



## From the President

by Janet Wahlquist, Glebe Society President

### Opening of Federal Park Playground and Skate Park

In time for the July school holidays (and the most recent COVID restrictions) the new playground and skate park in Federal Park opened. It immediately enjoyed great popularity with children and teenagers and is now one of the best used recreational facilities for young people in the area. It was two years in the making after the original builders went broke in January 2020 and it was another six months before new builders started work.



The new skate park and playground in Federal Park (photos: Janet Wahlquist)

### Videos about Glebe

Members of the Management Committee worked with Chinese-speaking students from University of Technology on a project to create a video about Glebe. The video has been completed and is called *Treasure in the City*. It is spoken in Mandarin with English subtitles and gives a Chinese perspective on Glebe. The video explains eloquently why the low-rise 1980s infill fits in with Glebe and is better to live in than high rise. It is a great story about people from a different culture and country appreciating Glebe. The video can be viewed on the Glebe Society's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai6--TtgvpQ&t=7s>.

Ian Stephenson, our Planning Convenor, has been working on a set of six videos (see p.6). The videos provide some of the history of Glebe and the battles Glebe has fought to remain the place it is now. They then move on to addressing the battles we are facing today. They present a great perspective on Glebe and our history and are well worth viewing. They will be released on social media and our website in the near future.



*The postcard to be delivered to every Glebe and Forest Lodge home*

easier to find the information you are looking for. We will update the membership page to make it easier to join. We also know that the website contains a great deal of information and a history of Glebe and we plan to keep improving the website so visitors to the webpage and members are better able to access this wealth of information. This also requires funds.

We have plans for a membership drive. Postcards are presently being printed which we hope to distribute to all addresses in 2037. The purpose of the postcards is to draw attention to the current development threats to Glebe and the need for residents to be aware of these and involved in making our voices heard in opposition to these threats. We hope it encourages more residents to join the Society. Volunteer letterbox deliverers will be requested soon.

We are also planning a crowd funding campaign in the future so that we can effectively fund a campaign to Save Glebe from the recent development threats. You will hear more about this campaign soon.

## Blackwattle Bay development

The Plan for the rezoning and planning controls to be applied to the Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct are currently on display (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**).

The planning controls proposed will change our foreshore, increase the density of people living and working in our area, and increase traffic and the demand for parking, which will not be adequately catered for. The plan, if accepted, will result in a massive overdevelopment of Blackwattle Bay.

The area of the development is currently the low-level Fish Market which is publicly-owned land. What is proposed in the rezoning is for 12

building envelopes allowing for towers of up to 45 stories (RL 156 metres) which is higher than the Anzac Bridge as well as any other building west of Pymont Bridge at Darling Harbour. It proposes 1,550 residential dwellings and commercial and retail floor space for 5600 jobs.

The Glebe Society is making a submission opposing the plan. To see the proposal go to <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/blackwattlebay>. There is facility on the webpage to make an objection to the proposal. You have until Friday 20 August 2021 to make an objection.

## The Budget and Membership Renewals

As you are all aware from my recent update, the Society wants to improve our financial situation so that we can be more actively involved in campaigning about issues that are important to us. The Society did not increase membership dues this year given the last year of COVID shutdowns that caused financial stress for many. We have been very pleased with the number of renewing members those who have provided donations as well as their membership fees. Many thanks to our members.

The Management Committee has decided to upgrade some aspects of our website. We plan to improve the opening page to make it



*If you think 45 storey towers on the Blackwattle Bay foreshore are a bad idea, give your feedback by Friday 20 August (image: Blackwattle Bay State Significant Precinct Study, p.86, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/blackwattlebay>)*

## New Glebe Island Bridge Website

The Society has redesigned the Glebe Island Bridge website to make it more accessible and it is our intention to update it as there are developments of interest and importance to the saving of the Bridge. The website is accessible at [www.glebeislandbridge.com](http://www.glebeislandbridge.com) Feel free to contact us at [contact@glebeislandbridge.com](mailto:contact@glebeislandbridge.com) if you have anything you would like to contribute to the site.



A screenshot from the Glebe Island Bridge website

## Our opposition to the Government selling off public land for development



Although increased social housing is welcome, the DA for 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd is a fail for many reasons (image: <https://www.dppe.nsw.gov.au>)

The Society has made an objection to the DA for 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-2D Wentworth Park Rd which includes two eight-storey blocks of 70 residential units as well as five houses and two commercial tenancies. The Council has allowed the rezoning of the area and its removal from the St Phillips Heritage Conservation area. We continue to object to the proposal as being too high, too dense, lacking open space and not maintaining the character of Glebe. We believe that this could be the thin end of the wedge for Glebe. We will also continue to object at all stages of the proposed development of the Franklyn St public housing estate. What is proposed there are even higher blocks of units (14 storeys), greater density (425 residences as

opposed to the present number of 110) and reduction of public space.

Much of Glebe is owned by the State Government and although we have been told there are no other plans at present to hive off existing buildings for development, this seems to be what the Government does when they need money. The Government does have a program for slowly selling off public housing properties for capital and this is already happening in Glebe. The intended sale of Laurel Tree House property is an example of this. The fact that it is an important public resource for our inner-city families whose parents need to work does not seem to be a concern for the Government.

The Glebe Society will continue to oppose these threats to our community. We will keep you informed and let you know how you can become involved.

...continued next page

### **Laurel Tree House parents keep up the fight**

by Virginia Simpson-Young

Last month's *Bulletin* included an article by parents of children attending Laurel Tree House (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/laureltreehouse-under-threat/>). The parents are trying to reverse KU Children's Services decision to close the Centre in response to the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's decision to sell the Centre's publicly-owned building.

The parents are still working to turn things around, and have been successful in garnering some media attention, including in the Daily Telegraph and City Hub (<https://cityhubsydney.com.au/2021/07/glebe-parents-completely-let-down-by-childcare-centre/>)

## Glebe Island Concrete Batching Plant is Approved

There were more than 280 objections to the proposal for the Concrete Batching Plant being built on Glebe Island. Most of the objections related to the scale of the plant, the large industrial nature of the plant, the noise as it will operate 24/7, the environmental impact and traffic impact of large trucks operating 24/7 on surrounding roads. The Glebe Society also voiced concern about the impact the construction and operation of the plant could have on the creation of the waterfront walk and the restoration of Glebe Island Bridge that we have long campaigned for.



Glebe Island (photo: Janet Wahlquist)

The Concrete Batching Plant has been approved to operate until 2040. There has been some amendment of the conditions in response to the public submissions. The height of the silos has been reduced from 34 metres to 30.63 metres so as not to exceed the height of the Anzac Bridge carriageway deck as measured at the pylon closest to the plant. The proposed length of the silos has been reduced to allow for landscaping and tree planting. There are also requirements to incorporate public art.

It was acknowledged that there will be amenity impacts on residents of Pyrmont and Jacksons Landing and users in the public domain and there will be restrictions on night-time ship deliveries and non-port related activities. In relation to traffic concerns, trucks using the facility will not be allowed to use Robert St Rozelle or The Crescent.

The consent and objections can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/r8nx395a>. Our previous article about the plant can be found in *Bulletin* 4/2021, p.8, and our submission at <https://tinyurl.com/3dkpyh3y>;

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## Update from the Treasurer

by Jane Gatwood

A big thank you to our members who have renewed their memberships for 2021-22 and a reminder to those who have not yet renewed that you should do so before 31 July.

And an even bigger thank you to members who gave such generous donations in addition to their membership renewals. These extra funds will help the Society's regular oversight and contribution to issues affecting our Glebe / Forest Lodge community. Additionally, the Glebe Society has an ongoing significant review of our website to make it easier for members to search and access the wealth of material available on it, to join and pay for membership and to update the homepage to highlight significant issues, concerns and events.



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## Glebe Society Events update

by Judy Vergison, Events Coordinator



### Glebe Walks

Unfortunately, our walks program, planned to begin in August, has had to be postponed. We will set new dates for all walks as soon as the situation is clearer. We have been in touch with those who booked the August walks and have arranged refunds. We still hope that Max Solling's history walk through the Toxteth Estate may run on its revised date of 12 September. However, we will update those who have booked this walk of any further changes to arrangements.

## Meet the Candidates Forum – postponed

Six candidates accepted our invitation to attend the Society's 'Meet the Lord Mayoral Candidates Forum' on 21 August. All candidates were very accommodating to attend a rescheduled date later in August to give us a better chance of having a live Forum. We appreciated their flexibility and willingness to meet the community in person and to share their views on the future for Sydney, Glebe and Forest Lodge.

- Sylvie Ellsmore (Greens)
- Shauna Jarrett (Liberal)
- Clover Moore (Independent)
- Linda Scott (Labor)
- Angela Vithoukas (The Small Business Party)
- Yvonne Weldon (Independent)



**Elections postponed to Dec 2021:** Last weekend the NSW Government advised that the local government election date will be moved from 4 September 2021 to 4 December 2021, given the challenges of COVID. The COVID restrictions have a major impact on some of the basic foundations of the democratic process. The restrictions limit candidates from being able to directly share their policies with voters and put the lesser-known candidates and those with small budgets at a significant disadvantage.

In addition, the voting process is primarily around attending public polling booths, which may cause uncertainty for many in COVID times and given there is a limited access to other options, such as postal voting (which is subject to restrictions) and online voting (which has already closed).

To find out more about your voting options, head to the Commission's website:

<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Voters/Other-voting-options>.

We will reschedule the date for the Forum to November 2021 over the next few weeks and will provide you with an update on how to book and what to do if you already had tickets to the August date.

## Glebe Society's AGM now planned for October

The Society's AGM was planned for 19 September. Given the current COVID situation, it is now expected to be held in late October. We will come back to you with a date when things are more settled with regard to COVID in Sydney. Bookings will need to be made on Eventbrite. More details will be sent out in September 2021.

People who come to our AGMs say that they are one of the best they attend and a lot of fun. We recap on the successes and challenges of the year, have a fabulous guest speaker and afterwards gather together socially to celebrate the year.

Last year you will recall that the Glebe Youth Service (GYS) hosted our AGM and we were inspired by hearing from a number of young people who access GYS services. Those attending also saw the amazing mural room created by Aunt Kathryn Farrowell and the GYS young people.



## Heritage & Planning Matters

### Yelvertoft Sells

*by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee Convenor*

The locally heritage-listed 1858 Victorian Regency sandstone villa, *Yelvertoft*, located at 75 Hereford St, Forest Lodge, has recently been sold for a reported \$4.6 million. The new owners, reportedly a business executive and an architect, wish to restore *Yelvertoft* as their family home. This is a great outcome given the property's uncertain future posed by the previous developer / owner.

There have been two DAs over this property since 2017, essentially to redevelop the rear curtilage of the property for additional residential purposes. On both occasions, the DAs were refused by the City of Sydney, with one unsuccessful appeal by the owner to the Land and Environment Court.

The curtilage of the property was impacted when it was subdivided across the Hereford St frontage in 1998 to facilitate the construction of three townhouses (see image below). A small laneway between the new townhouses provides Hereford St access to the home. Rear of property access is via Alfred St.

The Glebe Society wishes the new owners great joy in restoring their new home, which we trust they will cherish for many years ahead.

Read more about the Society's efforts to protect Yelvertoft here: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/yelvertoft/>, and <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/yelvertoft-da-refused/>. For the history of Yelvertoft and its occupants, see <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/street/75-hereford-street/>.



Yelvertoft in 2020 (photo: Phil Young)



This photo of Yelvertoft shows the narrow access to Yelvertoft between townhouses on Hereford St built in 1998 (source: Cobden & Hayson)

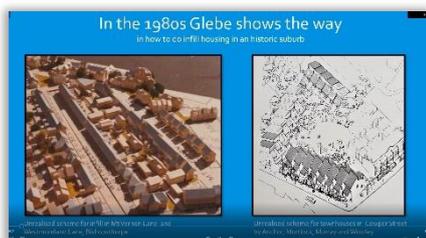
## Coming soon to a computer near you

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Committee Convenor

The team who worked on the social media project with international students have produced a new series of videos. In six exciting episodes, they tell the history of major epochs in the life of Glebe:

1. **In Sydney it's Glebe** – what makes Glebe unique.
2. **Total Eclipse** – how it was all almost lost in the 1960s.
3. **Good Things are Happening** – the cauldron of activism that saved Glebe in the 1970s.
4. **Glebe Shows the Way** – the brilliantly designed infill of the 1980s.
5. **Some Simple Advice** – on property maintenance for the Land and Housing Corporation.
6. **The Trojan Horse** – how spot rezoning of LAHC sites threatens to destroy Glebe.

The videos will be released in August. Fittingly for such a diverse suburb, they are accompanied by an eclectic mix of music ranging from Baroque to Romantic to Country and Western. Do make sure you watch them and share them with your friends.



Screenshots from each of the Glebe Society's videos on the major epochs in the life of Glebe

## **Bidura: The Bitter Sweet DA**

by Brian Fuller, Heritage Subcommittee Convenor

The Development Applications (DA) for the demolition of the Metropolitan Remand Centre (MRC) and construction of a seven-storey Residential Flat Building (RFB) along with seven two-storey terraces, all to the rear of *Bidura House* (357 Glebe Point Rd), are now on public exhibition for public comment.

In addition to the seven terrace dwellings (see Figure 1 below), the RFB footprint will contain 58 x one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment dwellings with ancillary landscaping located over a shared basement that comprises 72 car parking spaces. The wings of the RFB will be separated by a landscaped courtyard and reflection pool, with the two wings being re-connected at the upper level by a landscaped rooftop (see Figure 2 below). The development will also comprise a new pedestrian pathway link to Glebe Point Rd known as the *Heritage Link*. Minor conservation and repair works are proposed for Bidura House Group before it is on-sold as a single dwelling when the development is completed.



Figure 1: Proposed Terraces at the corner of Ferry Lane and Avon St (Source: DA 2021/711 Statement of Environmental Effects)



Figure 2: Proposed elevation fronting Ferry Lane (source: DA 2021/711, Statement of Environmental Effects)

There are two DAs. The first DA, D/2017/582A, seeks a modification to the Concept DA approved by the Land and Environment Court (LEC) on 7 December 2018. Read the full DA at <https://tinyurl.com/4apyyh5>. The second DA, D/2021/711, is for the proposal described above and can be read in full at <https://tinyurl.com/5e2k3szb>.

### **Bitter Sweet**

The DA documentation confirms the intention of the owner, Vision Land Glebe Pty Ltd to undertake repairs and maintenance to the *Bidura House Group*. The gradual state of disrepair of the House in recent years has been obvious. Finally, there is confirmation that some repairs will be made. ‘Sweet’, yes; but the DA explicitly states that the House:

*will be returned to a single residence. No new works are proposed to the house at this time or in this Detailed DA, except for modest conservation and maintenance works. These works largely comprise repairs to joinery, works to the roof, external and internal painting, stabilising the front fence until a new fence is built in the future, and a range of small works that will arise as other works take place. The intent of the works is to repair the house and hold it in a maintained condition until its sale and a future owner is secured. There are no changes proposed to the house that involve change to significant fabric. (Statement of Environmental Effects, p. 26)*

The commitment to ‘hold it in a maintained condition’ is something of a turnaround. Why only now? Sadly, and all too often, developers only commit to ‘maintain’ when seeking a DA because they know that Council has no real power to enforce commitments outside of the DA process. The Heritage Council has some powers under the Heritage Act 1977 but appears reluctant to enforce them.

‘Bitter’, in that execution day for the MRC is now one step closer. The proposed demolition of this Brutalist architectural building has been a controversial one within the community since the first DA (see Figure 4 below). Like it or not, some of the world’s most iconic architecture has attracted controversy; but that is the beauty of any form of artistic expression. Brutalism has attracted its fair share of global controversy, but

future generations will undoubtedly revere it. For those who admire its bold and brash character, its preservation is as relevant as that of other periods of architectural expression. In this case, the MRC represents an important historical contribution to the social fabric of the Glebe community.

### ***How did it get to this? Some history***

The MRC was designed by NSW Department of Public Works architects John Whyte Thompson and Andy Milcz, as both fit for purpose accommodation for young offenders and two Children's Courts. The MRC opened in May 1983. Changes in Government policy meant that for most of its life, the MRC functioned only as a Children's Court, continuing to do so until its closure in 2017. Had the State Government not sold it to the current owner in 2014, it might well still be operating as a Children's Court.

The MRC is not listed on the State Heritage Register nor locally listed on the City of Sydney LEP.

The first DA on this site, DA2015/1398, was refused by the City of Sydney and then by the LEC in October 2016, following an appeal by Vision Land. In 2017, the City of Sydney refused the subsequent DA, DA2017/582, and again Vision Land appealed to the LEC, this time with success. The City of Sydney subsequently, but unsuccessfully, appealed against the findings of the LEC.

It is important to record that the current LEP came into effect in 2012. One cannot fail to note that during its ownership, the then State Government, via its Department of Planning, issued a Certificate pursuant to Section 65 of the Environmental Protection Act requiring the draft LEP to be issued with a height control of 27 m over most of the site and 9 m over the remainder. Before this time, the whole site had a 9 m height control over it.



Figure 4: The brutalist Metropolitan Remand Centre (photo: Phil Vergison)



Interior of the Metropolitan Remand Centre 1983 (source: State Library of NSW)

instructed its Department of *Planning* to develop a *Plan* to consider the matrix of Government-owned land that could contribute to the immediate supply of public housing.

The City pushed back, seeking a compromise at 18 m, but was refused when the State Government determined that the 27 m height control should prevail over most of the site. The 27 m height control was included within the 2012 LEP, which came into force in December of that year.

The site was then offered for sale by public tender and purchased by Vision Land in 2014. Instead of acting in the public interest, the State Government afforded itself a financial advantage with the stroke of a pen. It took the money and ran.

The State Government could have looked at its forward projections for affordable and social housing. It already had a crisis in the supply of public housing. The state government should have

We now have a site that is to be allocated to private housing and a current State Government running around spot rezoning other sites in Glebe to get itself out of a crisis that has been left burning for too many years. We know there will be more spot rezoning to come.

### **The Current Status**

Vision Land appealed the decision of the City of Sydney to reject the DA D/2017/582, and on 7 December 2018, the LEC found in favour of Vision Land. The rationale for some of the findings so concerned the City that it appealed before a different LEC Commissioner. The appeal was unsuccessful. The final orders of the LEC on 7 December 2018 were:

1. The appeal is upheld;
2. Concept Development Application No. D/2017/582 for building envelopes for a residential development to accommodate a 6-storey residential apartment building with a two-level basement, and 8 x two-storey plus attic dwellings, including the retention of the *Bidura House Group*, demolition of the MRC, and associated site works including tree removal is approved, in accordance with the amended plans and conditions as set out in Annexure A.
3. The exhibits are to be returned, with the exception of Exhibits A, 3, 16 and 18.

The contents of Annexure A include, but are not limited to, the following:

**(4) Building Height:** The height of any future building, including services, must not exceed the maximum levels set out in the approved building envelopes.

**(4a) Building Setbacks:** The setbacks of any future building, must not be less than that shown on the approved building envelope plans.

**(5) Design Competition:** A competitive design process in accordance with the provisions of Sydney LEP 2012 and Sydney DCP 2012, and approved 'Design Excellence Strategy' prepared by Mecone and submitted on 28 February 2018 shall be conducted prior to the lodgement of a detailed Development Application.

**(6) Public Art:** A Detailed Public Art Plan is to be developed for the development in accordance with the City of Sydney's Public Art in Private Developments Guidelines and the City of Sydney's Public Art Policy and submitted with any subsequent detailed Development Application.

- (a) The Public Art Strategy must, among other things: (i) set out the intended budget for public art; (ii) identify how decisions will be made; (iii) detail the proposed method for integrating the public art process with the competitive design process; and (iv) detail the proposed method for integrating the public art process with the construction of all proposed development on the site.



*Bidura Auditorium (Source: Jenna Reed Burns, 'Heritage Assessment Bidura Children's Court', February 2016; <http://brutalism.online/documents/BiduraChildrensCourtHeritageAssessment.pdf>)*

- (b) Neither street furniture nor interpretation strategy be considered as part of the public art component.
- (c) The Public Art Strategy must be approved by the Director City Planning Development & Transport prior to the competitive design process and must be lodged with the relevant future detailed development applications.

### **(7) Heritage Interpretation Plan**

- a) A heritage interpretation plan for the site must be provided with any subsequent detailed development application.
- b) The heritage interpretation plan must detail how information on the history and significance of the site will be provided for future occupants of the site and general public, and make recommendations regarding public accessibility, signage and lighting. Note: Public art, details of the heritage design, and the display of selected artefacts are some of the means that can be used.
- c) The heritage interpretation plan must specifically address the history and significance of the *Bidura House Group* as well as the use of the site for the Depot for State Children and the Metropolitan Girls' Shelter (1920-1977) and the Metropolitan Remand Centre (1980-2017).
- d) The heritage interpretation plan must provide the location, type, materials and contents of the interpretation proposed, and this is to be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage practitioner/historian.
- e) The heritage interpretation plan must include the staging of the implementation of the interpretation, as it relates to any staging of the development.

### **(9) Conservation Works to the *Bidura House Group***

- a) A Schedule of Conservation works for the *Bidura House Group*, including *Bidura House*, the annex and ballroom, supported by drawings and, where necessary, specifications is to be prepared and implemented as part of any future development proposal that relates to the *Bidura House Group*.
- b) The schedule is to be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan prepared for the site by GBA in September 2015 by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant.

*Bidura House* is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR 01994); therefore, any works to the item are subject to Section 60 of the Heritage Act 1977. It is also listed on the City of Sydney LEP as item no 1763. The listings include the house and interiors, the ballroom and curtilage, which together make up the *Bidura House Group*.

There have now been two Concept DAs. Both have been refused by the City of Sydney. Further, three appeals to the LEC have been made. The collective outcome is that Vision Land is in a position to lodge this DA on the basis that it adheres to the LEC's conditions issued on 7 December 2018. To put it bluntly, the Court has effectively determined that the development will proceed, notwithstanding the public's right to comment on, or object to, the DA as submitted.

With regard to DA D/2017/582A, Vision Land is seeking what is known as a Section 4.56 amendment to the conditions in Annexure A, claiming its amendments are as a result of the design competition and the detailed design process, and that these amendments will not have a significant impact on the overall development envelope.

#### ***Where to from here?***

The public has the opportunity to lodge submissions in response to both DAs. Any submission on DA D/2021/2017 must be lodged by 6 August, and submissions on DA D/2017/582A must be lodged by 11 August.

While the development will proceed (subject to economic conditions), there is still the opportunity to influence the finer details, construction management practices and the protection of the heritage-listed *Bidura House Group*. The Glebe Society will lodge its submission(s) on the DAs to the City of Sydney. We will also consider making a submission to the Heritage Council of NSW in relation to Vision Land's Integrated Development Application pursuant to the Heritage Act 1977.

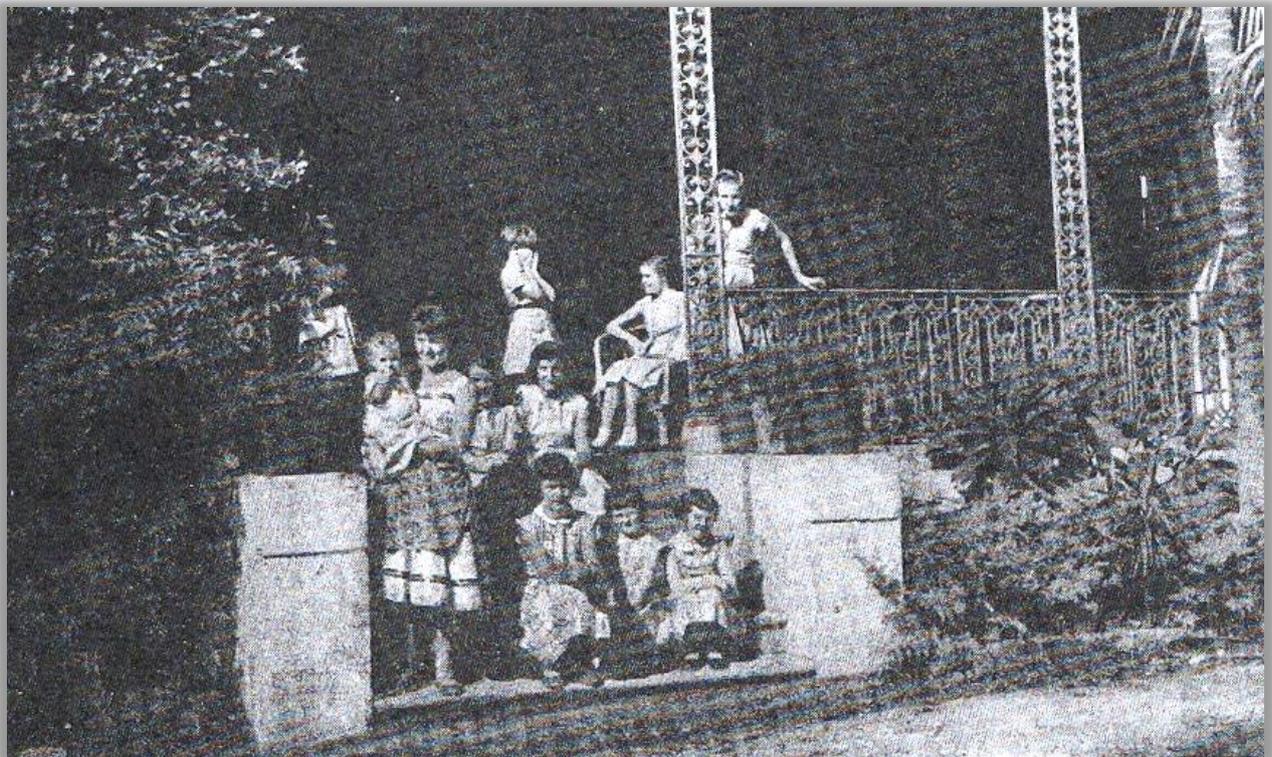
The Glebe Society's submission will address the following:

- Adherence to the approved building envelope and the degree of reasonableness (or otherwise) of the Section 4.56 variation. We note that the approved Concept DA plan is for a six-storey apartment building whereas this DA is for a seven-storey apartment building. We also note that the detailed design has created a lower ground level on the northern side which is one of the seven storeys.
- Traffic and noise management during the construction program.
- The requirement for Vision Land to undertake appropriate repairs and maintenance of the *Bidura House Group*, including any required by the NSW Heritage Council.
- The requirement for Vision Land and its successors to maintain the Bidura House Group in a state of good repair and maintenance after the DA is approved and until sold, no matter when that happens.
- The implementation of the Heritage Interpretation Plan.
- The implementation of the Public Art Plan.
- Any other issues that may surface.

This has been a long process, and many people within the community have fought very hard to save the MRC. Without doubt, the State Government has acted against the public interest by firstly, changing the permitted height for most of this site to 27 m, and secondly, selling the site for private housing alone.

To ensure the long term and rightful protection of the *Bidura House Group*, an appropriately revised Heritage Act with an empowered Heritage Council and City of Sydney is a must.

*[Have you been inside the Metropolitan Remand Centre? If so, let us know what you thought of it! Email editor@glebesociety.org.au]*



*Bidura Receiving Home c. 1959. 'Bidura operated as a receiving home where children were temporarily accommodated awaiting placement in foster homes or awaiting transfer to other establishments' (<https://www.glebesociety.org.au/buildings/bidura/>) (image: Child Welfare Department, Annual Report: Child Welfare Department of New South Wales)*

## Development Application – 7 Franklyn St and 49-51 Greek St, Glebe

by Ian Stephenson, Planning Convenor

DA 21021/729 was lodged on 5 July 2021 for the above sites. The proposal involves demolishing two former warehouses at 7 Franklyn St and 49-51 Greek St and replacing them with 84 self-contained boarding rooms. Each room has its own bathroom and cooking facilities and is, essentially, a studio flat designed to accommodate up to two people. The building is on five levels.

As it is a boarding house the State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009 applies. This provides for bonus floor-to-space ratio (FSR) over what is allowed in the 2012 Local Environment Plan (LEP). However, 'Provision 6A Character of local area' requires the design to take account of its setting. It states that:

*A consent authority must not consent to development to which this Division applies unless it has taken into consideration whether the design of the development is compatible with the character of the local area.*

For planning purposes, the Sydney Local Government Area is divided into localities. Each locality has a future character statement that sets objectives for the area and establishes principles to be applied to help achieve those goals.

This development is in the Mountain St Locality whose objectives are that 'the area will continue to provide a diverse and sustainable mix of uses in restored and adaptively re-used early warehouse buildings or in new buildings whose bulk and scale is appropriate to the large lots and existing urban form'.

The relevant principles are:

- (a) *Development must achieve and satisfy the outcomes expressed in the character statement and supporting principles*
- (c) *Encourage simple forms where appropriate to recognise the predominant warehouse character.*
- (d) *Maintain the prominent Federation warehouse character of the area by retaining warehouse and building facades and sympathetic adaptive re-use.*

The former warehouse at 7 Franklyn St is of solid brick construction. Although a utilitarian building, its design is well considered. Its abstracted pilasters and lintel support a bold cornice decorated with dentils, and there is a well-defined parapet above. Its canted corner addresses the intersection of Franklyn St and Greek St in a pleasing way.

Corner sites are important for defining the architectural identity of an area, and 7 Franklyn St does this very effectively. Its demolition would diminish the character of the neighbourhood.



Figure 1: Number 7 Franklyn St with 49-51 Greek St on the right (Photo: Ian Stephenson)



Figure 2: The warehouse facade should be retained and adapted as has been done at 25 Buckland St Chippendale (image: Google Street view)

Principle (d) of the Mountain St Locality character statement encourages the retention of warehouse facades and their sympathetic adaptive re-use.

In Ultimo and Chippendale, there are many excellent examples where architects have followed the principles of the Sydney DCP and incorporated warehouses into residential developments. Sometimes these adaptations involve the provision of additional height, which has been sensitively differentiated from the original warehouse façade by means of a setback; a good example can be seen at 25 Buckland St, Chippendale (Figure 2 above).



Figure 3: The proposal involves demolishing the warehouse shown on the right and its neighbour, not pictured, in Greek St (image: Ian Stephenson)

Number 7 Franklyn St is across the road from a terrace house, a pair of sandstone cottages and two townhouses that have been carefully designed to fit in with the character of Glebe (Figure 3 above). The proposed development is out of character with the neighbouring houses.

### **Other Issues**

Potentially, with 84 double rooms, the boarding house could accommodate up to 168 people. The application exceeds the allowable height, and it does not comply with the requirements for on-site parking. The DA argues that while 'the proposal will provide zero car spaces in total for use by boarding house residents this non-compliance is considered acceptable because of site constraints which restrict the safe manoeuvring of vehicles where it is located at a narrow one-way street system'.

This is a perverse argument; surely the limitations of the road system are a good reason for reducing the number of rooms. It also notes that parking is not needed,

*as the majority of boarding rooms will be occupied by students and students do not normally own a car [this is news to me] and any visitors travelling by car will be able to park in the large adjacent public car park [the Broadway Shopping Centre car park]. Any occasional other parking need (e.g., service personnel, delivery) will be satisfied by the available on-street parking in the area or the public parking provided in the adjacent Broadway Shopping Centre.*

There is no permissible on-street parking along the entire street frontage of the development and only about four spaces across the road on Franklyn St, so the service and delivery personnel will be lucky to get a park.

The applicant claims that 'the proposal will not exhibit any significant environmental impacts and will not adversely impact on the amenity of any adjoining sites. Therefore, the proposed works are considered compatible with the site context'. The entrance on Franklyn St by which the residents and their visitors will arrive and leave is only eight metres from the terrace houses across the street. There is a communal space with large doors opening onto the footpath at ground floor level as well as a communal roof terrace.

The rooms of the boarding house are small, and less than 30% have balconies. It's difficult to see how a building accommodating so many people, with a communal space spilling onto the footpath and communal space on the roof, cannot adversely impact the amenity of the adjoining sites, particularly the nearby houses. Perhaps, just as students, apparently, no longer have cars, they also don't have parties, listen to music, stay up late and talk?

The recent decision by the Sydney Local Planning Panel in the DA for 43 Avona Ave, Glebe (DA: D/2020/1453) to delete a roof terrace should surely apply here? The decision was based on Council's advice that

*the large roof terrace is considered inappropriate in the context of apartment buildings and terraces in such a dense urban environment. The terrace allows for the congregation of*



The Society requested that the NSW Land and Housing Corporation:

- Make no more rezoning applications to increase the height limits of LAHC sites in Glebe.
- Respect Glebe's heritage conservation areas.
- Explore opportunities to add additional housing by low-rise infill designed to reflect the scale and character of Glebe.

Minister Pavey listened to our concerns and seemed appreciative of Glebe's unique heritage. A letter from the Society's President, Janet Wahlquist, was presented setting out our concerns: <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Letter-to-Melinda-Pavey-02-06-2021.pdf>.



*The Hon Melinda Pavey, MP, Minister for Housing, Brian Fuller (Heritage Convenor), Deputy Lord Mayor Linda Scott, Ian Stephenson (Planning Convenor) (photo supplied by Linda Scott)*

## Bays & Foreshores Report

*by Asa Wahlquist, Convenor Bays & Foreshores Subcommittee*

On a clear day in late June, Multiplex, the new Sydney Fish Market developers, held an Indigenous smoking ceremony at the site. Uncle Les McLeod walked around the gathering of Multiplex employees, representatives of Infrastructure NSW and the Fish Markets Community Consultative Committee, waving the smoke of smouldering native shrubs and herbs around the site.

Craig Madden, who performed the Welcome to Country, said the local Gadigal people used to camp at Victoria Park and walk down to Blackwattle Bay, 'we would have wonderful food for days'.

Master of Ceremonies, Shane Phillips, is from the Tribal Warrior, which is moored on the Pyrmont side of Blackwattle Bay. He said the smoking ceremony was a healing process for the land, and that sharing the experience, and acknowledgement of the history, came together with the smoking.

Daniel Murphy, from Multiplex, said the ceremony was a symbolic milestone for the company.

Greg Lin from Infrastructure NSW had done some research into the Blackwattle plant that the bay is named after. He said the local Indigenous name is *Tjurring*, and it is not a member of the wattle family, rather it was named Blackwattle because the wood was a good building material for the wattle and daub huts that were erected there in the early days of first settlement. Mr Lin said Blackwattles grew down to the water's edge, and had an important role in stabilising the banks.

Sydney Fish Market CEO, Greg Dyer, said there had been many years of planning to get to this stage. He believes the new Fish Market building will rank with the Sydney Opera House. He said the new Sydney Fish Market will also be a \$750 million injection into the NSW Fishing Industry and the wider seafood industry, supporting communities along the NSW coast.



*Uncle Les McLeod conducting the smoking ceremony arranged by Multiplex at the new Sydney Fish Market site (photo: Multiplex)*

Shane Phillips concluded the ceremony, acknowledging the families and ancestors of people who have lived there. The area under Wentworth Park used to be a wetland, a mangrove forest. He said those wetlands 'were the fish market in those days'.

The extraction of old piles, the remnants of the old Hanson Wharf, is continuing.

An acoustic and vibration consultant has been recording measurements from three locations: near the High School, the corner of Wentworth Park Rd, and at the Fish Markets near Blackwattle Creek. Overall, the consultant, Mark Irish, said the test piling didn't exceed the EPA's 'highly noise affected' noise management level, 'though that is not to say it won't happen in future'. The Fish Market recorded the loudest incident of 74 dBA, just below the 75 dBA level at which respite is required. The recorded vibrations did not exceed the human comfort level. Monitoring will continue throughout the period of test piling. Mr Irish acknowledged piling works are noisy, and said if anything else to mitigate it could 'be realistically done, we will look at it'.

The next stage is demolition of the existing wharf and construction of the revetment. However, some localised asbestos-containing material has been found, and its removal must be managed according to State legislation, under a plan approved by the Environmental Protection Authority's approved independent auditor.

CCC member John Faulkner questioned the extent of the contamination, and whether it was in the sediment as well as in the sea wall. David Maher, from Multiplex, said they had found some 'very, very low concentrations on the water column' as well as in the upper layers of sediment. Mr Faulkner said he was concerned the asbestos-containing material in the sediment could be stirred up. He requested a report on any implications for the marine life in the Bay. David Maher said the environmental consultant for the project, Senversa, was 'across all of this'.

Work on the site has paused, in accordance with the NSW Government's COVID restrictions. When it recommences, work will begin on test cores holes in Bridge Rd, in preparation for raising the road. This will required some staged lane closures.

Further information: <https://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects-nsw/new-sydney-fish-market/>



*Glebe Society's Bays & Foreshores Convenor, Asa Wahlquist (second from left) at the smoking ceremony for the new Sydney Fish Market (photo: Multiplex)*

## Community Matters

### Queen's Birthday Honours for Glebe local, Ann Curthoys

by Virginia Simpson-Young

In the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List Glebe local, Ann Curthoys, received the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to tertiary education, to social history, and to research. Ann has a long association with Glebe, both as a resident and as an intellectual and an activist participating in Glebe's progressive environment. In 2012, Ann spoke at the Glebe Society's 'Glebe Voices' event at Blackwattle Bay Café. A transcript of her talk on 'Radical Glebe' is on our website and is a must-read for anyone interested in Glebe's role in the radical change of the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>1</sup> I spoke with Ann to find out a bit more about her life in Glebe.



Ann Curthoys, AM

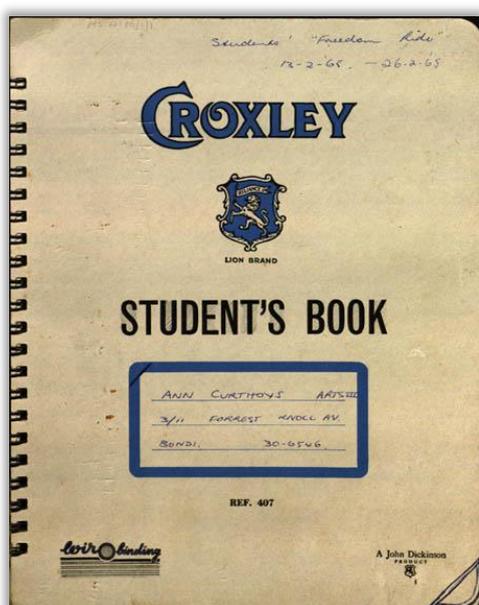
Ann, a historian, identified three areas in which Glebe was significant in our radical history: 1. Aboriginal and pro-Aboriginal activism in the 1960s; 2. The emergence of Women's Liberation in the 1970s; and 3. As a centre for radical writing and book culture.

Ann Curthoys was born in Sydney in 1945. When she was three months old, her father returned from service in the Royal Australian Air Force, stationed in Borneo. A few months later, he gained a position lecturing in chemistry at the Broken Hill Technical College and the family would live in Broken Hill for seven years. Her father's appointment to a lectureship at Newcastle Technical College in 1953 led to a move to Newcastle, where Ann later attended Newcastle Girls High School.

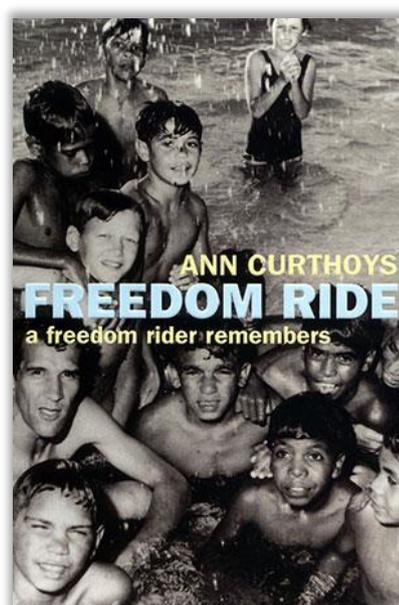
#### **Sydney and the Freedom Ride**

Ann moved to Sydney in 1963 to undertake Arts (Honours), majoring in history, at the University of Sydney. Though this brought her close to Glebe, she did not live in Glebe during her undergraduate years. Initially, she lived in her grandfather's house in Lindfield, and then in share houses in Bondi and Annandale. As a University of Sydney student in the mid-1960s, Ann embraced the radical life, something for which she'd been well-prepared by her parents, both of whom were then members of the Communist Party. Her father had been committed to educating working-class young people, and her mother was involved in the Union of Australian Women, which was strongly committed to Aboriginal rights.<sup>2</sup>

In 1965, as an undergraduate, Ann participated in the 'Freedom Rides', led by Charles Perkins, who at that time lived on Catherine St, Forest Lodge. Ann recorded this life-changing experience in her diary which can be viewed on the AIATSIS website.<sup>3</sup> She has since written a book about the Freedom Rides.<sup>4</sup>



The cover of the diary that Ann took with her on the Freedom Ride (source: [aiatsis.gov.au](http://aiatsis.gov.au))



The cover of Ann Curthoys' book on the 1965 Freedom Ride (source: [www.allenandunwin.com](http://www.allenandunwin.com))

## **The Women's Liberation Movement**

Glebe became a focal point for Ann in the years after completing her BA at the University of Sydney in 1966 and her Diploma of Education at Sydney Teachers' College in 1967. In 1968 she enrolled in her PhD in history at Macquarie University and in 1970, joined the Glebe Women's Liberation Group, which met at 67 Glebe Point Rd, now the Pakemon Café.

In 1971, Ann was in the collective that established Australia's first Women's Liberation newspaper *Mejane* and featured on the front cover of the first edition.<sup>5</sup>

In the pre-digital era, the Women's Liberation headquarters at 67 Glebe Point Rd became a clearing house for feminist literature. Women thirsty for knowledge to explain their experience and find a way forward had little access to materials that were largely produced overseas. Ann said:

*It was difficult for most Australian women to obtain much of this ephemeral literature, and one of the first things the new group did was duplicate and distribute it extremely cheaply.*

67 Glebe Point Rd had a reading room containing piles of radical newspapers, magazines and journals. In her 'Glebe Voices' address<sup>6</sup>, Ann described how her experience in the Women's Liberation Movement changed her:

*What I really remember is the idea that your personal feelings of inadequacy were not because you were inadequate but because society made you as a woman feel inadequate. It was all about looking outside yourself to see how you were socially constructed. The other central idea was that women tend to look for male approval and don't seek or value solidarity with other women.*



67 Glebe Point Rd, the birthplace of the Australian Women's Liberation Movement (photo: Phil Young)



The first edition of *Mejane* featured Ann Curthoys on the front cover (source: biblio.com.au)

## **Post-graduate and family life**

Maintaining her commitment for social justice, Ann's PhD thesis was a study of race relations in New South Wales in the mid-nineteenth century and compared British colonists' attitudes to Chinese immigration with attitudes to Aboriginal people.<sup>7</sup> Ann told me that despite the appalling racism directed at Chinese immigrants, Aboriginal people fared much worse, particularly as they were dispossessed of their land.

During her PhD candidature, Ann maintained her commitment to women's history and the women's liberation movement. In 1971, she married fellow-radical, John Docker<sup>8</sup> and in 1972 they came to live in Glebe in a block of flats on Sheehy St. She has strong memories of writing her thesis 'overlooking Blackwattle Bay, as a warehouse for containers was being built, long before the current housing complex in Griffin Place.'<sup>9</sup> Although Ann was not particularly aware of it, this period coincided with the Glebe Society's activism to save the waterfront, which eventually led to the foreshore parks there today.

When Ann had finished her PhD in May 1973, John and Ann set off overseas, travelling through Asia and staying in London from September 1973 until June 1974. Ann undertook some temporary jobs<sup>10</sup> and loved 'everything about' living in London. They returned to Sydney in June 1974, and Ann gave birth to their son Ned in November that year. Early in 1975, the family moved to Canberra, where John began his PhD in the English Department.

### **Academia**

Ann's stellar academic career, which largely focused on women's history, began in earnest on her return to Australia. Her first academic position was as a research assistant at ANU in 1975, working on a project called 'Women in Australia' that produced a guide to historical records for research about women in Australia.<sup>11</sup> The project was funded as part of International Women's Year. Her next role at ANU was establishing the Women's Studies Program in 1976.<sup>12</sup> This was one of the first women's studies programs in Australia and continued until 2000.

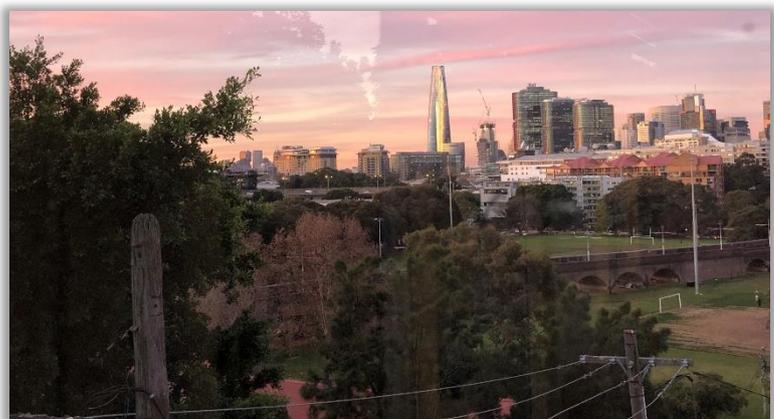
Ann and her family lived in Canberra for three years, returning to Sydney in 1978 where she took a position at the then New South Wales Institute of Technology, now UTS, where she stayed until 1995. In 1995, it was back to Canberra, where Ann became the Manning Clark Professor of History at ANU. In 2007, Ann became an Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow at ANU, working on a project examining how Aboriginal dispossession influenced Australia's political history.

Ann transferred her fellowship to the University of Sydney in late 2008, although her association with ANU continues today, as Professor Emerita. Keen to put down roots in Sydney, Ann and John moved first to Bondi (where John had grown up) but soon decided to look for a bigger place as they outgrew the small Bondi flat. Bondi was too expensive, so they started looking in the inner west and soon narrowed their search to Glebe. Although gentrification was underway in Glebe from the late seventies, most houses they viewed had 'awful' renovations. They finally found their house in Cardigan St, near Lyndhurst House, one of the streets whose houses had been earmarked in the 1960s for demolition as part of the radial expressways project. Thankfully, the expressways were stopped in the mid 1970s. Ann and John were fortunate to find advertised on the Belle Property Glebe website a house that happened to be owned by Helen Kaminsky, the brilliant hat designer, and bought it from her in late 2010.

Ann retired from official academia in 2013 but continues with her research and writing. She likes living in Cardigan St. She likes to see Wentworth Park from her office window, located at the very top of their terrace house, and she likes the recently renovated and refreshed Cardigan and Darghan Street Reserve just a few houses away. She likes being close to the Fish Market and has watched (and heard) the demolition and preparation works for the new Sydney Fish Market. She likes getting coffee at the end of a morning walk at Bruce's on Bridge Rd, and under lockdown misses being able to spend time at Badde Manors café.



*The Sheehy St block of flats in which Ann Curthoys lived during her PhD years (image: Google maps)*



*A view of Wentworth Park from Ann's Cardigan St attic study (photo: Ann Curthoys)*

## **Glebe as centre for radical writing and book culture**

For Ann, Glebe's contribution to intellectual life continues today. As she said in her Glebe Voices talk:

*My association with Glebe and its radical politics and intellectual life is much more than as a former and current resident. Glebe of course is not just a suburb, but rather a precinct that is part of a larger area, bounded by several educational institutions, most notably the University of Sydney and what is now UTS.*

Glebe still has an important role in Aboriginal activism, for example Tranby and the Glebe Youth Service. And while 67 Glebe Point Rd is no longer a hub for Australian feminists, many of those founding women remain in Glebe. And cafes and bookshops – especially Gleebooks – continue to support Glebe's rich intellectual life.

**Footnotes:** 1. <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/radical-glebe-a-personal-view-by-ann-curthoys/>;

2. <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0504b.htm>;

3. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/collection/featured-collections/ann-curthoys-diaries>;

4. <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/general-books/history/Freedom-Ride-Ann-Curthoys-9781864489224>;

5. <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/2165716>;

6. <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/radical-glebe-a-personal-view-by-ann-curthoys/>;

7. <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0504b.htm>;

8. <https://insidestory.org.au/the-political-is-the-personal/>;

9. <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/radical-glebe-a-personal-view-by-ann-curthoys/>;

10. <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0504b.htm>;

11. *Women in Australia: An Annotated Guide to Records*, edited for the National Research Program by Kay Daniels, Mary Murnane and Anne Picot, Australian Government Publishing Service, 1977;

2. <http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0504b.htm>



*Gleebooks today (photo: Phil Young)*

## **Artwork on the Glebe Foreshore Walk**

*by Judy Vergison*

Glebe Rowing Club (GRC) is a key part of Glebe's foreshore history, being founded in 1879. GRC is the third oldest rowing club to be in continuous operation on Sydney Harbour.

The Club has been through some tough times, being burnt down twice and rebuilt twice, plus surviving a major financial crisis in the mid-1990s due to mismanagement. It says something of the Club's resilience that after each challenge, it has been risen like a phoenix to again be a successful club, where today it has many Australian champion rowers, from juniors to masters.

It has built a strong family of rowers, who even after retiring from the sport 'come back to give back' to a Club to which they have a strong sense of loyalty. The GRC Old Boys has around 200 members who range in age from their 80s to ones of much younger years, with a smaller core group of active members.

The term 'Old Boys' is a reflection of each generation of Glebe rowers since 1879. Today it is more of a collective term as the Club comprises men and women who have rowed for Glebe and have GRC at their heart. Max Solling, well known to the Society, is a member and, as many will recall, he invested a huge effort in getting the new GRC building erected in 2001.

The GRC Old Boys gather twice a year to keep in touch and have been raising funds to do something special to celebrate the generations of members who rowed for GRC.

Two weeks ago my husband and I, on an evening COVID walk along the foreshore were stopped in our tracks passing by the entrance to GRC. For the first time, we noticed an impressive artwork of a rower shining in the evening light. I was intrigued to find out more.

When I spoke to Mark Tietjen, President of Glebe Rowers, he was very clear that all credit was due to the GRC Old Boys and suggested I contact their President, Ken Main, and the artwork creative designer and footing retaining wall installer, Frank Dempsey. Both conversations were very uplifting, and I was sure others would also be interested to know the backstory on this new foreshore artwork installed on 9 July 2021. The final stage of the project will see interpretative signs on the history of the GRC.

First, I spoke with Ken Main, who came to rowing later in life but who valued the collegiality it provided.

Ken described himself as a 'Westie' being born in Punchbowl and he loved all sports – especially anything to do with the water. His involvement with GRC was pretty much by chance. His brother rowed and talked him into having go by encouraging Ken to come to an Old Boys event at the Club where he was fortunate to have Keith Cummins (one of the Old Boys) get him into a four and saw a natural strength in the way he rowed.

Ken took up the sport in his early 20s, at a time when he thought he was pretty fit – but that was until he tried his hand at rowing! He was part of a very successful eight racing for 5-6 years. He recounted that one of the sayings in rowing circles at the time was that 'If you were up against Glebe, you would know you were in a race'.

What he loved about GRC was how egalitarian it was – people came from all walks of life, and everyone was respected for who they were; he made life-long friends. There were no politics; you just 'put it in on the water'. He used to travel from Punchbowl to Glebe for training by public transport, eventually buying a VW to make it easier. Life changed and he married and moved to Lugano to raise his family and ended his racing period.

Ken's role in the initiative was as a project manager of sorts, encouraging the project along to reach completion. He was also involved in the leg work at the end to get the footings in place. He shared the real team effort with Frank, his family and their business network to get it installed. Frank said he genuinely believed that because of the busy lives we all live, this project would never have been completed without Ken Main pushing it to completion.



*The Glebe Rowing Club's new artwork (photo: Phil Vergison)*



*Ken Main (left) and Frank Dempsey (right) with rower sculpture cut from stainless steel by Dan Smith Metal Fabrication Padstow August 2020 (photo: Dan Smith)*

Frank Dempsey was born and bred in the Glebe Estate in Gottenham St. His story is one of many long-term Glebe connections, even though he now lives in Epping. His mother, Beryl Dempsey, was very active on the Glebe Residents Action Group and was deeply involved in community support provided at the Old Fire Station in Mitchell St. Beryl was still living in Broughton St Glebe when she passed away in 2019.

He went to school at St Ita's in St Johns Rd and was one of the last students before the school closed and moved to St James School in Glebe. Growing up, Frank had a paper round near his home and went on to sell the *Greyhound Recorder* at Wenty Park on race nights which he recalled were attended by 10,000 people on a good night.

His cousins lived in the row of terraces on Wentworth Park Rd opposite the WPC entry gates. In later years his daughter and her husband lived in a terrace on Pymont Bridge Rd.

Frank rowed with GRC from 17 to 22 years of age. He met his wife, Sharon, through her brother, who also rowed at GRC. You will see how these connections grew to be a true family affair with this initiative. Frank served on the GRC Committee for 10 years, had a break of two years and now he's back helping the GRC Old Boys.

All of the Old Boys were very involved in rebuilding the Club in 2001, Frank was particularly involved in fundraising to build the new pontoon. Then with the GRC Old Boys decision to donate a special artwork to the Club and the community, Frank played a key role in the design, fabrication and organising of a company to carry out the installation of the artwork.

Frank is a landscape designer and says he can visualise things and had a clear vision of what he wanted for this installation. The original concept was for four rowers but the scale would have been too small for the site, so he decided to focus on one rower. When he imagined the artwork, Frank had in mind being able to see the sunlight through the figure and bring all these three elements together:

1. Rowing – in action
2. Glebe – the Club's colour, deep red
3. 1879 – highlight GRC rowing here since 1879

The artwork is constructed of 6 mm stainless steel which was electro-polished to withstand marine salt spray (this work was carried out by Metalglo at Hornsby) and then the rower was painted in GRC Club colours. The preparation for painting was done with the assistance of his nephew, Shaun Wickenden, whose father Rob Wickenden rowed for Glebe. Shaun's connections in the motor industry provided access to a quality and enduring paint job.

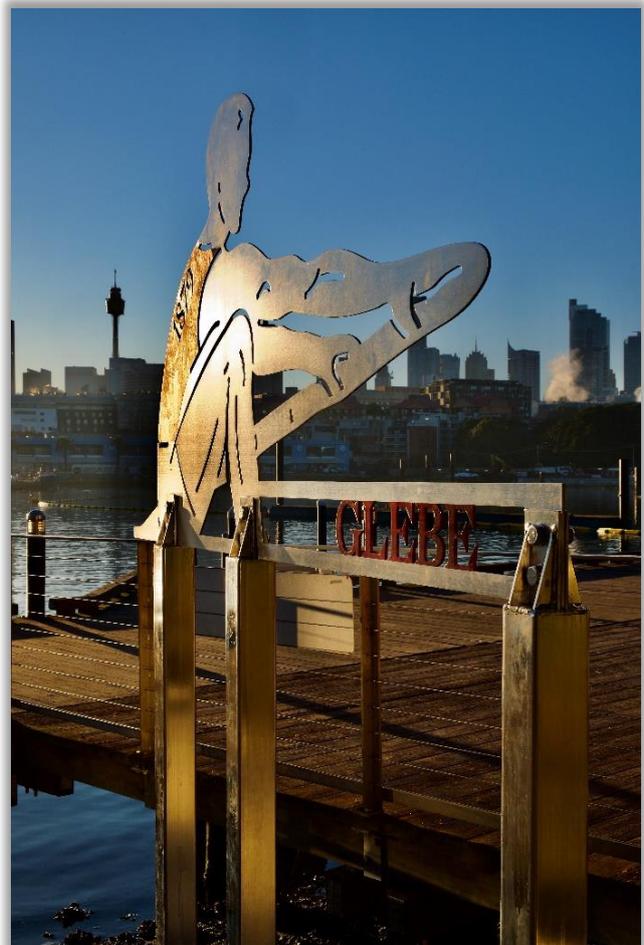
It was hard to find a metal fabricator to take on such a large figure and the team appreciated Dan Smith, of Padstow. After the rower was cut, electro-polished and then painted, it was moved to Epping and had pride of place on Frank's home deck for 12 months while the footings were finalised.

There was significant thought given to structural stability and resilience to withstand the elements. The substantial retaining wall and footings were tricky to build amidst incoming tides and the challenge of an awkward location. Graham Gardiner, a GRC Life Member, provided valuable advice on the engineering requirements for the attachment, support poles and other structural elements.

Frank's son-in-law Les Meredith and a team from his earthworks and drainage construction company, H&M Civil, finished the tough job of the footings given the steep slope of more than 2 m between the top of the water and the top of footings. The GRC Old Boys family were on hand to help and advise with the pole erection, footings preparation work and pouring.

When all the foundations were finished, the support poles installed, the final steps were taken to fix the artwork to the poles. The rower artwork was driven to the GRC in the back of Frank's ute. He and his wife Sharon helped load the heavy rower and poles for us to enjoy today.

This is a wonderful gift that highlights the special place of GRC on Blackwattle Bay and adds a new point of interest to the foreshore walk. Thank you GRC Old Boys!



*The Rowers artwork by night (photo: Phil Vergison)*

## A big thankyou to Society members from the Glebe Youth Service



Detail of GYS mural (photo: Phil Vergison)

A few months ago we put a call out for members for laptops and tablets they no longer needed to be donated to the Glebe Youth Service (GYS) . GYS arranges to loan or give these to students who did not have access to electronic devices for home schooling, or to complete assignments and school work which is now delivered using computers.

Just to let you know GYS received 14 donations which has made such a big difference to quite a few local young people's lives. One Society member's company (Origin Energy) provided nine laptops which had come to an end of their corporate life and were still very suitable for student use.

Keiran Kevans, Manager Glebe Youth Service, asked me to give a call out

and thank those who made these generous donations. I asked Keiran how they get the computers set up for the students and he advised that George from Bootstrap Computer Solutions on Glebe Point Rd does that side of things to help GYS out. So big thanks to George as well.

## History of Glebe and Forest Lodge

### The forgotten famous of Glebe

by Sybil Jack

They're forgotten – but we use their names every day. Glebe streets in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were frequently named after people, mostly men but occasionally women like Jane Harden, who were once important and well known locally and whose lives were significant at some time in the past.

They were people of varying status and social standing – governors Phillip and Darling each had a street. Men who were local councillors like William Burton achieved a nomination. Sir Allen Taylor twice Lord Mayor of Sydney was also honoured. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the union leader, Thomas Keegan who represented Glebe in parliament had a street named for him. As you shoot up Boyce St remember the Reverend William Binnington Boyce, a distinguished theologian and academic who was a friend of George Allen. Allen had the power to name streets for his friends but he was not the only one. The Anglican Church ensured that the first Church of England bishop, Grant Broughton, had a street named for him as did less high powered clergy like the Rev Ralph Mansfield.

Some whose importance was national rather than local were also selected. Streets named for King Edward VII and Queen Victoria were obvious in Glebe and elsewhere. Those of lower status but critical function in the military or other professions might be rewarded with a street. Lord Cardigan, commander of the light brigade in the Crimea was one. The explorers Oxley and Edmund Kennedy each had a street as did Andrew Garran editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

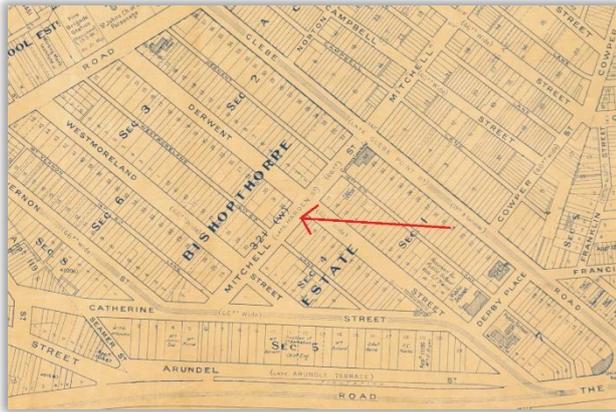


Reverend William Binnington Boyce (source: <http://companyofangels.net>)

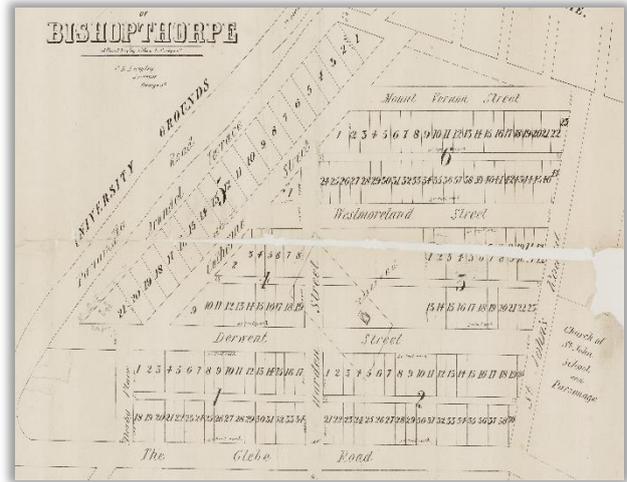
### Harden St – a forgotten street

by Virginia Simpson-Young

Sybil's brief article above mentions a street named after Jane Harden. Where is Harden St, I hear you ask? You won't find it on Google Maps or in any street directory. Harden St, listed in 1859<sup>1</sup> was what is now Mitchell St, between Glebe Point Rd and Catherine St (see map below).



This map shows the Bishopthorpe Estate with Mitchell St as it is today, continuing up from Blackwattle Bay, across Glebe Point Rd and ending at Catherine St. The red arrow is pointing to the upper portion of Mitchell St which is labelled 'LATE HARDEN ST' (source: City of Sydney)



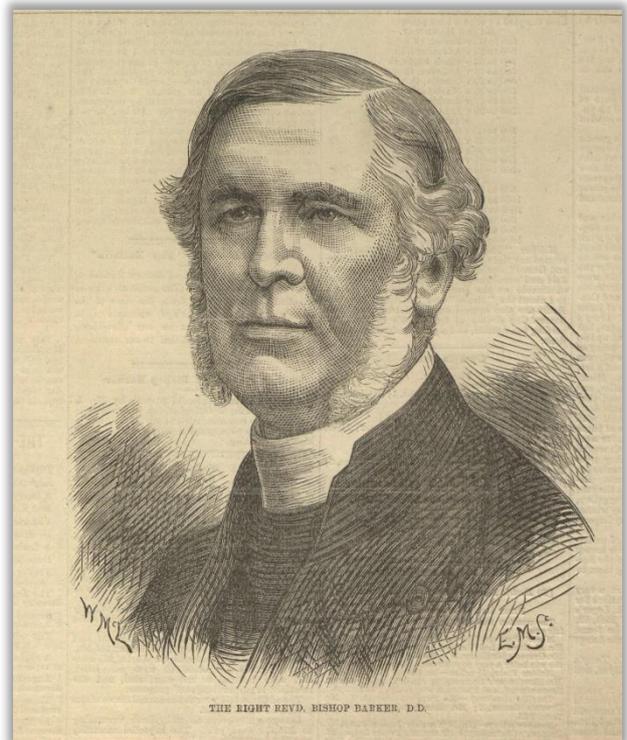
Plan of the Bishopthorpe Estate. Harden St can be seen running between The Glebe Rd (ie Glebe Point Rd) and Catherine St (source: State Library of NSW)

### The Bishopthorpe Estate

Harden St was one of the streets in the Bishopthorpe Estate, which is bounded by Parramatta Rd, Glebe Point Rd, Mount Vernon St and St Johns Rd (see plan above). The Bishopthorpe Estate was retained for use by the Anglican bishop when other areas of the Church lands were sold off in 1828. 'Thorpe' means 'village', so the name Bishopthorpe was applied.<sup>2</sup> The bishop in question was Bishop Frederic Barker (1808-1882), who was the second Anglican Bishop of Sydney from 1855 until his death in 1881. In October 1840, while still in England, Bishop Barker married Jane Sophia Harden (1807-1876).<sup>3</sup> Along with an ecclesiastical retinue, Jane and Frederic sailed to Melbourne on the *Mermaid*, then made their way to Sydney, arriving on 25 May 1855.<sup>4</sup>



Mary Jane Barker (née Harden) (source: <https://www.npg.org.uk/>)



Bishop Frederic Barker (source: *The Bulletin* (10 Jul 1880))

Jane was a deeply committed and compassionate Evangelical. Despite struggling with Australian conditions (she really didn't like the summer heat and the mosquitos<sup>5</sup>), she threw herself into her role and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women and children in the Colony.<sup>6</sup> Amongst her substantial achievements was the establishment of St Catherine's School in Waverley, which is still there today. She established this school for the daughters of Anglican clergy, many of whom were living in parishes in remote locations.<sup>7</sup>

### **Jane's influence**

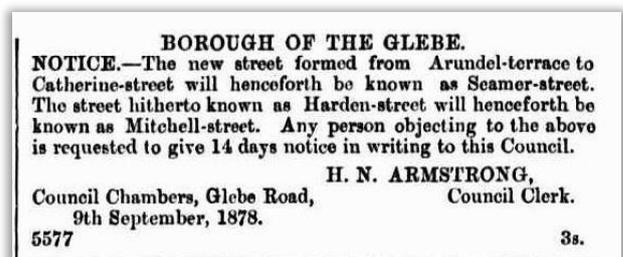
Jane kept a diary covering many aspects of her life in Australia.<sup>8</sup> From this, we know about her love of beauty and nature and her influence on the names of Bishopthorpe's streets.

Jane had grown up around literary and artistic people because her father, John Harden, mixed in such circles.<sup>9</sup> 'Artists and poets visited the house ... As the elder daughter, Jane imbibed many of her father's artistic interests'.<sup>10</sup> John Harden counted William Wordsworth as a friend.

It is no surprise then that aesthetic considerations exercised Jane's mind when thinking about the layout and naming of the Bishopthorpe Estate. Several of the streets in the Bishopthorpe Estate refer to the Lakes District in England, which had been her home before coming to Sydney. As Max Solling has pointed out, 'Derwent and Westmoreland recall romantic English Lakes District places from the childhood of Bishop Barker's wife, Jane Harden'.<sup>11</sup> And of course, 'Harden', recalls her family and beloved father, John.

### **Harden St becomes Mitchell St**

But Harden St didn't stay Harden St for very long. In 1878, not quite two decades after its listing, The Borough of Glebe Council announced that Harden St was to be renamed Mitchell St of which it was a continuation (unless anyone had any objections). This change was announced only a year or two after Jane's death in 1876.



*Newspaper notice announcing that Harden St would 'henceforth be known as Mitchell St' (source: NSW Government Gazette, Tue 17 Sep 1878, p. 3738)*

Glebites owe a debt of gratitude to Jane Barker. The streets of Bishopthorpe are wide and tree-lined, and the estate resembles a country town rather than a crowded inner suburb.<sup>12</sup> The notes for one of the Society's 'Glebe Walks' point out that 'the streets were wider and much longer than were common at the time, and the leases forbade wooden dwellings, so almost all have survived'.<sup>13</sup>

Understanding the rationale for choosing street names in the Bishopthorpe Estate brings to light a beautiful story of a woman's imagination and commitment to creating a beautiful environment for her husband's flock. It also points to the significance of the Bishopthorpe Estate, which grew from such remarkable beginnings. These are yet further reasons to preserve this unique heritage area.



*Westmoreland St today remains a wide and leafy avenue (photo: V. Simpson-Young)*

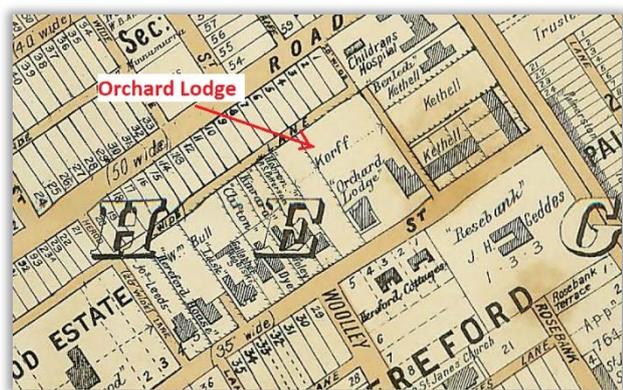
**Footnotes:** 1. <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/history/history-sydney-streets/>; 2. [https://glebewalks.com.au/?tb\\_walk\\_stop=corner-mitchell-st-and-derwent-st](https://glebewalks.com.au/?tb_walk_stop=corner-mitchell-st-and-derwent-st); 3. <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE4072b.htm>; 4. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/barker-frederic-2934>; 5. <https://sites.google.com/view/australian-dictionary-of-evang/b/barker-jane-sophia-n%C3%A9e-harden-1807-1876>; 6. <https://sites.google.com/view/australian-dictionary-of-evang/b/barker-jane-sophia-n%C3%A9e-harden-1807-1876>; 7. <https://moore.edu.au/resources/serving-the-lord-jane-barker/>; 8. K.J. Cable, 'Mrs Barker and Her Diary', JRAHS 54 (1968), pp.67-105; 9. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/barker-frederic-2934>; 10. <https://sites.google.com/view/australian-dictionary-of-evang/b/barker-jane-sophia-n%C3%A9e-harden-1807-1876>; 11. Solling, Max (2007), Grandeur & Grit: A History of Glebe, p.89; 12. <https://www.glebesociety.org.au/socialhistory/the-glebe-estate/>; 13. [https://glebewalks.com.au/?tb\\_walk\\_stop=corner-mitchell-st-and-derwent-st](https://glebewalks.com.au/?tb_walk_stop=corner-mitchell-st-and-derwent-st)

## Who lived in your street? Catherine Anna Korff (1862-1938)

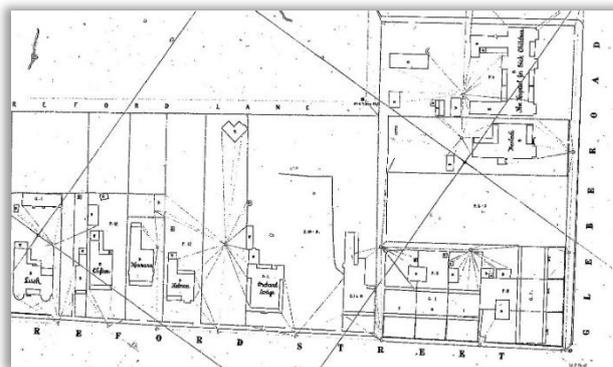
by Lyn Collingwood

Always known as Kate, Catherine Korff was one of eight daughters of Frederick James Robert Korff and a granddaughter of John Korff whose story was told in the July *Bulletin* (5/2021). The last unmarried sister to die, Kate's passing marked the end of her family's 80-years' residency on Hereford St. In 1940 two brick semi-detached houses replaced the old home. They remain standing, as numbers 19 and 19A.

John Korff's *Orchard Lodge*, a prefabricated iron building, and *Orchard Cottage* were set in more than three acres of garden with plenty of space for fruit trees and grazing cows. Part of solicitor Henry Burton Bradley's grant of more than five acres, with subdivision the Korff holding shrank to about an acre.



Location of Korff's Orchard Lodge on a 1886 map (source: City of Sydney Atlas)



1889 Water Board plan of Hereford St, showing the Korff property stretching as far as Hereford Lane (now Wigram Lane). (Image: Leichhardt Library Archives)

Kate's parents Frederick and Janet Mary Clark (a sea captain's daughter born at Orchard House, Blackwall, London) were married in the Garrison Church, Millers Point, on 5 March 1853. Frederick was then in a business partnership with his brother Gordon, as Church Hill ship and commission agents F and G Korff. He lived on Lower Fort St.

Born in Woolloomooloo, Annie Gordon died as a six-year-old at her grandparents' home *Orchard Lodge* in 1860. Second daughter Mary Emily was born on 13 February 1856 in Glebe, perhaps at *St Germain's* on Glebe Rd, the address listed in the 1858 *Sands Directory* for Frederick and his father. The birth of Janet Elizabeth at Glebe in 1858 was followed by that of Yda Alice on 20 November 1859 at Spring St in the city. Catherine Anna was born at Millers Point on 22 January 1862.

Frederick Korff bought a residence in Ashfield where Minnie Gordon was born on 17 March 1864. Some months later the house was let and the family sailed to England. Seventh child Edith Anne was born in London in October 1865 but died the next July, followed by Janet's mother, Ann Clark, five days later. Accompanied by a servant, the Korffs returned to Sydney on the *Lord Raglan* in January 1867. Four months later, Elizabeth Cleveland (nicknamed 'Bessie') was born at Newtown. The family had moved to Hereford St by the time of the arrival of Frederick and Janet's only son on 2 December 1869. Frederick John William lived for only 18 days.

A year later the family patriarch died and Frederick and his family moved into *Orchard Lodge*. Minnie attended Fort St School where she was a prize winner. Bessie died on 8 December 1887 and was buried in Camperdown Cemetery. This was the resting place of her father ten years later and in 1908 of her 80-year-old mother, described by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as 'one of our oldest colonists [who] resided almost continuously in one of the old historic houses now left standing at Glebe Point'. Janet Korff was survived by two married and three single daughters.

Mary Emily, who wed George Frederick Jones in 1879, was a widow living at *Sandhurst*, 53 Toxteth Rd, at the time of her death in July 1934. She was buried in the Church of England section at Rookwood. Following their 1884 marriage, Yda and Hector Allan Mackenzie lived at Stanmore before settling at 25 Hereford St where Yda died in May 1941. She was buried with her husband at South Head Cemetery.

The single women remained at Hereford St with their pet fox terrier. In straitened circumstances postwar, they let out rooms. Kate was closest to her sister Minnie. Socially they were known as 'the Misses K and M Korff', and they formed a company 'K and M Korff' to continue a side business of their father: making, hiring

and repairing flags. (Frederick, who also sold fireworks, first made flags to be flown from ships but diversified. He was commissioned in 1870 to decorate the exterior of the Intercolonial Exhibition Building in Prince Alfred Park.)

Minnie's death at home on 21 March 1923 was followed by that of Janet on 21 November 1927. Kate survived until 22 June 1938. The three sisters were buried at South Head Cemetery. The Korff link with Glebe was broken, like its link with the North Coast anchorage where John Korff and his sons had taken shelter nearly a century earlier. 'The least that can be done is to spell the name properly' Gordon grumbled after a transcription error gazetted Coffs Harbour as the site for a new village.

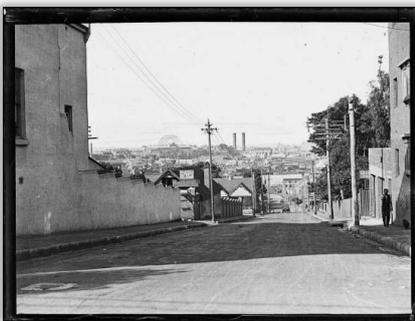
**Sources:** Australian Dictionary of Biography (John Korff entry); City of Sydney Archives; NSW Archives & State Records; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; Sands Directories; Trove website



The site of the Korffs' property today (Image: Lyn Collingwood)

## Mystery photo competition

### Last month's mystery photo



The image, dating from 1939 and held by the National Library of Australia, was immediately recognised by Nerida Kikken:

*I believe this month's mystery photo is Forsyth St taken from the top of the street looking down towards Blackwattle Bay and beyond. I grew up in Forsyth St and have many special memories of my childhood and early adulthood until my marriage at St James Catholic Church by Monsignor Callaghan. My mother continued living in the family home in Forsyth St until her death in 1987 at the Homoeopathic Hospital on Glebe Point Rd. Glebe has a very special place in my heart and always will.*

### This month's mystery photo

Any guesses what the story might be here?

Please send your suggestions to [history@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:history@glebesociety.org.au)

And many thanks to Andrew Scott for the image.



## For Your Calendar

Late August. Meet the Candidates Forum  
12 September. Max Solling's history walk through the Toxteth Estate  
October. Glebe Society Annual General Meeting

Bookings via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/the-glebe-society-4066434169>



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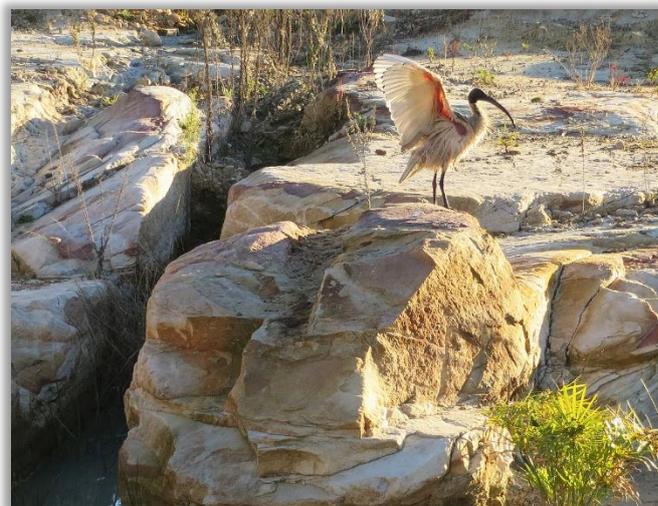
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### **Membership of the Glebe Society**

- Individual member: \$45
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- Household: \$60
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- Additional donation welcome
- 

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*This photo was taken in Glebe in 2013 – can you guess the location? Email [editor@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:editor@glebesociety.org.au) (Photo: Newtown Graffiti, Flickr)*