 1,000 'Huns' interred. The paper's editorial line was to report the war effort and attack Germans on the home front. 'Enemy aliens' were sent to internment camps at Liverpool, Hay, Orange and Cowra.

*The Mirror* fumed about Germans living in 'Hun-amurra' and 'Hun-ter's Hill'. On 12 February 1916 *The Mirror* attacked a Sydney café 'where the Hun hogs feed in Continental style'. where 'the elite of the Hun swine still at large in Sydney' ate Wiener Schnitzel. It got worse. The paper described 'a repulsive creature with four chins and a thick neck' and named 'squareheads' who included Australians of German or Austrian descent. What an irony the 'schnitty' is now a staple of Aussie pub food. But it was not funny back then.



*An official recruitment poster created by Norman Lindsay ca 1915 held in the collection of State Library Victoria.*

This was the new world order for Dr Rudolph and my family. Four years before the war, Rudolph wrote a pamphlet (now in the National Archive) titled 'Empire Day in Australia', under the patronage of the British Empire League of Australia. Rudolph wrote: 'There can be no nobler and purer spirit encouraged in the young than an ardent love of the land that gave them life.' He included the lyrics and music of patriotic songs, including 'Rule Britannia', and instructions on the proper ways to make a Union Jack and other flags. Empire Day was a major annual event in the local schools.

In 1916, mid-war, Rudolph chaired a military recruitment meeting in Glebe, where young men were urged to sign up. More importantly, he signed up as a military officer at the Royal Military College in Duntroon, Canberra – I assume as a teacher because his obituary said he wanted to serve overseas but was sent to Duntroon instead.

He was respected for his work with the local friendly societies. Many people survived on low wages and could not afford medical fees, so instead they paid about fourpence a week into lodges set up by friendly societies so their families could see a doctor on set nights. Next door to his family home was Glebe Superior Public School (now known as Glebe Primary

School) where Rudolph patched up kids hurt in playground scraps. His work at the school is still remembered today by the Dr Bohrsman Honour Board hanging in a corridor. He was also president of the Parents Association and every year he gave a gold medal to the school dux. The family moved to a mansion down the road called *Arden* in Forsyth St, since demolished, but his old house at 36 Glebe Point Rd still stands and was recently occupied by an Asian restaurant, and then a bar.



*Rudolph Bohrsman treated his patients in this building, 36 Glebe Point Rd (Image: Simon Bohrsman)*

The Anti-German League illustrates the toxic world my family found itself in. Audiences applauded when Germans were denounced as spies and conspirators, and the hysteria extended to shouts that the only good German was a dead German. The League wasn't just some street rabble. It included members of parliament, aldermen, businessmen and all kinds from this young nation, which ironically was built from many nationalities. Rudolph's brother Gustav, up the road in Newtown, was not intimidated. He addressed meetings of the League, even denouncing German '*kultur*'. In 1916, Gustav stood in front of a conscription rally with a roaring crowd of 1,000 – most were opposed to conscription. They were so angry that only 50 people stood up for the National Anthem and the rest stayed seated with their hats on. Gustav urged young men to sign up for the fight, and someone asked if he was born in Germany. 'No!', he shouted back. 'I was born in 39 Oxford St, Surry Hills. I'm an Australian. If you mean, as a doctor, am I a germ man? I say yes, for I have a knowledge of microbes, and you are the greatest microbes of cowardice the British race ever produced!'

There's a colourful story about Dr Rudolph, which shows life wasn't always a battle. But buried within this tale of horse racing and stolen diamonds is a nasty whiff of the racism of the day.

It was one month before the end of the war, in 1918, and Dr Rudolph, now 48, found himself in court as a witness in a case against a woman called Muzelle Elias. She was a gambler, the owner of a racehorse, and a diamond dealer.

I can't tell you how she knew Dr Rudolph, except to note their common interest in affairs of the turf. The case against her involved a pair of diamond earrings worth £500 which Miss Elias, in her role as a diamond expert, was supposed to sell on behalf of a financier. She was accused of pawning them instead for £250. But she claimed she sold them to Dr Rudolph, and that he gave her three promissory notes for a total of £330.

In the witness box, Dr Rudolph denied buying diamonds from Miss Elias. He did say he wrote her a promissory note for £100 after a betting loss on a horse called Malena, which Miss Elias tipped him. He said he backed Malena a few times, but not when it won. This got a few laughs in the court.

Mr Loxton, KC, asked Rudolph, 'Are you often in difficulties over your racing bets?' There were more laughs when Rudolph replied, 'No. Sometimes I am in temporary difficulties over racing bets.' But there were no laughs when Mr Loxton, who represented Miss Elias, asked Dr Rudolph about his ancestry. In other words, could a German be trusted to tell the truth?

The prosecuting lawyer hit back by making it clear that Rudolph was born right here in NSW and that his brothers were Australian too. And Rudolph added his

mother was English and his father was a Dane. (His father came from Altona, which was then part of Denmark, but he was German.)

Glebe historian Max Solling told me Rudolph was one of the doctors in Glebe respected for caring for the poor, between Federation and WW1. These doctors spoke out against poverty and poor housing; some, including Rudolph, were active in local politics. But during the war, says Mr Solling in his book *Grandeur & Grit: A History of Glebe*, Dr Rudolph 'is ostracised and leaves the suburb in 1918'. Mr Solling also notes locals Christian Raith and August Heinrich 'suffered in a campaign of vilification against 'Hun' bakers'.

Dr Rudolph and his family moved to the eastern suburbs. His son, also Rudolph, or Rudy, would shorten his surname to Mann to escape the racism of the time. Rudy went on to successfully manage the Tivoli touring companies and theatres and represented the Sadler's Wells Opera Co. in Australia.

Rudolph senior was only 54 when he died, in the spring of 1925, in Earlsdon Private Hospital, Manly, after a heart attack while playing tennis. His funeral was at the Wood Coffill Funeral Parlour on Broadway, not far from his old home. The mourners included many Glebe identities, local councillors, the town clerk Tom Glasscock, rugby union player Harry Holden; and all-round sportsman Hyam Marks, a fellow student at Sydney Grammar and a commentator on the first live Test cricket radio broadcast. Also at the funeral was the local character and baker, German-born Christian Raith, who began this story.

Raith lived to the age of 79, and was praised as one of the best master bakers in Sydney. One of his sons was the mayor of Petersham in 1934.

## Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 10

By Ian Stephenson

The tenth site nominated for a Blue Plaque is 23 Avenue Rd, Glebe. The Glebe Society started from a meeting held here, the home of Bernard and Kate Smith, on 27 February 1969.



The booklet *Fifty Years of the Glebe Society*<sup>1</sup> records that:

*Bernard and Kate Smith came to Glebe in 1967 following Bernard's appointment as Power Professor of Contemporary Art ... at the University of Sydney. He and Kate Challis were married in 1941. They shared a strong social consciousness and had complementary skills. While a supportive partner to an*

*increasingly public figure Kate never lost her identity. In Glebe Society matters, Bernard had the public authority, verbal assurance and writing skills to be a forceful and effective President. Kate, on the other hand, was the grassroots worker. She worked closely with locals, developing a social organisation that proved invaluable when occasions arose for residents to rally for a protest or a photo.*

Assisted by Max Solling's forensic study of Glebe's urban geography, Bernard and Kate wrote *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, published in 1973.

Up to that time, most studies of Australian architectural history focussed on exemplars – examples of the best buildings by the best architects. Their work was significant in looking at architectural typologies across an entire suburb. It was also one of the first studies to use the term Federation Style,

which Bernard Smith had coined, to refer to the plurality of architectural styles in use in Australia around the 1900s.

Bernard and Kate did a huge amount of fieldwork for the book. Over 400 of the photographs they took survive as the Bernard and Kate Smith Collection at the City of Sydney Archives,<sup>3</sup> and are available online. The collection has proved to be of lasting value in documenting Glebe at a particular time. It has been of inestimable value in helping homeowners to accurately restore missing details on their houses.

Bernard Smith was born in 1916 and raised in foster care in Burwood. His autobiography *The Boy Adeodatus: the Portrait of a Lucky Young Bastard* recounts the first steps in his remarkable life. He studied at the Sydney Teachers' College from 1934-1935, the University of Sydney, 1945-1948, and the Courtauld Institute of Art and Warburg Institute in London from 1948-1949. He completed his PhD at the Australian National University in 1953-1954. Smith's first major publication was *Place, Taste and Tradition* (1945). He has been described as 'the first truly Australian art historian, who consistently and tenaciously saw the need to develop and describe a social aesthetic suited to a democratic Australian Society'<sup>4</sup>.



23 Avenue Rd, once the home of Glebe Society founders, Bernard and Kate Smith (Image supplied)

Bernard Smith's portrait was painted many times, including by distinguished artists like Arthur Boyd and Albert Tucker. The most memorable, however, is Carmel O'Connor's. It won the Archibald Prize in 2002.

The Art Gallery of NSW website describes its genesis<sup>2</sup>:

*O'Connor was looking through a second-hand bookshop when she came across Smith's The Antipodean Manifesto. 'He's still alive, you know,' the bookseller told her, 'And he lives in Fitzroy.'*

*'From his writing, I felt that this man really loved art,' says O'Connor. 'He writes so well, and it's from the heart. It was reading his writing that gave me the courage to write to him.'*

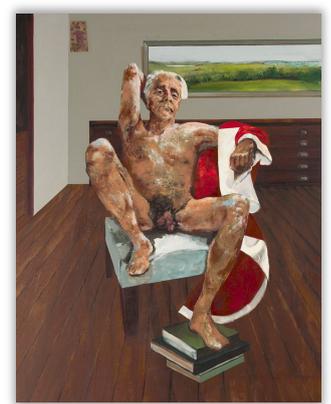
*So, O'Connor sent him a letter asking if she could paint his portrait and Smith said no. 'I wrote again and quoted a stanza from Coleridge's The Rime of the Ancient Mariner: 'Water, water, everywhere; And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.' And I said that by keeping to his house, they were the boards shrinking and we were out here wanting him to come out. It appealed to him and he said I could come around and draw him with or without his clothes on. It's not normally what I would do but I have painted nudes and done a lot of life drawing.*

*So, I visited him and showed him the pose of the Barberini faun [a Greek sculpture]. It's a provocative pose and I thought he would say, 'Paint me with a suit on' but no. He came to my studio and said, 'Here I am, put me in the pose.'*

Glebe is a suburb rich in talent and character. Bernard Smith is part of its pantheon, not the least because of his work with Kate Smith in founding the Society and his courage. We have much to thank him for. As the late Jack Munday said in the Glebe Town Hall, 'you can never, ever leave it to Macquarie St or to George St, to make decisions about heritage.' *There's got to be people's action involving people wider than the elected officials to determine the future.* Resident action groups are essential to good planning.



The Barberini Faun, 2nd century BC (source: Glyptothek, Munich)



Carmel O'Connor's Portrait of Professor Bernard Smith, which won the Archibald Prize in 2002.

**Notes:** 1. <https://50years.glebesociety.org.au/publications-and-printed-resources>; 2. [www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2002/17833/](http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2002/17833/); 3. [archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/1923916](http://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/1923916); 4. Jaynie Anderson, Christopher R. Marshall & Andrew Yip (Eds) (2016) *The Legacies of Bernard Smith: Essays on Australian Art, History and Cultural Politics*, p. 5

## Cards on the Sabbath – a Story from Hegarty St

By Rodney Hammett

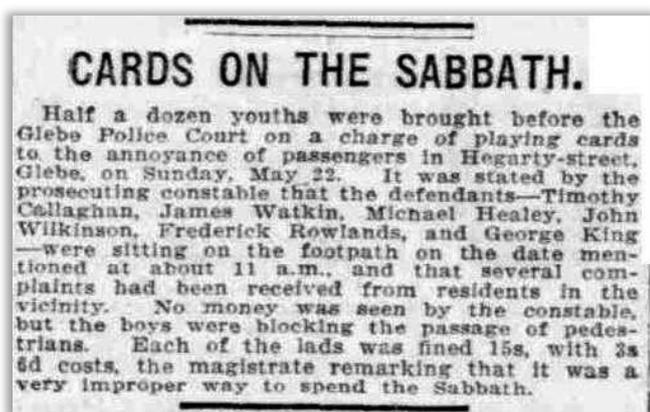
A recent enquiry to [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au) asked about the whereabouts of Cooper's Building on Parramatta St. A relative had been recorded as living there when they had been baptised at St Lawrence Church in George St on 23 March 1856.

Lyn Collingwood and I were able to advise them that this building of 12 shop-houses had been constructed for Robert Cooper in the early 1840s and had been located on the southern side of current Broadway, approximately where the existing Telstra Exchange is located, near City Rd. In the course of email exchanges I also found that others in the same family lived in Hegarty St, Glebe from 1909 to 1916.

Investigations of the 22 families who were living in Hegarty St at this time revealed numerous fascinating stories and I contemplated writing about them all as a 'Snapshot in Time' however that would have taken up too much space in the current *Bulletin*. It was then that a newspaper article from Evening News of Wednesday 1 June 1910 caught my eye.

The six youths brought before the Glebe Police Court in May that year for playing cards on Sunday 22 March, were Timothy Callaghan, James Watkin, Michael Healey, John Wilkinson, Frederick Rowlands and George King.

Of these six, three lived in Hegarty St – James Watkin (17), Frederick Rowland (18) and George King (16).



*Cards on the Sabbath* article from the Evening News of Wednesday 1 June 1910, page 3

**James Watkin** lived in No 2 with his mother Mary and three siblings. Born in Glebe in 1893, James was the second child, with an older brother, a younger sister and a younger brother. A further brother and sister had died as infants.

Charles Watkin with wife Mary and family had arrived in Hegarty St in 1899. Charles was from Derbyshire, England, a machinery expert working for the Federal Sheep Shearing Company. She was from Grenfell,

NSW and they had married in Sydney in 1890. In October 1906 Charles was found dead while doing maintenance work for the shearing machines at Canon Station in the Riverina area of NSW. He was 51, The coroner's report suggested he died of heart and lung problems, which had been accelerated by his drinking habits.<sup>1</sup> Mary then took on the task of bringing up her children, which expanded to include four nephews and nieces from her sister's family when their parents died between 1901 and 1915.

The family moved to live at 135 Wigram Rd, Forest Lodge in 1918. Following Mary's death in 1930 James and his sister Ann Veronica (1894-1958) moved to Catherine St, Leichhardt. James had become a tailor by 1930 and in the late 1940s was a dry cleaner. He never married and died in 1950 aged 57.

**Frederick Rowland** lived at No 25. The Rowland family had moved here in 1907 and remained for 21 years. John Rowland, born in 1868 and one of 14 siblings, was the head of the household and had grown up in the Paddington area of Sydney. He and Edith Fanny Hill married in April 1891 and by 1907 already had nine children. Their last, Arthur, was born in 1910. John was a carrier.

Their eldest, Frederick John (b. 1892) was an iron worker when he enlisted for World War I in October 1916, then in October 1917 he was sent to the front in France, as part of a machine gun company. Here in late 1917, he caught a severe bout of lobar pneumonia from which he never recovered. Frederick was repatriated to Australia in May 1918 and finally discharged in Sydney in November that year. The world had to wait another 22 years, until 1940, before antibiotics became available for this and similar ailments.

Frederick was unable to return to his previous employment and it would have been difficult returning to a normal life. To some of his friends it might not have been a shock to read on 26 July 1926 that he had died suddenly up on the Hawkesbury River. This set in motion a series of events that affected the whole family. First Fanny, the matriarch, died on 1 August 1926 followed three months later by John who gassed himself at home on 1 November. The Evening News of 8 November covered details of the coroner's report, which included details of John's body being found at No 25 when his 20-year-old son returned home from work.

**George King** lived at No 23. The King family lived here from 1908 to 1911. Scottish born James McCartney King had married Irish born 23-year-old widow Sarah Tucker (née McGee) in 1880 at St Paul's Church, Redfern. They had seven children but

likely it was only the youngest four who lived in Hegarty St, one of whom was George.

George Joseph King, b 1894, a labourer, enlisted for World War I on 19 July 1915, nominating his mother living at 60 Francis St, Glebe as his next of kin. In 1912 the family had moved to 9 St John's Rd and tragically in the same year his brother Stephen (aged 23) died in March and then his father James (aged 60) died in April.

George was not tall (only 5ft 2½ ins), had a ruddy complexion with grey eyes and auburn hair.<sup>2</sup> Before he left for the War George married 17-year-old Elsie May Rigby in Glebe on 24 August 1915. On arrival in Europe in December 1916 his regiment was sent to France where he suffered from trench foot. He nevertheless remained in France to fight for most of 1917, only being sent to a hospital in England in November. He was returned to France in late December then from January 1918 he fought in Belgium, in June was promoted to Lance Corporal and in November at the cessation of fighting, he returned to England. In March 1919 Lance Corporal George Joseph King was awarded the Military Medal for bravery.



George Joseph King, c 1915 (Source: Ancestry)

It took until July 1919 before he was discharged in Sydney. Meeting George on his return was a very proud Elsie and their three-year-old son George, who had been born in 1916. Another son, Cecil, was born in 1921.

The family lived in Glebe, George returning to a labourer's job. They lived in Darling St and Bellevue St before settling at 89 Mitchell St. Elsie died in 1969 and George in 1970, both being buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

And what of the family that got me started on this journey? They were the Slater family who lived at No 12 Hegarty St from 1909 to 1916. William Robert Slater (1871-1952) was born in Goulburn and married Frances Elizabeth Stevens at St Paul's Church, Redfern on 20 November 1894. Frances was a Sydney girl, born in June 1876. They had a large family, even by the standards of that time, a total of 12 children and all lived to adulthood. By 1909 there were seven children. A further two were born at Hegarty St – Henry (1911-1985) and Ada (1913-2000) – and the last three were born at Punchbowl.

Suzanne Slater, a granddaughter of Frances remembers the family story of why they left Glebe. It was because of the war and to get away from Sydney Harbour in case an invasion came from there. William and Frances had in July 1914 secured a quarter acre block in a 66-acre subdivision at Scott St, Punchbowl which by 1916 had a house ready for the family. Another block on Scott St was purchased by the family in 1921 on which three houses were built.

William was a carter in Glebe and also in Punchbowl.

**Notes:** 1. Trove: Riverine Grazier; Tue 9 October 1906, p. 2; 2. Service Records; WW1, SN 2406.



Frances Slater with Ada, b 1913; possibly at 12 Hegarty St; (Source: Slater family collection)

## Mystery Photo Competition, with Lyn Collingwood

### Last Month's Mystery Photo



John Lagerlow, Karin Kolbe and Tanya Dus recognised the view, no doubt taken from the University Hotel on the corner of Glebe Point Rd, as Broadway looking towards Central.

Victoria Park is on the right with the Lansdowne Hotel just visible through the trees. Pedestrians wander across the road to board the trams. There is a single horse-drawn cart and no traffic lights.

The photo is undated but is probably the early 1930s. Bottom left foreground are hoardings in front of the site of the Presbyterian Church, relocated to Bridge Rd in 1927.

There are few motor cars but huge billboards point to the future. Union Motor Spirit announced its arrival in Sydney in 1928 with full-page newspaper ads and a convoy of trucks, fitted with pumps and signs, which drove around the city streets. The product was endorsed by pioneer aviator Charles Kingsford-Smith. The Vacuum Oil Company began advertising its Plume 'apptonic' fuel in 1929.

'Aunt Mary's' remains as a ghost sign on the wall of today's Australian Performing Arts Grammar School.

### This Month's Mystery Photo

Not a mystery this time, but an undated photograph (see below), received from Rob Sampson, one of the readers of the *Bulletin*.

Rob's mother-in-law Rosemary grew up at *Ellangowan* 1 Stewart St. The house's history was published in the *Bulletin* 7/2018.

Pictured below is Rosemary's aunt Carrie Flynn on *Ellangowan's* back steps. Flynn family members were long-term tenants of the mansion which was demolished ca 1970.



## News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

By Andrew Wood

### Award of an Innovation and Ideas Grant from the City of Sydney

'Glebe's Hill' is an enclosed area (about 0.6 Ha) of contaminated Crown Land on the northern side of the Tramsheds with an entrance near the Jubilee Park light rail stop.

We have recently learnt that the Society has received from the City of Sydney an Innovation and Ideas Grant entitled *Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential*. The grant will provide a unique collaboration between the local community, represented by the Society, and the University of Sydney's Integrative Ecology Group led by Professor Dieter Hochuli. The result will be an increased understanding of the biodiversity of Glebe's Hill and its potential as a site of the City's first urban wildlife refuge. We will use a range of investigative tools – camera traps, bat detectors and systematic walk-

throughs by expert wildlife researchers to determine the current values of the site, including the presence (or absence) of mammals, birds, bats, reptiles, insects and related vegetation.

In addition to collecting this baseline data from Glebe's Hill, the project team will collect standardised data from several other local bush restoration sites. This will provide both a base line and a measure of potential for future development of Glebe's Hill and its likely role in the mosaic of bushland sites.

The total value of the grant application was \$72,166 made up of a contribution from the City of Sydney (\$44,640) and in-kind contributions (\$27,526) from the University of Sydney and the Subcommittee's bushcare volunteers. The main budget item is the employment of a research assistant from the University of Sydney who will perform most of the proposed project.



'The Hill' (source: annotation of a Google Maps image)

## 2022 Craney Small Grants

This small grant program is named in honour of Jan Craney, a respected and much-loved former convenor and member of the Blue Wren Subcommittee. In her will, Jan left the Subcommittee a bequest to foster biodiversity in Glebe; Jan was particularly interested in the education of young people leading to an increased awareness of the value of native plants and animals. A further generous donation from a member of the Blue Wren Subcommittee has permitted continuation of the program in 2022 and grant applications were sent to the 14 preschools and schools in our suburb.

The successful applicants this year were Glebe Public School (a grant of \$1,700 awarded for a project entitled 'Glebe Public School Environment Project') and The Crescent Early Learning (a grant of \$600 for

a project entitled 'Helping Bees Thrive'). On completing their projects, the applicants have been asked to write a report of about 300 words, accompanied if possible by a photograph, for publication in the Society's monthly *Bulletin* and on the Society's website.

## Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group

Ten volunteers attended a working bee on Sunday 6 November and 20 tube stock were planted. There are continuing difficulties in obtaining sufficient tube stock to meet the requirements of the Group and there is also the need for additional signage to show that the sites are a habitat regeneration area.

On Saturday 10 December, the Group will hold an onsite party to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation and Judy Christie's leadership.



One of the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group's sites (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

## Glebe Society Christmas Party

By Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator

### Sunday 11 December 2022 – BOOK NOW

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).

Tickets are \$57 per person and include a generous tasting menu within the style of Turkish-European fusion, two alcoholic drinks (then we revert to a cash bar), fruit punch and sweet treats towards the end of the evening.

We have two ticket types for this event: the 'all weather ticket' guarantees a place – rain, hail or shine; the 'fine weather only ticket' will enable you to attend only if



the weather is fine – in the outside cocktail area we will contact you 24 hours prior if it is necessary to cancel, and your payment will be refunded.)

Book through Eventbrite: [glebe\\_society\\_2022\\_christmas\\_party.eventbrite.com.au/](https://glebe_society_2022_christmas_party.eventbrite.com.au/). Need help to book online? E: [events@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:events@glebesociety.org.au) or M: 0417 446425. Parking is available at Broadway Shopping Centre, City Rd and limited off-street in Vic Park.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

## 2022 Christmas Gift Appeal

The Glebe Society is again joining with the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in our annual appeal for gifts for the children of parents who are in supported accommodation in Glebe, and the supported adults themselves. The types of gifts that are preferred for the children are a mixture of age-appropriate toys, books, games, school stationery and items of clothing. The preferred items for adults are small personal care items such as toiletries, books, small generic clothing items such as socks, scarves, and caps, and some Christmas fare items such as sweets, chocolates, Christmas cakes and bon-bons for their Christmas celebrations.

The items should not be gift wrapped as they must be checked for safety and appropriateness at the facilities before distribution, and there should be no personal information included.

You can bring items to the Glebe Society Christmas event on 11 December OR make a cash donation using the 'Donation Ticket' button when you book your ticket to the Christmas Party. The donation will be used for vouchers or to buy needed gifts OR

Contact Janice Challinor by email ([jchallinor3@bigpond.com](mailto:jchallinor3@bigpond.com)) to request a household collection prior to that date. Give Janice your phone number so she can contact you to organise the collection of your gifts.

## Creative Glebe



### Players in the Pub

#### **A Christmas Carol**

We hope you can join us for A *Christmas Carol*, an audience favourite.

With: Alan Faulkner, Elaine Hudson, Harley Connor, David McLaughlin, Nicholas Gledhill, Dereck Cameron, Sharron Skehan, Roan McGoldrick, Jim McCrudden, Jeannie Gee, Liam Smith, Cassady Maddox, Jodine Muir, Kim Knuckey & Ross Waters.



Please note Tuesday night performance, New Theatre venue and 6.30 pm start. Tickets at the door. Entry by donation.

370 and 422 buses pass the theatre which is halfway between St Peters and Newtown rail stations, near Alice St.

### Another Triumph!

Artistic Director, David McIntosh has done it again.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Glebe Music Festival which concluded last Sunday was of the highest standard.

The seven-part concert series embraced music of the English Renaissance, the court of Louis XIV, Corelli and Handel, Beethoven and Chopin, the contemporary American jazz composer 'Chick' Corea and more. If you love music this is the festival for you.

David McIntosh is a gifted and generous impresario. This annual festival is one of the quiet achievers of the Sydney music classical scene.

If you have never been, make sure you add it to your must do list for 2023.



Margaretta Cottage, where some of the recent Glebe Music Festival concerts were held (photo: I. Stephenson)



Pianist Alexander Yau at the final concert of the Festival on Sunday 27 November (photograph Ian Stephenson)

# For Your Calendar

Tuesday 6 December, 6.30pm *Players in the Pub* New Theatre, 542 King St Newtown.

Sunday 11 December, 5pm-7pm. *Glebe Society Christmas Gathering*, Gardener'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

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## Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110
- 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).



*Don't forget the Glebe Society Christmas Party on Sunday 11 December!*