

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO 9 OF 1988

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

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WENTWORTH PARK

Now that the Society's efforts to establish the Bicentennial Park have come to fruition, we must turn our attention to that vast wasteland that was once almost as grand as the Botanic Gardens.

The task is not easy. The committee will coordinate the action, but it would make the job easier if there was a core of four or five other members who could help push it along.

We understand that some of the trustees are up for reappointment next year, so now is the time to exert some pressure. The Society has written to the Trust suggesting immediate and long term goals for the park and has sought a meeting with the Trust.

Sandra Nori recently met with the Trust to discuss improvements for children in the area, including a skate board area. She reported that the Trust was reasonably receptive to the idea and may even be as bold as to consult with residents concerning the improvements which can be made.

To keep the pressure up on the Trustees, the Society has started a petition calling for some action. A copy of the petition is enclosed. Please obtain as many signatures in your street as you can. It is especially important to collect signatures from every street between Glebe Point Road and Wentworth Park. If you live within this area ring Jeff Ibbotson (660 7713) or Peter Strickland (660 7624) to help coordinate the collection of signatures in your street.



Heber Adams

SYDNEY CITY STRATEGY PLAN RELEASED

The Sydney City Plan shows that development is moving further west, that is, closer to Glebe. It does not take into consideration the effect this will have on Glebe, and especially the effect on traffic.

Several Committee members have worked on a response to the plan. The Society is also responding through the Australia Conservation Foundation's Urban Environment Coalition, our President being a member of the Steering Committee.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT 'RAGTIME'

We have changed the venue for the Christmas Party, at the request of some members who find the staircases a bit of a worry. The time and date have not been changed, though.

We will now go to 'Ragtime', 85 Darling Street, Glebe, where we will have the place to ourselves. Details are:

- * Date - Sunday 11th December
- * Time - 12.30 for 1pm
- * Cost - \$20 for a three course meal and coffee. (Table service. Not BYO.)
- * Book - by Monday 5th December. Ring Isobel Dupre on 660 4524 or Col & Jean Mackenzie on 660 0492.

Judging by the attendance at recent 'Dining Out' evenings, we can expect a large gathering, so be sure to book early.

THE GLEBE SOCIETY
PRIORITIES FOR WENTWORTH PARK

URGENT

- 1 Provision of permanent, well drained paths for people crossing the park. It is constantly used by people walking to and from work, Ultimo Primary School and Wentworth Park Kindergarten, as well as persons actually using the park.
- 2 Rehabilitation, construction and maintenance of public toilets. Without these facilities park users, especially families, are limited in the amount of time they can spend in the park. Larger groups using the park for picnics or sports are seriously disadvantaged.
- 3 Improved play equipment at both ends of the park. Seating and equipment should be painted, repaired or brought up to standard. If dangerous, they should be replaced. The accumulation of broken glass, especially near the swings at the south end should receive particular attention.
- 4 Landscaping and planting of the largest possible area .
- 5 Provision of a safe crossing over Wentworth Park Road, either by way of pedestrian bridge, traffic lights, pedestrian refuge or road closure. The road is a speedway at present and it is not safe for children to cross unaided.
- 6 Limit the area used for parking. Parking should only be provided in the smallest possible space and must be regarded as a temporary measure only until suitable parking facilities are found in adjacent areas such as the City Council depot. Parking should be immediately banned in wet weather.

LONG TERM

- 1 Investigate alternative schemes of transport, including light rail and buses using the viaduct and current routes. Investigate alternative parking arrangements such as full or partial road closures and use of adjacent sites such as the Council depot.
- 2 Commission a long term stage by stage plan for the development of the park as a major regional open space. Investigate the use of the dog track for athletics and fitness tracks, and its suitability for regional school athletics training and carnivals. Small fields can be utilised by minority sports. Redesign the centre of the park, demolishing the unused stands on the eastern side of the track to create a link between each half of the park. Institute a programme of upgrading that includes improved, relocated sports areas, picnic areas surrounded by trees and connected by tree lined avenues.
- 3 Emphasize the regional link between the park and adjacent green space Glebe High School and the proposed waterfront walkway to Blackwattle Bay and Jubilee Parks. Establish both recreational and commuter bicycle routes to connect with the fish markets, Darling Harbour and the city.

PLEASE RETURN ALL COMPLETED WENTWORTH PARK
PETITIONS TO PO BOX 100, GLEBE, OR TO A
COMMITTEE MEMBER BY SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY.

JUBILEE PARK

Max Solling

Growths of mangroves and Chinese market gardens were a feature of the foreshores of Glebe Point in 1879. By 1899 reclamation of the swampy flats on Glebe's north western boundary by the Public Works Department was largely completed and Annandale and Glebe Councils became joint trustees of the reclaimed lands. George Williamson, a Glebe alderman proposed that part of the site become "large and commodious baths" with water supplied by a canal. Other aldermen, however did not share his enthusiasm. By 1903 this precinct was a favourite haunt for two-up games but gamblers moved elsewhere after police raids.



The Glebe Town Clerk told Annandale that it was "useless to approach the government for money" in 1904 but within two years Glebe Council was preparing the grounds for tree planting. An area of 10-1/2 acres was dedicated for public recreation purposes on 23 September 1908 and after the Crown acquired further land from G. B. Allen, the new reserve within Glebe municipality covered 13 acres 1 rood. As Glebe celebrated 50 years of municipal government in 1909, it was called Jubilee Park. The park featured winding paths, flower beds, a variety of trees including Moreton Bay figs and palms and in 1923 a rotunda was formally opened by Mayor Stanley Cole on 31 August 1910 when The Glebe Brass Band entertained the crowd playing "Sacred & Classical Music".

Glebe Council agreed that in return for the local cricket club laying down a turf wicket on a portion of the public lands it would erect a picket fence for a cricket field and provide a pavilion at a cost of 80 pounds. The Glebe Rate Payers Association and the St. Johns Institute, irate at part of the new park being fenced off, protested vigorously.

In March 1910 Glebe Council appointed Thomas Dowse as the park ranger. Born in Devon, England in 1866, he began work at the park at 5am and kept it in magnificent condition. In his report of 1914, Mayor F. L. Artlett proudly declared "Our park has been well maintained and our street plantations are bright spots and reflect credit on Mr Dowse who has always exhibited energy and ability in his duties". On his death in 1933, local cricketers erected a plaque to the memory of Thomas Dowse in the pavilion.

On Sundays promenading down Glebe Point Road to the park to listen to the band was a popular pastime

and on Saturdays after the war, carnivals, galas and fairs at Jubilee Park were also important outlets for pleasure, helping to raise funds for the local Distress Society, the War Memorial Committee and the Working Men's Institute.

The Glebe District Cricket Club abandoned Wentworth Park in 1923 and established Jubilee Oval as the main ground for its first grade fixtures and there was also considerable activity on the waters of Rozelle Bay as oarsmen tested their skills at the oar. The Glebe Club began championship races from either Annandale wharf or the Gordon Street wharf and in 1907 they were joined by members of the University Boat Club when they erected their boatshed at Rozelle Bay. A third rowing club, Police, established their shed at Federal Road in 1933. Though local cricketers paid to play, cricket remained one of the cheapest forms of entertainment and occupied an important place in the lives of many local people. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people walked to Jubilee Oval on Saturday afternoon to watch the grade cricket. First grade games were played at Jubilee up to the 1965/66 season.

In 1935 Stephen McCormack said the park was a disgrace with the grass knee-high and the wickets were below the standard required. Groundsman Cooper responded by saying that it was difficult to cut the grass with an obsolete machine and new boots were required for the horse to prepare the pitch. The Glebe Citizens Rebel Committee requested the local Council to hand over the sheep and goat which grazed in the park for the unemployed to eat and suggested Council employ some of those out of work to mow the grass these animals ate. Mayor Frank Dick was unsympathetic - "a goat was mentioned in the letter but they forgot to mention the goat who put forward the proposal."

PLANNING REPORT

The NSW Trotting Club was gambling on Sydney winning the competition for the 1996 Olympics in order to secure the best possible deal for its proposed move to Homebush. When Melbourne became the Australian candidate, a speedy departure from Glebe seemed less likely. On p55 of the November 22nd SMH the Minister for Racing, Bob Rowland-Smith, was reported as saying that the Government would go ahead with the move to Homebush Bay, but in The Eastern Herald on 24th November he said the Government would now have to re-assess its position and that "It is now in the lap of the Gods".

Members will probably have noticed the bulldozers at work excavating the Sugar's Yard site in Glebe Point Road. The Committee expects a modified plan for a number of shops with underground parking to come before Council soon.

The Pudding Shop and its neighbours have undergone a wonderful transformation lately with a richly painted parapet and matching awning by Kim Mackell, brother of Roger Mackell, proprietor of Glebe Books and a Society member. Please do not crowd around with offers and suggestions just yet, however, as Kim is in Italy for a year on a scholarship. Hopefully he will do more murals to lift other drab buildings when he returns.

A much less attractive paint job is the one on 207-209 Glebe Point Road, formerly Bassett's (previous proprietor Peter Torok, Society member and co-founder of the Glebe Street Fair) and now the Saigon Pearl. The Planning Sub-committee has protested to the new owner, to Leichhardt Council and to the National Trust, so far without result. There is a need for members to make their dissatisfaction with the paintwork clear, without giving the proprietor reason to believe he has cause to complain of discrimination. The buildings are classified.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO COUNCIL

The developer of the Marchant's Garage site in Bridge Road is proposing to demolish a two storey terrace, 174 Bridge Road, and include the site in his redevelopment. This section of Bridge Road is particularly rich in fine old buildings, some of which members were able to inspect on the Glebe Open Day. The affected terrace dates from about 1890, but reflects an earlier style with round-headed arches over windows and doors. Not only would it be a considerable loss in itself and to the Conservation Area, but its retention would narrow the frontage of the new development, making it less conspicuous.

Members are requested to write a 'Christmas Special' to Leichhardt Council calling for the preservation of 174 Bridge Road. We do not want a repetition of 215 Bridge Road (Bridge Gardens). Previous Councils have inclined to the view that because Bridge Road carries so much traffic, development can be less sympathetic and more intense. The recent repainting of Magnolia Terrace, one of many grand Classified buildings in Bridge Road, shows what a metamorphosis is possible.

RECEPTION CENTRE FOR THE ABBEY RESTAURANT

Another plan (the fourth) for a reception centre at 156 Bridge Road is before Council. The development proposes the demolition of Hamilton Cottage, an old but unremarkable cottage built by Ferdinand Reuss. In its place, at the extreme north-east corner of the site, well back from Bridge Road, is to be a single storey structure about seven metres to the rooftop (slightly above the eaves of the existing old church/restaurant) about 20 metres wide and 24 metres deep. The height is owing to partly underground parking for 40 cars. In front of this hall and kitchen, closer to Bridge Road, is an L-shaped portico with a courtyard and gazebo in the angle. Both the portico and hall present a row of classical, round-headed arches with sandstone pilasters and rendered finish. Ingress is from Bridge Road to the left of the church and egress into Bridge Road to the right.

The Society has previously agreed to the demolition of Hamilton Cottage provided Reussdale is satisfactorily restored and any new development is also satisfactory. The Committee will now seek assurance that Reussdale's restoration is to take place immediately. Interested members should view the plans at Leichhardt Council Chambers. The Committee is keen to hear members' comments.

(The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Planning, the Hon. David Hay, has responded sympathetically to the letter we sent him about Reussdale, as a result of a Motion passed at our AGM. He conveys to Society members 'his appreciation for the concern demonstrated by the Society for the heritage of New South Wales'.)



HOUSE INSPECTION

This year's inspection turned out to be a great success. Fifteen buildings were open. There were enough minders for all the buildings (just). The weather was even kind to us.

It was a little daunting to arrive at 10 o'clock at Lyndhurst to find a bus load of visitors almost banging on the door. Others waiting swelled the numbers to about 100. Quick work by Maureen Coleman and Les Hart soon had everyone armed with their ticket and guide booklet.

Numbers evened out during the day and the event proceeded very smoothly. Over 500 tickets were sold. Visitors came from all over Sydney and some from out of town.

The SMH Metro and back page Our Town sections mentioned the event. A well timed letter to the editor of the Financial Review countered an article on the gentrification of Glebe and invited readers to see for themselves.

The broad range of buildings open enabled visitors to see what a mix of buildings there is in Glebe.

The innovation for this year's inspection was the production of a guide booklet which gave visitors much more detail on Glebe and its buildings than had been possible in previous years.

From the comments made by visitors, it was all worthwhile. There were a number of requests for a repeat. So, if you missed out this year, now is your chance to volunteer to organise the next one in two years' time!

Whilst the list of helpers is too long to name everyone who helped to make the event such a success, some deserve special mention.

Firstly our gratitude should go to the owners who allowed the tramp of feet through their homes. Hamish Mackay came back to town to show visitors over Demeter Bakery and to explain the Steiner concept behind the enterprise. Thanks also go to Rulof Smilde for opening The Hermitage and showing how a home of such big proportions can be adapted to today's needs.

Betty Wright and Cynthia Jones nearly wore their fingers to the bone typing letters and the first draft of the guide.

Edwina ensured all the printing was done on time and helped with layouts. Peter

Strickland organised the illustrations commissioned for the guide and finalised its layout.

On the day visitors appreciated the helpfulness of the minders who went beyond the call of duty to explain a building's features, or like Alan Hunt who led groups around and pointed out features which visitors may have missed.

It was an advantage to hold the open day in conjunction with the opening of Lyndhurst. Our thanks go to Peter Watts and his team for opening Lyndhurst early for us and making a stall available to publicise our activities.

Income from the event produced a handy surplus as well as a large supply of guide booklets.



GLEBE STREET FAIR

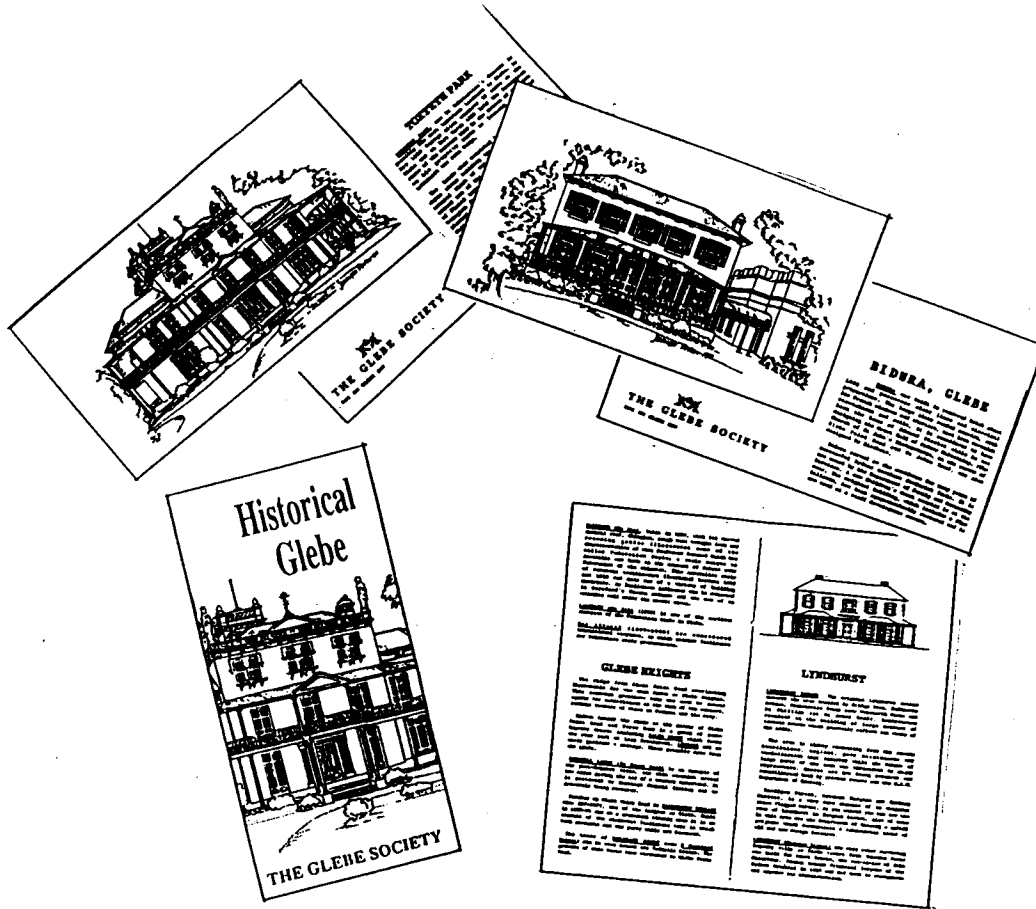
The Society had a stall at the fair which helped to raise the awareness of visitors of the Society and its activities. There were displays on Light Rail and Wentworth Park. The petition on Wentworth Park got off to a good start as many of the visitors expressed their concern over the parlous state of the Park by signing the petition, a copy of which is enclosed for members to get their neighbours to sign.

The Fair organisers have indicated some of the surplus from the Fair will be given to the Glebe Point Road improvement project, which leads on to...

GLEBE MAIN STREET PROJECT

Ian Jones is keen to get this project going. There has been no word as to our National Estate grant application which is necessary for the first class job we would like.

However we need to get started now on the preliminary part of the project. If you wish to help with counting buildings, photographing, soliciting sponsorship or any of the other necessary tasks, ring Ian now on 660 2451.



CORRESPONDENCE CARDS

Packet of six - \$5.00.

Three of each picture - original drawings by Jennifer Porter.

GUIDE BOOKS

\$3.50 each.

(4 or more - \$2.50 each)

An ideal Christmas gift for neighbours, friends and relatives, to tell them about Glebe.

Guides fit in a standard envelope for easy posting.

Order now from Peter Strickland (660 7624) or Jeff Ibbotson (660 7713) or buy them at our Christmas Party.

GIVE GUIDE BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

What better way is there for you to increase your neighbours' awareness of Glebe, and the Society than by giving copies of the new guide to Glebe?

Published to coincide with this year's house inspection, the guide is an expanded version of the old walking guide. The booklet takes the form of an extended walking tour. Starting at Hereford House in Hereford Street, visitors are guided through Toxteth Estate to Glebe Point Blackwattle Bay Park, up Glebe Point Road, across to Lyndhurst, up through the Glebe Estate to St John's and Bridge Roads, then through Forest Lodge before finishing back at Hereford House. The tour may be started at any point along the way.

The booklet has a fold out map for easy reference, introductory notes and is well illustrated with drawings of notable buildings. Two drawings, of Toxteth Park and Bidura were especially done by Jennifer Porter.



LET'S MAKE GLEBE A GRAFITTI FREE ZONE

Like many other suburbs, Glebe has several walls defaced with grafitti, although the problem seems to be easing.

One way to eliminate grafitti is by encouraging young people to take up more useful activities, possibly by means of a joint project with the Society, the Leichhardt Municipal Council Youth Worker, Glebe High School and Neighbourhood Watch.

If you would like to help, please phone Peter Strickland or Jeff Ibbotson.

STONE WALLS:

At their meeting of Monday, 22nd August, 1988, Council acknowledged the importance of stone walls in the streetscapes of Hunter's Hill. They resolved to include all the stone walls in the Municipality which are identified on the Council map titled Stone Walls on the schedule of items of environmental heritage under Clause 19 of Hunter's Hill Local Environment Plan No.1.

Hunter's Hill Trust Journal, November 1988

What an excellent idea. We recommend a similar listing for stone walls, stone kerbing, monuments and any other items of heritage value in Glebe. Details like these tend not to be noticed until they are being removed and lost for ever.

BLACKFRIARS PRE-SCHOOL THREATENED

Terry Metherell's cuts are coming closer. Blackfriars Pre-school at Camperdown is threatened with closure and the P & C has asked for our support. If your child is or was there, or would like to go to this Nursery School, write to Terry Metherell or to Virginia Chadwick, Minister for Community Services. Ring Jeff Ibbotson for further information.

NSW COLLEGE OF NURSING OPEN DAY

The College is celebrating its Centenary by holding an Open Day at Hereford House and Kerribree, in Hereford Street, on Saturday 14th January 1989. There will be stalls and guided tours of the buildings.

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

Your Committee extends best wishes to all members for Christmas and for the year to come.

A full calendar of events is being planned for 1989. Details of those in the first few months will be published in the first Bulletin for 1989, which will appear at the end of January.

FERRY RIDE PLANNED

Marianne von Knobelsdorff is hoping to organise a Society Ferry Ride in February, picking up from the Glebe Rowing Club and Glebe Point and going to the City via neighbouring bays and places of interest. The purpose of the trip, apart from a pleasant day out, is to promote the idea of a regular commuter and/or weekend tourist service.

Because of the expense involved, it will be necessary for people to book and pay in advance. Please ring Marianne if you are interested, so she knows the size ferry to enquire about.

WHEN WILL 'THE GLEBE' BE DELIVERED?

We reported in the last Bulletin that The Glebe and Western Weekly would soon be delivered again in Glebe. There are still no signs of it, though,

AN ORAL HISTORY OF GLEBE?

We frequently receive letters from people who were brought up in Glebe, or whose forebears lived here. Also, long-term residents of Glebe, if given the opportunity, have interesting stories to tell of Glebe in years gone by.

The Society is considering tapping these sources of information to produce an oral history of Glebe. We would need volunteers both to do the talking and to ask the questions, and would hold a training session early next year to tell people the right questions to ask and how to ask them.

If you are interested in this project, please phone Jeff Ibbotson.

GLEBE SOCIETY GETS A \$500 GRANT

Peter Strickland attended the Royal Australian Historical Association's Conference, held recently at Macquarie University. The Conference was well attended and the papers presented were generally of high quality. Architect Harry Seidler gave a speech about facadism at the dinner.

During the Conference, Peter collected a cheque for \$500. This is for the publication of Max Solling's history of Aldermen of Glebe and Leichhardt.

**Leichhardt Municipal Council
invites interested residents
and others to participate
in the following activities**

Friday 2 December 1988

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND
EXHIBITION
LEICHHARDT TOWN HALL**

Sunday 4 December 1988

CHRISTMAS STREET PARADE

To commence at 10.30 am at Wentworth Park, then make its way past the Children's Hospital, pick up Santa Claus, then onto Leichhardt Town Hall, from there it will move along to Leichhardt oval and its environs.

Saturday 17 December 1988

**OPENING OF THE BICENTENNIAL
PARK AT GLEBE**

* To commence at approximately 3.00 pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MR TONY WILLIAMS
ON 560 4100 EXT 203.

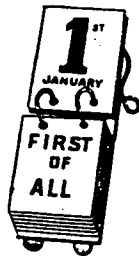
* The latest information is that the Official Opening of the Bicentennial Park will be at 7pm followed by entertainment, with a Fireworks Display at around 10pm.

We urge all members to support these Bicentennial activities. At the very least, be in the crowd and hold a card with 'Glebe Society' written on it.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Society and look forward to seeing them at future events:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Michael | Allen |
| Edina, Mary & Bill | Bowe |
| Fiona | Campbell |
| Kathryn | Crawford |
| Joe & Doreen | David |
| Pamela | Davies |
| Timothy | Galvin |
| Edward | Green |
| Rodney & Lesley | Hammett |
| Roger | Mackell |
| Stephen | McConnell |
| Beverley & Andrew | Pavey |
| Beth | Rektor |
| Julia | Stahl |
| ? | Stevenson |
| Margaret & Dallas | Wallace |
| Robyn | Willis |
| Anne | Wilson |



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR.**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 4th December - 10.30am - start of the Leichhardt Council Bicentennial Street Parade - Wentworth Park. (The Parade will go via The Children's Hospital and Leichhardt Town Hall to the Leichhardt Oval.)

Sunday 11th December - 12.30 for 1pm - Glebe Society Christmas Party - Ragtime - 85 Darling Street. (Note new venue.)

Tuesday 13th December - 7.30pm - Committee Meeting.

Sunday 17th December - ? 7pm to 10pm - Official Opening of the Bicentennial Park.

Saturday 14th January - NSW College of Nursing Open Day - Hereford House and Kerribree.

Monday 20th February - Monday Group's first meeting for 1989

DID YOUR FRIEND'S BULLETIN ARRIVE?

The Bulletin mailing list has been updated and the names of all unfinancial members have been removed. If anyone tells you the Bulletin hasn't come, tactfully suggest (s)he has forgotten to pay this year's sub-subscription. Ring Peter Kolbe if there appears to be a mistake.

CONVENORS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

All Convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

BICENTENNIAL PARK

John Buckingham - 660 7780

PLANNING

Contact a Committee Member

TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

HAROLD PARK

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

JUBILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 2302

WENTWORTH PARK

Contact a Committee Member

LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

HERITAGE

Contact a Committee Member

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Contact a Committee Member

CONTACT THE PEOPLE LISTED ABOVE IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN OR GIVE INFORMATION.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Peter Strickland 660 7624 (H)
964 1729 (W)

VICE PRESIDENT: Andrew Wood 660 2194 (H)
692 2451 (W)

IMM. PAST PRES: Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H)
922 3877 (W)

SECRETARY: Jeff Ibbotson 660 7713 (H)
224 7551 (W)

TREASURER: Peter Kolbe 660 8807 (H)

COMMITTEE: Marianne von 692 0916 (H)
Knobelsdorff 290 2577 (W)

* * * * *

Social Sec: Isobel Dupre 660 4524

Bulletin Editor: Edwina Doe 660 7066

Membership List: Andrew Wood 660 2194

New Members' Rep; Sue Littleton 660 5610

Monday Group: Sally Nelson 660 6138

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:

Household \$15, Individual \$12, Student or Pensioner \$5. Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring Sue Littleton on 660 5610 for information.