



Where are our Grot Busters?

About 15 people attended the 'Grot Busters' meeting in Glebe on Wednesday 16 October. This included two representatives from Leichhardt Council who kindly attended.

Many issues were discussed including:

- junk mail;
- posters on poles;
- parks (rubbish and general maintenance) (see "Adopt a park" on this page);
- street furniture, e.g. seats and bus shelters (members also raised the problem of leaking bus shelters, and asked if there is some way to make shelters cooler in summer);
- "Going Solar" signs (recommended their removal);
- vandalism of vehicles (cars broken into, windows smashed);
- clearing of public rubbish bins (the meeting requested more frequent clearing of rubbish bins on major roads such as Glebe Point Road and St John's Road during the weekend);
- abandoned shopping trolleys in streets throughout Glebe; and
- graffiti (because of the magnitude of this problem, we will be convening a special meeting to discuss this issue).

It is up to all of us to get involved – Glebe is looking dirty and unloved! The Society desperately needs a Clean-up Glebe convenor to carry on the good work done by Horst Schwarz – see page 3 for more information. Also, you might receive a call from the "Grot Busters" Team asking you to join in an activity with the aim of making Glebe better for all of us.

It is interesting that while many members nominated litter as a key area of interest, the number of attendees at the meeting was quite

Adopt a park

The Grot Busters meeting endorsed an "Adopt a Park" scheme with Leichhardt Council. Similar arrangements operate elsewhere in the municipality and involve park neighbours establishing a partnership with the Council for the care and improvement of parks. Tasks can range from odd jobs to working with Council to achieve significant projects.

Initial sites selected and adoptive "parkents" are:

- Kirsova Playground behind the library (Fay and David Mander Jones) (see *From the Archives* p. 5 for the background to this interesting little reserve),
- Foley Park (Ian Jones), and
- Paddy Gray Park (Liz Simpson-Booker).

Not surprisingly, the parkents would like others to join them. Peter Head from Leichhardt Council undertook to get in touch with the Society to work out the details.

The Society is aware of several members who have adopted a local park. These volunteers regularly collect litter, undertake weeding, and report any graffiti and/or damage to Council. A notable example can be seen in front of the Lombard apartments (between Ferry Road and Palmerston Street); it is a prime example of how individuals *can make a difference*.

low. A large number of people who attended were members of the Glebe Society Management Committee. We can't establish a fruitful and cooperative relationship with Council without your involvement. In the

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Callan Park to “remain in public hands forever”

by **Sandra Nori, MLA**
Member for Port Jackson

This week I introduced legislation to Parliament that will enshrine – in law – public ownership of the Rozelle Hospital site and forever prohibit any residential development from occurring.

I am confident that it will shortly pass through both houses of the Parliament and become law.

That means Callan Park is protected forever and a day under this Government.

It also prevents the building of a stand-alone, privately funded 400-bed psychiatric hospital on the site, as proposed by the NSW Opposition. For a start, that could not happen without eating up precious open space. It could not happen under my Bill.

Even more importantly, local and international expert opinion – including the World Health Organisation – is that institutionalised, isolated care such as that provided at Rozelle is inappropriate in the 21st century for people with mental illness. We must step forward – not backward – in mental health care.

The development of a new state-of-the-art mental health facility at

Concord will continue unimpeded, but its cost will not be met from the sale of any part of the Rozelle Hospital site.

This is a big win for members of the local community and for people with mental illness in NSW.

Right from the beginning, I had set in concrete my view, that there should be no loss of open space on the site and that heritage buildings, heritage gardens and the foreshore were to be preserved.

I also called for a reduction of a minimum 20 per cent in the proposed residential development as outlined in the draft masterplan. This was my bare minimum demand.

The more I consulted, the more I saw that traffic issues simply had not been adequately addressed by the draft Masterplan, the less happy I was with it.

I began advocating within Government and my Community Working Group for the other permissible uses within the Masterplan – health, aged care, education and community uses, all of which already occur within the grounds.

In September the Government agreed to make those the only uses and on the basis of their support for my

alternative proposal, the Government agreed to withdraw the Masterplan. Immediately, Parliamentary Counsel began drafting up my Private Member’s Bill, which I received on 14 October.

Let there be no misunderstanding – this legislation is set in concrete. This Government will never change it. It offers the same level of protection as the Botanical Gardens have enjoyed for many, many years and no Government would ever attempt to change that!

Already it has been said there may be retirement villages on the site under this *Bill*. No! The *Bill* specifically excludes any housing that might have been permitted under State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 5.

Please – if you hear any such rumours, look at the Bill on my website www.sandranori.net so you can see for yourself the protection it provides – forever – for this important site.

From the outset, I called for “a full process of meaningful public consultation; i.e., consultation that can influence the outcome”. It is quite clear that the Government took this commitment seriously. Thank you in particular to those of you who took the time to convey your views to me or to make personal submissions on the draft Masterplan.

What’s the bottom line?

My Bill, with the support of the Government, will set the following into law:

- The whole of Callan Park remains in public ownership, and residential development is prohibited – forever.
- The open space you currently enjoy, you will continue to enjoy – legally available to the public, not informally, as it is at present.
- The heritage significance of Callan Park will be preserved, including its historic buildings, gardens and other landscape features and the foreshore.
- Future uses will only be: health-related; aged care, education (but not a primary or secondary school) and community facilities. These can only occur on leasehold, within existing building footprints and with no overall increase in scale.

Continued from page 1

Grot busters

near future the Glebe Society website will give members the opportunity of posting your concerns: tell us what you want, and be prepared to be part of the solution. It’s your suburb, your future.

- Hilary Wise

From the Editor's dungeon

Notice anything different about this edition of the Bulletin . . . like it has an article by a politician and a poem?

This happened more or less by accident, but I hope it presages a longer term trend to try something different. Several people have commented that the Bulletin is getting a bit serious (which, deciphered, means dull). In short we need a tuppenny bungler up our bum! I don't mean we should have too many articles by polities but I'd like to see a few members follow Marg Sheppard's example.

You may be asked to help

Many members can expect to receive a phone call from one or more members of the Management Committee inviting them to join a team tackling the priority issues identified at the recent strategic planning meeting.

Names have been selected on the basis of interests members ticked on their renewal forms a month or two ago.

The aim is to enable the Society to do more in priority areas than can be done by a lone convenor or project team leader. It also seeks to involve members more closely in the running of the Society.

BiLo shopping trolleys

BiLo doesn't use the trolley tracker service so ringing the trolley tracker number doesn't get you anywhere.

The number for dumped BiLo trolleys is **9281 4511**.

The man who took my call said he thought BiLo was looking at a refund system and suggested that I talk to head office.

- Fiona Campbell

Lament two

But, but, but, we were told
by an authoritative figure from
Council

that residents were exempt from
paying for parking!

I'm a resident! I have a sticker!

That sticker is for local parking.

But I live only two blocks away, I
need the car for shopping, and it's
raining!

Two blocks away isn't local.

You're caught, you're fined, we need
the revenue.

Glebe Point Road is my local, my
village!

Coffee, lunch, library, breakfast,
book launches, meeting friends,
acquaintances,

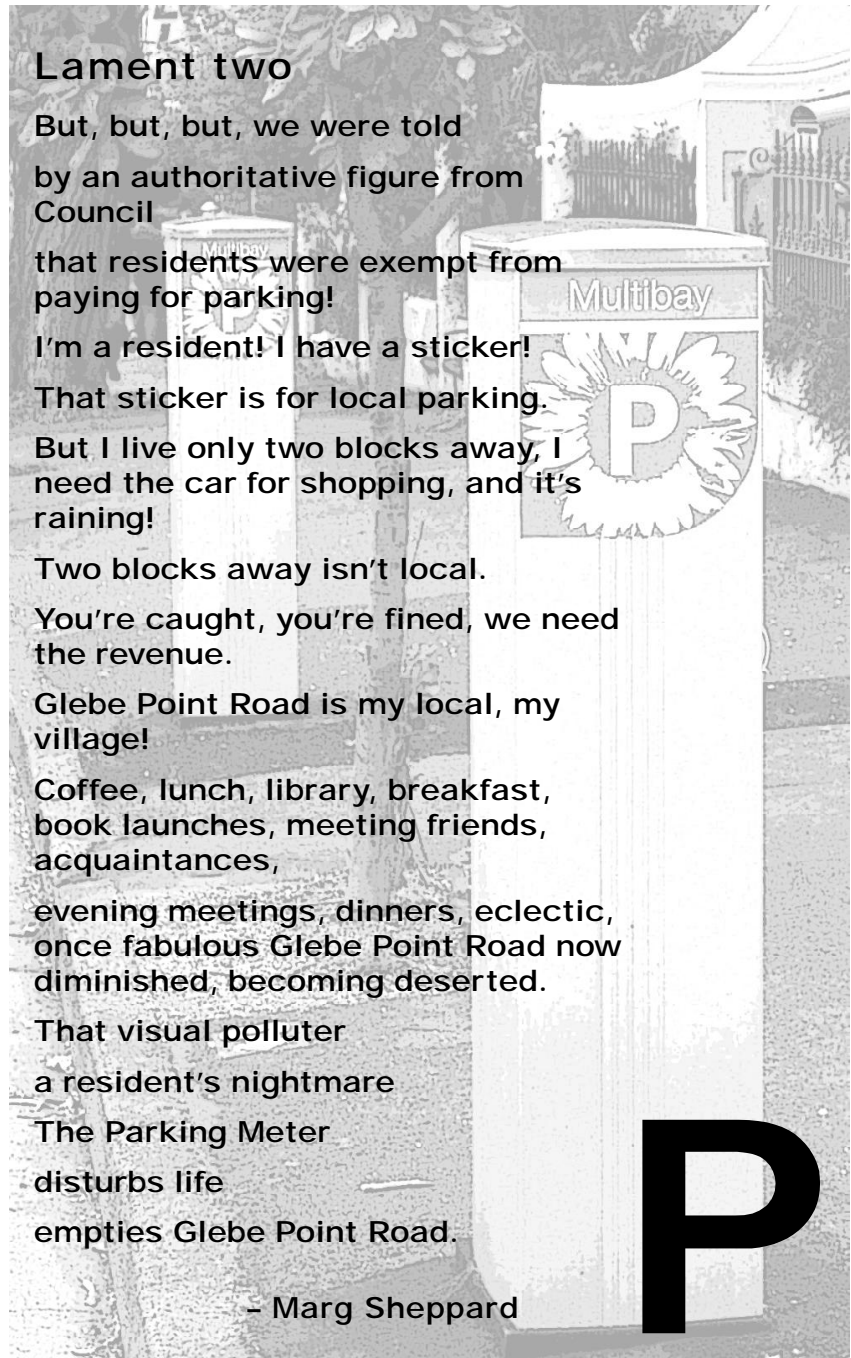
evening meetings, dinners, eclectic,
once fabulous Glebe Point Road now
diminished, becoming deserted.

That visual polluter
a resident's nightmare

The Parking Meter
disturbs life

empties Glebe Point Road.

- Marg Sheppard



Great opportunities for enthusiastic members

For some time the Glebe Society has not had an Environment convenor or a Clean-up Glebe project team leader.

These are vital jobs - "Clean up Glebe" was the most commonly ticked interest on renewal forms this year.

If you can help with either of these two jobs, please phone the Secretary, Liz Simpson-Booker on 9518 6186.

Notes from the Secretary

October Working Bee

Many thanks to stalwarts Daphne Degotardi, Jeanette Knox and Cynthia Jones who turned out to work with me on trying to clean up Glebe Point Road (GPR) on Sunday 13 October. The four of us tackled the blocks either side of St Johns Road and filled five large bags with rubbish.

The Commonwealth Bank remains a primary source of litter in GPR between St Johns Road and Bridge Road, with a confetti of ATM receipts scattering to the winds.

The Society continues to be concerned at the number of government or semi-government agencies (such as RTA, Energy Australia, Telstra and Australia Post) that impose infrastructure on our streets and footpaths but fail to maintain it in an appropriate manner.

Review of parking strategies

As reported in the last *Bulletin*, the Society has asked Leichhardt Council for a copy of its recent review of parking strategies for the past 12 months.

Still waiting!

Et tu, Cross City Tunnel?

The Sydney Harbour Tunnel has turned 10, with an average of 87,210 vehicles passing through per day this year, up from 67,756 in 1993, according to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (31/8/02). The original projection was for only 60,000 vehicles per day.

The report suggests that it took only eight years for the traffic crossing the Sydney Harbour Bridge to return to the same levels recorded before the tunnel opened.

The Supplementary Environmental Impact statement for the proposed Cross City Tunnel indicates that there will be significant increases in traffic in Pyrmont Bridge Road, Cowper Street and Bay Street. The Society's response to the Supplementary EIS included our concerns about increased through-traffic in Glebe.

School prizes

This year, the Glebe Society has continued its tradition of providing modest contributions towards annual prizegiving for local institutions, including:

Blackwattle Campus of Sydney Secondary College - History prize and John Hoddinott Poetry Prize

Forest Lodge Public School - Mawson Science Prize and library fund donation

Glebe Public School - prize/s

St James Primary School - prize/s

St Scholastica's College - two book prizes

Glebe Youth Service - prize/s

Glebe/Leichhardt PCYC - contribution to youth programs

Tranby - Donation for Library materials

We are delighted to be able to recognise and assist these organisations in this small way and to encourage endeavour and excellence in local youth.

21 Ross Street

A letter from the Society to AAPT at 21 Ross Street has resulted in the front of the building being repainted to cover the unsightly graffiti which had been allowed to accumulate there (in contrast to AAPT's larger premises opposite which are well maintained).

Planning report

Neil Macindoe is away this month, but sent this short report to the recent Management Committee meeting:

Derek Barton has joined the Planning Subcommittee and we had our first meeting recently.

The Queen Street conversion and the conversion of the Arundel Street motel to residential are both recommended for refusal by Leichhardt Council. In both cases the Society's arguments were sustained, and the planners agree they are both over-developments. So far so good!

Celebrate Xmas and farewell a Glebe institution

The Glebe Society's Christmas party will be held at Darling Mills restaurant

Darling Mills has been an institution and a landmark in Glebe for many years. Unfortunately the Adey family has decided that the business is no longer viable and Darling Mills will close at the end of the year. This is your chance to farewell this marvellous venue and celebrate Christmas with your Glebe friends.

Date: Friday 6 December from 7:30-10:00pm

Cost: \$40 each and \$30 concession, drinks included.

For catering planning, could you please advise Cynthia Jones (9660 2451) or Liz Simpson-Booker (9518 6186) of the numbers in your party. A booking form will be included in the next *Bulletin*.

Letter to the Editor



Mark Kelly's letter on graffiti (*Bulletin* 8/2002) is strange indeed. How can the posting of a point of view on an open forum be "insidious"? Perhaps he doesn't know what the word means.

I share Kelly's distaste for the tyranny of the majority but am not impressed by his alternative, which sounds suspiciously like the tyranny of the minority.

- Anton Crouch

Can we make GPR a vibrant street again?

At a recent Management Committee John Gray presented an action plan about the Glebe Point Road (GPR) project (extract below). He proposes to take a research-based approach to this issue and has gained agreement of a university Graduate School of Management to assign postgraduate students to this task, under his supervision. Over the next month or so John will be seen interviewing businesses, shoppers, and maybe even you, so that he can ensure the project has a sound base.

Making Glebe Point Road Vibrant Again

The 2002-03 priority issue paper recognises that GPR has lost its vibrancy and sets high urgency and high priority to this project. GPR is the spine of Glebe as a village. Its vibrancy will not be restored through a series of quick actions, though quick action may be required. The most superficial analysis shows that GPR has several contributing problems and opportunities, so in the short term our job is to document these and mobilise a network of influence that gains attention. However and significantly, the medium term task is to establish a community, commerce, and council coalition that strategically commits to a vibrant village. This paper sets out a preliminary project plan for the next 7 months, which includes actions that will form a basis for long-term actions. The plan promises two outcomes by the end of fiscal 2002:

- 1. a GPR committee will be re-established that includes representatives from commerce and the community with the Glebe Society prominent in its activities, and*
- 2. a database concerning GPR will be established which is sufficient for strategy development and future research.*

From the archives of the Glebe Society

Bulletin 4/96 May 1996

Who was Kirsova?

Members may have noticed a recent Leichhardt Council draft local environmental plan (no. 122) which proposes to rezone, from public open space to residential, an area described as "Kirsova playground no. 3, Wigram Lane East". Who was "Kirsova" and, if "no. 3" is being considered, where are 1 and 2? Is there a 4? The answers to these questions throw some light on our understanding of the concept of "heritage" and show that the Glebe community can be seriously under-informed when matters of social progress are being considered.

The simple answers are:

- "Kirsova" was Helene Kirsova, a ballerina who was born in Denmark in 1911. Whether she was Russian or a Dane who "russianised" her name for professional purposes I don't know. She was a member of Colonel de Basil's Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo and first came to Australia in 1936-37. She was a very fine dancer and generally considered to be the equal of her more famous colleagues Baronova and Toumanova.

Kirsova was *prima ballerina* with de Basil's 1939-40 tour and stayed in Sydney due to the outbreak of war in Europe. She founded her own company (The Kirsova Ballet) and a ballet school, was active during the war years but left Australia after the war. Her ballet school continued for a while but it too folded and was succeeded by the Polish-Australian Ballet of Kousnetzova and Sobishevsky.

- She had a social conscience. She was upset by the living conditions of inner city families and was particularly concerned about the fact that children in the (then) slums had only the streets to play in. She decided to do

something about it.

- Using her own and donated money she bought properties in the inner west and turned them into children's playgrounds. 'No. 3' was formed from the stables of 2 houses in Hereford Street.

- I don't know where nos 1 and 2 are - I can remember (as a child in the 1940s) seeing one from the train line between Redfern and Ashfield and I think that one was, comparatively recently, renamed. I don't know if there is, or ever was, a no. 4.

The above shows that Kirsova Playground No. 3 is a vital part of the social history of the inner west. Kirsova was a truly remarkable person and it is at least rare, and possibly unique, for somebody in recent times to use their own money to buy private property and turn it in to public open space. Yes, public open space. And what do we do now? As part of the process of funding a new library, we consider selling public open space and are supposed to be comforted by the fact that this may (and only may) lead to the retention of the presently publicly owned open space on the corner of Glebe Point Road and Wigram Road.

The saddest part of the Kirsova playground proposal is that the history and social significance of the site is not mentioned in the council explanation of the local environment plan. There is also some irony in the council's discussion of the "site significance". We are told that the site "contains a major and rare tree on its south-eastern boundary which should be retained and protected. The tree, if it survives, will be privately owned and it seems that our thinking is now so "green" that we try to save trees but forget that we should also save our history.

- Anton Crouch

Notice Board

Sydney Open 2002

The Historic Houses Trust will be holding its fourth day of architectural adventure, Sydney Open on **Sunday 3 November**. Sydney Open provides access to fascinating places that are usually off-limits and rare glimpses of some of our best-loved heritage buildings. Two Glebe sites (Lyndhurst and Tranby) will be the subject of special focus tours. For more information please call the Historic Houses Trust on 9692 8366.

Guest speaker at Glebe Library

The Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library have arranged a guest speaker for **Monday, 11 November at 7.30 pm** in the Community Room, Benledi, 186 Glebe Point Road. At the time the *Bulletin* went to press, details of the speaker had not been finalised. When everything is in place, notices will be placed in Glebe Library as well as the noticeboard at the bus stop near the corner of Glebe Point/Wigram Road.

Cost: \$6/\$4 (Friends/concession) includes a glass of wine/mineral water.

Glebe Youth Service fundraiser

The Glebe Youth Service is holding a fundraising cocktail party in the Jubilee Room, Old Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney on **Wednesday 20 November**, 6:30-9:00 pm. Cost is \$40 (\$50 if you are well paid!) which includes food and drinks. Bookings 9552 2873, fax 9660 6434.

We urge members to contribute to this fundraiser for the Glebe Youth Service. GYS has had greater demands on its services, including its food program, since its move to 84 Glebe Point Road. The Service is facing having to cut back hours in order to meet its financial commitments which include significantly higher insurance premiums.



Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe Society Archives

Principal: Mrs Elva Salter Phone 9660 3530

Leichhardt Local History Group

The Leichhardt Local History Group was established in February of this year, being formally launched by Jack Munday. Membership is open to people interested in the local history of any or all areas of the municipality - Birchgrove, Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Annandale, Leichhardt, Glebe and Forest Lodge. The group meets on the second Monday of each month at Leichhardt Town Hall and also arranges varied activities of local historical interest. The group is under the aegis of the Local Studies section of Leichhardt Municipal Library, with Bruce Carter being the contact at the library. Reports of the meetings, notices of coming events, etc. are published in the group's regular newsletter.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the secretary, Jane Lunsman (phone 9810 6885, email speal@zip.com.au) or president Sue Tronser (phone 9519 3268, email tronser@rivernet.com.au). The annual subscription is \$20.

Coro Innominata at St Scholastica's, Glebe

Sunday, 17 November, 3:00 pm

Through the ages composers and poets have been inspired by the vision of the Cherubim and Seraphim gathered around the throne of God, singing their praises. This has led to the composition of pieces which strive to show the majesty and awe that such visions suggest.

In a departure from their usual repertoire, Coro Innominata presents some of the great settings of text concerning Cherubim and Seraphim composed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Works include "Faire is the Heaven" by William Harris, the Te Deum settings by Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams, motets by Stainer, Bainton and Bainton, and Britten's setting of W H Auden's words, "A Hymn to St Cecilia".

Coro Innominata is joined by organist Bernard Kirkpatrick and guest conductor Christopher Allan for this concert, which will be held in the acoustically magnificent chapel of St Scholastica, Glebe.

Contact Rachel Dulson, mobile 0413 440 173, fax 9968 1671, email coro_innominata@odcm.com.au for further detail and ticket bookings.

For your diary ...

Sunday, 3 November Historic Houses Trust open day of places normally off limits to the public. Glebe sites that will be open include *Lyndhurst* and *Tranby*. Phone 9692 8366 for further information.

Sunday, 10 November 7:30 pm. Glebe Music Festival. Due to public demand, an extra concert featuring cabaret music has been scheduled at Margaretta Cottage, 6 Leichhardt Street. Contact Ted Macintosh 9746 7738, or browse www.glebemusicfestival.com for further information and bookings.

Wednesday, 13 November 7:30 pm Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, upstairs meeting room, Toxteth Hotel. Members welcome to attend as observers.

Sunday, 17 November 3:00 pm Coro Innominata at St Scholastica's, Glebe. See Noticeboard for details.

Friday, 6 December 7:30-10:00 pm Glebe Society Xmas party at Darling Mills. Cost \$40 per person and \$30 concession, drinks included. Booking form in the next *Bulletin*. For further information contact Cynthia Jones on 9660 2451.

We are glad to publish letters or articles:

on any matters of interest to Glebe

on any topic raised in the Bulletin, or

on any issues relating to The Glebe Society.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
PO Box 100
Glebe 2037

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of The Glebe Society Inc.

The Glebe Society Inc

www.glebesociety.org.au

Management Committee

President	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Vice-President	Hilary Wise	9660 5845
Immediate Past President	John Buckingham	9660 7780
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Fay Mander Jones	9552 4172

Committee Members:

Cynthia Jones 9660 2451	Jeanette Knox 9660 7781
David Mander Jones 9552 4172	Edwina Doe 9660 7066
Andrew Wood (from December)	

Sub-Committee Convenors

All convenors are *ex officio* members of the Management Committee

Bays and Foreshores	Collin Hills	9660 8608
Environment including Noise Pollution	vacant	
Planning	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Transport and Traffic	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
	Steve Stewart	9660 5845

Project Teams

Clean Up Glebe	vacant	
Conserving Glebe Heritage	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Reporting infrastructure defects	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Wentworth Park	Judy Vergison	9692 9200
Glebe Point Road	John Gray	9518 7253

Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Historian	Max Solling	9660 1160
New members	Hilary Wise	9660 5845
Bulletin Editor	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Web Master	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



POSTAGE
PAID

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC

Ordinary member	\$40
Additional household member	\$5
Concession (student or pensioner)	\$20
Business or institution	\$100

Write to PO Box 100, Glebe, 2037 or phone the Secretary, Liz Simpson Booker, on 9518 6186.

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please phone the Secretary to attend a meeting.

CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Report ALL street cleaning issues, dumped litter, recycling problems, and abandoned cars to:

Leichhardt Council Customer Service
Phone: 9367 9222 Fax: 9367 9008
email: leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Dumped supermarket trolleys 1800 641 497 (BiLo trolleys 9281 4511)
Aircraft noise 1800 802 584

**Copy deadline for the next issue
Tuesday, 13 November**

