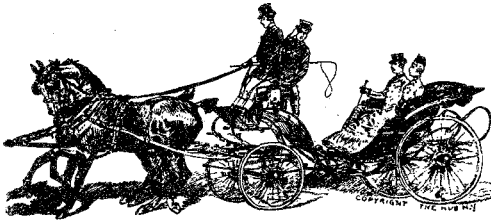




THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

2/1981



PARKS

A sub-committee has been formed to draw up The Glebe Society's policy on parks. It is intended that the policy statement developed by this group will be not only comprehensive, but the definitive policy of the Glebe Society on parks.

Naturally this committee will draw on (rely on to a large degree) earlier submissions presented to Council, and it is hoped that the authors of these earlier submissions will lend their services to the committee.

Earlier submissions to Council and other authorities tended to identify specific park needs in Glebe and develop a policy to overcome that need. In this new vein impressive proposals have been made for Blackwattle Bay Park, a waterfront park in Rozelle/Blackwattle Bay foreshores, the Johnston Valley and the Glebe Estate.

It is unlikely that the Committee could improve on any of these proposals, but the Society does need to draw them to the new (and more sympathetic) Council's attention. Further, our final statement, if it is to be the definitive statement of the Glebe Society, must build upon this solid base and endeavour to encompass all park needs in Glebe and provide a priority listing for them. Our policy must include every ward of Glebe, and must include every conceivable park need - walking areas, picnic areas, children's play areas, sports facilities.... We must include everything from large-scale parks to pocket parks developed on unused land or street closures.

If you have ideas that you feel should form part of The Glebe Society's parks policy, please put them in writing for us and include maps or diagrams if appropriate. Please send them to -

JOHN BUCKINGHAM
2 Eglinton Road,
Glebe, 2037.

ANSWER TO OUR REQUEST FOR HELP

My thanks to those members who replied to my request for help last Bulletin. We now have two minute secretaries, two offers to edit the Bulletin and several typists. So we are back in business again.

What the Management Committee Did

Parks: Alan Robertson is compiling his work in preparation for the Society to put its policy to Leichhardt Council's Parks and Open Space Committee. Gideon Rutherford noted that there had been a meeting every 2½ days over the last 9 weeks at Harold Park. The Glebe Society would be represented at a meeting called by Council to discuss the problems of traffic associated with Harold Park meetings.

General Meeting, LRT proposal, House Inspection, Wine bottling; see articles in this issue.

Planning: The Committee reinforced Alan Robertson's position as the Glebe Society's Planning Convenor. The Secretary reported that, in regard to the Appeals Tribunal, apropos of 43-47 Hereford Street, it had been important that Alan was the Glebe Society's representative on all matters concerning planning. The Secretary also noted that all proposals going out under the auspices of the Glebe Society were seen and signed by him. The Management Committee has complete faith in Alan's work and his tremendous efforts on behalf of the Glebe Society for better planning, open space and waterfront parks. It was resolved that Alan be the Society's representative at the Appeals Tribunal for the 10-18 Minogue Crescent/144 Wigram Road development, the A.W. Edwards site. The Society opposes the four blocks of 3-storey units.

John Hoddinott

HEREFORD STREET

Alan Robertson represented the Glebe Society at the Tribunal hearings concerning the proposed demolition of 43-47 Hereford Street. The hearing was in mid-February. We hope to know the judgment in time for the next Bulletin.

No. 53 "Hereford House", seems to be safe; full details next Bulletin. We hope to be able to inspect it on a Saturday morning, probably in May. Max Solling may be able to provide some details of the house and occupants for such a visit.

John Hoddinott

THE TRAIN RIDE & LRT PROPOSAL

Many Glebe Society members came on one of the two Great Train Rides in November and December last year, or saw the extensive publicity in the S.M.H., the Sun-Herald, on Channels 2, 9 and 10. An item in the Herald's Saturday "Enjoy" column, thanks to Sally McInerney, generated such a response from the public outside the Leichhardt Municipality that it was necessary to arrange, at very short notice, a second trip, confirmation of which arrived just less than 48 hours before departure time.

About 800 people rode the rails, and all seemed to have enjoyed the 65 minutes trip. It gave us a most unusual view of our area, particularly, I think, passing along the Leichhardt-Haberfield boundary near Marketown, North Annandale area over Johnston Street and of course, the exit from the tunnel at the Burton Street-Bridge Road intersection.

It is fairly obvious that this track will be used for passenger transport one day. The aim of the Society's proposal is to make that day arrive as soon as possible. The news that Expo '88 is not to proceed makes this task more difficult, for two reasons; firstly, the Darling Harbour goods area would have been the site for the exposition and consequently the goods line to Glebe would have been cut (unlike suburban or goods lines, light rail lines can run through public areas), and secondly the LRT system would have been very useful for transport to the area.

However, the viability of the line is not changed by Expo not taking place. I heard on the news recently that a tunnel for cars (and public transport?) under the Harbour is being investigated by the State Government at an estimated cost of \$750m. about five times the projected cost of the LRT system. I wonder how many of those cars will be racing through Glebe in ten years' time.

I would like to correct an error that crept into the final Bulletin of 1980 which stated that the stop for Glebe would be at Harold Park. In fact, John Gerofi's proposal places three stops to serve Glebe, one near Wentworth Park to serve Glebe High School, one underground near the Toxteth Road-Glebe Point Road junction, and a third at Harold Park.

About five hundred and fifty copies of John Gerofi's monograph were printed initially. Less than a dozen copies remain. We distributed about 200 as complimentary copies to about 15 politicians, 9 local Councils, the media, libraries, institutions to be served by the lines, etc. The remainder have been sold and we can report to Glebe Society members that we have come out about square on the exercise. The two Train Rides broke even (the train costs \$1050 to hire, so the ticket prices had to average out at about \$3 each for the 350 seats available).

It would be fair to say that the LRT issue has worked out very well. The Management Committee did have some doubts about the monetary return initially, quite rightly, but I backed the idea. Having made that stand I resolved to try to make ends meet. A few days after the Ride was publicised in the "Enjoy" column, it was obvious that we would have a full train. From then all that remained was a few weeks of hard work, repaid by the kind comments from the travellers, and by the publicity generated.

It has been decided to reprint the monograph and the new print run is 300 copies. There are still many institutions which should receive a free copy, particularly in the south eastern suburbs.

It is difficult at this early stage to judge the political impact of the proposal. We have had positive support from several groups including the Sydney City and Leichhardt Councils. The State Rail Authority is examining the costs. Generally the response from the inner western suburbs has been much better than that from the eastern side.

The third and biggest Great Train Ride is now over, covered by Channel 2's "Nationwide". The publicity for the proposal has been very heartening and just about everybody in Sydney seems to have read or seen a major piece on it.

We understand the State Government will be giving a response to the proposal in the near future. We hope it is positive.

The City Council has donated \$300 to the Glebe Society to build a display stand and pay for publicity photographs for our proposal and illustrating existing LRT systems. The Society is to match this with \$300 from Society funds. A sub-committee, chaired by Diana Sharpe is already well established and will continue the publicity and lobbying, among sporting and social clubs, educational institutions, commercial interests, etc. lying within the catchment area.

My thanks to Emi Snyder, a new member, who has taken over the onerous job of ticket distribution for the third train ride. It was time-consuming but vital, and Emi has handled it cheerfully and effectively.

I wonder how many members have written to the State Government to support the proposal? There is still time. Write to our local member, the Hon. P.D. Hills M.P., the Minister for Transport, the Hon. P. Cox, M.P., and the Premier, the Hon. N. Wran., Q.C. Letters are very forceful, so please consider this course of action. It would be easier to compose such a letter if you own a copy of the monograph.

The LRT system would get you to town in 10 minutes instead of thirty. Surely that is worth writing to Macquarie St.

John Hoddinott

GENERAL MEETINGS

The Committee has decided that apart from the Annual General Meeting in August, a few General Meetings should be held throughout the year on specific issues. This will involve members in policy making and keep all of us in touch. The first of such G.M.'s will be on the theme of Traffic and Transport and provisionally will be held at the Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday, 27th May. We hope to have speakers from the Glebe Society, a Public Transport speaker, and someone from the N.R.M.A. Full details in the next Bulletin. There will be time for questions and discussion. Offers for speakers are welcome from any Society member, as are suggestions for speakers and for future topics for such meetings.

BOOK SALES

Plants of the Inner West \$2.50
(N.B. Extra copies will be arriving soon, and those members with outstanding orders will receive the publication.)

Restoring Old Houses, by Ian Evans \$16.95
The LRT Monograph by John Gerofi 3.50

Orders to John Hoddinott 692-0071

LOCAL HISTORY

The Glebe Society is receiving an increasing volume of correspondence asking for information about families and houses. The work in this area devolves to Max Solling, our tame historian. Most of the letters come from outside the Glebe area, although the writers have usually had a family link with our suburb. The increase in requests for information has risen over the last few months, and if extrapolated could soon involve Max on a 48-hour day in research and replies.

Hence, over the next few issues of the Bulletin, we will print notes prepared by Max, entitled "Source Materials for Local History". We start with family history, and Max states -

"There is a catholic array of source materials for local history. Perhaps the most useful way of approaching the subject of research on people and buildings is to briefly comment upon a few of the sources, their accessibility and value and then list publications that may be useful for further reading.

PEOPLE

- Compulsory registration of births, deaths and marriages was introduced in N.S.W. in 1856. The genealogical detail in these records of civil registration of births, deaths and marriages, preserved in the Registrar General's Department, are of great value in tracing people.

In family history the procedure in research is simple and logical. Begin with yourself and move back through time in documented steps, generation by generation. For example,

Your parents' marriage certificate should show:-

- (a) Their full names, ages and birthplaces;
- (b) Names of your two grandparents and their occupations, at the time of your parents' marriage;
- (c) Maiden name of your two grandmothers.

Your father's birth certificate should show:-

- (a) His father's full name, age and birthplace and his occupation at the time of your father's birth;
- (b) His mother's maiden name, age and birthplace;
- (c) The date and place of your grandparents' marriage.

Your mother's birth certificate should provide similar information about her parents. Then continue working backwards and the amount of information collected steadily builds up. On application to the Registrar General (disclosing the reason why the information is required) and payment of \$5.00 for a certified copy, you can obtain the relevant certificates.

Once regarded as a parlour game of the pretentious, the significance of the study of family history in specialised fields of research is now widely recognised, providing the historian with the essential background to biography.

Nancy Gray's succinct "Compiling your Family History" describes the procedure in tracing a family line and anyone can acquire the booklet cheaply from the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Four main groups of people arrived in Australia from 1788 to 1856 - convicts, settlers, Assisted Immigrants and gold seekers. Some 160,000 convicts were transported to Australia up to 1868. "Convict of Indents" housed in the Archives Office provide us with the name of a prisoner and the offence for which he was transported, together with the number of former offences, native place, occupation and the like. The extensive manuscript sources on convicts held in the Public Record Office, London, are available on microfilm in Australia.

A vast series of Immigration records which are continuous from 1832 are held in the Archives office. These records usually give the town or parish of origin, the age, religion, occupation and educational standard of each arrival and, in many cases, the parentage of single migrants and of married women. Although the series is a most reliable and accurate source of information about free arrivals, they are very complex and records other than shipping lists must often be used for particulars of arrivals.

The publication of "Births, Deaths and Marriages from the Sydney Morning Herald 1851-1854" by K. Johnson and M. Sainty is a valuable reference, partially rectifying the deficiency in civil records until compulsory registration became a reality. After 1856 the need to search shipping records for information is not so great as civil records supply much of what is sought.

The Registrar General jealously guards civil records in his possession and rarely permits access to registers for various research (E.G. genealogical, historical, medical, research) on the ground that the information contained in the entries is of a confidential nature. This stance creates real difficulty where, for example, a study of the religious denominations of Glebe aldermen from 1859 to 1948 is proposed. However, these problems are not insurmountable for other sources can be tapped, and particularly in quantitative studies of the type mentioned, a valuable basic record is the N.S.W. Probate Office Indexes from 1800 to date, kept in the Probate Office, fourth floor, 225 Macquarie Street. These indices provide us with the place and date of an individual's death. It should be remembered, however, that the indices are not a comprehensive record of those dying in N.S.W., for many people die with few or no assets and thus never appear in the Probate records. Wills contain a great deal of information about the people who made them, their relatives and friends and interests as well as about possessions. It was not necessary to declare realty before 1890, so the extent of land ownership in the estate is not revealed, only the personalty (i.e. goods, shares, money). Another valuable source of tracing people after 1903 are the Commonwealth Electoral Rolls available in the Public Library of N.S.W. Also useful are the records of Bankruptcy and Insolvencies at the State Archives, indexed alphabetically in chronological slabs.

Many old homes usually have a small store of family documents ranging from the Bible to letters, diaries and newspaper clippings (often undated) relating to births, engagements, marriages, deaths, war service and so forth. Photographs of people are more likely to be preserved than those of places. Biographical sketches of "a common man" are never easy, for few leave diaries and private papers to enable us to reconstruct something of his world.

Max Solling

HERITAGE WEEK - SUNDAY 29TH MARCH

Heritage Week runs from 23rd to 29th March and will culminate with a fair at the National Trust, Observatory Hill, on Sunday, 29th March.

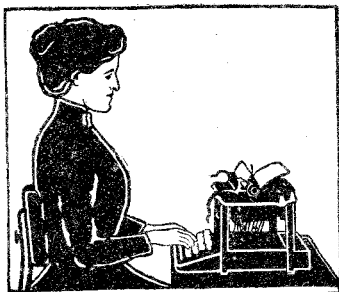
The Glebe Society is sharing a stall with the Annandale and Balmain Associations on that day. Our thanks to Betty Mason, Annandale Assn. who organised the stall and invited us.

We invite Glebe Society members to come along and spend a pleasant day inspecting the stalls and sharing the fun.

Max Solling has supplied us with some wonderful old photographs for the stall, including one from about 1872 of the Wigram Allen Estate and its cricket ground. Glebe Point was sparsely inhabited then. The photograph shows four buildings; a photo today would include well over four hundred dwellings. The photograph shows Allen's house (now Santa Scholastica's College) in its original state as designed by John Verge, before the 1882 additions.

Heritage Week is sponsored by the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.), the Heritage Council of N.S.W. and the Royal Australian Historical Society. Events on the day will include a do-it-yourself picnic, a free puppet show, Morris dancing, bush band and brass band recitals, and possibly a sheep shearing demonstration.

This day would be a good opportunity for Glebe Society members to join the National Trust and visit the Trust Headquarters.



Editor's note

It is good to see that new members have rallied to our cry for help in the organisation of the Society. Old members have been working on and off for years and years, to keep the Society going.

So it is with thanks that I hand over the editorship of the Bulletin to Jan McIndoe, who has offered to help until the end of the year.

Jan's address is 56 Wigram Road, 660-0208.

As I have endeavoured to "get you the news on time", so I hope you will help Jan by letting her have your articles by the middle of each month.

Merlyn Larcombe

Management Committee

President:	Tony Larkum	660-7030
Senior Vice Pres:	Bill Nelson	660-0038
Junior Vice Pres:	John Buckingham	660-7780
Secretary	John Hoddinott	692-0071
Treasurer	Mike Reynolds	692-0790
Bulletin Editor	Merlyn Larcombe	660-0491
Committee:	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
	Peter O'Gorman	660-0302
	Kemp Fowler	660-5258
New members' representative	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Bulletin Distribution	Doris Sharp	660-6636
Minute Secretary	Betty Wright	660-1875
New Bulletin Editor	Jan McIndoe	660-0208

MISSING

A carton of wineglasses belonging to the Glebe Society, borrowed over Christmas period. Please Anyone with information ring Nan Waterford, 660-6906

For your diary

Sunday, 29th March, from 1 p.m.

Heritage Week fete at the National Trust headquarters, Observatory Hill. All welcome.

Monday, 6th April, 2.30 p.m.

Monday Group's next meeting at the home of Jean Ahlston, 58 Torxeth Road. The Group had a pleasant outing to Manly recently. It intends to help with supplying nursery items for a Child Minding Centre in Arundel Terrace.

New members welcome - ring 660-3697.

Sunday, 12th April, 11 a.m.

Coffee and wine morning at Betty Wright, 120 Bridge Road. All welcome.

Monday, 13th April, 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Drinks at the Rowing Club. Come along and have a chat and drink with the Committee. All welcome.

Saturday, 25th April, 2.30 p.m.

Wine bottling at Hilary and Tony Larkum's home, 17 Alexandra Road.

It is still not too late to put in your order for red and/or white wine at about \$1.00 per bottle. Please notify your orders if you haven't already notified us, by no later than 31st March. The wine comes from Saltrams, a South Australian winery.

Don't forget to clean up those bottles. I have about 70 spare if anyone should want some. They need to be cleaned, but they are good. (Yes, the quality of the bottles varies too. Ring me at 692-0071.) Once cleaned, wine bottles should be recycled. Just rinse immediately in water, once empty. We'll keep up the bottling parties to ensure that Glebe can stay slightly shikkered.

(John Hoddinott)