

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

No. 8 OF 1985

OCTOBER

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THIS IS A SPECIAL BI-CENTENNIAL PARK ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. SEE P. 2 & 3

MEET THE MEMBERS EVENING - FRIDAY 18 OCT.

Our Traffic expert, Jeanette Knox, will be the star attraction at our next Meet the Members evening. Jeanette will bring us up to date on recent developments and will be interested to hear what we all think about what's going on and/or ought to be done.

The evening will be an ideal opportunity for recently-joined members to find out what we're like and to be brought up to date on the Park and other Glebe issues.

Time: 7 - 10 pm.

Place: 19 Toxteth Road

Cheese & biscuits, wine, soft drinks etc. will be served.

WENTWORTH PARK CENTENARY PICNIC

Residents of Ultimo, Pyrmont and Glebe are combining to commemorate the proclamation of Wentworth Park as a public park in perpetuity and to press for improved maintenance and access.

We will hold a picnic in Wentworth Park from 11am on Sunday 10th November. We hope that Wentworth Park Pre-school will be able to make its barbecue facilities available. If you want to have a barbecue, check first with Neil Macindoe on 660 0208.

(See Max Solling's most interesting history of the park on page 4)

LIGHT RAIL - AN URGENT REMINDER

Cabinet will probably make a decision very soon about the people mover for Darling Harbour. Please write to Brereton, Unsworth, Carr and Fran pointing out the merits of Light Rail.



Handy Jack. Stanmare Mfg. Co., Sydney. Soap. 1915.

LEIGHARDT RESIDENTS' ALLIANCE

GALA DAY - SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER

11.30 TO 3

What is happening to the Leichhardt Municipality? Why is a record number of groups of residents banding together? Because they are concerned about other bodies of people who do not care about the area.

The Residents' Alliance, which includes the Glebe Society, the Annandale Association, the Balmain Society, the Mort Bay Association, the Long Day Care group and many others is holding a Gala Day, with information stalls, live music, food stalls, T.V and sporting personalities, entertainment for the children and much more.

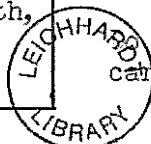
Mayor of North Sydney and M.L.A. Ted Mack will be among the guest speakers.

Flav

Place: Gladstone Park, Balmain (opposite the Markets)

Time: 11.30 am. (There will be plenty of time before the Wine Bottling)

go along and show that the people of Glebe care about the whole neighbourhood.



A BI-CENTENNIAL PARK - ROZELLE BAY

AT LAST WE HAVE (part of) A PARK

John Buckingham and Neil Macindoe

THE GOOD NEWS

In about three weeks Glebe will have a new waterfront park - or at least, the land for it. See page 3 for details.

There are many good points about the parkland that has been gained. It includes about 300m of waterfront on Rozelle Bay, is all level and has a warm but protected aspect throughout the year. It will be an excellent place for picnics and milder exercise.

The new park will join together Marine Reserve (Pope Paul VI landing spot) and Jubilee Park. Federal Road will be closed as far as Northcote Road, so the total new area will be more than 3 hectares, making total parkland of about 6 hectares (more than 12 acres). Landscape plans have already been drawn up by Bruce Mackenzie. The Federal Bi-Centennial Committee is expected to provide funds for the landscaping.

THE BAD NEWS

The Maritime Services Board will retain its foreshore holdings west of Johnston's Creek and will GAIN part of Federal Park, which was created at the turn of the century to commemorate Federation. The M.S.B. development proposed for Rozelle Bay could be sufficiently horrific to nullify any gains in our amenities achieved by the Bi-centennial Park. It has ramifications for the height of the new Glebe Island Bridge, the size of the shipping entering Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays, pollution levels in the Bays, noise levels over Glebe and Annandale, traffic densities in the area, the outlook from the magnificent park etc. etc...

The Annandale Association, whose position with regard to the projected Bi-centennial Park has always been the same as that of the Glebe Society, will continue to press for Stage Two of the waterfront park and the return of that section of Federal Park north of the railway viaduct that was surrendered by Council to the M.S.B.

The Annandale Association will naturally lead the fight to keep and expand parkland in Annandale. The Glebe Society

will lend assistance to the Annandale Association as required.

IMPORTANT NOTE

No residents' group played any part in the negotiations between Leichhardt Council and the M.S.B. Whilst the idea for a waterfront park and most of the effort to obtain it came from the residents, the exchange of land mentioned in the Mayor's Minute was never a part of any Bi-centennial Park proposal. It is not true that the Council has achieved one of the options; no option included the surrender of any land whatever. The deal negotiated by Council has never had, and will never receive, the approval or consent of residents.

Nevertheless Stage One, the core of the bi-centennial waterfront park proposal, has been gained, and must not be lost.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You could help the cause by writing to Laurie Brereton, with a copy to Pat Hills. Address the letter to:

Hon. Laurie Brereton, MLA
Minister for Ports,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

and the copy to:

Hon. Pat Hills, MLA
Member for Elizabeth,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000

You should adopt a positive tone and praise the total park for its own sake as well as for its potential for improving the living amenity of the area.

You should express gratitude for that part of the foreshore that has been granted but register dismay that Federal Park was demanded in exchange for it.

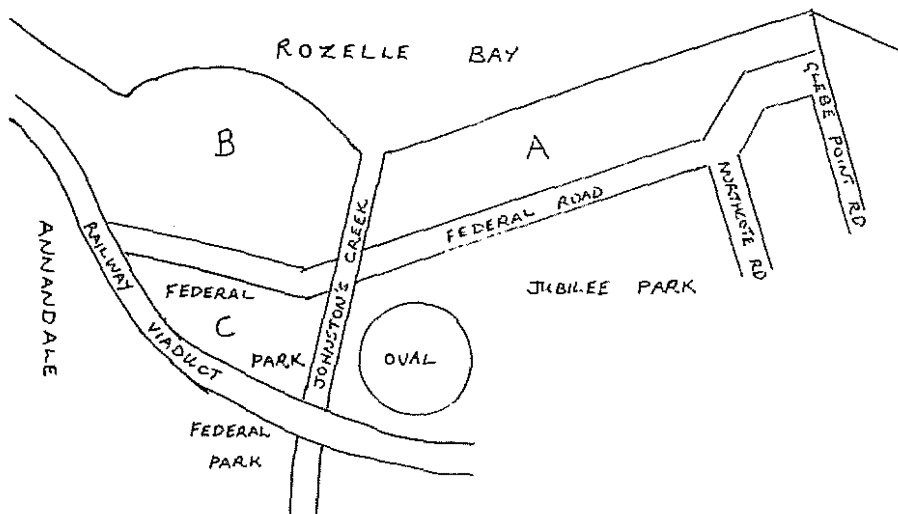
Urge Brereton to reconsider his plans for M.S.B. development at the southern and western shores of Rozelle Bay stressing that it can do nothing to enhance the quality of the Bi-centennial Park.

WHAT THE MINISTER SAID - In response to a question in Parliament from Mr Peter Crawford (Balmain) - 3rd Oct.

I am pleased to inform the honourable member for Balmain and the House that the land that he has referred to at Glebe will now be a further addition to our magnificent foreshore estate. I know how much satisfaction that will bring to my colleague the Minister for Industrial Relations, who has campaigned long and hard to see that area made available to the people of our State. As a result of the strong representations from both members of Parliament, I have instructed the Maritime Services Board to finalize negotiations with Leichhardt council so as to create a 2.2 hectare bicentennial park on the foreshores of Rozelle Bay, the Park, which will be controlled by Leichhardt council, will cover the total area bounded by the Johnson Creek stormwater channel, Federal Road and Pope Paul VI Reserve. The land grant, which will extend Jubilee Park to the water's edge will vastly improve the foreshores of Rozelle Bay and provide a fitting bicentennial gift for local residents. The government land that is to be handed over is worth approximately \$1.9 million. It will be given to the council free of charge in return for several small parcels of non-waterfront land which will be used by the Maritime Services Board to consolidate workshop activities on the western side of the stormwater channel.

The Maritime Services Board intends to clean up this derelict area, which is an eyesore. It will house a modern workshop for more than 400 employees, and it is expected that this will bring significant employment opportunities and benefits for local businesses. Another major bonus of this arrangement is that it will provide greater public access to another of our magnificent harbour assets, historic Goat Island. Consolidating the workshop, at Rozelle Bay, will allow the Government to move the Maritime Services Board operations on Goat Island to the new site. This will mean that historic Goat Island, which was opened for regular public tours last year, can be fully restored as a prime recreational reserve for the people of this State.

I inform the honourable member for Balmain that the Mayor of Leichhardt has indicated his approval of the project and that the Government is now awaiting final agreement from Leichhardt council and we expect to hear from them next week. It will provide a new foreshore park for the residents of Glebe and Annandale and we will be providing special access for the people of Annandale to enjoy the new park—and at the same time it will consolidate the port facilities that are so vital to the State's economy. The new park at Rozelle Bay will be a splendid addition to the other foreshore areas already returned to the people of New South Wales by this Government.



(A) WHAT WE GAINED

2.2 hectares of foreshore land between Federal Road and Rozelle Bay.

(B) WHAT THE M.S.B. RETAINED

All its present foreshore holdings bordered by Johnston's Creek, Rozelle Bay, Federal Road and Chapman Street.

(C) WHAT WE LOST

1.2 hectares comprising Federal Park, Chapman Road and two strips of land providing waterfront access alongside the M.S.B. holdings indicated in (B)

THE POSITION OF COUNCIL

On 8th October, the Council, by a vote of 8 (A.L.P.) to 4 (Independent) confirmed the Mayoral Minute which said:

ROZELLE BAY BICENTENNIAL PARK

The Minister for Public Works and Ports, Mr Laurie Brereton, announced on Thursday last that more than two hectares of foreshore land at Rozelle Bay would be made available for a Bicentennial Park.

The Minister's announcement came after long-standing discussions between officers of the Maritime Services Board and Leichhardt Municipal Council.

The more recent discussions centred around a proposal for an exchange of lands to accommodate both the Board's essential requirement to develop a consolidated Waterfront Workshop depot facility, and the wishes of Leichhardt Council and residents of Annandale/Glebe to establish a waterfront Bicentennial Park.

A proposal was put forward by the Board as an unconditional total package whereunder the Council will not be required to make any payment for the site of the Bicentennial Park but responsibility for the development of the park will rest completely with the Council.

The Rozelle Bay Bicentennial Park will occupy all the area east of the Johnston Creek Stormwater Channel, bounded by Federal Road and Pope Paul VI Reserve.

It will form an extension of Jubilee Park and represents Option 3 of the Park Development Plan submitted to the Bicentennial Council for funding. The Minister's announcement considerably enhances the prospect of approval of a grant which is expected to be known before the end of the year.

As announced by Mr Brereton, the residents of Glebe and Annandale will have unrestricted access to the Park and the harbour foreshores. In return for this 2.23 hectares for the park, Leichhardt Council has been asked to release smaller parcels of land west of the stormwater channel and north of the railway.

This will enable the Maritime Services Board to consolidate an area with waterfrontage on which it proposes to construct a modern workshop facility. This, when built, will bring at least 400 workers into our area with resulting benefits for local business, and greatly enhanced local employment opportunity.

The construction of this facility will also result in the beautification and aesthetic enhancement of what is currently an untidy and run-down area, particularly at the western end of Rozelle Bay.

I was pleased to support this proposal in principle, subject to endorsement by the Council, after which the Maritime Services Board is to have further discussions with Council to complete the formalities.

The total development proposal will be embraced within the normal development application and environmental impact statement processes to be undertaken by the Board.

This package proposal conveniently marries the objectives of the Board and the Council at no cost to the ratepayers, whilst at the same time giving such demonstrable effect to the Government's policy of giving public foreshore access in as many areas surrounding Sydney Harbour as possible.

I have conveyed to the Minister, Mr Laurie Brereton, Council's sincere thanks and appreciation for his considerate and generous recognition of the needs of the residents of Glebe and Annandale, which has resulted in this welcome adjustment of the Maritime Services Board's harbour development plans.

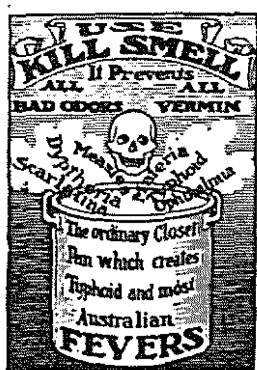
The Glebe

9th October

WENTWORTH PARK

Max Solling

From 1830 slaughter houses at Blackwattle Swamp supplied Sydney with one half of its beef and mutton requirements. The parliamentary committee which examined witnesses in 1848 about the condition of the Blackwattle Swamp slaughter houses, piggeries and boiling down works recommended their removal from the neighbourhood. They had gone by 1860 when an abattoir was opened at Glebe Island. However odours emanating from the swamp did not improve and secret overflows from cesspits produced smells which the euphemistic language of contemporary accounts; "noxious effluvia" did nothing to sweeten.



Kill Smell.
J. I. Tiefenbeck, Sydney.
Disinfectant; 1908.

Glebe Council sought to impress upon Colonial governments the urgent need to reclaim the swamp. "The effluvia which arose from the swamp", Councillor Pinhey declared in 1865, "was at times intolerable, giving rise to miasmatic and other fevers". £10,000 was placed on government estimates in 1869 to carry out the reclamation and four years later the Blackwattle Bay Land Reclamation Act was passed. Between 1876 and 1880 the swamp was filled in with deposits of silt dredged from the harbour bed and on completion of the thirty one acre reclamation in 1880, invitations were called for the design of a park which the Herald had earlier described as being destined to be "the most attractive and beautiful of our recreation grounds, second only to the Botania Gardens".

A Glebe Council deputation urged Henry Parkes in 1879 to acquire land at Glebe for a recreation ground and at the same time Council wrote to the trustees of the new reclamation asking that portion of the reserve be set aside as a "cricket and quoit ground". Lack of playing fields had inhibited the expansion of organised sport within Glebe and at a ceremony in 1882 marking the beginning of Wentworth Park as a recreation area a correspondent observed: "The cricket ground is situated in the centre of Wentworth Park. This park, looking at the surroundings, bids fair to become one of the finest in the colony and the trustees are doing all in their power to make it so. The oval set apart for cricket

is very large and contains $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres, having a white painted rail all round".

Matthew Harris, George Wigram Allen, Michael Chapman and other pillars of the community occupied executive positions on the Wentworth Park Cricket Association and were pleased to lend their patronage to activities that help the masses fill their leisure time with recreation that was healthy and harmless and satisfying to local patriotism. Wentworth Park, named after patriot W.C. Wentworth, was formally "set apart and dedicated in perpetuity as a park or place of recreation at the Glebe" by gazettal dated 10 November 1885. Subsidies totaling £5,000 were spent on its maintenance and improvement between 1880 and 1887 but thereafter expenditure was much more modest. Plans and photographs of Wentworth Park in 1900 show it as a classic example of 19th century landscaping, with a network of paths circling the oval, a rotunda where the district brass bands played, a lake with two islands, gardens and a bowling green (opened in 1884) at the northern end.

Sports flourished at Wentworth Park. Innumerable local elevens competed in the Evan Jones and Furness Cup competitions in the 1880's and when the Sydney district cricket competition, based on residential qualifications, began in 1893, Wentworth Park was established as the stronghold of district cricket. Crowds of 10,000 were reported at matches in 1896.

Rugby was played on an unenclosed ground, with larrikins occasionally joining in the games from the sidelines, sometimes tackling the man with the ball or heading off down Bridge Road with the ball. It was not until 1900 that the cricket oval was "graced by a Rugby match". In the 90's local baseball and lacrosse teams were playing on the cricket oval.

After the Glebe Rugby Union club (the strongest club in the district competition) was expelled from Wentworth Park in 1908, the oval became one of the main grounds of the new Rugby League. By 1911 Rugby League in Glebe had a tremendous following and there emerged a League sub-culture as all embracing as any religious sub-culture. It helped further a kind of local consciousness. "Wentworth Park's crowds are always demonstrative" noted the Bulletin in 1911. "They never hesitate to show on which side their sympathies lie. So when the play was at its fiercest on Saturday the crowd yelled 'Red, red, red' to encourage the local champions. Eastern Suburbs had a good



The Forward Football
Boot.
J. Hunter & Son Ltd.
Sydney; 1911.

following but it was on Glebe's native heath and it was Glebe's day out". Glebe reached its last first grade final in 1922 and the club was eliminated from the competition in 1929.

The Glebe District Cricket Club, which boasted international representatives Coningham, McKibbin, Cotter, Bardsley, Kelleway and Oldfield, abandoned Wentworth Park as their home ground in the 1922/3 season, due to the poor condition of the oval, and moved to Jubilee Oval where a turf wicket was first laid in 1908/9.

The first free kindergarten was established in Sydney in 1896 and in 1914 the Park trustees gave half an acre of Wentworth Park to the Wentworth Free Kindergarten. Locals voiced their concern to the Public Works Standing Committee on the proposed railway line between Pyrmont and Rozelle Bay in 1914. Despite their protests the line was completed by 1919.

From the late 1920's local sporting teams increasingly focussed on Jubilee Oval. Although the Glebe District Rugby League and Union clubs were defunct, cricket and hockey flourished at Jubilee Oval. Motor cycle racing began at Wentworth Park in 1928 and in the 30's bicycle racing attracted large crowds there. Greyhound racing began at Wentworth Park in 1939 and during the war U.S. troops established a port detachment there. Increasingly alienated from local people, since the war the government has granted long term leases to the N.C.A. and other vested interests who show little concern for the local community.

GLEBE COMMUNITY FAIR - 9th NOVEMBER

Once again, we will use the Fair as an opportunity to have a Garage Sale and to hand out information about the Society.

Please ring Edwina Doe to offer your services on the Stall and bring your unwanted treasures to the Park from 8.30 am on the Saturday.

MONDAY GROUP

On 21st October there will be a visit to the Mint Museum. Meet at the front door of the Museum at 11am. Lunch at the Hyde Park Barracks will follow the visit.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on 18th November. It is at Bara Marsh's home, 3 Victoria Road.

HAROLD PARK TROTS - FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

On the principle 'if you can't beat them, join them' we have decided to go to the 'Trots'. Look out for each other near the T.A.B. near Ross Street, or the Grandstand in the same general area. Forget about it if it's raining.

SHARP RISE IN MEMBERSHIP

Probably as a result of the renewed campaign for a Bi-centennial park on Rozelle Bay, many past members have decided to renew. Welcome back!

Membership forms were distributed with the campaign literature and within two weeks 50 new members were added to the Society's mailing list, and several have offered to serve on various committees.

Keep them coming! The Glebe Society is facing a period of great challenges, with the deterioration in local government and the renewed threat of freeways overflowing into Glebe and legislation to allow irresponsible development. The Bulletin will keep you up to date. Help the Society by keeping your friends and neighbours up to date. Every issue is another reason why they should join the Society.

New members

We welcome the following people to the Society - more will be listed next month:

BOYD Antony	LONG Ashley
BROWN Christine	McNAUGHTON Jenny
BURKE Tony	MEGGS Gordon &
CHAPMAN Alexandra	Brigitte
CLIFTON-EVEREST	MILLARD Antony &
John & Joyce	Rosemary
HARBOUR Roy	MOORE Ruth
HARDY Peter &	MURPHY Janice
Jennifer	SAVILLE Timothy
HORVATH Ron &	SEWELL Bob & Julie
Barbara	SUTER James
IBBOTSON Jeffrey	TURNER Timothy
JOHNSTON Gail	UNDERHILL David &
LAMBECK Gerda	Andrea
LEONARD Adrienne	

PRIVATE HOSPITAL PROPOSED

As foreshadowed at the A.G.M., developers have applied to rezone 2 - 30 Junction Street, Forest Lodge from light industrial to residential to allow for the building of a 150 - bed, seven storey private hospital and some facilities for aged persons. This site straddles the border between Leichhardt and City of Sydney Councils.

The Society has written to Council supporting the facilities for the aged, but opposing the private hospital. Members will be aware that the region has the highest proportion of hospital beds in the Metropolitan area. It is impossible to justify another hospital - we have been lucky to save the Homeopathic. It is a sign of the times that pressure from surgeons displeased with public hospitals should lead to plans for unnecessary private ones.

Whilst it would be nice to have more facilities for the aged, it is likely that this part of the development is a carrot to tempt unwary and ill-informed residents to accept the private hospital, which is designed for surgery, not geriatric care.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Bi-centennial Park -
John Buckingham - 660 7780

Blackwattle Bay Park -
Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

Harold & Wentworth Parks -
Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

Jubilee Park -
Tony Larkum - 660 7030

History Group -
Alan Hunt - 660 2407

Planning -
Alan Robertson - 660 6149

Traffic -
Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

Monday Group (Social) -
Sally Nelson - 660 6138

Meet the Members Evenings -
Alan Hunt - 660 2407

The Committee is anxious to form groups to cover other interest areas. If you are willing to help form a sub-committee on any matter concerning The Glebe, contact Neil Macindoe (660 0208).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS \$8 PER YEAR (INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP). FOR INFORMATION, RING JOHN STANDER - 692 9927

FOR YOUR DIARY

Full details elsewhere in Bulletin.

FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER - 7-10pm.

Meet the Members; 19 Toxteth Road.

MONDAY 21st OCTOBER - 11am.

Monday Group - meet at Mint Museum.

TUESDAY 22nd OCTOBER - 7.30pm.

Committee Meeting - 224 Bridge Road.

SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER - 11am.

Gala Day - Gladstone Park, Balmain.

SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER - 2pm.

Wine Bottling; 17 Alexandra Road.

FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER - 7.30pm.

Visit to Harold Park Trots.

SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Glebe Community Fair - Foley Park.

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER - 11am.

Wentworth Park Centenary

MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER

Monday Group's Christmas Lunch - 3 Victoria Road.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

President

Immediate Past Pres. : Neil Macindoe
660 0208 (H)

Senior Vice Pres. : Edwina Doe
660 7066 (H)
922 3877 (W)

Junior Vice Pres. : Eileen Lacey
692 9173 (H)
692 0633 (W)

Treasurer : Mike Curtis
692 9416 (H)

Secretary

Committee :

Bob Armstrong : 660 4189 (H)

Chris Barry : 660 6115 (H)

Maureen Fry : 660 7157 (H)

Alan Hunt : 660 2407 (H)

Ted McKeown : 660 3917 (H)

Bulletin Editor : Edwina Doe

Bulletin Distributor

Andrew Birtchnall : 660 5178 (H)

Social Secretary : Gwen Geschmay
660 4825 (H)

New Members' Rep.

John Stander : 692 9927