

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO 5 OF 1989

JUNE

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GLEBE POINT ROAD PROJECT

The committee for the revitalisation of Glebe Point Road will hold its first public meeting on Wednesday 21 June. This launch of the project will be held in the old fire station on Mitchell Street and will consist of light refreshments followed by a brief presentation of the process we will follow in drawing up a plan for Glebe Point Road.

The plan will address four main areas:

- heritage and design
- business development
- improved community facilities.

Libby Ozinga from the Department of Planning will explain the MAIN STREET scheme administered by that Department while Lori Anglin, an urban design consultant, will outline a seminar on Glebe Point Road to be conducted the following week.

This looks like an interesting evening, 6pm to 7.30pm, and we hope as many Glebe residents as possible will pop in to contribute to the planning process.

If you are able to help on the night of the launch please ring Ian Jones on 660 2451.

CELEBRATE THE GLEBE SOCIETY'S TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY

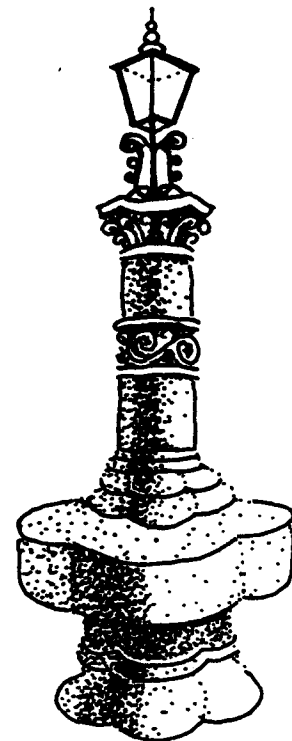
At the Glebe Rowing Club
on Sunday 16th July
at 5.30pm.

\$15.00 for 'nibblies', entree,
main course and Birthday Cake

Don't miss this gala evening.

Tell 'old' members about it.

FOR BOOKINGS, RING COL OR JEAN
on 660 0492



GLEBE FOUNTAIN

Bobbie Burke

The fountain at the junction of Glebe Point Road and Parramatta Road was erected in 1909 to mark the jubilee of The Glebe as a local council area. The Glebe Point Road Project Committee, with funds made available by the Glebe Street Fair Association, has taken the first steps to revitalise and restore this significant, but sadly neglected, historical piece. We see this as an appropriate and practical beginning to the Committee's plans for the physical improvement and conservation of Glebe Point Road, as part of the Department of Planning's MAIN STREET program.

Our initial intentions are to get the water flowing, the light turned on and the surrounding area replanted and maintained. We hope to talk to the Council engineers this month and will keep members informed about our progress.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY

At the first meeting of the Leichhardt Council in 1988 a petition from the Glebe Society calling upon the Council to commission, as a matter of urgency, a traffic management plan for Glebe and the Municipality came up on the agenda at 2am. It was then referred to the Council's Statutory Traffic Sub-Committee.

In May the Sub-Committee met with residents, including representatives of the Society, and with a traffic consultant, Mr Michael Colston, of the consulting firm Colston, Budd, Wardrop and Hunt. The consultants presented an 'Inception Report' and, after another meeting in July, again attended by representatives of the Society and other residents, the Traffic Sub-Committee submitted this to Council with the recommendation that a full report be prepared.

After that, silence for many months, punctuated by inquiring telephone calls to the Chair of the Traffic Sub-Committee, Alderman Betty Leone, and to the Engineer's Office.

Now, however, twelve months after the first meeting with Michael Colston, residents' representatives have been able to review the consultants' Interim Report, dated March 1989.

Alderman Leone convened a meeting on 8 May at which residents commented on the options presented in the report. These ranged from total closures, through partial closures to speed reduction measures. The draft report is likely to be a mix of these options chosen in the light of the input from the meeting. The draft report is expected to be available in four to six weeks from the meeting, i.e. by the end of June. It too will be circulated and a further meeting will be held before the final report goes to Council.

John Hoddinott, Angela Beagley and Jeanette Knox, who all attended the last meeting, have copies of the interim report should anyone wish to read it.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Enclosed in this Bulletin is a membership renewal notice. You will be pleased to know that there has been no increase in fees this year.

INCORPORATION MEETING

The subject of incorporation is not one that sounds inviting and only a handful of members turned up at our Special General Meeting to decide on a new constitution to progress the incorporation of the Society. Yet another cold wet evening didn't help.

Ted McKeown, who is something of an expert on constitutional matters, has noted some inconsistencies that could be overcome if the whole constitution were rewritten following Model Rules which provide a framework for societies like ours. Our present document has evolved over many years and is very much a cut and paste job, so with Ted's help we are using this opportunity to clean it all up.

The aim now is to present the new constitution at the Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for 23 August.

"The Glebe Society started in 1969. We have been involved in a lot of issues since then and we have an assured future ahead of us."

— Peter Strickland, president of the society.

Twenty years ago the citizens of Glebe thwarted a plan by the State Government to send the western distributor through their suburb. Now the Glebe Society has an urban force of about 500 people on semi-permanent standby, ever ready to be mobilised for the cause of maintaining Glebe in its village-like state.

"We understand the importance of lobbying the right people," Mr Strickland said. "We always aim to make positive suggestions. We don't just say, 'No we don't want that, we try to come up with an alternative.'"

Despite recent losses, including the Rozelle Bay marina, where Leichhardt Council has given the go-ahead for a 214-berth marina, Mr Strickland agreed the society had not been doing much of what he called "old-style" campaigning. It is not that the heady days of throwing oneself in front of bulldozers (or barges?) is a thing of the past, a tactic of more confrontational days. "If an issue came up, we would be prepared to do so again," Mr Strickland said.

A characteristic shared by rebellious residents is their complete disregard for and distrust of government and the bureaucracy. These people may be idealists but they are cynical idealists.

Peter was interviewed by Jacquelyn Hole - Eastern Herald, June 15, 1989

PLANNING REPORT

There is no further progress to report on a large number of issues, such as the Orphan School Creek Park, Harold Park, the old tramsheds, the Campbell's site in Junction Street and Sugar's Timber Yard. There is no agreement between developers and residents on the Hardys or Meloy's sites.

The sub-committee has objected to the siting of a public convenience in the ballroom of Bidura (see copies of correspondence in the SMH this Bulletin). There are rumours of the possible closure of Sydney Homoeopathic Hospital at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Wigram Road, and of a deal between Leichhardt Council and the Children's Hospital on the use of a number of houses owned by the Hospital which Council has refused to allow to be demolished. The Saigon Pearl Restaurant has failed and yet another Thai restaurant, with an improved but still deficient paint scheme, is to replace it. Leichhardt Council is to prosecute the owner of the pair of Federation terraces opposite the Homoeopathic Hospital for converting them to shops without Council consent.

On Thursday 8 June the Heritage council advertised a proposal to restore University Hall to its original 1889 facade, including three storeys of iron balconies and the appropriate High Victorian decoration. The remainder of the proposal is less appealing: 128 hotel rooms are arranged in seven storeys, rising to the same height as the five storey Hall, but not stepped down to the lower adjacent buildings. There are three floors of underground parking for 83 vehicles with entry from Glebe Point Road and a proposed exit to Derwent Lane. Two terraces and the billiard and dining rooms would be demolished. The sub-committee is awaiting a full copy of the proposal before making further comment.

There have been numerous expressions of interest in the recycling of Bellevue, the handsome villa in Blackwattle Bay Park. The Society is conducting its own evaluation of these varied proposals with a view to preserving the interests of residents and ensuring choice of the most acceptable proposal in terms of access and nature and level of use (see separate report).

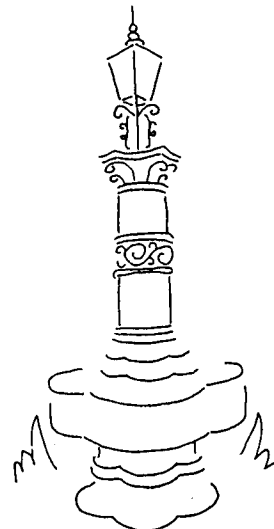
WHAT TO DO WITH BELLEVUE

Leichhardt Council has begun to move seriously on Bellevue, the wonderfully sited Italianate villa built by Ambrose Thornley Jnr, saved by resident action, and now a prominent feature of Jarrett Point in Blackwattle Bay Park.

Council called for expressions of interest, which fall into two distinct groups. The first has only one proposal, for the headquarters of the Australian Society of Authors. The other group consists of eight restaurant/reception proposals of varying scale and complexity.

The main advantage of the Society of Authors proposal, apart from the restoration of Bellevue which is included in all proposals, is its modest scale and low impact on the park and local residents. As well as being larger and more disruptive, the commercial proposals include generally longer leases and, after some years, varying amounts of rental return to Council.

Council has now prepared a Brief which includes a public wharf to encourage water-borne access to Bellevue and reduce the impact of traffic flow and parking. The Society's Blackwattle Bay sub-committee considers that the most appropriate siting for a wharf is not Blackwattle Bay Park but the end of Glebe Point Road, which has much better land access. The sub-committee is therefore investigating a compromise scheme which would lease Bellevue to the Society of Authors for a moderate period but also include lease of the lower section, including the walled terrace, as a tea-room, thus providing a reasonable return to Council. Please make your views on such a scheme known to a member of the Society's Management Committee or any convenor.



Setting up to serve adult disabled

SIR: Your correspondent, Ms Barbara Bee (Letters, June 2), expressed concern about a proposal pinned to the fence outside Bidura Children's Court in Glebe for refurbishment of the premises and she questioned the priorities of Government spending.

Unfortunately, the sign in Glebe Point Road is misleading and the refurbishment is not, in fact, for the court at all.

The "refurbishing" which is in fact taking place is to the historic building which stands in front of the court

facing Glebe Point Road. This building, designed and occupied by colonial architect, Sir Edmund Blacket, in the 1860s, is shortly to be occupied by the Guardianship Board of NSW.

The Guardianship Board is a newly established body, entirely separate from the Children's Court, which will assist adults who, as a result of serious disabilities, may require the appointment of a guardian or a financial manager to make crucial decisions on their behalf. It is an initiative which has the strong support of all major political parties.

The refurbishment, which is modest and sympathetic, involves little more than painting, rewiring and the provision of access for people with disabilities. It is a worthy use of a valued part of Glebe's and Sydney's heritage and carries a message that the people it will soon serve are also valued.

I hope that Ms Bee's and others' legitimate concern is allayed.

Roger West,
Guardianship Board,
Glebe.

June 5

The Society's comment (not printed at the time we went to press):



THE GLEBE SOCIETY

BOX 100 GLEBE 2037

Dear Sir

Roger West (SMH Thursday 8 June) makes reassuring statements to Glebe residents that the refurbishment of Bidura, once the home of the architect Edmund Blacket and his daughters, is "modest and sympathetic".

Herald readers should be informed that Mr West's proposal includes the siting of a public lavatory in the ballroom adjacent to the house. It may contribute to "modesty", but it is about as insensitive and unsympathetic a way to treat a historic building as it is possible to conceive.

Naturally The Glebe Society, the residents organisation, supports access for the disabled, and quite possibly the creation of a Guardianship Board for the disabled is a wise move. However, Mr West should revise his plans and locate the public convenience more appropriately to comply with his public statements.

Yours faithfully

Neil Macindoe
Planning Convenor.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

We have been told of two recent contributions to the local history of the Sydney region which may be of interest to readers:

Chris Morgan . **Life and Death on the North Side**, a history of St Thomas' Church & Cemetery, North Sydney, published by the Stanton Library, North Sydney Municipal Council, and available from the Library (PO Box 12, North Sydney 2059) and local bookshops for \$8.95.

Robert Murray & Kate White . **Dharug and Dungaree** - the history of Penrith and St Mary's to 1860, published by the Penrith City Council, and available from the Council for \$34.95. This book is the first comprehensive history of the area and the authors were recently given an award by the Fellowship of Australian Writers for the Best Local History publication.

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

A Course for Conservationists

Total Environment Centre has organised a course for conservationists covering three days, Friday 21 to Sunday 23 July 1989.

This is in response to the urgent need to provide information and training for community based environmentalists who will be in the front line in the 1990s in the increasingly tough and urgent battle to protect the environment.

The emphasis of the course is on practical information that can be used to maximise campaign effectiveness. Subjects to be covered include: sustaining a campaign; managing community groups; writing material; the media; and dealing with government. TEC has gathered a group of specialists in all these fields to participate in what promises to be a stimulating three days of lectures, discussion and workshops.

The venue is the Maiden Theatre at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and is limited to 100 participants. The fee is \$100 including lunches, refreshments and a set of papers from the course.

All inquiries to Norma Stuart or Sue Kennedy at Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney. Telephone 27 4714 or 241 2523.

MONDAY GROUP

The Monday Group will meet at 12 noon on 19 June at the home of Catherine Buck, 9 Alexandra Road, Glebe Point. Please bring lunch for one as usual.

Any members of the Glebe Society who would like to come along are most welcome. For more information ring Sally Nelson (660.6138).

GLEBE SOCIETY SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Jean Mackenzie

Col and I have taken on being Social Secretaries again. We would like help from members on venues for Dining Out (restaurant outings) and Happy Hours. Any help or suggestions would be much appreciated.

We would particularly like to hear from people who would like to host a Happy Hour. These are held on the first Sunday in each month between 11am and 1pm and the host's expenses in providing nibblies and drinks are fully refundable. Perhaps some of the younger members of the Society would like to have a Happy Hour at their place?

We are anxious to improve the social aspect of the Glebe Society if we can, with your help. Our phone number is 660 0492 and we would appreciate any calls.

Meanwhile the next Happy Hour is to be held at our flat (16 Avon Tower, 2A Forsyth St) and we have arranged Dining Out evenings for June and July - see next page for dates and times. Please let us know if you are coming to either of these evenings so that we can book a table.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCES

A Local History Writers' Workshop is being held by the Royal Australian Historical Society on Saturday 1 July, cost \$15 for non-members (includes lunch). For inquiries call RAHS, 133 Macquarie St. or (02) 27 8001

A First Far South Coast Conference on Family History is to be held at Tuross Head 21-23 July, 1989, arranged by the Moruya and District Historical Society Genealogy Group. Speakers include Nick Vine-Hall and other genealogists and the cost is \$30 per day. For more information and bookings contact Faye Clulee, 15 Costin St, Moruya, 2537; tel: (H)044-742146, (W)044-742344.

★ ★ ★

BUNYIP gets great mail — and I'm sorry I've taken several weeks to answer M W A Ireland's plea for information on where to get the *Glebe*. The good news is that you should be getting the *Glebe* at your door and I've put in a forcefully worded complaint asking why you aren't getting yours (the paper that is). The other good news is that if the deliveries don't improve immediately you can pick the paper up from Forest Lodge Newsagency at 42 Ross St. It will cost you 40 cents from the newsagency but it's worth it!

★ ★ ★

We can only hope that Maurice's letter, responded to in the *Glebe* on 14th June, succeeds when the phone calls from so many other members have failed.

Why, for goodness' sake, should we *Glebe* residents be expected to hunt for our copies and then pay 40¢, when other people get theirs delivered free?

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.

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.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19 June - 12 noon - Monday Group - 9 Alexandra Road (Catherine Buck's home).

Wednesday 21 June - 6 for 6.30pm - Introduction to MAIN STREET PROJECT - old Fire Station, 113 Mitchell Street.

Tuesday 27 June - 6.30pm - Dining Out - Lien, 331 Glebe Point Road, BYO.

Sunday 2 July - 11am Happy Hour - 16 Avon Tower, 2A Forsyth St (Mackenzies)

Sunday 16 July - 5.30pm - 20th BIRTHDAY PARTY, Glebe Rowing Club.

Monday 17 July - 12 noon - Monday Group

Wednesday 19 July - 7.30pm Committee Meeting, 152 Bridge Road.

Wednesday, 26 July - 6.30pm - Dining Out - La Tavolaccia, 355 Glebe Point Road, BYO

Sunday 6 August - 11am - Happy Hour

Wednesday 16 August - 7.30pm Committee Meeting, Lyndhurst, Darghan St.

Wednesday 23 August - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, St John's Hall, St John's Road.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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

IND. PAST PRES: Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H)
929 9848 (W)

SECRETARY: Christine O'Brien 660 2165 (H)

MIN. SECRETARY: Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)

TREASURER: Peter Kolbe 660 8807 (H)

COMMITTEE: Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692 0916 (H)

Social Sec.: Col & Jean Mackenzie 660 0492
Bulletin Editor: Jeremy Long 692 8742
Membership List: Andrew Wood 660 2194
New Members Rep: Sue Littleton 660 5610
Monday Group: Sally Nelson 660 6138



THE GLEBE SOCIETY

BOX 100 GLEBE 2037

Dear Member,

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES 1989/90

Your membership fee for the year ending 30 June 1990 is now due at the end of this month. Could you please complete the details at the bottom of this form and send with your payment to PO Box 100 Glebe or deliver it to our treasurer, Peter Kolbe, at 2 Leichhardt Avenue (NOT Street), Glebe (push it under the front door).

Please remember that you cannot vote at our coming Annual General Meeting unless your membership has been paid.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Strickland

(President)

Peter Kolbe

(Treasurer)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

You may be interested in joining one of the following groups or helping the Society in its activities.

Please indicate your area of interest below:

- Parks and Gardens
- Town Planning
- Heritage and History
- Public Transport and Traffic
- Social Activities organisation
- Committee Membership
- The Bulletin - Writing articles, editing or typing
- Other

COMMENTS

Issues or activities I would like to see the Society involved in :

.....
.....

GIVEN NAME

SURNAME

M

M

M

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

PH:(H)(W)

PLEASE ADDRESS BULLETINS TO:

M

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

PLEASE TICK BELOW AS APPROPRIATE:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

HOUSEHOLD (2 or more adults) \$15.00

INDIVIDUAL (1 adult) \$12.00

PENSIONER/STUDENT \$ 5.00

DONATION:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 \$

I ENCLOSE \$(Cheque/M.O./Cash)

SIGNED/./19..