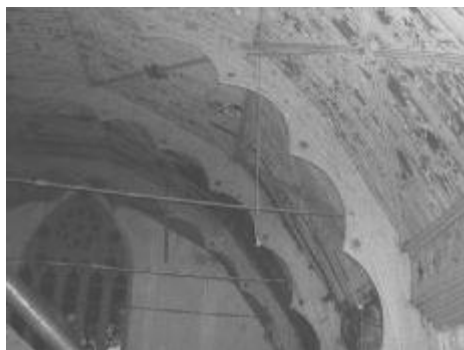




The Abbey - Site Visit and Second Public Meeting - 3 June

Much of the last month has been taken up with this important issue.

On a fine afternoon in early June, Peter Mayoh, architect for the proposal, showed about 20 Society members and other residents over the *Abbey* site. It was very helpful, especially for those who have difficulty interpreting plans, and those who had not been over the site before. We even got glimpses inside Hamilton and Reussdale, and small groups of us were able to climb above the restaurant and see the original scalloped timbers of the church roof for the first time.



Roof Timbers - Photo Sue Ingram

Fortunately, quite a few returning from work were able to join those from the site visit, so about 50 people gathered in Benledi at 6.30pm. Richard Mackay of Godden, Mackay, Logan gave an illustrated description of the amended proposal. After questions, there was a lively debate focusing on how far the amendments went toward satisfying the concerns voiced at the first public meeting and the resolution of 4 February (see *Bulletin* 1/2004, page 4).

The meeting was reasonably happy with the use of *The Abbey* for professional offices, and also the restoration of Reussdale, but there was significant discontent about the size of the new buildings and some difference of opinion about whether Hamilton could be preserved. The crisis came when Council's Glebe Planning Manager, Michael Soo, told the meeting that, even with the reduction in dwellings, the FSR was 1.1:1, well above the Glebe limit of 0.7:1.

At this point Jan Macindoe proposed a motion supporting the amendments but pointing out that the proposal was still an



Neil Macindoe at Benledi - Photo Sue Ingram

over-development. After further discussion of areas still not adequately addressed by the proposal, the following motion was seconded by Andrew Craig and passed unanimously.

Motion:

This meeting of Glebe residents supports the amendments made to the original proposal [DA No D/03/01430 for 156-60 Bridge Road, Glebe, the *Abbey* site] which achieve restoration of Reussdale and a more sympathetic treatment of the *Abbey* itself.

However, it is the view of the meeting that the total proposal still constitutes an over-development of the site, and the floor space ratio should be brought back [from the current 1.1:1] to [the standard set in Town Plan 2000 for residential sites in Glebe of] 0.7:1.

The retention of Hamilton [an Item of Environmental Heritage listed in Town Plan 2000 and also on the Register of the National Estate] is also agreed to be a desirable outcome.

Furthermore, the meeting confirmed that many issues raised in the resolution of the Public Meeting of 4 February, 2004, have not been sufficiently addressed and should be resolved prior to the application being considered by Council:

- * There is insufficient setback to allow access for emergency vehicles, especially on the corner of Reuss Street and Hewitt Avenue.
- * There is insufficient setback in Reuss Street generally.
- * No direct access from the site to Reuss Street should be permitted.

Continued on next page...

...Continued from page 1

* Without a further reduction in the building between *The Abbey* and the Hermitage, the impact on the Hermitage is still too severe.

* Also, Council should ensure that in assessing future DAs for the professional offices the parking needs of the residential component are not compromised, and the impact on surrounding streets is considered.

Further it was noted that, because of delays caused by amalgamation, no review of the City Council's planning controls had taken place, including the Development Control Plan for this site, DCP 49, and hence the inadequacies of that document, especially as regards the impact on adjacent and surrounding areas, had not been rectified. This should be taken into account when the proposal is assessed.

Postscripts: - Neil Macindoe

* The Management Committee, at its meeting on 9 June, resolved to write to all City of Sydney Councilors asking them to hold a site inspection so they would better understand the site.

* Councillor Verity Firth, who was present at the Benledi meeting, tells us that she asked a Question Without Notice at the 7 June Council meeting about the viability of the Council purchasing the *Abbey* site. The question was:

'At the community meeting held by the Glebe Society last Thursday night to discuss the development application for the Abbey site in Bridge Road, a number of community members raised the issue of the Council purchasing this valuable heritage site and thus being in the position to protect and preserve all three heritage buildings, Reussdale, The Abbey and the historic Hamilton, from demolition. Will the Lord Mayor consider the option of Council purchasing this site?'

The Lord Mayor said that Council would 'consider the option' of purchasing the site.

% % % % %

How Glebe Changed Over Four Censuses

Marcello Massi, our Glebe Place Manager, recently gave us some interesting documents. The Leichhardt Municipality Profile 1996 Census compared the Census data for 1986, 1991 and 1996, suburb by suburb. A set of computer print-outs gave raw data for Glebe and Forest Lodge for the 2001 Census.

The Leichhardt document includes population summaries by gender, age and ethnicity. It also gives details of occupied private dwellings by house type, structure, household types, income and vehicles. Many 2001 tables could not be directly compared with the earlier data. However the tables below show some of the changes to our suburb over a fifteen year period. ('Change' = the change from 1986 to 2001.)

Population:

The total population grew and the increase in the number of women was twice that of men.

| All persons | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | Change |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Male | 50% | 48% | 48% | 47% | 749 |
| Female | 50% | 52% | 52% | 53% | 1,544 |
| Total | 11,454 | 13,626 | 13,601 | 13,747 | 2,293 |
| Persons 15+ | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | Change |
| Male | 50% | 48% | 47% | 47% | 655 |
| Female | 50% | 52% | 53% | 53% | 1,376 |
| Total | 10,143 | 11,526 | 11,944 | 12,174 | 2,031 |
| Age | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | Change |
| 0-4 | 5% | 5% | 4% | 4% | -30 |
| 5 to 14 | 7% | 10% | 9% | 8% | 227 |
| 15-24 | 18% | 19% | 19% | 18% | 310 |
| 25-54 | 51% | 49% | 52% | 52% | 999 |
| 55-64 | 9% | 7% | 7% | 8% | 43 |
| 65+ | 11% | 9% | 9% | 10% | 28 |
| Total | 11,483 | 13,561 | 13,020 | 13,060 | 1,577 |

Note: Total figures vary, presumably because of non-response.

Occupied Private Dwellings:

While the total number of dwellings had increased, the new dwellings were predominantly townhouses and taller apartment blocks.

| Dwelling Type | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | Change |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Detached House | 12% | 9% | 7% | 7% | -181 |
| Semi/terrace/townhouse etc | 39% | 45% | 48% | 46% | 801 |
| Flat in 1/2 storey block | n/a | 12% | 11% | 12% | n/a |
| Flat in 3 storey block | n/a | 17% | 18% | 14% | n/a |
| Flat in 1-3 storey block | 32% | 29% | 28% | 26% | - 58 |
| Flat in 4+ storey block | 13% | 14% | 13% | 17% | 368 |
| Attached to shop/office | 2% | 1% | 1% | 0% | -87 |
| Other | 2% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 8 |
| Total | 5,292 | 5,766 | 5,945 | 6,225 | 933 |

Note: n/a = not available

-Edwina Doe



Foley Park Open Day

The Open Day on 5 June in Foley Park, organised by the City Council, was called to discuss residents' interests and concerns about the park with the study team, Environmental Partnerships, and Council representatives. Unfortunately, only a small number of residents attended.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore was there, along with Councillors Harris, Kemmis, Hoff, McInerney and Firth. Marcello Massi, Glebe Place Manager and Kathleen Ng, Council's Parks and Landscape Co-ordinator were also there.

The Lord Mayor said she was very pleased to be present at the beginning of Foley Park's Plan of Management, and commented on the wonderful fig trees in the park.

Council had distributed 5,000 leaflets inviting residents to contribute their ideas about the proposed work, and some 150 completed questionnaires had already been returned.

Adam Hunter from Environmental Partnerships said parks were important and Management Plans were exciting projects; also on the team was a heritage architect who would bring heritage aspects back into Foley Park and who asked for input on the park's history from the community, a recreation planner who would put the park in context with other parks in the Glebe area and an arborist who will assess the park's trees.



Lord Mayor Clover Moore with Bobbie Bourke and Liz Simpson-Booker at the Foley Park Open Day.

Photo Shane O'Neill, courtesy of the City of Sydney.

Barry Foley, son of Dr. H.J. Foley after whom the park is named, addressed the small gathering and stressed that the greatest enemy of preservation is apathy.

The next step is the Community Workshop in Glebe Town Hall on Tuesday 22 June, to discuss preliminary concepts for the future enhancement and management of the park. See the next *Bulletin*.

- **Bobbie Burke**

You Can Still Get a Free Cloth Bag

The theme for World Environment Day on 5 June was 'Wanted! Seas and Oceans - Dead or Alive?' The theme asks that we make a choice as to how we want to treat the Earth's seas and oceans.

As described in Bulletin 2/2004 after the clean up day in Glebe, plastic bags are becoming more and more prolific. Actions that can be taken locally include using cloth rather than plastic bags. For World Environment Day the City of Sydney Council organised 'Bag the Bag' - a plastic bag exchange. You can exchange 20 plastic supermarket shopping bags for a re-usable calico bag at the Glebe Town Hall and Glebe Library up to 30 June.

Council's flyer says: 'Australians use around 6.9 billion supermarket plastic bags every year and we dump 230,000 plastic bags in landfills every hour!' ... plastic bags 'take between 20-1,000 years to

biodegrade. Many thousands of marine mammals and seabirds die every year around the world as a result of plastic litter'.

An agenda for World Environment Day is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

- **Fiona Campbell**

Get Down and Get Digging ...

If you haven't received your City of Sydney Garden Competition entry form in the mail, don't worry. You have a few months yet for planting, as entries close Friday 13 August. The competition is for gardens that are visible from the street and in the local government area. In brief, categories include:

- * best single dwelling garden frontage
 - * best multi-dwelling garden frontage
 - * best streetscape frontage
 - * best sustainable garden frontage
 - * best school or community garden
- Judging criteria will be:
- * design space
 - * plant selection
 - * colour
 - * maintenance
 - * overall presentation

The overall winner will receive a VIP package for two to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

More details are on www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or phone 9265 9254 for a brochure.

- **Fiona Campbell**

Planning Matters



Invitation to Deputy Lord Mayor

John McInerney, recently elected to the City of Sydney Council and now Deputy Lord Mayor, is a distinguished planner and architect and former President of the Royal Australian Planning Association.

The President has invited him to address The Glebe Society and Glebe precincts about major planning issues affecting the City, Glebe and especially Glebe Point Road. John has expressed particular interest in Glebe's main street. Watch this space.

Interview with a Councillor

The sub-committee has had discussions about local planning issues with Robyn Kemmis, formerly a Society Management Committee Member and now City Councillor. Cr Kemmis is now chair of Council's Finance Committee.

It became clear in the discussions that because of the sequence of boundary changes over the last

twelve months a number of important issues had 'fallen through the gaps in the floor', so Cr Kemmis suggested we write to Council seeking the current status of these issues, many of which have figured largely in these reports. The sub-committee is aware of a number of these, but if there is any planning matter on which you would like to be brought up to date, we would be happy to include it in the letter. Council's reply will be published in this column.

To have your item included, phone Neil Macindoe on 9660 0208 or email macindoe@bigpond.net.au.

Orphan School Creek

On Sunday, 23 May, I attended an on-site meeting to inform the City Council about the Orphan School Creek project, which has been held up for some time pending a land swap between the Children's Hospital and Leichhardt Council, and now the City Council.

The Lord Mayor's chief of staff and Cr Kemmis gave an undertaking the City Council would examine the issue and see whether the problems can be overcome and further progress made.

Roberta Johnston and other members of FRROGS made a most convincing presentation on the importance of this major parkland and bush regeneration project, by far the most significant in the inner city. The outcome will appear in the Bulletin.

Trees and Parks

For the last four years under Leichhardt Council Glebe's trees and parks suffered neglect and worse. After a mercifully short period of discussions the City has put its money where its mouth is. Not only has work begun on parks, but new trees are appearing in Bridge Road, the start of a major planting program, the first since the replacement of the poplars.

- Neil Macindoe

From The Archives

Reproduced from Bulletin No. 3 of 1973

Sunday, 15th April: **WEEKEND GARDENING GROUP** Visit to Swane's Nursery - see separate article

Wednesday, 18th April: Have **DINNER WITH THE GLEBE SOCIETY** at the Aurora Restaurant (corner of Junction Street and Pyrmont Bridge Road) \$2 per head, excluding drinks but including coffee - from 7pm. - seating is for 50 people, i.e. the first 50 to give their names to Alan Robertson (660 6149).

Saturday, 5th May: a return **COFFEE MORNING** visit to the McKiernans', 181 Pyrmont Bridge Road, who have invited us for coffee at the usual time (10.30 - 12.30).

Monday, 7th May: next meeting of the **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP** at Pat Fowler's, 37 Arcadia Road. We'll be thinking about plans for the Birthday Party in July, and wondering what sort of activities members would like to indulge in during September and October. Come along - with ideas if you have some, but we'd be happy to see you even without!

Friday, 25th May: 8 o'clock at Maureen and Adrian Colman's, 48 Boyce Street, for selected **WINE AND CHEESE**. The first 50 people to get their \$2.00 and the enclosed form, duly filled in, to Anna Forknell will be the lucky ones.

Saturday, 2nd June: **COFFEE MORNING** at the McKeown's, 10 Albert Street, 10.30 - 12.30. 20c.

Editor's note: Should we reintroduce some of these activities 30 years on? But we'd have to put the prices up!

How we helped to change Glebe



Think back to the 1950s

Fifty years ago the visitor to Glebe would have seen a very different suburb. The waterfront was cluttered with industrial sites, mainly belonging to the timber industry. Sometimes it would be possible to walk across Rozelle Bay, it was so choked with floating logs. There was just one small waterfront park, Marine Reserve, at the end of Glebe Point Road.

White Bay Power Station belched out fumes that blackened washing as soon as it was hung out. Scattered throughout residential areas were a wide range of small factories, including foundries, soap and paint works, and many other noxious and polluting trades. Most dwellings had not seen a coat of paint in living memory - many of them were decayed, and their facades and balconies obscured by fibro and plywood. A considerable number were owned by slum landlords, who divided them into many small flats populated by transient residents.

It was a story repeated throughout the inner city. Expanding railways and cheaper cars brought the Australian dream of a new house with all mod cons on a quarter acre block within reach of the majority, and home ownership boomed in the suburbs. Inner areas such as Glebe were left to those who couldn't afford to leave, or had to find somewhere cheap.

In those days it was rare to find someone who regarded Glebe as other than a slum, including the people who lived there. It was assumed that one day the whole suburb would be demolished, and when two new freeways were proposed to drive through Glebe, many people thought it progress. Similarly, the increasing tendency to knock down old houses (especially on large corner blocks) and replace them with cheap three or four storey walkups seemed like the inevitable march of the modern world.

Rediscovering Glebe

It was not easy to see the beauty obscured by blight, accretion and neglect, but this was the particular talent of Kate and Bernard Smith and the other founder-members of The Glebe Society. In this they were supported by a change in public mood, heralded by the foundation of the NSW National Trust in 1945 and many local resident action groups that, for the first time, recognised the value of the past and resisted its indiscriminate and wholesale destruction. In their imaginations the fine craftsmanship and urban planning of the Victorians blazed into life again like the burnishing of tarnished brass. In the close bonds of the local residents they recognised the value of established, mutually supportive communities. From this moment, the heritage of that community and its future development became inextricably linked.

The great energy shown by The Society in its early years is a consequence of facing so many threats. Both freeways and developers threatened demolition. The freeways were stopped with one campaign, but a new town plan was needed to cope with developers, not just to prevent unnecessary demolitions, but to control those industrial sites, and as they inevitably became redundant, to ensure their best future use.

Parks for the People

The total occupation of the waterfront by industry raised a wonderful possibility. Perhaps it would be possible to secure continuous public access to the foreshore. This possibility, after thirty years of effort, is on the brink of realisation. It is one of The Society's great triumphs, and is a major contribution to Sydney Harbour, as it links with the State Government's proposal of continuous waterfront access as far as Garden Island.

This campaign fitted neatly with the need to remove polluting industries

and increase high quality open space. The Society also saw the possibility of linking the waterfront parks to those following original watercourses inland. The campaigns for restoration of Wentworth Park, once second only to Centennial Park, and for the regeneration of Orphan School Creek in Forest Lodge as natural bushland, are also well under way.

Rezoning industrial land on the waterfront does have a cost. If the land cannot be bought or obtained outright, it can only become park by allowing some residential development. At the moment, the last of the waterfront industrial sites, the Australand site extending between Ferry Road and Forsyth Street, is being residentially redeveloped. Fortunately, it was possible to combine the new open space with Council land, so one third will be waterfront park.

Saving the Glebe Estate

Another early threat was the proposed sale of the Church of England lands that form part of the original land grant that gave Glebe its name. The Society provided the information and impetus that enabled the Whitlam Government to purchase all 740 dwellings, transferred to the NSW Department of Housing in 1984.

By saving the Glebe Estate the Society preserved both the community, many of whom had lived in Glebe for generations, and a rare example of Gold Rush period housing and planning. By 1974, The Society had sufficiently established the value of the suburb for Glebe to be declared an Urban Conservation Area. Also in 1974 a reforming Leichhardt Council drew up a promising new Planning Scheme, but the next Council rescinded it in 1976. However, by 1983 a new Town Plan

Continued on next page...

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(known as Local Environment Plan No 20) had been gazetted that recognised Glebe as a Conservation Area and listed all buildings recorded by The National Trust as Items of Environmental Heritage.

The change in public mood can be gauged by a change of State Government that put an end to the freeway plans and passed both a Heritage Act (1977) and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1978), establishing a Court to hear planning appeals. LEP 20 also set a maximum density for new residential development (175 persons per hectare) that in normal circumstances limited it to two storeys (with rooms in the roof) over parking. Leichhardt Council also adopted a Development Control Plan (No 1) establishing general characteristics of design, form and height, including detailed recommendations for each distinctive area.

The spirit of these changes can best be seen on the Glebe Estate, where a young and talented Department of Housing team combined social and heritage objectives. The houses received new bathrooms and kitchens, a simple improvement that at one stroke has greatly extended the life of houses throughout the inner city. Where lot sizes permitted, extensions at the rear of dwellings made them suitable for families, and for the first time the decline in Glebe's population was reversed. The wave of young children and teenagers revitalised the local schools. The team took advantage of vacant sites and derelict houses to create purpose-designed housing for seniors and other infill dwellings employing transitional architectural styles that blended with traditional housing. Good examples can be seen in Darling, Catherine and Glebe Streets.

A Slum No More

The renovation of the Glebe Estate paralleled the revival of interest in the four-fifths of Glebe which was privately owned. It is now common for Glebe houses to have their most prominent features restored, including external iron lace and paint, and interior ceiling roses and cornices.

Modernization is typically limited to bathrooms and kitchens, with perhaps the rear opened out to create sunrooms and decks.

The revival of interest in Victorian urban housing has had a variety of consequences. It has raised the cost of such housing beyond the wildest imaginings of its former inhabitants, for whom it was a cheap refuge. With the outstanding exceptions of large parts of its commercial zones, the Glebe Estate and several hundred other Department of Housing properties, Glebe is now mainly owner-occupied. Thus the number of students, for example, has declined drastically. Generally, social divisions have been sharpened.

Almost the whole of Glebe has been restored. Its public areas, notably its library and waterfront parkland, have been extended and transformed. Unfortunately, rising prices and the higher densities achievable in Victorian areas have also made Glebe a target for developers, car ownership has increased, and house occupancy rates have declined.

New routes and more frequent buses have improved public transport, but the most dramatic change is the Glebe Society-initiated conversion of the spectacularly-engineered goods line to Light Rail.

Future Development

Most problematic development in recent years has been of two kinds, both the result of increasing property values.

Firstly, those buying houses in Glebe are much richer, and are not necessarily attached to its heritage. Hence, attempts to extend and modify existing houses are more common (the Balmain syndrome).

Secondly, developers pore over aerial photographs trying to identify any large backyards or non-heritage buildings so they can pop up a few townhouses (the Leichhardt syndrome).

It was with these challenges in mind that Leichhardt Council introduced Town Plan 2000, which has stricter environmental controls, reflecting

concern about over-development and the need to make new building sustainable. At the same time development control plans tightened up requirements in particular suburbs.

When Glebe became part of the City of Sydney in May, 2003, the City continued to apply Town Plan 2000. Eventually the City will institute a new town plan following community consultation.

The fringes of Glebe, which are affected by development in adjacent suburbs, remain areas of concern, as do the foreshore of the Bays opposite Glebe, which have a large impact but are generally outside local government control (Wander on the Water was part of The Society's strategy to inform residents about the potential impact).

Problem sites

There are also a number of sites that, for a variety of reasons, have resisted solutions for a long time. Probably the best known of these is the Abbey site, 156-60 Bridge Road, where an application for residential use has led to lively debate in two recent public meetings. Bellevue, in Blackwattle Bay Park, and the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator on the Australand/Fletchers site, are both Council-owned heritage buildings looking for a community use. Rozelle Tramsheds, the Brelco and Max Factor buildings and the Coal Unloader are all ex-industrial sites and heritage items whose proposed reuse is controversial. Rosebank, behind the Valhalla Cinema, is a Victorian mansion whose more recent community use may move elsewhere.

Such problems are not unique to Glebe, but the sheer variety of the sites and associated issues is both fascinating and daunting.

It is often said the threats to Glebe are never-ending, and this is a major factor in the resilience of The Glebe Society when so many other resident groups have vanished. Certainly The Society's role is never less than challenging, and your support is always valuable.

- Neil Macindoe

From the terraces

Elizabeth Simpson-Booker is the first to reply to the challenge issued by John Gray in the last issue of the Glebe Society Bulletin, 'Who Lived in Your Street?'...

The greatest of all Colonial Architects lived in Glebe/Forest Lodge for 50 years!

James Barnet was born in Scotland in 1827 and studied drawing, design and architecture in London before he sailed for Sydney with his wife Amy in 1854.

Barnet lived all his Australian years in Glebe (Derwent Street in 1865) and Forest Lodge (*Braeside*, now demolished).

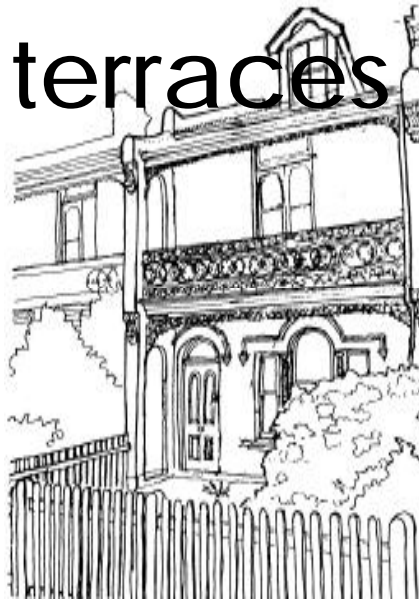
Edmund Blacket appointed him Clerk of Works on the construction of the University of Sydney. In 1860, Barnet joined the Colonial Architect's Office. In 1865, he became Colonial Architect and served in this position for 25 years.

Barnet's work in Sydney signalled its maturation from a Georgian town to a Victorian city. His work contributed to a sense of stability and civic pride and includes:

- * The Australian Museum (1864)
- * The GPO in Martin Place (1866-90)
- * The Colonial Secretary's building, Macquarie Street (1878)
- * The Lands Department building, Bridge Street (1876-81, 1888-93)
- * Garden Palace (1879) (destroyed by fire)
- * Additions to the Customs House (1884)
- * Kirkbride Block at Callan Park

Further afield, Barnet designed 169 post and telegraph offices, 130 courthouses (including the Glebe Courthouse, 1889) and many other public buildings across the state.

Barnet was 'a promoter of new technologies', used concrete and



fire-resistant materials, introduced electricity into his buildings and was the first to install a telephone in a government office.¹

Chris Johnson, the current Government Architect, states that Barnet was the Colonial Architect who most significantly affected the shaping of Sydney.²

Barnet has left Sydney a legacy of iconic and much-loved Victorian buildings.

James Barnet died at Forest Lodge on 16 December 1904 aged 78. He was buried at Rookwood Cemetery. 2004 represents the centenary of his death.

- Elizabeth Simpson-Booker

1 Jahn, Graham, *Sydney Architecture*, 1997

2 Johnson, Chris, *Shaping Sydney*, 1999

Sources :

Johnson, Chris, *Shaping Sydney*, 1999

Herman, Morton, *The Architecture of Victorian Sydney*, 1964

Lawrence, Joan and Warne, Catherine, *Balmain to Glebe*, 1995

MacDonnell, Freda, *The Glebe: Portraits and Places*, 1975

Smith, Bernard and Kate, *The architectural character of Glebe*, 1989

Who Lived in Your Street?

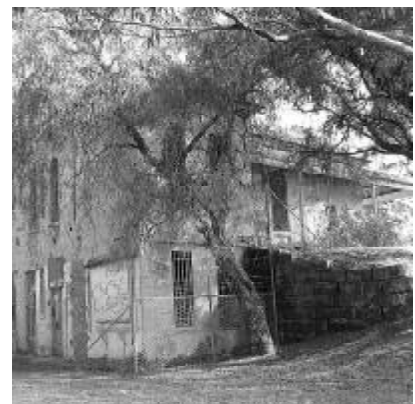
Can anyone outdo Liz? The competition is open until December. See Bulletin 4/2004 for details.

Restoration of Bellevue

Bellevue is to regain much of its late 19th century splendour and again stand proud on Jarrett's Point in Blackwattle Bay Park. This comes after many years of struggle and negotiation, most notably by the Glebe Society. The restoration is part of the broader Glebe Foreshore Project of the City of Sydney Council and will be carried out under a separate development application, which is under current discussion. The Glebe Society has been represented by members of the Bays and Foreshore Committee at two recent meetings with the City planners, who have invited expressions of interest from the residents concerning the possible uses of *Bellevue*.

Detailed plans for refurbishment and landscaping have been drawn up on the basis of the notional use of *Bellevue* as a café/gallery/studio. It is important that the broader community contribute to these discussions and the Bays and Foreshore Committee is hoping to assist the process. Now is the time to fine-tune the parameters of usage so that the refurbishment can be the more appropriate.

- Bob Armstrong



Bellevue as it is now - Photo from City of Sydney Image Library Website

Inspired by Paris



Viaduc des Artes -

Photo Bruce Davis

Despite the huge differences between Sydney and Paris there are, surprisingly, some parallels that are worth exploring.

We realised this, somewhat to our surprise, during an expedition a couple of weekends ago across the Seine from our flat to the eastern side of Paris. Here a disused railway viaduct running from near *Place de la Bastille* to the *Bois de Vincennes* has been recycled to provide work spaces and shops at street level for arts and crafts people, and a garden promenade where the trains once ran.

The shops, which originally seem to have been rather less upmarket than they are now, are built in the arches of the viaduct. The shopfronts are glass and combined with the pale coloured stone of the viaduct they have a light and spacious feel. Shops range from a computer supermarket at one extreme to art galleries, a shop selling brass and copper including a huge copper bath, another selling 'musical' animals, to Dorothy's favourite, a place where women keep alive the old art of laundering and ironing linen and lace for use on grand occasions.

Overhead, gardens have been planted and seats placed among the trees and flowers. It was thronged with people on this sunny Saturday afternoon but it also seems to serve a practical purpose as a convenient commuting route for the locals.

The *Viaduc des Artes*, as the shopping section of the old railway

is known, immediately started us wondering about our own viaducts in Glebe. Of course the light rail means that a garden promenade is not possible, but shops in the arches are not out of the question. The Paris shops have the advantage that they are located on a busy street (*Avenue Daumesnil*), but if the promised restoration of Wentworth Park ever occurs, and if links from the park to the Blackwattle Bay foreshore and the revamped Fish Market are established, then several specialty shops could perhaps be viable. At least they would be an attractive alternative to the gardeners' sheds that presently occupy those arches that have been bricked in.



Musical animal (with apologies to Skippy)
- Photo Bruce Davis

On our way home we came across a more conventional example of recycling – some old wine stores that have been converted into a tourist attraction, not dissimilar to The Rocks. However, nearby in the shadow of several modern buildings, gardens have been built which

include an area where children from local schools can try their hand at growing flowers and veggies – an opportunity not available to many Paris (and Glebe) children who live in flats. A feature of the landscaping is a number of tiny artificial hills that have been built to add variation to an otherwise flat area. I understand the City Council's consultants were toying with a similar idea for Bicentennial Park. While it may not be appropriate in Glebe it works quite nicely in Bercy.

Of course Paris does not have all the answers. With its over-supply of grand buildings from previous times, it should not be surprising that an 'hotel' – not a pub but a substantial townhouse built (at a guess) in the 18th century – not far from our flat stands empty in an unweeded garden. It was, we are told, used as the local post office, but this has moved into a hideous 1950s building next door. Now no one seems to know what to do with this lovely old house, of which there are few in this area.

Just up the street (*Rue de Sevres*) is the "*Ancien Hôpital Laennec*" that seems to have been abandoned for some years. It is a large site (in effect it had its own metro station, Vaneau) and, so far as I can judge from outside a high wall, it has a number of interesting old buildings. When I asked about the site a local said he had heard that there were plans to use it for a university, but he wasn't really sure.

There is no doubt that Paris has done a good job when it comes to adaptive reuse of its huge stock of heritage buildings – few visitors would have missed the *Musée d'Orsay*, a recycled railway station that houses Paris's famous collection of Impressionist paintings. And unlike Sydney, all the city's town halls (*mairies*) still seem to be functioning buildings. But just like Sydney there are always more good ideas than money to fund them, although I suspect Paris cares a little more and its ideas are sometimes a little more original.

- Bruce Davis

GLEBE & THE ARTS



The Glebe Art Show - Assistance Required

The *official opening of the Glebe Art Show* is at 6pm on Friday 2 July at Benledi, 186 Glebe Point Road (next to the Library).

The show will then be open 11am-6pm every day from Saturday 3 July to Sunday 11 July.

The organisers would like some voluntary assistance from members who may be able to give time to mind the show for a short time during the time that show is open. If you feel you can offer some hours could you please contact:

Robin Lawrence 9660 8036

Chris Newton 9660 8349



- Jan Wilson

Glebe Society Book Club

On Tuesday 29 June, we will visit Cynthia Jones, 152 Bridge Road, to talk about *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold. Please phone Cynthia on 9660 2451 if you are coming, so she can prepare enough nibbles.

The book chosen for Tuesday 27 July is current best-seller *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown. We will discuss it at Edwina Doe's home, 224 Bridge Road.

The Book Club will then take a rest for a month or two, to give some of our members a chance to settle in after their holidays. If you have a suggestion for a book you would like to discuss later in the year, please ring Edwina on 9660 7066.

Samuel Johnson Prize

Glebe writer Anna Funder has won Britain's richest award for non-fiction with her book *Stasiland*.

- SMH, 12-13 June & 17 June

The 15th Annual Glebe Music Festival, 7 to 28 November 2004 - Focus on Balinese Gamelan

The Sekaa Gong Tirta Sinar (Tirta Sinar Gamelan Club) with dancers will perform in the grounds of Margaretta Cottage, 6 Leichhardt Street, Glebe Point, on Saturday afternoon 20 November 2004 at 3pm. The Gamelan performs both traditional and modern, sacred and secular, Balinese musical forms, including the prevalent gong kebyar and gamelan gong, as well as gamelan palegongan, semar pagulingan and balaganjur.

The group was formed in 1992 when the Australian Museum in Sydney acquired a new gamelan gong kebyar, commissioned and built at the Gabeleran foundry in Gianyar (Peliatan village), Bali. Since its foundation, S G Tirta Sinar has performed regularly, from 1992 to 1997 at the Australian Museum and since then at the University of Sydney, under its founding leader and director Gary Watson.

The performance at Margeratta Cottage will be outdoors with an informal atmosphere - bring a rug or use the seating provided. In the event of rain, the performance will take place indoors. Tickets \$20, concessions \$10 (discounts apply if you buy more than one ticket). Includes refreshments. A full brochure and booking form will be distributed in a forthcoming Bulletin or see www.glebemusicfestival.com.

- David Macintosh

Lord Mayor's Forum: The Glebe Forum will be held on 5th July at Glebe Town Hall from 6.30 to 8 pm.

Don't miss this opportunity to discuss our suburb's future with our new Lord Mayor and Council.

'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child' - Hillary Rodham Clinton...

...and the Glebe Society can help.

Basketballer Sami: In last month's Bulletin, we asked members to help Glebe basketballer Sami Tsegay compete in the men's Under 18 Championship competition in Townsville. **A Glebe Society member has kindly paid for Sami's air fare to Townsville.**

Centipede: Maria Bamford and Kerry Maguire recently talked to the Management Committee about their work with Centipede. On a very low budget, they provide breakfasts and after-school activities for children who attend the Glebe Primary School.

Inspired by Maria's and Kerry's enthusiasm, some Glebe Society members now make weekly donations of very welcome (but unspecified to preserve their anonymity) surplus goods.

Glebe Youth Services Needs a Board Member...

...a person who has an interest in youth issues and would be prepared to become a member of the Board of Management for the Glebe Youth Services. Tasks include attending monthly meetings and working on plans of management and budgets. A new manager has just started working at the centre so it is a timely opportunity to work with a new Glebe team and the City of Sydney. For further information please contact Sven Knutsen (Chair) at: s.knutsen@src.usyd.edu.au, or phone: 0414 587 592

Thank You Gleebooks

Gleebooks, jointly with The Glebe Society, hosted the April event 'Streetscapes and Skyscapes', addressed by the NSW Government Architect Chris Johnson.

Gleebooks has generously gifted all the proceeds from the evening to the Society. The money will be put to good use in Glebe. Thankyou Gleebooks.

- Alison McKeown, Acting Treasurer

News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays - Change of Venue

All members are invited to meet for dinner in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month, to meet and eat with other people who live in Glebe.

The next 'Thirsty Thursday' dinner is on 1 July at The Nag's Head, in St Johns Road. No bookings are needed – just turn up at 7pm. We pay for our own meals (from \$10) and there is no BYOG.

We will also meet at The Nag's Head on Thursday 5 August. All suggestions for future venues are welcome.

Membership Matters

New Members: We would like to welcome David and Malle Eden. We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

Membership 2004/2005: If another Membership Renewal form is enclosed with this Bulletin, it means your payment was not received by our mailout date. Thank you to those members who have already renewed their annual subscription.

Sydney's Public Transport System - Royal Australian Historical Society talk

The foundations for Sydney's public transport system were laid between 1870 and 1895, but those who benefited most were not always those who travelled on the trains, trams or buses.

Dr Lesley Muir, a historian with a particular flair for historical geography, will speak of the landholders, developers and politicians who often benefited from the system.

Venue : History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Date : Thursday 26 August 2004, at 5.30 for 6pm

Cost : \$7 includes light refreshments on arrival.

Bookings essential on 9247 8001 or history@rahs.org.au

Bookplates

The Australian Bookplate Society aims to promote the creation and collection of bookplates throughout Australia. To achieve this, the Bookplate Society has created a forum for artists, collectors, would-be collectors and students to come together either through correspondence, the very occasional newsletter, exchange lists, the internet or at meetings where a range of bookplate related issues will be discussed. Central to the success of any bookplate movement are the artists and designers.

Free membership of the Australian Bookplate Society is offered to all Australian artists and designers active in the creation of bookplates. More info: Ed Jewell, PO Box 479, Warragul, Vic, 3820 or email on edwinjewell@hotmail.com.

History of refrigeration

Victorian Gordon Wightman is writing a book on the history of refrigeration and the Australian connection. Refrigeration is one of the most important technologies the world has ever known, and Australia has had a leading part in its development.

Gordon would like anyone with early books (pre 1910), photographs or details of refrigeration plants to contact him by phone 03-5977-6668, fax 03-59-77-6900 or email gwrp@bigpond.com.au. He would be happy to correspond with anyone interested in this topic.

Glebe Society Website

Neil Macindoe's article on p5-6 will be on our Website soon. If anyone asks you what The Glebe Society has done, tell them about the Website and this article.

Answers to Ian Edwards' Quiz - Know Your Suburb

1. 1969
2. Bernard Smith
3. Edmund Blackett
4. Queen Victoria
5. Edmund Barton
6. Clover Moore
7. Peter Lean
8. The Abbey
9. Sydney Secondary College - Blackwattle Bay Campus
10. Benledi

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor

Clover MOORE MLA

Councillors

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Philip | BLACK |
| Verity | FIRTH |
| Chris | HARRIS |
| Marcelle | HOFF |
| Robyn | KEMMIS |
| Michael | LEE |
| Shayne | MALLARD |
| John | MCINERNEY |
| Tony | FOOLEY |

Phone the Town Hall, 1300 651 301, for contact details.



Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe Society Archives

Principal: Mrs Elva Salter Phone 9660 3530

For your diary ...

Tuesday 29 June, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Book Club (*The Lovely Bones*) - 152 Bridge Road.
Thursday 1 July, 7pm - 'Thirsty Thursday' Dinner at the Nags Head Hotel, St Johns Road.
Friday 2 July, 6pm - Glebe Art Show Opening.
Saturday 4 - Sunday 11 July, 10am - 6pm - Glebe Art Show, Benledi. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE.**
Monday 5 July, 6.30pm - Lord Mayor's Forum, Glebe Town Hall, St John's Road.
Wednesday 7 July, 7pm - Glebe Point Residents Group meeting, Benledi.
Wednesday 14 July, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting, upstairs meeting room, Toxteth Hotel. All members welcome.
Tuesday 27 July, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Book Club (*The Da Vinci Code*) - 224 Bridge Road..
Wednesday 28 July, 7pm - Eastern Precinct Residents' Group - Old Fire Station, 113 Mitchell Street.
Thursday 26 August 2004, 5.30 for 6pm, Sydney's Public Transport System - Royal Australian Historical Society talk, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney (see page 10).
7 - 28 November - 15th Annual Glebe Music Festival.

Contacting The Glebe Society

Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037

Website

The Society has a growing website (www.glebesociety.org.au) for the information of members and anyone with an interest in Glebe.

The website will only flourish if members use the site. Send contributions or comments to editor@glebesociety.org.au

The Bulletin

We are glad to publish letters or articles on any matters of interest to Glebe, any topic raised in the *Bulletin*, or any issues relating The Glebe Society. Write to the address above or email editor@glebesociety.org.au

Disclaimer

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

Bulletin Deadline

The next edition of the Bulletin will be published in June. The deadline for contributions is **Saturday 24 July**.

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

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 (Acting) | Andrew Wood | |

Committee Members

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Bob Armstrong | 9660 4189 | Tony Larkum | 9660 7030 |
| Ted McKeown | 9660 3917 | | |

Sub-committees

All sub-committee chairs are *ex officio* members of the Management Committee

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Bays and Foreshores | Mark Dent | 9566 2555 |
| Environment (Acting) | Fiona Campbell | 9660 0185 |
| Glebe Point Road (Acting) | Jan Wilson | 9660 2698 |
| Heritage | David Mander Jones | 9552 4172 |
| History of The Glebe Society | Jeanette Knox | 9660 7781 |
| Membership | Deborah Blay | 9552 6786 |
| Planning | Neil Macindoe | 9660 0208 |
| Parks & Open Spaces | Ted McKeown | 9660 3917 |
| Reporting infrastructure defects | Margaret Sheppard | 9660 4121 |
| Social activities, | Hilary Wise | 9660 5845 |
| Transport and Traffic | Chris Hallam | 9660 3670 |

Adopt-a-Park contacts Foley Park - Bobbie Burke (9692 0343), Kirsova Playground - Fay Mander Jones, Paddy Gray Park - Liz Simpson-Booker

Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Archivist | Lyn Milton | 9660 7930 |
| Bulletin Editor | Edwina Doe | 9660 7066 |
| Historian | Max Solling | 9660 1160 |
| Webmaster | Cynthia Jones | 9660 2451 |

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



POSTAGE
PAID

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Individual member | \$45 |
| Joint (2 people, one address) | \$55 |
| Household (more than 2 adults and/or children, one address) | \$60 |
| Concession (student or pensioner) | \$20 |
| Business or institution | \$110 |

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.

CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Glebe Place Manager – Marcello Massi, 9298 3191 (direct)

email: mmassi@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Town Hall Office: 9298 3190

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 1300 651 301

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped supermarket trolleys: 1800 641 497 (BiLo trolleys 9281 4511)

Aircraft noise: 1800 802 584