



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

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No 8 of 1996

September

Fund-raising Banquet

The Society's fund-raising Chinese banquet on Sunday 15 September was a great success.

The food and company were highly compatible. Congratulations and thanks are due to Cynthia Jones who organised and hosted the evening. Chinese wine and dried cumquats, courtesy of Ian and Cynthia, were an exotic beginning to the meal.

We apologise to members for the cancellation of the second banquet planned for Sunday 22nd September. Unfortunately, Cynthia injured her hand several days ago and it needed attending to. We felt cancellation was an appropriate course of action, as members would surely understand.

Mavis McCarthy

Social Activities

Please remember the Spring Picnic on Sunday, 13th October, at about 12.30 pm 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 a gas barbecue in the park. Let's ensure that Council members do not outnumber Society members. This great park, the only place in Glebe where the Glebe Society has received official acknowledgment, by way of a plaque, has a wonderful view over the maritime industrial waterway activities of Blackwattle Bay, and the "busyness" of the Fish Markets.

The next Sunday Lunch will probably be on 25th November. (This date was wrongly reported in the previous Bulletin.) 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. I have never been to Cafe Macchiato, although I know that a Lunch was held there some time ago, so perhaps that could be the default venue.

Sunday 18th November is the date for the Glebe Street Fair, sponsored by the Glebe Chamber of Commerce, and the Society will of course have a stall. I am unsure of the hours, but I would imagine from about 10 am to 5 pm. I will be co-ordinating the Society's stall, and would appreciate members to provide a couple of hours, with at least two on duty at any one time. Please ring me to give me your time slot.

John Hoddinott

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A Letter to the Glebe Society from FROGGS

The Orphan School Creek Gully is a little-known tract of wild land at the back of the old Children's Hospital in Forest Lodge. It is unique in the municipality as an accessible, naturally evolved, densely shrubby and tree-lined area. Although the vegetation is mostly exotic species, the gully has become a permanent home to several species of small native birds, in addition to frogs and possums, and is an important local resource for seasonal bird and bat visitors.

Entrance is gained from either the bottom end of Hereford Street, or Foss Street. The walkway meanders over the route of the original creek bed which once spilled into Johnston's Creek and down to Blackwattle Bay, but which is now about 18 feet below soil level. The banks of the gully are quite steep, providing some protection for this tranquil haven. The view is aesthetically pleasing and changes constantly as the short walk through the gully unfolds.

The gully is recognised by Leichhardt Council as part of a vital green corridor connecting with Johnston's Creek and Rozelle Bay. Council has prepared a draft development control plan for the gully (D.C.P. 23) which identifies the land as one of the few areas in the municipality where a quasi-natural bushland may be established. Recently, in response to a request by FRROGs, Council declared the Gully a Bird Sanctuary in our municipality.

A local group, Friends, Residents/ ratepayers of the Gully (FRROGs) have worked together for some time in the gully, principally participating in working bees to remove rubbish from the area. Soon however, FRROGs hopes, with the consent of Leichhardt Council and the co-operation of South Sydney Council, and under the supervision of a bush regenerator, to begin selectively removing some common weeds (eg crofton weed, castor oil plant, turkey rhubarb) and replacing them with suitable native species. The work needs to be done carefully, considering the ongoing habitat needs of small birds. For example, since lantana provides the only safe shelter for blue wrens and hon-

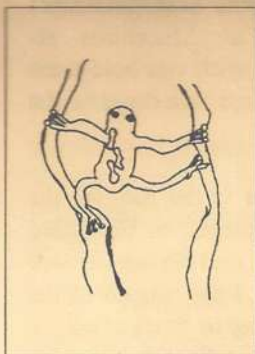
eyeaters in the area, this weed will remain untouched until native plantings are mature enough to provide alternative shelter. The FRROGs group strives to ensure that this important resource for some known 26 species of permanent and migratory birds is not only protected, but that a slow stage by stage replanting of native tree and shrub resources is implemented to allow the Gully to retain its unique character, and to prevent loss of fauna species dependent on the Gully.

With the future sale of the Old Children's Hospital and the subsequent redevelopment of the site, it is of great importance that the gully is protected from any impact by that development. Both Leichhardt Council and South Sydney Council share responsibility for this unique haven. FRROGs are currently writing a submission to Leichhardt Council and have approached South Sydney Council requesting that they match, at least in policy, Leichhardt Council's commitment to the Gully.

All are welcome to attend FRROGs 1 - 2 hour business meetings at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Monday in every month in the Councilors' room, downstairs at the back of the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre. We try to organise a special guest speaker for the first half hour of each meeting. For our October 14th meeting we hope to have a representative of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW to talk to us about frogs which might inhabit the area. For our November meeting, we have organised a speaker from Sydney Water to explain how its policies impact on our group and how we might work together to further FRROGs aims. In addition to the meetings, two hour working bees are held on the last Sunday of every month, starting at 10 am when volunteers meet in the Gully at the bottom of Hereford Street.

FRROGs is delighted to have been able to join The Glebe Society as a new subcommittee, and looks forward to a fruitful working life as part of the Society.

Roberta Johnston



Bus Services

We have received the following comments from the Hon. Brian Langton, Minister for Transport, in response to our letters about the frequency of bus services along Glebe Point Road and the possibility of introducing a new service between Redfern and Glebe:

"I am advised that patronage on Glebe Point Road services during peak periods, especially the evening peak, has significantly increased during recent times. To satisfy the increased demand, additional services (four inwards and one outwards during the morning peak and three outwards and one inwards, during the evening peak) were provided as from the first week in July.

"However, there has been no similar increase in patronage outside the peak periods. Whilst there has been an increase on the route 431 services this has been offset by a similar reduction on the route 433 services.

"The existing frequency of combined 431/433 services on Glebe Point Road at St Johns Road, provides for a ten minute service and at present, this frequency adequately satisfies demand. Nevertheless, Sydney Buses will continue to monitor the situation and if necessary introduce additional services in the event of any increased patronage being sustained.

"Sydney Buses is aware of the developments at the Grace Brothers site and has acknowledged the desirability of introducing new cross regional routes. The feasibility of introducing such cross regional services forms part of the ongoing service reviews that take place.

"I am assured that Ms Knox's suggestion to introduce a service from the Glebe area to the eastern suburbs via Redfern has been noted and will be considered as part of the review process."

It is interesting that it is the possible impact of the Grace Brothers redevelopment, rather than the relocation of the Child Health Care service and possible patronage by University of Sydney and University of

Technology students, which I had also mentioned, that may lead Sydney Buses to consider the feasibility of a new route.

Regarding the frequency of off-peak services, I would appreciate comments from members about their personal experiences in using the 431/433 buses. I was myself unable to board a 431 bus for the city at Bridge Road round about 11.30 am one Monday because it was full. Have other people had difficulties? If so, do they tend to be at particular times?

Jeanette Knox

New Publication

Bernard Smith, foundation President of the Glebe Society, has recently had published by Meanjin a book of poems: "Poems 1938-1993". Friends of Bernard and Kate who would like to obtain a copy will find it at Gleebooks (\$7.00).

Auditing

For the last few years the Society's books have been audited commercially. We have been very pleased with the meticulous work of our auditor. However, we have been reviewing ways of keeping the Society's operating costs down. Consequently we are asking "Is there anyone out there with relevant qualifications who would be prepared to carry out the audit for us?" If you might be able to help Treasurer John Sleeman would be pleased to hear from you (Phone 9692 9507)

Jeanette Knox

Aircraft and Glebe

The Society lodged airports submissions in July and August of this year. In our submission to the Review of Long Term Operating Plans at KSA the Society predicted the airport will return to north-south flight paths for efficiency and greater capacity. Living conditions are untenable in those circumstances and Glebe would stand to be further and continually degraded by the effects of aviation. The Society submitted that shifting flight paths will not solve problems. It is an inescapable fact that there is no buffer zone around KSA. The airport now is, and will continue to be, impeded by its unfavorable location. The Society submitted that KSA should be downgraded and capped by legislation to the numbers of aircraft movements stated in the (quaint, discredited, discarded) environmental impact statement for the third runway - expansion of the airport. We added a comment that was outside the scope of the supporting information or even a concept regarding land-transport infrastructure. How many fast trains would it take to shift 700 passengers on one ultra-high capacity aircraft and how would a system be integrated with Sydney's rail and road network? (More than 1 000 submissions were lodged to the Review.)

The new federal government has included Holsworthy for examination as an airport site. The Society submitted to the "Draft Guidelines for Badgerys Creek and Holsworthy Airport proposals' Environmental Impact Statements" that Holsworthy is and unfair proposition, that Royal National Park would be detrimentally affected and that Sydney's nuclear facility (Lucas Heights) is too close for safety. We requested that ultra high capacity aircraft be included for examination in numbers and types of aircraft expected. We asked that the term "buffer zone" be used in the overall management philosophy and that cumulative effects be addressed. We asked yet again for rail stations to be located inside Badgerys Creek Airport terminals, as any traveller would expect! The Society endorsed the Coalition of Councils' "Environmental Contract" that would include specified dates for completion of Badgerys Creek international/domestic airport, specific operational procedures at both air-

ports and downgrading KSA to an intrastate /commuter facility - all via full public consultation.

What news is there for residents of inner Sydney and at Holsworthy? The Society picked up an Editorial published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 8th June, this year. These were the inferences contained therein: that KSA would be the only airport for a very long time then Holsworthy would be developed; that Badgerys Creek Airport will be abandoned; that KSA's curfew will be abandoned; and that the airport privatisation lease will have a clause prohibiting development of a new airport for Sydney for 15 to 20 years hence. In July the Society sent a letter to the Prime Minister in which we questioned the Editorial. We are still waiting for a reply. Nor has the Premier of NSW replied to correspondence. We sought clarification of his comment that KSA could be further expanded. Readers are probably aware of the federal Minister for Transport's soothing comments about a new airport in the next term of government. The residents around Holsworthy, as well as ourselves, are concerned. They dispatched 40 000 submissions to Canberra regarding the draft environmental impact statement.

New guidelines for granting KSA curfew dispensations have been announced by the new federal government. Do the guidelines allow for fewer, the same or more aircraft to fly during the curfew? The answer is at the end of this article.

It is suggested members and friends send letters to the Minister of Transport, the Hon. J. Sharp, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. It would be important to make these requests: no further expansion of Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, legislate a cap on the number of aircraft at KSA at the number stated in the environmental impact statement for the third runway - 305 000 per annum, increase the curfew, and build a second 24 hour international /domestic, environmentally sensitive airport for Sydney at Badgerys Creek.

Glebe lodged 15 aircraft noise/odour complaints as reported in "Briefing Notes on Sydney Airport" for the week ending 8th August, 1996. Balmain recorded 29, Hunters Hill 16, Pymble 14, Lane Cove 22, Newtown 28, Leichhardt 14, Lilyfield 9,



Earlwood 121, Croydon 12, Concord 24 and Kurnell 48. Total complaints across Sydney suburbs numbered 1 096.

Marrickville library maintains a significant collection of items on Sydney Airport and the Airport campaign. The collection is accessible to the public during normal library hours.

(Answer to the question above: More)

Alison McKeown

Planning Report

Some fairly major issues have occurred since the last Bulletin. A great deal of demolition work has already occurred on the former Grace Bros site, with much of the available land behind the Grose Street Store cleared. The student accommodation in the former Homemakers' Store will open in early 1997, and the exterior has been repainted.

461/463/465 Glebe Point Road

The second 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. Mavis and I attended the meeting. It was agreed that the Glebe Chamber of Commerce be another interest group but at the same time we resolved that there be no vote on any further issues. My impression after this recent meeting is that the tenants are a mixture of assertiveness and uncertainty, and they still think that we (the Glebe Society) are out to get them. This is not a true view of our position. The Society's main requests remain a water-front walkway, not an over-water version, no marina and some more water-front open space. The parking problems should be discussed, also.

All the groups involved have been asked to supply a brief note explaining their viewpoint. I will organise this with our President. I feel that after a small number of meetings, I hope in the next few months, a reasonable consensus can be reached, whereby the planned development on the site would be acceptable to all parties. I still believe that in the long term it will be residential, as it is such a prime site.

156-160 Bridge Road - The Abbey Restaurant/Reception Centre.

I quote from a recent note from Council : "Council at its meeting of 23.7.96 resolved not to adopt the draft LEP [concerning possible rezoning], and that discussions be pursued by Council with the landowner and local community on a residential development option for the site."

I interpret this to mean that the suggestion for a considerable increase in the reception centre functions has been refused. I am unsure about the future of the fairly decrepit Reussdale, but as I imagine that I will be involved as part of the "local community", I can assure members that I will be taking a very strong stand on its rehabilitation.

The John Fletcher Site

I attended a meeting chaired by Cr Macindoe where there was a lively discussion about the proposals for this important waterfront site. The first speaker, from Fletcher's, pointed out that until his company had permission from Botany Council to transfer the container depot there, nothing much would happen. The second condition was the sale price of the current site.

The second speaker, interested in the soil contamination on the site, gave us the news that each square metre would cost \$80, amounting to about \$1.8 million for the 2.3 hectare site. The two primary contamination sources seem to be a layer of fly ash under the top-soil, ash which may have come from the incinerator, and secondly leakage from a fuel tank - underground fuel tanks always leak. This remediation cost will of course be passed on to potential buyers.

The final speaker was the architect who presented the company's preferred option, and this is where it gets difficult.

Currently there is a shed on site, on the west side, close to Taylor Street. The proposal is for two 5-storey towers close to Sheehy Street, about 20 two-storey town houses close to the waterfront, with a 15 metre on-land public walkway in front, and finally a medium density development where the present car repair yard stands. There will be about 400 residents in such a development with a total built area of 18,200 sq. m.



There was the possibility of a new, perhaps one-way, road roughly around the incinerator, which will itself be the centre of the planned open space.

There was much discussion of potentially lost views from some residents in Sheehy Street and parts of Forsyth Street. The 5-storey towers are about one storey higher than the existing shed, but the architect showed some computer-generated view lines from the middle floor of the four Sheehy Street blocks. There would be some winners and some losers. As well the issue of another couple of hundred cars in the area was mentioned. I have no major objections to the concept in principle, although there will doubtless be many points to discuss as the design plan firms up.

However, before the plans are finalised there are many steps which must be taken. The first, underway now is the preparation of a the concept development, and this will lead to the preparation of a draught LEP and a draft DCP based on the conceptual plan. The LEP deals with zonings, building wall heights and performance standards such as floor-space ratios. The DCP defines the building footprint and open space and pedestrian areas. These must be approved by Council after public display and submissions. If approved the Minister for Planning must gazette them, and this will lead to a DA and a BA, which must be exhibited and then approved by Council. In other words there is a lengthy and involved process still to come. I feel that the development will be scaled down somewhat and that the proposal discussed was to an extent an ambit claim. As far as I can see it is acceptable under Council guidelines, so there are not many criticisms on that side.

I will keep members in touch with the site's development, remembering that Fletchers have not yet decided to move until the Port Botany site is available and a reasonable sale price is realised for the site.

The New Glebe Library

As I write this report, half of the concrete footings has been poured; the base includes a considerable amount of cabling for power, computer connections, etc. Early October should see the structural steel framework being erected.

I have been told of the existence of photos of the Children's Hospital founded about 1880, I think, which stood on the empty block which is now the open space. Its function was taken over by the Camperdown Hospital perhaps in the 1950s, when the building became flats, before its demolition about 30 years ago. I have asked a friend to attempt to find them, so we can obtain copies, for possible display in the new Library.

Even though it is showing its bad state of repair, it is wonderful to see *Benledi* standing alone and proud. It must have been a great house in its heyday, and should soon be looking much more presentable.

Mavis, Jeanette and I attended a recent Library Committee meeting, where the general business were the colours for *Benledi*, a display of plans for the new library in a couple of empty shops in Glebe, as well as proposals for the eventual landscaping of the open space. The project is pretty much on schedule, with a total construction time of 18 weeks, five of which have passed.

I note in the Glebe Library Committee minutes that there has been a statement from the Building Contractor and the Architect, who are responsible for site safety, that people other than their staff are entering the site. I would ask Glebe Society members not to enter the building area; this has to do with Workcover safety issues, as it is a "hard hat, protective footwear" area, and the builders must not be made responsible for what could be safety issues outside their control. Christina Wilcox and I have been given permission to take video and still photos about once a week, so there will be a good record of the Library's progress for the future. Please talk to everyone about the project, though, as even now there still seems to be some unawareness about the site's future.

John Hoddinott

The Glebe Music Festival: 15-17 November, 1996

The 1996 Glebe Music festival promises to be another exciting feast of music and song. As in previous years, the Glebe Society will sponsor the free concert at St Scholastica's Chapel by the Choir of Christchurch St Laurence and the Choir of St Scholastica's School, with a guest appearance by "Contrasts", the woodwind group.

Those of you who attended the 1995 Glebe Music Festival will remember some of the highlights. The *a cappella* vocal group "Cafe at the Gate of Salvation" sang to much acclaim at Darling Mills Restaurant. The Innominata Choir sang works from Festa, Lassus, Purcell, Gibbons, Tompkins and Victoria to Poulenc, Durufle and Britten at Margaretta Cottage. These were interspersed by harp music played by Marshall McGuire: the Sonata for Harp by Peggy Glanville-Hicks, from "Kakadu" by Sculthorpe and the enchanting "To His Servant Bach God Grants a Final Glimpse: The Moving Stars" by Koehne. Christine Marrinan, an oncology nursing sister at the New Children's Hospital, and Owen Reynolds performed favourite rhythm-and-blues and jazz works late into the night. At the Glebe Society Concert at St Scholastica's Chapel, the Choir of Christchurch St Laurence joined forces with the Early Brass Consort of Sydney to perform Cantate Domino by Taeggio and Lobe den Herren by Schütz. They also joined forces with the Choir of St Scholastica's School to perform the Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah by Handel.

This year, in addition to the free Sunday afternoon Glebe Society Concert at St Scholastica's Chapel on 17 November at 3pm, there are two other concerts. On Friday 15 November at 8pm the Early Brass Consort of Sydney will perform at the new Gleebooks along with the University of Sydney Motet Choir. On Saturday 16 November at 8pm, the Innominata Choir will again sing at Margaretta Cottage, thanks to the generosity of the Toohey family. The acclaimed pianist Jean-Bernard Marie, currently based in London and having recently recorded piano music for a film about the

Australian author David Malouf, will also make a welcome return to Margaretta Cottage. And the evening would not be complete without Christine Marrinan and Owen Reynolds performing everyone's favourites!

The artistic director of the Glebe Music Festival, Dr David McIntosh, a paediatrician currently based in London where he is performing molecular biology research into the hepatitis B virus, will be returning to Australia to host the concerts and to play the organ at St Scholastica's Chapel.

Do make the Glebe Music Festival widely known to your friends and send off the booking form if you require tickets for either the Gleebooks or the Margaretta Cottage concerts.



For Your Diary

Sunday, 13 October, 12:30 - Spring Picnic, Blackwattle Bay Park, Cook St side.

Monday, 14 October - Meeting of FRROGS Sub-committee, at Glebe Neighbourhood Centre. Guest speaker from the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW to talk about frog habitat.

Friday, 15 November, 8pm - Glebe Music Festival concert at Gleebooks - Early Brass Consort & Uni of Sydney Motet Choir

Saturday, 16 November, 8pm - Glebe Music Festival concert at Margaretta Cottage, with Innominata Choir

Sunday, 17 November - Glebe Street Fair, and Music Festival concert, 3pm, St Scholastica's Chapel

Sunday, 24 November - Sunday Lunch - make your suggestions for venue to John Hoddinott

THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee

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Wentworth Park

Christine Stewart 9660 8324

Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

Costs:	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