

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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The 2023 Annual General Meeting

Reported by the Editor, Allan Hogan, and Vice-President, Mark Stapleton

The 54th Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Society was held at the Glebe Town Hall on Sunday 3 September. Fifty-five members of the Society attended to elect the members of the Management Committee and to hear the guest speaker, Kobi Shetty, MP, for the seat of Balmain. The Meeting was also attended by Councillor Emelda Davis and Isabella Barker from the City of Sydney, representing the Lord Mayor.

Ian Stephenson, the retiring President, reported on the Society's activities over the past year, and a full account of that report can be found on page 4 of this *Bulletin*. Ian thanked the current and immediate past convenors for their contribution to the Society's valued reputation as a highly credible, representative community voice. (See our website for the [2022-2023 subcommittee annual reports](#).)

Ian noted that many people assist and contribute to the work of the Society as unsung heroes. Ian thanked Allan Hogan, Sarah Fogg, Virginia Simpson-Young and Tarny Burton for their work on the *Bulletin*, and the team of proofreaders, particularly Edwina Doe. He thanked Janet Wahlquist and Brian Fuller who are both standing down after many years of serving the Society in various roles. The Secretary gave a vote of thanks to Ian for his service to the Society and to the Glebe community in his term as President. This was unanimously applauded.

Duncan Leys was elected unanimously as the incoming President and thanked the Management Committee members, both those staying on and those stepping down, and expressed his enthusiasm for his new role (see Duncan's message on the next page). Secretary Jude Paul, Treasurer Jane Gatwood and Vice-president Mark Stapleton were re-elected with applause. The nominations of Angela Hallinan and Glen Powell to the Management Committee were accepted unanimously with applause. Tim Hesketh was nominated at the AGM and was unanimously accepted following the Management Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 September.

The Secretary, Jude Paul, reported that, as at 30 June, the Glebe Society had 411 members. She noted there had been 53 new memberships in the year. The

Treasurer, Jane Gatwood, reported an improved financial position for the Society since the previous year thanks to members' generous donations and the success of the Guided Walks program and other events.

Kobi Shetty MP thanked the meeting for the invitation to speak.

She reflected on the emerging priorities of the Minns Labor Government and said that it needed to take a more proactive role in its oversight and funding of public housing. She also noted that the current policy on affordable housing required this classification to be maintained on any new development for only 15 years. She believes consideration should be given to an extension of this time limit.



Kobi Shetty speaking to the AGM. Outgoing President Ian Stephenson is on the left. (Image: Phil Young)

Kobi noted that the growing involvement of developers in policy formulation has encouraged the perception that the only way to address the housing crisis is to build more housing – at any cost. As an Inner West councillor, she reflected on worrying shifts in the way some local governments make planning decisions.

Noting that the lease on Wentworth Park expires in 2027, Kobi called for proactive action to prepare the argument that Wentworth Park should be retained as green space. In other remarks Kobi noted that the campaign to extend the route of the Glebe ferry is ongoing and reminded members of the importance to local children and families of the Centipede out of school hours care program at Glebe Public School.

A message from the new President

By Duncan Leys

For those members of the Society who were not at the Annual General Meeting I would like to repeat some of my remarks on my election to the presidency of the Glebe Society.

It's a great honour to have been asked to take on the presidency of the Glebe Society. It's an honour which I feel I have not yet earned, and I commit to working towards earning my stripes over my term. I have been a member of the management committee for less than a year. During that short time, I have been amazed at the talent and capacity of the members of the management committee.

The Society is blessed to have people such as Ian Stephenson whose knowledge of and commitment to Glebe has no limits. While Ian had to step down as President after completing his term, he will remain on the Planning and Heritage subcommittees – and that's good news.



Duncan Leys speaking at the AGM. (Image: Phil Young)

Three members of the management committee, Brian Fuller, Janet Wahlquist, and Tamira Stevenson stood down at the AGM. Brian Fuller's work reviewing the DAs was impressive and we will miss him. Janet Wahlquist, a former president, played an active role in the effort to save and re-purpose the Glebe Island Bridge. I shall miss the opportunity to learn more from her knowledge and experience. We are looking for members to take on specialist roles in Environment and the Glebe Island Bridge.

I took the opportunity to thank the members of the management committee who are continuing: Mark Stapleton, Mary-Beth Brinson, Jude Paul, Jane Gatwood, Louis Taborda and Allan Hogan. Allan Hogan's work on the Bulletin produces a newsletter full of interest and I read each edition from cover to cover. Allan is holding the editorship temporarily and we need to find an understudy and ultimately a replacement. Allan works with a dedicated editorial team: Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg, and Virginia Simpson-Young. Andrew Wood's work on the Blue Wren Subcommittee, the environment and The Hill is so impressive. How can one person know so much?

We have three people joining the management committee – Angela Callinan, Glen Powell and Tim Hesketh – and we welcome them. See page 6 of this Bulletin for their bios.

I'm very fortunate that so many members of the management committee, past and present, have reached out to me offering advice and support.

I have learnt over my life that when you take on a new role it's best to say very little, listen and observe a lot. To this end, I have been meeting members who may be described as backroom people who make the Glebe Society function. I have also begun reaching out to introduce myself to people and organisations with whom we share common interests or operate in the same space.

There is much to do.

Annual Report from the retiring President, Ian Stephenson

This was the report given to the AGM by the retiring President.

I acknowledge the Gadigal people as the traditional custodians of Glebe and Forest Lodge and pay my respects to elders past and present. I express my gratitude that we share this land today, my sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and my hope that we can move towards a place of justice and partnership together.

Glebe's topography, ecology, history, buildings and people combine to make it a place like no other.

The Society has three pillars – Community, Environment and Heritage – but in a very real sense all our work is about nurturing Glebe's community. The fact that we have 411 members shows our work is valued.



Highlights from the last year include:

Communications

The Communications Committee led by Allan Hogan implemented new systems to make the production of our monthly *Bulletin* easier and improve succession planning. Our website was upgraded. It is widely acknowledged for its good design, clarity and as a comprehensive source of knowledge about Glebe and is a major medium of outreach. We also have a presence on social media including Facebook and Instagram. Allan also very ably facilitated the local candidates' forum for the State election at the Glebe Town Hall.

Ecology

The Blue Wrens Subcommittee, our ecology arm, was led by Andrew Wood. Judy Christie led the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group and Anna Szanto the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group. The subcommittee maintained a watching brief over four other parks: Rozelle Bay – David Lawrence, John Street Reserve – Norma Hawkins, Paddy Gray Reserve – Bryan Herden and Harold Park / Johnstons Creek – Janice and Nick Sangster. Judy Christie and Helen Randerson helped write the Society's response to the City's Street Tree Master Plan and Urban Forest Strategy.

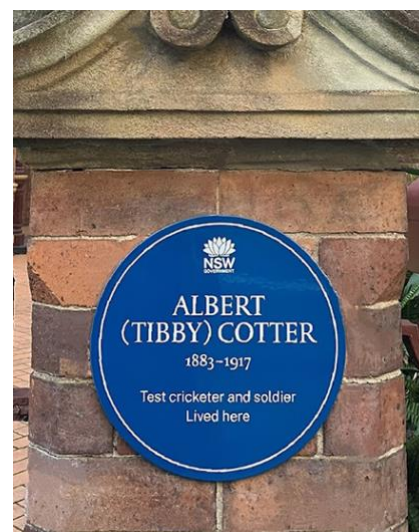
The Craney Small Grants program awarded \$1,700 to Glebe Public School for a project entitled 'Glebe Public School Environment Project' and \$600 to the Crescent Early Learning Centre for a project entitled 'Helping Bees Thrive'.

A highlight was securing an Innovation and Ideas Grant from the Council to do a comparative study of the fauna of The Hill, near the Tramsheds, and three other Council reserves. It is an exciting project which has captured the community's imagination. Good things do not always come easily, and the Wrens are to be commended on their determination to get the different entities in the project to work in concert.

Heritage

Rodney Hammett of the Heritage Subcommittee reviewed all the development applications lodged in Glebe for their impact on contributory and listed buildings. He cast his forensic eye over heritage impact statements and provided specialist advice on the history of land titles in Glebe. Brian Fuller prepared a submission for the review of the NSW Heritage Act. The Society remains concerned that the Division 5 Maintenance provisions of the Heritage Act are not being applied and that three State Heritage-listed items in our area – *Bidura*, the railway viaduct and the Glebe Island Bridge – are suffering from demolition by neglect. The latter two belong to the State government.

The Heritage Subcommittee, with the assistance of Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett, researched and published many articles about the history of Glebe. They also answered research enquiries from members and the public.



The Blue Plaque at the gate to Monteith. (Image: Jude Paul)

The NSW Heritage Office accepted the Society's nomination of a blue plaque on the house of cricketer Tibby Cotter. It has been installed and looks very handsome. We have been advised that another Glebe notable is likely to receive a plaque in the next round.

The Society was pleased to receive a federal volunteer grant through our local Federal member the Hon. Tanya Plibersek to develop a research database to make our research into Glebe more accessible.

Community

Louis Taborda assumed the role of Community Development Convenor last October. Louis is a lecturer in the School of Project Management at the University of Sydney. He held a workshop for the Management Committee last January to identify potential projects in Glebe for Master of Project Management students and has initiated several projects including:

- A main street study which is investigating global initiatives/options that may be applicable to Glebe.
- Glebe's Chinese Heritage: researching early multi-cultural contributions in Glebe's history.
- Glebe Market Stall: developing a business case for establishing a 'presence' at the Saturday Glebe Markets.
- A fundraising project for Centipede. Centipede is a not-for-profit organisation which operates an out of school hours care program for children at Glebe Public School.

The Society continued to support the Glebe Youth Service and hosted one of the Pyrmont Community dinners at the Tramsheds, doing the catering and the entertainment. Our choir, Glebe Sings, performed a snapshot of Glebe's history in song, featuring Premier Askin with 'Run, Run the Bastards Over (as I said to LBJ)', The Green Bans with John Dengate's 'Take Your Bulldozers Away', ably led by Dale Dengate, and, as a tribute to Glebe having Sydney's first Women's centre, Women's Liberation House in Glebe Point Road, the show stopping 'I am Woman'. The Society collaborated with resident groups in Millers Point, Ultimo and Pyrmont to improve community centres across the city. The Council has provided a staffed centre at St Helen's and is installing audiovisual equipment at *Benledi* which will greatly improve the facility for meetings and presentations. I would like to thank Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Kirsten Woodward, Manager of Social City, for these initiatives. We participated in the loneliness forum facilitated by Deputy Lord Mayor Sylvie Ellesmore. We see Glebe's broad social demographic, low-rise urban form and active volunteerism as important elements in fostering connection and combating loneliness.

Events

Dorothy Davis and Katharine Vernon produced a rich program of walks, talks and inspections. They included our first house inspection for some years, a viewing of a contemporary dwelling by architects Chenchow Little in Ferry Road. Another highlight was Max Solling's Toxteth Estate walk which was followed by an inspection of Toxteth Park courtesy of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. We received requests to run activities for groups outside Glebe, including a talk to the Pyrmont Historical Society comparing the histories of Pyrmont and Glebe and a re-run of *The Good the Bad and the Ugly: the history of infill housing in Glebe* for 40 members of the Illawarra Branch of the National Trust.

The Events program is a great way to share the magic of Glebe and to meet new people. View our events on Eventbrite at glebesociety.eventbrite.com

Planning

Asa Wahlquist represented the Society on the New Sydney Fish Market Community Consultative Committee and has produced an outstanding report analysing its impact on traffic. Asa also prepared detailed submissions on the Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct development and the Bays West Master Plan.

As Planning Convenor, assisted by Brian Fuller, I prepared many submissions and addressed the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel on several occasions.

The Society was pleased to be approached by a resident of Forest Lodge who wished to reinstate the two-storey verandah of her house as accurately as possible. Although we were unable to locate a photograph we found quite rich physical evidence as to the scale, roof form and structure to inform the recreation. We were pleased to support the development application. The result is excellent.

For Avenue Road, the Society prepared a report documenting the missing details on the façade of an Edwardian house which, in the 1970s, had been shorn of its bay window, fenestration, and richly ornamental stucco decoration.

It is very pleasing that the owners have restored this detail as part of a larger development. The result is excellent. The house now takes its proper place in what is one of Sydney's finest Edwardian streetscapes.

The Society welcomes enquiries from owners about the history of their houses and is always pleased to share its knowledge.

Our submissions were sometimes supported by the consent authority; for example, the rejection of an application to demolish most of the interior details, including walls and chimneypieces, of a house which was individually listed, in part because of its intact interiors. Sometimes our submissions were supported in part and on other occasions were unsuccessful.

Most of Glebe is included in heritage conservation areas. They are unusually rich in terms of their large number of Contributory buildings. They have well-developed planning controls providing guidance as to how houses can be extended without compromising the significance of the heritage conservation area. Council staff have heavy workloads, so the role of the Society in providing well-informed submissions on development applications is an important contribution to achieving good outcomes.

We supported the application to convert the upper two levels of St James Hall in Woolley Street to affordable housing but opposed the inappropriate treatment of the porch of this very intact façade. We were pleased that the Local Planning Panel shared our view and recommended that the porch be retained.

The long, complex, and contentious saga of the *Bidura* development has finally been resolved with a development application approved last month. We raised with the Local Planning Panel the need for urgent maintenance to be carried out on *Bidura House* and were pleased that the panel added a condition, suggested by conservation architect Paul Davies, that repairs and maintenance must commence within six months of the approval of the DA.



Ian Stephenson, Hector Abrahams, Rose Jackson, Denis Doherty (Hands Off Glebe) and Te Raina Watego (Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries) meet on 31 August (Image supplied by Te Raina Watego)

The State Government is the largest landowner in Glebe. Pleasingly, the new government resolved to stop selling the old Church estate houses. They have housed tenants on low incomes for over 150 years. It is important that Glebe retains its broad social demographic with rich, middle class and poor living in old houses. More maintenance is also being carried out. The Society was pleased that Minister Jackson announced the retention of the Franklyn Street estate. We congratulate Hands off Glebe and particularly Hannah Middleton, Denis Doherty and Emily Bullock for their tireless work.

We are currently working with Hands off Glebe on a campaign to stop the demolition of 82 Wentworth Park Road. This well-designed public housing complex was built in 1986. The NSW Land and Housing Corporation has lodged a development application to demolish it replacing the existing 27 public housing bedrooms with 53 bedrooms at a cost of nearly \$22 million. Hector Abrahams of Hector Abrahams Architects has prepared an alternative scheme for the Society. It involves refurbishing the existing building and erecting a new building at the rear of the site, providing a total of 52 bedrooms for \$14 million. It has many benefits, not only because it is significantly cheaper. It does not reduce the supply of public housing for several years (as demolition does), fits in better with the Lyndhurst Heritage Conservation Area and produces fewer greenhouse emissions. We have met with Minister for Housing Rose Jackson who has agreed to have a technical meeting to explore the merits of the refit, refurbish and extend approach.

Finally, I would like to thank the many other people who contribute to the Society, including our archivist, Lyn Milton and our team of *Bulletin* deliverers Mary Pollard, Mark Gorta, Helena Klijn, Lyn Milton, Dave McMillan, Mark Stapleton, Phil Young and Jude Paul.

Thank you for the privilege of acting as your President.

Introducing the newest members of the Management Committee

The President: Duncan Leys

I was born in Moree, the youngest of seven children, and completed my schooling there. My mother was a schoolteacher whose job was terminated by the education department on her marriage, and my father was a surveyor's chainman and storeman. We were a family of readers with a love of history.

I was in high school when Charles Perkins and the Freedom Riders came through Moree. (I was clueless as to what the fuss was about). After leaving school I completed a diploma in business at the NSW Institute of Technology (now UTS) and a graduate diploma, always studying part-time, mostly at night. While working and studying, I married Janice, and our son Matthew was born.

Most of my working life has been spent in manufacturing and the last 31 years in furniture manufacturing. Naturally I have an interest in all furniture, particularly colonial, mid-twentieth century and more modern, as well as an interest in pre-1960 architecture.

I am a member of the National Trust and the Australiana Society. I'm also a keen gardener and the current president of the Wentworth Falls Garden Club.

At the time I moved to Sydney in 1970, several of my colleagues lived and even squatted in Glebe, but I failed to see the attraction. It was old and decrepit, so I spent 40 years living in western Sydney where our workforce lived.

I do have Glebe roots, which were only recently discovered. My grandfather and my grandmother (who both died young, before I was born) were married in my great grandparents' home in Oxley Street. My father's first-born brother Charles was born in Leichhardt Street and his next-born brother Frank died in Leichhardt Street at 10 months. Charles worked at the Rozelle Tram Depot.

Perhaps this might explain why I am beginning to feel home in Glebe?



Ordinary Member: Glen Powell

Glen Powell is married to Ruth and has two sons at university (USyd and UTS). He works with Wesley Mission on community development, and is involved in their work on affordable housing, gambling reform and mental health advocacy. Glen was one of the founding organisers for the Sydney Alliance – a grassroots advocacy network of unions, faith-based, and community groups. He was once a professional musician, sings in the Glebe Community Choir and holds a PhD in leadership development as a social inclusion strategy.



Ordinary Member: Angela Hallinan

Although spending the late '70s at the University of Sydney and living in Annandale for five years in the early '80s, I had never spent any time in Glebe until 18 months ago, when my husband and I did a reverse sea change and moved here from the Central Coast. To say that we are happy with our choice would be an understatement and through the Glebe Society Walks, our own daily walks and research in the library, we have come to understand and appreciate the area. I have no specific qualifications to be a committee member, but I hope I can make a contribution to the excellent work the Glebe Society does.



Ordinary Member: Tim Hesketh

Tim completed undergraduate and masters degrees in Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. He and his wife Beryl moved to New Zealand in the early 1970s where they both ended up at Massey University completing PhDs while on the staff there. They moved to Australia in 1985 and to Glebe in 1994. Tim's research involves control systems, e.g., for steelmaking. He had various roles at UNSW including Associate and Acting Dean of Engineering and was active in international recruitment, academic curriculum development and research supervision. He was Head of Electrical Engineering before he retired in 2009, taking up a part-time role at NICTA.

A Note from Edwina Doe

(Edwina was the Editor of the *Bulletin* at various times from 1983 to 1990 and again from 2003 to 2012. At the AGM her work as a continuing proofreader was acknowledged with gratitude)

I'm sorry I missed the AGM. I did say I was coming but was unwell on the day.

I am especially sorry because I didn't know there were flowers waiting for me. The President, Ian Stephenson, and the current *Bulletin* Editor, Allan Hogan, both wanted to thank me for my involvement with the Glebe Society *Bulletin*.

I moved to Glebe in 1976 but didn't know about the Glebe Society until 1983. After I joined, the first *Bulletin* I received, 1983/4, had a notice on the front page:

HELP WANTED A volunteer is needed to edit the Glebe Society Bulletin. It is a very interesting job, which allows you to become involved with the Society's activities and to meet other members.

I had a long history of editing newsletters, so of course I volunteered. I edited the next *Bulletin*, 1983/5, which included my name in the list of new members. I was the Editor, or while I was President, helping other Editors, until the 1990s. This was all in the 'cut and paste' days. I was Editor again from 2003 to 2012, using PageMaker with help from Bruce Davis. I am still proofreading each month.



*Edwina Doe, with the flowers given to her by the Glebe Society in recognition for her contribution to the Bulletin over many years.
(Image: Laura Hughes)*

Communications Subcommittee Annual Report 2022-2023

By Allan Hogan, Convenor

The Bulletin

The headline event of this year's report is the change in the method of production and distribution of the Society's monthly *Bulletin*. Following Virginia Simpson-Young's decision to stand down as Editor after nearly ten years in the job, the Communications subcommittee decided it was time to re-assess the highly labour-intensive task that Virginia had so generously performed. The search for a volunteer replacement as Editor was unsuccessful, so an editorial group comprising Allan Hogan, Virginia Simpson-Young, Sarah Fogg, and Tarny Burton considered how to share the tasks involved in producing the *Bulletin* and posting to our social media sites.

Members will by now be familiar with the redesigned *Bulletin* which resulted from those considerations. Starting with this year's March edition, the *Bulletin* is now emailed to subscribers using Mailchimp, while the print version (with a changed format) is delivered to those who choose to receive a hard copy. The changed format allows the tasks of commissioning and receiving articles, editing and proofreading, posting to social media, and preparing and sending the Mailchimp email-out, to be shared by the editorial group. It seems that members are pleased with the changes and continue to rely on the *Bulletin* for important information about the Society and its activities.

Some topics have been recurring stories in this year's *Bulletins*; the Glebe Road cycleway, the State Government's plans for the demolition of 82 Wentworth Park Road, and the Fish Market redevelopment plans. Other articles have included the retirement of MP Jamie Parker, and the election of Kobi Shetty as the new member for Balmain. The grant making possible a survey of the biodiversity of Glebe's Hill has generated great interest, and the Blue Wren subcommittee has kept members informed of continuing developments.

A regular feature of each edition has been the entertaining and informative stories about Glebe's historical houses and people written by Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett. Lyn also contributes the monthly 'Mystery Photo' competition which even knowledgeable locals can find hard to solve. The August edition announced a monthly competition for the best photo taken within the 2037 postcode, with an annual winner to be awarded a free invitation to the Society's Christmas Party.

The *Bulletin* has kept members regularly informed about the program of guided walks offered by the Society. These have included a tour of Toxteth House and Toxteth Estate led by Glebe historian Max Solling; a guided walk of the heritage-listed precinct of the University of Sydney's main Quadrangle and neighbouring buildings; highlights of the Chau Chak Wing Museum; and coming up on 15 October a tour of the Villas of Glebe pre-1870. Dorothy Davis has been the driving force behind the organisation and planning of these walks with assistance from Katharine Vernon and Virginia Simpson-Young.



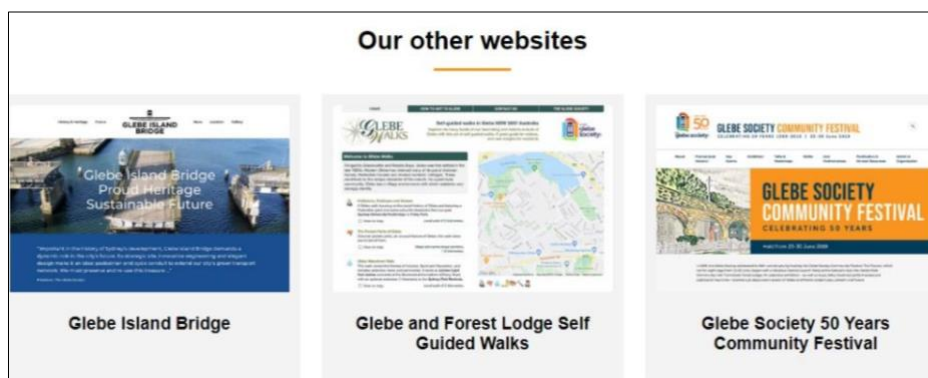
Each edition of the *Bulletin* has included a story about the Society's nominations for Blue Plaques, the program run by Heritage NSW to share the hidden history and heritage of NSW. The nominations have included the homes of journalist Dorothy Drain, founders of the Glebe Society Bernard and Kate Smith, cartoonist Les Tanner, explorer Douglas Mawson, and NSW Premier Robert Askin. Our nomination for a Blue Plaque for cricketer 'Tibby Cotter' was successful, and it now decorates the front gate of *Monteith*, his family home on Glebe Point Road.

I extend my thanks to members of the subcommittee for their hard work over the past year. In particular to the Bulletin and social media team; Tarny Burton, Sarah Fogg, and Virginia Simpson-Young. Thanks also to Phil Young and Phil Vergison for their photos, and to proofreaders Edwina Doe, Emily Booker, Sybil Jack, and Alex Byrne. Thanks are also due to the mailout team, led by Phil Young and Jude Paul.

Glebe Society Websites

The Society manages four websites: glebesociety.org.au, glebeislandbridge.com, 50years.glebesociety.org.au and glebewalks.com.au. Each of these sites can be viewed on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

We add most Bulletin articles to the Latest News section on the Home Page each month. This means that the Home Page is constantly changing, so visitors will likely see new information each time they visit.



The main website was used by over 33,000 people in the last financial year, 91% of whom were first-time users. Some of those people returned to the site at least once, as the site was viewed almost 67,000 times. 54% of the users looked at the website from a desktop computer and 46% were using either a mobile phone or tablet.

About 90% of users arrived at the website after an internet search or by directly entering the Glebe Society address, and about 9% were channelled to our site from our social media, usually our Facebook page. Most of our Facebook posts include a link to a relevant page on our website, usually content from the most recent Bulletin. Thanks to Sarah Fogg for her work uploading these posts.

The main website receives questions and comments from visitors to the site and these include inquiries about family histories; requests for support for a variety of causes; praise for a particular post (eg Jamie Parker's retirement); and criticism (eg posts about the Bridge Road cycleway).

Last financial year, almost 2000 people viewed the Glebe Island Bridge site, most of whom were new users. Some of those people must have come back to the site, as it was viewed over 3,500 times. 67% of viewers arrived at the site after actively searching with a relevant search term. 54% of views were from a desktop computer, 46% from a mobile phone or tablet.

Social Media

The Glebe Society's social media includes Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. Our social media posts are mostly links to website posts based on Bulletin articles.

In May this year, we started using a platform called 'Later' that enables us to create Facebook and Instagram posts at the same time. By using Instagram as well as Facebook, we're able to reach a broader audience. We currently have a respectable 55 followers on Instagram. Although we have a Twitter account, we have not really made use of it in the last year. We have 543 followers on Twitter.

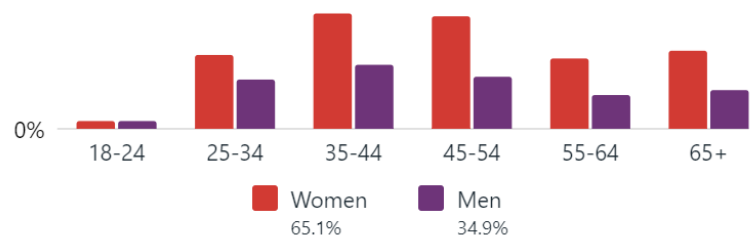
The Communications Subcommittee's social media activity is down this last 12 months compared with the previous 12 months. This is probably attributable to the change in the Bulletin production procedures which has required us to attend to that. It is probably also due in part to getting up to speed on using a different method (Later) for posting on multiple social media channels.

If you are a member who is familiar with social media, please consider whether you would like to help with our social media – it would help spread the load. We would make sure you get all the support you need.

Currently, 1,792 people follow the Glebe Society on Facebook, 67 of whom came on board in the last year. For your interest, the figure below shows the age and gender of our Facebook followers:

We made 81 posts on Facebook in the past year, which was about 30% fewer than the previous 12-month period. Our Facebook page was visited 3,435 times; and our posts were seen by 8,439 people.

Our most popular post was, it turns out, not a link to a story on our website, but a photo of Bridge Road at Blackwattle Bay in 1923 (see photos below). It was viewed by about 1,700 people. Our second most popular was an old photo of primary school students at St Scholastica's. As in previous years, the Mystery Photo was very popular, with 907 people viewing the June Mystery Photo.



Our two most popular Facebook posts in the last year featured these images.

Volunteer Grant for database and research

The Society received a grant of \$2400 from the Commonwealth Government as part of the Community Grants Hub. The program is aimed at revitalising volunteering in local communities, and the Society's application was supported by Tanya Plibersek, the Member for Sydney. The Society is planning to recruit a volunteer team to research and input data on Glebe's built environment. The planned database will include development and planning (including submissions and reports) and researching the history of Glebe (including plans, maps, social history and images). The grant money will be spent on suitable software and cloud storage. Members who are interested in participating should contact Ian Stephenson (Stephensonian2020@outlook.com)

Community Development Subcommittee Annual Report 2022-2023

By the Convenor, Louis Taborda

After one year as Convenor of the Community Development Subcommittee, I'm afraid my report card is not looking very good. I came in with a lot of optimism and as someone who is a project manager and teaches that subject, I want to be measured by the value I create for the Glebe community. Alas, while there has been lots of activity – see the *Bulletin* 2023/04 report - the results are thin on the ground. So, necessarily, this report must be one of identifying the learnings and making changes to improve things next year.

We have done a few things right though. We started the year well when I organised a workshop to collect and review the different initiatives that represent what 'community development' means to the Glebe Society. We got a good list of ideas that would be useful and even though we commenced many of them with the help of my University of Sydney project management students, I would have wished there was more to show for it at the end of the year.

We are hoping to end the year on a high by running a little experiment (an online fundraising auction) to support the good work done by Centipede, an out of school hours care program operating at Glebe Public School – an important service that the Society has supported over the years. An excerpt from the advertising brochure created by the student team running the project is shown, and the details are still to be finalised. What we ask is that Glebe Society members participate in the online auction by donating useful goods and services to start, and then bidding for the submitted items that will be available on the auction website. Details will be posted on our website and a link to the web page will be provided in the *Bulletin*. There will be more information posted on the Glebe Society website as the auction takes shape with the goal of raising funds for Centipede in the lead up to Christmas.



This initiative aside, what I have learnt this year is that having the student resources available is not enough to get ideas off the ground. Community development initiatives need to be guided by local folk who are committed in seeing the initiative come to fruition – the enthusiasm and drive needs to come from the community itself. No matter how good the idea seems to me to be or to the Glebe Society management committee, there needs to be more grassroots involvement so that we can make these ideas a reality.

Finally, the big change I hope to make in 2024 is to actually act as a convenor and revive the Community Development Subcommittee. If you are a Glebe Society member interested in making a positive impact for residents of Glebe, please do consider joining us next year so we can do good things that involve and touch more of our local community.



WE BELIEVE EVERY **CHILD** DESERVES A
CHANCE TO **THRIVE**. OUR SILENT AUCTION
AIMS TO RAISE FUNDS TO PROVIDE
AFTER-SCHOOL **CARE** FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.
BY PARTICIPATING, YOU'RE NOT JUST
BIDDING FOR UNIQUE ITEMS BUT ALSO
INVESTING IN A **BRIGHTER FUTURE**
FOR OUR CHILDREN.



October Mystery Photo

by Lyn Collingwood

Where are we?

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

Last month's (September) mystery photo

Ann Elias recognised the location as St Johns Road, opposite the Early Learning Centre. Jan Mannix noted the recently-installed charging station for electric vehicles outside St John's Anglican Village. As did Wayne Carveth, who wasn't sure if the power had to be paid for. He checked: the cost is 40-80c per kWh.

Transport and Traffic Subcommittee Annual Report 2022-2023

By the Convenor, Duncan Leys

The Bridge Road Cycleway

This matter has been going on for three years, it first appeared in the Bulletin in 2020. It has generated conflict between the residents impacted by restrictions imposed by the cycleway and proponents of cycling.

The cycleway was always going to arouse complaints, however a better result was possible in our view.

The Society's view is that the cycleway is unsafe in that pedestrians and cyclists, cyclists and motorists are not separated over the full length of the cycleway. Correspondence released in a recent FOI document showed the City of Sydney Council shared some of those concerns and recognised 'a need to improve the design and condition of the cycleway in order to address significant safety issues with the current arrangements.'

The Society felt that insufficient thought was given to residents whose parking and access arrangements were largely ignored. There were other shared route options that might have given a fairer and safer outcome which, in our view, did not receive proper consideration.

The discussion about transforming the temporary cycleway to a permanent cycleway was rushed. In a meeting with Transport for NSW in November 2022 we were told the cycleway was to go ahead largely in the same form as the temporary cycleway. In March 2023 Transport for NSW called for tenders for work on the permanent cycleway after completion of the power upgrade works for the new Sydney Fish Market. The tenders closed on 20 April 2023, and it was expected work would commence in mid-2023. We now understand that following the power upgrade, further trenching and remediation work is needed along the length of the cycleway route, including repaving the road surface to ensure the road is in a condition suitable for a cycleway.

From the information released in the recent FOI documents, funding of the work does not appear to have been locked in. Julie Sundqvist of Transport for NSW states: 'So while ideally we would like to start in April, I don't think we can commit to that until the proposal is formalised and funding is sorted'. Transport for NSW has scrapped the tender and will commence a new tender process in late 2023, and expects to start work early in 2024. But is the funding sorted and is it sufficient?

The State Budget handed down on 19 September does not list the Bridge Road Cycleway as a project for funding. Two were listed, Sutherland to Cronulla Active transport, and Sydney Harbour Bridge Northern Cycle Ramp. There is an amount of \$18,659,000 in the budget for a program to 'improve local connection and support active transport'. Perhaps the Bridge Road Cycleway is included in this program; however, we do not believe that amount is sufficient for all three cycleways, and some believe it is insufficient for Bridge Road by itself.

Overlaying all the aforesaid is the work done by my colleague Asa Wahlquist on the extra traffic to be generated by the new Fish Market and I quote from Asa's report verbatim.

The Glebe Society is also concerned about future traffic problems when the new Fish Market is up and running. Every day hundreds of trucks and vans, buses and thousands of private vehicles will visit the Fish Market. When the Transport for NSW meeting was questioned, an official admitted trucks would be queuing along Bridge Rd in the morning. How many trucks and vehicles would be queuing? How long would the queue be? How long would the vehicles in the queue wait before entering the SFM? Would vehicles be queuing in both directions? How disruptive would it be? These are all unanswered questions. Vehicles accessing the Market will include semi-trailers and large trucks delivering fish – despite the SFM's claim to authenticity, over 90 percent of the fish sold in the market are not locally caught but arrive by heavy vehicle – as well as the vans of retailers who purchase the wholesale fish for their shops. There will be other vans delivering goods for the restaurants in the new building, cars of workers and visitors, and buses and taxis. All these vehicles – except for the buses and taxis – will cross the footpath along Bridge Rd that, under current plans, will be shared by pedestrians and cyclists. (Asa's full report can be found at glebesociety.org.au/chaos-on-bridge-rd-ahead).

And many of these extra vehicle movements will be coming in and going out on Bridge Road. Realistically, Bridge Road is going to get much busier than it is now.

According to the most recent advice from Transport for NSW, 'The project team are currently preparing a Community Update which will be sent at the earliest possible opportunity'. The Community Update is long overdue, and it needs to give a realistic assessment of what Bridge Road is going to look like when the Cycleway is permanent and the New Fish Market is in operation.



Manoeuvring around a garbage truck on Bridge Rd (Photo: 2GB)

October Photo Competition

By the Editorial Team

There was an interesting variety of entries in this month's competition. They ranged from a well-composed shot of the garden in front of a classic Glebe house, the moon setting over the Tramsheds, a moment of fun at the 'Sydney Streets' event, a light rail streetscape and that old favourite, the Anzac Bridge.

Thanks to Jane Gatwood, Mary Regan, Wendy Beckett, Phil Vergison, Barb Jarry, and Susan Ingram for their entries. It was a hard choice for the judges. And the winner is Susan Ingram, with this unusual photo of a house in Westmoreland Street surrounded by greenery. One judge commented 'I like seeing the house peeking out through lush vegetation. As Sue is an artist, it's no surprise that the composition is good.'

Congratulations Sue, this photo will go into the annual competition. The other entrants' photos can be viewed on our website at glebesociety.org.au/in-focus-monthly-photo-competition-october-2023.

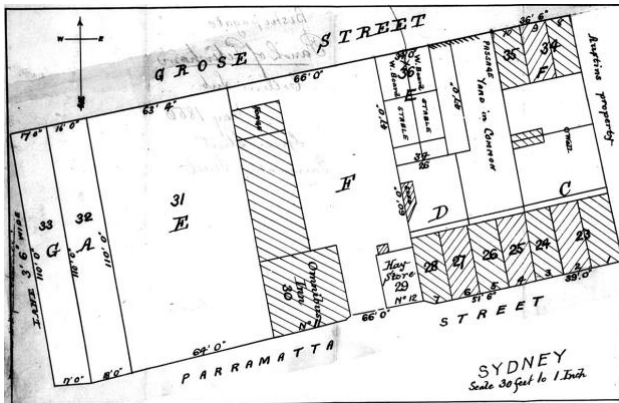


This month's winner of the Glebe Society's In Focus Monthly Photo Competition is by Susan Ingram

Who lived in your street? Thomas Collins (d. 1854)

By Lyn Collingwood

Thomas Collins owned a large parcel of land fronting Parramatta Street (now Broadway) and backing onto Grose Street. In September 1845 he bought lots 25-27 of the Bishopsgate Estate from ironmonger Launcelot Iredale and John Rose Holden, a Legislative Councillor. In 1849 and 1851 he added Joseph Lazarus' lots 20-23 to his holdings. Lot 24 was a drainage reserve allowing water from the pond in Victoria Park to flow towards Blackwattle Swamp.



Thomas Collins' estate, 1856. The hatched buildings include his three brick houses on Grose Street. (Inner West Library)

The major structure on Collins' land was the Omnibus Inn which provided accommodation for travellers and their horses. Collins opened the hotel in December 1848 and retained the licence until 1853 when it was transferred to Sampson Palmer. Subsequent publicans were Joseph Johnson followed by James Parle who transferred the licence to another address in 1869. The site was then briefly occupied by cordial manufacturers Lewis Lester & Co. before one of the owners, Charles Lester, was declared bankrupt. At the time of his death, Collins was also the owner of several Parramatta Road shops and three houses on Grose Street.

There were several men with the same name in the colony so the ancestry of Glebe's Thomas Collins and how he made his money is unknown. In addition to the Bishopsgate properties and 16 houses in the city, he possessed a 340-

acre farm near the village of Irishtown, Bankstown; 250 acres of this was Crown land purchased in the years 1834-1836. Collins was assigned government servants, two of whom absconded: butcher John Simpson and farm servant John Stickland.

On 4 September 1837 Collins married Alice Ryan in St Andrew's Scots Church; their witnesses were Thomas and Mary Reynolds. The bride marked her signature with a cross. Although that ceremony was Presbyterian, their children were baptised Roman Catholic: Alicia, Henry, Ellen, James, Catherine, Christopher and Louisa (1846-1849) whose parents' address at her birth was in Kent Street. Alice Collins also had the responsibility of caring for her spouse's illegitimate son. In 1852 Thomas advertised that he would not be responsible for his wife's debts after he claimed she had walked out of their Parramatta Road household leaving seven children to fend for themselves.

His given age varying from 49 to 54, Collins died on 10 June 1854 at Mount Lewis, Bankstown. On 13 January 1855, only a few months later, his 34-year-old widow died at home on Parramatta Road. They were buried with their daughter Louisa in Devonshire Street Cemetery. Days before his death, Thomas Collins had made out a will appointing as executors John McEncroe, a clergyman he barely knew, and John Abbott, a neighbouring farmer on

Liverpool Road, Bankstown. Alice's will was drawn up two days before she died, and publican Cornelius O'Neal was named as her executor.



*Grose Street, 1938. Numbers 4-8 are behind the dominant terrace at the right.
(State Library of NSW)*



*The rear of 4-8 Grose Street, 1938
(State Library of NSW)*

All the orphans were under the legal adult age of 21; the youngest being only a toddler. Their welfare was put in the hands of solicitors Brenan and Russell. The girls were sent to board at Miss Moore's Ladies' Seminary. John Abbott died at Irishtown in June 1856, and the following February the state of the Collins children's affairs was examined at length in the Supreme Court. One complication was working out what entitlement, if any, was due to illegitimate son William Collins. Another was the posthumous discovery that the principal trustee, Abbott, was illiterate. Careless in collecting rents, Abbott was found guilty of reckless extravagance, charging his own bills for food and liquor to the estate and giving large sums of money to Henry, the eldest Collins son, who was a gambler.

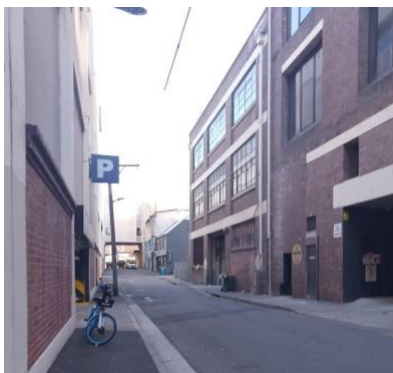
In 1861, not long after he came of age, Henry Collins died after falling from a gig at South Creek. His funeral cortege left the Omnibus Inn for Devonshire Street Cemetery. Of the other Collins children, youngest daughter Catherine married William Henry Whiting at Singleton in 1870 and died at Taralga in 1891. Oldest daughter Alicia, in 1865 in St Mary's Cathedral, married John Mooney whose family were Taralga graziers. In 1896 Broadway confectioner Ellis Mostyn Murray brought an unsuccessful suit against the Mooneys for excessive duress in extracting rent arrears. Alicia Mooney died in 1909 at Croydon; her widower died 20 years later. They were buried in a family vault at Rookwood with the Collins parents and siblings Louisa and Henry, whose remains had been reinterred from Devonshire Street.

Numbers 4-8 Grose Street

Thomas Collins' three brick houses have survived. The balconies, back shed and well have gone but the terrace retains its original proportions and footprint and access to a common yard. Dwarfed by its neighbours, it is today the only reminder of the street's residential past.

Former inhabitants of number 4 include spiritualist Madame Zanzi who conducted seances there, and dogman Benjamin Gray who grabbed a coping when the hopper he was riding with its cargo of concrete fell from a city building site (he hung on until he was rescued). Number 6 was home to two women who at different times took out warrants against their husbands for child desertion. Both fathers were

thought to have gone rabbiting in the country. The mother-of-eight wife of carnival showman Arthur Gabriel advertised that she was keen to buy animal and bird 'freaks of nature'. Among those who lived at number 8 were saddler John Williams, van driver Ernest May, cook David Munro and Mavis Pearl Bormann who was naturalised as a British citizen in 1947.



The three properties were consolidated by 1958 when architect John Crawford's plans for extensive alterations were approved by Council. In 2013, work began on converting the site, then derelict, into a bar. Staves Brewery opened for business in October 2015 and is still operating there.

Sources: City of Sydney Archives; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Land Titles Office; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; NSW State Records; Sands Directories; Trove website; W H Wells (1848), *A Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies*.

Left: Grose Street today. The modest grey building, numbers 4-8, is occupied by Staves Brewery. (Image: Lyn Collingwood)



Grose Street terrace in 2012 after it ceased use as a steel fabrication workshop (realcommercial.com.au)

Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 18: Harry Hopman

By Ian Stephenson and Lyn Collingwood

The 18th site nominated for a Blue Plaque in 2021 is Minerva Terrace on Wigram Road where internationally-acclaimed tennis player and coach Henry ('Harry') Christian Hopman (1906-1985) lived briefly as a child. Harry was the son of a teacher who was posted from one public school to another so Harry and his family were constantly on the move.

At age 13, after switching allegiance from soccer to tennis, Hopman won his first open singles tournament, playing barefoot and shirtless on a makeshift court in a school playground. In 1923 he won the NSW High Schools' singles championship. After leaving school, Hopman worked as a salesman for a Sydney sports goods retailer who allowed him time to play and practise.

In 1925 Hopman teamed up with Jack Crawford, and they won – for three years in a row – the Australian junior doubles championship, and then the Australian senior doubles championships (1929, 1930). In 1933 Hopman joined the staff of the Melbourne Herald as a sportswriter. The next year he married Eleanor Hall with whom he won the Australian mixed doubles four times.

Hopman was the successful captain-coach of 22 Australian Davis Cup teams from 1939 to 1967. As architect of Australia's post-war tennis supremacy, his stint as non-playing captain-coach became known as 'the Hopman era' during which he won the Davis Cup 15 times. He quickly brought in replacements for young champions who disqualified themselves from the competition by turning professional. Hopman was appointed OBE (1951) and CBE (1956) and the Hopman Cup was named in his honour. In 1978 he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

One of Hopman's star protégés was Lew Hoad (1934-1994) who was a member of the Australian team which won the Davis Cup four times. Born and raised at 43 Wigram Road, he was allowed time off from Glebe Public School to practise what his schoolmates labelled a sissy game. Ranked world number one amateur in 1956 and in the top ten 1952-1957, after which he turned professional, Hoad won two Wimbledon Championships, the Australian Open, French Open, Italian Open, Kooyong Tournament of Champions, Forest Hills Tournament of Champions and Ampol Open Trophy.

Both Hopman and Hoad were household names during Australia's golden age of tennis. Although there is a Lewis Hoad Reserve on Minogue Crescent, he warrants a sentence on Hopman's plaque.



*Harry Hopman c. 1930.
(Image: National Library
of Australia)*



Lew Hoad in 1953. (Image: State Library of Victoria)



Minerva Terrace Wigram Road where Harry Hopman lived for a short time as a young child. (Image V. Simpson-Young)

HARRY HOPMAN

1906 - 1985

tennis champion and coach
lived here as a young child

For two decades Hopman was ranked
in the top ten Australian players.
During his period as Davis Cup coach
for Australia 1950-69, his team won a
record 15 times.

A star protégé of 'the Hopman era'
was Lew Hoad who lived at 43
Wigram Road, not far from this
terrace.

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee, October 2023

By Andrew Wood, Convenor, Blue Wren Subcommittee

This month, we include a report from Glebe Public School on the outcomes of the 'Glebe Public School Environment Project' supported by funding from the Glebe Society's Craney Small Grants Program.

Report on Craney Small Grants Program 2023

The continued support from the Craney Small Grants Program has enabled us to educate, inspire, and implement various eco-friendly initiatives throughout our school.

One of the projects that the grant has made possible is the enhancement of our outdoor learning area and the improvement of our bush tucker garden. With the funds provided, we've been able to acquire new plants and gardening equipment, resulting in a transformed outdoor space



The Craney Grant at work. (Image: Glebe Public School)

that will undoubtedly benefit our students' education and connection with nature. The native and bush tucker plants and resources from the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group helped to further embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives for students and teachers.

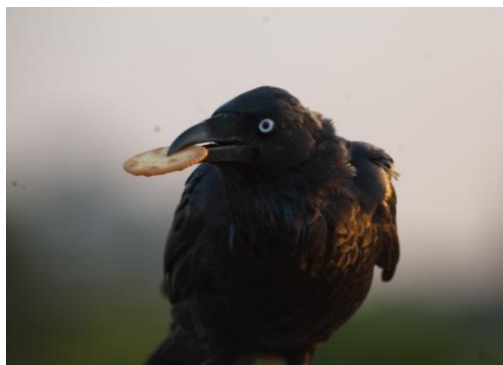
Our active Eco Warriors Club promotes student well-being, sustainable practices, and local environmental appreciation. In our commitment to preserving and promoting biodiversity, we've carefully selected a range of bush tucker and native plants that attract local wildlife, enhancing our school's vibrancy and ecological diversity.

Beyond improving our school grounds, the Craney Small Grants Program has played a crucial role in fostering lifelong learning among our students. Through these initiatives, we're nurturing a sense of belonging and a genuine love for nature among our students and community.

We're incredibly grateful for the Craney Small Grants Program and the positive impacts it has made, and will continue to make, for Glebe Public School.

Society's 10th Annual Spring Bird Survey

The survey will be held on Sunday 22 October commencing at 6.45am at Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford Street. It will again be led by Judy Christie; all Glebe Society members and friends are welcome to help. Please contact Judy (0437 693 372) if you would like to attend. Afterwards we will have breakfast at a cafe on Glebe Point Road.



'Glebe raven' by Charles Haynes (Flickr)



'Tidal gull, Johnstons Creek' by Newtown Graffiti (Flickr)

Report on Guided Walk: Exploring Forest Lodge, with Max Solling

By Duncan Leys, Glebe Society President

Max Solling who has led walks for the Glebe Society since 1969 was our guide and is still keen to share his great knowledge of Glebe and Forest Lodge history and heritage. The term 'walk' does not adequately describe the event on 24 September; it was as much a talk as a walk, and it was also a challenge to us to imagine what and who were here before us.

The walk/talk covered a vast range of subjects set in a relatively small geographic space.

From the first settlement's failed farming attempts to a semi-rural retreat occupied by the well-to-do and their picturesque villas. Then, subdivision of the Forest Lodge Estate and the building of two-storey terraces by local builders needing mortgages to fund construction. Then the arrival of industries including tanning, biscuit-making, a large-scale laundry, coach building, munitions supplies, government's Rozelle Tram Depots, GE Crane plumbing and nonferrous metal works.

Much more was covered including the transformation of Orphan School Creek from a source of drinking water for Forest Lodge residents to an industrial sewer; the history of civics and local government, state and federal politics, the churches and sectarianism, retailing, the pubs, the trots and the dogs and so much more. And the cast of characters entangled with Forest Lodge's history was brought to life.

We were grateful that Max had the forethought to produce a 19-page booklet on the event, and we could read up later on what we may have failed to absorb.

I have done many local history walks and it's only in Glebe and Forest Lodge walks that a member of the public joins in to add content and context to the talk. And so, it happened on this walk: a lady carrying her two bags of shopping joined in, telling us about the street where she lived which we were about to enter. When this happens, it is often something special.



Max Solling leads the Forest Lodge walk. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)



Coffee at the Tramsheds after the walk. (Image: V. Simpson-Young)



Players in the Pub

Next Players in the Pub

The Admirable Crichton

7pm Tuesday 17 October

Upstairs at *The Harold*

Wigram Road/Ross Street Forest Lodge

Entry by donation

The Admirable Crichton by J M Barrie

Directed by Susan Jordan

A precursor to *Upstairs, Downstairs* and *Downton Abbey*, Barrie's take on the English class system is as fresh and funny as when it was written in 1902.



J M Barrie, 1892.

(Image: National Portrait Gallery, London)



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TICKETS



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TICKETS



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DIRECTED BY BROOKE GREEN**

ST CECILIA 2023

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Council refuses DA for 181 St Johns Road

On 11 May, the Society made a submission concerning a development application (DA) for 181 St Johns Road. You can read the submission here: tinyurl.com/mtw6wmsz. On 15 September, City of Sydney Council refused the DA. The notice of determination is here: tinyurl.com/4h3xjb62.



The DA for 181 St Johns Road, which has been rejected by Council, sought to replace a beautiful free-standing mid-Victorian house (left) – a Contributory item in the Hereford-Forest Lodge Heritage Conservation Area – with a pair of conjoined three-storey houses (right) that would compromise the heritage significance of the Heritage Conservation Area.

For your calendar

Sunday 15 October, 2-4pm	Glebe Walks: The Villas of Glebe pre-1870 Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members) Bookings: villas-of-glebe-pre-1870.eventbrite.com.au
Tuesday 17 October 7pm	Next Players in the Pub <i>The Admirable Crichton</i> by J M Barrie Upstairs at The Harold, 70A Ross Street Forest Lodge. Entry by donation
18-22 October	Glebe Art Show , Tramsheds More information: glebeartshow.org.au
Sunday 22 October, 6.45am	Glebe Society's 10th Spring Bird Survey Contact Judy Christie (0437 693 372) if you would like to help
Friday 27 October, 7pm	The first concert in the Glebe Music Festival which runs from 27 October to 26 November. Full program for the Festival is here: glebesociety.org.au/34th-annual-glebe-music-festival/



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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