



Work at Sydney Fish Market site is putting pedestrians at risk

by Asa Wahlquist, Bays and Foreshores Subcommittee Convenor

Pedestrians walking along Bridge Rd from Glebe towards the city have been confronted with a problem at Wentworth Park Rd. It has been described as 'an accident waiting to happen'. The footpath next to the new Sydney Fish Markets (SFM) is frequently blocked, with pedestrians told to cross Bridge Rd, but with no assistance to do so.

The issue was raised at the last meeting of the new Fish Markets Community Consultative Committee. That section of the road is actually a designated 40km/h zone, but it is poorly signposted, with many cars actually picking up speed along Bridge Rd where it widens from one to two lanes.

A CCC member, Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully, said City of Sydney council had been lobbying for improved signage. She asked for submissions from other members to take to Council. Councillor Philip Thallis then raised the matter at the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee.

Cr Scully said there was a need for clearer 40km/h speed signage on Bridge Rd, for police to enforce speed limits, and for traffic calming measures and pedestrian access on Bridge Rd during the construction of the new SFM. Committee members also asked for a crossing, with lights, at the intersection of Bridge Rd and Wentworth Park Rd, to be installed sooner than planned.



Pedestrians are unable to use the foot path on the Blackwattle Bay side of Bridge Rd in front of the Fish Market development site. This leads to overcrowding on the other side of the road. (Photo: Janet Wahlquist).

Reminder

AGM 11 am Sunday 10 October
(by Zoom)

To participate, register via [Eventbrite](#)
See the [AGM papers & reports](#)



Glebe Society 2021
Annual General Meeting

The problem of the footpath being closed will continue during construction works, with future plans including raising the level of Bridge Rd. The main entrance to the Fish Market will be on Bridge Rd at the end of Wentworth Park Rd and there are plans for that intersection to have traffic lights. In the meantime, pedestrians have to dodge the traffic, which thankfully is still light due to the lockdown.

Cr Scully said Council will raise the issue of policing the 40km/h speed limit with the police. She said City of Sydney staff 'will be liaising with the SFM developer to advocate for the installation of the signalised crossing as early as possible, and to advocate that the crossing covers all three sides of the intersection'.

When it comes to better signage for the 40km/h speed limit, the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines state that they can only be used in conjunction with 'either school zone, local traffic area or high

pedestrian activity, not alone. Hence the use of the smaller roundel with '40km/h'. Cr Scully said Transport for NSW agree this is no longer appropriate at this location. When new guidelines are published, City of Sydney will ask Transport for NSW to change the signs.

At the moment, there is simply no protected way for pedestrians to cross Bridge Rd next to Wentworth Park Rd. Those with foresight can cross at the Taylor St lights, but they still have to risk crossing Wentworth Park Rd.



The footpath next to the new Sydney Fish Markets (SFM) is frequently blocked, with pedestrians told to cross Bridge Rd where there is no pedestrian crossing and no assistance from traffic controllers. (Photos: Janet Wahlquist)

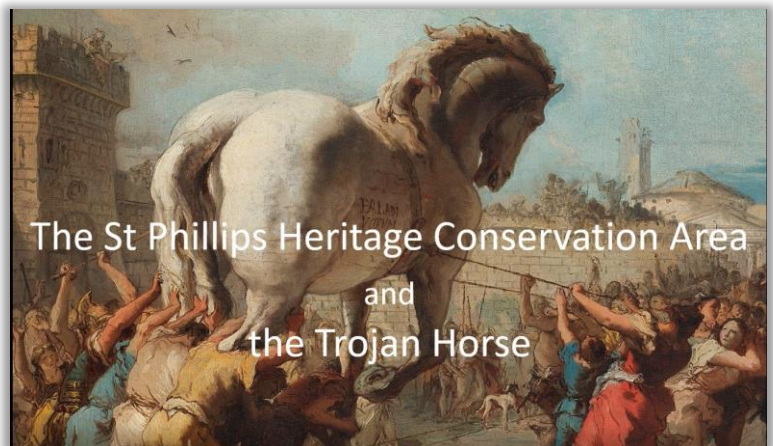
Planning Matters

Our new video series: 'In Sydney, it's Glebe'

'In Sydney it's Glebe', the six videos about our suburb have now been released. You can view all six in one go using the link below. Please help get the message out by sending the link to your friends and posting them on your social media pages.

<https://youtu.be/yFHKQgWlv0o>

Right: the opening frame of video no. 6 showing 'The Procession of the Trojan Horse into Troy' by Domenic Tiepolo (1727-1804)



Visual update on the Glenmore Meats site



The apartments that are nearing completion on the former Glenmore Meats site (photo: Phil Vergison)



The site as it was in February 2020; the Glenmore Meats building is partly demolished (photo: Phil Vergison)

Community Matters

Glebe Public School brightens up Glebe once again



Glebe Public School Fence Display (photos: Phil Vergison)

The Glebe Youth Service's pandemic response

COVID in Glebe: How the Glebe Youth Service is supporting our community

by Judy Vergison

Recently Glebe and surrounding suburbs have had a significant number of COVID positive cases. The Glebe Youth Service (GYS) is currently supporting over 30 households where some people are COVID positive and another 20 households are either isolating or impacted by the current COVID lockdowns. GYS is also working with NSW Health to support impacted families.

This support is taking place in a range of ways:

- **Phone support:** wellbeing checks, psychosocial support, assessing needs and providing health and other information
- **Coordination of meal deliveries and food relief**, including fruit, vegetables and non-perishables
- **Coordination of Foodbank hamper orders** – non-perishable and food items
- **Grocery and household essentials**, enabling families to have a 'big shop'
- **Food security vouchers**
- **Coordination of Coles e-gift cards** to clients and their families
- **Providing phone credit**
- **Access to online entertainment**, with 'stay in touch' check-ins with youth workers
- **Emergency shopping for individuals and families in isolation**

Generous financial donations by the Glebe community allowed GYS and their fabulous team to respond very quickly to local priorities as the latest COVID situation in Glebe and surrounds began to emerge.

DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS: Broadway Community Donation + Food Drive (20 September to 17 October)

Broadway Shopping Centre has set up a Community Donation and Food Drive bin on the ground floor (outside Aldi and Chemistworks) – see the photo at the end of this article. Centre Management let us know about the high level of community support in the first week, with generous donations filling the bin daily.

You can drop off non-perishable donations or make a donation using the code on the display in the donation area. Below is a list of suitable items you can drop off when next shopping, including:

Tinned food and meals with ring pulls	Long life milk	Cooking oil	Flour, sugar & salt
Baby food & formula (a high demand item)	Nappies (a high demand item)	Cereal	Deodorant, sanitary items & personal care items
Pasta & Pasta sauce	Tea & coffee	Pet food	Snack foods

Glebe Society members will collect items from Broadway and take the donations to the GYS facility in Glebe Point Rd for packing into hampers for local delivery.

This is such a practical way for everyone to help. We really appreciate Broadway Shopping Centre taking the initiative to set up the donation area. Of course, this is a big call-out to everyone in our caring Glebe community who has already contributed, as well others who plan to! These caring actions really help to lift the spirits in the community.



GYS Community food drive collection, Broadway, 25 September 2021 (photo: Phil Vergison)

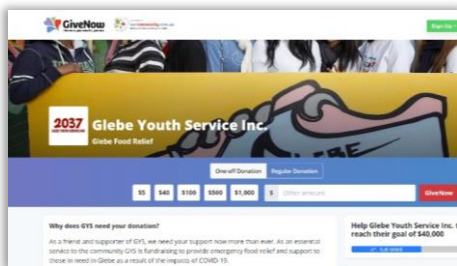


Three trolley-loads of donations being taken to GYS. (left to right) Matt, Broadway Security team, Pakjira, GYS Volunteer and Philip, Glebe Society volunteer (photo: Judy Vergison)

Cash donations to Glebe Youth Service

by Phil Young

The recent *Glebe Society Update* email called for members' donations to the Glebe Youth Service's campaign for funds for their good work in the Glebe area to provide food parcels and other practical support during the pandemic. Whilst it is called the Glebe Youth Service, they are providing a very wide range of support to whole families in Glebe at this time.



GYS is using the GiveNow crowdsourcing site to raise funds to support local youth and others during the pandemic (source: <https://www.givenow.com.au/gysfoodrelief>)

Within two days of our email to members the GYS 'GiveNow' funding portal at <https://www.givenow.com.au/gysfoodrelief> showed that combined donations via GiveNow and direct bank deposits to GYS raised over \$20,000. Given the Society appeal began before it went to the wider public, it would seem that Glebe Society members contributed most of this amount. That is an extraordinary effort by our members which deserves a heartfelt 'Thank You'.

Donations are currently over \$25,000 and this has allowed GYS to put in place a range of initiatives to support those in need. The number of families needing support is growing each day and it is expected these will continue to increase over the next few weeks, if not months. Additional donations are welcome to provide more help to needy families in Glebe, and all donations are fully tax deductible.

We will let you know if more targeted support is needed. We have a few members who are collecting GYS Community Food drive donations from Broadway and helping the GYS team to deliver meals to homes in isolation. We will let you know if more targeted support is needed and if additional volunteers are required.

Glebe Society member, Edwina Doe (seated), co-ordinates Red Cross's Trauma Teddy program. On Monday 27 September, Edwina delivered a donation of 50 Trauma Teddies to GYS. (Photo: Red Cross)



History & Heritage

Who worked in your street? Enid Craig Christie MacDonald (1889-1986) and Margaret Hilda Harper (1879-1964)

by Lyn Collingwood

Margaret Harper and Enid MacDonald were resident medical officers at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children on the corner of Bridge Rd and Booth St, Camperdown. Built in the period 1905-7, the complex replaced the Sydney Hospital for Sick Children which occupied three terrace houses on the corner of Wigram and Glebe Point Rds. The earlier hospital was totally demolished and is now the site of Glebe Library while much of the Camperdown land is covered with units and town houses.



Enid MacDonald (Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney University Archives)

Born into a medical family in Queensland, Enid MacDonald graduated MB from the University of Sydney in 1911. After leaving the Children's Hospital she joined the Dept of Education's medical staff checking on the health of staff and students in rural schools before taking up an appointment with the Lunacy Dept as a junior assistant medical officer. She resigned the latter position just before she married in December 1915. Enid's husband was Reginald MacDougall Bowman, then on military leave after contracting typhoid fever at Gallipoli.

Bowman (1887-1975) was a classmate of Enid, graduating MB ChM in 1911, and, like her, descended from medical practitioners. He returned to war action and was back in Australia in 1919. Daughters Janet and Helen were born in 1916 and 1920 respectively.

Margaret Harper was born in Melbourne and raised by aunts and housekeepers until her early teens when her widowed clergyman father remarried. She was educated at the Presbyterian Ladies' College and at Melbourne University, sharing the 1899 W T Mollison foreign language scholarship

for a year's study in Italy. In 1901 she began studying medicine, transferring to the University of Sydney when her father was appointed principal of St Andrew's College. She graduated MB ChM in 1906 and worked in various hospitals before joining the Camperdown staff in 1910.

Honorary physician at the first Baby Health Centre and a founder of the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children, Margaret Harper was the first medical director of the Royal Society for Mothers and Babies' Infant Welfare Centre, operational from 1921 in *Tresillian*, a large house in Petersham.

An advocate of breastfeeding, Harper questioned the value of commercially-prepared infant foods and refined her own infant diets. Her coeliac patients were taken off cereals and fed cottage cheese and bananas, while thickened cereal was recommended as a cure for habitual vomiting. She rejected Dr Truby King's strict routine of feeding by the clock, and in 1926 she published *The Parents' Book*, a child care manual which was reissued over 30 years. She saw the need to improve the way Sydney's milk was delivered, and was the first in the world to recognise cystic fibrosis of the pancreas.

Stimulating and at ease in clinical meetings, Harper was a 'dreadful' lecturer who read from a prepared script with her head down. As 'The Lady Doctor' she broadcast weekly for the ABC from 1933 to 1936. In pre-Second World War Sydney she was one of only four full-time paediatric physicians. A diet kitchen at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and a ward at the Rachel Forster Hospital were named after her.

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography Margaret Hilda Harper entry; Children's Hospital Camperdown Hand in Hand; National Archives of Australia; NSW registry of births, deaths, marriages; Trove website.



Margaret Hilda Harper (source: Wikipedia)



Resident medical staff at the Children's Hospital, 1912. Left to right: Drs Humphries, Wooster, Harper, MacDonald, Donaldson, Gordon Tait. (Image: Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney University Archives)

The Creation of Lombard St, Glebe

by Rodney Hammett

Originally part of Lots 4 and 5 in the 1828 subdivision of Glebe, the Lombard St we see today was created in three phases: in 1900, 1908 and 1994.

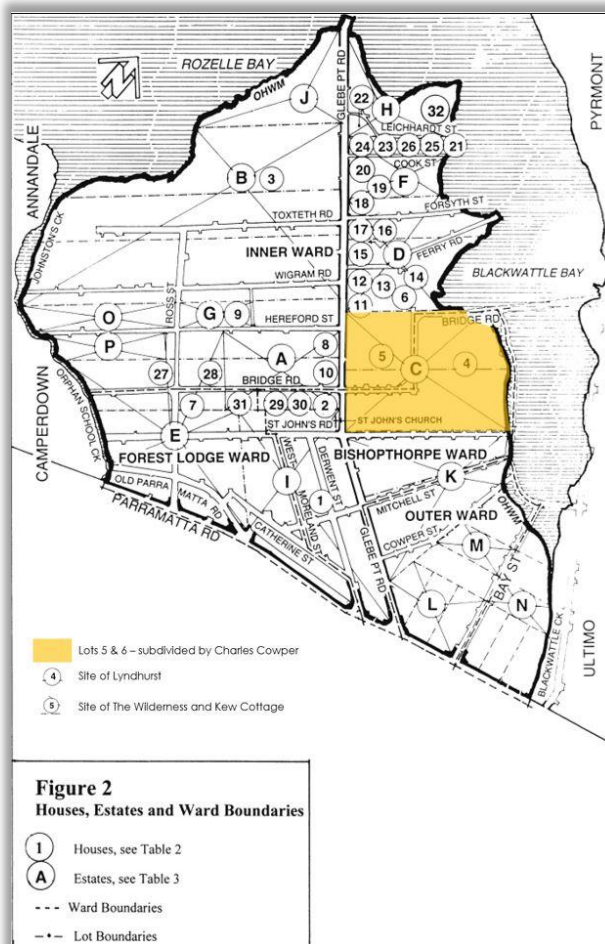
Phase 1 – 1900

Thomas Cudbert Harington had in 1828 been the top bidder for both Lot 1 at £12 3s per acre (eastern side of Glebe Point) and Lot 5 at £13 per acre, however he decided not to proceed. Eventually it was public servant Charles Cowper, who had purchased Lot 6, who also purchased Lot 5 and it was he who on-sold the 43-acre site.¹

Lyndhurst was established by James Bowman (1784-1846), naval surgeon and pastoralist, on a 36-acre site he purchased from Charles Cowper.² The house was built progressively from 1833 to 1837 on the high ground overlooking Blackwattle Bay which over time became a swamp and eventually the Wentworth Park we know today (the circled 4 in the figure to the left).

The Wilderness was constructed as a family home by John Betts (1805-1846), storekeeper, merchant and pastoralist³ on a six-acre site he purchased from Charles Cowper in 1832. The land with improvements is shown outlined red in the diagram from Book 28 No 569, at NSW Land Registry Services (Figure 2 below). You can see here the *Lyndhurst* property on the eastern boundary.

This Betts land was sold by his executors to William Moffitt in 1853 who then leased *The Wilderness*. Following Moffitt's death in 1874 his executors arranged for the construction of *Palmerston Terrace* on Glebe Point Rd in 1882, at which time *The Wilderness* was demolished.⁴ On the land beyond and east of this terrace, new roads and lots were planned in a subdivision that was first



Source: Leichhardt Historical Journal No. 23, p. 13

offered for sale in late 1900.⁵ A later advertisement in October 1901 shows the subdivision and street layout, plus the *Palmerston Terrace* and shaded lots that had already been sold (Figure 3). One of these newly created roads was Lombard St.

In 1901 tradesmen were in big demand here as houses emerged from the gardens, orchard and rubble of *The Wilderness* estate. Keen builders including George Logan, Charles Coulton, John Howard Brown, Robert Coupland Winn and Robert Chambers had each secured numerous lots for their future workload. And it was coming thick and fast because at the same time the final subdivision of the Toxteth Park Estate was being sold and developed at The Point.

Phase 2 – 1908

On the northern boundary of *The Wilderness* was Lot 4 of the 1828 subdivision, which together with Lot 3 had been purchased by Captain William Dumaresq. He sold a four-acre parcel adjoining *The Wilderness* to John Betts in January 1835.⁶ Here Betts, on a lot that extended from Glebe Point Rd down to Blackwattle Bay (now at about Taylor St), had a cottage built for his widowed mother and sister, both named Harriott. This was named *Kew Cottage* after the London suburb where his mother had been married.⁷

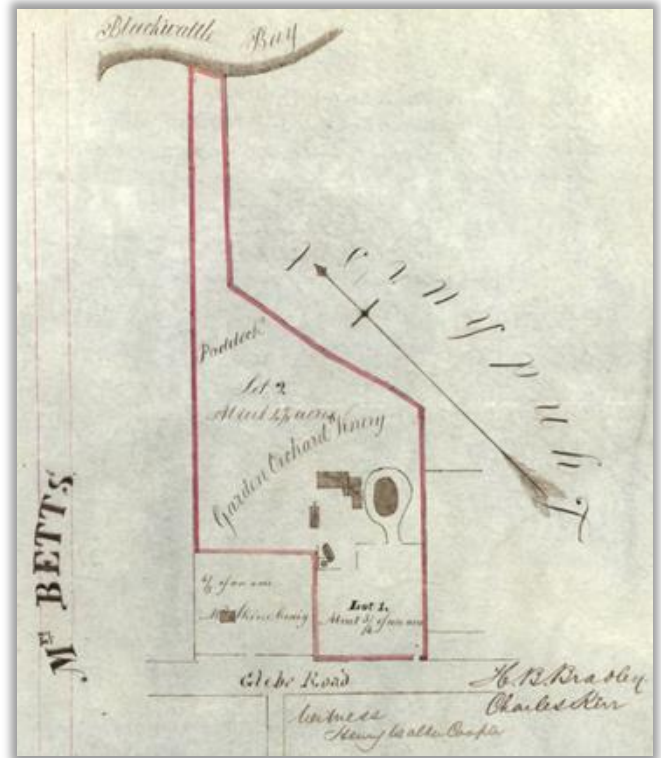


Figure 2: Diagram from Book 28, No. 569 at NSW Land Registry Services

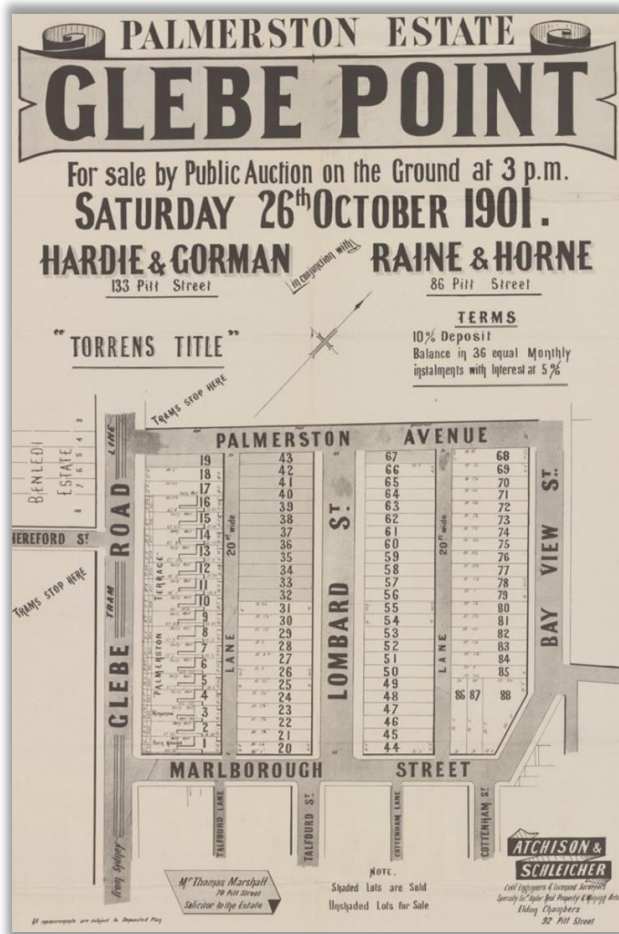


Figure 3: Source: National Library of Australia

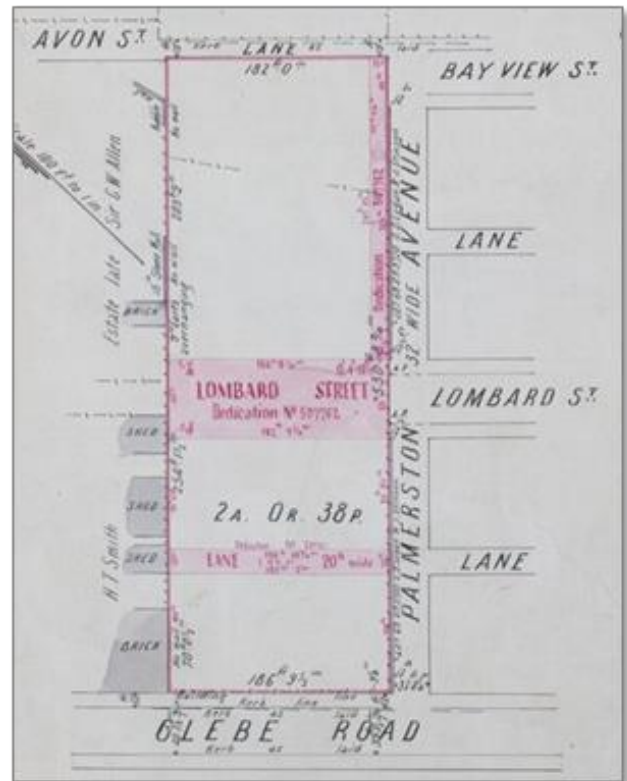


Figure 4: Certificate of Title, Vol 1864 No 125 (part)

Much has been written of this cottage during the period up to the death of Harriott Betts, the unmarried sister of John, in 1889 and then its changed use as a Diphtheria Ward for the first Children's Hospital –which is now the site of the Glebe Library. The cottage was incinerated as a public health measure in 1907. (See also *Bulletin* 7/2016 and *Villas of Glebe & Forest Lodge pre-1870*, 11 *Kew Cottage*).

By this time the land on which the cottage had stood had been reduced to just over two acres and in March 1908 it was owned by Louis Rich of Sydney, a gentleman. It was he who subdivided the land and extended Lombard St by dedicating land through the site as shown in the diagram in the Certificate of Title (see Figure 4). The cottage had stood where the Lombard St was extended.

Phase 3 – 1994

On the land north of Kew Cottage was *Lynwood*, a house constructed in about 1851 and shown with nearby houses in the 1888 survey of Glebe.

In a previous *Bulletin* article (07/2020) the demise of *Lynwood* and the use of that site plus land previously part of the *Kew Cottage* site by Meloy Carriers was discussed. Mirvac purchased the Meloy site in 1992 and then over two years developed the townhouses and apartments we see today. By 1994 Lombard St had been extended into the Mirvac development.

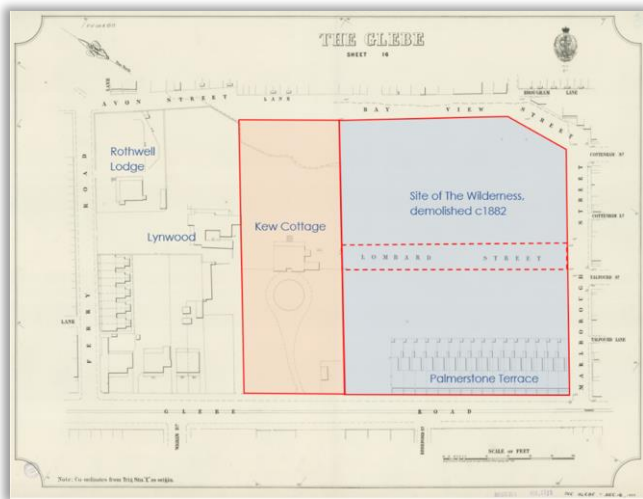


Figure 5: Base map: Sheet 16 of an 1883 survey. SLNSW M Ser 4 811.17/1 Annotations by R Hammett.

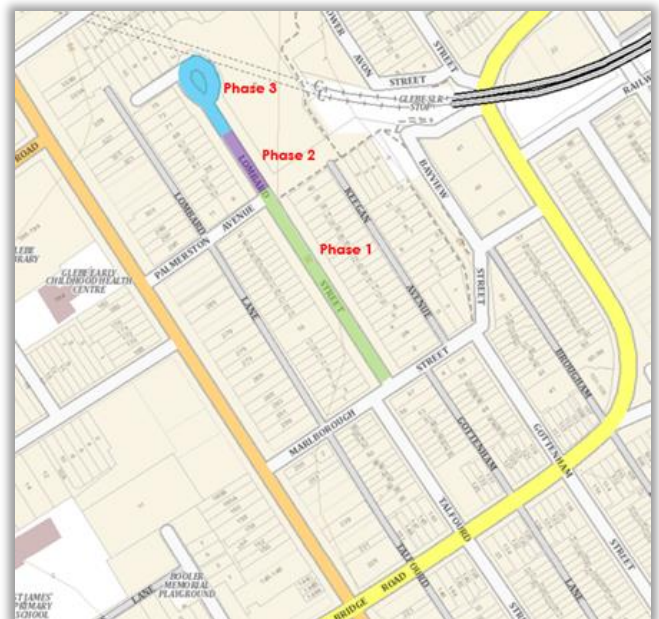


Figure 6: Base map: <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/> Annotations by R Hammett.

NOTES: ¹ LHM No. 23; A Semi-Rural Retreat, Places, People and Society in Glebe 1828-1861, Part 1, Table 1; ² See also Australian Dictionary of Biography; <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bowman-james-1812>; ³ LHM No. 23; The Wilderness, p.24; ⁴ LHM No. 23; p. 25; ⁵ SMH; Sat 20 Oct 1900, p. .17 [col 6]; ⁶ NSW Land Registry Services; Book G No 908; ⁷ LHM No 23; Kew Cottage, p. 26.

Mystery photo competition

with Lyn Collingwood

Last month's mystery photo

This was an interior, so hard to identify. And we don't know the answer either! Only that the drinkers are marking the closure of a Glebe pub in 1967. The 99-year leases on four hotels on the Bishopthorpe Estate ended that year: the *University*, *Currency Lass*, *Kentish* and *May's Family*.



This month's mystery photo



Where are we? Please send your suggestions to history@glebesociety.org.au (Image: City of Sydney Archives)

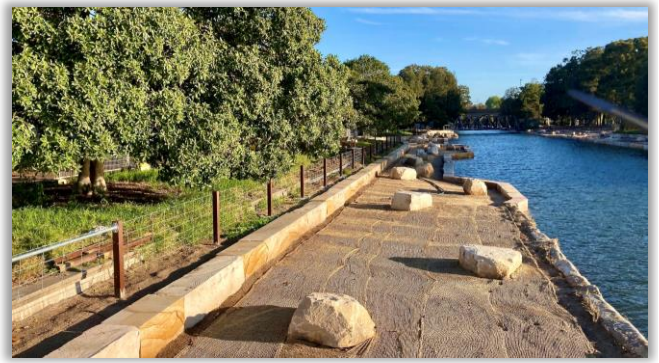
Glebe, Naturally



The Glebe Society is looking for a new convenor for the Environment Subcommittee. If you think you may be interested, get in touch with Jude Paul, Secretary, on secretary@glebesociety.org.au.



A birdbath by Folko Kooper (Tasmania) in the recently upgraded Ernest Pedersen Reserve (photo: V. Simpson-Young)



Man-made nature – Johnstons Creek Glebe: 17 September 2021 (photo: Phil Vergison)



A plethora of picnics at Bicentennial Park on 17 September (photo: Phil Vergison)

Creative Glebe

32nd Annual Glebe Music Festival

by David McIntosh

This year's Glebe Music Festival has been organised for November. The copy of the program, which consists of five concerts, can be downloaded from the Glebe Society website: http://glebesociety.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Glebe_Music_Festival_2021.pdf.

Please see <http://www.glebemusicfestival.com/> for updates.

Right: Susannah Lawergren (soprano) and Georgia Lowe (harp) are performing at the Glebe Music Festival on Sunday 21 November. (photo: Facebook)



Do you have a photo of this Glebe sign?

by Ryan Donnelly

I'm putting together a book on hand-painted signs in Sydney, featuring signs that can still be viewed currently.

I've been making a point of showing each wall in its current state and also including photos of what it looked like previously, and including the year of photo – which helps the viewer understand some of these have been in existence for 20-30 years.

The wall in question features on the side of the Glebe Point Pharmacy (cnr of 373 Glebe Point Rd and Forsyth St); although it is a way up towards Glebe Point and away from the main shops, I view it as a point of interest in Glebe with its eye-catching colour palette.



The side of Glebe Point Pharmacy at 373 Glebe Point Rd today. Ryan is looking for a photo of the sign when it used to say '\$6.95' '24 Exp', probably before May 2008. Do you have such a photo?? (Photo: Ryan Donnelly)

I am aware that the wall used to say '\$6.95', '24 Exp', but I cannot find any photos of it.

My research has led me to believe the wall was partly painted over in May 2008 as the information was no longer relevant, so I am looking for photos before that date (from a couple of months before to years and years before – whatever you potentially have).

If you have a photo, please contact me at ryandonnelly@hotmail.com, or on my mobile 0431 410 355.

Paintings of Glebe by artist Sonia Mattson

After Art college, I began living in the inner west and later more specifically, in Glebe. Since a Fine Art degree qualified me for very little, I acquired a teaching degree then much, much later, at 50 years old a Master's degree in Education and Applied Linguistics. Anyway, I studied painting and drawing in the early '80s at Alexander Mackie CAE and have continued to paint and exhibit in Australia and overseas all my life. While mostly drawing in charcoal and painting in oil on canvas, I have experimented with many mediums, including bronze sculpture and Virtual Reality. While portraiture has been one of my favourite genres because I find psychology and the human form so interesting, life painting and drawing from the model have also captivated me.

My most recent exhibition was last year at the wonderful Arthouse hotel in Pitt St. However, during this time COVID-19 struck Australia and Sydney went into its first lockdown.



Sonia Mattson with her friend's dog, Lucy (image supplied)

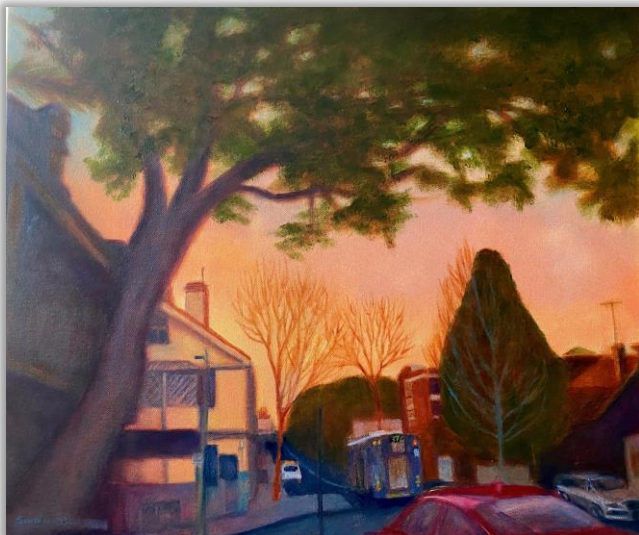
Apart from being stubborn about continuing to be an artist, despite the difficulties, I have also been tenaciously committed to living in Glebe. When ESL teaching took me all over the world to live and teach in Cambodia, China, Japan and Indonesia I would always return to some share house or studio flat in Glebe.

It was the home of popular coffee shops such as *The Craven*, *Badde Manors* and *Café Troppo* and famous bookshops such as *Gleebooks* and *Sappho*. My favourite art deco arthouse movie theatre, *The Valhalla*, played cult movies and the Harold Park Hotel hosted famous authors, up and coming comedians and great live music. I saw Peter Carey there and Douglas Adams among many others at Writers in the Park. It was affordable at the time, even on my modest wages. The restaurant and pub scenes were very lively and the music scene was thriving as well as the enduring attraction of Glebe markets.

Some of these things have changed but these days I still live in Glebe (well, Forest Lodge), and I continue to love it for many qualities I have mentioned as well as its diversity, abundant nature, charming old terraces, proximity to the university as well as intrinsic quirkiness.

During lockdown, I have been painting a series of oil paintings inspired by local places including *The Valhalla*, *Badde Manors*, Glebe Point Rd and a view from Hegarty St. I am available for commissions, and you can view my artwork or contact me at www.soniattson.com or Instagram @mattsonsonia or on my Facebook page. Prints of these artworks are available for sale from my website.

Some Glebe paintings by Sonia Mattson



Dawn: Glebe Point Rd



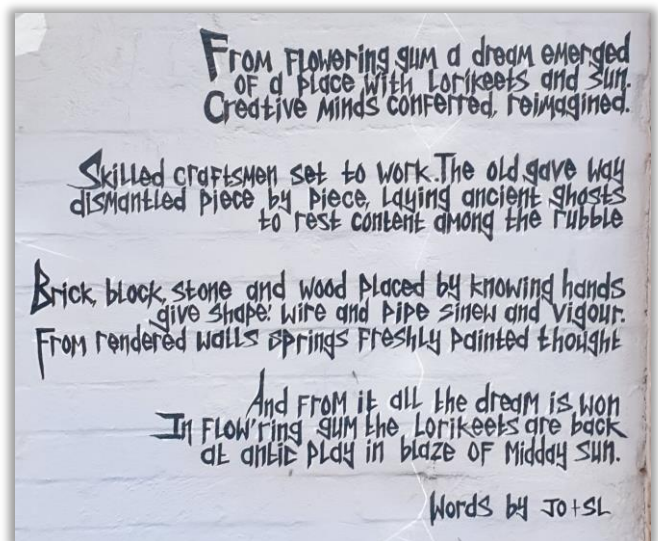
Badde Manors



The Old Valhalla



Twilight



Some stunning art in Boyce Lane Glebe (photo: V. Simpson-Young)

Subcommittee Annual Reports for 2020-2021

The Society's 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday 10 October from 11 am to 12 noon.

In last month's *Bulletin*, the annual reports of the Community Development, Blue Wren and Heritage Subcommittees were made available. This month, the remaining annual reports, for the Planning and Communications Subcommittees, are included.

Currently the position of Convenor for the Environment Subcommittee is vacant. Fortunately, the Society's work on the environment is ably managed by the Blue Wren Subcommittee and the Bays & Foreshores Subcommittee. If you are interested in getting involved in the Environment Subcommittee, please let Jude Paul know on secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

In the next Bulletin we'll have the President's annual report.

Communications Subcommittee Annual Report 2020-2021

By Allan Hogan, Convenor

Members of the Subcommittee in 2020-2021 were Ashley Brinson, Tarny Burton, Bruce Davis, Sarah Fogg, Carole Herriman, Allan Hogan, Lyn Milton, Virginia Simpson-Young and Phil Young.

Allan took over from Virginia as convenor in May this year.

During the past year, the major activity of the Communications Subcommittee has been in improving our websites. In addition to this, we have continued to coordinate and oversee the Society's various media – the *Bulletin*, websites, Facebook pages, Twitter, YouTube, Update Email to members and Eventbrite. We have also sought to assist the Society's Management Committee and subcommittees with their communications.

The Bulletin

The *Bulletin* continues to be the main way the Society communicates with its members. Content for the *Bulletin* is provided by Management Committee members and a handful of regular contributors who are not on the Management Committee, including Lyn Collingwood and Rodney Hammett. Photos are often provided by Phil Young, Phil Vergison and Virginia Simpson-Young. The *Bulletin* is edited by Virginia Simpson-Young and proofread by Edwina Doe, Emily Booker and Sybil Jack.



Due to COVID-19, the *Bulletin* mailout team was unable to meet until April this year. Paper copies of the *Bulletin* were produced in April, May and June before having to revert to email-only *Bulletins*. For those three months, our mailout team, led by Phil Young, comprised Bruce Davis, Edwina Doe, Bryan Herden, Carole Herriman, Alison McKeown and Jude Paul. Five additional people joined the delivery team ensuring a substantial reduction in postage costs.

In response to a President's email informing members about the Society's finances, two members generously volunteered to personally print (at their own cost) and hand-deliver the small number of paper *Bulletins* required for members who don't have email.

Sadly, the Editor of the *Bulletin*, Virginia Simpson-Young, has indicated that she wishes to step down from the position at the end of this year. Her decision was accepted with great regret by the Management Committee, who expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the skill, energy and dedication she has brought to the task. Virginia will be a hard act to follow, and the Management Committee will have a difficult job finding her successor.

The Glebe Society Update Email

One of the Subcommittee's roles is the compilation and distribution of the *Glebe Society Update* emails that are sent on an occasional basis to those members who have provided us with an email address. The Society has been very active over the past year in terms of campaigns, so the *Update* email was more than occasional. The number of our members who can now be contacted by email is 98.5%.

Glebe Society Websites

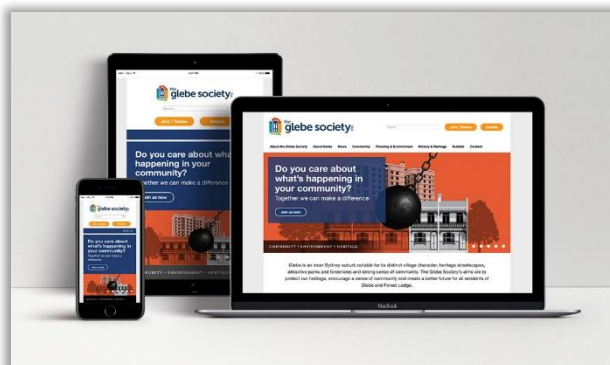
The Society has three websites – our main one (www.glebesociety.org.au), one for the Glebe Island Bridge (<https://www.glebeislandbridge.com/>) and the Glebe Walks website (<https://glebewalks.com.au/>). Each can be viewed on your computer, tablet or smart phone – particularly useful in the case of the Glebe Walks site. A website on the 50th anniversary Festival in 2019 is inching ever-closer to completion. The site presents – in a very

attractive fashion – images, videos, documents and publications from the Festival. It will be well worth the wait. The Subcommittee hopes to substantially complete the website in time for the AGM.

Main Glebe Society website

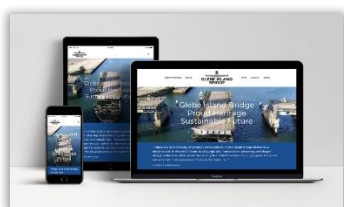
Over 33,000 users accessed our website in the year ended September 2021, and almost all of them were first time visitors, although many of them didn't linger for a long time. The average session duration was one minute and forty three seconds, which suggests that users followed a search engine to a particular page, read it, and moved on. We're thinking about ways to encourage them to browse our site.

After the Home page, the most viewed page on the website was 'Who Lived in My Street?' Another very popular search was 'Michael Nicholas Hurley', the underworld figure who was fictionalised in the TV series *Underbelly*, and who lived at 23 Toxteth Rd. 'How to Research Your House' had over 670 visitors to its page and the Sze-Yup Temple page prompted almost a thousand views. And as a clear guide to how people are receiving their digital information these days, mobile phones are now ranking with computers as the most used device to access our site.



The Glebe Society's new-look website looks great and is great for reading on your mobile, desktop and tablet.

Members may have noticed that the website has had a freshen-up and looks marvellous. The changes are not entirely cosmetic – the re-vamped site is easier to use. Work to improve the website is on-going, so expect further improvements in future. The website upgrade project is being managed by Sarah Fogg from the Subcommittee with input from Virginia Simpson-Young, and the hands-on work is being undertaken by webmaster Tarny Burton. The work towards the improved website began early last year with a consultation process from which a new information architecture was drawn up and refined. The first stage for implementing the improvements was for Tarny to redesign the front page and the appearance of all pages on the website and a web developer was engaged to build it. The website upgrade team will continue to make changes as time and funds permit.



Glebe Island Bridge website

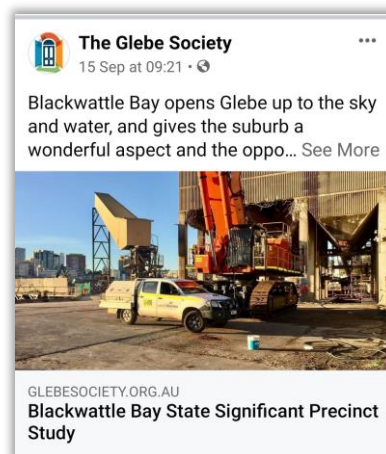
To support the 'Glebe Island Bridge; Give It Back' campaign, the website that the Glebe Society had created for the Bridge (<https://www.glebeislandbridge.com/>) was brought up to date. The Society is now able to easily post updates on the progress of the GIB campaign.

Glebe Society Facebook pages

The Society's Facebook pages are also maintained by the Communications Subcommittee; these are the main page (www.facebook.com/TheGlebeSociety) and the Glebe Island Bridge page (<http://www.facebook.com/GlebeIslandBridge>).

A Facebook post is made about most content uploaded to the website. A post usually consists of a short paragraph, an image and a link to the relevant page on our website. The vast majority of these Facebook posts are about items in the *Bulletin*. In this way, our content reaches a wider audience.

Our Facebook following has continued to increase each year. Currently we have 1,400 followers which is up from around 1,230 about this time last year. Our Facebook followers have a different profile from our members', being a fair bit younger. Over half of our Facebook followers are aged under 45 years and almost three-quarters are aged under 55. Only 13% are aged over 65. The Society is keen to engage with the diversity that exists in 2037, and Facebook is a great means of reaching a younger audience.



A post from the Glebe Society's Facebook page.

The post with the greatest reach in the last year or so was our April post on the spot rezoning of part of the St Phillip's Estate. 2,700 people were reached and 193 of them clicked on the link to Ian's article on our website. Fourteen people on-shared the post.

One of the purposes of having a Facebook page is to encourage readers to click through to our website where, hopefully, they will spend some time looking around. The post with the largest number of clicks through (362) to our website was the July Mystery Photo of the top of Ferry Rd. In general, the most popular posts were the Mystery Photos and posts about planning issues.

Glebe Society's Twitter account (@glebesociety)

The Society also uses Twitter to increase its reach and influence. We have some 550 followers, an increase of 5% over the year. On average we put out about four tweets per month (up to 13), mostly promoting key stories appearing in that month's *Bulletin*, but also our campaigns and other local matters. Our tweets about Glebe Island Bridge, the December 2020 rally and new website, the proposed closure of Laurel Tree House child care, vaccination clinics in Glebe, plans for Blackwattle Bay, the Bridge Rd cycleway and our letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald* about overdevelopment were the ones most 'retweeted', 'liked' or with the largest number of 'impressions' (ie the number of people our tweets are potentially seen by, which is a function of how active our followers are, as well as the level of interest in our tweets).

Glebe Society's YouTube Channel

In the last year or so, the Society has uploaded some interesting videos to our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBT7r3R0Faal_dK6kV9sCbg). These include:

- A video called '[Save the GIB Campaign 2020](#)' of the rally held on 3 December 2020 to save the Glebe Island Bridge.
- The video about threats to Glebe created by University of Sydney students called '[Treasure in the City](#)'.
- We have uploaded to both Facebook and YouTube six videos created by Planning Convenor, Ian Stephenson, that highlight the history and heritage of Glebe and Forest Lodge as well as the threats our community faces from over development. Each of the videos has its own message and the series ends with a call to action to donate to a fighting fund.

Future plans for the Communications Subcommittee

During the year members of the Communications Subcommittee have had broad discussions about the future policies and strategies that should guide our communications activities. These discussions have included the editorial style and policies of the *Bulletin*; defining the target audience for our communications; and the priorities for our community as we move towards the year 2037 – a symbolic and a practical focal point. None of these discussions have resulted in concrete proposals, but they are important matters for consideration, not just for the Communications Subcommittee but for the Society as a whole. In the months ahead the Communications Subcommittee will reach out to members for submissions and suggestions on these topics.



A tweet on the Glebe Society Twitter account.



A frame from the Glebe Society video, 'Glebe: Know the History and Heritage of your Community' which was uploaded to our YouTube channel on 28 September (youtube.com/watch?v=yFHKQgWlv0o)

Planning Subcommittee Annual Report 2020-2021

By Ian Stephenson, Convenor

Glebe is a special place. Its survival owes much to contingency. Social diversity created a remarkable architectural and cultural legacy. Ownership of the St Phillips and Bishopthorpe estates by the Church of England saved one from industry and the other from demolition by the University. Unlike Darlington, proximity to academe engendered intellectual vitality in Glebe, not destruction.

Unfashionableness was also a great preserver. Compare, for example, the impact of the Conveyancing (Strata Titles) Act 1961 in Glebe with nearby Ashfield where, in the 1960s, entire streets of houses were razed for three-storey walk up home unit blocks.

The 1970s were the start of the age of miracles. Over 700 houses in the St Phillips and Bishopthorpe estates were conserved by government while private owners in other parts of Glebe restored even more! Freeways which would have decimated Glebe were abandoned, industrial land was transformed into waterfront parks, the NSW Heritage Act was passed and conservation zones promulgated.

As shown in the page of illustrations below, the year 2021 has reminded us that we cannot take the protection of Glebe's social and urban character for granted. The City of Sydney's well-considered Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plans are being undermined by State and Local governments. Two major threats have emerged.

Spot Rezoning

Initiated by the State government, this involves excising parcels of land from conservation zones in order to replace low-rise public housing with high-rise apartment blocks. It is bad in two ways – it destroys the scale and character of Glebe and it destroys communities by removing public housing tenants from well-designed low-rise apartments which have private and shared open space and a connection with the street.

The Society lodged an objection to the NSW Land and Housing Corporation's application for spot rezoning of 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd and 17-31 Cowper St for eight-storey buildings and addressed the City of Sydney Heritage Committee and Central Sydney Planning Panel on the issue. Regrettably, the rezoning application was unanimously approved by City of Sydney Council in March, although the Lord Mayor and Councillors Scott and Phelps expressed disquiet about it. We later met with the Minister for Housing, Melinda Pavey, expressing our opposition to spot rezoning and requesting that it cease.

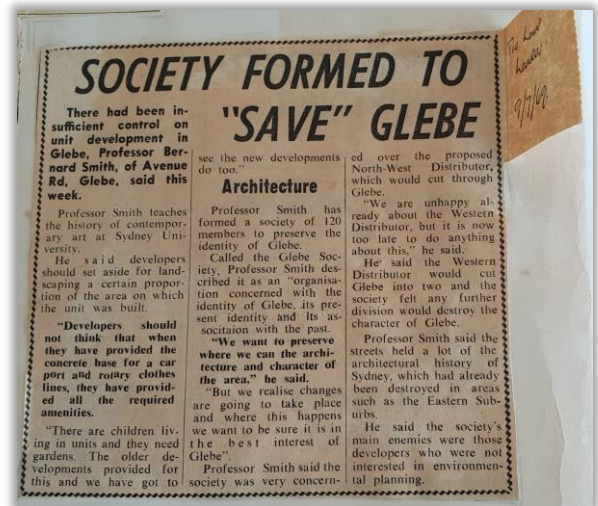
City of Sydney Council not applying the principles of the Development Control Plans

In Glebe's conservation areas, buildings are classed as *Contributing, Neutral and Detracting*. The DCP says that 'demolition of neutral buildings will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the replacement building will not compromise the heritage significance of the heritage conservation area'.

At 43 Avona Ave an application was lodged to demolish a neutral building which adjoined a row of contributory buildings. The DCP controls required the new building to be of appropriate scale, bulk and design and to reflect the form of its contributory neighbours in the design of its roof, window proportions, scale and materials. Residents and the Society actively opposed the development. Although one member of the local planning panel agreed that the design did not comply with the development control plan and voted against it the majority voted for it.

On the planning front, the Society has been vigorous in fora, making submissions, communicating with members, working with compatriot groups like *Hands off Glebe* and speaking to Local and State representatives. We have recently completed a six-part video series which explains why Glebe is so important and the threats it is facing. I encourage you to watch the series and particularly Episode 6, *The St Phillips Estate and the Trojan Horse*.

Glebe is remarkable. It is a life enriching place and a source of delight for residents and visitors alike. We must continue to work together to nurture it. It is too precious to lose. As the late Jack Mundey said at our 50th anniversary, 'We've got to fight for the heritage we own, for the heritage that we've built and the heritage we want people to inherit'.



From the archives ... The Glebe Society has been fighting to protect Glebe and Forest Lodge for over 50 years.



Approved

Spot rezoning in the St Phillips Conservation Area to allow buildings up to eight storeys



Currently before Council

An application by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation to erect two eight-storey buildings on the rezoned land.



Approved

A four-storey house located in a Heritage Conservation Area at 43 Avona Ave



Currently before Council

An application to demolish a warehouse building and erect a four-storey boarding house at 7 Franklyn St.



Currently before Council

Sixty-eight apartments and seven terrace houses in Ferry Lane and Avon St



In the planning stage

Towers up to 45 storeys high at Blackwattle Bay



In the planning stage

Demolition of low-rise public housing and gardens in Bay, Glebe and Franklyn Streets and their replacement by towers up to 14 storeys high.

For Your Calendar

20 September to 17 October, *Broadway Community Donation + Food Drive for GYS*, Broadway Shopping Centre
 Saturday 10 October, 11 am *Glebe Society Annual General Meeting*, via Zoom
 Sunday 7 November, 6.45 am, *Spring Bird Survey*, Paddy Gray Reserve, contact Judy Christie on 0437 693 372.
 (Note: under COVID-safe rules, we expect that only fully vaccinated members will be able to attend)
 Saturday 7 to Sunday 28 November, *The 32nd Annual Glebe Music Festival*, various venues
 Sunday 7 November, 3 pm. Concert 1: *Thoroughbass* 'Two remarkable women', GTH
 Saturday 13 November, 7 pm. Concert 2: Wolf Mail (guitar) and Milena Barrett (Blues and Soul), GTH
 Saturday 20 November, 3 pm. Concert 3: *Sydney Baroque Players*, GTH
 Sunday 21 November, 3 pm. Concert 4: *Lawergren and Lowe*, GTH
 Sunday 28 November, 3 pm: Concert 5: *Josie and the Emeralds*, St Johns Church
 November (date TBD). *Meet the Lord Mayor Candidates Forum*, details TBC

Glebe Society Inc. Established 1969

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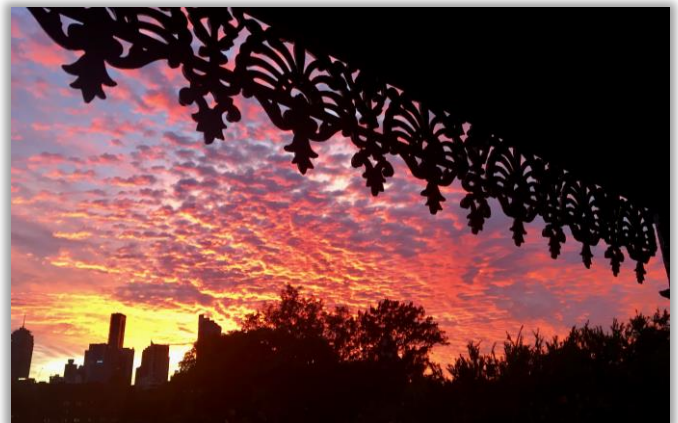
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Membership of the Glebe Society

- Individual member: \$45
- Joint (2 people, one address): \$55
- Household: \$60
- Concession (student or pensioner): \$20
- Institution or corporate: \$110
- Additional donation welcome

How to join

- Join online: complete the Membership Application on our website under 'Membership'
- Download a membership form from www.glebesociety.org.au; or
- Write to the Secretary at PO Box 100 Glebe 2037; or email secretary@glebesociety.org.au



Sunrise over the CBD (photo: Judy Vergison)

Views expressed in this *Bulletin* are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society Inc. Articles and photos submitted for any of the Glebe Society's publications, including the website and *Bulletin*, may also be used in the Glebe Society's other publications.