



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

Print Post Approved - No: 234093/000 10

No 7 of 1996

August

## Social Activities - September Banquets

**W**e are pleased to announce that two fund-raising dinners are being arranged for the Glebe Society by vice-president, Cynthia Jones.

Both dinners will be authentic Chinese banquets and will be preceded by complimentary Chinese wine and nibbles, courtesy of the Joneses. Twenty people will be catered for on each occasion.

The venue is Cynthia and Ian Jones' home and the chef is their present houseguest.

Please make a booking for the evening that suits you.

*Reservations:* phone Cynthia Jones 9660 2451

*Cost:* \$25 per person

*BYOG:* Yes

*Date:* Sunday 15 September, 7pm  
(RSVP by Wed, 11th Sept)

or

Sunday 22 September, 7pm  
(RSVP by Wed 18th Sept)

*Address:* 152 Bridge Road, Glebe

If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to the Glebe Society, Inc. If you are paying cash, please arrange it with Cynthia.

Both banquets promise to be very pleasant opportunities for members of the Society to meet and enjoy wonderful food. We look forward to your support for this fund-raiser.

**Mavis McCarthy**

## Social Activities

In light of the two fund-raising dinners in September, we have decided to move the Spring Picnic to Sunday, 13 October, at about 12:30pm in Blackwattle Bay Park on the Cook Street side. The Society will invite the new members of Council staff to come along too. BYO food/chairs/rugs/drinks, etc. There is agas barbeque in the park.

The next Sunday Lunch will probably be on 13 October, the previous weekend being in the middle of school holidays and a long weekend too. At the moment there is no preferred restaurant/cafe, so please ring me soon if you have any suggestions so that we can publicise the event in the next Bulletin.

**John Hoddinott**

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## AGM: President's Report



This has been a full and interesting year for the Glebe Society. The Society is a diverse organisation, involved in a wide range of community activities and it keeps in touch with most groups within this municipality and quite a few others as well. For example, we exchange newsletters with the local Chamber of Commerce and we consult with them about matters of mutual concern. Our interests do not always coincide but we continue to maintain a good working relationship. Outside our area, we receive the Newsletter from the Haberfield Association with whom we share problems with aircraft noise and concerns about encroachments on open space. We are also in contact with the Balmain and South Sydney organisations and many others.

Of course, coming into all of this as a new president is somewhat daunting and it has involved a very steep learning curve for me. Fortunately, I have had a lot of help. For this, I would like to thank Jeannette Knox particularly. She knows the workings of this organisation intimately and her guidance has been invaluable. She keeps me on the "straight and narrow" when I get procedural matters wrong and she has been a constant support. The other person who has been a great help is John Hoddinott who is unfailing in his attention to all planning matters and who has an enormous tolerance for meetings! I thank you both most sincerely. I can't mention all the rest of the people individually but the Management Committee has been a most supportive group and I thank you all.

A lot of the focus of the Glebe Society has to be on planning and these have been very well summarised by John in his annual report. I will touch briefly on a few matters that have been ongoing and will continue to require input by the Society over the next year. The first of these is the "Tin Sheds" or 465 Glebe Pt.Rd. Following the Council's adoption of the Development Consent Plan, there was a protest to Council by the tenants of the building that they had not been sufficiently consulted in the matter. There were also other issues raised but this was

the most persuasive argument. The result has been that a liaison committee has been set up to advise Council of the best ways of resolving differences between the various interest groups and devising the best means of proceeding to development stage. The groups involved are the tenants, the developer, the Precinct, the Glebe Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the Council. The Glebe Society representatives are John Hoddinott and myself with John Buckingham as stand-in when necessary. This should prove to be a very interesting exercise and we will hope for a productive outcome.

It is probably appropriate at this stage to outline how the Glebe Society actually goes developing a policy on such sites as this. We have kept firmly to the point of view that waterfront sites, when it comes to a development proposal, should include on shore public access. This is in line with foreshore policy throughout Sydney and has been adopted by our "Bays and Foreshores" sub-committee. It has been applied in our consideration of other developments. One of the ideas put forward by the developer of this site has been an over-the water broadwalk. This idea would run contrary to our long-term policy and, therefore, we would oppose it. At this stage it does not seem beneficial to the people of Glebe to change this approach. That is not to say that the waterfront access could not be achieved in some innovative way e.g. through the centre of the building. Some members of the society have written private letters in support of a broadwalk, as is their right, but I think it is important that all members understand why we take the positions we do on matters of policy. We try not to arrive at them ad hoc but attempt to have a clear and consistent policy development from the sub-committee level through to our response to planning matters.

The Reussdale and Bellevue sites will continue to be monitored and we will keep people informed through the Bulletin as usual.

One of the pleasant things that has happened in the last few weeks is that we have been approached by the FRROGS (Friends and Ratepayers of the Orphan School Gully Society) with a request for formal affiliation with the Glebe Society as



a sub-Committee. This was formally ratified at our last Management meeting. We welcome them warmly and look forward to a long and productive association. Their logo and ours will be incorporated in their letterhead.

It has also been mooted that an oral history group might be started under our sub-Committee system and we will hope that will go ahead in the not too distant future.

One of our other involvements throughout the year has been the Library Committee and I am pleased to report that this project has progressed to building stage and should be completed early next year. This has been a great outcome for Glebe and we are glad to have been associated with from its early stages. The proceeds from our successful street stall earlier this year were donated to the library. We thank the indefatigable Alison McKeown for that effort.

It is very gratifying that the Glebe Soc. continues to be seen (and utilised, as the many phone calls to my house will attest) as a focus in our community and continues to expand and (therefore) change. We will endeavor to respond as best we can to these demands and look forward to your continuing support. Thank you.

**Mavis McCarthy**

## Aircraft and Glebe

The Society forwarded two submissions - KSA's future and the draft guidelines for Badgerys Creek and Holsworthy E.I.S. More detail will be forwarded to the Bulletin for publication in the next edition

Aircraft noise and other complaints:  
tel: 9582 1850

**Alison McKeown**

## Planning Report

**T**his has been a quiet month. Serious work has started on the former Grace Bros site; Francis Street has been closed to pedestrians and traffic, to enable the demolition of all but the facade of the Grose Street Building.

### 461/463/465 Glebe Point Road

The first meeting of the Council-convened group of the identified interest groups has been held - these are Council, the Precinct (representing the residents), the Glebe Society, the Tenants and the Developer. As it was a getting-to-know-you, there is nothing much to report, but my hope is that finally the committee will reach a consensus acceptable to all parties. The Glebe Society's main requests are a water-front walkway, not an over-water version, and some more water-front open space.

### The New Glebe Library

Many members will have seen the progress on the site. After eight working days, all the major demolition has been completed and most of the rubble removed. Similarly the (slightly) contaminated topsoil has been trucked away, along with the earth removal required for the foundations of the new library. I have taken about 100 photographs of the progress so far, including the demolition of the red-brick excrescence in front of the old house. The expected opening date remains about late February or early March. The building should be completed to "lock-up" stage by about Christmas, followed by a couple of months to fit it out. The community will probably be called on to help in the landscaping of the new garden, and to help in the planting.

**John Hoddinott**



## AGM Report: Light Rail

**M**embers of the Society will have been delighted to see the rate of progress in the construction of the light rail system from Central Railway station to the Fish Markets. The system is being built with funds of \$21M from the Australian taxpayers (through the Federal government's Building Better Cities Program and \$44M provided by the Sydney Light Rail Company (mostly foreign owned). A 30 years build-own-operate-transfer contract has been signed between the Company and the NSW Department of Transport. At the end of the contract, the ownership of the light rail system reverts to the NSW government. The final conditions for operating the system were signed at the end of November 1995 and construction is to be completed by July 1997, with 7 vehicles operating on the route.



The Glebe Society has always argued that the present system, constructed primarily to service the American-owned casino in Pyrmont, is economically unviable. If the Sydney Light Rail Company is to be profitable, the present system will have to attract more passengers by extensions to Circular Quay and the inner western suburbs. Recent feasibility and patronage studies, completed jointly by the Company and the Department of Transport, have shown the economic necessity for extensions to the present system.

In Glebe an extended system would use the old goods railway line, and stops are proposed at "Bridge Road" (at the eastern end of the tunnel under Glebe) and at "Jubilee Park" (at the western end of the tunnel). The proposals for the extensions were enthusiastically received at meetings the Company and the Department of Transport held with the Glebe Chamber of Commerce in May and the residents of Leichhardt municipality at the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre in July.

There are, however, a number of issues about the extension to Glebe that will need to be addressed by the Society over the next few months. They are:

### 1. The failure to provide a "Glebe Point Road" stop

It is Society policy that an underground stop should be located in the tunnel at the level of Glebe Point Road (the passenger entrance would be near the Toxteth Hotel on the corner of Ferry and Glebe Point Roads). The inclusion of this stop is a major factor in ensuring the economic viability of the light rail system, as it will provide a service to a densely populated and retail area of Glebe. The company considers that the construction of the stop, at a cost of up to \$5M, is too expensive. It should be remembered, however, that the Company has already received a subsidy of \$21M to build the present system to the Fish Markets, and it will only build the extensions to Circular Quay and the inner west if it receives a subsidy of nearly \$1 for every \$2 it spends! With such enormous financial support from the Australian taxpayer, why is the Company so reluctant to provide a proper public transport system for Glebe?

### 2. Advertising

The inside and outside of the light rail vehicles will be covered in advertising. Also, the Company plans to install advertising at each of the stops. The Society will need to determine its policy on advertising - please let us have your opinions.

### 3. "Jubilee Park" stop

The stop will serve Harold Park Paceway. The Maxwell Road entrance to Harold Park has recently been closed. It will be important that passengers travelling to Harold Park enter the Paceway through a new dedicated light rail entrance and that the Maxwell Road entrance not be re-opened.

In concluding, I ask that you please write to Mr Brian Langton, Minister for Transport, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Please tell him how much you will use the light rail system if it is extended to Glebe and also ask that an additional stop be included at Glebe Point Road.

Andrew Wood



## Report from Council

Last year I spoke of the new Local Government Act and the additional responsibilities it placed on Council. Since then residents elected a new Council which is committed to greater accountability and better service. To achieve this Council made major staff changes last year with three new division heads, and the process continued this year with a spill of twenty-one middle management positions.

Until the new managers settle in we cannot expect results. However, despite the delay, Councillors remain committed to greater accountability and service. The Gateway to Glebe, part of the Glebe Point Road Project, is an example: it provides an attractive setting for historic memorials, a safe, level and accessible pedestrian precinct and an area for cafe seating, restores the drinking fountain, and reduces the flow of heavy vehicles into Glebe Point Road. Another example is the new Glebe Library: the builders have already removed the contaminated soil from the site of the original Childrens' Hospital and demolished the unattractive additions. Benledi House, one of the great mansions of Glebe, will have a restored facade when the new library opens early next year.

The new Glebe Island Bridge, the proposed Light Rail and the adaptive reuse of Grace Bros will all lead to increased access to Glebe, and we must expect it to become more attractive to visitors over the next few years. The new all-weather sports field inside Harold Park, for example, a joint venture of Glebe Hockey Club and Leichhardt Council, will be in use almost every day of the year instead of twice a week. We should prepare ourselves for a busier Glebe.

Finally I wish to thank especially the President, Mavis McCarthy, Jeanette Knox and John Hoddinott for their liaising with Council in 1995-6. They have represented you magnificently and made my task easier, so that relations between The Society and Council are as cordial as they have ever been. At this rate we have much to look forward to.

Councillor Neil Macindoe.

## Marion Harris

Glebe society members who were active in the 1970s and 1980s will be saddened to hear of the death, early in August, of Marion Harris.

Marion moved to Glebe in 1970, joined the Glebe Society almost immediately, and was an active participant in the meetings and protests of the early 70s when freeways were still a major threat to the suburb and when developers were active in demolishing older housing for unattractive three-story wald-up blocks. Until failing health in recent years made it no longer possible, Marion was a regular attender at annual and general meetings.

She was also a constant member of the former "Monday Group" which met regularly for lunch and discussion for many years.

Outside of Glebe, Marion was a sturdy supporter of the Uniting Church. She was one of the small group of people who were instrumental in preserving the Pitt Street Church in the city - the church in which she herself had been married. She remained an attender and supporter of the church to the end and was a much-loved member of the congregation that she had done so much to help to revive.

Everyone who knew Marion will remember her with great affection as a kindly, intelligent, and loving person. We extend our condolences to her daughter, Coralie, son-in-law Fred, and her many friends.





# Sunday in the Park in Glebe

come and enjoy the fine music of classical performers in  
Glebe's most beautiful harbourside park - bring a picnic!

**Sunday 22 September 1996**  
**Bicentennial Park**

at the end of Glebe Point Road  
on the Glebe waterfront

**1pm - 4pm**  
with

The Glebe Choir  
Australian Brass Trio  
Ravenshawk Singers  
Glebe Oboe Duet

How to get there?

Walk along Glebe Point Road from Broadway or get the  
431 Bus from George St right down to Glebe Point

A free concert presented for your enjoyment by  
Glebe Chamber of Commerce  
for information phone 9552 1546



**gleebooks literary  
supper  
with  
STEPHANIE  
ALEXANDER**  
*The Cook's  
Companion*

*The Complete Book of  
Ingredients and Recipes for  
the Australian Kitchen*

Introduced by  
Sue Fairleigh-Cunningham

**Tuesday 1 October,  
8:00 for 8:30 pm at**

**Darling Mills Restaurant  
134 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe**

'...an attempt to encapsulate the experiences and wisdom gained during more than 25 years in professional kitchens and more than 40 years of enthusiastic cooking. I want it to be the essential book for all those who love good food, and my aim has been to provide reliable information and inspiration for every busy food lover... While writing it, I have pretended that you, the reader, have been at my side as I shop and select, store, chop, laugh and taste and, above all, enjoy the heady world of great food.'

**Sara Adey and chef Carlos Repetto of Darling Mills will create a meal inspired by Stephanie's recipes.**

**\$30 per person. Book  
at Darling Mills 9660 5666**

*The Cook's Companion* (\$75) will be published on 30 September and will be available at the supper.



**For Your Diary**

**Sunday, 15 Sept & Sunday 22 Sept** -fund-raising banquets at the home of Cynthia and Ian Jones, 152 Bridge Rd

Reservations - ph 9660 2451

**Sunday, 22 Sept, 1- 4pm** - Sunday in the Park at Glebe, a free concert presented by Glebe Chamber of Commerce

**Sunday, 8 October** - Spring Picnic, Bicentennial Park.

Assemble between 12:30 and 1:00.

<b>THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee</b>		<b>Convenors of Sub-Committees</b>	
<b>President</b>		All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee	
Mavis McCarthy	9660 5119	<b>Aircraft</b>	
<b>Senior Vice President</b>		Alison McKeown	9660 3917
Vacant		<b>Bays &amp; Foreshores</b>	
<b>Junior Vice President</b>		Ian Evans	
Cynthia Jones	9660 2451	<b>Children &amp; Glebe</b>	
<b>Immediate Past President</b>		Penny Haslens	9566 4450
David Browne	9660 0865	<b>Diggers' Memorial</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>		Max Solling	9660 1160
Jeanette Knox	9660 7781	<b>Environment</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>		Fiona Campbell	9660 0185
John Sleeman	9692 9507	<b>Light Rail</b>	
<b>Committee</b>		Andrew Wood	9660 2194
Marianne von Knobelsdorff	9692 0916	<b>Planning &amp; Harold Park</b>	
Christine Whittemore	9660 7969	John Hoddinott	9692 0071
Helen Griffiths	9660 5548	<b>Traffic</b>	
Christine Newton	9660 8349	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
<b>Contacts</b>		<b>Wentworth Park</b>	
Bulletin Editor:		Christine Stewart	9660 8324
Jan Macindoe	9660 0208		
Membership List:			
John Hoddinott	9692 0071		
New Members:			
Helen Griffiths	9660 5548		
Archivist			
Lyn Milton	9660 7930		

**Membership of The Glebe Society Inc**

<b>Costs:</b>	Ordinary	\$25	additional household members \$5 each
	Student/Pensioner	\$10	
	Institution	\$30	

Write to P.O.Box 100, Glebe 2037, or ring Jeanette Knox on 660 7781