

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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It's official: A Blue Plaque for Dorothy Drain

By the Editor, Allan Hogan



Dorothy Drain. Photo:
Australian Women's Weekly

Fourteen new Blue Plaque recipients have been chosen to highlight significant people and events which have contributed to the rich history of NSW. They include Dorothy Drain, the journalist and war correspondent who lived at 52 Toxteth Road, Glebe.

The people being recognised in round two of the Blue Plaques NSW program include the artist Sir William Dobell and co-founder of the Country Women's Association Grace Emily Munro.

The plaques have been chosen from 117 nominations made by the public and assessed by independent historians. Dorothy Drain was nominated by the Glebe Society.

On her retirement as Editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly* in 1975, the magazine published an article on her career which included 38 years with the *Weekly*. 'It was as a columnist and writer of verse that Dorothy became best known to [our] readers', the article said. 'Her page "It Seems to Me" was long an outstanding feature of the magazine, and drew a large volume of fan mail, much of it from men.'

The article continues, 'her career was by no means all desk work. She went to Japan in 1946 in the hospital ship *Manunda* and was attached for three months to the Australian occupation forces, writing stories. In 1950 she was off to the Korean War, and on one occasion had to be withdrawn hurriedly from an area under imminent attack. She made a third sortie as a war correspondent in 1965, this time to Vietnam.'

Dorothy Drain 'was also one of the few journalists who managed to obtain a good interview with Frank Sinatra. When he was making his first visit to Australia, Dorothy Drain flew to Suva in the hope of interviewing him. He refused for some time but relented at last in the aeroplane. Dorothy sat beside him and said, "You appear to be an intelligent man, Mr Sinatra, so I would like to ask you some serious questions." He was surprised and evidently pleased by this novel approach, because from that moment on (as she put it) he never drew breath.'

She may have inherited her gift for writing verse from her father who was a regular contributor to *The Bulletin* magazine. These were her thoughts after reading that the actress Elizabeth Taylor had become a grandmother:

*What, Liz a grandma? Well, why not? But still
One feels a twinge, a touch of autumn chill,
Must she subside in placid middle age,
No headlines blaring from the printed page,
Perhaps become censorious and staid?
For glamor girls, alas, in time must fade,
Enshrined in magazines on dusty shelves,
But – do we sigh for Liz, or for ourselves?*

Dorothy was succeeded as Editor of the *Weekly* by Ita Buttrose.



Dorothy Drain in correspondent's uniform in Tokyo,
April 1946 (Image: *Australian Women's Weekly*)

Heritage and the housing crisis: higher density must respect amenity

By Lorraine Beach, Marrickville Heritage Society

The following article is reproduced with the permission of the Marrickville Heritage Society. It appeared in their Sept-Oct 2023 newsletter. Clearly, examples noted in the article do not refer to Glebe/Forest Lodge, but members of both the Glebe Society's Heritage and Planning Subcommittees believe the issues raised are equally relevant to us.

The housing situation in Australia is currently foremost in the media and in politics and is an everyday crisis for many. The waiting list for social housing in NSW was in excess of 57,000 applicants in June 2022. The terms NIMBY (not in my back yard) and now YIMBY (yes in my back yard) have become part of our vocabulary. YIMBYs are vocal in targeting the inner west and its heritage protections, with media articles in particular highlighting heritage protection in Marrickville and Dulwich Hill as a roadblock to their vision of high-density development. The camps are polarised, but there is some common ground.

The YIMBYs website says this:

'Do you want more affordable housing? Do you support cycleways and an active walking and cycling network? Are you up for living in a buzzy city with nightlife and outdoor dining? Do you welcome new business and new residents in your neighbourhood? Do you back funding and spaces for arts and culture? Do you say yes to tangible action on climate change, like rain gardens and trees rather than car parks?' And: 'The things that make city living attractive – convenient access to jobs, amenities, goods and services – is [sic] made possible by density.'

High property values

It wasn't always so, but this century the inner west, particularly the Marrickville area and surrounding suburbs, has become a highly desirable location to live in. It is a classic example of a historic urban landscape. There are walkable streets, plenty of green space, cycle pathways, walking pathways, a multicultural population, loads of history to be appreciated by those interested, quirky lanes and many odd and old buildings given new life to support a vibrant mix of businesses – pubs, clubs, restaurants, galleries, artisan workshops, cafes, boutique breweries, to mention just some. You name it, you can probably find it in Marrickville. Add its proximity to the city, good transport connections and its rating as 'the tenth coolest neighbourhood in the world' in 2020 because it already offers all the benefits cited in the YIMBY mantra above, it should be no surprise that it's a target for demanding increased living options. Another YIMBY quote: 'I want to be able to live near where I want to spend my time'.

Gentrification has occurred gradually as people gravitated to this area for all the reasons already described. Most people criticised as 'NIMBY elitists intent on protecting their property values' did nothing to cause the escalation of values except buy their homes when the area was undesirable (cheap) and then continue to live in, appreciate, embrace and encourage a growing, changing and multicultural neighbourhood.

The area is the product of successive councils who have striven to retain and celebrate its special character, listened to some heritage concerns and implemented protections, while still accommodating numerous residential developments towards achieving targets of increased density.

No density without amenity

Marrickville Heritage Society (MHS) President Scott MacArthur, an accomplished architect who works in urban design, is a committed heritage advocate. In response to media approaches, Scott has provided lengthy explanations about the Society's position on the present thrust for higher density and removal of heritage protections. He notes we are losing our dwindling stock of important heritage properties: *Otaki* (a prominent Federation villa on Marrickville Road), the three Victorian villas on the old Marrickville Hospital site, much of Illawarra Road, and the Church of Christ to name the more prominent sacrifices to development.



*Otaki 436-438 Marrickville Road, Marrickville
(Photo: Devine Real Estate)*

Scott says that media comment and subsequent debate over the 'heritage vs affordable housing' duality was the very premise that made Inner West Council refuse to heritage-list and protect the Church of Christ on Illawarra Road at Marrickville contrary to the recommendations of the heritage study the Council had commissioned. It was a particularly bruising debate.

The loss of the Church of Christ building was keenly felt by our Society and the wider community that values heritage and the amenity of our built environment. We are not elitist NIMBYs trying to lock down our suburbs and turn them into museums, but concerned residents and business people who do not want to sacrifice the already pressured amenity of our area for illusory cheap housing solutions. We support measures that will retain the social and cultural heterogeneity of our suburbs, but heritage and new residential opportunities are not mutually exclusive.

Scott explained that his comment in relation to illusory cheap housing relates to how vague this term is and how ill-defined is the desired outcome of the YIMBY movement. By cheap housing, are the pro-developers looking for 'build to rent', social housing, affordable housing, boarding houses, or just an apartment in Marrickville they can afford? How cheap is cheap? And can anyone say how many new buildings that would be? Are we supposed to support building enough new houses, apartments or granny flats to roll back 20 years of real estate price escalation?



Marrickville Church of Christ (Photo: tinyurl.com/p2cyu45a)

The role of heritage protection

Scott said that MHS is very supportive of Inner West Council's proposal to consult the community about expanding protection of our environmental heritage with new and enlarged Heritage Conservation Areas. Heritage protection does not seek to stop change, or to turn our suburbs into museums – it rather aims to manage change. Heritage listing can help prevent the worst excesses of over-development, while the essential fabric and character of the environment are retained.

The process to establish heritage protections is exhaustive – years of research and community consultation are undertaken, and all levels of local and State government are required to agree on the extent and type of protections that are involved.

A critical part of protection is providing a framework that allows the heritage environment to be conserved, adapted and modified to ensure that it retains its heritage values and vitality. Heritage places need viable and sympathetic uses for their preservation – whether this is their original and ongoing use, or a compatible new use. Established buildings that have outlasted their original uses have been adapted and repurposed for new uses for millennia. Specifically, in our locality, over the last century, old Federation mansions and Victorian villas have been converted to flats and boarding houses, contributing to our LGA already having the second highest proportion of 'affordable housing' in the State. Competent architects working with experienced heritage professionals and enterprising developers have demonstrated that heritage does not stop affordable housing – it enriches it.



Marrickville Library and Pavilion (Photo: Brett Boardman)

Supporting Scott's comments, there are numerous examples in our immediate vicinity of higher density housing and heritage working well – for one, the outcomes achieved by the Marrickville Library project that harmoniously included the former hospital's heritage buildings and 250 apartments, 9 of them affordable housing.

Over-development is not a solution

It is naive to imagine that if developers are allowed to produce enough apartments to saturate the place it will counteract high property prices. Real estate values don't work that way, and it is not the role of developers to solve the problem of a shortage of housing.



Victoria Road Precinct (Image: Domain)

The YIMBYs want to stop all heritage listings so that they can seemingly build 'enough' new housing to solve the housing crisis. As hundreds of new dwellings and apartments built in Marrickville over the last decade attest, more dwellings do not mean cheaper housing! The Victoria Road Precinct, for instance, covers 18 hectares and will provide up to 1,100 apartments. The first buildings, containing 272 apartments, are nearing completion. The 1-bedroom units start at \$745,000, 2-bedroom at \$1.06 million and 3-bedroom units are sold out. As for affordable housing, we understand the proposed contribution is 3% of the stock to be built.

The housing crisis is full of complexities. It is far more than being able to afford to rent or buy in the desirable area you want to live in. The difference between 'cheap housing' and affordable housing or social housing is vast and it is apparently easy to lose sight of the real crisis – to provide enough housing for the 57,000 who are looking at a possible 10-year wait on a list that gets longer rather than shorter.

Heritage is a soft target, but not the culprit

As for the debate over 'get rid of heritage protections and build more high rise', 'heritage' is a soft target and easy to blame. The reality, though, is that a battle between heritage and YIMBYs makes no progress in addressing the real issues that have created a housing crisis and neither will it help to solve it.

Our Society has the view that change is inevitable, and we are not opposed to change or development. There is, however, a critical need for balance so that development is guided by planning professionals and sensitive designers, producing good long term solutions. If we make mistakes now and destroy what everyone values and enjoys in our historic urban neighbourhoods, they will lose their people, their quirkiness, the businesses that thrive here and, ultimately, their appeal and liveability.

For more understanding of boarding houses in Marrickville, Society member Gabby Richards has done a deep analysis of low-cost housing, and where it is most prevalent, on her website [Marrickville Unearthed](#). The story about 387 Illawarra Road is highly recommended. Alarming, Gabby's analysis reveals the reality of new boarding houses: they are not delivering the diversity of accommodation needs that the Department of Planning intended. 'Ten-year population projections show limited growth in the Inner West with an average household size that can't be homed in boarding house style accommodation. As far as social housing is concerned, the Inner West provides 194 boarding houses, a ratio of one boarding house per less than 1,000 people in the LGA. This is second to only the City of Sydney. Marrickville is contributing well above what could be expected from an LGA with a population of 182,000. All 23 boarding houses in the suburb of Marrickville are traditional style boarding houses that better meet the needs of the marginalised and dispossessed.'

For more examples of the architectural design of social housing in a heritage context, the Australian Institute of Architects has excellent articles on its website.

For more background on the loss of *Otaki* and the Church of Christ, visit [Heritage Watch](#) on our website.

Who Lived in Your Street?

Samuel John Hood (1872-1953)

By Lyn Collingwood

Commercial photographer and photojournalist Sam Hood lived at various addresses in Glebe and the suburb featured in many of his iconic images of everyday life. Although photography moved from wet to dry plate to film, and illumination from sunlight to flash powder to flashlight bulbs during his long career, Hood used the same modified Folmer and Schwing Graflex camera for more than 40 years.

Samuel Hood was born on 20 August 1872 at Glenelg, SA, the eldest child of pioneer photographer John Riley Hood (whose father was also an artist) and Mary Martha née Hübbe who had worked with her future husband as a photo retoucher in Townsend Duryea's Studio in Adelaide. The couple had three more sons (William Harrison, John 'Jack' Ulrich and Thomas 'Tom' Courtney) before Mary Hood died aged 32 in January 1881. Her widower then married Ruth Wright, a young widow, and Martha Mary, Alexander Dolman and Frederick William were born in 1882, 1883 and 1887 respectively. Following the death of Frederick at age three months, the family moved to Sydney where William Harrison died of typhoid on 4 April 1888, his 14th birthday. His death was registered at Leichhardt. John and Ruth's last child, Dorothy Ruth, was born in 1889 when the family was living in Leichhardt Street Glebe.

By this time Sam already had experience in his father's Adelaide studio. His first Sydney employer was William Nutting Tuttle, an American who founded Tuttle & Co. in Kidman's buildings in George Street. The firm was not only the city's biggest photography studio, but it was accessed by Sydney's first private elevator, installed by Tuttle at considerable expense. After the other tenants refused to help pay for it, Tuttle boarded up the exits so they and their customers were forced to use the stairs. The elevator's cabin then travelled directly from ground level to the studio through the well's total darkness. When a restaurant owner took Tuttle to court over the noise of the machinery used to drive it, the elevator was given a lunch break. Sam and another boy operated the lift.

After Tuttle was declared bankrupt in 1889 and the business sold, Sam worked as a commercial traveller, book salesman and photographer in country towns in NSW and Queensland. He returned periodically to Sydney to help in his father's studio, John Hood & Sons, at various addresses on Glebe Point Road.

One of his jobs was crewing on a yacht and it was probably through this connection that he met Emily Albertina Heesch, the daughter of a coastal steamer captain. They eloped in 1895 and the birth of Alfred was registered in



*Sam Hood outside his city studio shortly before his death
(Image: State Library NSW)*



*The Dudley Cantrell Band playing in Grace Bros auditorium, 1937
(Image: Sam Hood/State Library NSW)*

Newcastle the next year. The birth of William was registered in Glebe (the best furniture in their spartan home was a cedar sea chest and a rocking chair) in 1899. That year Sam established his own portrait business at the Adelaide Photographic Co. at 256 Pitt Street in an area known as Poverty Point frequented by out-of-work actors. The Pitt Street building also became the Hoods' family home but after two fires broke out there, they moved to *Haxton*, 9 Clifton Street, Balmain, in 1904. Gladys Elizabeth Marjorie was born that year.

Sam's brother Thomas married Emily Heesch's sister Martha. They also set up house in Balmain at 1 St John Street.

Sam built a darkroom in his East Balmain house which was close to the waterfront and began specialising in maritime subjects. From its assigned tugboat, he would photograph a ship as it lay off Sydney Heads and sell pictures to the crew after it docked. His fascination with the harbour continued, his subjects ranging from merchant ships to leisure craft to troopships involved in both world wars. The Australian Maritime Museum holds over 9,000 of his images of ships, their passengers and crews.



First aid training at Grace Bros, November 1939 (Image: Sam Hood/ State Library NSW)

own photographers, Hood sought other commissions to add to his stock-in-trade portraits and coverage of weddings and social events. He won a number of long-term advertising and commercial contracts and, with extensive contacts in the entertainment industry, was often called upon to photograph celebrity events and stars. During the Second World War he was employed by the Ministry of News and Information to document the armed services.

After moving to Glenbrook in 1949, Hood continued to work in his Pitt Street studio, claiming that the daily trek in all weathers from Carmel Street to the train station was good for his health. On 8 June 1953 he was hurrying home to catch the 'Chips' (the Blue Mountains train service) when he collapsed in Eddy Avenue and died shortly after. Survived by his wife and five children, he was cremated at Rookwood, his mourners including members of the Australian Journalists' Association.



Exercise class in the Grace Bros gymnasium, c. 1937 (Image: Sam Hood/ State Library NSW)

Emily Hood died aged 34 in May 1907 and was buried in the Field of Mars Cemetery. Three years later her widower married Ruby Blanche Ramplin and began a second family. Edgar 'Ted' (1911-2000) had a long career as a photojournalist. By the time Noel was born in 1918, the family was living in a Federation bungalow in Chatswood.

In 1910 Hood rented cheap premises in the Dore Studios in the Queen Victoria Markets. In 1918 he acquired the Dalny Studio at 124 Pitt Street, his workplace for the rest of his life, and expanded into press photography for newspapers such as the *Sydney Mail*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Daily Telegraph*. For a short period from 1934, as the *Labor Daily's* full-time photographer, he engaged others to look after his studio. His children Gladys and Ted worked there.

When newspaper proprietors began hiring their own photographers, Hood sought other commissions to add to his stock-in-trade portraits and coverage of weddings and social events. He won a number of long-term advertising and commercial contracts and, with extensive contacts in the entertainment industry, was often called upon to photograph celebrity events and stars. During the Second World War he was employed by the Ministry of News and Information to document the armed services.

Postscript:

Sam's father [John Riley Hood](#) (whose story was told in *Bulletin* 3/2014) in 1867 made a coloured portrait of the visiting Duke of Edinburgh. His son continued the tradition of 'shooting' members of the British Royal family: the future George V in Centennial Park in 1901, Edward VII as the Prince of Wales in 1920, and George VI as the Duke of York for the opening of Parliament House in Canberra in 1927.

Sources: NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW and SA registries of births, deaths, marriages; Sands Directories; State Library of NSW; Trove website; Wikipedia entry.

Sydney Female Mission Home

By Rodney Hammett

A recent enquiry to the Glebe Society website asked about *Bayview* at Glebe Point. It was in relation to a relative who had for a short time been an inmate (see note 1) of the Sydney Female Mission Home in Glebe at the beginning of the 1900s, when the home was located at *Willow Lodge* (sometimes called *The Willows*) in Bridge Road, and possibly later at *Bayview*.

The Sydney Female Mission Home was established in 1873. Described in 1904 as 'a home where twenty girls may be received who for the first time have lapsed from virtue. They are taken care of and helped back into a decent position, the aim being not to separate the mother from the child. This perhaps is the most desirable way of helping to reform the mother, at the same time giving the child a chance' (see note 2). Initially the Home was in premises on Elizabeth Street, Sydney, moving in 1885 to *Darlington House* on the Newtown Road at Darlington (now City Road) then relocating to *Willow Lodge* in Bridge Road, Glebe in 1895 (see note 3).

Willow Lodge was on part of a large block of land which had been purchased by MLA Samuel Henry Terry of Windsor in 1857 and originally part of the Hereford Estate owned by Ambrose Foss. Terry later subdivided this land into 10 lots as shown in Figure 1 (DP 1102) which were sold between 1885 and 1887 (see note 4). At this time *Willow Lodge* was described as 'containing 9 rooms, kitchen, storeroom, pantry, and bathroom with 2-stall stable and coach house with loft overhead; wash house fitted with copper etc, and with gas and water laid on' (see note 5). The property sat within Lot 6 which was purchased by 'John Leeman of Sydney, esquire', in 1885 (see note 6). The houses and land were subsequently owned by members of the Isaacs family (merchants and financiers of Sydney) from 1890 to 1911. In 1911 Lot 6 was sold to William Hewitt of Cremorne. In about 1914 *Willow Lodge* was demolished to make way for the current Hewitt Avenue and the new dwellings we know today as Nos 162 and 164 Bridge Road and Nos 2 and 4 Reuss St.

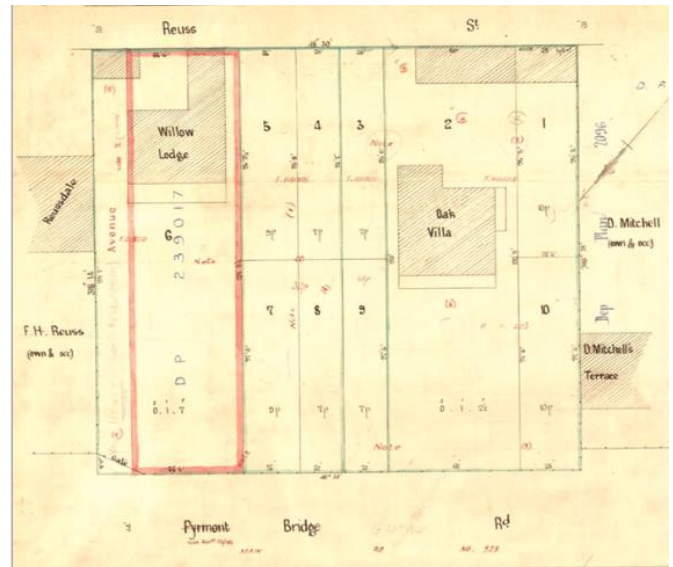


Figure 1: Willow Lodge

(Source: NSW Land Registry Services, DP 1102, [part])

For the period the Home was located at *Willow Lodge* the dwelling and land was owned by the Isaacs family. Matron Mrs Eliza Rainy had been the matron in charge while the Home was at *Darlington House* continuing until 1897 at *Willow Lodge* where she died aged 60 on 19 May. Mrs Emily Hill became the next matron. Records are unclear as to when the Home ceased operating at *Willow Lodge*. At the time of the 1907 annual meeting in October the gathering was at the Home's new location in Glebe, presumably at *Bayview*, Glebe Point. The *Sands Directory* of 1908 shows the Home with Mrs Emily Hill the matron, at the northerly end of Glebe Point Rd on the eastern side – on part of the site currently occupied by Pavilions on the Bay. The Home remained there until 1912 after which it seems it was amalgamated into another establishment or relocated somewhere else, however so far no further records of the Home have been found.



Figure 2: Singer Sewing Machine c. 1880

(Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Singer-Company>)

Bayview was a family home for merchant George John Wells, constructed in 1881-82. George and his wife Sarah Siddons were married in Sydney in 1861 and had six sons and three daughters, with only their first son (George, 1862-1864) not surviving childhood. G. J. Wells had been born in West Hackney, London in 1838 and at the age of three he sailed to Sydney on the ship *Sir Edward Paget* in 1842 with his parents and a stepbrother Frederick from his father's earlier marriage. His father, William, was a carpenter and his mother, Lavinia, was a dressmaker. George gained another brother and a sister in the years following the family's arrival before his father died aged 38 in 1852. From these humble and tough beginnings George carved out a niche business in Sydney as the importer and agent for Singer sewing machines. *The Sydney*

Morning Herald of Monday 1 September 1879 (page 4) carried an article which in part stated: 'All who pass No 1 Hunter Street must be struck with the display of handsome and valuable medals and cups contained in a large case in the centre of their window. These are prizes awarded, after exhibitions and trials of the Singer sewing machine, from the manufacture of which immense fortunes have been made. The medals, etc, have been forwarded by the Singer Manufacturing Company to Mr. G. J. Wells, their agent in Sydney, at the address above mentioned, for public inspection.'

George's mother Lavinia became a nurse in Glebe living at a number of addresses in Glebe and Forest Lodge in the 1860s and 1870s until she died on 25 August 1873 at the age of 59. Her funeral left for the Rookwood Cemetery from her residence at that time in Forest Street, Forest Lodge.

G. J. Wells was also a lay preacher, sometimes preaching in the Wesleyan Chapel built by George Allen and located within his Toxteth Park Estate. In February 1877 G. J. Wells purchased the site for what is now *Edith Villa* at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Toxteth Road from George Allen for 990 pounds (see note 7). The Wells family moved into their new home in 1878. For some readers it will be of interest to know that the land purchased by G. J. Wells for *Edith Villa* originally extended back to include the land now occupied by Nos 2 and 4 Toxteth Rd and that these houses were not built until 1892.

Research of land ownership records has confirmed that Sarah Wells, wife of George John Wells, a merchant and commission agent of Sydney, purchased land on the eastern side of Glebe Point Road, near the northern end of Glebe Point Road in April 1881 (see note 8). The Wells family were looking for their lost black and tan terrier puppy in January 1883, with a reward for its return to *Bayview*, Glebe Point, so they were living at *Bayview* by then (see note 9). Edith Jane Wells, aged 23 and the eldest daughter, married the Rev Thomas Barker Holmes, a Wesleyan Minister, at *Bayview* on Wednesday 24 March 1886. Later, at *Bayview*, the same Rev T. B. Holmes presided over the marriages of Ada Levinia Wells and George William Hutchinson on 12 June 1895 and Ernest Augustus Wells and Sophie Jones on 27 November 1895.

The reason for the Wells' family moving from *Edith Villa* to *Bayview* is difficult to understand given that in 1882 there was a Royal Commission into noxious and offensive trades, instigated by complaints from Balmain and Glebe Point residents. The main offender was the Glebe Island abattoir, the Royal Commission reporting that in 1882 there were 524,415 sheep, 69,991 cattle, 31,269 pigs and 8,348 calves slaughtered there (see note 10). The abattoir operated from the 1830s until 1915 when it moved to Homebush – the site of the 2000 Olympics. G. J. Wells purchased *Asphodel* at 3-5 Burlington Road Homebush in February 1902 at which time the family left *Bayview*, although Sarah retained ownership of the Glebe Point property until June 1915 when she sold it to D. Hardy & Sons Limited (see note 11). G. J. Wells died a few years later at *Asphodel* on 22 March 1904, aged 65. Sarah died at Homebush on 25 October 1922 aged 82. Both are buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

Circa 1915 D. Hardy & Sons, timber merchants, amalgamated a number of lots at Glebe Point, but World War One may have delayed development of the site because it was not until 1920 that a factory, office and dwelling were constructed on the site (see note 12). *Bayview* was being let as a house in 1916 – 'Refined, musical, adult home, good table, spacious grounds, water frontage, balcony, Rooms from £1' (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 March 1916, p. 12). In February 1919, two downstairs rooms were advertised for let 'Unfurnished ... use kitchen, overlooking water, seclusive, healthy' From this, it is reasonable to assume that *Bayview* was demolished around 1920 to make way for the D. Hardy & Sons buildings (see Figure 4).

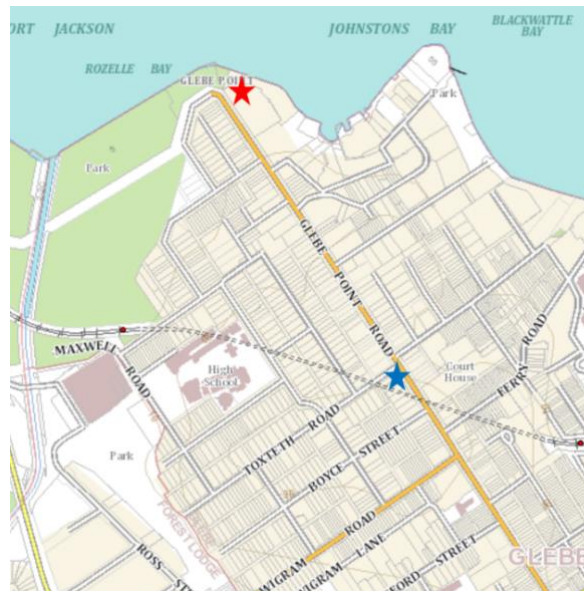


Figure 3: *Edith Villa* (blue star) and *Bayview* (red star) (Source: maps.six.nsw.gov.au, annotated by Rodney Hammett September 2023)

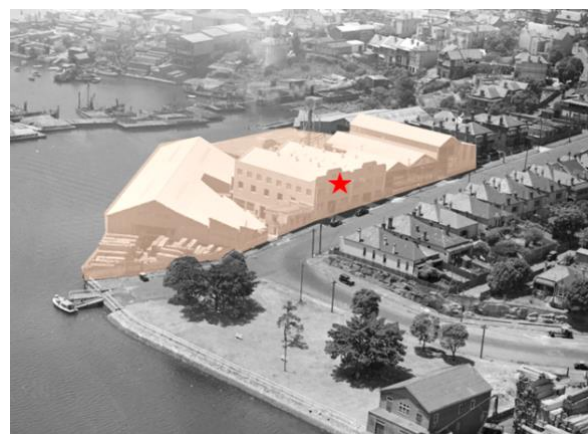


Figure 4: D. Hardy & Sons site, Glebe Point c. 1930. Location of *Bayview*, see red star. (Source: Photo: SLNSW FL8813730; annotated by Rodney Hammett October 2023)

During the research for this article, I found that a number of family historians have confused G. J. Wells with George Wells, a produce dealer, auctioneer and Glebe Alderman from 1878 to 1883. George Wells and his family lived in Forest Lodge, then at *Cityview* in Glebe Point Road (near the corner of St Johns Road) and then in Ferry Road, first at No 15 (now numbered No 55) then at No 34. He had been born in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England in 1832 and also married a Sarah (Sarah Goddard at Scots Church, Sydney on 29 October 1855) from which came a family of four daughters and eight sons. This Wells family also moved to Homebush in about 1901, where Sarah died in 1907 and George in 1909.

Notes:

1. The term 'inmate' was used in the 1900s and previously to describe a person who was staying (long or short term) at an establishment such as a hospital or an asylum. Today such a person would be described as a 'patient'.
2. *Trove; The Newsletter; an Australian Paper for Australian People* (Sydney); Sat 11 June 1904, p. 15.
3. See findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/objects/ND0000801.htm
4. See NSW LRS Vol 27 Fol 226
5. *Trove; Sydney Morning Herald*; Thu 4 January 1883, p. 11 [Advertising].
6. See NSW LRS Vol 746 Fol 250.
7. NSW LRS Book 166 No 745.
8. Lot 43 and part of Lot 44 in April 1881 (Vol 330 Fol 106 and Vol 490 Fol 69). These lots were part of the Mary Chisholm subdivision which commenced in 1873 (Vol 150 Fol 184).
9. *Trove; SMH* Tue 30 January 1833, p. 1.
10. *Trove; Evening News*; Wed 6 June 1883, p. 2 ['Our Noxious Trades'].
11. NSW LRS; Vol 532 Fol 76 (Glebe Point) and Vol 706 Fol 71 (Homebush).
12. *Trove; SMH* Thu 11 March 1920, p. 5 [Advertising for drainers and plumbers].

Update on Innovation and Ideas Grant: The Hill project

By Andrew Wood, convenor, Blue Wren subcommittee

At last, some good news – on Wednesday 15 November the final contract (*Approval Temporary Access over Council Land*) to permit the start of work on the Innovation and Ideas Grant was signed by the City of Sydney and the Society. It will enable the University of Sydney to commence its observations of fauna and flora on Glebe's Hill, located between the Tramsheds and the light rail line, and six other reference parks and reserves in the local government area. The Society will now transfer \$29,000 to the University's Integrative Ecology Group led by Professor Dieter Hochuli.

A contract between the City and the Society to permit the handover of Grant funds to the Society was signed in February, and a *Research Collaboration Agreement* between the Society and the University of Sydney was signed in April. The City awarded the Society the Grant, entitled 'Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential', in November last year and it took more than 200 email chains, corresponding to over 1,000 emails, to complete the three contracts associated with the Grant. In Spring next year, the University will give a report to the Society about its research findings and will also present their results at a public information session to be held at the Harold Park Community Hall.



Glebe's Hill, from across Johnstons Creek. (Image: Andrew Wood)

King Parrots discover Orphan School Creek

By Judy Christie, Blue Wren Subcommittee

Rarely seen in Glebe / Forest Lodge, a pair of Australian King Parrots has recently been feasting on the bright blue fruits of the native Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*) along the creek line of Orphan School Creek Reserve.

King Parrots are common on the North Shore, and are perhaps a more attractive and welcome visitor than that other newcomer to the Inner West, the Brush Turkey. King Parrots are people-friendly and happily visit backyards and balconies and these beautiful birds are not too fussy about the food provided, eating fruit, seeds or blossoms.

With the extensive native plantings in Orphan School Creek maturing and native trees in nearby parks flowering profusely, they may stay around to explore further.



Female King Parrot.
(Photo: Nina Koutts)



Male King Parrot.
(Photo: Nina Koutts)

Glebe's Blue Plaque Nominations, Part 20: Hartford, 244 Glebe Point Road

By Lyn Collingwood

The 20th site nominated in 2021 for a Blue Plaque is *Hartford* at 244 Glebe Point Road. It was built in 1898 by Edwin Randolph Magnus, a graduate of Philadelphia Dental College and named after his birthplace in Connecticut. *Hartford* contained multiple public rooms, five bedrooms and servants' quarters and within its extensive gardens were a conservatory, a bush house and a croquet court.

Some of the land has been lost but the grounds today are still very large and well kept. The house has been excellently preserved. On a brick gatepost is the nameplate *Hartford*.

Following the passing of the 1901 Dentists Act and the founding of Australia's first dental school by the University of Sydney, E. Randolph Magnus (his preferred name) with his younger brother Frank organised a committee to establish a dental hospital providing free oral care to those who could not afford it. They received donations of two dental chairs and a vulcaniser plus promises of money, but Magnus had to battle opponents of the scheme: the idea of treating patients for nothing was controversial.

Some saw the hospital as a threat to dentists in private practice. Others, however, supported the enterprise as of particular benefit to the poor who couldn't afford to pick and choose their foods, while some hoped it would increase numbers in the armed forces – volunteers were rejected because their teeth were bad and with bad teeth, they couldn't eat battlefield food.

The United Dental Hospital was officially opened in 1902. Edwin, Frank and Frank's son Everett were its chief honorary surgeons. In the first two years they treated over 12,000 people, mostly for extractions and fillings. In 1912 the enterprise relocated to Chalmers Street where it remains as the Sydney Dental Hospital. The philanthropic Magnus and his splendid home are both worthy of recognition.



Hartford is a fine example of the Queen Anne Federation style (Photo: realestate.com.au)



Edwin Magnus in the original four-room dental hospital, c. 1902.
(Photo: Report of United Dental Hospital 1903)

Submission regarding outdoor dining at hotels

By Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

The Society made a submission to the NSW Department of Planning consultation regarding changes utilising the complying development SEPP which would allow registered clubs and food and drink premises to use adjacent private land for outdoor dining through a complying development pathway, rather than having to submit a development application as is currently the case. Our submission focussed on hotels.

The complying development SEPP does not apply to all eight of Glebe and Forest Lodge's hotels because they are either heritage-listed or in heritage conservation areas. The Society's submission provides case studies of hotels which are located in the R1 residential land use zone or are on the edge of other land use zones but are surrounded by R1 residential land use zones which we believe will assist the department in their analysis.

View our submission at <https://tinyurl.com/2p84ned2>

In Focus: December photo competition

By the Editorial Team

There were some excellent entries in this month's photo competition. The judges had a tough job.

We liked Stephen Foster's play of light and shadow on the colonnade at the Burley Griffin incinerator.

Rodney Hammett's beautiful photo of fallen jacaranda leaves in Eglington Lane was a classic Glebe streetscape, and Phil Vergison's shot of the stained-glass window at the entrance of the Glebe Town Hall was a technical masterpiece. So, after due consideration the winner is ...



Rodney Hammett, Jacarandas, Eglington Lane, November 2023

Congratulations Rodney, you're the winner for December. And then another challenge for the judges – what is the overall best photo from the four monthly competitions held so far? The winner gets a free ticket to the Society's Christmas Gathering. Drum roll, please ...

The winner is Mary Regan's Photo 'Bridge, Park and Dog' from the September Competition.

The other entrants' photos can be viewed on our website at glebesociety.org.au/december23-photo-competition

The photo competition will resume in the New Year.



The overall best photo from the four monthly competitions held so far was Mary Regan's photo 'Bridge, Park and Dog'.



Players in the Pub

Next Players in the Pub

Originally scheduled for October, the COVID-postponed production of J.M. Barrie's 'The Admirable Crichton' will now play at 7pm Tuesday 19 December.

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.

Upstairs at *The Harold*. 70A Ross Street Forest Lodge. Entry by donation





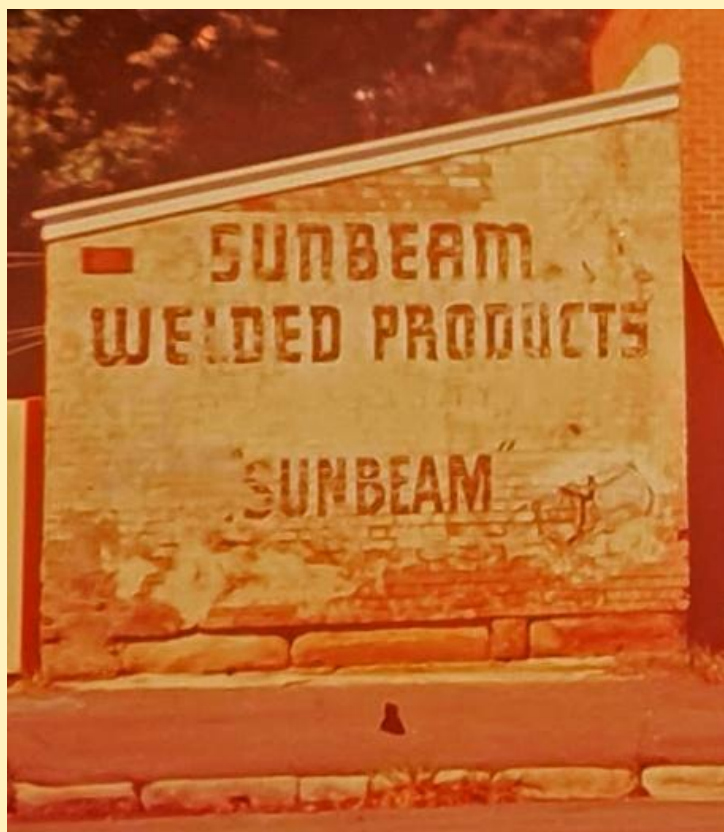
Glass Artists' Gallery



Greetings from Glass Artists' Gallery, amidst the ongoing building changes from 60-70 Glebe Point Road we can assure you that we remain in our upstairs gallery at 68 Glebe Point Road.

We have a wide array of works by artists working in Australia and New Zealand, ranging from one-off contemporary pieces to studio productions.

Upstairs Level 1, 68 Glebe Point Road | 02 9552 1552
Wed - Sat 11am-5pm | Email for any other appointment times
mail@glassartistsgallery.com.au | Ring doorbell for entry



December Mystery Photo

by Lyn Collingwood

**Where was this sign?
It's now painted over**

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

Correct guesses will be published in the March edition of the *Bulletin*.

Last month's (November) mystery photo

John Lagerlow and Susan Berry recognised the location of the panels as the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, as did Fiona Campbell who elaborated: 'The eight walls of the Hall of Service display soil from 1,701 NSW towns, cities, suburbs and homesteads given as home addresses by First World War enlistees'.



For your calendar

Tuesday 19 December,
7pm

Players in the Pub. *The Admirable Crichton* by J.M. Barrie.
The Harold 70A Ross Street Forest Lodge. Entry by donation.



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		How to join
Individual member:	\$45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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
Joint (two people, one address):	\$55	
Household:	\$60	
Concession (student or pensioner):	\$20	
Institution or corporate:	\$110	
Additional donation welcome.		

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