

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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## Wentworth Park Revisited

*By Ted McKeown*

It is somehow comforting to know that neither side of state politics has a monopoly on hare-brained schemes regarding Wentworth Park.

Back in July 2016, the Liberal Premier of New South Wales, Mike Baird, made the 'brave' decision to ban greyhound racing in this State, a decision that would, of course, have led to the closure of the greyhound track at Wentworth Park. In this context, he mused that the government might build a 14,000-seat indoor stadium on the park, having demolished the Entertainment Centre at Darling Harbour while failing to replace it with a venue that could host sports like basketball.

In my capacity as the former chairman of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust, I was asked by Jacob Saulwick of the *Sydney Morning Herald* what my reaction was to this apparent embarrassing own-goal by the government, to which I responded (perhaps inadvisedly since my response was published), 'Stiff shit'. I stand by the sentiment, if not the expression.



*Wentworth Park at dusk (by Phil Vergison)*

The government also toyed with the idea of building a school in the park. It did so, but only a temporary one – to house the children from Ultimo Public School, and then the children from Fort Street Public School, while their schools were rebuilt. That temporary structure has now been removed.

The decision to ban greyhound racing was rescinded in October 2016 before it ever came into effect.

Through all this, the constant leitmotif was that the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) would vacate Wentworth Park no later than 2027 when its licence expires. This was apparently accepted by GBOTA, presumably because it could see the writing on the wall for metropolitan greyhound racing – attendance on race nights at Wentworth Park has fallen to virtually nothing, and those that attend are principally breeders, owners and trainers of greyhounds. The then Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, did commit to converting the

greyhound track to 'newly activated, publicly accessible open space as part of a larger and enhanced parkland'. But the future of the greyhound infrastructure itself, with its hideous and practically useless grandstand, was left up in the air.

As a reminder, Wentworth Park is Crown Land, having been proclaimed as a public park in 1885. The *Blackwattle Bay Land Reclamation Act 1873* (as amended in 1888) provided for the reclamation of the swamp land at the head of Blackwattle Bay, which was to be 'set apart and dedicated *in perpetuity* for a park or place of public recreation.' It is still a public park and, as far as I can tell, we have not reached 'perpetuity' yet. This is in no way diminished by the presence of the greyhound track, or the fact that 90% of the grandstand is in truth a commercial office building in a public park.

Fast forward to February 2024, and we now have a State Labor government, and here we go again. If we can believe the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 22 February, all the decisions taken by the former government are now off the table. Instead:

- *the Lands and Property Minister, Steve Kamper, is apparently reconsidering the future of the park, including 'the continuity of some form of racing 'and the introduction of 'other activities'; and*
- *the GBOTA is apparently having second thoughts about leaving Wentworth Park, since the government has not found it an alternative site, or presumably the funds (said to be in the order of \$100 million!) to move.*

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, is quoted as saying:

*Wentworth Park sits in the middle of one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Australia and is dominated by a greyhound racing track. This parkland should be for the benefit of the community, not an industry that has admitted to killing 17,000 healthy dogs each year, has been shown to live-bait, and causes problem gamblers real suffering.*

*It would be bitterly disappointing if the government backed down, indicating the greyhound industry is more important to them than the community of Pyrmont/Ultimo.*

This is a sentiment with which we heartily agree, except perhaps that the reference to Pyrmont/Ultimo should be a reference to Glebe/Pyrmont/Ultimo. Wentworth Park is and always has been in Glebe, and is a jewel in our crown, although we are happy to share it with Pyrmont and Ultimo.

Oh well, back to the barricades!



## From the President

*By Duncan Leys*

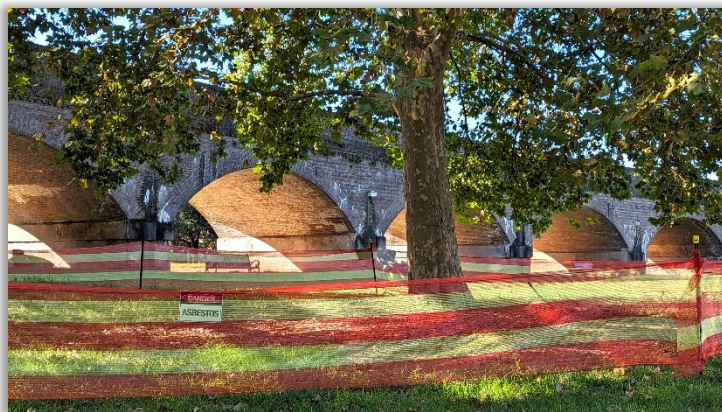
2024 is proving to be a challenging year.

WestConnex is now the subject of a NSW Upper House inquiry, and the Society is working on a submission. In my most recent President's Update, I asked members for their feedback on WestConnex, and we want to hear from you.

When I last wrote, I thought we had reached the limit of green spaces in our area that could be roped off due to possible asbestos contamination. More of Glebe and Forest Lodge have been roped off since. We have yet to hear of the source of the contamination or when the sites will be cleaned up.

The State Government's proposed changes to zoning laws around transport hubs and the Low- and Mid-Rise Housing State Environmental Planning Policy (LMRH SEPP) have unified community opposition across diverse councils and community groups, not merely those from the inner suburbs. The Society has lodged a submission with the Department of Planning.

It has been reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that developers are approaching homeowners in Glebe, offering to buy their properties at above-market prices, presumably to consolidate sites for high-rise development. Given that the land costs will be significant, it is hard to see how the apartments that might be built could be classed as affordable.



*An area within Wentworth Park roped off, with a 'Danger - Asbestos' sign (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)*





*The new Sydney Fish Market in mid-March (Photo: Phil Vergison)*

Regarding the new Sydney Fish Market (SFM), the State Government has recently announced that the amount of car parking will be similar to that for the old Fish Market. This is code for saying there will be less parking at the new SFM. Given that the traffic, parking and public transport plan is not ready for public release, one cannot be confident the new SFM will open without controversy. What is certain is that the congestion around the new SFM will be worse than it is now.

The conservation work on *Bidura* was due to start by 1 March 2024. The Society will write to the developers asking for an update on the conservation work.

There has been a development regarding the Glebe Island Bridge. One of our members alerted us to a request for tender from Transport for NSW seeking expressions of interest for proposals to restore the Glebe Island Bridge. Our local member, Kobi Shetty, has agreed to seek clarification on the tender, particularly the aims and potential outcomes. The Society wants to see the Glebe Island Bridge returned to full working order and available for public access.

This will be our new editor Tim Hesketh's second *Bulletin*, and I want to thank Tim who, with the *Bulletin* team, is making a great fist of his new role.

The three new convenors who joined the management committee, Cheryl Leckstrom (Community Liaison), Janet Oakley (Transport and Traffic) and John Sergeant (Bays and Foreshores), are off to a great start, showing initiative, energy and creativity.

The 2024 Glebe Society Guided Walks Program features three walks in the first half of the year which reflect significant events affecting our community around 50 years ago.

- *The setting up of Elsie refuge in March 1974. The history of Elsie, the first women's refuge in Australia, is a focus of the Radical Glebe guided walk on 14 April.*
- *The purchase by the Whitlam Government of the 'Glebe Lands' in 1974. Max Solling will lead a walk on 25 May through the streets and lanes of St Phillips and Bishophorpe (much of the area between St Johns Road and Broadway).*
- *The publication in 1973 of 'The Architectural Character of Glebe' by Bernard and Kate Smith. Many of the houses in the Toxteth Estate, pictured in the book, are included in the Late Victorian Streetscapes walk led by Katharine Vernon and Jan Macindoe to be held on 10 April.*

Our Guided Walks are proving very popular, often booked out soon after the program's publication. The number of places available for each Walk varies depending on the Walk's character and the leader's preference, so do get in early to be sure of a place. The second half of the year offers interesting options, including a bus visit to the Rookwood Cemetery and a walk from Victoria Park to Wentworth Park following the old waterways. More details will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

Best regards,

*Duncan Leys*

## Planning Matters

*By Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor*

### Presentations

The Society has recently made the following presentations to planning authorities:

**82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe:** To the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel Committee on 13 December 2023. The application was approved. See the above article.

**20 and 22 Forest Street, Forest Lodge:** Land and Environment Court conciliation conference regarding the proposed demolition of two Contributory houses in the Hereford and Forest Lodge Heritage Conservation Area.

### Submissions to City of Sydney

**335-341 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, D/2023/1142:** The proposal included replacing a glazed shop front with a roller shutter door. Pleasingly, the application was amended to delete the roller shutter and have glazed concertina doors instead (view our submission at [D/2023/1142](#))

**6 Forest Street, Forest Lodge, D/2024/96:** Application to add an attic and change the windows and doors on the front elevation of 6 Forest Street and to erect a new three-storey addition on the site of the garage which adjoins the house located in the Hereford and Forest Lodge Heritage Conservation Area (view our submission at [D/2024/96](#)).

**43 Toxteth Road, Glebe, D/2022/673/A:** Section 4.56 modification to a development consent granted by the NSW Land and Environment Court. Proposed amendments involve the reinstatement of the external wall and roof of the western rear wing, and a change in roof material for the addition (view our submission at [D/2022/673/A](#)).

**274-276 Glebe Point Road, Glebe (former Wesley Lodge), D/2019/1470/B:** Section 4.55(2) modification of consent to replace approved planter boxes with privacy screens, relocate fire booster cabinet with associated tree removals, changes to store rooms and south-western wall of substation, reduction in solar panels and extension to roof plant area (view our submission at [D/2019/1470/B](#)).



Numbers 20 and 22 Forest St, Forest Lodge (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

## Determinations – City of Sydney

**181 St Johns Road, Glebe:** The application for the demolition of an early cottage at 181 St Johns Road Glebe, was rejected by the Local Planning Panel on 13 December 2024. The reasons are set out in the notice of determination which can be accessed using the [City of Sydney DA tracker](#).



181 St Johns Road in May last year (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

**56A Allen Street, Glebe, D/2023/790:** The DA for demolition of rear garage and utility room and construction of two new unit dwellings was refused. The reasons are set out in the notice of determination which can be accessed using the City of Sydney DA tracker.

## Submissions to the State Government

‘Diverse and Well-Located Homes SEPP’, Planning NSW, on 23 February 2024. This SEPP allows for six-storey buildings in much of Glebe and four-storey buildings in the rest. It represents the most serious threat to Glebe’s heritage and identity in the last four decades and is not the best way of increasing the supply of housing in a mature, high-density suburb.

‘The Crown Lands Act review’, on 19 March, 2024.

## 82 Wentworth Park Road Glebe DA approved

*By Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor*

On 13 December last, the City of Sydney Local Planning Panel approved the NSW Land and Housing Corporation’s development application (DA) to demolish the 1980s public housing complex at 82 Wentworth Park Road and replace it with a new building. The Society advocated that better results would be achieved in reducing public housing waiting lists, minimising disruption to long-term tenants, for the environment, heritage and financially by retaining the existing building and erecting a new building at the rear.

The deliberations of the panel are of particular interest. Section 4.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act constrains Local Planning panels by stipulating that:

(1) A consent authority (other than the Minister) must not—

- (a) refuse its consent to a Crown development application, except with the approval of the Minister, or
- (b) impose a condition on its consent to a Crown development application, except with the approval of the applicant or the Minister.

For these reasons, it is unusual for Local Planning Panels not to approve development applications by the Crown.



It says much for the poor quality of the DA that two members of the panel declined to give consent. Architect and town planner John McInerney, the panel's Community Representative, said

*the current legislation does not allow this committee to refuse this application. But it does not stop us doing nothing, in other words, not approving it ... we're allowed to do that legally. Subsequently, the minister may in fact make his own decisions and do other things, but the option is before us not to approve it. And I think that is in fact the proper way for us to go at this stage. Mainly in my thinking because of what is the destruction of a perfectly good building, double brick houses or residences which had been there for 43 years. Someone [the architect John Gregory who designed the building] said we've got a future of even 100 years more there. Why demolish those? Why go through the whole destruction of the embodied energy in those houses and the energy required both to demolish and rebuild? So that essentially is my major objection.*



82 Wentworth Park Road (Photo: Tim Hesketh)

Brendan Randles, Expert Member, said:

*I've heard lots of intelligent reasons why we should be renovating and adding on that site. I think it's better for the streetscape. It's a better imperative for Glebe to have these familiar buildings, these neutral buildings, retained. I agree with John about the really pressing sustainability issues of demolishing and building. The new building has numerous non-compliance. I'll just run through a little logical step here. Site constraints and SEPP, LEP and DCP requirements reduce site capacity. Reduced site capacity impacts on feasibility, especially potential unit numbers. Reduced unit numbers, therefore, impacts significantly on comparisons with the renovation option. So I actually think there is a feasibility exercise that, especially regarding public money and housing the most needy in our community and how we can do it most effectively, that should be undertaken. But also I especially agree with John that it's tragic that the building has been rundown and all these apartments sitting there empty amongst a whole lot of homeless people – and the idea that we would add another two or three years to that travesty when we don't need to, I just cannot support.*

Megan Jones, Expert Member said:

*In my normal position I also work in adaptive reuse and conservation of buildings having studied this area. However, I do support the proposal. Notwithstanding that it demolishes a 35 year old building. I know the pain of this exercise and I'm not going to comment on the department's management at all, because that's not part of my remit. My remit is to talk about the planning proposal. I support the proposal for mainly the following reasons. It generally meets the objectives of the DCP, the SEPP and it provides additional social housing in the area. And it also meets design excellence. So, for those reasons and the reasons that are set out in the report, I support the proposal.*

Abigail Goldberg, Chair, said:

*I note that this has been to Council's Design Excellence Committee and that it has met the standards of design excellence as set out by that committee. I'd like to acknowledge the distress and the pain of the residents who are on that site and obviously who have had to move to other locations, so in recognising that, take account of the pain that's obviously arisen out of that but I do support council's recommendation because I am very much in favour of social housing and as much additional social housing as we can introduce into an area where there is a very strong need for it. As I do have a casting vote as this is a panel of four, that does mean that the application is approved.*

## **The costs of refurbishment and extension compared to demolition and rebuild**

Members may have read Anthony Segear's article 'Glebe state housing residents push back against housing rebuild' in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 5 January 2024, which reported that the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure had reviewed the Society's scheme and concluded that the community proposal would cost \$25.7 million compared to the department's \$25.6 million. The article also misleadingly compared the number of flats, not the number of bedrooms. The Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) scheme includes studio apartments and therefore results in a higher dwelling count. The LAHC scheme produces only one additional public housing bedroom, is a great deal more expensive and actually reduces the supply of public housing for several years.

Hands off Glebe received an email from LAHC only three hours before the Local Planning Panel met on 13 December, which set out the basis of the claim that it was cheaper to demolish and rebuild than to refurbish and extend. The email didn't actually include the quantity surveyor's report. This has been requested but, at the time of writing, has not been received.

A commitment was given at a technical meeting in early October to respond within a month. It is tempting to think that, by not honouring their undertaking, they were following W.C. Fields' famous dictum 'Never give a sucker an even break', but it's probably just indicative of the value they place on community, which is rather sad given they are responsible for housing the most vulnerable in our society. Their response was all over the place, clutching at every straw to make their scheme appear better and cheaper.

It is important to cut through the obfuscation and come back to first principles. What is the principal objective of the undertaking? Surely, it's to address the public housing crisis in the quickest way possible. This is best achieved by using the existing 17 dwelling, 27-bedroom complex on the site to house homeless people now!

LAHC's arguments are full of fallacies:

*Fallacy Number One* is that three-bedroom accommodation is not needed and therefore must be demolished. The complex actually comprises five three-bedroom terraces and 12 one-bedroom apartments. They claim there is high demand for one-bedroom flats, but they are going to demolish those too!



82 Wentworth Park Road, viewed from Bellevue Street (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

*Fallacy Number Two* is that every public housing complex must have lifts and level thresholds, and if they don't, they must be demolished. If the government accepts this logic, they will be presiding over the greatest reduction of public housing in our state's history, as most public housing does not have lifts and level thresholds, and they are not needed for the majority of public housing tenants.

*Fallacy Number Three* is to burden retention of the present building with costs that don't apply, such as saying a new DA would be required, a lift is needed and so on. You don't need a DA to send the painter in. That is what LAHC should be doing now so that, by the start of April, people can be moved into the building.

*Fallacy Number Four* is to say the alternative scheme does not comply with the planning codes and that the LAHC scheme does. The LAHC scheme is higher than the code allows, does not meet minimum standards of sunlight in a number of apartments, does not comply with requirements for landscape and common open space, provides no parking, does not fit in with the Heritage Conservation Area and has a negative impact on views. Our scheme is better on all counts.

*Fallacy Number Five* is to imply the LAHC scheme greatly increases the supply of public housing by comparing the number of dwellings. In fact, it provides only one additional public housing bedroom!

*Fallacy Number Six* is to imply that the LAHC scheme is the best way of reducing public housing waiting lists. It isn't; because it actually reduces the amount of public housing for several years. The LAHC scheme increases the waiting list.

*Fallacy Number Seven* is that demolition is cheaper than refurbishment and extension. This is only achieved by loading the alternative with fabricated costs.

*Fallacy Number Eight* is that a well-built building from the 1980s that has stood the test of time will have higher maintenance costs. Try telling that one to the people at Mascot Towers, Lachlan's Line at Macquarie Park, the Mezzo Development in Wentworth Park Road, Glebe, and the owners of 841 new houses erected by Lend Lease in Jordan Springs, which are to be demolished due to subsidence.

The real problem lies with the de-skilling of the public service. In the 1980s, the NSW Housing Commission employed public servant architects who restored the old houses in the Glebe estates, healed the damage wrought by the Department of Main Roads demolitions in the Lyndhurst estate with sympathetic new houses and designed sensitive infill on sites like 82 Wentworth Park Road which fitted in with Glebe historic streets. They added over 1,000 public housing bedrooms to Glebe. The Commission also employed salaried tradespeople to keep their properties in good order.

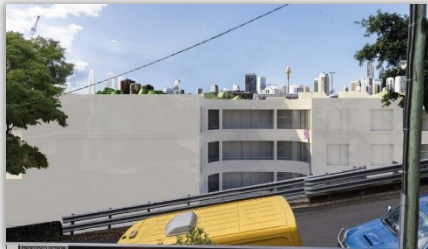
The NSW Housing Act of 2001 established the NSW LAHC. The Corporation was based on the idea that architects and tradespeople were not core skills needed by the organisation. The consequences have been poor maintenance and the wasteful and disruptive approach that it's better to demolish and rebuild than repair. The present Minister for Housing, Minister Rose Jackson, has commenced the process of developing a more able and responsive public housing bureaucracy with the creation of Homes NSW, which was launched in February. It is hoped that Homes NSW will follow the model of the old Housing Commission and recognise that its core skills involve employing public servant architects and tradespeople.



This terrible scheme for 82 Wentworth Park Road is the legacy of the discredited NSW LAHC. Across the world there is recognition that public housing should be refurbished and extended and not demolished because it's better for tenants and the environment.

The City of Sydney supports this approach. On 11 December 2023, they passed a motion commending the community's alternative vision for 82 Wentworth Park Road and asking that the Lord Mayor write to the NSW Minister for Housing requesting consideration of upgrading and refurbishing buildings over demolition in LAHC redevelopments, including at 82 Wentworth Park Road.

The LAHC proposal also highlights inadequacies in the heritage controls in Development Control Plans. Figures 1-6 below compare the existing Neutral building (Figures 4 and 5) and the new building (Figures 1, 3 and 6) as well as the Hector Abrahams proposal for extending the site (Figure 2).



*Figure 1: The western elevation of the LAHC scheme has an incongruous flat roof and blocks distant views from Bellevue Street (image: City of Sydney)*



*Figure 2: The western elevation of the Abrahams scheme has a pitched roof which echoes the terrace house form and is stepped down at the centre to preserve views (image: Hector Abrahams Architects)*



*Figure 3: The eastern elevation of the LAHC scheme viewed from Wentworth Park is incongruous and monolithic (image: City of Sydney)*

The Development Control Plan and the Heritage Inventory Report for the Heritage Conservation Area say that new development should:

- *Retain scale*
- *Retain pattern of forms*
- *Respect building line, scale, form and roof pitch of significant development in the vicinity*
- *Protect the close and distant views which are important to the character of Glebe.*

The existing building and the Abrahams infill proposal do this, while the LAHC development does not. The problem is that Heritage Impact Statements are commissioned by applicants (there is a clear conflict of interest in the way the system works) and, not surprisingly, claims the new building is compatible with the Heritage Conservation Area.

### **Deferred approval**

The LAHC scheme was given a deferred approval in order to allow them to do more work on drainage. Interestingly, the LAHC criticised the Abrahams concept for not resolving hydrology. In dealing with government DAs, it appears that what's sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander.

There is still time to achieve a rationale outcome: to use the 17 flats on the site to house the homeless now, and add additional density at the rear.



*Figure 4: The eastern elevation of the existing John Gregory-designed building is a contemporary interpretation of the terrace houses of the Heritage Conservation Area, rising up the escarpment (image: Ian Stephenson)*



*Additional Figure: the three public housing properties built in the mid-1980s, sensitively sited within the natural and built landscape (Image: Ian Stephenson)*



Figure 5: The John Gregory-designed 82 Wentworth Park Road is part of an ensemble of three buildings which were carefully designed to echo the rhythm of Glebe's steep roofed terraces rising up the escarpment from Wentworth Park (image: Ian Stephenson)



Figure 6: The LAHC scheme has none of the sophistication and subtlety of John Gregory's work, and will be an obtrusive element in the Lyndhurst Conservation Area (image: Ian Stephenson)

## Who lived in your street? Christina Clark (c. 1840-1921)

By Lyn Collingwood

In 1898-9, the widowed Christina Clark bought two lots in the Toxteth House Estate from George Boyce Allen, together with right-of-way access to their rear on the northern side of Arcadia Road. Like other Toxteth Park subdivisions, a caveat stipulated that any new structures were to be of stone or brick and for private, not commercial, use. By the turn of the century, two-storey semi-detached 12 and 14 Arcadia Road were completed. In 1904, Christina's elder son bought land adjacent to his mother's property. Here, he built 16 Arcadia Road, a more modest residence. The three houses remained in the Clark family's possession for decades.

Christina Clark and her shipwright husband Robert had migrated from Peterhead, Scotland, to Sydney by 1868 when their daughter Sarah was born (she died the following year). Mary and James were also born in the colony. The couple's other children were Jane, Robert and Eliza Hutchinson and Margaret May.

Robert Clark senior died aged 54 on 24 October 1891. His widow survived until 31 August 1921, dying at age 81 at *Cambridge*, Cavendish Street, Stanmore. Both were buried in Waverley Cemetery, the final resting place of other members of the family.

After Christina's death, joint ownership of 12 and 14 Arcadia Road passed to her sons. The titles were split in 1928.

### **Christina Clark's descendants**

JANE CLARK. Born c. 1866 and known as Jenny, she married accountant John Albert Aubin in 1886. John Charlton was born the next year, followed by Clement Norman in 1889, twins Hilda Jane and Wilfred Oswald in 1891 (Wilfred died as a baby), and Vera Dorothy in 1901. The couple bought a small lot in Section 9 of the Lyndhurst College Estate but do not appear to have built there. They lived at Chatswood (John Aubin was a Willoughby Council alderman) before settling at *Valencia*, 3 Toxteth Road, Glebe, where Jane died on 25 February 1937.



In Melbourne in 1925, Jane's daughter Vera divorced Charles Frederick Tall, her senior by 33 years. The annulment was quickly obtained on the grounds that Tall was an uncle by marriage; Vera reverted to her maiden name.

**ROBERT CLARK.** Born c. 1867, Robert lived with his mother, sister Margaret and brother James in 14 Arcadia Road before his marriage to Catherine Hutchison at Wallsend in 1903. Three years later, the couple moved into newly-built number 16, where they raised their two sons (Robert Pratt and George Hutchison, born in 1904 and 1906, respectively) and where they lived before shifting to 17 Avenue Road, a house purchased by Catherine Clark in 1926. Robert senior, a timekeeper, died at age 67 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on 23 August 1934. His widow inherited 16 Arcadia Road.

Robert Pratt and George Hutchison were State civil servants. The former joined the Police Department in 1921 as a junior clerk; in 1930, he was transferred to the Road Transport Office. George worked in the Registrar-General's Department.

In 1957, Catherine Clark transferred both 17 Avenue Road and 16 Arcadia Road to her elder son. In 1960, the latter property was sold to Walter Hudson Chislett,\* and his wife Lillian Maud, ending the Clarks' near six-decade connection. Robert Pratt Clark died in 1982, after which Robert Earl Stuart Clark became the new owner of 17 Avenue Road.

**ELIZA HUTCHINSON CLARK.** In 1898, Eliza married locksmith Charles Frederick Tall in St Andrew's Cathedral. Their daughter Dorothy Edna was born in Glebe three years later. A year after Eliza's death at Manly in 1923, her 56-year-old widower wed her 23-year-old niece. The marriage was soon annulled. Tall died in 1941.



12-16 Arcadia Road today (Photo: Phil Young)



12-16 Arcadia Rd c. 1970

**MARY CLARK.** Born in Sydney in 1870, Mary married shipwright Joseph Bilbe in 1897. They settled at Drummoyne. In 1928, Mary became the new owner of 12 Arcadia Road. Following her death on 16 March 1946, the property was transferred to the eldest of her four sons: Leslie Thomas Bilbe, Senior Inspector of Plant Diseases with the NSW Department of Agriculture.

In 1956, 12 Arcadia Road's connection with the Clark family ceased when Leslie Bilbe sold the property to tram conductor Alfredo Sulligoi and his wife Valeria. Until 2003 the couple were documented as occupants of the house, which, for most of its life, had been rented out. (Surveyor's assistant Arthur Barrell Faunce and his descendants were there from 1910 until at least 1940.)

The Sulligois had arrived in Australia from Italy in 1954 on the *Toscana* with their young son Livio. Educated at Fort Street Boys' High and a BSc graduate of the University of Sydney, Livio joined the Glebe Society in 1979.

MARGARET MAY CLARK. Known as Maggie, Margaret lived with her mother at 14 Arcadia Road before her marriage in 1908 to Alfred Sydney Sawyer. The wedding, at St Enoch's Presbyterian Church, Newtown, was written up in the newspapers. Margaret Sawyer died at Marrickville in 1964.

JAMES CLARK. Christina's youngest child was born in Sydney in 1872. His given occupation was 'ruler'. James lived at 14 Arcadia Road with his mother, sister Maggie and brother Robert before his marriage in 1905 to Ellen Florence Taylor. When he inherited 12 and 14 Arcadia Road jointly with his brother in 1922, James was working as a hairdresser. For a period in the 1920s, 14 Arcadia Road was known as *Ravenscraig* and during the Depression it was sublet. In 1933, a tenant Mrs Elsie Gorman won first prize of £5,000 in a State lottery.

Survived by his wife and three daughters, James died on 14 June 1934 at what was then numbered 351 Glebe Point Road. The given occupation of both Ellen and James was 'residential proprietor'. James' widow subsequently married David William James at Marrickville, and died aged 67 on 21 April 1947.

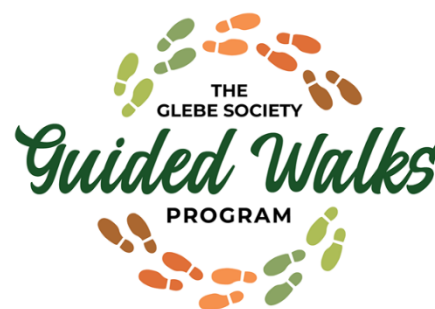
In 1935, 14 Arcadia Road was put up for auction and bought for £1,075 by Ellen Clark's nieces-in-law Hilda and Vera Aubin, who continued to rent it out. Following the sisters' deaths in 1977 and 1978, the house was sold to milk vendor Leon Claude Gadge in 1980, severing an eight-decade connection with the Clark family. (In 2014, the four-bedroom residence was bought for just under \$2 million.)

\* Walter Chislett was the son of 'Old Chis', curator of the University of Sydney Oval from 1879 until his death in 1933.

**Sources:** National Archives of Australia; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Land Titles Office; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; NSW State Records; Sands *Directories*; Trove website.

## Glebe Society Guided Walks 2024

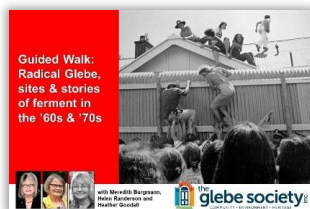
By Dorothy Davis, Guided Walks Coordinator



### Walks calendar, April–June

Descriptions of each of these Walks are provided in the next section.

Sunday 14 April  
2–4 pm



#### Radical Glebe: revisiting the sites & stories of radical ferment in the '60s and '70s

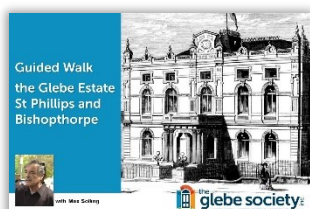
**Leaders:** Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson, Heather Goodall

**Meeting place:** outside Gleebooks (re-opened following renovation), 49 Glebe Point Road

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

**Bookings:** [eventbrite.com.au/radical-glebe](https://eventbrite.com.au/radical-glebe)

Saturday 25 May  
2–4 pm



#### The Glebe Estate: St Phillips and Bishopthorpe

**Leader:** Max Solling

**Meeting place:** front of Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Road, Glebe

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

**Bookings:** [eventbrite.com.au/st-phillips-and-bishopthorpe](https://eventbrite.com.au/st-phillips-and-bishopthorpe)

Sunday 16 June  
2–4 pm



#### The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay

**Leader:** Ian Stephenson

**Meeting place:** Victoria Park, Parramatta Road, near University gatehouse, opposite Derwent Street

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

**Bookings:** see next *Bulletin*.



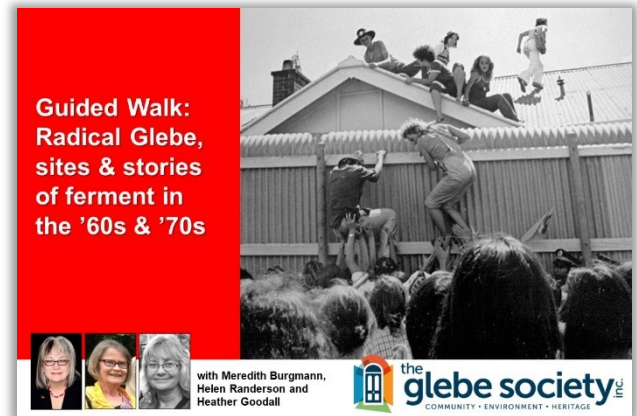
## Upcoming Guided Walks

### **Radical Glebe – revisiting the sites and stories of radical ferment in the '60s & '70s**

This walk, first held in 2022, is being repeated by popular demand. And this year is the perfect time because 2024 marks 50 years since the opening of Elsie's women's refuge, the first women's refuge in Australia.

This guided walk, led by Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson and Heather Goodall – all Glebe residents and well-known social activists and researchers – will look at sites and stories of radical ferment in Glebe in the '60s and '70s: gay rights, green ban protests and squatter action, Sydney Anarchists, Women's Liberation movement and *Elsie*, anti-Vietnam protests, and many more. This Walk, first held in 2022, is being repeated by popular demand.

This walk is fully booked, but you can join the waiting list. If a place becomes available, we'll contact you to see if you'd like to join us. To register for the waiting list, go to [eventbrite.com.au/radical-glebe](https://eventbrite.com.au/radical-glebe).



### **The Glebe Estate – St Phillips and Bishopthorpe**

2024 marks 50 years since the Whitlam Government purchased the 'Glebe Lands', i.e. much of the area bounded by St Johns Road and Broadway.

The Glebe Society played a key role in campaigning for this significant part of old Sydney's heritage to be preserved, thus enabling families who had lived here for generations to remain as an intact community. The intervention by the Whitlam Government prevented the demolition of many Glebe houses and the dispersal of their inhabitants.

Max Solling will lead this walk, which traces some of the early European settlement in 'The Glebe' and its later subdivision into small allotments in St Phillips in 1842 and Bishopthorpe in 1856.

Max's guided walks are always popular; he shares his deep knowledge of Glebe's history through engaging stories of past events and people.

Bookings: [eventbrite.com.au/st-phillips-and-bishopthorpe](https://eventbrite.com.au/st-phillips-and-bishopthorpe)



### **The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay**

Starting in Victoria Park, this walk will include the site of the headwaters of Blackwattle Bay, Glebe's earliest urban development on what we now know as Broadway, then through various hidden sites to the late 19th-century gardenesque layout of Wentworth Park, finishing at the Kauri Hotel in Bridge Road.

This walk is led by Ian Stephenson, former Glebe Society president. Details of the walk will be in the next *Bulletin*.

### **Bus trip to Rookwood Cemetery**

*Early July*

*with Max Solling and Duncan Leys*

Rookwood is the final resting place of many notable former Glebe residents. Max Solling and Glebe Society president Duncan Leys will accompany us by bus to Rookwood Cemetery to visit graves relevant to the history of Glebe and Forest Lodge.

The bus trip is planned for early July. Details will be provided in the next *Bulletin*.

## Possible walks for the second half of 2024

- *Discovering Ultimo: industrial and warehouse buildings and renewal*
- *Glebe's St James' and St John's churches*
- *Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge*
- *A ferry trip to Woolwich and walk through Kelly's Bush, the site of the first 'green bans'*

## Glebe Music Festival and Autumn Concert

By E. David McIntosh, Artistic Director, Glebe Music Festival

The 35th Annual Glebe Music Festival will be held from Friday 8 November to Sunday 24 November. Program details may be seen at [www.glebe-music-festival.com](http://www.glebe-music-festival.com).

### Special Autumn Concert: Duo Evocaciones

This month, there will be a special autumn concert by Duo Evocaciones featuring Martina Biondi (cello) and Pietro Locatto (guitar). They will perform works by Spanish composers, including Albéniz and De Falla.

#### Program

- *Enrique Granados (Lleida, 1867 - Canale della Manica, 1916): Intermezzo da 'Goyescas'*
- *Isaac Albéniz (Camprodon, 1860 - Cambo-les-Bains, 1909): Granada, n. 1 dalla 'Suite Española' op. 47, Cordoba, n. 4 da 'Cantos de España' op. 232*
- *Gaspar Cassadó (Barcellona, 1897 - Madrid, 1966): Requiebros*
- *Manuel De Falla (Cadice, 1876 - Alta Gracia, 1946): Siete canciones populares españolas*
- *Enrique Granados (Lleida, 1867 - Canale della Manica, 1916): Oriental, n. 2 da 'Doce danzas españolas' op. 37, Andaluza, n. 5 da 'Doce danzas españolas' op. 37, Elegia eterna*
- *Manuel De Falla (Cadice, 1876 - Alta Gracia, 1946): Danza ritual del fuego, da 'El amor brujo'*

#### Concert Details

**Time and date:** 3 pm, Sunday 21 April

**Location:** Margaretta Cottage, 6 Leichhardt Street, Glebe (disabled entrance at 18A Cook St)

**Cost:** \$20, including afternoon tea. Bookings essential.

**Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMBA>

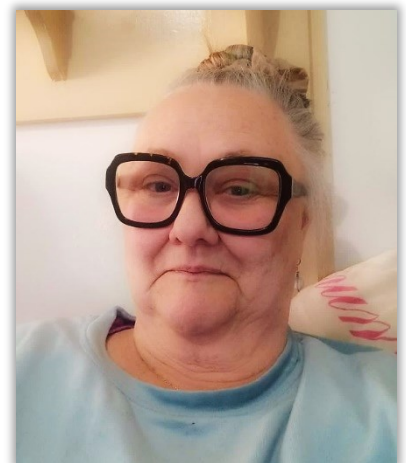
## Meet the new Community Liaison Convenor

My name is Cheryl Leckstrom and I have recently been appointed as Convenor of the Glebe Society's Community Liaison Subcommittee.

I have been retired for 11 years now. I retired early, giving me time to undertake many voluntary positions, which I enjoy. Most of my volunteer work has been through my affiliation with the Salvation Army, of which I am a soldier. I volunteer in the areas of drug, alcohol and gambling rehabilitation. I lived in Darwin for 30 years, Perth for six years and Townsville for five years. For the past four years I have lived with my family in Glebe.

My background, education and personal achievements are a combination of:

- *general nursing;*
- *safety, health, environment and quality management;*
- *developing safety management systems and implementing strategies to meet compliance;*
- *as a registered lead auditor for safety, health and quality systems;*
- *lecturer at Northern Territory University in my chosen field of expertise; and*
- *beauty therapy*





I have had an interesting life, filled with highs and lows; widowed with two grown sons, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

I am a convenor of Glebe Memory Makers which runs on a Wednesday at the Old Fire Station in Mitchell Street, Glebe. We are an arts, craft and scrapbooking group. We have community members who just like to sit and knit or crochet, or just have a nice hot cuppa in a safe and secure environment. My most recent project has been to amalgamate the Roomies Art group and Common Ground. Roomies arts supports artists to participate fully in professional art practice including exhibitions, commissions, mentorship and professional development. Roomies is a not-for-profit independent arts organisation that connects people with mental health concerns and disability. Roomies works to remove barriers so that artists can participate fully, and the community can benefit from experiencing diverse creative voices.

I am organised, efficient and hard working. I am always open to new ideas which can be put into practice effectively. I love listening to people and learning from them. I communicate well with groups and individuals. I am able to motivate others and direct my talents and skills to meet objectives.

I look forward to a beneficial collaboration with the Glebe Society and am excited about what the future of positive influence will have on projects for the Glebe community.

## Work underway on the Glebe's Hill biodiversity project

*By Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor*

Last month, the University of Sydney deposited its cheque for \$29,000, the initial payment from the Society for the City of Sydney's Innovation and Ideas Grant entitled 'Glebe's Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential'. A final payment of \$10,000 will be made at the end of the year when the Society receives the University's report about its research studies.

On Wednesday, 28 February, the President and four members of the Blue Wren Subcommittee met in the office of Professor Dieter Hochuli, leader of the University of Sydney's Integrative Ecology Group, to draw up a work plan for 2024.



*Glebe's Hill, viewed across Johnstons Creek (Photo: Andrew Wood)*

The project's aims and objectives are:

- *Could Glebe's Hill become an urban wildlife refuge? An investigation will determine the current values of the fauna and flora at the site.*
- *Do the wild and weedy patches still remaining in the City hold biodiversity secrets, and how can they best be utilised in our dense urban matrix?*

### Work plans

#### **1. Collecting data from Glebe's Hill and other parks and reserves in the LGA (Feb-Sept 2024)**

The University will use a range of investigative tools – camera traps, bat detectors, drones and systematic walk-throughs by expert wildlife researchers to determine the current values of the site, including the presence (or absence) of mammals, birds, bats, reptiles, insects and related vegetation.

In addition to collecting this baseline data from Glebe's Hill, the project team will collect standardised data from other local bush restoration sites in the LGA. This will provide both a baseline and a measure of the potential for future development of Glebe's Hill and its likely role in the mosaic of bushland sites. Specifically, the project involves sampling four times a year at Glebe's Hill and comparing the data with other reference sites in the LGA.

The University will write a final report containing the results of their research and recommendations for the future of Glebe's Hill for presentation to the Glebe Society and the City of Sydney by the end of October 2024.

#### **2. Community event at the Harold Park Community Hall (Tramsheds)**

The project will include two community events to build local knowledge and skills and share the project's outcomes. At the start and end of the project, public biodiversity information events will be held at the community meeting room in the Tramsheds. The first was successfully held in May last year and attended by 100 Glebe Society members and local residents.

A second community event will be held at the Tramsheds community space in November 2024. The University will present copies of its final report to the President of the Glebe Society and the City of Sydney Lord Mayor. Note: Under the grant contract, the University will receive its final grant payment of \$10,000 on presentation of the report.



*Professor Dieter Hochuli, from the University of Sydney's Integrative Ecology Laboratory speaking at the information session about the research project in May 2023 (Photo: Nick Sangster)*

### **3. Two 'walkshops'**

The Glebe Society's Blue Wren Subcommittee, with members from the volunteer Bushcare groups in Glebe and Forest Lodge, will coordinate Citizen Science engagement, including two informal 'walkshops' traversing accessible sites and supported training in using the iNaturalist smartphone app. This will contribute to the local biodiversity database and the City's Wildlife Watch. Links will be explored on the ground, with Indigenous connections and sharing the Aboriginal creation story referring to a 'Wirrigule', a female giant goanna. These community events will explore the potential for improving the 'nature experience' more generally for the local community.

The first 'walkshop' will be held in July 2024 and led by Professor Hochuli and/or research students from the University of Sydney.

The second will be held on 1 September or 8 September 2024 and led by Judy Christie, Convenor of the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group. It will also be a training session for those interested in participating in the Glebe Society's annual spring bird survey, to be held in October 2024.

An additional 'walkshop' or information session may be held in August 2024 at *Benledi*, Glebe Library, to provide Glebe Society members with updates about the progress of the grant's research activities. Alternatively, there could be a walk that visits Orphan School Creek, Glebe's Hill and the wetland, followed by lunch at the Tramsheds.

## **Society's 8th annual biodiversity lecture**

*By Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor*

The Society's 8th annual biodiversity lecture will be given by Professor Thomas Astell-Burt (Professor of Cities and Planetary Health, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney) at 6 pm at *Benledi*, Glebe Library on Wednesday 29 May. The title of the lecture is 'Regenerative Cities and Flourishing Communities: why more trees might mean less loneliness and better health.'

Thomas Astell-Burt is also an Australian Research Council Future Fellow in nature-based solutions for loneliness, a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher, and is ranked first out of 10,000 globally for nature and health research. Thomas' research, funded by the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council and Medical Research Future Fund, involves collaborating, co-producing, and communicating studies positioned to create healthier cities for all, and uses 'social prescribing' to (re)connect people with things in cities that can enable flourishing, such as green spaces.

In addition, he is the Expert Chair of Nature-Based Solutions in the Australian Social Prescribing Institute for Research and Education and a long-standing member of the Western Sydney Diabetes Leadership Alliance. His research has influenced urban planning and health policies in Australia and around the world.

All Glebe Society members and friends are invited to attend the lecture.

Please accept your invitation by registering at Eventbrite ([eventbrite.com.au/eighth-biodiversity-lecture](https://eventbrite.com.au/eighth-biodiversity-lecture)) as soon as possible as space is limited. There is no charge for the event, which will be followed by nibbles and a glass of wine.



*Professor Thomas Astell-Burt, who will deliver the 8th Annual Biodiversity Lecture on 29 May.*



## Anzac Day Service

by Virginia Simpson-Young

Anzac Day this year will be observed in Glebe with a service at the Diggers' Memorial in Foley Park, commencing at 7.30 am.

The ceremony will be led by Pastor Uncle Ray Minniecon from St John's Indigenous Ministries, and the Address will be given by Max Solling. The service will be followed by morning tea. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**When:** 7.30 am, Thursday, 25 April; **Where:** Glebe War Memorial, Foley Park



*The 2023 Anzac Day Service (Photo: Phil Young)*

## In Focus: This month's photo competition

By Tim Hesketh, Editor

This year, Chinese New Year fell on Saturday, 10 February, starting a year of the Wood Dragon. As a worthwhile reminder of the Lunar New Year, Caroline Lipovsky submitted this photograph of celebrations at the Sze Yup Temple.

The Management Committee of the Glebe Society is planning a possible gardening competition. To stimulate consideration of this initiative, our President, Duncan Leys, submitted images of creative gardening on verges around Glebe. And there is always the Anzac Bridge to remind us we are campaigning for the restoration of the Glebe Island Bridge.

The winner of the April Photo Competition is Caroline Lipovsky for the vibrancy of the photo and the reminder about an often-overlooked part of Glebe.





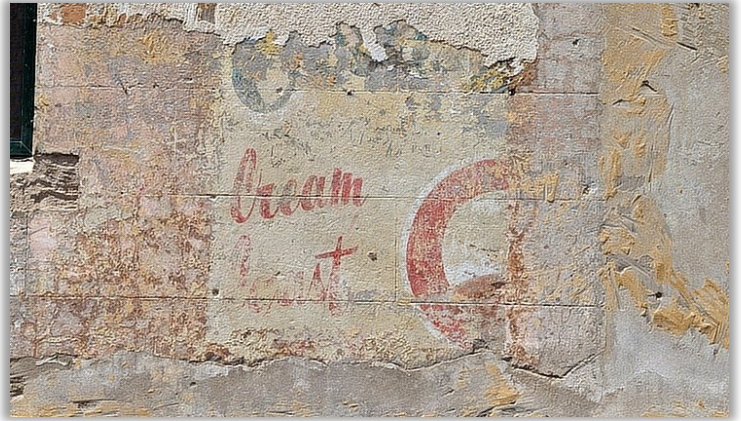
# 'The Cream of the Coast' in Forest Lodge

By Virginia Simpson-Young

An old advertising sign was uncovered when a former Forest Lodge corner shop was stripped of its paint during a renovation late last year. The old shop, at 105 Hereford Street, is on the corner of Hereford Street and Upper Road. I took a photo of what remained of the sign before it was painted over.

Helen Randerson tells me that the advertisement is for Streets Ice Cream: 'You have the words 'Cream' and 'Coast', as well as the red outline around the ice cream cone'. 'Cream' and 'Coast' are from Streets' tagline used at the time, 'The Cream of the Coast'.

The coast referred to is that of the Illawarra. It was at Corrimal that Edwin 'Ted' Street began making ice cream out the back of his small grocery store in the 1920s. Increasing demand for the product necessitated a move in 1934 to larger premises – an old Corrimal iceworks. This remained the home of Streets Ice Cream until production was moved north to Turrella in 1947. The Streets factory is now located in Minto.



*The advertisement for Streets Ice Cream was temporarily laid bare when the side of the former corner shop at 105 Hereford Street, Forest Lodge, was stripped of paint. (Photo taken on 10 November 2023 by V. Simpson-Young)*



*Green Coupons (Image: Campbells Online Store)*

I don't know when the sign was painted onto the wall of the corner shop at 105 Hereford Street, but it must have been during or after 1939 when Streets began selling their ice creams in Sydney.

105 Hereford Street was operating as a grocery store by 1911; in an advertisement for 'Green Coupons' that year, the corner shop is one of five 'prominent traders' of Green Coupons in Forest Lodge. Green Coupons, an early loyalty program, could be collected from such 'prominent traders', pasted into a special collection book, and later exchanged for items for sale through the Green Coupons showroom at 697 George Street, Haymarket.

According to a 1922 newspaper advertisement for Green Coupons, 'wise ladies' would use their coupons to furnish their homes 'free of cost with the goods obtained in exchange for Green Coupons'. Many other ladies, we're told, preferred to 'devote the coupons they collect to the benefit of the church, convent, or hospital in which they are interested'.<sup>1</sup>

The corner shop at 105 Hereford Street was still operating in 1972 when an application was made to install an awning to the shop front. Like many Glebe

and Forest Lodge corner shops, 105 Hereford Street is now a residence. Perhaps a reader may remember when the corner shop closed – if you do, please let us know via [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au).

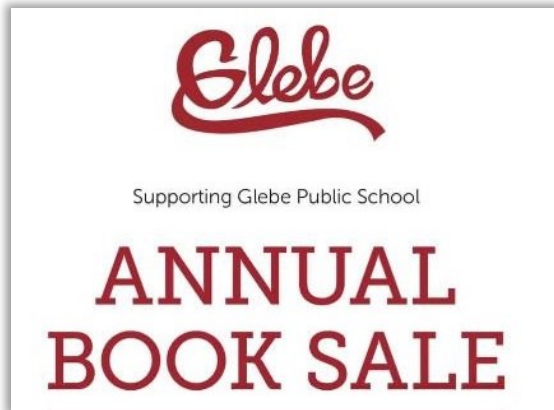
*Note 1. 'Green Coupons'. (1922, July 6). Freeman's Journal, p. 21; Other sources: Trove (nla.gov.au); City of Sydney archives; streetsicecream.com.au; unilever.com.au; australianfoodtimeline.com.au; Corrimal's 'Cream of the Coast' (Mick Roberts, 2016 - online).*

*Right: The Streets factory in Corrimal in the 1930s (Photo: Wollongong City Libraries)*





# Glebe Annual Book Sale



When: 9 am–4 pm, Saturday 6 April and Sunday 7 April.

Where: Benledi, 186 Glebe Point Road.

Donation of books: 9 am–12 noon, Friday 5 April at Benledi.

No damaged, outdated or mouldy books; no annuals, encyclopedias or magazines.

For more information, email: [books@glebeschool.org.au](mailto:books@glebeschool.org.au)

## Next Players in the Pub

By Lyn Collingwood

First performed in March 1946, deals with British/Jewish/Arab relations at that time, two years before the State of Israel was declared. The author lived for a time in Palestine.

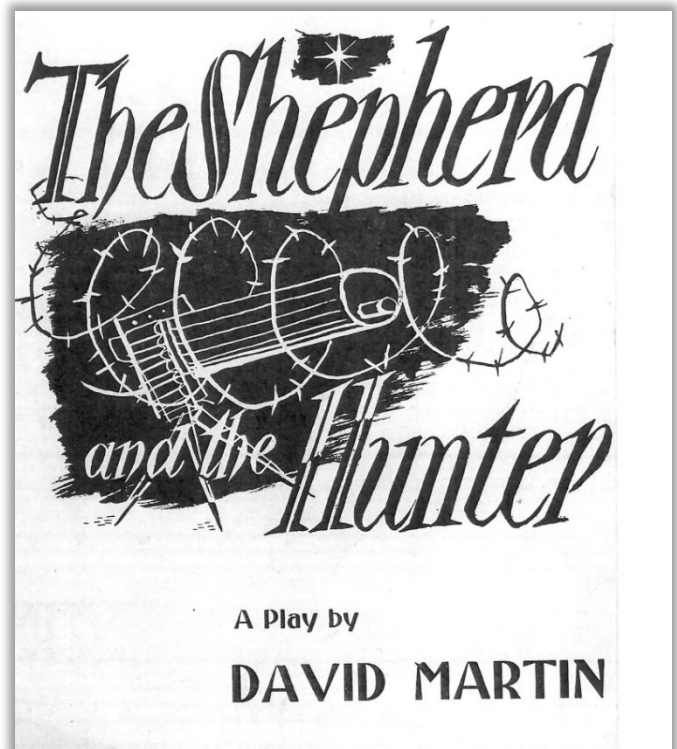
With kind permission of Judith Martin.

Directed by Elaine Hudson.

When: Tuesday, 16 April at 7 pm.

Where: Upstairs at The Harold, 70A Ross Street, Forest Lodge.

Cost: Entry by donation.



Some costumes for New Theatre's 1947 production of *The Shepherd and the Hunter*. (Image: [newtheatrehistory.org.au](http://newtheatrehistory.org.au))



# This month's mystery photo

With Lyn Collingwood

## Where are we?

Please send your suggestions to [history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au) with 'Mystery Photo' in the subject line.



## Answer to last month's mystery photo

The photo, taken in the 1970s, is a glimpse of Stride's shipbreaking yard on Rozelle Bay.

John Sergeant recognised the perspective: the gap between Numbers 14 and 16 Oxley Street.

*Photo: City of Sydney Archives)*

**Right:** This 1970 photograph shows the same area from a different viewpoint. Stride's shipbreaking yard can be seen in approximately the centre of the photograph. The hulk of the *Dee Why*, a Manly ferry, is moored in front of Stride's yard. (Photo: City of Sydney Archives)





# For Your Calendar

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April, 9 am–4 pm. *Glebe Annual Book Fair*, Benledi.

Wednesday 10 April, 1:30–3 pm. *Guided Walk: Glebe's Late Victorian Streetscapes*.

Sunday 14 April, 2–4 pm. *Guided Walk: Radical Glebe*.

Tuesday 16 April, 7 pm. Players in the Pub. *The Shepherd and the Hunter*, The Harold.

Sunday 21 April, 3 pm. *A special concert for the Glebe Music Festival*, Margaretta Cottage.

Thursday 25 April 7.30 am. *Glebe's 2024 Anzac Day Service*. Glebe War Memorial, Foley Park.

Saturday 25 May, 2–4 pm. *Guided Walk: The Glebe Estate – St Phillips and Bishopthorpe*.

Wednesday 29 May, 6 pm. *Eighth Annual Biodiversity Lecture*, Benledi.

Sunday 16 June, 2–4 pm. *Guided Walk: The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay*.

Friday 8 November to Sunday 24 November. *The 35th Annual Glebe Music Festival*.

2024 season (from February). *KXT (theatre) on Broadway* <https://www.kingsxtheatre.com/2024>.



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

Note: 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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PO Box 100 GLEBE NSW 2037 | No. 2 of 2024 (April 2024)

Membership of the Glebe Society	How to join
Individual member: \$45 Joint (two people, one address): \$55 Household: \$60 Concession (student or pensioner): \$20 Institution or corporate: \$110 Additional donation welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under '<a href="#">Join/Renew</a>';</li><li>➤ download a membership form from <a href="#">glebesociety.org.au</a>;</li><li>➤ write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;</li><li>➤ or email <a href="mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au">secretary@glebesociety.org.au</a></li></ul>

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