



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

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No 3 of 1997

April

## Social Activities

### **A**utumn Picnic

It is a good time for a picnic instead of the usual monthly Sunday lunch. The time and place are about 12.30 to 1.00 pm, on Sunday 27th April, in the Bicentennial Park. In the event of inclement weather, we'll try for the following Sunday, 4th June. Bring your own food, beverages, plates, etc and perhaps a chair or a rug, but we should try to commandeer one of the tables there.

### Historic Photographs

Please remember that Max Solling will be giving Society members a tour of the fine photographs of old Glebe in the Toxteth Hotel, starting at 9.45 am on Saturday, 12th April. Note that children under 18 can attend as the hotel will not be open then, but they must leave the premises when the hotel opens for business at 11 am. I have checked this issue with the publican, by the way. Come along to appreciate Max's erudition, and to ask questions about Glebe's fascinating history.

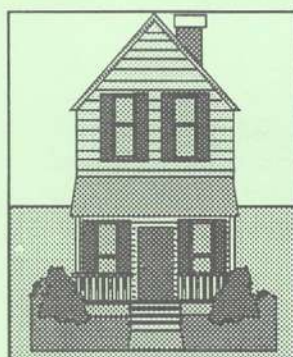
The publican, Shaughn Murphy, has generously offered to supply coffee and biscuits after the tour.

### The New Glebe Library

By the time the Bulletin reaches you the library will be open to the public, although its official opening, by Ms Sandra Nori MP, remains Saturday 19th April at 10.30 am. The numbers are building for the pre-opening **cocktail party**, 7-10 pm in *Benledi*, on Friday, 18th. Tickets cost \$25 and can be obtained by ringing Christine Newton on 9660 8349 or Marie Mackie on 9552 4227, or by sending a cheque made out to the Glebe Library Fund to Glebe Library Fund, c/- PO Box 400, Glebe 2037. Entrance to the event will be by ticket only.

I think the Glebe community is pretty happy with the result of the endeavour of a small group of people, mainly women, who fought so hard for community use of the former derelict site. We have obtained two important victories: a much bigger and better library in what I believe is a better position for residents, and finally, after years of requests, public access to a formerly fenced grassed area; it was hardly a park at the time it was used very occasionally by the hospital patients. The library was achieved in a remarkably short time, less than three years, and we mustn't forget Sandra Nori's help in obtaining a cheaper price for the Homeopathic Hospital, bought by Leichhardt Council, after long negotiations with her colleague, the Minister for Health, the Hon. Andrew Refshaugue, MP, as well as the unremitting support of Cr Neil Macindoe. The present use beats the idea of a women's prison on the site mooted about three years ago.

A **clean-up** of the wall around the library has been organised for Sunday, 13th April, at 10am. One hour should see it completed. Please bring a bucket, a scrubbing brush, and if possible a wire brush and a paint scraper. I will organise the detergent and warm water. I hope we can have a clean wall before the official opening six days later, and I trust that there will be a good roll-up on the 13th to remove the detritus.



*The opening of the new Glebe library will be the main event in a busy April*

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The **Glebe Book Fair** on Sunday 20th April offers the Society the chance to run a free stall in the grounds of *Benledi*. Volunteers please! Ring me at 9692 0071 if you can put in a couple of hours.

In exchange for a free stall, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce asks that stall holders supply at least one box of books to help raise funds for the library. Please leave them on my front verandah, 30 Wigram Road, (unless it is raining) or bring on the day.

Don't forget the **Party with the Literati**, hosted by Peter Corris, in the Toxteth Hotel at 3pm of the same day - Sunday 20th April. The event will be held in the hotel's Beer Garden, with some nibbles provided.

John Hoddinott

## Heritage Week

A series of events in Glebe will be presented by the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and The Glebe Society

**Wednesday 23 April, 5pm - 8pm**

### Photograph Copying Session

Leichhardt Library is holding its third photograph copying session. Residents are asked to bring in photographs so that they can be copied and then used as a heritage resource in the library. The copying will be undertaken by a staff member from the State Library of NSW, using a "flat-bed" method (i.e., no folding of valuable photographs involved). Advice can be obtained about preservation of photographs, and postcards from previous copying sessions will be on sale at Leichhardt libraries. Enquiries to Margaret Penson on 9367 9266.

**Wednesday 23 April, 7pm**  
**Glebe's History and Stories**

Max Solling, well-known local historian with pictures, maps and a wealth of information about Glebe's development from 1789 to the present.

At Glebe High School Library, Taylor St, Glebe \$15

Funds raised will help towards the restoration of the Glebe Diggers Memorial

**Saturday 26 April, 10am**

**A history walk along Glebe Point Road**, from Broadway to *Benledi*, site of the new Glebe Library. Assemble at University Hall on the corner of Glebe Point Road and Broadway. The tour will be lead of Cr Neil Macindoe, star of the award winning documentary *Rats in the Ranks*. Refreshments available at Glebe Library.

\$12 Bookings, Ph 9660 7781

Funds raised will help towards the restoration of the Glebe Diggers Memorial

**Sunday 27 April, 2pm - 4pm**

### Maureen Fry - a walking tour through Glebe Point

with visits to St Scholastica's Convent and Chapel, the Chinese Temple and the many notable streets and features of the area. Refreshments at St Scholastica's School.

\$12 Bookings 9552 1546

**Sunday 27 April, 2pm - 4pm**

### St Scholastica's Convent and School,

Avenue Rd, Glebe will be open with displays of photographs at the school and guided tours of the house and chapel. This was the original "great house" of the area, completed in 1834.

### Events outside Glebe

As well as the above events in Glebe, the Balmain Association is conducting a Rozelle Heritage Walk, an exhibition at the Balmain Watch House, and a Heritage Balmain Pub Crawl (only two pubs out of 22! Glebe has exactly half that number of pubs). For further information contact the Association's Heritage Co-ordinator, Kath Hamey on 9818 4954.

The Pyrmont-Ultimo Historical Society is conducting Heritage Walks in the two suburbs. For information contact the Society's President, Margaret Wood, on 9692 9905, mobile 015 497 433.

There are numerous events at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour. The Historic Houses Trust is holding several exhibitions in The Rocks, the Museum of Sydney, the Justice and Police Museum and the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. Most of the above events have a modest charge, usually about \$5.

Thanks to the National Trust of Australia for sending details of these events.





## Planning Report

### 461/463/465 Glebe Point Road

At a recent Council meeting, the matter of the two Section 102 amendments to the DAs approved for 461 & 463 were discussed. Council's Planning Department has prepared a document which presents the views of the Council's working party, or at least this was the claim. However the developer and the tenants were unhappy about both the short time given to examine the document and the contents. Council decided that the matter be held over, and that the working party be reconvened to try to reach some degree of consensus. This seems as unlikely as ever, unfortunately. I still believe that the three sites will be residential before the big day in 2000.

### The John Fletcher Site

I have no major news about this issue. I understand that the area that Fletcher's wanted in Botany was close to a residential development, and was not approved by Botany Council, and that the company must look elsewhere in that Municipality. Hence the process seems to be on hold.

### Reussdale, 156 Bridge Road

For those members with a copy of Bernard and Kate Smith's book, *The Architectural Character of Glebe*, I suggest a stroll down Bridge Road, just west of Glebe Point Road, and compare the photograph on page 55 to the present state of this once-fine building. I don't think it is worth saying more, as in this case a picture is worth more than a thousand angry words.

Councillor Macindoe moved successfully at a recent Council meeting that Council approach the new chair of the Heritage Council, Hazel Hawke, to urge action to restore Reussdale.

### Clean Up Australia Day

I omitted to mention in the previous Bulletin that there was a very poor turnout on the day; only 9 people, apart from me, came, and I couldn't collect as I undertook to look after the registrations, bag distribution, etc. I think that there was less Council involvement this year compared to 1996, and if we do it again next year (always the first Sunday in March), the Council's resources must be included, as

much as is possible. I wonder, as do many Glebe residents, whether the problem of rubbish will be solved in our suburb in the short term.

However, apart from these perennial problems, it seems that things are going well for Glebe at the moment; if we can achieve a happy solution for the second phase of the Light Rail, and a suitable Glebe Point Road underground stop, and bring the two major sites mentioned above to an acceptable conclusion, maybe we can put our feet up for a while. The Italians have a word for this - magari - which means something like "if only it were true". In the almost thirty years the Glebe Society has been in existence, there have been very few times when there was not a new or recurring issue or problem on the boil.

John Hoddinott

## Gladys Buckingham

Glebe Society members will be sorry to hear of the death in March this year of Gladys Buckingham. Gladys had been a member of the Society for very many years and supported its activities by her attendance at public meetings and local site inspections by Council. She will, however, be particularly missed by the "Monday Groupers". She was a regular attendee at their lunches and a popular member of the group, being always a very friendly and cheerful person.

Our sympathies to John Buckingham and his family.





## Aircraft and Glebe

**KSA - Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport  
Aircraft Noise & Other Complaints  
phone 9582 1850 or fax 9556 6641**

The Glebe Society made a submission on the long term operating plans for KSA's flight paths. The Society concluded it could not place confidence in the plan as major questions about the airport's future are still unresolved. KSA's growth appears to be limitless. We don't know if aircraft noise will continue to be shared. It could become far worse and constant for everyone concerned. There are enormous pressures on the airport. Political promises are not good enough as a means of controlling the airport's growth. At the same time the operating plan was in public consultation phase the Federal Airports Corporation was found to be extending the third runway's threshold northwards. This runway change represents expansion of the airport and we believe it was not included in the operating plan.

Could there ever be such a thing as a price on KSA's curfew, the Society's submission asks. Ansett and six international airlines have contributed about \$50 million towards the Olympic Games, of which \$40 million came from Ansett, the same airline that has publicly called for a reduction in the airport's curfew at that time.

The submission refuted the comment made elsewhere that if aircraft were 15 metres lower over Annandale (Glebe and Forest Lodge) it would make no significant difference. It rejected the operating plan's suggestion that noise is *the* significant issue. There are at least two other significant effects of having this airport operating and expanding in Sydney's heavily populated suburbs and they are pollution from aircraft, dangerous to human health, and worsened risk of aviation accident.

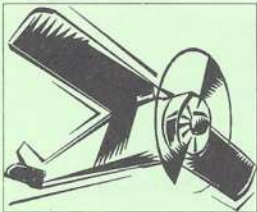
If you would like a copy of the Society's submission please ring me (ah) 9660 3917. Assistance in the submission's preparation from Mavis McCarthy, John Sleeman and John Hoddinott is gratefully acknowledged. John Sleeman and John Hoddinott were amongst several contributors who gave their expertise to the Society's 1991 response to

the third runway environmental impact statement.

Inner City and Foreshores Community Action Group lead the ten-year campaign opposing a heliport at Pyrmont, culminating in the demise of this proposal in 1995. The heliport would have given rise to 90 helicopter movements per day. You can see how close this activity would have been to Glebe if you stand in Blackwattle Bay park and look toward the city - all that noise would have emanated from a short distance across the bay and over the narrow Pyrmont peninsula. Together with Leichhardt Council's East Balmain Precinct 2, the Group have put out a new leaflet called "How Much Noise Can You Take!" People are encouraged to note noise events on the leaflet's calendar and also officially register their complaint. At the end of this year the Group will compare official figures with their own compilation from individuals' calendars. Noise events are to include ship and wharf noise, helicopter and aircraft noise and party boats and events noise (party boats have recorded up to 60 dB(A)). The leaflet quotes: "The World Health Organisation has revised its guidelines in the light of fresh research . . . The new guidelines will reduce the recommended night-time average level of noise suitable for undisturbed sleep from 35 to 30dB(A). For the first time, the guidelines will also include a peak night-time maximum of 45dB(A)." Reference: "Plagued by Noise", New Scientist, 16th November 1996.

Inner City and Foreshores Community Action Group can be contacted by phone: 9810 3279.

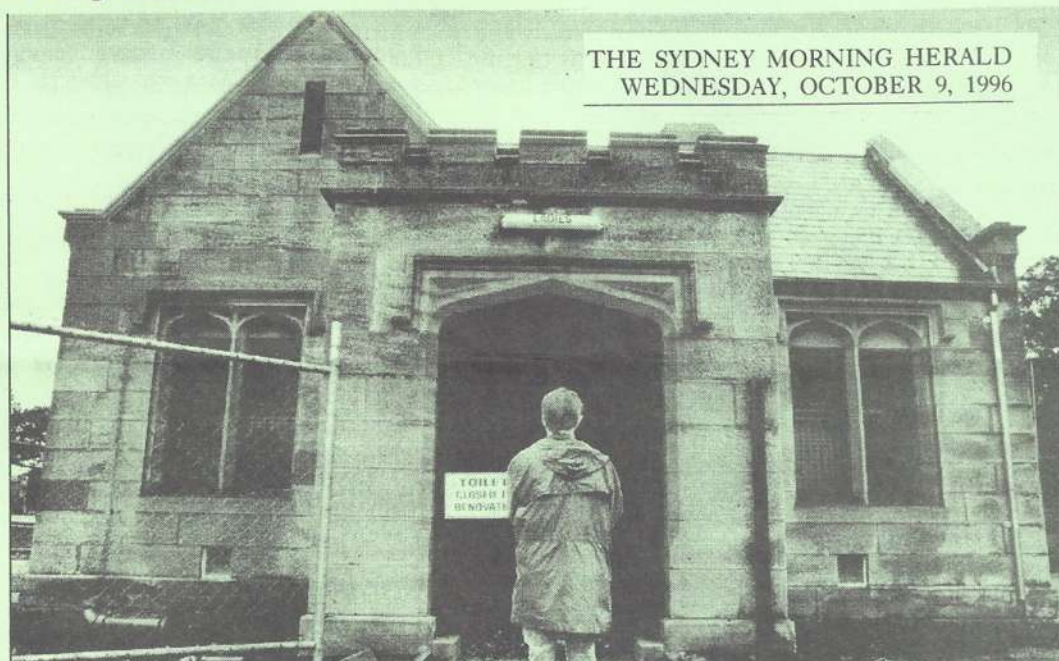
**Alison McKeown**





## Victoria Park

Glebe Society members will have noticed the changes taking place in Victoria Park, but may have missed the following article from *The Sydney Morning Herald* last year, which gives details of the work being undertaken.



Back to the way it was – in 1870 . . . Left, work on the avenue from the road to the clock-tower will also include restoration of the old gatehouse, above. Photographs by QUENTIN JONES

# Grand avenue to university heading for full restoration

By GERALDINE O'BRIEN  
Heritage Writer

A vista that has been lost to Sydneysiders for more than 60 years is slowly being restored with the creation of a tree-lined road through Victoria Park, leading to the clock-tower of the Sydney University quadrangle.

Under a plan of management adopted by South Sydney City Council, the park is undergoing a two-year, \$1.5 million restoration that will involve the removal of the battered bowling club premises on City Road, the upgrading of the central swimming pool and kiosk and a reinforcement of the park's traditional Victorian character.

According to Helen Proudfoot's history of the park, it was, before white settlement, a heavily treed, undulating landscape through which a spring drained to the head of Blackwattle Bay.

First known as Parakeet Hill, it later was called Grose Farm after the early land grant to

Lieutenant-Governor Grose. In 1850, when the farm was selected as the site for the University of Sydney, land was earmarked for a "park and garden" for the new institution, which eventually became Victoria Park, dedicated in 1870.

But it maintained its link to the university in the grand avenue leading to the clock-tower, lined with double rows of Moreton Bay and Port Jackson figs. According to council's plan of management, the vista to the tower was reinforced by the two Gothic Revival gatehouses and a wooden bridge over the lake.

From the 1930s to the 1960s, however, successive remodellings of the park took place: a fence was built between the park and the university, new plantings obscured the pathway, the council built a swimming pool part-way across it and, in the 1960s, the lake was made smaller and the bridge removed.

But now the lake has been cleared, extended and planted

with reeds and waterlilies, and part of the swimming pool complex removed from the path line to the university.

This week council staff will continue building the formal, stone-edged pathway to the university. Within the next year, a bridge across the lake will be reinstated. Sydney University will construct a new entry to its campus from the park.

The old stone gatehouse, for years relegated to use as a public toilet, is to be restored and may be leased as a cafe.

A council spokeswoman said yesterday the pool – which is now heated for year-round use – would be made more accessible to local residents and be used as a focus for local cultural events, the kiosk would be revamped and a small creche introduced.

The bowling club site would revert to council, which would possibly use it for a community arts centre, for which it hoped to run a design competition.



## For Your Diary

**Saturday, 12 April, 9:45am** -Max Solling comments on photos of old Glebe, at the Toxteth Hotel

**Sunday 13 April, 10am** -clean-up of the wall around the library grounds

**Friday 18 April, 7:00 - 10:00pm** - cocktail party to celebrate the opening of the new library.

**Saturday 19 April, 10:30am** -opening of the new Glebe library by Sandra Nori

**Sunday 20 April** - Glebe Book fair in the library grounds & 3:00pm - Party with the Literati, Peter Corris, Toxteth Hotel

**21 - 27 April** - Heritage Week - various events (see p2)

**Sunday, 27 April** - Autumn Picnic, Bicentennial Park. Assemble between 12:30 and 1:00.

### THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee

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#### Senior Vice President

Vacant

#### Junior Vice President

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Marianne von Knobelsdorff 9692 0916

Christine Whittemore 9660 7969

Helen Griffiths 9660 5548

Christine Newton 9660 8349

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John Hoddinott 9692 0071

##### New Members:

Helen Griffiths 9660 5548

##### Archivist

Lyn Milton 9660 7930

### Convenors of Sub-Committees

All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

#### Aircraft

Alison McKeown 9660 3917

#### Bays & Foreshores

Ian Edwards 9660 3240 (BH)

#### Children & Glebe

Penny Haskins 9566 4450

#### Diggers' Memorial

Max Solling 9660 1160

#### Environment

Jan Wilson 9660 2698

#### FRROGS

Roberta Johnston 9552 3248

#### Light Rail

Andrew Wood 9660 2194

#### Planning & Harold Park

John Hoddinott 9692 0071  
9518 9218 (fax)

#### Traffic

Jeanette Knox 9660 7781

#### Wentworth Park

Judy Vergison 9692 9200

## 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