



We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners of Glebe and Forest Lodge and pay our respects to elders past and present

Issue 9 of 2024 (November)

It is with great sadness we report that our dear colleague, Ian Stephenson, died suddenly earlier this month. Glebe Society president, Duncan Leys, provides more information in his report (p.4). Ian was much loved by all who knew him and his untimely death is a huge loss to the Glebe Society.



Our Main Street – Glebe Point Road

By Brian Fuller

In the June edition of the Bulletin ([Issue 4/2024](#)), Beryl Hesketh's letter to the Editor praised small shopkeepers along Glebe Point Road (and other streets) for their contribution to our community. She correctly pointed out that the good relationships between shopkeepers and their customers contribute to better social interaction. Beryl was right to call on us to support our local businesses when we can.

That support can come in many ways, the most obvious being buying goods and services from them, and as we come to know them, perhaps understand the challenges that they face. Those challenges would include competition from online retailing, social media, large shopping centres competing nearby, and home delivery from the big supermarkets and takeaway food outlets. I'm sure we've all noticed the high incidence of supermarket delivery vans in our streets, and even more noticeable, the countless number of scooters and the like delivering takeaway food, night after night. These new retailing models mean fewer reasons to visit the Main Street.

This situation is not unique to Glebe Point Road. Main Streets around the developed world have realised they will need to reposition themselves if they are to remain relevant to their local communities.

This article looks at two local success stories, the things we can do 'tomorrow,' and how the emerging trend of non-profit organisations advocating for a return of our streets as 'places for people'. The article also looks at a proposed new infrastructure which, if done well, offers a significant opportunity for Glebe Point Road, our shopkeepers and therefore the community at large.

Photo, top of page: Ian at the 2022 AGM, receiving flowers to thank him for being Glebe Society president for the preceding two years (photo: Phillip Vergison).

Celebrating their success

It is rare that the press features a story about our successful retailers. SBS recently published [an article about Galluzzo's](#) Fruit and Veg store at 187 Glebe Point Road. The store opened in 1934 and has been in the same family for 90 years. That is a remarkable achievement for any store on any Main Street. Navigating the economic and social highs and lows during such a long period requires tenacity, hard work and a savvy talent for running a small business.

After 90 years, the family has decided to sell the business. Fortunately, it has been sold to two brothers with the same Italian pedigree, who will continue to trade as *Galluzzo's Fruiterers by Dan and Josh*.

Time Out recently published its [list of the 69 best cafes in Sydney](#). Coming in at number 15 on that list is The Wedge at 53-55 Glebe Point Road, on the corner of Mitchell Street and opposite the Glebe Primary School. Of all the cafes in Sydney and the metropolitan area, to be included in the top 69 is another outstanding achievement by one of our Main Street retailers.

Renowned for its boundary-pushing menu, friendly staff, and great service, The Wedge has become the go-to café for many locals. Having traded for seven years, it has become an integral member of the Glebe community.

There are, of course, other successful stores along our Main Street, but I wanted to highlight the two most recent examples of recognition in the press.

Social media

Those of us who use social media can 'follow' our Main Street businesses. It's a great way to give feedback that encourages them and, from time to time, remind them of the direction that their customers would prefer they take. 'Liking' a post effectively gives a great review, encouraging others to visit the store.



Galluzzo's Fruiterers (Photo: Brian Fuller)



The Wedge (Photo: Brian Fuller)

Community Fair – Sydney Streets

The City of Sydney has been hosting community fairs in the villages' Main Streets twice yearly. The most recent for Glebe Point Road was held on Saturday, 12 October and was arguably the most successful yet. It was a fun community day full of free entertainment, great food and a community vibe. It's a great way to

showcase our Main Street at its best, but it can only be successful when the community gets behind it.

Advocacy on behalf of our shopkeepers

Given the large crowd that attended a Town Hall community meeting on 3 February 2023, it's clear that many are concerned about our Main Street's future direction. The meeting was hosted by 'Save our High Streets', and the community packed into the ground floor meeting room. It appeared that the high number of attendees took the hosts by surprise.

One of the most effective ways to influence Government and Council decisions that affect local shopkeepers and businesses is via advocacy. To do this, we need to be aware of discussions, action groups and proposed policy changes that may affect our Main Street. There is now a significant narrative, locally and globally, about the future direction of Main Streets, their contribution to their communities and the amenity of the public domain. That narrative generally commences with something along the lines of 'Are Main Streets for people or cars?'

Outdoor dining

You may be aware that the City of Sydney allows cafes, bars, restaurants and hotels to provide outdoor dining in parking bays by granting them a licence. Those licences are temporary, generally for 12 to 18 months. The existing licences expire on 31 December. Council is considering extending them for six months, until 30 June 2025. That extension is to coincide with the expiration of the 'fee waiver' period.

There are various levels of presentation of outdoor dining set-ups, but common to most is the road barrier (which looks as if it were extracted from a Grand Prix circuit), basic table and seating that generally has no relationship to the local character of the place, and a kerb that is a potential trip hazard for patrons returning onto the permanent pavement. There is little or no 'greening' of the space. Under the current temporary licence arrangements, the operators cannot confidently invest in safe and presentable furniture, offer longer term employment prospects to local people or undertake marketing strategies. Infrastructure and amenity that are temporary are rarely optimised to full potential, resulting in lost opportunities. Investment by all stakeholders in temporary arrangements is inefficient, unsustainable and, in the end, costly.

Committee for Sydney

The [Committee for Sydney](#) is Greater Sydney's urban policy think tank. Their goal is to help Greater Sydney be the best it can be, for all. In their 2020 discussion paper [Reclaiming Sydney' High Streets](#), the Committee writes: *Most of the high streets in Sydney were built before the widespread uptake of the motor car. These pre-war streets are designed to be pedestrian friendly. Before cars were around, they had to be. ...The high street was the product of thousands of years of city-building: an urban pattern*

based on access by proximity rather than access by mobility ... We continue to believe that the essential function of a high street is social: people are still going to want to congregate to be with each other, to strut and sit, to eat and drink – and most likely to buy some things too. (p. 27)



The Glebe Society commissioned the Memories of Trams mural, at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Hereford Street. The mural depicts a safe street for kids, walking and commuting by public transport. Looking at the dress fashion, it appears to be set in the mid-20th century, a mere 70 years ago. Back then it was a street for the people: you will note there is not one car. (Photo: Brian Fuller)



Glebe Point Road today (Photo: Brian Fuller)

Better Streets

[Better Streets](#) describes itself as:

Australia's peak body for safer, healthier and more sustainable streets. They believe Australia deserves safe, healthy, accessible, profitable and enjoyable climate-friendly streets that are welcoming for people and better for the environment. Better Streets knows exactly how to improve the streets you care about.

Better Streets Australia has five key objectives:

- Get kids active
- Slow vehicles down

- Boost local businesses
- Make more crossings
- Provide transport choices

Both Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore have confirmed their support for Better Streets, although Council's priority focus seems to be on the fifth objective (providing transport choices) and, to a lesser extent, on supporting local businesses with its Sydney Streets Fair day and temporary outdoor dining.

Better Streets has a long way to go, and the nuances of each street will determine which of the five objectives needs greater focus.

Broadway light rail: implications for Glebe Point Road

For years, numerous State Governments have struggled with a Parramatta Road solution, but over the last 12 to 18 months, there has been growing discussion about light rail from Central Station along Parramatta Road to Broadway and beyond.



Artist's impression of how Broadway could look when transformed into a green gateway. (Photo source: City of Sydney News: New plan advances the City of Sydney's transport vision)

During the last Council election campaign, the [Lord Mayor announced](#) that, if re-elected, Council would work to extend light rail along Parramatta Road and Broadway to Green Square. At their 29 July meeting, [Council resolved](#) to support the Parramatta Road to Green Square Light Rail, citing the success of the George Street light rail and the State Government's [proposed Tech Central](#) innovation precinct at Camperdown as stimuli for the project. Council approved investing \$100 million in public domain infrastructure between Green Square and the University of Sydney, and to work with the State Government and its light rail provider, ALTRAC, to bring the proposal to fruition. While the NSW Government is yet to formally commit to the proposal, [ALTRAC is promoting its credentials to deliver](#).

The image above does not indicate lanes for cars, but all parties have indicated there will be some provision

for vehicular traffic (even if one lane only each way). Regardless of whether the light rail replaces all the existing buses, there is no doubt that Broadway's current eight to nine vehicle lanes will need to reduce in number to accommodate the light rail, cycle lanes, widened footpaths, and landscaping.

Conceptually, a new light rail along Broadway and Parramatta Road is a major win for more public transport and a huge contributor to net zero emissions. It has the potential to be a great Boulevard. *But what does it mean for Glebe Point Road? Is it a threat or an opportunity?* It would be a huge traffic, planning and design catastrophe if an imaginary line were to be drawn across the intersection of Glebe Point Road with Broadway. The \$100 million investment in the public domain infrastructure must include the integration of Broadway with Glebe Point Road so that each is complementary to the other. It would be a community loss if the existing shops, cafes, restaurants and small businesses were to relocate to a redesigned and revitalised Broadway.

Light rail on Broadway and Parramatta Road could be a great opportunity, provided there was genuine and effective community consultation and a balanced traffic analysis, planning and design process.

Have your say

A common thread is emerging among government agencies, councils and not-for-profit groups: the recognition that Main Streets must return to being public places for people. Communities need to socialise, not only in recreational parks but also in the Main Street as they go about their shopping, dining and accessing essential services. To do that, Main Streets must have successful shops and businesses that meet the needs of the broader local community. Today that includes outdoor places for a coffee or a meal in a safe and healthy environment.

The push to net zero emissions runs in parallel with the need for better streets, particularly Main Streets. To ensure that the local character and social fabric are preserved, it is essential that Government and Councils are guided by community feedback as they seek to deliver revitalised Main Streets for people. Not-for-profit groups need membership or mailing lists to promote their objectives.

The City of Sydney continually seeks community comment with its [Have Your Say](#) initiative. To have your say, you first need to [register](#) with Council. You can [write to Councillors](#) at any time and express your ideas. The more feedback, the better the outcome.

From the President

by Duncan Leys

Vale Ian Stevenson

As I write my report this evening of Thursday, 24 October, I have the saddest news to impart. This afternoon, I called in to see Ian as I had not heard from him for a few days and found him deceased. The police and ambulance attended, but it appeared he had been dead for a number of days. While the cause of death is not known at this time it does not appear to be suspicious.



Ian Stephenson, then Glebe Society president, at Norma Hawkin's 99th birthday celebration in John Street Reserve, October 2021. (Photo: Andrew Wood)

As some may know, Ian had been travelling in South America and had recently returned home. I had spoken to Ian since his return, and although he had a respiratory infection, he was critiquing a development application with his usual energy and enthusiasm. I rang him to query something he had written, and he did not ring me back, which was most unlike Ian. A number of phone calls later over several days and still no call from Ian, I decided to call in on him.

Ian was a friend to many from all walks of life, and I will be forever grateful for the knowledge he imparted to me about history, planning laws, architecture, art, literature, and culture. Always good-humoured, generous and funny with a wicked sense of humour.

Glebe and our country have suffered an enormous loss, and I will miss him greatly.

We will have more to say in the coming days.

Glebe Society Guided Walks Program

The walks play a key role in the Glebe Society in providing opportunities for meeting other members and learning more about Glebe–Forest Lodge and its local neighbourhood. Our last walk for the year will be held on Saturday 2 November, led by Max Solling once again, and exploring Forest Lodge’s history. There are still a few places left, so [book now](#) if you’d like to attend.

As Dorothy and Katharine indicate in the Walks program [Year in Review](#), in the past 15 months we’ve had 10 walks, and I have attended almost all of them.

Glebe’s Hill biodiversity research project

In November, the Final Report of the research project, Glebe’s Hill - unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential project, will be presented. The project is a collaboration between the University of Sydney and the Glebe Society and is funded by a City of Sydney Innovation and Ideas Grant. Professor Dieter Hochuli, leader of the University of Sydney’s Integrative Ecology Group, will present the results of the University’s research and make recommendations.

Members and friends are invited to this event, which will be held at Glebe Town Hall on Friday 29 November at 6 pm. [Booking](#) is required, although there is no cost for the event.

The 35th Annual Glebe Music Festival

We’ve been reminding members about the Glebe Music Festival for many months, and now it’s upon us!

This year’s Glebe Music Festival begins with the first concert on Friday evening, 8 November, at Gleebooks featuring the Sydney Guitar Collective. There are seven concerts altogether ending with the final concert, Josie and the Emeralds, on the afternoon of Sunday 24th November at Glebe Town Hall.

The full program is available on [the Festival’s website](#), including booking links for each concert.

Heritage Minister’s visits marks two important events

The Heritage Minister Penny Sharpe visits Glebe for two notable events in September. The first, on 22 September, was to unveil a plaque detailing the heritage listing of the Elsie Women’s Refuge.

Elsie, Australia’s first domestic violence refuge for women and children, has been added to the NSW State Heritage Register, recognising a legacy of creating safe places for women and children. As Bulletin readers will know, the Refuge was established in 1974 by prominent Women’s Liberation Movement activists, including Dr Ann Summers and Bessie Guthrie. Elsie has inspired the creation of over

800 refuges across Australia. Sadly, the job of eliminating the scourge of domestic violence is not done by any means.



Unveiling of the Elsie plaque by Heritage Minister Penny Sharpe. Also in attendance, on the right, was Federal member, Tanya Plibersek (Source: Lorrie Graham’s website)



Blue Plaque at 52 Toxteth Road, former home of Dorothy Drain, journalist (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

The Minister also came to Glebe on 10 September to unveil the Blue Plaque for Dorothy Drain at 52 Toxteth Road. [The Glebe Society nominated the 52 Toxteth Road Glebe](#) property for a Blue Plaque in 2022 for once being the home of Dorothy Drain. Details of the nomination and the life of Dorothy Drain can be found on our [website](#) and in [Bulletin 9/2022](#).

In a [front-page article](#) in [Bulletin 10/2023](#) – fittingly written by retired veteran journo, Allan Hogan – the Society informed readers that our nominated Dorothy Drain plaque was amongst the fourteen chosen in Round 2 of the Blue Plaques program.

Bulletin date changes

Our last Bulletin for 2024 (Bulletin 10/2024) will be published on 5 December. Bulletin contributors please be aware that the copy deadline will be Monday 25

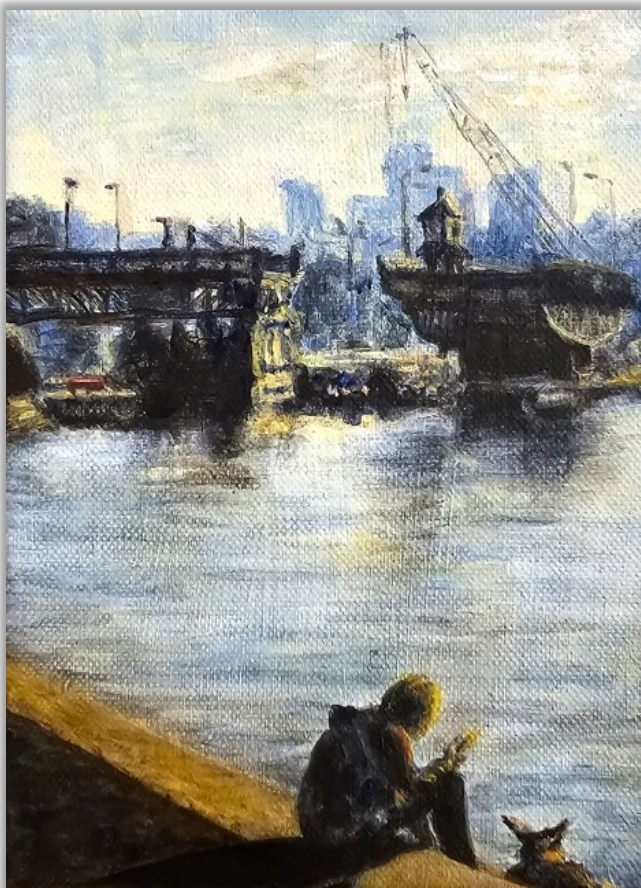
November. This is a day earlier than the previous deadlines, which were on a Tuesday.

While on the subject of deadlines, I'll remind you that the deadline for submission of photos for the In Focus photo competition is earlier than the deadline for other contributions – the 15th day of the month. So, for the December Bulletin, the deadline for photo submissions is Sunday 15 November.

Glebe Art Show

Another highly successful Glebe Art Show was held at the Community Hall in the Tramshed earlier this month. The Show was opened by Lord Mayor Clover Moore on Wednesday evening 17 October, and ran for the next four days until Sunday 20 October 2024.

As usual, the Glebe Society sponsored the Character of Glebe Prize, which was won this year by Linda Toomey for her highly accomplished 'Glebe Reflections'.



The winner of the 2024 Glebe Art Show's Character of Glebe Prize, sponsored by the Glebe Society, was 'Glebe Reflections' by Linda Toomey (image supplied by the artist)



Glebe Society Christmas Party

Finally, I look forward to seeing some of you at our Christmas Party which is being held at *Café Otto*

Noorba on the evening of Sunday 1 December.

Tickets are now on sale. You'll find all the details and are able to book via [Eventbrite](#).

News from the Blue Wren Subcommittee

By Andrew Wood, Convenor

Presentation of the University of Sydney's Grant Report

Two years ago, the City of Sydney awarded the Society an Innovation and Ideas Grant of \$44,640 entitled Glebe's Hill – unravelling its biodiversity secrets and potential. The research work was undertaken by Professor Dieter Hochuli, leader of the University of Sydney's [Integrative Ecology Group](#), and the Report will be presented to the Lord Mayor (or her representative) and the President of the Society at Glebe Town Hall at 6 pm on Friday 29 November.

All members and their friends are invited to the presentation, followed by a celebratory glass of sparkling wine.

There is no charge for the event, as it is supported by the City's grant, but booking is required. For catering purposes, please register to attend by Monday 25 November.

When: 6 pm, Friday 29 November

Where: Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Road

Bookings: via [Eventbrite](#)



The 2024 Spring Bird Survey

Judy Christie will lead the Society's 11th Spring Bird Survey on Sunday 3 November, commencing from Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford Street at 6:45 am.

When: 6:45 am Sunday 3 November

Where: Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford Street

Register: It's not too late to contact Judy if you would like to help – 0437 693 372.

A raptor sighted on Glebe's Hill

At 10.30 am on the morning of 23 September, Judy Christie noticed quite a bit of bird noise around Glebe's Hill. Then 10 or more Noisy Miners flew up – only to be followed by a Goshawk/Sparrowhawk – most likely a Brown Goshawk, which has been seen there before. They often hang around the same place for a few days, so listen out for lots of bird noise if you are in the area. It is usually a sign of a raptor around. I don't know whether the Goshawk made any dint in the location population of Noisy Miners – or Common Mynas.



A Brown Goshawk seen elsewhere in NSW (photo: Geoff Whalan, Flickr)

The year in review: Guided Walks Sept 2023 to Dec 2024

By Dorothy Davis and Katharine Vernon

Our popular Guided Walks explore the history, heritage, landscape and contemporary aspects of Glebe and Forest Lodge and their neighbouring areas, highlighting the special features of our local community. They provide an opportunity for learning, companionship, physical exercise and enjoyment!

The Glebe Society's Guided Walks were the first events offered by the Glebe Society following the gradual lifting of COVID restrictions. Our Guided Walks at that time allowed members to meet old and new friends in safe, open-air settings. The [Walks Program](#) has gone from strength to strength, with nearly 250 bookings on 10 walks in the last 15 months, from September 2023 to December 2024.

Six of these walks focused on exploring different aspects of Glebe – from late Victorian architecture to radical Glebe in the 60s and 70s; four covered areas close to Glebe (including Ian Stephenson's walk in June this year – *The Hidden History of Blackwattle Bay* – that straddled Glebe and neighbouring areas); and one was out of the area, at Rookwood Cemetery, though mentioning many Glebe identities.

The first three walks in 2024 were planned with the theme of 'Glebe 50 years ago', acknowledging

significant events and inspiring people in Glebe in the early 1970s:

- 2024 marked 50 years since the Whitlam Government purchased the Glebe Lands (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 to be preserved. Max Solling, Glebe's eminent historian, led the walk *The Glebe Estate: St Phillips and Bishopthorpe* in March this year.
- Just over 50 years ago, Kate and Bernard Smith's seminal book, *The Architectural Character of Glebe* (1973), was published, documenting the heritage of Glebe and Forest Lodge. To celebrate this anniversary, Katharine Vernon and Jan Macindoe guided a group of walkers in April through the Toxteth Estate featuring Glebe's Late Victorian Streetscapes.
- 2024 also marked 50 years since the establishment of Elsie Women's Refuge in Westmoreland Street in Glebe. Meredith Burgmann, Helen Randerson and Heather Goodall, all Glebe residents and well-known social activists and researchers, led a walk in April on *The Sites and stories of radical ferment in Glebe*, including the opening of Elsie, the first women's refuge in Australia.

Local walks also included the *Villas of Glebe pre-1870*, in September 2023, led by Robert Hannan whose generous hospitality we also enjoyed at his heritage villa *Rothwell Lodge*, and Max Solling's constantly interesting and revealing explorations of *Forest Lodge* in September 2023 and coming up again very soon.



Ian Stephenson led a guided walk of the University of Sydney's architecture in June last year. The Graffiti Tunnel provided the best vantage point to view the rear of the Bank Building (Photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Two public historians, Mark Dunn and Patricia Hale, gave generously of their time and expertise to lead tours of *Pymont* (September 2023) and *Ultimo* (October 2024), respectively, opening our eyes to the different history and character of these two peninsular neighbourhoods to those of Glebe. The bus tour to

and Back was – perhaps unexpectedly (for a cemetery) – a fun day, led by Max Solling through a myriad of graves, monuments, mausoleums and gardens, pointing out the burial sites of famous and infamous characters, including many from Glebe.



Max Solling led a guided walk of Bishopthorpe in the Glebe Estate in May this year (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Rookwood Cemetery

The Guided Walks Program's success is largely due to the wonderful (volunteer) guides who have shared their expertise and knowledge with much enthusiasm. We especially thank local historian Max Solling, who willingly shares his deep knowledge of Glebe and Forest Lodge and has led three of this year's walks and the Rookwood Cemetery tour. His years of research into all aspects of life in Glebe ensures an interesting and entertaining walk. Of course, these walks would be nothing without all the walkers, many of whom are 'regulars', who continue to turn up on the day, whatever the weather! The Walks Program is initiated, planned and executed by a small group of Glebe Society members. This year, Dorothy Davis and Katharine Vernon were joined by Jenny Broe and Helena Klijn to provide extra assistance in arranging the Glebe Walks program. The team has also appreciated the behind-the-scenes efforts of Virginia Simpson-Young and Sarah Fogg to ensure that information on the Glebe Walks is kept up to date on the Glebe Society website, our Bulletins and Eventbrite.

Planning our Glebe Walks for 2025 will soon be underway and we welcome any ideas for new walks

and any walks you would like repeated. And we'd love to hear from anyone interested in leading a guided walk.

Walk Report: Discovering Ultimo

By Jenny Broe

On Sunday afternoon, 13 October, we met up with Patricia Hale, our walk leader, who led us on an interesting and wonderfully researched zigzag route past some of Ultimo's historical and industrial sites, pointing out examples of urban regeneration and remarkable contemporary buildings.

We learned that Ultimo developed from the pristine site of First Nations' habitation, through early dairy farms, to gradually increasing industry: quarries, factories, power stations and an extensive goods rail network. Later, massive woolstores were constructed to service a pastoral economy and exports from Pymont's wharves.



Guided Walk leader, Patricia Hale, and participants checking out the Goods Line in Ultimo (Photo: Jenny Broe)

Over time, the population who served these enterprises was slowly crowded out, as the need for industrial land accelerated over the nineteenth century and later. Those who stayed lived in decrepit accommodation with few facilities, enduring pollution from industries in Ultimo and neighbouring breweries and abattoirs.

As Patricia outlined to us, 'While the Pymont-Ultimo peninsula was sacrificed to Sydney's economic needs in the past 200 years', one development in the late 1880s contributed significantly to Ultimo's 21st century urban regeneration: the grand architecturally imposing Sydney Technical College. The former Sydney Technical College buildings are now surrounded by state-of-the-art award-winning

architecture on the densely populated UTS campus, creating an attractive education precinct. At the same time, many of the vast woolstores have been repurposed for residential and commercial purposes.



The Frank Gehry UTS Business School building in Ultimo (Photo: Rob Deutscher Flickr)

Among the places we passed were the site of Ultimo House, the (former) Technological Museum/Museum of Applied Sciences, the Benevolent Asylum, the Goods Line pedestrian walkway, the Frank Gehry-designed UTS Business School, former sandstone quarries over which woolstores and a school were constructed, and the Farmers and Graziers No 1 Woolstore, now Dalgety Square apartments.

Our walk concluded at the Lord Wolseley Hotel, a small corner hotel with outside tables on the green. Our special thanks to Patricia, who was a most informative and energetic guide and was so very generous with her expert knowledge and time. As one participant wrote at the end of the day:

Thank you very much for today's walk – it was most enjoyable and we learnt such a lot about Ultimo (of which we were quite ignorant)! It's certainly given us some ideas for future discovery jaunts of our own.

Memories of Lindy Anne Peisley

By Dale Dengate

Some memories of Lindy, a third-generation resident of Glebe, living in the family house on Wigram Road. She was born on 17 October 1952 and died in RPAH on 5 October this year after a short illness.

Lindy had been a Senior President of the local branch of the ALP for many years and probably joined as soon as she was old enough. She was also an active Union member, especially with the Teachers Federation. I recall her giving detailed answers to questions about the history of funding for Catholic and private schools. Lindy had worked as a teacher and later in various education departments and associated careers.

In the 1980s, a group of friends used to meet at the Glebe Rowing Club and, in later years, at the Toxteth pub, to discuss and debate current issues – or until Lindy felt we were better informed.

The funeral service, organised by a close cousin, was conducted at St James Church on Thursday 17 October by Monsignor Vincent John. As a number of workmates and friends spoke, the character of Lindy came through in the various anecdotes. Family recalled Lindy as a highly intelligent woman who studied economics at Sydney University. She loved debating with people about politics and all sorts of topics. However, a close relative admitted that she was not known for common sense when it came to practical things and felt housework was a waste of time.

Living in Glebe, not far from the Lew Hoad reserve, she had grown up with a keen enthusiasm for tennis. Her partner from their youth, told of their winning a number of tournaments over many years.

Being influenced by her father, Bill, who loved horse racing, Lindy took a keen interest in horseracing and spent most of Saturday studying the form guide before making her choices. Anyone who rang on Saturday was told not to interrupt her work and concentration. Another relative, who rang for a tip for the Melbourne Cup, was given the details and potential of five horses over the following hour.

Indeed, Lindy was one of the real characters of Glebe and she will be missed by family and friends.



Lindy Peisley (photo LinkedIn)

A plaque for Sadie

By Janice Challinor

A group of Glebe locals gathered on the corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road Glebe on

Monday 22 July to welcome the arrival of a plaque recognising well-known Glebe identity, Sarah Murdoch King, aka Sadie, who died on 17 January 2022, just one month after her 100th birthday. (Due to a glitch, the plaque wasn't installed until the following Saturday, 27 July.) The Hon. Tanya Plibersek and Cr Linda Scott, as well as many Glebe residents, had requested this recognition for Sadie as a fitting tribute to a woman who contributed so much to our community over her lifetime. City of Sydney concurred and the plaque was commissioned.



A photo of Sadie King near her plaque outside the former Glebe Post Office, taken at the dedication ceremony on 30 August (Photo: Janice Challinor)

As little advance notice had been given of either of these occasions, a dedication ceremony was arranged for 30 August in front of the old Glebe Post Office. The ceremony began with Pastor Ray Minniecon from Sadie's last church, St John's, acknowledging elders and welcoming us to Country. Following this, I briefly reviewed Sadie's life and Kobi Shetty, MP, and Glen Powell from Wesley Mission also said a few words. Marla Priest and Marie White related their experiences of Sadie's involvement in supporting Glebe's social housing community. Scottish bagpiper Rob McLean played Scotland the Brave in honour of Sadie's heritage.

Following the ceremony, on invitation from the Rev. Julie Brackenreg, we moved to the Old Fire Station for a cuppa and storytelling of Sadie's interactions with Glebe and Glebites. I could not help but wish I'd been entrusted with these reminiscences when writing Sadie's biography; they would have enriched it considerably.

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek could not join us that day but paid her respects on site on 6 September when she was back in Sydney. Sadie, who had known Tanya from her earliest days in politics, was proud of their association and felt that Tanya was continuing the socially responsible work Sadie herself had undertaken.

Sadie had been a Glebe resident for over 75 Years. During that time, she became a staunch unionist, advocating for the rights of women in the workplace, and a Labor Party member who represented people living in social housing.

For those interested in learning more about this indomitable woman and her contribution to Glebe, you may enjoy the book *Glasgow to Glebe: Sadie King's Life Story*, which was published by the Glebe Society at the time of the [Glebe Society Community Festival](#) in 2019. The book will soon be available through the Festival website and is [available now from Gleebooks](#) for \$15.



Some of the gathering welcoming Sadie's plaque on Monday 22 July (Photo: Eva Rodrigues Ruiz)



The Hon. Tanya Plibersek visits Sadie's plaque on 6 September (Photo: Tanya Plibersek's office)

City of Sydney planning controls: have your say

By Virginia Simpson-Young

The City of Sydney Council is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the [Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012](#) (SLEP) and the [Sydney Development Control Plan 2012](#) (SDCP) that are being made to meet the requirements of the NSW Government's [Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy](#).¹

The SLEP and SDCP are planning control instruments under the NSW Government's [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#); they control development within the Sydney local government area (LGA). The NSW Government's

[Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy](#) (December 2020) created some new planning controls for the Pymont-Ultimo area and the SLEP and SDCP must be amended to align these.

While the proposed planning changes will directly affect Pymont and Ultimo, the Glebe Society – particularly the Bays and Foreshores and Planning Subcommittees – has often pointed out that changes to planning controls affecting Pymont and Ultimo have implications for Glebe, particularly its waterways and parks. The Society has analysed and taken action on a succession of NSW government strategies and plans for the Pymont-Ultimo area – think: the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project, Bays West Place Strategy, Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct, the new Sydney Fish Market and the Glebe Island Bridge.



View of Pymont taken from the Glebe side of Blackwattle Bay (Image: Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy, December 2020, p. 43)

The documents that are the subject of the consultation are

- [Planning proposal to amend the Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012 \(SLEP\)](#)
- [Proposed amendments to the Sydney Development Control Plan \(SDCP\)](#)

More information about the consultation and submission instructions are on the [City of Sydney website](#). The consultation closes at 5 pm on Wednesday 13 November.

Note 1. The Glebe Society made a [submission](#) to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy in Sept. 2020.

Mystery photo

By Lyn Collingwood

Last month's mystery photo

How did you go with [last month's mystery photo](#)?



Janice Challinor and Wayne Carveth identified the newsagency and restaurant on a busy part of Glebe Point Road. Wayne was a regular diner at Mori, with its specialty Japanese seafood.

How has the area changed? The clock has gone! See contemporary photo below:



(Photo: Helena Klijn)

This month's mystery photo

See below ... Where are we? And, in which decade was this photo taken? Please send your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au with Mystery Photo in the subject line.



Who lived in your street? Margaret Colbourne

By Lyn Collingwood

Staunch trade unionist Margaret Colbourne, née Margaretta Mitchell, lived and worked in Glebe all her married life. Her father was James Walter Mitchell, an Irish immigrant from Market Hill near Belfast. In Sydney, he combined his trade as a letter-press machine printer with that of publican. Nothing is known of her mother, Jane.

When Margaret was born, James Mitchell was the landlord of the Kangaroo Inn in Yurong Street Woolloomooloo. As was common, the hotel was also the family home. In 1869 James was fined for selling liquor outside hours, and in June the following year he was declared insolvent, by which time he had taken over the licence of the Bengal Arms in Bridge Street. Mitchell died there four months later at the age of 52 and was buried Church of England in Balmain Cemetery, the resting place of his daughter Edith Minnie, who had died in 1869 at the age of two.

Margaret was a dye finisher when she married Queensland-born painter Robert Colbourn (1866–1918) at St David's Anglican Church, Surry Hills, on 30 April 1894. The couple moved to Glebe where six children were born: Robert James (1895–1947), Reginald Samuel (1897–1938), James (1899–1900), Marguerite (born and died in 1901), Colin Campbell (1902–1979) and Bruce Douglas (1904–1948). The family first lived at 36 Gottenham Street (cornering Bridge Road) and 6 Brougham Street before shifting to Norton Street. By 1908, the street numbering now fixed, they had settled at 8 Gottenham Street, their

address for the next two decades. The spelling of their surname changed over time.

The four surviving sons became manual labourers. Two served in the First World War. Robert, a boilermaker at Cockatoo Island – and subject to a recent Children's Court maintenance order – was the first to enlist in 1915. His mother organised a farewell for him in Glebe's Record Reign Hall. Reginald, a storeman, enlisted in May 1916. He fought in France as a gunner and his name was one of those inscribed on a roll of honour at the Randwick Tramway Workshops. After returning to civilian life, Reg became a fitter.

Robert Colbourne senior (a 51-year-old 'age pensioner') died on 13 July 1918 while Reg was still overseas. Margaret Colbourne's brother James Walter Mitchell junior, a commission agent nicknamed 'Paddy', died aged 54 the following March. He and his family were also long-term Glebe residents; their family home was 122 Bridge Road. Paddy's widow, Annie Charlotte née Veness, survived until 1931.

Soon after her husband's health began to fail in 1909, Margaret got a job as a cleaner at Glebe Public School. For more than two decades, she looked after the outhouses and sheds and the main buildings, which had three flights of stairs. In the early days, the 'workers of the dawn' provided their own materials, scrubbed by candlelight and brought their young children to help. Margaret was a founding member of the school's Parents and Citizens' Association and a leading activist in the School Cleaners' Union with the Education Department.



Margaret Colbourne (source: Sydney Sun, 2 February 1930, p. 47)

In 1911, Margaret joined the Miscellaneous Workers Union (MWU) as a pioneer member and its ninth female. She served on the MWU Board of Management for 20 years, was regularly elected as

MWU delegate to the NSW Labor Council and represented the union at public events such as Labor politicians' funerals. She was involved with the Trades Hall Association and the Eight Hour Committee, was nominated at least once by the MWU as the Eight Hour Day's 'Labor Queen' and won the union movement's 'Most Popular Lady' competition.



Crusa flats, 413 Glebe Point Rd (Lyn Collingwood)

In 1923, Margaret was appointed one of the State's first female Justices of the Peace. The position was not without its downside: 'I've had people waking me up at two in the morning to sign a consent for a son or daughter to be married,' she recalled in 1946. 'Then there's the person who wakes up in the middle of the night and decides to change his will. He thinks nothing of getting a JP out of bed to witness it ... What I would like to do is sit on the Bench'.

Margaret was active on the right wing of the ALP, which she joined in 1906. During the 1920s and 1930s she was treasurer and on the credentials committee of the Glebe branch, which met at Glebe Town Hall and at the RSL Labor Club at 49 Glebe Point Road (now Gleebooks). She supported Jack Lang's 'inner group', particularly the Member for West Sydney, John Beasley, nicknamed 'Stabber Jack' for leading his group across the floor of the House to bring down the Scullin government in 1931. A regular contributor to the Labor Daily on workers' rights and the perks enjoyed by non-Labor politicians, Margaret repeatedly urged voters to elect Beasley. During the Depression, she argued against the Education Department employing married female teachers. They should be replaced by young people whose mothers supported Jack Lang and an ALP Government.

By 1930, Margaret had moved with her younger sons Colin and Bruce, both boilermakers, into Crusa Flats at 413 Glebe Point Road. The newly built block on the corner of Cook Street had replaced the demolished Tiverton and its stables and coach-house. After Margaret was elected treasurer of the ALP's Toxteth branch, established in October 1940, her flat was used for occasional political meetings. The branch's early years were marked by increasing factionalism,

heated debates over wartime conscription and anger over Jack Lang's expulsion from the Labor Party.

The 'little grandmother of the Labor movement' remained at 413 Glebe Point Road until her death at age 79 on 29 November 1948 at RPA Hospital. She was buried Anglican near other family members at Rookwood. Representatives of the MWU attended the funeral. She was survived by her third son Colin, a Glebe alderman who worked at the Rozelle railway yards. Robert, her eldest, had died in April 1947; Bruce, her youngest, in March 1948. Reg had died a decade earlier. Probate on her estate was not finalised until 1952.

Margaret Colbourne is commemorated by Colbourne Avenue (previously part of Brougham Street), off St Johns Road. Another female stalwart of the Toxteth branch of the ALP is acknowledged by the Alice Lee Reserve on Burton Street. Nearby are the Ernest Pedersen Steps and the Ernest Pedersen Reserve, named for 'Ernie' Pedersen, strong man of the ALP's Toxteth branch.

Sources: City of Sydney: Sydney streets; Michael Hogan, *Local Labor: a history of the Labor Party in Glebe, 1891-2003*; National Archives of Australia; NSW cemetery records; NSW electoral rolls; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; NSW State Records; People Australia; Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Sands Directories; Sydney's Aldermen website; Trove website. **Notes for the family historian:** Buried Church of England at Rookwood are: Robert Colbourne and two infant children, the tombstone 'erected by his wife'. Buried Anglican at Rookwood, the inscription 'From Red': Reg Samuel 17 December 1938, aged 40; Bruce Douglas 27 March 1948, aged 43; Winifred <Teresa> 19 December 1953 and her husband Colin Campbell 21 December 1979, aged 77. Robert James who died aged 53 in 1947, survived by his widow and four children, was cremated at Rookwood.

Players in the Pub

All The World's A Stage: Scenes from Shakespeare,

selected and directed by Dereck Cameron

When: 7 pm Tuesday 19 November 2024

Where: The Harold 70A Ross Street, Forest Lodge

Cost: Entry by donation.



In Focus: This month's photo competition

By Virginia Simpson-Young

A great selection this month!

All judges chose John Lagerlow's *Glebe Town Hall or Constantinople?* as this month's In Focus winner.

Feedback from our professional photographer is below the images.



Glebe Town Hall or Constantinople: by John Lagerlow



Jethro and Rosie by Mary Regan



Johnstons Creek and Light Rail by Rodney Hammett



Convent wall falls while old tree stands tall by Dale Dengate

Professional photographer feedback

Glebe Town Hall or Constantinople?

I love the light on the building, the clear moon, and use of few colours which allow the viewer to concentrate on the details of the building. It is a very fresh and engaging image of the Glebe Town Hall.

Johnstons Creek and Light Rail

A really beautifully composed image of Johnstons Creek, with the tram just coming into view.

Jethro and Rosie

I like the image of Jethro and Rosie; particularly how Rosie is in focus and Jethro is slightly out of focus. Perhaps the photographer could have cropped the photo so that the high contrast background, which I find distracting, is less prominent.

Convent wall falls while old tree stands tall

I find the subject of the photograph interesting, but there are many elements which are very distracting. The electric wires across the middle of the photograph sort of cut the photograph in half. I'm not sure if that is possible, but perhaps by moving closer you could leave those wires out of the photograph, and keep the focus on the tree?



Photos for the December In Focus competition will be due on Friday 15 November. Bonus points will be awarded for photographs that include a Christmas reference!

Cost: Free Entry. RSVP:

<https://events.humanitix.com/boomalli-2024-fundraiser-opening-night>

For more details, visit Boomalli's website:

<https://boomalli.com.au/events/boomalli-2024-fundraiser/>

All photos supplied by Boomali



DNA Strands (2018) by Bronwyn Bancroft

Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative 2024 fundraiser

By Kyra Kum-Sing, Boomalli Curator

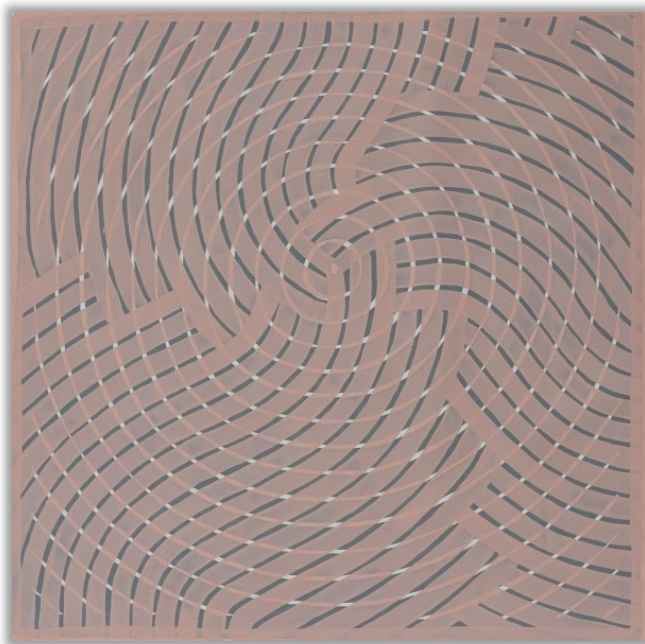
Boomalli is hosting a [fundraiser exhibition](#) showcasing the artworks of over 50 Indigenous artists from the Boomalli community who have generously donated their work to ensure the future of the cooperative.

The exhibition opens on Friday 8 November at 6 pm and will be a fun night of art, music, food and drinks. Artwork sales will begin on opening night at 6 pm, and continue until Saturday 23 November.

Boomalli is the longest-running Aboriginal-owned and run arts organisation dedicated to supporting NSW language group artists. The fundraiser exhibition will help support Boomalli's future and ensure there continues to be a safe space for NSW Aboriginal artists to share their stories and their art.

When: Opening Friday 8 November 6 pm. The exhibition continues until Saturday 23 November.

Where: Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, 55-59 Flood St Leichhardt NSW. Wheelchair Accessible.



Gaagal - Ocean by Otis Hope Carey



Marshes II by Kevin Sooty Welsh



I made a camera (2003) by Tracey Moffatt

Winanggaay May, Nadeena Dixon, Jai Walker, Jamie Eastwood, Nola Taylor, Peta-Joy Williams, Tracey L. Bostock, James P. Simon, Kim Healey, Sharon Smith, Trevor Eastwood, Kevin ‘Sooty’ Welsh, Annette Kennedy, Ralph Close, Michael Scarrott, Michelle Hamilton and Jude Jarrett.

Glebe Talks

Lyn Collingwood & David Gaunt:
Biscuits to Books

A brief history of 49 Glebe Point Road, home of Gleebooks

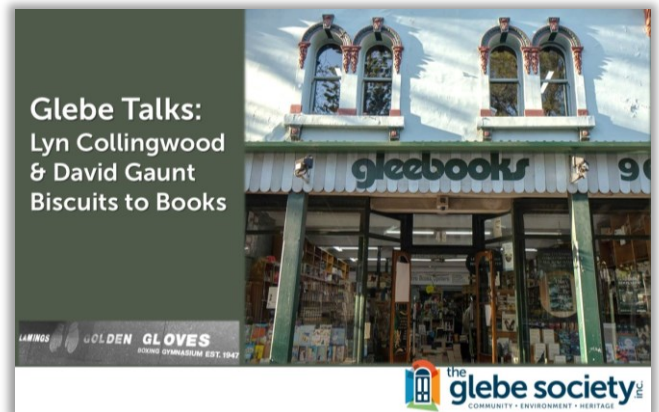
There were paddocks nearby when this building opened for business in 1871. Since then it's been a grocery, furniture factory, boxing gym, and a meeting place for political agitators - including the father of Bob Gould, another iconic bookseller.

Where: café at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road

When: 6 November, 6–7 pm

Cost: \$25, includes finger food and a glass of wine

Bookings: <https://glebe-talks-biscuits-to-books.eventbrite.com.au>



Lamings golden gloves on footpath outside Gleebooks, 2013 (Photo: newtown graffiti)

Featured Artists

Jeffrey Samuels, Dr. Bronwyn Bancroft, The Bostock Family (Phemie), Tracey Moffatt, Otis Hope Carey, Blak Douglas, Dennis Golding, Jazz Money, Peter Waples-Crowe, Danny Eastwood, Phillip Orcher, Kyra Kum-Sing, Jasmine Sarin, Nioka Lowe-Brennan, Graeme Walker, Wirrin Ward-Lowe, Wanita Lowe, Jasmine Coe, Graham Toomey, Charmaine Davis, Chenaya Bancroft-Davis, Nathan Falk, Ella Noah Bancroft, Dakota Campbell-Dixon, Rubyrose Bancroft, Kirilly Dawn, Debra Beale, Deborah Taylor, Joanne Cassady, Bindimu Currie, Hayley Pigram, Darren Charlwood, Val West, Taleena Simon, Maddison Gibbs, Kevin

For your calendar

10 am–12 noon, Saturday, 2 November. *Guided Walk: Layers of history in Forest Lodge.*

6.45 am, Sunday 3 November. *Spring Bird Survey, meet Paddy Gray Reserve.*

6–7 pm, Wednesday 6 November. *Glebe Talks: Lyn Collingwood & David Gaunt: Biscuits to Books.* Café at Gleebooks.

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

6 pm, Friday 8–23 November. Boomalli 2024 Fundraiser Exhibition, Boomalli Gallery, 55-59 Flood St Leichhardt.

5 pm, Wednesday 13 November. Closing date for consultation on proposed planning controls in Ultimo and Pyrmont.

Friday 15 November. Submission deadline, In Focus: Photo competition.

7 pm, Tuesday 19 November. Players in the Pub – *Scenes from Shakespeare.* The Harold, 70A Ross Street.

Monday 25 November. Copy deadline, December Bulletin.

6 pm, Monday 25 November. *Presentation of Innovation and Ideas Grant Report,* Community Hall, Tramsheds.

5–7 pm, Sunday 1 December. *Glebe Society Christmas Party,* Café Otto Noorba.

eventbrite Book Glebe Society events on our Eventbrite page: glebesociety.eventbrite.com

Glebe Society Inc. **established 1969**

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Membership of the Glebe Society

Individual.....	\$45
Joint (two people, one address)	\$55
Household (one address, more than two adults and/or children)	\$60
Concession (full-time student or full pensioner)	\$20
Business or institution	\$60

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

Additional donations welcome.

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