



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO. 3 OF 1987

APRIL

"Registered By Australia Post - Publication No. NBG 7483"

## THE COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE MEMBERS

The Management Committee has been sadly depleted in recent weeks. Eileen Lacey has moved to Queensland, Nita Marusich has had to resign because of her study course and our Treasurer, Mike Curtis, has given notice that he will have to step down at the A.G.M. due to business commitments.

It is ironic that these resignations, which follow closely on those of Alan Hunt and Gwen Geschmay, come at a time when the Society's membership is growing and when our sub-committees are doing invaluable work in the areas affecting our environment; planning, traffic and the Marina/Bicentennial Park projects.

Our most urgent need is for a Bulletin Editor and/or typist. We also need someone to work with Mike for the next few months with a view to taking over as Treasurer at the A.G.M., and people for the House Inspection sub-committee, which must start advertising and sending out invitations in May for the November inspection.

Please ring Edwina Doe on 660 7066 or 922 3877 if you would like to volunteer for the Committee or have contributions for the next Bulletin.

## BEST WISHES TO EILEEN LACEY

We all wish Eileen good luck in her new home in Southport and look forward to seeing her when she comes back to visit us in May.

## PALM TREES

The Society continues to seek the return of the 5 Washingtonia Palms removed from the corner of Wigram and Glebe Point Roads, if not to their previous site, then to another one in Glebe such as the proposed Bicentennial Park. The National Trust Heritage Council and Federal Dept. of Environment are assisting but their role is necessarily limited. A clear decision on the use of the site would help.



## CIGARETTE SIGN ON TOP OF UNIVERSITY HALL

In May 1985 the planning Sub-committee questioned the erection of a completely new sign on University Hall, a building which has a Permanent Conservation Order, without development consent. Unsatisfactory replies from Leichhardt Council led the sub-committee to appeal to the NSW Ombudsman and consequently Leichhardt Council ordered the demolition of the sign.

Capital Holdings (Claude Neon) is challenging the demolition order in the Land and Environment Court. The Society wishes to thank Glebe Primary School and the many local businesses and professional people who have supported this campaign and also the anti-cancer lobby.

The Society has already appealed for further witnesses concerning the new sign, but if you believe you are affected by it or have evidence concerning it please contact:

Gary Green  
Pike, Pike & Fenwick, Solicitors,  
10 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000.

## MORNING AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Don't miss the morning tea, guided history tour and organ recital at St. John's Church on Saturday 4th April from 10am to 12 noon.

As this event has been organised especially for members and friends of the Glebe Society, we hope that there will be a record crowd.

DR. VINCENT SHEPPARD (1922-1987)  
Max Solling

Dr. Vincent Sheppard died at Margaretta Cottage, 6 Leichhardt Street, Glebe on 22 January 1987, after a long illness. A foundation member of the Glebe Society, Vincent gave organ recitals at St. John's Bishopthorpe, and at his home for the Society, and on a number of occasions made his home available for Society functions. Born at Summer Hill on 18 January, 1922, the eldest of five children of Orchardist Vincent Sheppard and Dulce Sheppard of Emu Plains, he attended St. Stephens school Penrith, won a Weigall Scholarship to Sydney Grammar and graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1947. He came from a musical family, his mother, her two sisters and his grandfather had a small orchestra and at three years of age Vincent was selecting classical records to play. At University he was awarded a Busby Musical Scholarship and during the war years many students enjoyed his carillon playing. For years he gave organ recitals in the Great Hall, broadcasts for the A.B.C. and twilight recitals at Christ Church, St. Lawrence.

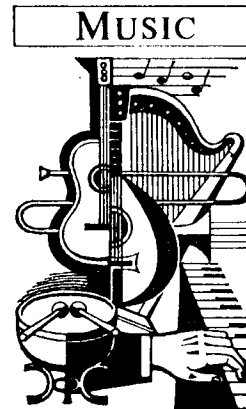
He was a founder member of the Organ Society of Sydney and was Musical Director of the Organ Institute of NSW. The music room at Margaretta Cottage contains an eighteenth century Dutch organ, a harpsichord, clavichord grand piano and practice piano with pedals. Up to 1986 he conducted W.E.A. organ courses in his music room.

Sympathetic and generous, he was a refreshing personality always true to himself. Vincent could be very amusing (and frequently irreverent) especially his anecdotes about churchmen and organists. He loved humanity and enjoyed life. An evening at his home was never dull. There were two Vincents; he was tough on institutional religion and some of its clergy but remained at heart a High Churchman.

Vincent commuted by steam train from Emu Plains while at Grammar and University. He retained his boyhood interest in trains and after working as a medical officer with the Health Department for four years he transferred to the Department of Railways and retired in 1962 as Assistant

Medical Director of the S.P.A. In the occupational health field he introduced a system of preventative measures and training films to reduce the incidence of back injuries among railway workers and he also devised protective glasses.

Very much the Lord of the Manor, he lovingly restored sandstone Margaretta Cottage (the home of architect Michael Golden and his family from 1880 to 1907) after he moved there in 1965. Many in Glebe and elsewhere will miss Vincent.



REPLIES TO ROLAND SCHMID

Traffic and Planning sub-committees are keenly aware of the lack of integrated planning in the Inner City and the likely consequences for Glebe residents of large-scale developments and further increases in traffic. The Darling Harbour monorail is merely worse than most, since it encourages private vehicles into the city while failing to connect with major public transport routes. I thank Roland Schmid for his interest, but his comments are very unfair, as a reading of recent Bulletins will show. I leave the Pink Panther criticism to the person who wrote it.

Neil Macindoe.

It isn't just the Pink Panther that worries me, but other buildings that could be similarly painted.

Has anyone else noticed the buildings on Parramatta Road, around Petersham, which have been painted bright red? One of them, some 5 storeys high, can be seen on the skyline from my office in North Sydney.

Imagine a purple Max Factor building, dominating Glebe Point Road!

Edwina Doe

In March I interviewed Andrew Kelly, who is presently replacing stone copings on Toxteth Uniting Church. He learned his trade from Portuguese and Lebanese masons who emigrated here and were employed by Public Works.

The State Government tried to buy the old Pymont quarries from CSR, but without success. This leaves only the Bondi Quarry, now devoted entirely to the restoration of Government buildings. Its stone has a fine grain and was used for the replacement inscription above the Church Hall door. The autumnal foliage is a decayed but glorious reminder of Pymont stone which weathers to a warm orange, complementing the dark brick. The points on the Church itself are pink-orange Bondi stone, with the paler, dark-stained Paddington stone for the main walls.

Bondi quarry cannot expand without mining and this would be environmentally unacceptable. The main source of stone now is therefore the Central Coast and this coarser stone, which does not take an edge well, is supplying the new coping.

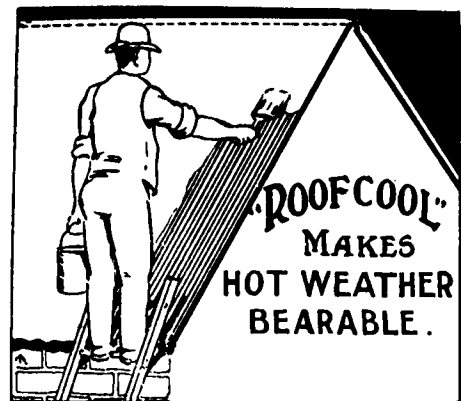
Each area of sandstone has its distinctive markings; Pymont its rich colour, Bondi its dark lines and patches and Gosford its fine tea-leaf lines.

Wondabyne (next stop past Brooklyn - Hawkesbury River) provides an exceptionally fine white stone that is perfect for carving but unfortunately does not match Sydney's traditional oranges and pinks. Treatment with acid will darken it, but softens the stone. Sydney's acid rain is very harmful to stone, especially when it is exposed to the prevailing winds from the south and east.

Wondabyne, however, has provided a wonderful site for an international group of sculptors to exercise their highest skills beside the majestic Hawkesbury. The site is accessible only by comfortable urban train or by boat, and the picnic facilities are rudimentary, but it is a sight every Sydneysider and every visitor will enjoy.



On 11 March, the NSW Heritage Council made an order under Section 130 of the Heritage Act, which requires 40 days' clear notice of any proposal to demolish this post-Regency villa to be given to the Heritage Council. Further protection is being considered.



#### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER

Neil Macindoe

As can be observed by anyone passing through Glebe, urban renewal is in full swing. The area of public housing, about one quarter of the suburb, is being rehabilitated on a huge scale and several hundred new dwellings are being built while many others are being expanded.

The changes in the larger privately owned sector of Glebe are less concentrated, but also dramatic. Dwellings in almost every street are being extended and restored and their facilities improved. As with the public housing, the transient and single population is being replaced by medium to long term residents with families or in multiple occupancy, allowing many dwellings to return to their original character and creating a better spread of ages.

When one remembers that economic forces have meant the inevitable reduction in private rented accommodation and an increase in rents and prices, Glebe's contribution to the International Year of Shelter is impressive. Not only are many more dwellings being provided for a very wide social group, but this is being done in conjunction with enhancement of the existing and the built environment.

WIDER TRAFFIC ISSUES (An occasional series)

Members will have noticed the large number of changes, both existing and proposed, to the road system in the City area. This series of articles outlines what they are and their probable impact.

1. DARLING HARBOUR - WHITE BAY FREEWAY

When the State Government abandoned the two freeways that were to pass through Glebe, the overhead roads at Darling Harbour, built before the railway goods yards were abandoned, continued to point threateningly west.

After about eight years, pressure from the NRMA and Transport Workers Union led to a revival of inner-city freeway plans. This coincided with the Government's decision to redevelop Darling Harbour.

The DMR designed a freeway with numerous associated access roads that would connect the overhead roads with a new Glebe Island Bridge (26 metres high) and an elaborate new intersection at Victoria Road. It is this freeway that has involved so much destruction in the Fishmarkets area and has been responsible for damaging a number of houses in Pyrmont/Ultimo through blasting.

The DMR appears to be very keen to finish this freeway in time for the opening of Darling Harbour in 1988. The new freeway also connects to a proposed north-south route utilising Wattle and Harris Streets.

EFFECTS The existing Glebe Island Bridge is the limiting factor. The new high bridge cannot be completed before 1992. Until then, the benefits to through traffic of the new freeway will be negligible. After 1992, travel via Victoria Road and the new City-West Link Road may be faster for a time.

Both the Glebe Society and Leichhardt Council have argued against a high bridge, so far without success. Only five vessels currently using Blackwattle Bay require a bridge higher than 18m. Since a 26m. bridge will cost \$72 million, the Society has argued that each vessel is being very highly subsidised and the industries could be relocated more economically.

As previously noted on frequent occasions, a high bridge permits greater commercial exploitation of both Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays. Therefore it is vital to secure as much of the foreshore as possible for waterfront parkland. Those who are reluctant to negotiate with the Government over the proposed marina for Rozelle Bay should consider very carefully what could be the consequences of a failure to reach a compromise.

Neil Macindoe

GLEBE'S FUTURE

Neil Macindoe

The preservation of such an attractive area so close to the City Centre is a two-edged thing. On the one hand a great deal of public and private effort is being expended on its enhancement. On the other, the proximity of major employment and entertainment centres such as Darling Harbour creates pressure for change.

One sign of this is the marina proposal, although that projected for Woolloomooloo is likely to attract more custom. Another is the changing character of what were once strictly local pubs. The Nag's Head has been revamped, the British Lion, already spruced up, is to acquire a mini-brewery, the Australian Youth and Friend in Hand have acquired restaurants and even the lowly Harold Park Hotel has rocketed to fame as a venue for writers and comics, providing serious competition for Council meetings. The Harold Park Hotel is to expand more than any of them, with additional outdoor and indoor amenities and substantial parking; so the last shall be first.

CONDITION OF BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

The committee has written to Leichhardt Council requesting that the waterfront land bought by the Department of Environment and Planning for open space be opened to the public and the two sections of parkland joined.

The committee has also written drawing attention to a dangerous open drain within the park and the severe weakening of the children's treated pine climbing frame.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND OPEN SPACE

Perhaps pricked by a bad conscience concerning its refusal to provide more of the Catherine Street triangle for open space, the Dept. of Housing has offered to draw up plans for the landscaping of Wentworth Park. It is not clear who is to fund the actual landscaping, but the committee understands the rent to be paid for the dogtrack has increased about 70%.

MONDAY GROUP

The Monday Group's next meeting is on Monday 13th April, the second Monday in April, as the usual 3rd Monday falls on Easter Monday.

The meeting will be an outing on the new ferry from Circular Quay to Meadowbank. The ferry leaves No. 4 wharf at 11.35am and arrives back at Circular Quay at 1.24pm. The return fare is \$2.40. Pensioners may use the 60¢ ticket.

Meet at the No. 4 wharf at Circular Quay at 11.20am. Bring your own lunch as no food or drink is sold on the ferry.

PLAYREADING GROUP

The next playreading will be at 224 Bridge Road (near Ross Street) at 7.30pm on Sunday 12th April. The play to be read is the old favourite 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. If you want to know more about the evening, ring Ian Edwards on 660 6406.

Sue Johnson, 692 0101, is the Playreading Group's organiser. Ring her for further information about this growing Glebe Society activity.

GLEBE MUSEUMNeil Macindoe

The Committee has received a request from Rose Pickard, Principal of Glebe Primary School and previously of North Annandale, to assist in the maintenance of their unique collection of artifacts and documents. Ms Pickard is making a valuable contribution to the area, and has assisted the Society in its campaign to remove the cigarette sign from the top of University Hall.

Any member who is interested in the history of the area is invited to contact Ian Edwards, History Convenor, who will organise a roster.

An approach will also be made to the school for a trial of a new variety of poplar (*Sinondsii*) which does not have invasive roots and is therefore more suitable for street planting than the species currently in Glebe Point Road.

MORE HISTORY

Margaret Park, at the Leichhardt Library, has compiled a lot of information on the history of the Municipality. She will be happy to answer your enquiries. Ring her on 560 9346.

We live here and we are in

**U·P·R·O·A·R**

Ultimo-Pymont Residents' Opposition to Arbitrary Re-development

WE MEET AT THE HARRIS CENTRE, UNITING CHURCH  
CNR BULWARA ROAD AND QUARRY STREET, ULTIMO  
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT 7 PM

LIAISON WITH THE PYRMONT/ULTIMO SOCIETY

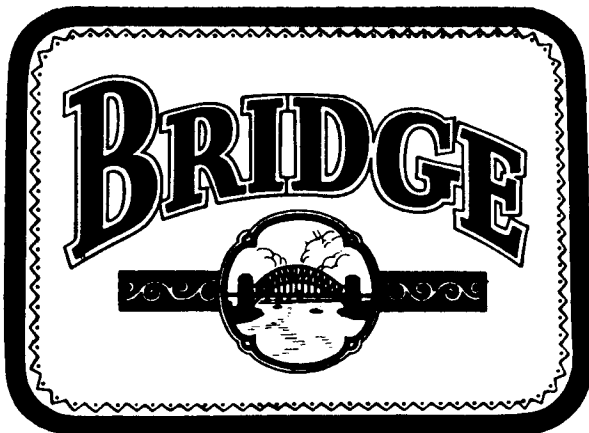
Our guests at the next Meet the Members evening, on Tuesday 12th May, will be Max Wilson and other committee members of the Pymont/Ultimo Historical Society. The aims of the Society are to achieve an appreciation of the social, industrial and commercial history of Pymont/Ultimo. They have a lot of information on the implications of the Darling Harbour and other planning schemes for their, and also our, environment and have a display of maps, plans etc. to show us.

The Glebe Society welcomes this opportunity to liaise with the Pymont/Ultimo Society, which has been most successful in achieving communication with the relevant authorities and whose task is now made harder by the sacking of the Sydney City Council, which covered their area.

Meanwhile, Glebe Society members are invited to the premiere of 'The Forgotten Suburbs', a film about Pymont/Ultimo's fate, its history and its community, produced by Jenny Salmon, at: The Powerhouse Museum  
6pm, Tuesday 14th April.

V.P. : Jenny Salmon 692 0054  
Carol Wilson 660 7229

Members are also invited to attend the weekly U·P·R·O·A·R meetings of the Pymont/Ultimo Society. For further information contact C. Kesler on 692 8392.



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and look forward to meeting them at the Society's activities:

Peter & Madeleine	Aitken
Genevieve	Campbell
Jennie	George
Clyde	Langoulant
Lyster	Martin
David	Martin
Peter & Margot	Palmer

## MONDAY NIGHT OUT

Our visits to restaurants in Glebe, on the first Monday in each month, provide a very good opportunity for all members, and especially new members, to get to know each other better. Do come along. Details in 'For Your Diary'

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th April - 10 am - 12 noon - Morning Tea at St. John's Church

Monday 6th April - 6.30 pm - Monday Night Out at Rasputin, 101 Glebe Point Road. (Licensed)

Sunday 12th April - Playreading - 7.30 pm  
224 Bridge Road

Monday 13th April - 11.20 am - Monday Group Outing. Meet No. 4 Wharf, Circ. Quay.

Tuesday 14th April - 6 pm - Film Premiere - Powerhouse Museum. (Pyrmont/Ultimo Soc.)

Tuesday 21st April - 7.30 pm - Committee Meeting - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street.

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday 4th May - 6.30 pm - Monday Night Out Aniello's, 284 Bridge Road. (B.Y.O. & Lic.)

Tuesday 12th May - Meet the Members Evening. Guest speakers from the Pyrmont/Ultimo Soc.

## PEOPLE TO CONTACT FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

### BICENTENNIAL PARK

John Buckingham - 660 7780

### PLANNING

Neil Macindoe - 660 0208

### TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

### BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

### HAROLD AND WENTWORTH PARKS

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

### JUBILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 7030

### HISTORY GROUP

Ian Edwards - 660 6406

### MONDAY GROUP

Sally Nelson - 660 6138

### PLAYREADING GROUP

Sue Johnson - 692 0101

The Committee is anxious to form groups to cover other areas of interest. If you are willing to help form a sub-committee on any matter concerning The Glebe, contact Edwina Doe, 660 7066 (H), 922 3877 (W)

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MARINA

Please contact John Buckingham (660 7780) immediately with any ideas, comments or suggestions regarding the Marina. Act NOW before we get a development we regret.

KEEP

GLEBE

CLEAN

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Edwina Doe	660 7066 (H)
		922 3877 (W)
Imm. Past Pres:	Neil Macindoe	660 0208 (H)
Jun. Vice Pres:	John Stander	692 9927 (H)
Secretary:	Doug Disher	690 1933 (H)
		660 1044 (W)
Treasurer:	Mike Curtis	692 9416
Committee:	Andrew Wood	660 2194 (H)
	Ian Edwards	660 6406 (H)

Bulletin Editor:  
New Members Rep: John Stander 692 9927 (H)

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:  
HOUSEHOLD \$12, INDIVIDUAL \$10, STUDENTS  
AND PENSIONERS \$4. FOR INFORMATION RING  
JOHN STANDER - 692 9927 (H).