

*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 7 of 2023 (September 2023)

ISSN 1836-599X

## President's Report: September 2023

*By Ian Stephenson*



This is my last report as President of the Society as my final term finishes at our Annual General Meeting which is at 10am to 12 noon at the Glebe Town Hall on Sunday 3 September.

Do come along to meet the new President, hear our guest speaker Kobi Shetty, the State member for Balmain, and then enjoy refreshments and conviviality at the close of the meeting.

It has been a good year for the Society. We are one of Sydney's largest and most active resident groups. There are many people, both on the management committee and on subcommittees, and indeed outside of committees, who contribute to our vitality and success. As members you are just as important to the health of the Society. After all, it takes two to tango.

This is not a comprehensive review. I just want to shine a light on some of the many things the Society is doing well.

The Communications Subcommittee produces an excellent *Bulletin* ten times a year. It is a great repository of knowledge about Glebe much of which is searchable on the net. It would be a great boon if the *Bulletin* could be added to Trove, the National Library's digitised newspaper site. Something, perhaps, for the new subcommittee to investigate. As well as producing the *Bulletin* the subcommittee make videos which can be accessed on YouTube by searching 'Glebe Society'. They do social media on platforms like Instagram and Facebook and organise the design and printing of other Society publications. We are fortunate to have Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg and Virginia Simpson-Young looking after the technical aspects of managing the website and producing the *Bulletin*. Both, however, would be nothing without content and so I want to thank all the contributors.

The Events program is very important. It works on many levels including celebrating the history and culture of Glebe, bringing people together and connecting with people who are new to Glebe as well as with people from outside our suburb. I am going to mention Dorothy Davis and Katharine Vernon by name because they have done an outstanding job in reviving the Events program. The walks, talks and inspections are really singing. As with the *Bulletin* and website there is a technical layer to events we take for granted and that is the booking and payment system. Thank you to the people behind the scenes who have mastered Eventbrite.

The Blue Wrens, our ecology arm, do extraordinary work in monitoring and nurturing the flora and fauna of Glebe. The Heritage subcommittee do incredible research and writing about Glebe, including the forensic analysis of land use, buildings and people; and our long-serving Treasurer, Jane Gatwood and Secretary Jude Paul ensure the Society is efficiently administered.

There are so many areas to which people contribute, including Transport and Traffic, Community, Planning, representing the Society on the Fish Market Community Consultative Committee and on the Coalition of Glebe Groups, as well as the organisation of our annual Christmas Party – surely the event of the year.

Thank you for the privilege of acting as your President – Floreat Glebeiana.

# In Focus: Our monthly photo competition

*By the Editorial Committee*

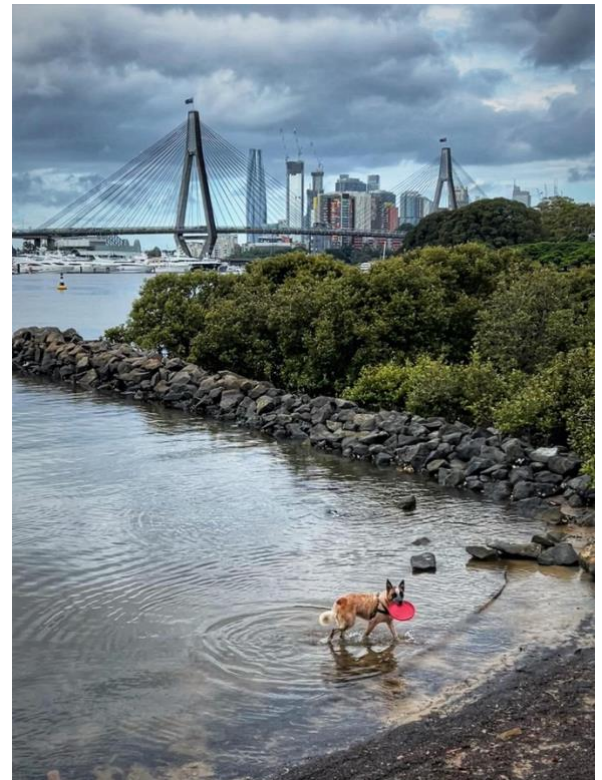
Each month the Bulletin publishes a photo judged by the editorial committee to be the best image of Glebe or Forest Lodge taken by a member of the Society and entered in the competition. The Management Committee will decide the overall winner to be published in the December edition. The prize will be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

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 warrants that they own copyright of the photo and licenses 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 winner.

Email your entries to [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au) before the next deadline of 25 September. Please send photos at full resolution.

All of this month's entries were excellent. Thanks to Mark Gorta, Barb Jarry, Peter Legzdins, Phil Vergison, and Sharon Zwi – their entries will be posted to our website. But there can only be one winner and here it is – see image to right.



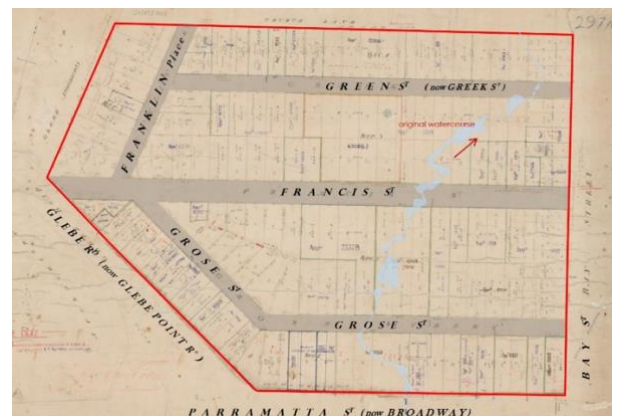
*Mary Regan titled this photo "Bridge, Park and Dog", which seems to be a fairly accurate description. For the technically-minded it was taken with an Apple iPhone13 Pro, ISO 50, 5.7mm focal length, aperture f1.5, exposure 1/1900. Congratulations Mary, we'll post this to our website, and it will be considered for the Annual Prize.*

## Who lived in Grose Street Glebe?

*By Lyn Collingwood*

Camperdown's Grose Street and Grose Farm Lane are named for Francis Grose who administered New South Wales for two years after Governor Arthur Phillip returned to England. The University of Sydney was built on Grose Farm, and Francis is commemorated in the Blue Mountains by a valley and a river. Glebe's Grose Street, today a featureless thoroughfare, takes its name, not from the Acting Governor, but his convict nephew.

Sentenced to seven years for stealing banknotes, Joseph Hickey Grose arrived in Sydney on the *Baring* in 1815. He was assigned to Hannibal McArthur and, on gaining his freedom, was given his own government servants, prospered as a Parramatta storekeeper, auctioneer and estate agent, and branched into shipping. After the 1831 launch of the *William the Fourth*, the first coastal steamer built in Australia, Grose dominated the Hunter River steamer trade. He fell victim, however, to competition from the Hunter River Steam Navigation Company and the general financial depression of the 1840s and was declared insolvent. His declared occupation grazier, Grose died in 1849 at Lake Bathurst.



*Grose Street in context (Source: SLNSW; FL8769446; annotated by Rodney Hammett, Sept 2022)*

In 1828 Joseph Grose bought nearly 13 acres of Glebe land fronting Glebe Road and Bay and Parramatta Streets. Called Bishopgate after the London suburb, the estate was subdivided into 154 narrow-fronted allotments in 1841 and some were sold. Pressure from Grose's creditors resulted in the remainder of the lots being advertised for sale from 1843. By 1844, some 40 cottages had been built but money was scarce and 18 unsold lots were put up without reserve in 1845.

Among the buyers was ironmonger Lancelot Iredale who bought lots 25 to 27 with John Rose Holden (see note 1) and sold part to publican Thomas Collins in September 1845. His *Omnibus Inn* fronting Parramatta Road was built by 1848. John Austin bought lot 28 on 2 December 1844. Lot 30 was purchased by Newtown dealer Samuel Dick on 20 December 1844. Other buyers were merchant James Holt and Felix Wilson, a 'gentleman'. Most were speculators with holdings elsewhere in the colony and they did not settle on the Glebe land. A few tradesmen and shopkeepers did.

## The Barham Family

In September 1843 James Barham paid Joseph Hickey Grose £150 for lot 32 stretching from Parramatta Road to Grose Street and bounded by lot 33 on the Bay Street side. Here Barham set up his house and butchery with Rachael Maule whom he had married in 1834. Severely burnt in 1851 after falling into a vat of boiling water while scalding pigs, Barham died in 1858, survived by his widow and seven children (see note 2). The property, named *Maulston*, remained in the family's hands until Rachael's death at age 74 in 1892.

Soon after the 1875 marriage of James and Rachael's youngest child Emily Lucy to Joseph Evans Gerrett, the draper was in financial trouble. His Parramatta Road shop was gutted by fire (an inquest returned a verdict of arson) and in 1878 he was declared insolvent (but allowed to keep his furniture and clothing). By 1904 Emily Gerrett was living at 43 Toxteth Road with her children Hilda Maule, Mabel Rosina and Harold Barnham. That year jewellery and money was stolen and their house was burgled again three years later. Emily bought two lots of the 1904 Toxteth Estate subdivision on which she built two four-bedroom houses: *Tennyson* and *Kipling* at 296 and 298 Glebe Point Road. The rental properties were still in her possession at the time of her death at Mosman in 1947.

## The Westman Family

A native of Ireland, Richard Westman was one of the stonemasons who donated to the St Benedict's Church, Abercrombie Place, building fund in 1846. By 1856 he was living in his own house at 18 Grose Street when he advertised that a stray goat had wandered onto his property. Westman also owned numbers 14 and 22 in the same street (see note 3) and by the 1870s his married daughter Ellen was living next door at number 20 and his married son James opposite at number 23. His second son John set up as a George Street West farrier and blacksmith.

Westman, his wife Ellen and baby son Alexander had arrived in Sydney as free settlers by December 1840 when John was born. Their subsequent children were Richard, William, James, Elizabeth and Ellen. (see note 4). The family worshipped at St Barnabas'.

In February 1880 Richard Westman was killed when he was run over by a horse-drawn bus at the intersection of City and Parramatta Roads. An inquest was held at the *Native Rose Hotel*, Chippendale. He was buried in Balmain Cemetery with his wife who had died a few weeks earlier. Among the mourners were fellow Members of the Perseverance Division, Sons of Temperance. Westman's stone houses were then offered for sale: 18 Grose Street (front verandah, four rooms and kitchen, opposite the bus company's works) and 49 and 51 Shepherd Street, Darlington.

## The Summerfield Family

Isaac Summerfield, who bought lot 29 on 2 April 1845, had arrived in Sydney in 1819 on the convict ship *Malabar*. He was born in Gloucestershire, his age 21, his sentence 14 years, and his aliases Sommerville, Lewis and Cox. He received his Certificate of Freedom in 1833 and two years later married Jane Duncan alias Jean Inglis, a convict transported aboard the *George Hibbert* in 1834 for seven years for fraud. By 1839 they were living at *Loquet Cottage* Pitt Street where they kept at least one goat.



No 8 Grose Street is a hidden gem dating from around the 1850s (Image: Ian Stephenson)



In 1840 Summerfield made it known that he would not be responsible for any debts accrued by his wife and advertised the fact again two years later after she'd left home. In 1845 he opened a poultry shop in George Street Market in partnership with fellow-dealer William Joy, born at Cabbage Heath near Bristol, Gloucestershire. Joy was living at Summerfield's house (on 'Parramatta Road opposite the road to Newtown') at the time of his death in 1850 and was buried in St Stephen's cemetery, Camperdown. By 1861 Summerfield's given address was Grose Street.

In 1866 Summerfield advertised for sale beer kegs and other liquor items, and the next year a brick cottage with stables on Parramatta Road next to the *Captain Cook Inn*. He died at 9 Grose Street on 4 July 1876 and was buried in Camperdown Cemetery, the resting place of Jane Summerfield (1813-54) who was probably his wife.

## The Bastard Family

William Bastard, a blacksmith, lived at what was then numbered 4 Grose Street from at least 1857 until his death. In 1863, as a 'householder' he was one of the signatories of a petition to separate Outer Glebe Ward from Glebe Municipality.

Born in Great Torrington, Devonshire, Bastard landed in Sydney in 1849 on the assisted immigrant ship *Julindur* with his 24-year-old wife Mary Ann and one-year-old John. By the time their second child William was born in 1850 the family's given address was Parramatta Street. Eight more children were born in the colony (see *note 5*).

A Freemason, 60-year-old William died at home on 15 April 1881 and was buried at Rookwood, the resting place of his widow who died in 1909 at *Ria* Burwood. Their sons carried on their father's trade.

William jnr in 1871 married Hannah Sarah Braddon who died in 1876. The next year he wed Alice Sims. In 1893 a warrant was issued for the arrest of the blacksmith – father of six surviving children (see *note 6*) – for disobeying a maintenance order. Apprehended at Dungog and remanded to Redfern, he was gaoled until the money was paid. In 1910, when he was a Leichhardt Council alderman, William jnr was committed to trial for stealing from his son-in-law Harold Sutton but the case did not proceed. He died in 1919. His estranged wife died in 1920 by which time she had changed her surname to Beston. Her sons Reginald, Percy and Albert served in the First World War, their trade blacksmith or farrier.

Of William snr and Mary Ann Bastard's other sons, John married a daughter of soap and candle-maker John Campbell and became a Glebe Island blacksmith. Edwin moved from Grose Street to live and set up business as a coach builder and blacksmith at 180 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. A discharged bankrupt in 1910, he was on the committee of the Master Farriers' Association and an unsuccessful candidate in City of Sydney elections in 1918. In the 1920s he traded in secondhand vehicles including sulkies. Edwin Bastard died in January 1943 and was buried in the Independent section of Rookwood cemetery.

In 1878 Edwin Bastard was witness to a tragic accident when he saw five-year-old Martha Ann Williams fall to her death from the top-floor balcony of his next-door neighbour's home. That house was by 1885 numbered 8 Grose Street. Today, Staves Brewery occupies 4-8 Grose Street. A separate history of that modest terrace is planned for a future *Bulletin*.

**Sources:** 1822 NSW muster; 1828 NSW census; City of Sydney Archives; NSW electoral rolls; NSW land titles records; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; NSW State Archives; Sands *Directories*; Solling, Max *Grandeur & Grit*; Trove website.

(note 1) A foundation alderman of the Sydney City Council and a Legislative Councillor, Holden was a patron of horse racing and hunting. He had property in Macquarie and Bent Streets in the city and he built Everleigh House in Redfern.

(note 2) John (1835-1909?), Jemima Maule (bapt. 1837, married twice, died 1876), Henry James (bapt. 1839, died at Bathurst 1920), William Edwin (1842-62), Rosina Rachel (1846-82), Sydney Matthew (1850-75), Amelia/Emily Lucy (1852-1947).

(note 3) Westman's tenants included Florence (a male name) Hickey who kept six cows. When the next milkman moved into 14 Grose Street with only three, Westman applied to Council for a reduction in his water rates.

(note 4) John (1840-1905), William (1845-1935), James (1848-1908), Elizabeth (born 1850, married Robert Oliver Barnett, Glebe Inspector of Nuisances, died 1914), Ellen (born 1852, married Thomas Challinor, died 1933). Alexander was living in Forest Street Forest Lodge at the time of his death in 1868 from tuberculosis. Like his father, he was a stonemason and a Freemason.

(note 5) Emma (1852 - ?), Elizabeth (1854-1942), Henry (1855-1931), Edwin (1858-1943), Lucy Mary (1861-1904?), Lydia (1862 - ?), Arthur Ernest (1865-67) and Sydney George (1867-89). John Bastard died in 1932.

(note 6) William Denbow (1879-1888), Percy (1880-1926), Minnie (born 1882, married Harold Sutton 1900, died 1902), Horace (born 1884, became a Queensland clergyman), Reginald (1887-1959), Albert Charles (1889-1939) and Irene (1892 - ?).

# Glebe's Blue Plaque nominations, part 17

By Ian Stephenson

The seventeenth site nominated in 2021 for a Blue Plaque is 11 Lyndhurst Street Glebe. Robin Askin who was Premier of NSW from 1965 to 1975 moved here in 1920 when he was 13 years old and left in 1931 when he was 24. (He changed his first name to Robert in 1971). Before this he had lived at 29 Talfourd Street. His family were poor. In 1917 they were evicted and lived in Wentworth Park for a short period.

Askin was the Premier of NSW from 1965 to 1975. His government oversaw the rapid development of inner-city Sydney and the central business district. This was facilitated by sacking Sydney City Council in 1967 and replacing it with a three-member commission. Many of Sydney's most important historic buildings including the Theatre Royal and Hotel Australia were demolished during his premiership.

The historic areas of Woolloomooloo and The Rocks were to be completely razed and replaced by high-rise. A large sports complex was to be built on Moore and Centennial Parks and adjoining historic houses demolished.

The expressway known as the Western Distributor was built through Ultimo and intended to continue through Glebe, Annandale and other historic suburbs.

Widespread concern about the destruction of cultural and natural heritage and the associated decline in Sydney's livability produced unusual alliances. A notable example was the middle-class women of Hunters Hill working with the communist-led Builders Labourers Federation (BLF) to save Kelly's Bush.

Less than 50 metres from Askin's former home in Lyndhurst Street, the NSW Department of Main Roads acquired 88 houses to make way for the Western Distributor, including the 1834 colonial mansion *Lyndhurst*.

*Lyndhurst* became a focus for conservationists of all political hues. In 1972 the BLF placed a green ban on it. *Lyndhurst*, and much, but not all, of the neighbourhood was saved from demolition.

Despite becoming leader of the Liberal Party, moving across the harbour to Manly and changing his first name and accepting a title, Askin remained proud of his working-class origins. It is said he was happiest at the rugby league, a boxing match, the races and the dog track.

His government's record as destroyers of Sydney's cultural heritage, the proximity of his former Glebe home to *Lyndhurst* and the path of the Western Distributor were turning points in Sydney's urban conservation movement, and imbue his association with 11 Lyndhurst Street with rich meaning.

ROBIN ASKIN

1907-1981

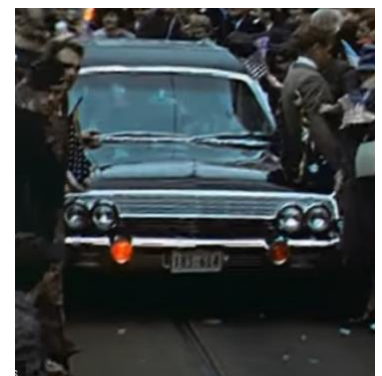
NSW Premier, who dismissed Jørn Utzon the architect of the Sydney Opera House, demolished nearby houses for a proposed freeway and told the President of United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson, when his motorcade was disrupted by demonstrators to *run the bastards over*, lived here from 1909 to 1920.



The Askin home, 11 Lyndhurst St (image: realestate.com)



Robert Askin at the Premier's Conference, Parliament House Canberra, April 1971 (image: National Archives)



The limousine in which Askin directed President Johnson to 'run the bastards over' (Image: National Film and Sound Film Archive)

# Event Report: a visit to a very special residence

*By Dorothy Davis, Coordinator of Glebe Walks*

Rather than focussing on heritage, our latest Glebe Society event was held in a contemporary, award-winning private home in Glebe. The occasion gave Glebe Society members an opportunity to admire modern design excellence in a domestic residence and to meet its owners and architects.

The owners Catherine and Tom very generously opened their home to over 30 members who were able to view both floors of the house and to enjoy the dramatic view from the back of the house to the city skyline. The open living area and the opening through an archway to the outside was a beautiful setting in which to hear about the house and to enjoy a drink with friends.

The architects, Stephanie and Tony (Chenchow Little Architects) talked of the concept for the house and the practicalities of construction, as well as the influences of earlier well-known architects on their work.



*(Images: Chenchow Little Architects)*

Stephanie and Tony explained that the (very brief!) brief they had from the owners was a home that suited a family of five with open space and plenty of light! The design of the house seeks to maximise the available space on the small site within stringent planning controls. The result is a building with a flat roof and wedge shape from a narrow frontage to the wider back of the house overlooking the city skyline. The building uses arched openings and three-dimensional internal spaces allowing maximum light into the centre of the dwelling. A highlight is the beautiful spiral staircase which follows the curved form of the main living area.

The house won the 2020 Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) Wilkinson Award for residential buildings.

It was a special privilege to meet within this private home and we thank Catherine and Tom for inviting us, and Stephanie and Tony for talking so eloquently about their design.

## Blue Wren Subcommittee Annual Report 2023

*By Andrew Wood, convenor*

The Blue Wren Subcommittee has 13 members and met on seven occasions during 2022-2023. There are two volunteer bushcare groups that care for parks in our suburb – Judy Christie leads the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group and Anna Szanto the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group. Also, the Subcommittee keeps a watching brief over four other parks and the details are as follows: Rozelle Bay – David Lawrence, John Street Reserve – Norma Hawkins, Paddy Gray Reserve – Bryan Herden and Harold Park / Johnstons Creek – Janice and Nick Sangster. At the beginning of 2023, Judy Christie and Helen Randerson helped write the Society's response to the City's Street Tree Master Plan and Urban Forest Strategy.

The tenth annual Glebe/Forest Lodge spring bird survey, led by Judy Christie, was held from 6:30am on 23 October 2022 and 18 participants counted birds in 10 different locations. Sightings were made across Glebe's parks, trees and waterways, as well as on roofs, TV antennae, chimney pots, footpaths and busy traffic intersections. A total 674 birds were seen, less than in 2021, likely due to the wet weather. More impressively, 33 different bird species were identified, equal to the highest diversity of species recorded over the last 10 years. The two most common birds were again the native Noisy Miner and the Rainbow Lorikeet.

The Noisy Miner continues to aggressively dominate all our open spaces and the Rainbow Lorikeet is likely to be the most common urban bird in Australia. Our Magpies are also breeding up, selecting tall trees for their nests. Two other native species whose numbers are increasing are the Grey Butcherbird and Laughing Kookaburra. Both of these species, with characteristic calls, can be predatory on nestlings of other birds. It will be no surprise to residents



that the Brush-Turkey has now made our spring survey as well. A large flock of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos was more of a surprise, as usually only one or two are seen on our annual surveys. A Tawny Frogmouth (see photo) was a great find and although nesting at the Annandale end of the park, they may well frequent our street-lights for insects over the summer nights. The only small bird was a Willie Wagtail calling from a barge in Rozelle Bay. Once again, we had a birdwatchers' breakfast celebration at Esca to conclude our morning's activities.

In November 2022, applications for Craney Small Grants to foster the teaching and learning of biodiversity were sent to the 14 local preschools and schools in our suburb. The grants program was initially funded by a bequest from Jan Craney who was particularly interested in the education of young people to increase their awareness of the value of native plants and animals. Further generous donations to the Subcommittee have permitted the program to continue. The successful applicants were Glebe Public School (a grant of \$1,700 awarded for a project entitled 'Glebe Public School Environment Project') and The Crescent Early Learning (a grant of \$600 for a project entitled 'Helping Bees Thrive'). On completing their projects, the applicants have been asked to write a report of about 300 words, accompanied by a photograph, for publication in the Society's *Bulletin* and on the website.

A highlight of the year was the award in November 2022 of \$40,000 to the Society for an Innovation and Ideas Grant from the City; the grant application was written by the Subcommittee and was entitled 'Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential'. The Hill is a 0.6Ha site of contaminated Crown land lying between the Tramsheds and the light rail line. The aim of the Grant is to fund observations by the University of Sydney in which they will place wildlife monitors and perform walk-throughs to study urban fauna and flora at five sites in the Local Government Area (LGA) including Glebe's Hill. The results of the studies will help determine whether Glebe's Hill could eventually become the City's first urban wildlife refuge. Although a grant contract was promptly signed between the City and the Society, there was a six-month delay in signing the contract between the University and the Society. After submitting an application to the City in January 2023 for a Licensing Agreement to permit the University to access the LGA sites and commence its research, it now appears that the Agreement will not be ready for the Society's signature until September 2023.



*A Tawny Frogmouth, similar to one observed during the Society's spring bird survey, was recently seen in Leichhardt Street Glebe (Photo: Vicky Marquis)*

On Sunday 7 May 2023, the Society organised a public information session at the Harold Park Community Hall about the planned research to be funded by the grant and nearly 100 residents attended. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Clover Moore, attended and spoke about the City's grant program and the City's recent capital expenditure in Glebe. Other speakers were Dr James Macnamara, the City's Urban Ecology Coordinator ('Biodiversity potentials for the City of Sydney'), Max Solling, Glebe Society member and local historian ('Recent history of the Hill') and Andrew Wood, Convenor of the Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee ('Background and overview of the Glebe Society's Innovation and Ideas Grant'). Then Professor Dieter Hochuli, leader of the University of Sydney's Integrative Ecology Group, described his plans for 'Establishing the Hill's Biodiversity' including the use of camera traps, acoustic monitors, remote sensing and in-person surveys. The talks were followed by afternoon tea.

Society members and their friends are always welcome to join the Subcommittee and to help with its bushcare activities. Please feel free to contact us at [bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au).



## September Mystery Photo

*By Lyn Collingwood*

### Where are we and what's going on?

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

#### Last month's (August) mystery photo

It's 1947 and skipper Doug Brockhoff is loading his yacht onto a trailer in preparation for a day's sailing. The photo was taken near his family's Sydney Flour Mill on the Broadway/Glebe Point Road intersection.

The story of the Brockhoff bakers was told in *Bulletin* 1/2022.

John Lagerlow, Karin Kolbe and Janice Challinor identified the location.

# Planning Subcommittee Annual Report 2023

By Ian Stephenson

There has been much attention in the media about ways of solving the housing crisis. The primary focus has been on loosening planning controls in order to allow for higher density as a way of increasing supply and hastening delivery. This is not as easy as it sounds; for example, how will the mooted 30% height bonus on developments valued at more than \$75 million affect controls on overshadowing? Take a drive south down Elizabeth Street in the city on a winter's afternoon. At Hyde Park you will notice that the buildings on your right step up to the rear of their sites in order to allow sunlight in the park. This is good planning. Are these qualitative controls to be abandoned?

Opponents of the deregulation of planning are being stigmatised as Nimbys. Nimbys are not, as was recently suggested to me, relics of the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival, a countercultural arts and music shindig organised by the Australian Union of Students, but people opposed to increased density in their suburb. Nimby is an acronym for NOT in my backyard.

The challenge of creating more housing however has two arms to it, it's multi-faceted. It is about creating more dwellings as well as good places for people to live in. We are not a poor country, nor an uneducated and unsophisticated one. Cities are artefacts where the natural inheritance of topography and climate, as well as the legacy of history, can be shaped by human intelligence to create great places which enrich people's lives. The converse of course is equally true where uninspired planning can create dreary places which are dispiriting.

The counterpoint of the Nimbys are the Yimbys. Yimby is an acronym for YES in my backyard. The danger here is that removing qualitative controls will produce places which are not good to live in. Indeed, it will create a more inequitable society because the wealthy can afford to live in the nicest places whilst abandoning qualitative controls leaves the poor even more disadvantaged.

Jude Paul, the Society's secretary, has coined a new acronym, QIMBY – QUALITY in my backyard. It has merit because it does not oppose increased density but says it must be accompanied by good planning which respects identity, community and liveability.

The City of Sydney's design review of the NSW government's plan for the Blackwattle Bay state significant precinct demonstrates the value of sophisticated, as opposed to simplistic, planning. It showed the same yield could be achieved with fewer and lower towers, there could be a new park with plenty of sunshine instead of the gloomy one proposed under the Anzac Bridge flyover, a wider foreshore promenade, less overshadowing to neighbouring properties, a safe and comfortable wind environment and less exposure to air and noise pollution.

Glebe has been a leader in good planning where heritage conservation, development and social equity have all worked in concert. The Federal government's purchase of the church estates had three goals: to avoid disruption to community networks, retain the opportunity for people on low incomes to live close to the city and rehabilitate an historic suburb. The NSW Housing Commission added beautifully designed low-rise infill which respected the character of the suburb but allowed more people to live here.

Opportunities remain in Glebe to increase density through additional well-designed infill development. The key to this is intelligent planning. It is a mistake to think that good design must be expensive. This is demonstrated by comparing the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's (LAHC) total knock down and rebuild proposal for 82 Wentworth Park Road with the Society's refurbish and extend scheme.

The LAHC scheme will produce 53 bedrooms at a cost of \$21,723,996 whilst our scheme provides for a total of 52 bedrooms at a cost of \$14,050,700. As well as leaving over \$7 million to be spent on more public housing there are other benefits including more diverse housing types (it retains three-bedroom houses for families, LAHC's scheme does not), it does not reduce the supply of public housing for several years as the LAHC demolition approach does, it produces fewer greenhouse emissions than LAHC's scheme and is better adapted to its setting, the Lyndhurst Heritage Conservation Area.

In the course of the year the Society made many planning submissions. Some were successful and others not. Having alluded to backyards (Nimbys) I am, perhaps rather perversely, going to start this review with a front yard.

The Society provided a report to council's heritage advisor which analysed the extant elements of the façade at 3 Avenue Road and included a photograph of the house before the 1970s renovation. The owners are to be commended for agreeing to vary their application to reinstate the bay window, fenestration and decoration (see Figures 1 and 2 below). It is a great result, not only for this property but the street which is one of Sydney's finest Edwardian streetscapes. It is a pleasing example of the Society, the Council and a property owner working in concert. To paraphrase the words of the Beatles' song *Come together right now, over Glebe!*





Figure 1: 3 Avenue Road was shorn of its bay window, sash windows and stucco decoration in the 1970s (Image Ian Stephenson)



Figure 2: Based on photographic and archaeological evidence, the missing details have recently been accurately recreated (image: Ian Stephenson)

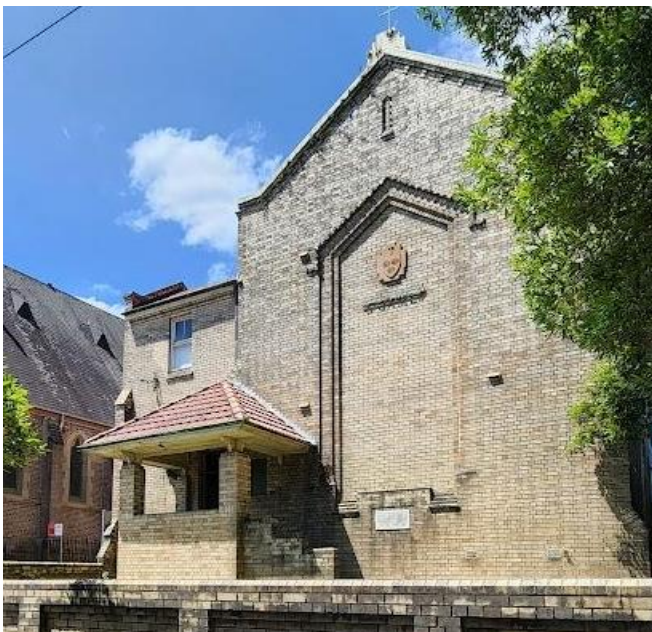


Figure 3: The intact facade of St James' Hall Woolley Street, which was designed in the inter-war Gothic style by Scott, Green and Scott and built in 1939 (image Ian Stephenson)



Figure 4: The application to convert the first floor and roof to affordable housing involved partial demolition of the original porch and obscuring much of the surviving fabric.

The Society supported the provision of affordable housing at the historic St James' Hall but recommended that as far as possible the porch remain intact. The Local Planning Panel (LPP) agreed.

We had less success with the front yard of St Scholastica's College. This is a distinguished heritage place and includes four listed buildings – the chapel, Toxteth House, the Administration Building and the fine Arts and Crafts house *Wychwood*, all set in beautifully landscaped grounds. The proposal was for a three-storey building (coloured blue in Figure 5 below) which exceeded the statutory 9-metre height control by 47%. The Heritage Inventory Report for the College states that 'any additions and alterations should be confined to the rear in areas of less significance and should not be visibly prominent'. The draft conservation and management plan (CMP) by Alan Croker, one of Australia's leading conservation planners and the author of the CMP for the World Heritage-listed Sydney Opera House, grades the Avenue Road part of the campus as being of Exceptional and High significance and provides a framework to protect it by identifying other parts of the campus which have development potential or where additional floors could be added. The Society argued that the building should comply with the 9-metre height control and that a taller building should not be erected in the visual curtilage of the Avenue Road frontage. Regrettably neither the planners at the council or the LPP agreed.

We made many other submissions all of which have been reported in previous *Bulletins* and can be read on our website. We were successful in opposing the destruction of the interiors of a listed house in Glebe Point Road. With other



Figure 5. St Scholastica's College, Avenue Road.

submissions, Council often shared our views leading to good amendments either in discussion with the applicants or at the determination phase. If asked we responded proactively to requests for advice, notably at 39 Lodge Street Forest Lodge where the owner sought advice on how to read the physical evidence of the form of a verandah demolished in the 1960s which they wished to recreate. The Society supported the development application and the works were carried out to a high standard.

We regret the approval to demolish a Contributory building in Ferry Road and await in hope of a good outcome for applications to demolish Contributory buildings in St Johns Road and Forest Street to which we have objected.

The Society welcomes Minister Jackson's decision to halt the sale of the church estate houses and looks forward to more rational and effective approaches to their maintenance. The 150-year tradition of these estates housing low-income tenants must be respected. It is the urban and social fabric: rich, middling and poor living in nineteenth century houses which makes Glebe a great place. We are only three kilometres from the city but have the diversity, sociability and even annoyances of a country town. As Edna Everidge sang in the 1958 album 'Wildlife in Suburbia' 'Vaucluse and Toorak can go to the pack, it's Glebe, Glebe, Glebe!'

Jack Munday said in 2009 at the 40th anniversary of the Society, 'we have to redouble our efforts to tell whoever is in power in Macquarie Street, we've got to tell them that they can't destroy all of Sydney and therefore we have to fight for the heritage we own, the heritage we've built and the heritage we want to inherit'. His words are as true as ever.

I would like to congratulate our compatriot organisation Hands off Glebe in saving the Cox Richardson designed Franklyn Street public housing estate which the LAHC had planned to demolish for towers up to 14 storeys high. It is a great victory. We are working together with Hands off Glebe in the campaign to refurbish and extend, rather than demolish, 82 Wentworth Park Road.

The Yimbys try to stigmatise people who believe that good planning is being selfish. Glebe with its terrace houses on small parcels of land is a high-density suburb. The NSW Housing Commission using public servant architects added over 1,000 bedrooms through well-designed infill in the 1980s. In addition, the Harold Park development accommodates 2,500 people and the affordable housing and Mezzo developments and Pavilions on the Bay 686 dwellings. Affordable housing has been approved in Woolley and Franklyn Streets and 70 apartments are under construction at the Prince's Quarter in Cowper Street. The *Bidura* development – which seems longer running than Agatha Christie's 'Mousetrap' and may reach its denouement when it comes before the LPP on 30 August – will include something in the order of 60 new dwellings. The NSW LAHC must stop demolishing well-built public housing and learn to refurbish and extend. They also need to reskill themselves by employing in-house architects and maintenance people. It seems to be only Yimbys and developers who believe in the now-discredited philosophy of deregulation.

Don't be a Nimby, don't be a Yimby but use your brain, be a Qimby and encourage intelligent planning.

## Heritage Subcommittee Annual Report 2023

*This report has been prepared by members of the Heritage subcommittee.*

### Subcommittee membership

Subcommittee members in 2022-23 were Lydia Bushell, Margaret Cody, Lyn Collingwood, Brian Fuller, Rodney Hammett, Allan Hogan, Ted McKeown, Jude Paul and Margaret Sankey. The Heritage Subcommittee meets on the first Monday of the month from 7pm to 9pm and any member of the Society who shares a passion for the history, enhancement and preservation of Glebe and Forest Lodge's proud past is most welcome to join.



The primary interests of the Subcommittee include the impact and application of State and local regulatory controls regarding the heritage of our suburb, research, documentation of the history of Glebe and Forest Lodge and informing and supporting our community in the appreciation of this.

## Regulatory Controls

### Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

#### Heritage Act revisited

This time last year, Brian Fuller reported on the NSW government's review of the *Heritage Act* 1977. Even by NSW government standards, this review appears to have been spectacularly unproductive.

According to the Department of Planning and Environment's website, the government is still 'considering' how to implement the findings of the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues published in October 2021 – nearly two years ago. Of course, there has been an election and a change of government in the meantime; but still ...

Meanwhile, the 26 reforms recommended by the Standing Committee to 'improve the operation and system of the Act more widely, to be more responsive to the needs of heritage owners and to deliver important heritage conservation outcomes' appear to be languishing in the Minister's in-tray.

On 24 July this year, the *Sydney Morning Herald* published an editorial criticising the Department of Planning and Environment and the Heritage Council as 'weak and largely asleep on the job', based on a damning report by the NSW Auditor-General.

The highest level of heritage protection in NSW is a listing on the State Heritage Register. Any such listing recognises that a place or object has significance for all of NSW. The listing is made under the Act by the Minister for Planning and Environment at the recommendation of the Heritage Council. So far, so good. And the Act goes on to provide several requirements if the owner wishes to make any *alteration or change* to an item listed on the State Heritage Register.

But what if the owner of such an item does *nothing* to conserve it? Who is responsible for maintaining or conserving a property listed on the State Heritage Register? Division 5 of the current Act addresses the problem of 'demolition by neglect' by referring to minimum standards of maintenance and repair, the offence of not maintaining and repairing in accordance with these minimum standards and allows orders to be given to owners of State Heritage listed properties to remedy this failure. However, these provisions are rarely used and on the whole neither the Minister nor the Heritage Council seems to be unduly fussed about a listed property or object being demolished by neglect – even if the property or object concerned is owned by the government itself.

There are three listed properties and structures in and around Glebe that are of particular concern to the Glebe Society. Two of them are government-owned: Glebe Island Bridge and the Glebe and Wentworth Park Railway Viaduct. The third, the *Bidura* House Group, is no longer in government hands, having been sold to a private developer. To view the comprehensive entries, including statements of significance and recommendations for conservation, for all three of these items, see:

Glebe Island Bridge: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/Viewitem?itemid=5051118>

The Viaduct: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/Viewitem?itemid=5045444>

*Bidura*: <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/Viewitem?itemid=5063601>

To date, our representations in relation to these items have fallen on deaf (or impotent) ears.

#### Glebe Island Bridge

The bridge is clearly in a parlous state. The Glebe Society has advocated for many years that it should be restored and reopened exclusively (and safely) for use by cyclists and pedestrians, a use recommended by the Heritage Council itself. This would provide an off-road link to cycle routes already in place with direct access to the city. Yet the bridge appears to be derelict. We are told it would now be very expensive to restore it, and that is no doubt true, but we are also told that it would cost at least as much to demolish it. The planning for Bays West includes the objective of restoring the bridge as an active transport connection to Pyrmont but provides no timeline for when this might occur. (Meanwhile, the government is proceeding with costly plans to permanently superimpose a cycleway on a relatively narrow but major Glebe arterial vehicular thoroughfare.)



## Glebe and Wentworth Park Railway Viaduct

The viaduct is also owned by the government but utilised by Transdev Australasia as part of the Central to Dulwich Hill light rail system. Transdev acknowledges that it is responsible for the maintenance of the viaduct but seems to think that its obligation only extends to maintaining it in a safe condition for trams.

The Society has pointed out to Transdev that the brickwork on the heritage-listed viaduct has been significantly damaged by weeds growing between the bricks and forcing them out of alignment. The solution to this problem is to remove the weeds, remove and replace the damaged bricks, and repoint the mortar. The only response to us was an undertaking to remove the weeds as part of 'routine maintenance', which it has so far failed to do. The message that the work required is considerably more than that seems to have been lost in translation.

And now it seems to be impossible to contact Transdev about anything other than the operation of its transport services. If you now try to respond to one of its emails, all you get is an error message.

## Bidura

We have pointed out to the Heritage Council that the original Blacket house is clearly falling into disrepair. There are slipped slates on the roof causing water damage, some of the shutters are falling off and the front fence and garden are a disgrace. The property is vacant.

Despite its powers, and indeed obligations, to ensure that a property listed on the State Heritage Register is conserved and maintained, a staff member of the Heritage Office advised the Heritage Subcommittee that it would not intervene at *Bidura* while there was an undetermined Development Application (DA). The process with the *Bidura* DA is unusually complex and has been undetermined for eight years! Meanwhile, this important building deteriorates.

So, all in all, we would have to agree with the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the Auditor-General that the Department of Planning and Environment and the Heritage Council are 'weak and largely asleep on the job'. (See the separate article in this month's *Bulletin*).

## **Development Applications**

Development Applications (DAs) cover a very broad spectrum of proposed changes to a building or site, ranging from plans for minor alterations to plans to increase the variety and density of residential housing options.

Much of Glebe/Forest Lodge is classified as a Heritage Conservation Area. The City of Sydney's Heritage Development Control Plan (DCP 2012) outlines the requirements for proposed changes and includes a comprehensive list of scenarios for additions/extensions, building materials, retail shopfronts and façades, infill development, development of laneways and so on.

The Heritage Subcommittee's interest in DAs is based on the City of Sydney's Heritage Planning controls. In 2022-2023, there were 147 DAs advertised for our suburb. Rodney Hammett provides the Subcommittee with feedback regarding an application's apparent compliance with these controls, including the credibility of the Heritage Impact Statement when this is a prerequisite for the DA. Where elements of an application appear to be non-compliant, this is referred to the Planning Convenor and the Management Committee for advice.

Glebe's multi-layered residential, commercial and industrial history is still clearly visible in many parts of the suburb. Our suburb is characterised by small low-rise blocks and has long sustained a relatively dense, socially and economically diverse permanent population as well as a transient population of students and tourists.

Subcommittee members believe plans to increase housing density are welcome in our suburb, provided they comply with City of Sydney's development requirements and demonstrate due attention to good design, liveability, context and impact. Not a Yes (YIMBY) or a No (NIMBY) debate, but QIMBY - *Quality* in my Backyard.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Bulletin articles**

Our keenest researchers are Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett. Both continue to bring us stories of Glebe's people and places. Rodney's particular interest is former ownership and owners, and he would like to establish a database to make this research easily and logically accessible. (Any members interested in joining Rodney in this research can contact him at [heritage@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au).)

Lyn ('Who lived/worked in your street') continues to bring our past to life, often with relevance to a current issue. The history of 181 St Johns Road was in response to a DA to demolish the cottage built in 1869 (not in the 1900s as

stated in the Heritage Impact Statement with the DA). Two stories focused on the past commerce of Glebe Point Road: 375 (Glebe Liquor) and 373 (Glebe Point Pharmacy), a chemist shop since 1928. Jude Paul's story comparing the businesses on Glebe Point Road in 1922 to the present day highlighted the variety and high occupancy rate of shops 100 years ago compared to the much less interesting state in 2022. Lyn's biography of Brian Dewhurst, a distinguished foreign correspondent with United Press International, was sparked by the current derelict condition of the journalist's former home in Westmoreland Street. Her article on the history of the Sze Yup Temple was in recognition of the long association between members of the Chinese community and Glebe. Lyn also provides the monthly mystery photo.

### Website inquiries

Inquiries to the Society's heritage@ and history@ email addresses are diverse and unpredictable. However, both Lyn and Rodney spend many hours researching and answering these where possible or suggesting a further source.

A question often asked for which we have no definitive answer is the birthplace of Edmund Barton whose baptismal record is simply 'The Glebe'. Several enquiries have come from descendants of people born at the Buxton Maternity Hospital, 22 Wigram Road, and subsequently adopted. We have information about the history of the building and its use but not its patients. A question we could not answer was what was screening at the *Valhalla* on the night a viewer dated her future husband. Checking a local newspaper such as The Glebe and Inner Western Weekly was all we could suggest.

Two people sought information about the Sydney Textile Museum functioning in the 1980s. We replied that the probable address was 172 St Johns Road and put the correspondents in touch with each other.

Many enquiries are from people researching their family history and some of these become the inspiration for stories from our own researchers. One such story arose from a woman who had a medal awarded to her great-grandmother Netta Corbin for being dux of Brisbane House Glebe Point, in 1897, but the enquirer knew nothing more. Rodney found Brisbane House at 365 Glebe Point Road; a house then owned by the Harpur family. The house served as the Harpur family's residence and between 1887 and 1918, a kindergarten and a girls' boarding school run by two Harpur sisters. (The school was praised for combining sound teaching with strict moral training.) At the time the medal was awarded, the Corbin family lived next door at 363 Glebe Point Road, a house that stands to this day.

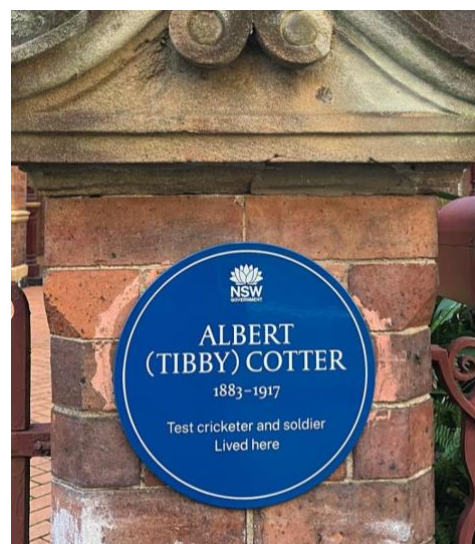
Some enquiries take our researchers down rabbit holes. It's too hard to explain how an enquiry to our website about a relative christened at Christ Church St Laurence in 1856 led to a story about card playing youths being arrested for creating an annoyance in Hegarty Street on a Sunday in 1910, but it did (*Bulletin* 10/2022).

### Blue Plaques

The diverse tales of famous and infamous former Glebe residents prepared in association with the Society's nominations for a Blue Plaque have appeared in the *Bulletin* throughout the year thanks to Ian Stephenson and Lyn Collingwood. They were for feminist Bessie Guthrie, activist Lucy Eatock, clairvoyant Matilda Steer, abortionist Etta Mace, journalist Dorothy Drain, Glebe Society founders Bernard and Kate Smith, cartoonist Les Tanner, cricketer and soldier Tibby Cotter, explorer Douglas Mawson and counterfeiter Edward Windemeyer.

When we reported last year our nomination for Charles Perkins had been successful, we were unaware that he had also been nominated by the University of Sydney. Disappointingly, his plaque was fixed to the Charles Perkins Centre at the University, not his Forest Lodge address as recommended by The Society. The plaque says (somewhat redundantly, given it is attached to the well-signed Charles Perkins Centre building which is in the equally well-signed Charles Perkins precinct): 'Dr Charles Perkins commemorated here'.

We liked our version better. It said 'Charles Perkins, 1936-2000, the first Indigenous Australian university graduate, instigator of the 1965 Freedom ride, opponent of the White Australia Policy and leading advocate for the Yes vote in the 1967 referendum, lived here while studying at the University of Sydney'. However, our nomination for Tibby Cotter was successful and a plaque has now been installed at his family home at 266 Glebe Point Road. The selection process is on-going and we're still hopeful of other successes.



*The blue plaque for Tibby Cotter on the gatepost at Monteith. (Image: Jude Paul)*

# Bidura: development application recap and update

By Brian Fuller, former convenor of the Heritage Subcommittee

There have been several Development Applications in respect of the entire *Bidura* property, which collectively have delayed any real action for necessary and appropriate repairs and maintenance.

The 2017 Concept Development Application (DA) was refused by the City of Sydney. The owners appealed to the Land and Environment Court, and the Court found in favour of the development to demolish the former Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC) Building, whilst retaining *Bidura* House (based on its State Heritage Listing). In handing down the Court's directions, Commissioner Dixon included a condition of approval for the House as follows:

1. A Schedule of Conservation works for the *Bidura* House Group, including *Bidura* House, the annexe and ballroom, supported by drawings and, where necessary, specifications, is to be prepared and implemented as part of any future development proposal that relates to the *Bidura* House Group.
2. The schedule is to be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan prepared for the site by GBA Heritage in September 2015 by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant.

This is not the same as ongoing repairs and maintenance prior to and during any subsequent DA processes.

Following the Court's directions, the owner lodged a new DA in 2021, followed by an amended DA in early 2022. On each occasion, the documentation did include a schedule of works to the House, but it must be noted that the completion of significant internal works would be undertaken by any new owner in the context of that owner's proposed usage.

The DA is still awaiting approval by the City of Sydney.

In the meantime, the Heritage Council rests. The House waits ... and waits.

A 'FOR LEASE' sign has recently appeared on the front fence. Given the state of the fence, one wonders whether the fence holds up the sign, or the sign holds up the fence!!

We understand from the Leasing Agent that the House (in total or in part) is available for a short-term lease (likely 6-12 months). In entering into a lease (even a short-term lease) the owner would be required to ensure the premises are in safe and habitable condition to satisfy occupational health and safety regulations. With the building occupied rather than vacant, the short-term nature of a proposed lease may hasten finalising the DA.



The sign at the front fence of *Bidura*.  
(Image: Jude Paul)

## Report on the New Sydney Fish Market Community Consultative Committee

By Asa Wahlquist, Glebe Society representative on the CCC

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) achieved its biggest win this year, successfully objecting to raising Bridge Road by up to 1.2 metres in front of the new Sydney Fish Market (SFM). Members of the CCC, including the Glebe Society's representative Asa Wahlquist, argued that raising Bridge Road would result in months of traffic disruption as the road rebuilding reduced it from four lanes to two; that it could result in worse flooding at the Wentworth Park Road and Bridge Road intersections; and we objected to trimming the heritage-listed fig trees in Wentworth Park.

The only rationale presented for the work was that it would enable people to step off a bus onto a footpath at the same level as the Fish Market. This ridiculous argument was overturned when Infrastructure NSW responded to the objections and abandoned raising Bridge Road. In fact, it was revealed that raising the road could result in passengers stepping off a bus onto the footpath and into the path of a bicycle. The footpath, against the objections of the Glebe Society, will be shared by cyclists and pedestrians.



Now the road will remain at its current level, the shared footpath will be raised and visitors will walk up steps or a walkway to the footpath and the front doors of the Fish Market. There will still be some disruption on Bridge Road as services are relocated. Officially the change – to retain Bridge Road at its current level – is still being considered by the Department of Planning and Environment. It is expected it will be accepted.

Cost savings were not mentioned, but they are no doubt a factor. The cost of raising Bridge Road was included in the overall estimate for building the Fish Market, most recently estimated to be \$750 million in 2019. A spokesperson for Multiplex said the project remains on budget. It is likely four years of inflation, the pandemic, increased materials cost, and the usual increase in the cost of constructing public infrastructure will blow that figure out.

The Glebe Society objected strongly, and on multiple grounds, to the development of the new Fish Market on Bridge Road. We argued it should be redeveloped on the current site. The decision to build over Blackwattle Bay has incurred a massive expense, a cost the State Government hopes to recoup by over-developing the current Fish Market site. (The final building will be suspended about one metre above the seabed).

The CCC regularly deals with complaints from locals about excessive noise and vibrations, heavy transport movements, and out-of-hours activity. One of the frustrations for the CCC is that its brief is limited to the work Multiplex is undertaking on the building plan that was approved several years ago. Changing the proposed height of Bridge Road is the only case where, in the face of objections from CCC, the original plan was changed. This also means that many of the issues members of the CCC would like to address – local transport, the availability of public transport, parking in nearby streets and stormwater management – are outside the purview of the CCC.

One piece of good news for Glebe and Forest Lodge residents is that the heavy banging that has echoed through the suburbs over the past year, caused by huge piles being hammered into the seabed, has ended. There will be some less noisy pile driving on the foreshore. During the year, Glebe residents along Bridge Road had to endure months of noise and some disruption when the road was dug up to install power lines to the new Fish Market. That work finished in May.



*A recent drone photo of construction at the new Sydney Fish Market. (Image: Multiplex)*

The footprint of the new Fish Market is now becoming clear. To get to this stage, Multiplex had to first build a cofferdam and pump out the water around the site to enable the construction to begin.

The new building will have a height equivalent to three storeys at one end and four at the other. The height can be gauged by the tower cranes currently on the site. The roof will sit several metres below the cabins of the cranes.

Multiplex has worked to develop good relations with the neighbouring Sydney Secondary College. It halted noisy operations during HSC examination times and participated in the College's Career Expo. Sixteen girls from the College participated in their JumpStart program which encourages girls to enter the construction industry. Multiplex has also worked with local groups to diversify its workforce.

Five seabins have been installed in Blackwattle Bay, including two directly in front of the Fish Market and two near the Glebe Rowing Club. The bins, which essentially filter seawater, have been working hard since their installation in December 2021. In the three months to the end of May 2023 the seabins have filtered more than 342.5 million litres of water. They removed more than 149,051 plastic items including over 80,000 microplastics such as pellets and foam. The seabins are sponsored by the Sydney Fish Market and Multiplex.

Construction of the new Sydney Fish Market is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

# The Glebe Art Show 2023 opens on 18 October at Tramsheds

By Carol Yuen, Secretary, Glebe Art Society

Local artists are welcomed to the 2023 Glebe Art Show. There are prizes in several categories, with a main Open Art Prize of \$3,000 and the Character of Glebe Prize of \$500 sponsored by the Glebe Society. Artists are encouraged to try their hand at capturing the character of Glebe through its built environment, landscape or people. This might take the form of a drawing, lithograph, painting or photograph. A panel of judges drawn from the Glebe Society helps to pick a winner who is presented with their prize on the opening night of the show.

The Glebe Art Show is generously sponsored by largely local sponsors and runs with the support of both the City of Sydney and Inner West Councils.

Artists can enter the Show online from the Glebe Art Show website and upload a photo of their work for the online catalogue. The catalogue will be available before the opening of the Show, however purchasing an artwork can only take place from 6pm on 18 October.

Please visit our website for entry conditions:

<https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/guidelines>.

Here are the critical dates for your diaries!

- Entries open online: 1 September
- Entries close: 8 October (or earlier if we reach capacity)
- Drop off works at the Tramsheds: Sunday 15 October 10am-6pm
- Opening Night – for artists, friends and sponsors: Wednesday 18 October from 6pm to 8pm
- Collect works: Sunday 22 October from 5:15pm-7pm or Monday 23 October from 10am-12 noon.

Visit our website for more information on the Show, and join our mailing list to be kept up to date

<https://www.glebeartshow.org.au/contact-us>.

We look forward to all of the entries for the 2023 Show and especially those that surprise and reaffirm our attachment to the local community.



Artists at work on the Glebe foreshore  
(Image: Glebe Art Society)



The Glebe Art Show at Tramsheds, 2022  
(Image: Glebe Art Society)



## Next Players in the Pub

### *The Shadow of a Doubt*

**7pm Tuesday 19 September**

Upstairs at The Harold

Wigram Road/Ross Street Forest Lodge

Entry by donation

*The Shadow of a Doubt* by novelist Edith Wharton.  
An Australian premiere, directed by Ross Scott.

Written two decades before Edith Wharton won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*, Wharton's only full-length play was in rehearsal but was never performed.

The long-lost manuscript was recently discovered by accident in a Texas archive. Its subject matter is still controversial.



Edith Wharton at her writing desk.  
(Image: Edith Wharton Collection, Yale University Library)



# Glebe Society Guided Walks Program 2023

By Dorothy Davis, Guided Walks Coordinator

There are only a couple of places left in our popular Walks program.

Book soon or join the waiting list for:

- a walking tour of Pyrmont in which Mark Dunn will lead us on an exploration of the area's industrial past;
- discovering the history and heritage of Forest Lodge with Max Solling; and
- a stroll through Glebe with Robert Hannan visiting the last remaining pre-1870 marine villas, from *Lyndhurst* to *Margaretta Cottage*.



**Sunday**  
**10 September**  
2-4pm

## Pyrmont's Industrial Waterfront

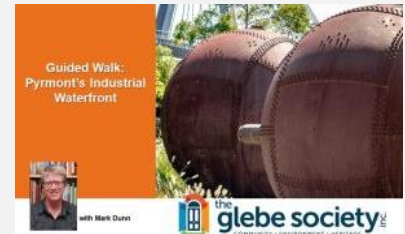
**Leader:** Mark Dunn

**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](https://pyrmont-industrial-waterfront.eventbrite.com.au)

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.



**Sunday**  
**24 September**  
10.30am-  
12.30pm

## Exploring Forest Lodge

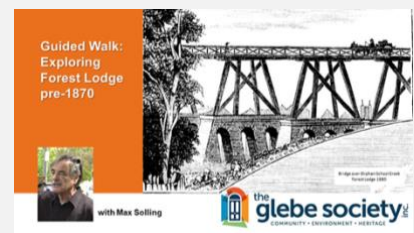
**Leader:** Max Solling

**Meeting place:** Glebe Town Hall, front entrance

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

**Bookings:** [forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au](https://forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au)

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.



**Sunday**  
**15 October**  
2-4pm

## Villas of Glebe pre-1870

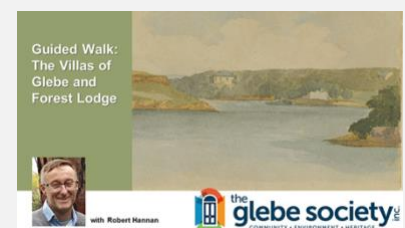
**Leader:** Robert Hannan

**Meeting place:** Outside 90 Darghan Street

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

**Bookings:** [villas-of-glebe-and-forest-lodge.eventbrite.com.au](https://villas-of-glebe-and-forest-lodge.eventbrite.com.au)

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.





# Researching your house

*Prepared by Rodney Hammett and Lyn Collingwood*

Six years ago, about 30 interested people attended a function at Glebe Town Hall on how to research your house. This was organised by the Society, and [Bulletin 10/2017](#) reported on what was considered to have been a worthwhile event.

Subsequently, 'How to Research Your House' was added to our website under the 'History & Heritage' heading. The page included an invitation for readers to indicate whether they would be interested in attending a similar information session, at some time in the future. There were only a few responses, and then of course the COVID shutdown intervened. So here we are in September 2023 reassessing the need for another research session.

Over recent years the Heritage Subcommittee has received numerous contacts via the Society's website and social media for information on people and places in Glebe and Forest Lodge. These have been answered mainly by Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett, often referring to the guidelines already provided on our website. We are fortunate also that historical photographs, maps and Council records which cover Glebe and Forest Lodge can be accessed online at the City of Sydney website: <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history-archive-collections>.

Since these guidelines and records are readily available, it has been decided to remove the reference to a future house research session from the website. Nevertheless, Lyn and Rodney will continue to answer emailed enquiries.

## For your calendar

Sunday 3 September, 10am-12noon	<b>The Glebe Society Annual General Meeting</b> Kobi Shetty MP for Balmain will be the guest speaker at the Glebe Society's 2023 AGM at Glebe Town Hall. Let us know if you will be attending via Eventbrite at: <a href="https://glebe-society-agm-2023.eventbrite.com.au">Glebe-Society-AGM-2023.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 10 September, 2-4pm	<b>Glebe Walks: Pyrmont's Industrial Waterfront</b> Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: <a href="https://pyrmont-industrial-waterfront.eventbrite.com.au">pyrmont-industrial-waterfront.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Tuesday 19 September, 7pm	<b>Players in the Pub. The Shadow of a Doubt</b> by novelist Edith Wharton. Upstairs at The Harold, Wigram Road/Ross Street, Forest Lodge. Entry by donation.
Sunday 24 September, 10.30-12.30pm	<b>Glebe Walks: Exploring Forest Lodge</b> Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: <a href="https://forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au">forest-lodge-max-solling.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 15 October, 2-4pm	<b>Glebe Walks: The Villas of Glebe pre-1870</b> Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: <a href="https://villas-of-glebe-pre-1870.eventbrite.com.au">villas-of-glebe-pre-1870.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Wednesday 18 - Sunday 22 October	<b>Glebe Art Show.</b> At the Tramsheds from 18-22 October. <a href="https://glebeartshow.org.au">glebeartshow.org.au</a>
Friday 27 October - Sunday 26 November	<b>Annual Glebe Music Festival</b> In conjunction with the Glebe Society Artistic Director Dr E. David G. McIntosh, AM AMusA Tickets available through Trybooking Full program details see: <a href="https://glebemusicfestival.com">glebemusicfestival.com</a> and the April 2023 Bulletin

## Membership renewals for 2023-2024 are now overdue



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

Renew at: [glebesociety.org.au/membership/membership-applicationrenewal](https://glebesociety.org.au/membership/membership-applicationrenewal)

If you have any problems please contact the Treasurer at  
[treasurer@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:treasurer@glebesociety.org.au) or 0488 118 355.



**Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page:** [glebesociety.eventbrite.com](https://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*.

## Glebe Society Inc., established 1969

### Management Committee

President	Ian Stephenson	0415 919 874	<a href="mailto:president@glebesociety.org.au">president@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Vice President	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au">vicepresident@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Past President	Janet Wahlquist		<a href="mailto:pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au">pastpresident@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Secretary	Jude Paul	0438 600 882	<a href="mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au">secretary@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Minutes Secretary	Mark Stapleton	0417 238 158	<a href="mailto:minutes@glebesociety.org.au">minutes@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Jane Gatwood	0488 118 355	<a href="mailto:treasurer@glebesociety.org.au">treasurer@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Brian Fuller	0409 035 418	<a href="mailto:brian@glebesociety.org.au">brian@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Janet Wahlquist		<a href="mailto:janet@glebesociety.org.au">janet@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	Mary-Beth Brinson		<a href="mailto:mary-beth@glebesociety.org.au">mary-beth@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Ordinary member	vacant		
Bays & Foreshores	Vacant		<a href="mailto:bays@glebesociety.org.au">bays@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Blue Wrens	Andrew Wood	02 9660 6104	<a href="mailto:bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au">bluewrens@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Communications	Allan Hogan	0411 607 813	<a href="mailto:communications@glebesociety.org.au">communications@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Community	Louis Taborda		<a href="mailto:community@glebesociety.org.au">community@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Heritage	Brian Fuller Ted McKeown Jude Paul	0409 035 418 02 9660 3917 0438 600 882	<a href="mailto:heritage@glebesociety.org.au">heritage@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Planning	Ian Stephenson	0415 919 874	<a href="mailto:planning@glebesociety.org.au">planning@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Environment	Tamira Stevenson	0418 403 486	<a href="mailto:environment@glebesociety.org.au">environment@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Transport & Traffic	Duncan Leys	0419 992 592	<a href="mailto:transport@glebesociety.org.au">transport@glebesociety.org.au</a>

### Working Groups & Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	0419 412 477	<a href="mailto:archives@glebesociety.org.au">archives@glebesociety.org.au</a>
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Allan Hogan	0411 607 813	<a href="mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au">editor@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Events	Judy Vergison	0417 446 425	<a href="mailto:events@glebesociety.org.au">events@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Local History	Lyn Collingwood		<a href="mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au">history@glebesociety.org.au</a>
History of Glebe	Max Solling	02 9660 1160	
Glebe Talks	Jude Paul	0438 600 882	<a href="mailto:glebetalks@glebesociety.org.au">glebetalks@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Glebe Island Bridge	vacant		<a href="mailto:transport@glebesociety.org.au">transport@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Glebe Guided Walks	Dorothy Davis	0417 240 603	<a href="mailto:contact@glebewalks.com.au">contact@glebewalks.com.au</a>
Web content	Sarah Fogg	0409 692 100	<a href="mailto:webmaster@glebesociety.org.au">webmaster@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Website technical	Tarny Burton	0419 633 238	<a href="mailto:support@glebesociety.org.au">support@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Facebook / Instagram	Virginia Simpson-Young	0402 153 074	<a href="mailto:facebook@glebesociety.org.au">facebook@glebesociety.org.au</a>
Twitterer			<a href="mailto:twitter@glebesociety.org.au">twitter@glebesociety.org.au</a>

# Highlights in this Issue

President's Report: September 2023 .....	1
In Focus: Our monthly photo competition.....	2
Who lived in Grose Street Glebe? .....	2
Glebe's Blue Plaque nominations, part 17 .....	5
Event Report: a visit to a very special residence.....	6
Blue Wren Subcommittee Annual Report 2023.....	6
Planning Subcommittee Annual Report 2023.....	8
Heritage Subcommittee Annual Report 2023 .....	10
<i>Bidura</i> : development application recap and update .....	14
Report on the New Sydney Fish Market Community Consultative Committee .....	14
The Glebe Art Show 2023 opens on 18 October at Tramsheds .....	16
Next Players in the Pub .....	16
Glebe Society Guided Walks Program 2023.....	17
Researching your house.....	18
For your calendar .....	18



PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 7 of 2023 September (2023)

## 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](http://glebesociety.org.au);
- write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;
- or email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto: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, unless otherwise agreed.*