

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.

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President's Report: August

By Ian Stephenson

On Tuesday 18 July I represented the Society at *No more demolitions! Alternatives to public housing redevelopment*, a forum organised by Action for Public Housing (<https://youtu.be/hwwB1109CvY>)

Architects Hannes Frykholm, Hector Abrahams, Steve Mintern and Simon Robinson provided case studies demonstrating that it was better to retain, repair and reinvest than to demolish and rebuild.

Dr Hannes is based at University of Sydney where he is researching new ways of urban transformation. He started by explaining that every new building involves the extraction of resources from another place. 'Towers appear in one place and holes appear elsewhere.' It brought to mind a friend who lives on a dairy farm on the south coast. Her family has been there since the 1860s. For over forty years they have endured constant blasting from the neighbouring blue metal quarry which is deemed an essential industry for building materials. Nothing about the connection between building and mining would be new to them.

Hannes said the extraction of cement represents about 8% of the world's carbon emissions. For this reason alone, we must explore alternative strategies to demolition. He then spoke about Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal's transformation of five hundred and thirty 1960s public housing apartments at Green Parc, Bordeaux.

Rather than being razed and rebuilt, which wastes resources and disrupts the lives of tenants, the buildings were refurbished by the simple expedient of adding an external layer of winter gardens and balconies.

From 27 July to 23 September Sydney University's Tin Sheds Gallery is holding an exhibition about the project: *Lacaton and Vassal Living in the City*.

Steve Mintern and Simon Robinson of Office, a Melbourne based not-for-profit multidisciplinary design and research practice, spoke about their Retain, Repair, Reinvest approach to renewing public housing in Victoria. They provided several case studies from Melbourne which demonstrated that refurbishing and adding additional density produces better results on every level including environmentally, socially and economically, than demolition and rebuilding.

At the 40-year-old Barak Beacon estate in Port Melbourne the Victorian government has argued that the buildings are not fit for purpose and should be demolished and replaced by energy efficient and environmentally sustainable homes. Office's feasibility study shows that better results can be achieved by refurbishing, retrofitting and extending with a saving to government of an estimated \$88 million and without forcing tenants to leave their homes.

In his aptly titled presentation, *A Sensible Approach*, Hector Abrahams of Hector Abrahams Architects outlined his scheme for refurbishing 82 Wentworth Park Road Glebe and adding additional density at the rear of the site. He noted that the existing building is well built – 'they are



*Hector Abrahams scheme for infill housing in Bellevue Street at the rear of 82 Wentworth Park Road.
(Image: Hector Abrahams)*

built like tanks', and that his new building is designed to complement the existing houses in Bellevue Street and is stepped down at the centre to preserve views. The new building will have a lift and every apartment will have north facing windows. Refurbishing the existing building produces great cost savings, means tenants do not have to be evicted and does not, as demolition does, actually reduce the supply of public housing for several years.

The Challenge

We wrote to the Minister for Housing, Rose Jackson, on 15 June requesting that she defer consideration of the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's (LAHC) development application to demolish 82 Wentworth Park Road (View the letter at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zvz6a>). She replied on 24 July via our local member Kobi Shetty (view reply at <https://tinyurl.com/yc6kn8x3>).

The advice she has received from LAHC that refurbishing the existing building and erecting infill at the rear of the site *is not possible or economically efficient* is wrong.

As we wrote in our letter to her on 15 June 'the Abrahams scheme demonstrates that there are options that would be significantly cheaper than the current development application thereby providing the NSW Government with significant savings (estimated to be in the order of \$10 million or more) which could fund more housing than the current scheme for the same cost. We request, as a matter of urgency, that you advise the City of Sydney that you wish them to defer consideration of the current development application for 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe (D/2023/21)'.

At a time when there is a desperate shortage of public housing and carbon emissions must be reduced to control global warming, the NSW Government needs to lead the way in taking a new approach to revitalising its housing estates by retaining, repairing, refurbishing and adding density through well-designed infill, rather than adopting the approach of total demolition, which is expensive, actually reduces the supply of housing for several years, destroys communities and is bad for the environment.



Peru Perumal (centre) was Glebe Society President and Planning Convenor when this photo was taken in September 1972. With Peru are Tony Strachan (back to camera) who was Convenor of the Planning Forum, Albert Mispel (behind Tony Strachan and almost wholly concealed), Albert Renshaw (on Peru's left) and Ted McKiernan (far right). The person on the far left of the photo has not been identified (if you know who it is, please let us know!). The Planning Forum, which represented the Glebe Society and other local groups, was working on a submission to Leichhardt Council's Planning Committee. Alan Robertson, who took the photo, has titled it, 'Planning Committee in Wigram Road' (Source: Glebe Society Archives).

Celebrating Peru Perumal

The Society is delighted to have received a substantial donation in memory of Peru Perumal. Peru was elected our President in 1972, the second after Bernard Smith, and was a major figure in the conservation of Glebe.

He worked with Tony Strachan on the planning committee and in 1974 helped prepare the submission to the National Trust to classify Glebe as an urban conservation area. Fifty years ago when built conservation focussed on item level listings, rather than urban context, this was a groundbreaking approach and the key to protecting character. It was not until the early 1980s that Glebe's heritage conservation areas achieved statutory protection. We owe it to Peru and his colleagues that our heritage conservation areas have such good documentation which provides clear guidance as to why an area is significant and how to protect it while managing change. Despite this it is still not uncommon in development applications to come across the argument that a building is only a Contributory item and therefore is not important, so we need to continue Peru's work in educating people about the value of heritage.

In the late 1970s Peru was employed by the Federal Government to advise on the conservation of the houses in the church estates. This project, with its goals of respecting communities, restoring and refurbishing the old houses and adding additional density through well-designed low-rise infill, was visionary and of international significance. Through Peru's work many of the church estate houses, which lesser people would have said were too far gone, were saved.

Peru was made a life member of the Society in 2003. Tony Strachan's citation can be read here glebesociety.org.au/vale-peru-perumal/.

As an architect and planner Peru's influence went well beyond Glebe. He wrote many heritage studies including for a number of Sydney's suburbs and for country towns. His 1982 study of Gulgong and the related conservation

guidelines and development control plan are seen as saving the town and started a forty-year friendship. In 2021 the Mid-Western Regional Council resolved to celebrate the man and his work by naming a road after him.

Winston Churchill famously said in speaking about the bomb damage to the Houses of Parliament in 1943, 'We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.' The same can be said of the suburbs and towns we live in.

Peru Perumal recognised that Glebe was not just a special place but that its broad social demographic, distinct topography and intact urban fabric, all in close proximity to the city, made it unique. As an architect and urbanist he understood that all these things, which make up the spirit of Glebe and which make it a great place to live, are interconnected and easily destroyed.

He did not see conservation as a corset but as a guide to shaping change so that character, identity and liveability were respected. The values which inspired him are as relevant today as they were fifty years ago. This gift will provide tangible assistance to the Society in continuing his work in nurturing Glebe's spirit of place.

In Focus

By the Editor, Allan Hogan

Each month the *Bulletin* will publish a photo judged by the editorial committee to be the best image of Glebe or Forest Lodge taken by a member of the Society and entered in the competition. The Management Committee will decide the overall winner to be published in the December edition. The prize will be a free ticket to our Christmas party. Winning photos will be archived on our website.

These are the rules:

1. The photo must be taken within the 2037 postcode
2. The photo must be recent (not more than a year old)
3. The photo must have been taken by a financial member of the Society
4. The member permits the Society to use the photo in its publications and social media
5. A member can enter only one image in each monthly competition
6. The editorial committee will determine the monthly winner for publication, but selected other entries will be posted to our website
7. The Management Committee will determine the overall annual winner
8. Entries must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication.



Email your entries to editor@glebesociety.org.au

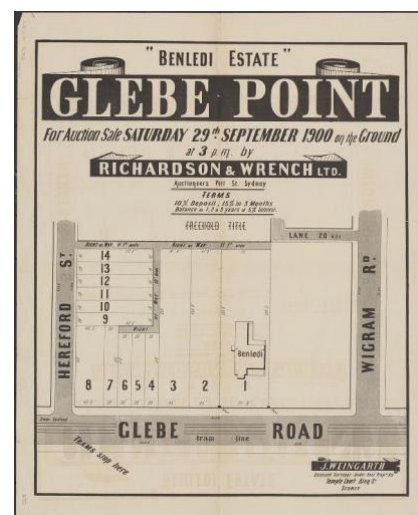
Who lived in your street?

John George Bryen (1875 - 1947)

By Lyn Collingwood

In 1902 John George Bryen built *St Helen's* next to *Benledi* on Glebe Point Road. The cottage, which today forms part of St Helen's Community Centre, sits within just over five acres granted in 1855 to solicitor Henry Burton Bradley and was part of the Benledi Estate put up for auction in 1900. In November the next year, Bryen bought lots 2 and 3, the land stretching from the main road (his neighbouring property owners were John Howard Brown and NSW Legislative Councillor Alexander Kethel) to a lane at the rear bounding Janet Korff's *Orchard Lodge*.¹ By 1908 the numbering of *St Helen's* was fixed as 184 Glebe Point Road.

John George's father Stephen Josiah Bryen, an architect who trained with George Allen Mansfield, may have designed *St Helen's*. The tower, out of character with the rest of the building, is probably part of the original fabric as the super-structure was fashionable at the time. George Mansfield was responsible for adding one to *Toxteth House*, overwhelming John Verge's Regency design.



John George Bryen bought lots 2 and 3 in June 1901 (Image: National Library of Australia)

The Bryen Family

John George Bryen was the grandson of Irish immigrant brick maker John Bryen,² a 'self-made man' who amassed a fortune. His real estate holdings included 60 acres along the Nepean River; land at Surry Hills, Burwood, Macdonaldtown, Camperdown and Forest St Forest Lodge; and the *Australian Inn* on the corner of Abercrombie Street and George Street West (now Broadway) which he built in 1843. Near the Kent Brewery and strategically placed on an already busy intersection, the hotel offered accommodation and stabling for teamsters travelling both west and south. Rebuilt in Art Deco style in 1938, it is today's *Abercrombie Hotel*.

In June 1877 John Bryen was found dead locked up with his valuables in his Abercrombie Street home, predeceased by his wife Ellen at Redfern a year earlier. The couple had separated in later life after burying as many as ten children in the period 1837-54, their ages ranging from newborn to three years. Most were laid to rest in the Devonshire Street cemetery and reinterred with their parents at Rookwood. The sole survivor was John George's father, born on 14 August 1848 and educated at the Collegiate School, Glebe Point.

In 1873 at St Barnabas' Church, Stephen Josiah Bryen married Emma Howard, born on 20 June 1852 and named for her illiterate mother of Irish ancestry. Her father was Jonathan Howard, the owner of a Parramatta Road corn and produce store and a business associate of John Bryen. The newlyweds moved to a house next door to the Howards near Derby Place on Glebe Point Road. In 1874 Emma was called to the bedside of her mother who suicided by arsenic poisoning. Following the death of John Bryen, the family moved to Abercrombie Place; by 1884 they were at *Lynwood* on Arundel Terrace, and by 1895 were in a substantial house with the same name in Randwick. Stephen Josiah was a JP and a City Council alderman between 1884 and 1890.

The eldest of five, John George Bryen was born on 29 April 1875 and boarded at Windsor Grammar School where he was a cadet and a cross-country runner. His sisters Emma, Florence and Constance made socially successful marriages to, respectively, barrister George Harris, jeweller Thomas Alcock and the namesake son of parliamentarian Sir John See. Stephen Percy Bryen died at age 35 in 1917. Their father had died in 1909 leaving a fortune worth £95 000, the real estate including properties at Randwick and a house and 99 acres at Bowral. Their mother survived until 1924.

At Pyrmont in 1896 John George Bryen married Annie May, a daughter of Ritta and wholesale butcher Henry Macnamara of *Oswestry* Glebe Point Road. The Bryens' first home was *St Helen's* Myrtle Street Stanmore³ before they shifted to Arundel Terrace Forest Lodge and thence to Glebe's *St Helen's*.

The marriage was an unhappy one and as early as 1903 there was talk of divorce. Trouble was compounded by the proximity of Bryen's in-laws. In Glebe Court in 1904 John George was bound over to keep the peace after felling Henry Macnamara to the ground. (The victim was treated for lacerations and shock by local doctor Rudolph Bohrsman.) On a later occasion Bryen's sister-in-law Rosa brought a suit against him for striking her and labelling her a thief and a liar and responsible for his wife having left him. Finally, in 1927, Annie was granted a judicial separation after testifying that her husband went to dances with the maid and said he wanted other women. The pair reappeared in court contesting the alimony, Annie's counsel arguing that Bryen spent money as fast as he could to prevent her getting it. One inherited asset from which he benefited was the *Australian Inn* to which he added an extra storey. Renamed the *Australian Hotel*, it was bought by Tooth & Co.

Bryen, who always gave his profession as 'gentleman' or 'of independent means', was known for his 'showy' horses and traps before switching to motor vehicles and membership of the Royal Automobile Club. In 1922 he was acquitted of manslaughter when his car struck Ellen French who was alighting from a Mosman tram, and a fine on the lesser charge of reckless driving was overturned on appeal. He denied he was drunk. The next year he was fined and ordered to pay damages after knocking down another woman at Randwick. In 1930 he was convicted of drink



St Helen's, 1970 (Image: City of Sydney Archives)



St Helen's Community Garden today, adjacent to Bryen's original cottage (Image: City of Sydney)

driving and his licence suspended. Another passion was horses. He bred trotters at Moss Vale where he joined the local jockey club and donated trophies to the cricket club.

Bryen was living at St Mary's when he died on 13 December 1947. He was privately interred in Randwick Cemetery in the family plot marked by an impressive granite obelisk. His widow died, aged 75, on 7 December 1951 and was buried in Waverley Cemetery, the resting place of her parents and other members of the Macnamara family.

The Bartlett Family

A collection of Bryen's engravings, watercolours and furniture including two grand pianos was auctioned onsite at *St Helen's* in 1905 but the house was not sold until 1911. The buyer was Glebe wholesale butcher Horatio Bartlett who bred fox terriers and, like Bryen, trotting racehorses, some of which he sold in England. Bartlett lived at number 184 Glebe Point Road with his wife Matilda Harriett née McGarvey until his death at age 79 on 2 February 1927. Following a service at St John's Glebe, he was buried at Coogee in what is now Randwick General Cemetery.

Ownership of *St Helen's* then passed to the Bartletts' daughter Bertha Evelyn and her husband Augustus George Thomas, a Wahroonga wholesale butcher. Matilda Bartlett died in 1942, Bertha Thomas in 1953 and her widower three years later.

The Potts Family

In 1929 the Thomases sold *St Helen's* to Theodore Kenneth Potts whose medical practice was at *Montrose* 20 Glebe Point Road. He and his wife Violet Mary gave *St Helen's* as their home address until May 1932 when it was sold to Elizabeth Lawson and Stella May Clark.

The Clark Family

The births of Elizabeth and Stella to William and Jessie Clark were registered in 1881 and 1885.

In 1919 the unmarried sisters established Elite Caterers at their mother's house *Walmer* 280 Glebe Point Road. In June 1932 they transferred their household and business to *St Helen's*. Elite Caterers specialised in wedding cakes and supplying refreshments for large social functions organised by church groups and Freemasons.

The partnership was dissolved in March 1944. Elizabeth died three months later and Stella became the house's sole owner. She survived until 1960. Four years later *St Helen's* was resumed by the Sydney Homeopathic Hospital which had occupied the adjacent building *Benledi* since 1914. Accommodation for nurses was built at the rear.

Local Council

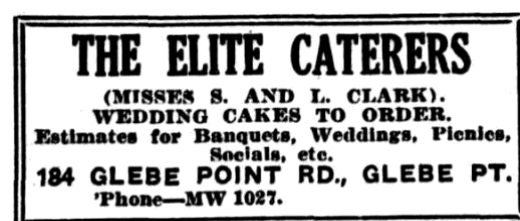
Over objections raised by the Glebe Society, the Sydney Homeopathic Hospital closed in 1989. A homeopathic clinic was subsequently set up at Balmain Hospital.

In 1998 Leichhardt Council transferred to the Central Board of Health its Victoria Alice Lamkin Welfare Centre⁴ at 2 Hereford Street in exchange for the site. This consolidated Council's holdings to include *Benledi*, *St Helen's*, the nurses' quarters and Glebe Library. A \$500 000 grant was awarded by Health and Community Services to expand *St Helen's* to accommodate Meals on Wheels and radio station 2RPH. The original plans included provision for a lift giving disabled access to the *St Helen's* and *Benledi* upstairs storeys. The nurses' quarters were earmarked for artists' studios and a Glebe Chamber of Commerce office.

The City of Sydney Council has been the site's landlord since 2004. In 2012 work began on transforming the grassed area between *St Helen's* and *Benledi* into a community garden.

Notes: 1. Land Titles Office: Vol. 1379 Book 184; 2. Also spelt 'Bryan' and 'Boyan'; 3. In 1925 John George was living in a third *St Helen's* in Belmore Road Randwick; 4. This complex is now private accommodation. The Victorian mansion on the site is, like *St Helen's*, is dominated by a tower.

Sources: *Dictionary of Sydney*; Glebe Society *Bulletin* 8/1989 and 1/1999; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Land Titles Office online; Sands *Directories*; Sydney Aldermen website; Sydney Homeopathic Hospital *Annual Report* 1914; Time Gents website; Trove website.



After moving from 280 Glebe Point Road, Lizzie and Stella Clark ran their catering business from *St Helen's* (Image: Catholic Freeman's Journal 22 December 1932)



Next Players in the Pub

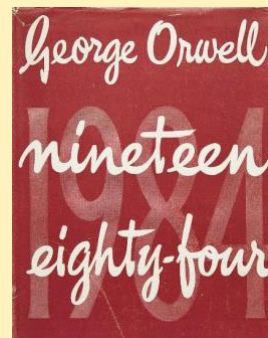
George Orwell's 1984

Directed by Annette van Roden

The Harold, 7pm Tuesday 15 August

Upstairs at The Harold – Wigram Rd/Ross St
Forest Lodge. Entry by donation.

Players is now in its 14th year!



A letter from Lodge Street

By the Editor, Allan Hogan

Stories about Frank Hurley have graced the pages of the *Bulletin* on many occasions. In the April 2008 edition, Rod Holtham recorded that James Francis Hurley was born to Margaret and Edward Hurley at Glebe on 15 October 1885. He was known as Frank and attended Glebe Public School. Holtham wrote 'he was interested in photography and showed a flair that few possessed, purchasing a Kodak box camera for fifteen shillings when he was about 20 years old. At the age of 25 he held an exhibition of his work and was noticed by the famous explorer Douglas Mawson, who twelve months later invited him to be the official photographer on the Australian Antarctic Expedition.'

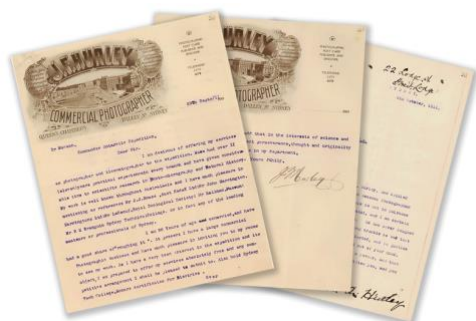


Frank Hurley self-portrait, on board the *Discovery*, about 1929. (Image: State Library of New South Wales.)

In response to an article about Douglas Mawson in last May's edition of the *Bulletin*, Glebe Society member Wayne Carveth was prompted to send a copy of a letter that Hurley wrote to Mawson in September 1911. Hurley wrote that he was 'desiring of offering my services as photographer and kinematographer to the expedition' and that he was '26 years of age, unmarried, and have had a good share of "roughing it"'.

History records that Hurley got the job, but it seems that his mother didn't want him to go. In a letter dated 6 October 1911 and written at 22 Lodge Street Forest Lodge, apparently on the same typewriter as the one her son used, Margaret Hurley wrote to Mawson that her son's application

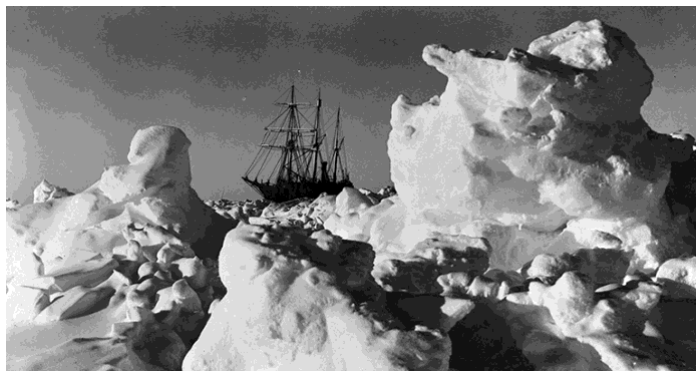
is not in fairness to himself, as he has an internal complaint, and I am certain he is not strong enough for the position. He has never roughed it in any way during his life and has lung trouble so bad that I do not think he would come back if he started, and in justice to myself I think you should put him right out of your mind. In conclusion, I want to ask you a favour, and that is, do not mention to my son that I have written you.



Letters to Mawson from Frank Hurley and his mother (Images: State Library of NSW)

Mawson's reply, if there was one, is not on the record, and Hurley went on to be a member of a number of expeditions to Antarctica. He was the official photographer on Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition which set out in 1914 and was marooned until August 1916; Hurley's photographic kit for the expedition included the primitive movie camera, a glass plate still camera and several smaller Kodak cameras, along with various lenses, tripods, and developing equipment, most of which had to be abandoned with the loss of their ship *Endurance* in 1915.

Hurley served as an official photographer with Australian forces during both world wars. His work was controversial because he believed that it was sometimes impossible to capture the scope of an event with a single photo. He adopted a practice common with photographers at that time of producing composite images by superimposing one image on another. The official AIF historian, Charles Bean, called these 'fakes.' But many of his war photos were iconic, without the need for superimposition.



HMS Endurance trapped in Antarctic pack ice 1915 by Frank Hurley (Image: National Library of Australia)



Chateau Wood Ypres 1917 by Frank Hurley (Image: Australian War Museum)

In later years Hurley photographed the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and wrote and directed several dramatic feature films, including *Jungle Woman* (1926) and *The Hound of the Deep* (1926). He also worked as cinematographer for Cinesound Productions where his best-known film credits include *The Squatter's Daughter* (1933), *The Silence of Dean Maitland* (1934) and *Grandad Rudd* (1935).

In 1918 Hurley married Antoinette Leighton, an opera singer, and they had four children. Born in 1919 their daughter Adelie Hurley was known as a pioneering woman press photographer. She said her father had a huge impact on her; she believed that 'it was inbred ... born within me to become a photographer. I think it was a destiny. To me, he was the master, and to have his approval meant the world to me' (*Australian Story* 2001).

Adelie was one of only three Australian women press photographers working in her time. She was fearless in pursuing her shots, and also fearless against the gender discrimination of her field, lasting over two decades in press photography. Her photographs include a diverse range of subjects, from army photography, vice squad busts, life at outback stations and taipan hunting.

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 9 1983; Martyn Jolly (1999) *Australian First –World – War photography* Frank Hurley and Charles Bean, *History of Photography*, 23:2; The Australian Women's Register, www.womenaustralia.info/bioqs/AWE5989b.htm

Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 16

By Ted McKeown

The sixteenth site nominated in 2021 for a Blue Plaque is *Lyndhurst* at 61 Darghan Street. *Lyndhurst* was designed by John Verge and completed in 1836 for Dr James Bowman, the principal Colonial Surgeon and the son-in-law of John Macarthur. It is a superb example of Verge's Greek Revival style architecture. The original site of the house comprised about 36 acres, 'commanding about a mile of frontage' to Blackwattle Bay. Bowman spared no expense in the materials selected for the erection of this 'marine villa', its furnishings and the landscaping of its gardens. But by 1842 Bowman was in severe financial difficulties, and *Lyndhurst* and his other properties were conveyed to his brothers-in-law James and William Macarthur, who took over his debts to the Bank of Australasia. Bowman died in 1846.



Lyndhurst from the east, c. 1940 (Image: Milton Kent Collection, SLNSW FL8815043)



Lyndhurst from Darghan Street, c. 1940 (Image: Milton Kent Collection, SLNSW FL8815046)

By 1847 the Macarthur brothers were themselves heavily in debt to the Bank of Australasia, and leased the property to St James College, Australia's first Anglican theological college. In 1852 the bank sold *Lyndhurst* to the Roman Catholic Church for St Mary's College, at the time the most important Roman Catholic school in Sydney. But it gradually declined, and in 1877 the College was closed. Between 1878 and 1885 the Church subdivided the estate into small lots, which it then sold. Four thousand pounds of the proceeds were given to the Jesuits to assist in establishing St Ignatius' College, Riverview.

Lyndhurst and its remaining grounds were sold in 1878 to Morris Asher (1818-1909), a businessman and Parliamentarian. For a time he lived there, but in 1882 he leased it as a lying-in (maternity) hospital. In about 1890 he subdivided it into three dwellings, one of which became the Lyndhurst Private School run by Miss Agnes Watt. After Asher's death, the property fell into a gradual decline, being used for, among other things, a laundry, a cabinetmaker's workshop, an ice-cream factory, a broom factory and a printing works. In 1972 it was sold to the Department of Main Roads and was intended to be demolished to make way for the proposed North-Western Expressway.

In 1973 the DMR evicted the tenants, and the property was soon vandalised, the roof rusted through, and fires were lit inside by squatters. It seemed only a matter of time before the house was destroyed or demolished, but the

Save Lyndhurst Committee, chaired by heritage architect Clive Lucas and strongly supported by the Glebe Society, campaigned actively for the route of the expressway to be changed so *Lyndhurst* could be saved for eventual restoration.

The real turning point came in 1976, when the Wran Labor government abandoned inner city expressways. Although in a derelict condition, *Lyndhurst* was capable of restoration. A permanent conservation order was placed on the property in 1982. Ownership was transferred to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW in 1984, and *Lyndhurst* was indeed magnificently restored by the Trust under the guidance of Clive Lucas in 1998. It was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in 1999. *Lyndhurst* served as the headquarters of the Trust until 2005, when it was sold to private owners.



Glebe Society members at a working bee on 22 June 1980 to clear out Lyndhurst's cellar. L-R: David Kernohan, Jeanette Knox, Hilary Larkum, Ted McKeown and Peter Stanbury (Source: Ted McKeown).

The Hill: HAZMAT clothing required

By Andrew Wood, Convenor Blue Wren Subcommittee

Last year, the Society was awarded an Innovation and Ideas Grant by the City entitled 'Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential'. We are still, however, waiting for the City to issue a Licensing Agreement so that work can commence on the Grant. The President, members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee and Professor Hochuli from the University of Sydney met with the City Council in the Green Room at Town Hall House at 11am on Wednesday 28 June. The City was represented by James Macnamara (Grant Liaison Officer), Michael Szczepanski (Properties) and Cailin Martin (Property Strategy Planner). We were seeking an answer to the following question: *Can the University of Sydney access the proposed five sites in the local government area (LGA) for the placement of wildlife monitors and to perform walk-throughs to study urban fauna and flora?*



Monitoring devices can identify individual feral cats in the wild from images caught with camera traps, like this one captured by University of Melbourne PhD student Matthew Rees. In the background is the lure (bird feathers and tuna oil on top of a stick) designed to attract feral cats. (Image supplied: Matthew Rees)

The City had already agreed that the University could access the following four sites: Federal Park (which contains the salt marsh), Orphan School Creek Park and two sites in Sydney Park. Difficulties remain, however, with Glebe's Hill as it is contaminated with asbestos and lead and is not accessible to the public – anyone entering the site must wear full protective (HAZMAT) clothing. The walkway, which is a designated road, between the Hill and the Tramsheds, has no restrictions on access. The City has asked the University to: "pinpoint" the proposed location of its monitors on a map of the eastern and western ends of the walkway and to provide details of the equipment to be used; the dates of installation and de-installation; the dates and frequency of access; and confirmation of the process, for example, the use of ladders and the use of cable ties to ensure no damage to trees.

The Society has requested that the City include the following paragraph in the Licensing Agreement:

Should the University of Sydney find that its initial wildlife observations of Glebe's Hill (made from the walkway between the Hill and the Tramsheds) are unsatisfactory, it may seek permission from the Council to use the services of an individual who holds a NSW Government's Asbestos Assessor Licence to install and remove further wildlife monitoring devices directly on Glebe's Hill.

Notice of the proposed Licensing Agreement will be advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and for 28 days on the City's 'Sydney Your Say' website. It is planned that the Agreement will be ready for the Society's signature in September 2023 from which time the University will be able to commence its observations of the five LGA sites, including Glebe's Hill.

Glebe Guided Walks Report: Heritage Architecture on Glebe's Doorstep

By Virginia Simpson-Young

On the afternoon of Thursday 29 June, around 20 people took part in a guided walk around some of the University of Sydney's earliest heritage architecture, including the Great Hall, Quadrangle, MacLaurin Hall, Anderson Stuart Building, Vice-Chancellor's Courtyard, Old Bank Building and Holme Building. Our tour guides were Glebe Society members Katharine Vernon and Ian Stephenson. Katharine is the great-granddaughter of Walter Liberty Vernon who designed the stupendous MacLaurin Hall (see Figure 1), the Holme Building and contributed major additions to the Quadrangle and the Anderson Stuart Building. Katharine has made a study of Vernon's work including his designs in Glebe, the Fire Station and parts of Glebe Public School. Our other walk leader, Ian, has a great love for architectural history and, prior to retirement, was Curator for the National Trust and University of New England, CEO of the South Australian National Trust and a director of Historic Places ACT (see Figure 2).



Figure 1: Katharine talking about MacLaurin Hall (top right of photo) which was designed by her great-grandfather, Walter Liberty Vernon (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)



Figure 2: Ian talking about the Anderson Stuart Building, originally the Medical School building (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

The Architects of the University of Sydney

The guided walk focussed on the four architects who were responsible for the University's earliest heritage buildings; Vernon, mentioned above, was one. The University's first architect was Edmund Blacket, Colonial Architect, a position he resigned in 1854 to take up the position of University Architect. Blacket designed the Great Hall and Quadrangle, but when the University ran out of building funds, work stopped well before the Quadrangle was finished. It was over 100 years before it was finally completed, in 1966. In Glebe, Blacket designed St Johns Church and *Calmar*, as well as *Bidura* where he lived with his family for 13 years while working at the University.

Architect James Barnet (Figure 3) designed the former Medical School building, now the Anderson Stuart Building. Barnet lived in Glebe. First in Derwent Street then at *Braeside*, which he designed and built. *Braeside* was located on the corner of Ross Street and Parramatta Road, where Officeworks is now. From *Braeside*, the University could be seen taking shape (Figure 4). In Glebe, Barnet designed the courthouse, police station, post office and the first fire station.



Figure 3. Edmund Blacket and daughter Edith outside the Great Hall during construction, c. 1857 (Source: University of Sydney Archives)



Figure 4: Looking across Braeside's garden towards the University of Sydney. Watercolour by W M Cooper, 1883 (Source: private collection)

Leslie Wilkinson, the first Chair of Architecture and University Architect designed several University buildings including the Physics and Botany Buildings, completed the northern and western sides of the Quadrangle and contributed to the Anderson Stuart and Holme buildings. More about Wilkinson below.

Secrets of the Old Bank Building

As space precludes a detailed account of this guided walk, I'll focus on one item, the Old Bank Building (Figure 5), and two of the building's secrets which Ian shared with us. The Old Bank Building had been moved from its original location at 343 George Street after the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney donated it to the University. In 1931, the building was re-erected, stone by stone, in Science Road. Ian's first secret was that, if we looked really hard, we could see that the north-east corner of the building was not square. This was because, when re-erected, the building retained the original corner angle of the intersection of George and Barrack Streets, where the building originally stood.

The Old Bank Building's second secret stems ultimately from another failure of University funding. In his 1920 University masterplan, Leslie Wilkinson envisaged replacing the Bank Building's neighbours (Pharmacy and Badham) with a 'grand suite of new buildings'. When lack of funds prevented this grand plan from going ahead, the long-suffering Wilkinson made do, joining up the neighbouring buildings to the newly-installed Old Bank Building (see Figure 5). Wilkinson's masterplan intended a sightline between the 'grand suite of new buildings' and his sprawling Physics Building on the other side of the University. In time, the sightline was built out, as new buildings were added behind the Old Bank Building to accommodate growing departments. Consequently, the monumental sandstone derriere of the Old Bank Building was progressively occluded. Now to the second secret: there is one – unlikely and inconvenient – vantage point from which a fraction of the Old Bank Building's once-imposing derriere can be seen: the Graffiti Tunnel. This secret is shared with you, now, in Figure 6.



Figure 5. The Old Bank Building in Science Road (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

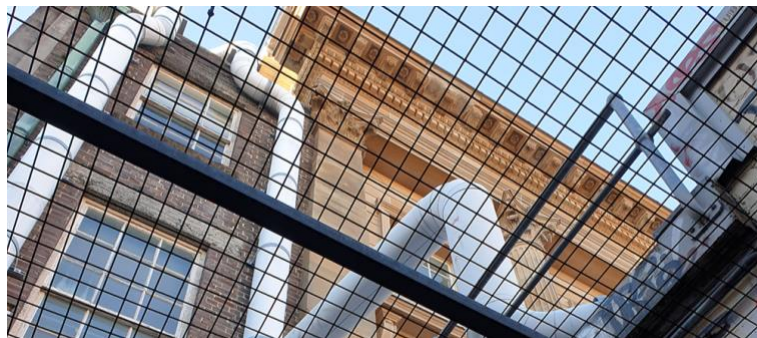


Figure 6. Not the expansive vista Wilkinson envisaged for the southern façade of the Old Bank Building (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

I really enjoyed this Glebe Society Guided Walk. Even though I've studied and worked at the University of Sydney, it was as though I was seeing the University for the first time. If the Glebe Society offers this walk again, I absolutely recommend attending!

Sources: Barker (2009) Stereographic photograph of the Commercial Bank, Sydney. Powerhouse; CBC Officers Club Inc (2008) The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited and its subsidiaries & affiliates; City of Sydney (2023) Edmund Thomas Blacket; Collingwood, Crawshaw, & Hannan (2019) Villas of Glebe & Forest Lodge pre-1870; Howells (2007) The University of Sydney Architecture; Lucas (2006 [1969]) 'Wilkinson, Leslie (1882–1973)', Australian Dictionary of Biography; Solling & Randerson (2018) 'Forest Lodge', Dictionary of Sydney; The Glebe Society (2013) Edmund Blacket.

Glebe Guided Walks Report: Weird and wonderful: Highlights of the Chau Chak Wing Museum

By Sarah Fogg

The Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney has an amazingly diverse collection covering art, science, archaeology, natural history and ancient cultures. It's free to visit but, as with many museums, you get a much greater insight if guided by somebody who really knows about the exhibits. On Monday 24 July, twelve Glebe Society members and friends had a fascinating introduction to some of the highlights of the Museum's collections, led by our archaeologist tour guide, Susan.

Our guide showed us some particularly interesting and unusual items in the Egyptian mummy collection, the contemporary bark cloths from the Omie people of Papua New Guinea, the interdisciplinary Object / Art / Specimen exhibition, the displays of First Nations culture and heritage from different parts of Australia, and more. The material on display evolves as there is too much in the collection to put on display at any one time. A reason to go again, definitely.



(Images: Chau Chak Wing Museum)



August Mystery Photo

By Lyn Collingwood

Where are we? And what on earth is going on?

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

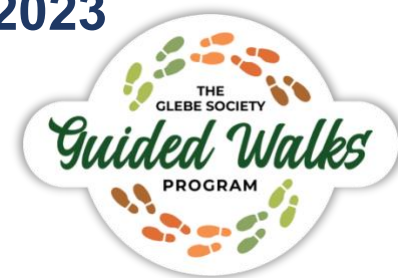
Last month's (July) mystery photo

Deb O'Mara and her 90-year-old mother Molly recognised the building on the corner of Glebe Street and Norton Street with a glimpse of John Byrne Court flats on the corner of St Johns Road and Wentworth Street in the background. Chris Prasad identified the address as 133 Glebe Street, today's Glebe Community Op Shop. The view was also familiar to Katharine Vernon who lived in Glebe Street in the 1970s.

Glebe Society Guided Walks Program 2023

By Dorothy Davis, Guided Walks Coordinator

Join us for our remaining Walks for the year: the first to neighbouring Pyrmont where Mark Dunn will lead us on an exploration of the area's industrial past; the second discovering the history and heritage of Forest Lodge with Max Solling; and the last, a tour of the last remaining pre-1870 marine villas in Glebe, from Lyndhurst to Margaretta Cottage, with Robert Hannan.



Pyrmont's Industrial Waterfront

Leader: Mark Dunn

Meeting place: Forecourt of the National Maritime Museum, opposite Pyrmont Bay light rail station

Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)

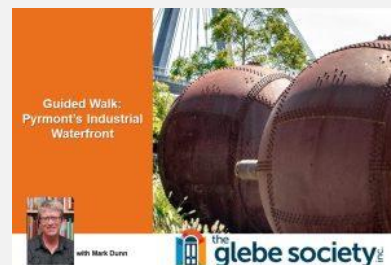
Bookings: pyrmont-industrial-waterfront.eventbrite.com.au

Sunday

10 September

2-4pm

In the 19th and for much of the 20th century Pyrmont was an important industrial waterfront for the port of Sydney. What began as a rural retreat for the city elite and popular picnic spot, was transformed from the mid-19th century into an industrial suburb. Quarries provided stone for the city building booms, while the arrival of large, polluting industries like the Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR) came to define the suburb's industrial character. Ship building, wool export and other maritime-based industries also dominated. This Walk will explore the rich history of the peninsula and point out some of the surviving hints of Pyrmont's industrial past. Mark Dunn is a public historian who has worked for over 20 years in heritage and archaeology. He has developed and led many walking tours across Sydney.



Exploring Forest Lodge

Leader: Max Solling

Meeting place: Glebe Town Hall, front entrance

Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)

Bookings: forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au

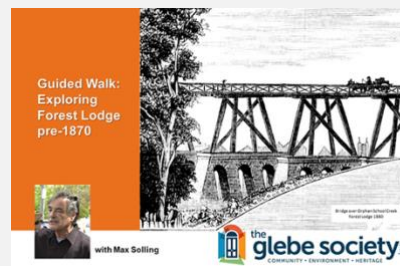
Sunday

24 September

10.30am-

12.30pm

Forest Lodge, once a ward of the Glebe Municipal Council - formed in 1859 and merged into the City of Sydney Council in 1948 - is named for the 1836 house built by chemist and druggist Ambrose Foss. Forest Lodge is multi-layered and complex, with its character constantly shifting and being remade. Max Solling led the first Glebe Society Walk in 1969 and is still keen to share his great knowledge of Glebe and Forest Lodge history and heritage. Max will lead us through the suburb, explaining the history of Forest Lodge's natural environment, civic role, industry, retail and residential development. His encyclopaedic knowledge of our history and his engaging storytelling will make this walk an unforgettable historical exploration of our suburb.



Villas of Glebe pre-1870

Leader: Robert Hannan

Meeting place: Outside 90 Darghan Street

Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)

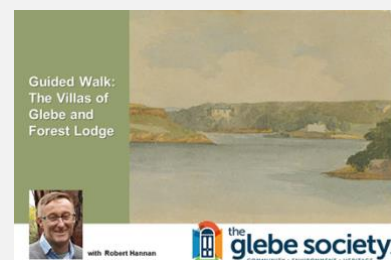
Bookings: villas-of-glebe-and-forest-lodge.eventbrite.com.au

Sunday

15 October

2-4pm

Similar to the large villas with their pleasure grounds that once graced Potts Point and Darlinghurst, a handsome line of marine villas took shape from the late 1820s on the escarpments of Glebe - a position ensuring good drainage, ample grounds for recreation and access to fresh water, cool breezes and pleasant views. Robert and Peter, who own and have lovingly restored the c.1847 *Rothwell Lodge*, will lead us on a tour of the magnificent remaining pre-1870 marine villas. The Walk will begin near *Lyndhurst* in Darghan Street, from where we'll wander up St Johns Road into the grounds of St John's Church and next door to Foley Park. From there, we'll head down Glebe Point Road through the Toxteth Estate - Glebe's first and largest estate, then on to the grounds of Margaretta Cottage in Leichhardt Street. Our last stop will be *Rothwell Lodge* in Ferry Road, where we'll learn more about this beautiful and historic home. We'll also have an opportunity to enjoy a drink while viewing an extensive exhibition featuring pre-1870s Glebe and Forest Lodge villas, including some now demolished. This Glebe Society Guided Walk is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to spend time with Robert and Peter, whose extensive knowledge of Glebe's 19th century villas is unsurpassed.



Care finders workforce

By Rochel Lazarus,
Care Advisor, South East Sydney Catholic Healthcare

In January 2023, the Government initiated a new program to support vulnerable people to interact with *My Aged Care* by funding a workforce of care finders to provide face-to-face support to help people navigate and access aged care.

The program is in response to a recommendation of the [Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#).

Care finders help people understand and access aged care and connect with other relevant supports in their community. Care finders support people who have one or more reasons for requiring intensive support to interact with *My Aged Care* and access services. Care finders can complete high-level check-in on a periodic basis and follow up support once services have commenced, while building a rapport with clients and service providers.

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are responsible for commissioning and managing care finder services. Catholic Healthcare has been commissioned to cover the Sydney Metro area, including Glebe and Forest Lodge.

Once *My Aged Care* has assessed a person for help at home or residential care, then he or she is free to choose an aged care service provider. A list of care finder organisations and more information about the care finder service is available on the [My Aged Care website](#).

If you would like assistance with contacting *My Aged Care* or would like to know more about the care finder service, please contact us on 1800 225 474.



Care finders help people understand and access aged care. (Image: Catholic Healthcare)

The Glebe Society's Annual General Meeting

Kobi Shetty MP for Balmain will be the guest speaker at the Glebe Society's 2023 Annual General Meeting at Glebe Town Hall on **Sunday 3 September from 10am-12 noon**.

Read the minutes of last year's AGM at:

glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/TGS-AGM-2022-draft-minutes-1.docx

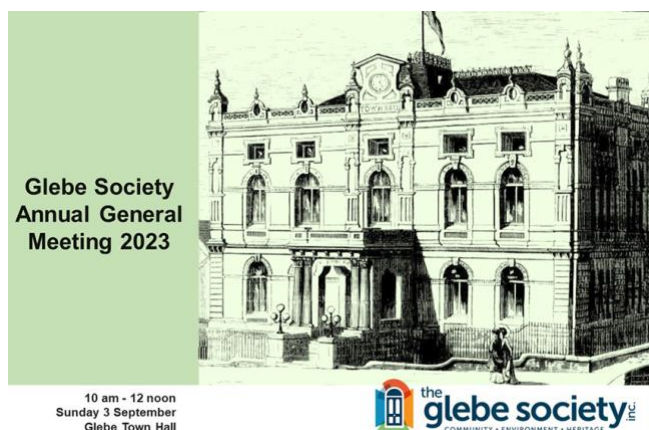
Put it in your diary. Let us know if you will be attending via Eventbrite at:

Glebe-Society-AGM-2023.eventbrite.com.au.

And if you would like to join the Management Committee download a nomination form at:

glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Management-Committee-nomination-2023-24.docx.

Nominations must be received by the Society (PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037 or secretary@glebesociety.org.au) not later than **Friday 18 August 2023**.



Kobi Shetty, MP for Balmain, will be the guest speaker
(Image: www.kobishetty.org.au)

Updates on current DAs in Glebe and Forest Lodge

By Ian Stephenson

Update on current DAs

D/2023/393: 20 Forest Street Forest Lodge, 22 Forest Street Forest Lodge, 13 Ross Street Forest Lodge and 15 Ross Street Forest Lodge. Supplementary Comments in relation to a report placed on public exhibition after the closing date. View all submissions at:

eplanning.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx?id=2010850.

D/2019/1470A: Wesley Mission 274-276 Glebe Point Road. See all submissions View all submissions at:

eplanning.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx?id=1755160.

Decision of the Local Planning Panel

At its meeting on 19 June 2023 the Local Planning Panel approved the Development Application for St Scholastica's College, 2 Avenue Road Glebe, D/2022/229

The Panel upheld the variation requested to the Height of Buildings development standard, in accordance with Clause 4.6 'Exceptions to development standards' of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Determinations by the City Planning Unit

D/2022/880, 73 Ferry Road, Glebe: approval of the demolition of a two-storey house which is a Contributory item in the Glebe Point Heritage Conservation Area.

For your Calendar

Monday 7 August 5.30-6.45pm	The Rum Hospital Tour: Explore Australia's first parliament and Sydney's oldest public building. Free tour organised by the Department of Parliamentary Services. Bookings: eventbrite.com.au/e/the-rum-hospital-the-building-that-refuses-to-fall-down-tickets-667214716177
Tuesday 8 August 1-3pm	Table Tennis at St Helen's every Tuesday. Free tea and coffee. whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/table-tennis-at-st-helens
Friday 11 August 10am-12pm	Senior Rights Information Session. St Helen's. More information: whatson.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/events/seniors-rights-service-talk-at-st-helens
Tuesday 15 August 7pm	Players in the Pub George Orwell's <i>1984</i> Directed by Annette van Roden, Upstairs at The Harold, Wigram Road/Ross Street, Forest Lodge. Entry by donation.
Monday 21 August	Copy deadline for September <i>Bulletin</i>
Sunday 3 September 10am-12noon	The Glebe Society Annual General Meeting Glebe Town Hall. Let us know if you will be attending at Glebe-Society-AGM-2023.eventbrite.com.au
Sunday 10 September 2-4pm	Glebe Walks: Pyrmont's Industrial Waterfront Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: pyrmont-industrial-waterfront.eventbrite.com.au
Sunday 24 September 10.30-12.30pm	Glebe Walks: Exploring Forest Lodge Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au
Sunday 15 October 2-4pm	Glebe Walks: Villas of Glebe pre-1870 Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: villas-of-glebe-and-forest-lodge.eventbrite.com.au
Friday 27 October 7pm	First Night, Glebe Music Festival. Margaretta Cottage, 6 Leichhardt Street. www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1039379 Full program: glebesociety.org.au/34th-annual-glebe-music-festival/

Membership renewals for 2023-2024 are due now



Concession (student, pensioner)	Individual	Joint	Household	Corporate
\$20	\$45	\$55	\$60	\$110

Renew at: glebesociety.org.au/membership/membership-applicationrenewal

If you have any problems please contact the Treasurer at

treasurer@glebesociety.org.au or 0488 118 355.



Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page: glebesociety.eventbrite.com

**** Note regarding member-only events **** Member-only events do not appear on our main Eventbrite page and are accessible only to Glebe Society members by using the link provided in the *Bulletin*.

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Membership of the Glebe Society

Individual member:	\$45
Joint (two 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 [Join/Renew](#);
- download a membership form from glebesociety.org.au;
- write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;
- or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au

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