



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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Glebe in the news for all the wrong reasons!

Duncan Leys, Glebe Society President

Glebe was in the news for all the wrong reasons last month. On 2 May, I attended a meeting of the Community Safety Precinct Committee which the Glebe police had convened specifically to discuss recent distressing incidents allegedly involving young people in Glebe. These issues have also been noted by the City of Sydney, and Council resolved to request its Chief Executive Officer to work with local community services and to investigate options for additional youth programs. The [Council resolution](#) called 'Collaborating on Community Wellbeing in Glebe' can be viewed on the City of Sydney website.

Unfortunately, it has taken bad publicity to stir the Council and the State Government into action. I first heard of the problems of young people and antisocial behaviour before Christmas and I have seen letters residents had written to both tiers of government asking for something to be done.

In my time on the Management Committee it has been obvious to me the funding for the Glebe Youth Service is inadequate and sometimes it takes some time for allocated funds to be released. Too often I heard that good programs had stopped for a lack of funding or were on hold pending funding decisions. Now, in a moment of crisis, Council and the State Government are looking to the Glebe Youth Service to provide the solutions.

At the Community Safety Precinct Committee meeting I saw unanimous agreement about what needed to be done – things like reinstating the bus service that picked up young people out late at night and took them home; things like fixing the funding problems at the Glebe Youth Service. The [Council resolution](#) I referred to earlier, is an excellent summary of the issues and lays out the actions needed to address them – actions that were unanimously agreed upon by the local community services and grass roots community organisations at the meeting.



A still from a video capturing a recent attack of a food delivery rider by a group of young people on Glebe Point Road (Source: Youtube)



Kobi Shetty was guest speaker at the Glebe Society's 2023 AGM (Photo: Phil Young)

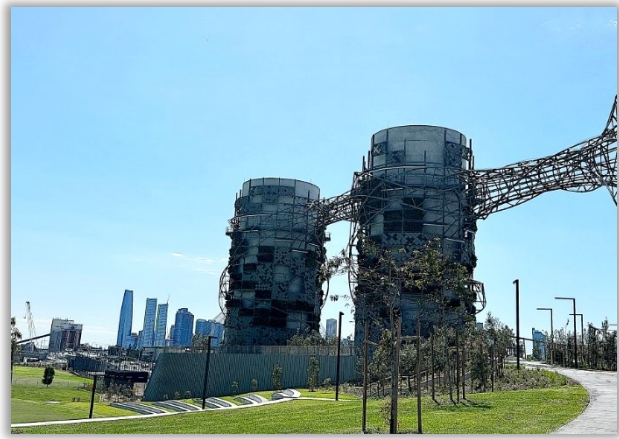
Kobi Shetty attends management committee meeting

On a positive note we were pleased to welcome our local member Kobi Shetty to the April 2024 meeting of the management committee of the Glebe Society. We were keen to get the latest news on a range of issues that will impact Glebe and Forest Lodge residents.

On the Glebe Island Bridge, we heard that the State Government is currently tendering for heritage maintenance work which is intended only to prevent the bridge falling down before more extensive works, planned for sometime post 2030, can be undertaken.

The WestConnex Rozelle Interchange is the subject of a NSW Upper House inquiry. It seems that local residents can expect little change to the present situation in the short term. The plan seems to be to wait and hope this settles over time.

On the New Sydney Fish Market (NSFM), Kobi is in ongoing discussion with the relevant minister on matters of traffic management, the frequency of light rail and bus services and the impact on Glebe businesses such as food services. The Glebe ferry service is under consideration for extension to Annandale and Pyrmont stops. We are yet to see any sign that the State Government has a workable traffic management plan and the expectation is we will suffer from significantly increased congestion on all modes of transport.



WestConnex tunnels ventilation stacks (Photo: Tim Hesketh)

The Glebe Society's representative at the New Sydney Fish Market Community Consultative Committee tells us we will have issues with queuing of heavy vehicles and buses trying to enter the NSFM. This will substantially impact Bridge Road and Wentworth Park Road traffic flow. The shared footpath and cycleway at the NSFM and car parking remain issues of concern. We are told the pickup and freight service plans do consider a doubling of visitors over a 10-year period, but we are yet to see a plan that will cope with traffic volumes in 2025, let alone 2035.

Kobi noted that Homes NSW's approach to maintenance is changing but right now public housing stock is still being neglected and in some instances boarded up.

We recently received a letter from Rose Jackson, Minister for Housing NSW, notifying us that they will be going ahead with the demolition of 82 Wentworth Park Road but will use the homes for crisis accommodation while they get the site ready for demolition. You would wonder why they evicted the former residents and how much it will cost to make these homes habitable again to use for crisis accommodation.

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') were discussed with Kobi. Zoning changes have not yet been decided as the Government intends to take into account outcomes of the recent LMRH SEPP public exhibition. Industry groups and others are lobbying for greater density increases. These reforms are intended to override controls set out for local Heritage Conservation Areas, but confusion remains about the exact nature of the reforms after several statements by the Premier and the Minister which differ according to area. The local government elections in September could be significant in the debate.



Bidura – 'a lack of basic maintenance' (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

On other matters, the Glebe Society has long been concerned about the deterioration of *Bidura* through a lack of basic maintenance. Keeping the fences in good order and keeping the roof watertight are vital. It was a condition of the DA approval that conservation works commence within six months of the approval. Work should have commenced by March 2024. We wrote to the Council recently asking what progress had been made in the conservation works. We have received a reply from the Council planner advising that the applicant will be issuing a tender for conservation works shortly.

In the Society's view this is a complete disregard of the intent of the DA to require essential conservation works (e.g. fixing the fence and stopping the roof leaking) within six months of the DA's approval. Six months has now well and truly elapsed.

On a more positive note, it is good to see some of the temporary barriers around our parks and gardens being removed after having been re-mulched.

Autumn and winter are the best times for walks in my view. I enjoyed both the Late Victorian Streetscapes and the Radical Glebe walks. I am very much looking forward to the next two.

Ian Stephenson will be leading a walk titled *The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay* on Sunday 16 June. The Walk will explore the history of some of the less well-known parts of Glebe and nearby areas, following the route of the Blackwattle Creek from Victoria Park, a Blackwattle Bay headwater. See 'Upcoming Walks' for a fuller description of this interesting walk.

Max Solling will be leading a bus tour titled *Rookwood General Cemetery and Back: A Bus Tour visiting the burial sites of some famous Sydney families and Glebe identities* on Wednesday 3 July 2024. Amongst other things, we will be seeing the mausoleum of the Allen family. George Wigram Allen's funeral was one of the two biggest funerals seen in Glebe with the funeral procession winding from the Toxteth Park Chapel to Mortuary Station in Chippendale where the remains were conveyed by mortuary train to the Rookwood General Cemetery. The other 'biggest' funeral was for Walter Alston Hutchinson and you can read about him in *Bulletin* 4/2022. Max led a tour of Rookwood for the Society on 20 August 1977 and is enormously knowledgeable about its history and its residents.

Letter to the Editor

Although a longstanding member of the Glebe Society I have only recently troubled to read the Society's constitution and understand its motivation. Mostly, as I read these documents, I see that the Society wants to support Glebe in many ways. Given this, perhaps I can make a pitch to support our wonderful local businesses, especially the small businesses, mainly along Glebe Point Road, but also elsewhere. The architectural heritage of Glebe is critical, but the overall character of Glebe is in its diversity and the 'vibe' provided by small business.



Glebe Point Road (Photo: Beryl Hesketh)

Our local businesses, especially the small ones, have served us well over many years, and especially during COVID, when home deliveries were made and contact retained. Many of the business workers and owners know the locals well, are an important point of social interaction and have shown an understanding of issues affecting us, as we should understand theirs. Probably the recent road and other refurbishments were a real challenge to the businesses. I am sure in the long term all will be good, but we need to be aware of the day to day challenges that businesses suffer from these necessary improvements.

I have witnessed business owners spending lots of time talking to local residents, caring for them, asking about their health and so much more. Community members

also care about the workers and owners of small businesses. It is special living in Glebe where we have a vibrant, although struggling, small business community, and a latent sense of care. Let's support our small businesses when we can – they look after us. Together we may be able to offer more to any locals who may be in need.

Beryl Hesketh

News from the Blue Wrens

by Andrew Wood, Blue Wren Subcommittee Convenor

Update: Innovation and Ideas Grant

Professor Dieter Hochuli, leader of the University of Sydney's Integrative Ecology Group, who is undertaking the research project titled 'Glebe's Hill – unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential', reports that:

Genevieve Heggarty (the research assistant employed by the Grant) and I set up four cameras on the Hill, and made some observations along the way (some very happy silvereyes and a grey fantail there among the lantana, more garden skinks than we could count in the bits we went to, it was like the ground was moving, and some interesting poo). I let the City of Sydney (via Cathy from Colliers) know the work was on and we were going as per the approval.



Prof. Dieter Hochuli from the University of Sydney (Photo: Nick Sangster)

We also added two cameras just north of the main bit of Orphan School Creek to repeat a couple of things that relate to Genevieve's BSc honours work. We couldn't set any up near Federal Park as there is someone sleeping there at the moment but will revisit if/when he moves on.

We're also getting a bit more of a database together of exemplars for using degraded/polluted/contaminated lands for urban conservation. It's an odd collection globally (the Australian examples are mainly garbage tips being capped and planted) but I think it will offer some options and opportunities.

Here are some comments on Dieter's report from Judy Christie:

It is very encouraging to see that small birds are finding suitable habitat around 'The Hill' and in patches of dense lantana, well-known to be a safe haven for small birds.

Silvereyes were once common in Glebe gardens and parks, but much less so over the last 20 years. They are quite nomadic and at this time of the year are moving north, as are breeding populations from Tasmania, which can be distinguished by their chestnut brown flanks. Grey Fantails are a cute little bush bird but are rarely seen in our suburbs. However, they also move around at this time of the year, especially birds dispersing after breeding. Although Superb Fairy-Wrens are more local and do not usually move more than a few kilometres from breeding sites, their habitat requirements are similar to these small birds. Creating dense, protective habitat 'stepping stones' along our green corridors may help bring them back.



Glebe's Hill in 1993. An area of the former garbage tip has been 'capped' by a sealed road (Source: NSW State Archives)

Also, there is a recent article on the *Birds in Backyards* website about the outcomes of Genevieve Heggarty's wren research. It was work she completed last year for her honours thesis which was supervised by Dieter. View the article here: <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/content/article/Whats-chasing-Fairy-wrens-our-urban-greenspaces>.

News from the bushcare groups

Twelve bushcare volunteers attended a planting day held by the Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group (led by Judy Christie) on 13 April and planted 48 native tube stock. On 9 May an onsite meeting was held with Charlotte Fletcher, the City's recently appointed Urban Ecology Coordinator – it was the first time Charlotte had met with the volunteers. On Saturday 1 June a working bee will be held from 9 am to 11 am and those wishing to attend should contact Judy on 0437 693 372.



Silveryeye (Photo: Wikipedia)

Anna Szanto, leader of the Glebe Palmerston and Surrounds Landcare Group, reports that:

- *The graffiti that's been gouged into the edge of the path on upper Palmerston has been reported to the City.*
- *During a recent storm one of the trees at the bottom of upper Palmerston was badly damaged. The State Emergency Service came and cut the limbs up and placed them on the gardens, damaging the native plants at the bottom of upper Palmerston and the top of lower Palmerston. The City has now removed most of the damaged limbs. The uprooted trunk and a part of the root system is still in situ – the City has been asked to remove them.*
- *Upper Palmerston is still taped off due to possible asbestos contamination.*

- *Overall, the native plants are thriving, and weeding and litter removal continue in lower Palmerston.*

Nick Sangster reports that in Harold Park the *Casuarinas* on the eastern side of Johnstons Creek have still not been removed by the City's contractors. As described in last month's *Bulletin*, the problem posed by the *Casuarinas* is that as they sucker and grow, killing off other plants. In time, they create a monoculture that diminishes plant and animal biodiversity.

Glebe Society Guided Walks 2024

By Dorothy Davis, Guided Walks Coordinator

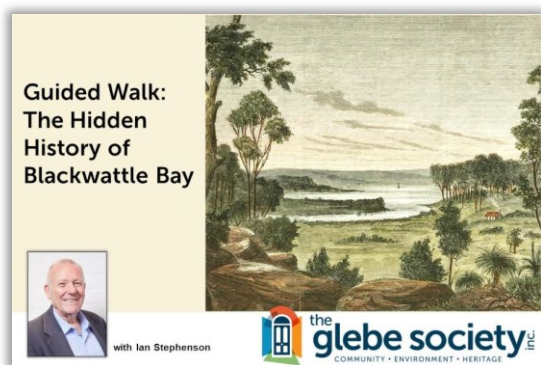
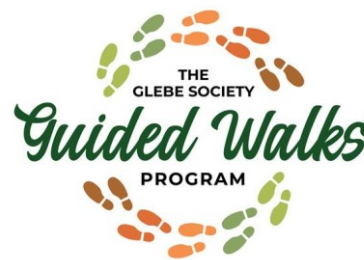
Upcoming Guided Walks

The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay

Sunday 16 June 2–4 pm

We'll meet at the entrance to Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney; this is near Victoria Park which was one of the headwaters of Blackwattle Bay.

This Walk will explore some of the less well-known parts of Glebe and its neighbours. It will include the Bishopgate estate off Broadway (not to be confused with the better known Bishopthorpe estate to the west of Glebe Point Road); the site of the former Brisbane Distillery in nearby Chippendale which was located on another of the bay's headwaters; St Benedict's Church, designed by Augustus Welby Pugin, the great luminary of the Gothic Revival; and the reclamation of part of Blackwattle Bay for Wentworth Park in the mid-19th century. We will explore the beautiful late 19th-century gardenesque layout of the park, see its current state and consider opportunities for recovering its significance.



The Walk will end at the Kauri Hotel in Bridge Road where we can all have a gin and tonic and drink a toast to the long-vanished Brisbane Distillery, which was replaced by a school.

Is this really progress? Ian Stephenson, our guide for this Walk, will no doubt comment on this and other urban renewal issues as we traverse two parks and some of Chippendale's and Glebe's hidden spots.

Bookings: Eventbrite: <https://hidden-blackwattle-bay.eventbrite.com.au>.

Rookwood Cemetery and Back: a bus tour visiting the burial sites of some famous Sydney families and Glebe identities

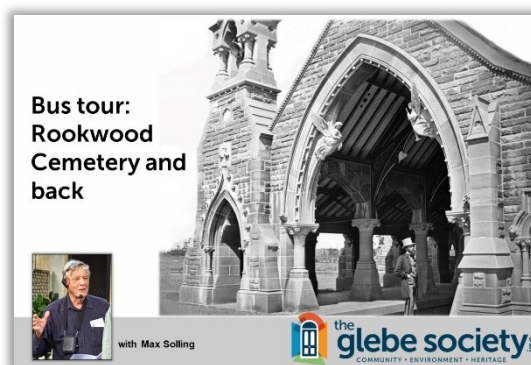
Wednesday 3 July 9.30 am, returning at 4 pm

The Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis has State heritage significance. Max Solling, Glebe historian, will be our guide on this fascinating expedition and will provide expert commentary. Max led his first tour of the Rookwood Cemetery for the Glebe Society back in August 1977. You could say, Max knows 'where the bodies are buried': the Allens, the David Jones, the Horderns, the Tooheys and David Scott Mitchell are just some of those buried at Rookwood, along with many famous (and infamous!) Glebe councillors and mayors.

Rookwood Cemetery was established in 1867 on 200 acres of land, expanding in 1881 to 777 acres. The original design consisted of a central hub with the roads radiating out to the original denominational sections. The original landscape designers could never have imagined the number of religious and cultural groups accommodated in Rookwood today. The denominational sections of the cemetery also reflect the waves of immigration since the late 1800s. More than a million people, representing over 90 different religious and cultural groups, have their final resting place at Rookwood.

Two early directors of the Sydney Botanical Gardens were responsible for the cemetery's design, construction and planting. Rookwood was conceived as a park with ponds, a serpentine drain, bridges, garden beds, rest houses and chapels. Many of the original trees remain. Although maintenance has been sadly neglected, there is still much to see.

We will meet the bus outside the Old Fire Station at 113 Mitchell Street Glebe. The bus will take passengers to various parts of the cemetery but there will be some walking required getting to and around the graves on uneven ground and overgrown sections.



The ticket price includes a delicious light lunch of Greek specialities including Greek salad with olives, tomatoes, cucumber and feta cheese; ciabatta bread; spanakopita; crispy calamari; fresh fruit ... and more.

This event is for Glebe Society members only. Cost: \$60 which covers bus hire, tour and lunch. Numbers are limited to 20, the bus' capacity. Bookings on Eventbrite. <https://rookwood-and-back.eventbrite.com.au>.

Walks scheduled for the second half of 2024

- **Discovering Ultimo: from 'degradation' to renewal – October**
- **Glebe's St James' and St John's churches – date to be advised**
- **Villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge – November**

Calendar of Walks, June and July

The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay
Leader: Ian Stephenson
Sunday 16 June
2–4 pm
Meeting place: Outside the front door of the Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney Uni.
Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)
Bookings: <https://hidden-blackwattle-bay.eventbrite.com.au>

Rookwood Cemetery and Back: a bus tour visiting the burial sites of some famous Sydney families and Glebe identities
Note: Glebe Society members only
Leader: Max Solling
Wednesday 3 July
9:30 am – 4 pm
Meeting place: Old Fire Station, 113 Mitchell Street Glebe
Cost: \$60 (covers bus trip, guided tour and lunch)
Bookings: <https://rookwood-and-back.eventbrite.com.au>

Who lived in your street? John McVey Baird (1832–1921)

By Lyn Collingwood

Members of the Baird family lived at today's 268 Glebe Point Road for over seven decades. Their house, called *Eglinton*, was demolished in 1968; home units now cover the site. The present building next door at number 270 dates from 1891, replacing another which was *Eglinton's* twin. Addresses were fixed by 1906.

Eglinton's first occupiers

In 1846 chemist and druggist Charles Marcian Penny bought four lots on Glebe Road on which he built two stone shingle-roofed six-roomed houses with verandahs and a natural water supply. The villas and their added storeroom, servants' room, coach house, hay loft and stable were set in ornamental gardens with views to Johnstons Bay. A tennis court was later built on the site.

Penny died in 1857 and the next year both houses were leased to clergyman John Pendrill for his Anglican Collegiate School for boys. Educated at Eton and Oxford University and a champion chess player, Pendrill stayed with architect Edmund Blacket at *Bidura* until the buildings were ready for occupancy. The college's initial intake of two expanded to 70 boarders and day pupils including Glebe locals Cyril Blacket, William Boyce Allen and cricketer Fred Spofforth 'the demon bowler'. John Fowles taught drawing. In 1869 Pendrill had a serious fall from his horse. He died three years later at his home *Eglinton House* and was buried in Balmain Cemetery.

Pendrill's successor Thomas James Bowyer found the house and schoolrooms too small and in 1878 the school moved into a new two-storey building with views from its upper balconies and windows as far as Pennant Hills. The move was injudicious however and within a year Bowyer was declared insolvent. He died in San Francisco in 1880. The school was then converted into Sydney's first children's hospital. Glebe Library now stands on the site.

Atkinson Alfred Patrick Tighe lived at *Eglinton House* during a short break from politics. Police magistrate, MLA for Northumberland and a friend of Henry Parkes, Tighe died in 1905 at *Ravensthorch* 220 Glebe Point Road and was buried in Waverley Cemetery.

Members of the importing firm Myers and Solomon were *Eglinton's* next occupiers. Their George Street emporium sold everything from hardware, crockery, jewellery and perfumes to sporting goods, musical instruments, art works and saddlery. The founders' professional partnership had been cemented by the 1855 marriage of George Myers to Sarah Solomon at the York Street synagogue. Sarah was the eldest daughter of Mordecai and Elizabeth Solomon of Strawberry Hills. The latter died aged 43 in 1852, leaving a widower and eight children, and was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery.

The Myers couple lived at Brickfield Hill, Woolloomooloo, Strawberry Hills and Millers Point before moving to *Eglinton* where George Myers died in March 1882, survived by his widow and 13 children. A life member of the Hebrew Philanthropic Society, he was buried in the Jewish cemetery at Rookwood. The following year, Sarah's father 83-year-old Mordecai died in the house, as did her uncle-in-law Wolf Myers, a 54-year-old Mason in October 1886. Sarah herself passed away there in January 1890 aged 53, and was buried at Rookwood. The executor was her eldest son Mark Myers. Board and residence were advertised for country visitors at what was then numbered 202 Glebe Road, accessible to the city every few minutes by omnibus, tram and steamer.

The Baird family

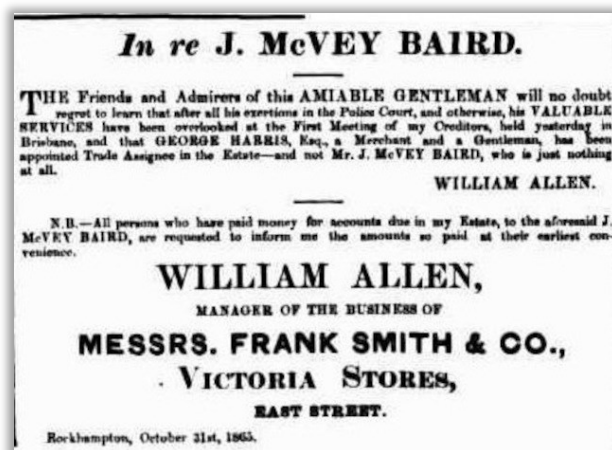
The entrepreneurial John McVey Baird, who had survived a series of bankruptcies in Australia and New Zealand, moved into *Eglinton* in 1891. His time in Glebe was the longest he had ever lived in one place and, past business failures forgotten, he involved himself in local affairs. When he registered on the Commonwealth electoral roll, he described himself as an accountant, as did his brother Robert who lived in the same house. Other occupants in the period 1906 to 1913 included John's wife Eleanor, their daughter Lucy Eliza, book-keeper son Harold Robert and his wife May Glanville née Goodall, and John William Baird, a clerk. At the turn of the century John, Robert and Harold were also listed at 1 Mary Street.

John McVey Baird was born in 1832 at St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Scotland, to Elizabeth and John Baird. His siblings Robert and Andrew Smith Baird were born in 1834 and 1836 respectively. By 1853 the Baird Brothers were trading in Melbourne as importers of spirits and foodstuffs. The next year John McVey withdrew from the partnership, his estate having been sequestered, leaving the running of the firm – renamed John Baird and Son – to Andrew Smith Baird. John McVey then surfaced as Secretary of the St Andrew's Mining and Sluicing Company looking for shareholders. Andrew Smith served a gaol sentence in South Australia in 1858 and the next year, his profession corn dealer, was declared insolvent in that State. In 1861 – a year after marrying Eleanor Laidlaw Thompson, the daughter of a Manchester solicitor – John McVey too was declared insolvent, in Victoria.

Andrew married Eleanor's younger sister Elizabeth Laidlaw Thompson in New Zealand in 1863. By then all three brothers were trading as Baird Brothers in Dunedin, and in debt. In 1865 John McVey's name came up in the Rockhampton Insolvent Court, Queensland, in connection with the estate of William Allen who published a series of denials that the man was his Trade Assignee. Four years later, John McVey, trading as printer and publisher Baird & Co., was declared insolvent in New South Wales. Meanwhile, McVey, Baird and Co. publicised itself as sole Australasian agents for L'Extincteur, a portable fire engine, and arranged public demonstrations of its efficacy in the Sydney Domain.

Eleanor and John McVey's first child Herbert McVey was born at Milsons Point in 1867 but died aged 13 months at Newtown. Archibald Laidlaw, born at Enmore in 1869, survived. For much of the next two decades the family was based in New Zealand. In 1870 John McVey leased Wesley College, renamed it Auckland College and set himself up as its Principal. While living there, his five-month-old twins Robert Stanley and John Percy died. He appeared in court on a charge of assaulting one of the College's servants but the magistrate found the thrashing justified. By late 1872 however, questions were being asked in the press about Baird's qualifications and remuneration and the Wesley College trustees transferred the headship to a clergyman named William Taylor.

Baird then advertised his services as a mining commission agent in Auckland for McVey Baird, Thompson & Co. He appears to have been back in Sydney in 1873 when the birth of Harold was registered at Balmain, but had returned to New Zealand the next year when Lucy Eliza was born. In June 1874, Baird sailed saloon class from Melbourne on the *Ben Voirlich* bound for London. His next enterprise was devised in Glasgow. He



Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser, 2 November 1865

drew up a prospectus to raise £17,500 to acquire 2,300 acres in New Zealand to grow phormium, a variety of flax, to manufacture into paper. In September 1875 Baird returned to New Zealand on the *City of Auckland*. He had been an amiable saloon-class passenger, organising a debating group and editing an on-ship newspaper, but the paper-milling idea seems to have come to nothing.

In 1879 Baird's youngest son Walter Andrew was born in New Zealand; in 1883 his daughter Nora May died there aged 15 months. In 1880 John McVey set up Baird & Co. in Christchurch with Henry Thomson. Within 12 months the brewery was in debt, the partnership dissolved and Baird again declared bankrupt. As manager of Christchurch's Suffolk Brewery, he argued against the beer tax and was given a hefty fine for not paying stamp duty.

Baird was back in Sydney by 1888 and looking for investors in another business: the Australian Patent Improved Toboggan Rink and Switchback Railway Company, providers of amusement park attractions. The City of Sydney knocked back his proposal to erect the apparatus in Moore Park but it was given a trial run at the Coogee Palace Aquarium. In 1906 Bondi Concessions Ltd was floated with John McVey as public officer and his son Archibald Laidlaw as manager. The 'helter-skelter' was installed at Wonderland City, Tamarama, but wet weather, non-payment of income tax and disputes with the proprietor of the amusement park meant the venture was short-lived. In 1910 father and son set up *The Merry Manly Mascottes*. The vaudeville show played in the open air at Manly and a few other venues before the firm was liquidated in 1911 and voluntarily wound up the next year.



Wonderland City, Tamarama (Source: Dictionary of Sydney)

In Glebe, Baird involved himself in sport and politics. A supporter of Edmund Barton, he was elected president of the local branch of the National Protection League, and vice-president of the Glebe branch of the Federal Association, to wake up the locals' 'thoroughly apathetic' attitude to Federation. He and Archibald Laidlaw were on the committee of the Forest Lodge Harriers, and Archibald and Harold Robert were oarsmen with the Glebe Rowing Club.

In the period 1918 to 1922 the senior members of the Baird family died at *Eglinton* and were buried in the Church of England section of Waverley Cemetery. First to pass away was Robert, on 26 May 1918. Intestate, his affairs were handled by the Public Trustee. John McVey followed on 20 January 1921, and his 84-year-old widow on 9 January 1922. George Brisbane (a commercial traveller, son of Andrew Smith) and Lucy Eliza (John McVey's daughter), who had married at St John's Anglican Church, Glebe in 1910, lived in the house until their respective deaths in 1945 and 1963. During the cousins' occupancy, they rented out rooms to a series of tenants.

Sources: City of Sydney Archives; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; <http://Paperspast.nat.lib.gov.au>; Sands Directories; Thompson.one-name.net; Trove website.

Indigenous Australians & WWI

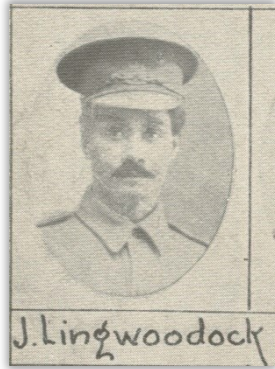
By Max Solling

This article is the first of three drawn from Max Solling's moving address at the 2024 Anzac Day ceremony at the Glebe War Memorial. The [full text of Max's address](https://glebesociety.org.au/max-sollings-2024-anzac-day-address/) is on our website: (<https://glebesociety.org.au/max-sollings-2024-anzac-day-address/>).

Leading the service on this year's Anzac Day, Pastor Ray Minniecon, a Kabikabi and Gurang-Gurang man from Queensland, has dedicated his life to supporting members of the Stolen Generations of Aboriginal people. Ray has a strong connection with the defence forces; his grandfather James Lingwoodock (1895–1960), an excellent horseman like many stockmen, joined the 11th Light Horse in 1917. He was part of reinforcements known as the 'Queensland Black Watch' in the Jordan Valley: 28 of its 32 members were Indigenous. Ray's two brothers, Sterling known as 'Sonny' and Phillip, served in the Vietnam War. Ray was a transport driver in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF).



Pastor Ray Minniecon (left) led the Anzac Day Service (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)



James Lingwoodock, 11th Australian Light Horse Regiment (Images: Virtual War Memorial Australia and The Queenslander, 3 October 1917, State Library of QLD)

Somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500 Indigenous Australians donned the khaki, according to recent research. They defied racist restrictions but on their return to civilian life were denied full citizenship rights. Yet Indigenous Australian soldiers shared a commonality of service and sacrifice made by all Australian soldiers. Once in the AIF they were treated as equals, paid the same as other soldiers and generally accepted without prejudice.

Alfred John Hearps, son of a Palawa man from Forth Tasmania, enlisted as a 19-year-old in the AIF in 1914. He was at the Gallipoli landing and as a second lieutenant became the first Indigenous Australian to be commissioned. Hearps was killed on 19 August 1916 on the Somme. With no known grave, his name appears on the Villers-Bretonneux memorial.

Writing letters and keeping diaries helped soldiers cope with the chaos surrounding them at the front. Charles Tednee Blackman (1895–1966), an Indigenous farm hand from Childers near Bundaberg, enlisted in 1915 and was followed by elder brothers Thomas and Alfred. He survived two and a half years of the morass of trench warfare in France. Charles Blackman's letters home reveal the sense of duty, fears of battle, pleasures of leave, camaraderie and esprit de corps with white comrades, and loneliness of being so far from home – common to all soldiers.



Second Lieutenant Alfred John Hearps (Image: Virtual War Memorial Australia)

Thank you to piper Rob McLean

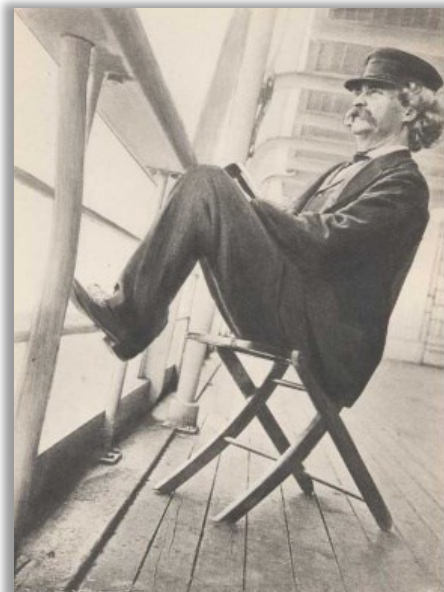


A constant figure at Glebe's annual services since 1994 has been our wonderful piper Rob McLean (left), who plays the lament. Rob's father, John McLean, was born at Kinlochleven Argyllshire in the Scottish Highlands and emigrated to Sydney with his parents in 1929.

After Rob left school in 1968, he joined the St George–Sutherland Pipe Band after which he joined the Sydney University Regiment Army Reserve where he served for 32 years. We were lucky to get Rob in 1994 through his involvement in the Sydney University Regiment. Rob has played at Burwood's Anzac Day dawn service for over thirty years, leaving Burwood by 7 am to get to Glebe for our 7:30 service. After finishing at Glebe, Rob heads into the City to join the Pipers and play at the march.

Next Players in the Pub

From Lyn Collingwood



MARK TWAIN'S AUSTRALIA by Greg Punch

A MOVED READING BY
Players in the Pub

Tuesday 18 June 2024 - 7pm

@ THE HAROLD
70A Ross Street Forest Lodge
(upstairs)

Entry by donation



In focus: this month's photo competition

By Tim Hesketh, Editor



'Sunset with the fishing fleet' by Mary Regan



'Heron' by Rodney Hammett



'Cockatoos' by Caroline Lipovsky



'Terrace geometry' by Virginia Simpson-Young

'Sunset with the fishing fleet' by Mary Regan: Mary carefully chose the time of day to show some of the fishing fleet at the Fish Market to best effect. The Anzac Bridge in the background shows the context very well.

'Heron' by Rodney Hammett: White-faced herons abound around Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays, sometimes appearing out of place as they become bolder. This photo of a heron ignoring pedestrians oblivious to its presence was taken on the eastern side of Glebe Point Road near Mary Street.

'Cockatoos' by Caroline Lipovsky: Sulphur-crested cockatoos are less common around Glebe and Forest Lodge than their Corella cousins, but black sunflower seeds are amongst their favourite foods and will attract them from far and wide.

'Terrace geometry' by Virginia Simpson-Young: Virginia has an eye for a picture. The wall dominates but still draws attention to the chimney pots retreating into the background, following the roof lines.

The winner of the photo competition this month is Virginia Simpson-Young.

Mystery photo

By Lyn Collingwood

Last month's mystery photo

Angela Hallinan and Wayne Carveth identified the site as 417 Glebe Point Road.

Wayne checked it out. Through a gap in the locked gates on the main road, he glimpsed the brick fence posts and a window of *Durham Court*, the original building. Another clue was the immobilised crane. Angela commented: 'A never ending building story which has been going on since 2016 according to the surveyor for the latest company to have taken over the project'.



Durham Court in its 'original splendour'. Photograph taken after 1922 (Source: NBR&S & Partners 'Statement of Heritage Impact, December 2014)

Over more than a decade, a number of DAs for this site were submitted to Council. The first was lodged just before Christmas 2007. *Durham Court* was to be restored to 'its original splendour' with an added storey to create three apartments and nine townhouses. Also proposed was basement parking for 20 vehicles. An amended DA the next year increased basement parking to 27 vehicles.

Three DAs were lodged in 2012. The first was to demolish the rear wing of the house and replace it with three storeys plus attic, increasing the number of dwellings to 39 (36 of them 'affordable'). The second DA reduced the dwellings to 38, half for 'affordable rental housing'. The third DA took a different tack: student accommodation (affordable rental housing/boarding house development) with 54 rooms, bicycle parking and a Go Get car space.

Things went quiet until 2014 when excavation for an underground carpark was again proposed. The house was to be converted to two townhouses and the flats to eight three-storey townhouses.

D/2018/1121 was approved, for six three-storey terraces at the rear, the conversion of *Durham Court* to two 'attached dwellings' plus excavation for a 12-vehicle basement. In November 2020, locals were advised that work was about to commence. A crane was installed, sheds and trees removed, and sandstone excavated for the underground carpark. Hoardings around the perimeter hid the work from public view.

After scaffolding had gone up and some building had commenced at the rear of the site, work stopped. A modified DA (D/2018/1121/A) was lodged in December 2021 and approved. This allowed for the demolition and reconstruction of the *Durham Court* facade. Activity recommenced but has again ceased.

Note: Articles on our website from [Bulletins 1/2008](#), [2/2008](#) and [2/2015](#) contain information about the history and occupants of *Durham Court* which was built in 1910.

Website posts addressing the DAs and their amendments include the [Society's objections to the 2012 DA](#) and posts in [March 2014](#), [March 2015](#) and [September 2015](#) outlining the Society's objections to the DA's amendments.



Durham Court, 417 Glebe Point Road, at the time the first DA was lodged. (Photo: [realestate.com.au](#))

This month's mystery photo

Where are we?

Please send your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au with 'Mystery Photo' in the subject line.



[Advertisement]

Beckett's Restaurant

By Maggie Marwick, Beckett's Restaurant

This photo was taken last year in Melbourne where Julia Gillard was giving a speech at Trades Hall in support of higher education for girls.

Beckett's Restaurant in Glebe is becoming something of a go-to place for Labor Party identities of late. This May we had the playwright Joanna Murray-Smith at Beckett's, showing her theatre vignette 'Julia' about Julia Gillard with actress Justine Clarke. This play will be returning to the Sydney Theatre Company (STC) for a second season, following its enormously successful premiere.

On 10 July, Beckett's is hosting the wonderful actor Jonathan Biggins, known for his annual political satire 'the Wharf Revue'. Following on from his hit production (The Gospel According to Paul), with STC also, he will be doing his Paul Keating performance piece at Beckett's. Two federal Arts Ministers from Canberra will be attending this night.

Wendy Beckett with her stage manager Haly Pratt restored and returned the Darling Mills restaurant to its former glory of sandstone and etched glass and changed its name to Wendy's family name, Beckett's. In keeping with her playwright tradition, Wendy has just returned from overseas where she was directing her play 'Sappho'. Beckett's restaurant has a beautiful 17th-century white marble sculpture of 'Sappho' which she encourages people to touch.

Beckett's Restaurant has a downstairs cellar area which holds just six tables of ten. Here, for one night only every month or so, Wendy hosts a hit piece of theatre for only half an hour. The performances are ticketed and are served up with a delicious three course French meal and matching wines all prepared by chef Frederic Plat.

Beckett's is also celebrating Reconciliation Week (29 May–2 June) and Bloomsday on 16 June with an Irish band. Beckett's is a happening place these days with Sunday Crab night, 25% off on Wednesdays and a live pianist on Thursday to Saturdays.



Former PM Julia Gillard with Beckett's restaurateur, Wendy Beckett (Photo: Maggie Marwick)

For Your Calendar

Saturday 1 June, 9.30 am. *Orphan School Creek Bushcare Group weeding day.*

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

Tuesday 18 June, 7 pm. *Players in the Pub: 'Mark Twain's Australia' by Greg Punch.*

Wednesday 3 July, 9.30 am–4 pm. *Bus tour: Rookwood Cemetery and back:*

8–24 November. *The 35th Annual Glebe Music Festival.*

24 May–8 June. *dog: KXT on Broadway, cnr of 181 Broadway and Mountain St, Ultimo.*



Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page: 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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Membership of the Glebe Society

- *Individual member: \$45*
- *Joint (two people, one address): \$55*
- *Household: \$60*
- *Concession (student or pensioner): \$20*
- *Institution or corporate: \$110*
- *Additional donation welcome*

How to join

- *Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under '[Join/Renew](#)';*
- *download a membership form from glebesociety.org.au;*
- *write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037;*
- *or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au*

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