

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners of Glebe and Forest Lodge and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Issue 1 of 2023 (March 2023)

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Welcome to the new look *Bulletin*

By the new Editor, Allan Hogan

For more than 50 years the *Bulletin* has been in the words of the founder of the Glebe Society, Bernard Smith, 'the glue that holds the Society together'. It has recorded historic moments in the life of the Society; its aspirations; and its advocacy; and it has provided a channel for members to communicate with each other. All of its more than 500 editions are on our website, and browsing through them gives a fascinating glimpse into the history of our community and the lives and achievements of our members.

For the last decade Virginia Simpson-Young has edited the *Bulletin*, and the Society owes her a huge debt of gratitude for her selfless dedication to its production. It is a labour-intensive job and the attractive and professional appearance of our monthly publication has been in large measure the work of Virginia's creativity and attention to detail. Our debt of gratitude extends to all the previous editors who have taken on the job.

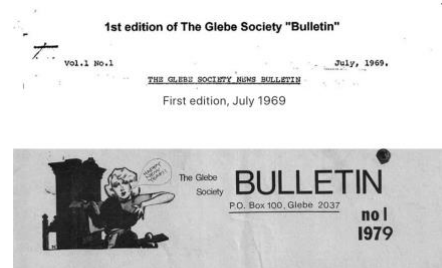
(For the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Society a video was produced featuring previous editors of the *Bulletin* with their memories of the changing production technology and the notable events they recorded. You can view the video on our website:

<https://youtu.be/Qe7N7I4CxUA>)

In recent years, the *Bulletin* has been composed and produced using Microsoft Word. It's an excellent piece of software but producing a newsletter as professional as the *Bulletin* tests its capabilities to the limit. Placing images in the right place and in the right size, and in the right columns, while not disrupting the overall formatting requires the patience of Job, and large amounts of midnight oil.

Hence the change to Mailchimp. To describe the production process simply, complete stories and images are uploaded to the Glebe Society website without complicated formatting, and you can read those stories by clicking on 'read more'. Or you can download a pdf of the complete *Bulletin* by clicking on the link at the end of the Mailchimp email.

The new format is not entirely labour-free. My thanks go to Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg, and Virginia Simpson-Young for their help with the technical issues of publication. Thanks also to the proofreaders: Emily Booker, Alex Byrne, Edwina Doe, and Sybil Jack.



Issue No 1 1979



Issue No 1 1989



Issue No 1 1999



Issue No 1 2009



Issue No.1 2019

For those subscribers who have chosen to receive a hard copy of the *Bulletin* (either by post or delivered by our volunteer team) those arrangements will continue as before. Our thanks to the mailout and delivery team, Helena Klijn, Dave McMillan, Lyn Milton, Jude Paul, Phil Young, Virginia Simpson-Young, and Asa Wahlquist.

I hope you like the new look Bulletin. I welcome any feedback and will put my efforts into continuing the great work of my predecessors.

State Election March 25

By Allan Hogan

It would be a reckless punter who would bet a large sum on the outcome of the NSW election on March 25. Conventional wisdom might have it that after 11 years in government the Coalition parties led by Dominic Perrottet are past their use-by date, but Labor, led by Chris Minns, faces an uphill battle to win the 11 seats it needs to form a majority government.

That's why the seat of Balmain will be of particular interest, because with the retirement of Jamie Parker, Labor has a shot at making it one gain in their hoped for road to victory. Parker won the seat for the Greens from Labor's Verity Firth in 2011 and at every election since has increased his margin. There's no doubt about his personal popularity, even with those voters who are not avid Greens supporters, but it remains to be seen whether Kobi Shetty, his potential successor, will inherit that popularity. She certainly has strong credentials to be worthy of consideration on her own merits.

Labor has also fielded a strong candidate in Philippa Scott, Deputy Mayor of the Inner West Council, with an impressive record of local leadership and involvement. A constant theme of her campaign is that if she wins, and Labor wins, she'll be part of the government, with access to the levers of power. By inference, residents of the electorate would be the beneficiaries.

The Liberal Party candidate for Balmain is Freya Leach, an undergraduate at Sydney University. The Liberal Party website describes her as 'passionate about supporting our community and through volunteer work with food drives, free meals and mentoring has seen firsthand the importance of giving back and the power of community involvement'. Perhaps it's a sign of a realistic assessment of her chances of winning the seat that neither the Liberal Party nor Ms Leach have responded to the Glebe Society's emails.

In the belief that a written response to questions about issues of concern would provide a firm record of each party's policies, the *Bulletin* submitted a list of questions to Dominic Perrottet, Chris Minns, and Jamie Parker, and to the candidates for the seat of Balmain. We received replies only from Jamie Parker and Kobi Shetty.

Their responses were comprehensive and detailed and there isn't space to reproduce them in full, but it is possible to summarise their key points. In publishing only the policies of the Greens I don't believe we are acting in a partisan manner; if the others had cared to respond their policies would have been published.



Kobi Shetty – The Greens candidate for Balmain (Image: The Greens)



Philippa Scott – The Labor candidate for Balmain (Image: the ALP)



Freya Leach – The Liberal Candidate for Balmain (Image: NSW Liberal Party)

So here are the questions and answers:

What is your position on rezoning for high rise in Glebe?

(Parker): Glebe's unique character and heritage has been threatened by several recent spot-rezonings which seek to significantly increase building heights up to 14 storeys. We have made strong submissions to rezoning authorities about the need to respect and retain local heritage, and for strong, unambiguous heritage protections to be included in any future planning controls. It was disappointing to hear Labor leader Chris Minns describe heritage protecting height limits in Glebe specifically as 'ridiculous'.

Applicants are required to submit Heritage Impact Statements for developments in heritage conservation areas. At present the applicant commissions the heritage impact statements. This arrangement has an inherent conflict of interest. Will you change the system to eliminate this conflict of interest?

(Parker): It makes sense that Heritage Impact Statements required with a DA should be prepared by independent experts rather than directly commissioned by an applicant. We will press for changes to this process so that an independent panel of heritage consultants is established, from which a developer will be randomly assigned a consultant to assist with a Heritage Impact Assessment.

Will you put better programs in place to maintain the State Government's Glebe properties?

(Parker): The way successive governments have treated repairs and maintenance in public housing is nothing short of appalling. Many homes throughout Glebe require structural repairs but are only ever given patch-ups and cosmetic fixes. While we have been able to improve the situation for many tenants the system needs structural change including significant new investment in maintenance to remove the years-long backlog. This work can't be funded by selling homes. Public housing residents deserve respect and we will make sure there is appropriate investment in maintenance so that these properties can continue to be comfortable homes for people in our community.

Will you prioritise the preservation of the State's heritage, and enhance a heritage legacy for future generations by adopting ALL 26 recommendations of the Heritage Act Review and support the required amendments to the Act and its Regulations not later than the first Parliamentary Session of 2023?

(Shetty): Yes - we made a strong submission to the review of the Heritage Act in 2022. We absolutely support moves to strengthen and support heritage protections at the local, state and national levels. We support the proper protection of buildings and items that make up Heritage Conservation Areas. Once included in an HCA contributory buildings and items should not require a specific listing in order to receive the same level of protection under the Act.

Will you define and declare to the people of NSW what constitutes a State Significant Development within the context of environmental sustainability, optimum social policy, the public good and is 100% funded directly by the taxpayer?

(Shetty): Yes - State Significant Development has been used as a device to simply override local government decisions and local planning policies and this needs to be reformed. Planning controls should be equally applied and not overridden by a government Minister simply declaring a project to be 'State Significant Development'.

Will you commit that the provision of Social Housing is socially and responsibly allocated proportionally across the State and Cities, and that each development conforms to the existing Planning Controls of the location?

(Shetty): Yes - local planning controls should be equally applied and not overridden by a government Minister or a State Planning Policy. We need communities to support new social housing and people should always be included in local planning and decision-making processes around where it will be built.

Will you commit your Party to the recommissioning of the Glebe Island Bridge as a pedestrian route and cycleway during the next term of Government?

(Shetty): Yes - this is a critical strategic piece of infrastructure that should be reopened. When it is reopened the Glebe Island Bridge will provide a significant connection for pedestrians and cyclists between the inner west and the CBD.

Will you put a stop to the announced plans to construct a permanent cycleway along both sides of Bridge Road, and develop a master plan for safe cycleways between the CBD and the Inner West?

(Shetty): It is disappointing that proper consultation with the community was not carried out before the cycleway was implemented. Before this plan proceeds the issue of genuine access and equity, especially for disability access, needs to be resolved. We support the development of a Master Plan for safe cycleways between the inner west and the CBD.

Will you commit to compensate home owners whose property values are significantly reduced with the restrictions placed on their property as a result of the construction of a cycleway?

(Shetty): Changes to parking arrangements and street access on public roads can have significant impacts on residents. We are reluctant to support blanket compensation for the construction of any cycleway, just as we would be reluctant in the case of new residential parking schemes, no stopping and loading zones, and other similar changes.

The debate between the candidates will be an opportunity to dig deeper into the policies they intend to take to the election. There will also be an opportunity for members to ask their own questions. Put it in your diary: **Glebe Town Hall, 11.00am, Sunday 12 March.**

From the President – March 2023

By Ian Stephenson

Events are back!

The Society's first event for 2023 took place on 17 February with an inspection of contemporary architecture and leading-edge medical research at the Charles Perkins Centre and Susan Wakil Building at the University of Sydney. Participants got to meet scientists and hear about their research, see the museum of morbid anatomy as well as some exciting architecture.

The Events sub-committee are currently developing a program of activities for the coming months.



Figure 1: The atrium of the Charles Perkins Centre (Image: Ian Stephenson)



Figure 2: A flask of beef broth in the Museum of Morbid Anatomy. It was provided by Louis Pasteur 1888 for use in experiments on Rodd Island to eradicate rabbits. (Image: Ian Stephenson)

The Franklyn Report

On 22 February the Franklyn Report was launched at the Sydney Town Hall.

The report, produced by Hands Off Glebe assisted by The Glebe Society, uses Glebe's Franklyn estate as a case study as to why it is better on environmental, economic, social and conservation grounds to refurbish public housing rather than demolish it. Elizabeth Farrelly, independent candidate for the Upper House, Rose Jackson, ALP Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and tenants Emily Valentine Bullock and Carolyn Ienna all spoke. The event was hosted by Green Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor Sylvie Ellsmore.

The report costs \$10 and can be obtained by emailing Hannah Middleton of Hands Off Glebe at hannahmiddleton1917@outlook.com.



Figure 3: Elizabeth Farrelly candidate for the Legislative Assembly, Rose Jackson MLA, Emily Bullock, Deputy Lord Mayor Sylvie Ellsmore, and Carolyn Ienna at the launch

DA for 82 Wentworth Park Road

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation have lodged a DA to demolish and rebuild 82 Wentworth Park Road Glebe. The current building which was built about 1990 has flats with a total of 27 bedrooms. It is to be demolished and replaced by a new building with flats totalling 53 bedrooms, a net gain of 26 bedrooms. The total cost of the project is \$21,723,996, making an average cost of \$835,538 for each additional bedroom. A better result socially, financially and in terms of respecting Glebe's heritage would be achieved by refurbishing the existing building and using the money saved to create new and sympathetically designed low rise infill on vacant land at the rear of the site or elsewhere.

The existing building was designed by the NSW Housing Commission's Inner City Housing Team in 1984. Architect John Gregory and his team produced a beautifully articulated building which, together with two related buildings in Bellevue Avenue, echo the way the steep pitched rooves of Glebe's terrace houses rise up the escarpment on the edge of Wentworth Park.

The proposed building has none of this subtlety and flair. In addition, it is a storey higher than what is permitted under the City of Sydney 2012 Development Control Plan. There are also issues to do with soil toxicity, the building occupies the site of a paint factory which burnt down in the 1930s as well as geotechnical issues to do with excavating a basement into stone.

Details of the proposal can be seen on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>

The closing date for submissions is 15 March, 2023.



Figure 4: The proposed building does not comply with the current height in storeys control. (Image: <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>)



Figure 5: The existing building from Bellevue Avenue (Image: <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>)



Figure 6: The proposed building from Bellevue Avenue (Image: <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>)

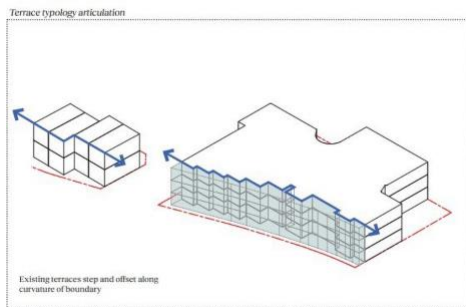


Figure 7: The proposed building is offset to Wentworth Park Road as are the neighbouring terraces. The terraces however have pitched roofs, though they have been omitted from the above diagram which seeks to argue that the large flat roofed building proposed echoes the terrace house form of its neighbours. (Image: <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>)



Figure 8: The building to be demolished was carefully designed to echo the built form of Glebe. (Image: <https://tinyurl.com/3a58pve4>)

Pymont Community Dinner

On Friday 24 February the Glebe Society hosted the Pymont Community dinner at the Tramsheds. Jude Paul and her team of volunteers including Jane Gatwood, Janet Wahlquist, Allan Hogan, Moya Quirk, Dorothy Davis, Margaret Sankey, Ted McKeown, Duncan Leys, Jan Macindoe and Louis Taborda did a brilliant job in catering for over 60 guests while Glebe Sings under the direction of Elizabeth Lecoanet performed a series of songs about one of Glebe's most momentous decades – the years from 1965 to 1975.



Figure 9: Dale Dengate, front row right, leads the choir in *Take your Bulldozers Away*. Image: Allan Hogan)

There were songs about threats, struggle and vision – all the things that make Glebe great. Dale Dengate sang her late husband John's folk song *Take your Bulldozers Away* which was composed in the 1970s as part of the campaign to stop Glebe being rent asunder by the North Western Distributor while 67 Glebe Point Road, the first Sydney headquarters of Women's Liberation, was the link to Helen Reddy's *I am Woman*. The final chorus with its stirring words *I am strong, I am invincible* brought the house down.

Glebe Sings rehearses every Thursday at 6pm at the Glebe Public School. New members are welcome. For further details email Merren Smith on merrensmith@hotmail.com



Players in the Pub

Our popular play reading company is on the hunt for a new home, having lost our last space to pool tables. We have the first play ready to go: a WORLD PREMIERE by our very own David McLaughlin! Once we find a venue, we'll let everybody on our database know.

Bicycles and One-Way Streets

By the Editor

In response to its request for submissions on 'Contra-flow Bicycle Access in One-Way Streets' (in all areas of the LGA), the City Council received comments made by 337 people and four groups. On 16 February the Council approved the change for all of the 158 one-way Streets under consideration.

In its submission the Glebe Society argued that 10 of the proposed 15 Streets in the 2037 postcode were unsuitable. For example, the Society submitted that the proposed change for Avon St (Forsyth St to Ferry Rd) was unsuitable because 'the street is only about 7 metres wide and has car parking on both sides – about 4 metres after allowing for the width of parked vehicles'. The Council's response was 'Avon St is 7m (wide) which is wide enough for passing'

With regard to the plan for Charles St (Cross St to Ross St) the Society submitted: 'Charles St is very narrow, and the only way you could fit in a bike lane, would be to abolish Street parking completely. There are 41 dwellings in the Street, of which only nine have off-street parking accessible from Charles St itself.' The Council's response? 'Charles St is wide enough for passing, ranging between 5.89m, 5.21m, and 6.24m wide, with just one lane of parking'.

The Society submitted that the Leichhardt St (Leichhardt St to Mary St) proposal '(was) entirely unsuitable for cars and trucks going one way and bikes the other. Two reasons; the roads are narrow; the bikes presumably would have to pull to the side probably between parked cars; and secondly there are several 90 degree turns. It's OK to navigate these if everyone is going in the same direction, but they would turn into blind corners if bikes were going in the opposite direction.' The Council's reply? 'There is no two-way cycleway proposed'. Well that really wasn't the point.

The four groups who made submissions were Bicycle NSW, the Glebe Society, BikEast, and the Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Group. Bicycle NSW submitted 'There is sometimes community concern that streets are too narrow to allow a bicycle to safely pass a moving car. However, there is robust evidence of positive outcome from legalising contraflow cycling on narrower roads. For example, in Brussels 43% of streets with contraflow authorised have less than 3.5m width and no negative impact on safety has been identified.' Maybe the principle is that if you make something more dangerous, people take more care.

Perhaps what needs to be added here is that in August last year Brussels introduced a plan that bans through traffic from the city centre whenever it's not a driver's final destination. Studies showed that one third of the car traffic in the city centre was through-traffic. The intention was to direct traffic that does not necessarily have to be in the neighbourhood via the roads outside it to its destination or to one of the public car parks. Now there's a brave move, Clover!! Although it must be said that banning traffic moving through postcode 2037 because it's not a driver's final destination would not only be extremely unpopular, but impossible to enforce.



The intersection of Avon St and Forsyth St – Image: Google Maps



Charles St looking towards Cross St - Image Google Maps



Leichhardt St looking east – Image: Google Maps



Getting back to Sydney and the City Council's plans, the Paddington-Darlinghurst Community Group submitted: 'Our members are apprehensive about these proposed changes. Currently bike riders already use all of our footpaths (whether shared or not), all roadways and laneways (whether one-way or not) as well as dedicated bike paths. They do this whether it is legal or not. Now it appears the Council is proposing to formalise an activity they have encouraged. We do not need bikes (including electric bikes, electric scooters and electric skateboards) on one way traffic streets going the wrong way. Conventionally powered and electric bikes/scooters/skateboards have top speeds approaching 50km/h. Is the Council seriously suggesting that vehicles of this type can traverse our streets up to this speed going the wrong way? We simply ask that the Council apply common sense and the standing rules of the road to all vehicles, including bikes. We want bike riding to be safe - for pedestrians, motorists and importantly for the bike riders themselves'.

It will be interesting to see what the cost of the new signposting will be.

The full Council report can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxvj7x>

We need a Commitment by Government to Restore Glebe Island Bridge

By Janet Wahlquist

Despite lots of noise from the State Government that it intends to renovate Glebe Island Bridge for a cycleway and pedestrian route between Pyrmont and White Bay there has been no progress on these promises, and it continues to fall down. No actual plans exist for its renovation, and it appears nothing will happen until and unless major developments take place at the present fishmarket site and at White Bay. This completely ignores the reality that the pedestrian / cycleway is needed now for residents and others who are already here.

The concern is that the bridge will deteriorate to such a level that the cost of renovation will make it not worth repairing. The pictures show its condition well after it was closed when calls were being made for its repurposing, approximately 8 years ago, and recently. It is now deteriorating at such a rapid rate that markers have had to be placed around the middle struts so water users are not endangered by falling pieces.

The Bridge was opened in 1903 and is known as an Allen deck truss bridge with an electrically powered swing section. It's a pair to the Pyrmont Bridge which has been restored. This spans Darling Harbour and is well used by pedestrians and cyclists.

The bridge closed in 1995 when the Anzac Bridge opened. Originally it opened and closed for special events such as marathons. When there was talk of its demolition a campaign to save it was pursued and in 2013 it was heritage listed. There have been calls since it was listed for it to be used as a pedestrian walkway and cycleway.

During the pandemic it became increasingly evident that more walking and cycling routes were needed. Clearly, the bridge could be an important link in an attractive walk around Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay. In 2020 on the 25th anniversary of the bridge's decommissioning the Glebe Society organised a rally to call for its repair and repurpose. At that time we were told that plans were being prepared for its reuse but they have not eventuated. The Glebe Society's concern is that restoration of the bridge is dependent on the building of the large-scale developments planned for the bays, possibly with developer's money (an unreliable source) and that there is no government commitment to restore the bridge.

We call for the NSW politicians seeking election to make a commitment to have the government fund the renovation of the bridge as a priority. *(Editor's note: See the article 'State Election March 25' in this issue of the Bulletin)*



The Glebe Island Bridge in 2015. Image: Martin Lawrence



The Glebe Island Bridge today. Image: Janet Wahlquist

News from the Blue Wrens

by Andrew Wood, Convenor Blue Wrens Subcommittee

News from the volunteer bushcare groups

With all the recent rain, Glebe's parks are looking beautifully green and the native flora is thriving. The Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group held a working bee in the park on Saturday 4 February. The following paragraph was published in an article by Ben Cubby in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 27 January:

'Secret Sydney spot you escape to?

We're a city of secret parks. My favourite is a couple of streets away in Forest Lodge in one of those unregarded sandstone gullies where the ground is too rough to build on. This one is called Orphan School Creek playground. There's a sandpit full of donated toys, a patch of grass and a winding path down to a creek. I call it the Dragon Forest because it looks like the sort of place they may be there.'

In Rozelle Bay, the native flora planted last year on National Tree Day have not survived; as the site selected in Federal Park was not suitable. Most of the native flora planted in John Street Reserve some years ago has died and requires replanting, also the care and maintenance of the site needs to be transferred from Skyline, the City's Park maintenance contractors, to the National Trust's specialist bush care staff. In Harold Park / Johnstons Creek some regions are becoming dominated by *Casuarinas* spp (*equisetifolia*). (Nick Sangster counted 27 swamp she-oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) in the area - and many need to be removed. The Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group continues weeding in the parks; it is made difficult by the slippery drains which must be crossed to access the sites. There is a need to reduce the tree canopy to permit more sunlight to enter, a new light in the upper part of the park has not yet been installed and there is a continuing problem with the dumping of rubbish at the Lombard Street end of the sites.

Innovation and Ideas Grant

'The Hill' was the subject of an article in the August 2022 Bulletin https://glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/bulletins/2022_06.pdf

Last year a grant of over \$40,000 for a project entitled 'Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential' was received by the Society from the City of Sydney. During the coming year Professor Dieter Hochuli's group at the University of Sydney will be recording the wildlife in this fenced, contaminated site of crown land on the northern side of the Tramsheds.

In preparation for the commencement of the study, the Society has signed a contract with the City and is awaiting a contract from the University of Sydney as well as the finalisation of a Licensing Agreement between the City and the Society to permit access to the site. The City has appointed a Grant Relationship Manager, James Macnamara, who is also the City's Urban Ecology Coordinator.

The grant will fund two public information sessions one in May and another in November which will be held in the Tramsheds community meeting room – details will be available in the *Bulletin* and all members and friends will be invited to attend.

Here are details of recent articles and an interview about the grant:

- An article by Erin Modaro about the award of the Grant was published by CityHub Sydney online on Monday 17 January and subsequently in the print edition of the newspaper - <https://cityhubsydney.com.au/2023/01/an-urban-wildlife-refuge-could-soon-be-coming-to-glebe/>
- Live interview between the ABC's Sarah McDonald and Professor Dieter Hochuli, University of Sydney, about the Grant on Monday 23 January on the ABC Morning programme - <https://www.abc.net.au/sydney/programs/mornings/dieter-hochuli/101882532>
- An online article by the ABC's Rosemary Bolger about the award of the Grant was published on 31 January - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-31/urban-wildlife-refuge-glebe-inner-west-the-hill-green-space/101901026>



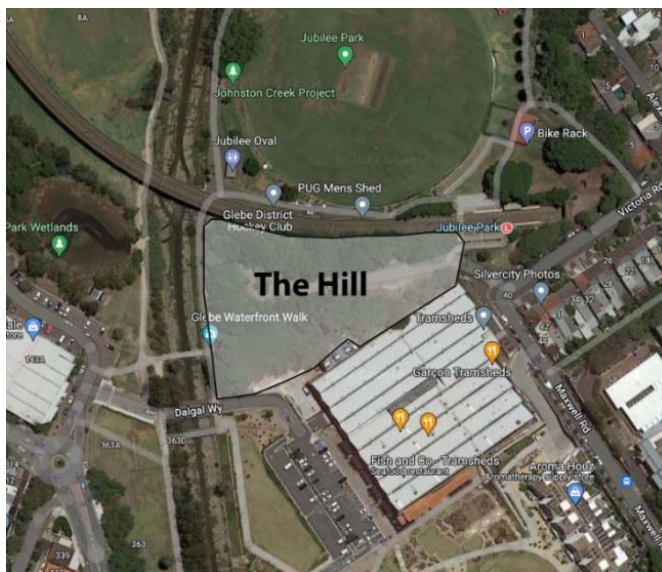
Professor Dieter Hochuli, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Sydney University.
(Image Supplied)



'The Hill' on the northern side of the Tramsheds. The Society has proposed that this Crown Lands site on the northern side of the Tramsheds be retained as a dedicated urban wildlife habitat refuge. (Photo: Andrew Wood)



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



Aerial views of Glebe in which The Hill is outlined to show its approximate boundaries between the Tramsheds and the light-rail railway line. (Google Maps)

Welcoming the Year of the Water Rabbit

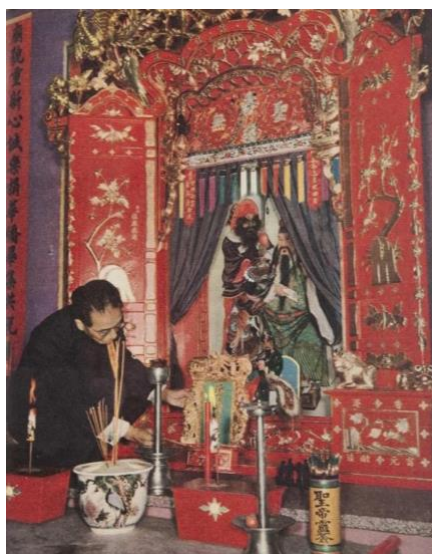
By Lyn Collingwood

Glebe's Pendrill St this February was choked with bumper-to-bumper vehicles and Victoria Rd thronged with pedestrians making their way from the light rail to Edward St. Their destination: - the *Sze Yup Temple and Joss House* spiritual and cultural centre, The occasion; Chinese New Year, a festival traditionally honouring deities and ancestors.

Glebe's Taoist temple is dedicated to Kwan Ti, a warrior and patriot in the era of the Three Kingdoms, renowned for his loyalty and physical prowess. In Australia, immigrant Chinese people worshipped him as a wise judge and protector and important business deals were not made until he had been consulted for his guidance and blessing.

The story goes that during the 1890s, a decade of economic depression and racial tension as people competed for jobs, Chinese settlers in Sydney prayed for a sign showing where a temple dedicated to Kwan Ti should be built. They were led to a Glebe market garden with water views. The project was financed by immigrants from Sze Yup in the South China coastal province of Guangdong and supported by local organisations such as the Chinese Masonic Society.

The temple holding the Kwan Ti shrine was built in 1898, its design adhering to the principles of Feng Shui. Added in 1903 were an eastern ancestral hall (chapel of Departed Friends) and a western hall dedicated to the god of wealth (chapel of the Joss of Good Fortune). Chinese people from all over the Commonwealth attended the official opening in 1904.



Top row left: Welcoming the Year of the Rat 2020. (Image: SLNSW, photographer Joy Lai)

Top row right: Lion dancers entering the Sze Yup Temple in 2020, the Year of the Rat. (Image: SLNSW, photographer Joy Lai)

Bottom row left: Ceremonial dedication of the shrine of Kwan Ti in the rebuilt temple, 1955. (Image: Australian Women's Weekly 11 May 1955)

Bottom row right: Lanterns line the ceiling during Chinese New Year celebrations for 2006 the Year of the Dog. (Image: City of Sydney Archives)

Relations with the wider Glebe community have been mostly harmonious although initially some neighbours were irritated by the noise of fireworks and some Glebe Council aldermen objected to the complex being classified as a church and exempt from rates. There was occasional jostling for space on the Glebe Point trams, filled with Chinese passengers and their offerings of fruit and vegetables. In 1954 tensions developed when the Sydney City Council resumed Edward St land, the site of three wooden houses, and made plans to turn the area into a children's playground. With small backyards and large families, local parents supported the initiative but, after the Chinese Consul-General intervened, Council transferred the land back to the Trustees.



*The official opening of the Sze Yup Temple.
(Image: Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser 3 Feb. 1904)*

Fire has posed the greatest threat. A blaze in the central hall damaged its roof in 1952. Two years later the entire structure went up in flames. In 1955 drums banged, cymbals clanged, dragons danced, fireworks exploded and thousands packed the complex to celebrate its rebuilding. Arson was suspected in 2008 when much of the temple's roof and the office and its contents were destroyed. Again, the damage was rectified.

The Sze Yup Temple is heritage listed, as is Sydney's other Chinese temple: the Yiu Ming in Alexandria, built in 1908-9 and named for two towns in Guangdong province. In contrast to the Alexandria temple's position in a congested area with heavy truck traffic, Glebe's temple is a tranquil place for quiet reflection and worship.

¹ Joss: Chinese idol or god. Joss stick: slender length of dried fragrant paste, burnt as incense.

Remembering Tibby Cotter

By Lyn Collingwood and Ian Stephenson



Monteith at 266 Glebe Point Road is one of Glebe's most impressive Federation style houses (image Ian Stephenson)



Tibby Cotter in 1905 (photographer George Beldam (1868-1937))

Monteith was built in 1891 by John Cotter, a butcher, for his wife Margaret and six sons.

Tibby, the youngest son, was born in 1883 at 132 Phillip Street, Sydney. The Cotters moved to Glebe in 1889. Tibby attended Forest Lodge Superior School and then Sydney Grammar. At Forest Lodge a classmate was the headmaster's son, Warren Bardsley (1883-1954), who captained the Australian cricket team in 1926.

G.P. Walsh writes in the Australian Dictionary of Biography that Cotter was *strikingly handsome and beautifully proportioned; always cheerful and modest, he was generous in his praise of others. Very fast, but often erratic, he had a slinging action and could make the ball lift high from a good length on the plumbest of wickets without recourse to bumping; he could keep his feet on a wet pitch, bowl for long spells and was a good fieldsman. His happy nature and comportment on the field endeared him to all lovers of the game.*

He earned his place in the NSW cricket XI at the age of 18 after collecting many wickets for Glebe. He played his first Test against England in 1903/4 and his last in 1911/12 and took 89 wickets in 21 Tests. He was nicknamed

'Tibby' because he was small, and 'Terror Cotter' for his skill as a bowler. Classed with Harold Larwood for pace, Cotter was one of the fastest of all Australian bowlers. On his first visit to England in 1905 he took 121 wickets with a best Test performance of 7 for 148 at The Oval. His image was used on first world war recruiting posters. He served in the Australian Light Horse and was killed in action at the Battle of Beersheba in 1917, weeks after his brother John was killed in the Third Battle of Ypres. Two other brothers, Arthur Dale (1877–1921), and Edwin (1880–1929) died in railway accidents. William and Norman, the surviving brothers lived at Monteith until the 1950s.

Original Porch Substantially Retained

By Ian Stephenson

The Society welcomes the decision by the Council of Sydney Local Planning panel to make it a condition of approval of the adaption of part of St James Hall Woolley Street as affordable housing that: *the new access to the front porch is to be redesigned to retain as much as possible of the original porch including the tiled roof, the ceiling (soffit) and rafters, brick columns and the stepped balustrade (which references to the stepped balustrade of St James Church).*



Above: St James' Church and the adjoining St James' Hall
Image: Ian Stephenson.

St James Hall was designed by the architectural practice Scott, Green and Scott. They were a prominent firm in the inter-war period who designed houses, offices, schools and churches. The elevation to Woolley Street was carefully composed to complement the adjoining the St James' Church. The articulation and massing of the Woolley Street façade is skilful in the way it alludes to and reflects the architecture of the church.



Above left: The porch as proposed. Above right: A condition of the DA is to retain as much of the original porch as possible



This Month's Mystery Photo

Where are we?

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

Centipede Needs Your Help

by Chloe Groom

CENTIPEDE



Centipede is a registered charity providing before school, after school and vacation care. Our services include breakfast, a hot meal in the afternoons, a food pantry and referrals to other services when required.

Glebe Public School is a diverse community, with one of the highest populations of First Nations children in Sydney and 54% of our families speak another language other than English at home. The Centipede community reflects the Glebe community, with a large number of families coming from lower socioeconomic households. That being said, we work very hard to make sure that these differences are not visible to the children who attend Centipede.

Centipede is supported by fees paid by families, grants and donations from businesses and members of the public. However, unavoidable increases in costs over the last year have made it difficult to facilitate some programs and excursions, especially in the school holidays when we aim to give the children stimulating experiences beyond Glebe.

It would be wonderful if any Glebe Society members would be willing to sponsor an individual child or entire group to go on an excursion in the school holidays this year. In addition to our regular program costs, it costs approximately \$50 more to take a child on an excursion (including entrance fees and coach hire). Total costs for excursions range from \$1500 to \$2200 (budgeted for 56 children and 7 educators). A list of potential excursions and their exact costs can be accessed on our website, www.centipede.org.au.

We are able to accept donations via bank transfer or PayPal. Please see the 'Make a donation' section of our website or email centipede.glebe@yahoo.com.au for more information. As a registered charity, all donations to Centipede are tax-deductible.

We are very thankful for the Glebe Society members who have supported Centipede in the past and continue to do so.

International Women's Day Cultural Food Experience

To celebrate International Women's Day a gathering has been planned at St Helens Community Centre on Wednesday 8 March from 11.45am to 3.00pm. Numbers are limited – you'll need to book.

Come and join us for a hands on dumpling making experience followed by a light lunch of finger foods from around the world and a guest speaker.

Numbers are limited – call 02 9265 9179 to book or email afigura@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Ph: 9265 9179

184 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe, corner of Wigram Rd
(entrance through the community garden next to Glebe Library & Benledi House)

Bus 433 & 431 from Central

15 min walk from Broadway shops

2 hour free street parking

Disability parking in car park behind centre

Enter from Wigram Lane



These are the links to the Glebe Society's submissions lodged in the last month

The links include submissions about DAs by other parties.

- [41 Toxteth Rd Glebe](#)
- [175 Bridge Road Glebe](#)
- [18 Arundel Street Glebe](#)

Presentations to Council Committees

Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor Presented to the Local Planning Panel 14 December 2022, St James Hall. The Society's submission resulted in the following modification:

The new access to the front porch is to be redesigned to retain as much as possible of the original porch including the tiled roof, the ceiling (soffit) and rafters, brick columns and the stepped balustrade (which references to the stepped balustrade of St James Church. (See separate article in this Bulletin 'St James Hall Woolley Street, a sensible decision'.)

Duncan Leys Transport Convenor and Ian Stephenson Planning Convenor made presentations to the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee 16 Feb 2023 regarding contra flow bike traffic in one-way streets and the widening of the footpaths of St Johns Road. (See separate article in this Bulletin 'Bicycles and One-Way Streets'.)

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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;
- write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;
- or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

Views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society Inc. Articles and photos submitted for any of the Glebe Society's publications, including the website and Bulletin, may also be used in the Glebe Society's other publications.